American Legion Post 93

 

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| Minutes | November 22, 2016 | 6pm- 8pm | Drydock seafood Restaurant |

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| Meeting called by | Commander Jeff Cathcart |
| Type of meeting | Regular |
| Facilitator | Adjutant Jeff Cathcart |
| call to order | 6PM Meeting was called to order in accordance with Manual of Ceremonies |
| Roll Call | Roll call of members was accomplished. The following members were present: Jeff Cathcart; Bill Haiges; Earl Dowd; George Dowd; Bill Elder; Louis Forrisi; Dewitt Griffin; Marion Johnson |
| Approval of minutes from last meeting | Minutes of the October 25th meeting were read. A motion was made by Finance Officer, Bill Elder, to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried. |

## Agenda topics

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| 2hours |  |  |

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| old business | Commander Cathcart introduced the guests. Carin O’Brien, gave a brief history of her military career and personal life. No partisan politics was presented or discussed. Commander Cathcart announced that member, Dewitt Griffin, will celebrate his 89th birthday on Thanksgiving Day. |
| Committee reports: Finance – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – National Defense – Americanism – Youth & Children | |
| Finance Officer, Bill Elder, gave a brief report of the finances, stating that we are in good financial shape.  Vice-Commander, Bill Haiges, reported on the success of several veteran events that were held as well as the great attendance of the fourth annual Veterans Day Parade.  Youth & Children Committee Chairman, Bill Milholen, was not present to report on youth programs.  Commander Cathcart made the following announcements:  The state of Siler City, Post 93, is strong. Current membership stands at 33 (30 living; 3 deceased) and we are in the process of recruiting and revitalization.  All members must have an email to receive updates or access to the internet to visit the pending Post 93 website, no later than 01 January. The mailing of the newsletter, meeting reminders, meeting minutes and agenda, will no longer be distributed or mailed in bulk after the new year, in order to increase efficiency and minimize costs. All routine communications will be done via email or the website; emergency communications will continue to be done over the phone or in person.  Pop-top tabs are being collected at each meeting and all members are encouraged to save their tabs and bring them to meetings to be recycled to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities. Commander Cathcart reported that it takes approximately 7,150 recycled tabs to return $10, which is the cost of one night’s lodging for a family at Ronald McDonald House.  Commander Cathcart announced that Post 93 has been in the Chatham News two times in the past month. He encouraged everyone to continue to bring newsworthy ideas to each meeting to increase veteran awareness and community support and involvement.  Commander Cathcart announced that the Boys & Girls Club is willing to partner with Post 93 after the holidays to raise funds. They are trying to raise money to expand the Boys & Girls center to include the entire building versus just one half. The cost of the upgrade will be around $150,000. An anonymous donor has already pledged $20,000 to the Club for the upgrade. The Boys & Girls Club will meet at 5:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in their youth projects, to support the fourth pillar of the American Legion.  Commander Cathcart announced that our Post 93 will be represented in the Siler City Christmas Parade on December 1st. All post members are encouraged to walk/ride in the parade. All members should meet with Commander Cathcart at the tree lighting ceremony, at the Courtyard Café on Chatham Avenue at 6:15 p.m. to muster before lining up for the parade.  The Siler City Development Organization will meet at 8:15 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Members are encouraged to attend and participate in Americanism projects, to support the second pillar of the American Legion.  The Siler City Merchants Association (SCMA) will meet at 8:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend SCMA meetings and participate in Americanism projects, to support the second pillar of the American Legion. | |
| new business |  |
| Adjutant Cathcart made the following announcements:  Christmas brunch with Santa will be held at the Siler City Country Club on December 11th, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.  There will be no regular Post 93 meeting in December, 2016. Monthly meetings will resume on the fourth Tuesday in January – January 24th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Drydock Seafood Restaurant.  Recruiting and fundraising will be a top priority as part of Post 93 revitalization efforts in 2017. All members are encouraged to bring recruitment and fundraising ideas to the January 24th meeting.  We will commence a self-audit in January, 2017. Following a successful self-audit, we will invite the District / Division / Department in for an official audit, to place our post 93 in good standing.  We will work with Pittsboro Post 283 and Siler City Post 277 to help revitalize their posts, to partner with us, on programs and projects for the good of the adjoining communities.  The mid-winter NC Legion Conference will be held February 16-18 at the North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Rd., Raleigh, NC. All members are encouraged to attend.  The three main Siler City development groups are: The Siler City Development Organization (SCDO), the Siler City Merchant’s Association and the Siler City Chamber of Commerce. Our Post 93 is already a member, and actively involved in two of the three organizations – We should consider joining the Chamber of Commerce to be sure we’re a part of all Siler City merchant and development groups. This topic was tabled for further discussion at the January 24th meeting.  Finance Officer, Bill Elder, made a motion that our Post 93 continue with our annual tradition and donate $1000 to the Boys & Girls Club, effective November 30th, 2016. Motion carried.  Guest, Carin O’Brien, applied for American Legion membership in our Post 93. She presented a military (retired) ID and declared that she was on active duty during one of the acceptable periods of eligibility, specifically, during the years 1978 - 1998. She paid the $30 annual dues for 2017 to Bill Elder and agreed to produce her DD-214 for eligibility verification at the next meeting. Adjutant Cathcart completed the membership application and gave Carin the receipt stub. Adjutant Cathcart delivered the signed and completed membership application to Bill Elder at his home on Wednesday, November 23rd, 2016, for delivery to the Department of NC office.  A ‘For the good of the Legion’ comment was made by Marion Johnson. He stated that his church, Rocky River Church, places flags on veteran gravesites each Memorial Day. Member George Dowd stated that his church, Rives Chapel Baptist Church, does the same. Vice-Commander, Bill Haiges, stated that perhaps our Post 93 could start an annual collaboration of local churches and a ‘Go Fund Me’ initiative could be started to support the costs associated with this event. This topic was tabled for further discussion at the January 24th meeting. | |

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| Adjournment | Meeting closed by Commander Cathcart in accordance with Manual of Ceremonies. |
| Special notes | Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24th at 6pm at the Drydock Seafood Restaurant in Siler City. |