American Legion Post 93

 

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| Minutes | January 24, 2017 | 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: Terry Andrews; Jeff Cathcart; Earl Dowd; Bill Elder; Dewitt Griffin; Bill Haiges; Marion Johnson; Bill Milholen; Ronnie White |
| Approval of minutes from last meeting | Minutes of the November 22nd meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Bill Milholen to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried. |

## Agenda topics

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| old business | Commander Cathcart introduced the guests. No guests were present at the beginning, but Nita Dukes visited shortly after the meeting began. Nita gave a brief history of her military career and personal life. No partisan politics was presented or discussed. Nita has decided not to pledge membership at this time but may consider at a later time.  Awards were prepared for presentation to invited guests, Jonathan Oldham, Police Officer Of The Year, and to the family of deceased Firefighter Of The Year, Josh Woods. Nobody was present to accept the awards. Vice-Commander Haiges will present the awards to the Chiefs of both departments, for them to present as they see fit. |
| Committee reports: Finance – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – National Defense – Americanism – Youth & Children | |
| Commander Cathcart made the following announcements:  The state of Siler City, Post 93, is strong. Current membership stands at 33 (29 living; 4 deceased) and we are in the process of recruiting and revitalization. Recruiting and fundraising will be job-one for the entire 2017 year.  Commander Cathcart reported the loss of another Post member. Legionnaire Paul Ferguson passed away on January 2nd, 2017. He was a longstanding member of the Legion for 29 years. All members observed a moment of silence in remembrance of him.  A Post self-audit was commenced on January 22nd, 2017. The portion of the audit conducted on that day brought forth many things to do for the Post to be in full compliance, with action items to be distributed to Post officers to be accomplished. The financial portion of the audit was postponed to further collect receipts and records.  Commander Cathcart reported that email and the Post website (www.freedomwon.org) are now the primary means of communication for our Post 93. All routine correspondence (meeting minutes, agenda, newsletter, etc.) will be placed on website as they are prepared and approved. An email will be sent when extraordinary changes occur. If you don’t have an email or internet access, you should “buddy-up” with a fellow Legionnaire who can serve as your eyes and ears and keep you abreast of Post 93 business. A phone call will be made to the member’s phone number on record for emergencies or last minute changes. All members are encouraged to ensure Adjutant Cathcart has your most up to date phone number on file, as well as an emergency contact number, for a next of kin, etc.  Commander Cathcart reported that we continue to collect pop-top tabs for Ronald McDonald House charities. Members are encouraged to bring their tabs to each regular meeting.  Commander Cathcart reported We continue to try to make contact 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.  Commander Cathcart reported that 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.  Commander Cathcart reminded all members of the “thank a vet” program, whereas each member should take their original DD-214 to the Chatham County Register of Deeds to have it scanned into permanent record and to receive an ID card redeemable for discounts from local merchants.  Vice-Commander Bill Haiges reported on the brunch w/Santa held at the Siler City Country Club. It was a big success and the Club was most appreciative of the time volunteered by Commander Cathcart to play Santa for the children.  Finance Officer Bill Elder reported that the Post finances are in good shape.  Veterans Affairs and Service Officer Bill Haiges reported that the website is up and running and that all should periodically view it to stay abreast of Post business. He went on to encourage everyone to go to [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) to set up their own personal portal to renew membership and learn more about the American Legion. Bill also reminded everyone of the upcoming winter Legion conference to be held at the North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Road in Raleigh, February 16-18, 2017.  Americanism and Children & Youth Committee Chairman Bill Milholen reported that the Boys and Girls Club, Wren Family Center, met on December 13, 2016 with Legionnaires Bill Milholen, Commander Jeff Cathcart, Terry Andrews and Finance Officer Bill Elder. The reason for the attendance was to present our annual donation, a check for $1,000.00 in support of the Boys and Girls Club. Our Post 93 has been a big supporter of the Club since its beginning. One of the classrooms in the building is dedicated to our American Legion Post 93. We received a very nice letter of appreciation from the club for this donation. If any of our members would like to donate to the club just see Bill Milholen Commander Cathcart. At this meeting Commander Cathcart was voted in as a new member of the Boys and Girls Club, Wren Family Center Advisory Board. Sallie and Bill Milholen are Founding Member of the Boys and Girls  Club. It is always great to add new members to our Advisory Board. All Post 93 members are invited and encouraged to attend any of our board meeting. The Advisory Board Meets on the second Tuesday of each month 6:00 PM at the Club building behind Braxton Manor Apartments.  Bill went on to say, we have discussed in the past about having some kind of fund raising event to produce some income for both our  Post 93 and the Boys and Girls Club. An event that we have talked about is "Letters from Home". This is a musical-singing-dancing program put on by two young women. They dress in military uniforms and sing and dance to the old songs of World War II like the  Andrews Sisters. This event would be called “Freedom Fest” and is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 30th. We hope to  schedule the event to perform at the Jordan Matthews Auditorium. They like to perform for Veterans. We need to discuss and vote  on this event. Bill Haiges shared that he already booked the Siler City Country club as an alternate location for this event.  Bill Milholen suggested that a committee be formed at the February meeting to oversee this event.  Lastly, Bill Milholen talked about the Boys State and Girls State program--It is not too early to start working on selecting the candidates for the events held in June. Applications have to be submitted by May 01, 2017. If the schools want to send some girls to Girls State we  will need to obtain approval from the NC Legion Auxiliary. The schools must have the funds for the girls. I have contacted  Rynn Nicks at Chatham Charter and Jay Palmer at Jordan Matthews to begin the selection process.  Mike Bullis was unavailable to give an update on the color guard startup. | |
| new business |  |
| Commander Cathcart opened the floor for discussion on joining the Siler City Chamber of Commerce for $120.00 per year, and gave several reasons why he thinks joining would be a good idea, as another show of support and involvement with the local merchants, and stated that he would entertain a motion to join the Chamber. No motion was made and no further discussion was had.  Vice-Commander Haiges opened the floor for discussion on authorizing Post officers to spend up to $500.00, for Legion business, without the need for any additional prior voting or approval by the membership, to avoid having to call a meeting every time purchases needed to be made. Bill Milholen made a motion for the same. The motion carried.  Vice-Commander Haiges opened the floor for discussion on Memorial Day flag placement at local churches. Commander Cathcart recommended that a committee be formed. All members present were in favor of forming a committee, so the topic will be tabled until the February 28th meeting, whereas a committee will likely be formed. No motion was made.  A ‘For the good of the Legion’ comment was made by non-Legionnaire guest, Nita Dukes. She recommended that we throw a block party as a fundraiser, and suggested that St. Patrick’s Day might be a good time for the event. This topic was tabled for further discussion at the February 28th 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, February 28th at 6pm at the Drydock Seafood Restaurant in Siler City. |