

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM COMMITTEE MEETING
September 23, 2016

The meeting of the Department Americanism Committee was called to order by Steve Striggow, Chairman in Muskegon, Michigan, on September 23, 2016 at 2:30 pm. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: Steve Striggow, Chairman, Mel Adams, Carl Atkinson, Lawrence Burwell. John Stams absent.

Chairman Steve Striggow opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. There was a short prayer by Ed Gorecki, Post 217.

It was motioned to elect Mel Adams as 1st Vice Chairman. Motion Carried.

Jeff McGinnis was acting secretary.

Minutes:

Minutes from the last conference was read.

Old Business:

Report from Carl Atkinson, Boy Scout Chairman, reports on Boys Scouts. Last week he was at Wilwin for the scouts rally. There was between 500 to 600 boys and leaders there. Hastings Post 45 was heavily involved.

Jeff McGinnis, Zone 1 Baseball Chairman gives report on American Legion Baseball upcoming state playoffs at Midland (Class AA) and Gladwin (Class A) in 2017.

Chairman reports Student Trooper Award will be given to him, because the winner cannot make this conference (his name is Trystin Brown).

Saturday, November 5th in Lansing 8:30 and 10:30 Jefferson Davison Vietnam Vet will speak. He is the Lt. Gov. of the Indian Chickasaw Nation and real American hero. Let the Chairman know if any events like this coming up.

Jr. Shooting report by Mel Adams. Most information on this event is online (National). There are 14 pages we need to make his job easier. Question: Does Department of Michigan recognize this program – chairman Steve will find out and report.

New Business:

Chairman reports Americanism Committee didn't function very well last year. But Chairman Steve hopes to get this on track. He needs help with reports – wants us to contact him – let him know about what you got going on.

Ed Gorecki from Post 217 talks about what works for his Post, and others add to this. What is some of the things that can be done for Americanism? Talks on Flag Disposal, parades in the city, flag folding at schools, funerals, flag replacements. All these things can go on your post CPR's. All posts must submit these each year.

Post 9 Chairman reports he goes to schools to talk about flag disposals and flag folding.

Ron Geiger, Children & Youth Chairman, has pins for sale.

How about local (city) tv or website is a good idea. Official flag disposal is in the officer's guide. Look at guide to do the disposal the right way.

Flag Day is a good time for flag disposal, have local (city hall) people there and invite local newspaper or cable tv for PR.

David Babbage posts 409 reports on their programs involving public schools. A good example is Post 217's program. It is a very good program to look at in his district (16th). Also including all past flags of our country – a history of them.

Also, anything you do for Americanism, make copies or take pictures and send them to the Chairman Steve.

Jeff McGinnis reports that it's not fair to larger posts that they are out of consideration for Post of the Year because their involvement doesn't match their enrollment. The idea is that larger posts should have a lot of involvement, but that's not always true. Chairman Steve says that Americanism will work on this for the upcoming year.

Closing prayer was given by Ed Gorecki, Post 217.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Striggow", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Striggow, Chairman