



Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

West Suburban Post 54 – Illinois
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MEETING MINUTES MAY 3, 2020

Senior Vice Commander John Wilkerson called the meeting to order at 10:05AM, via Zoom.

Members present: John Wilkerson, Howard Goldstein, Mark Turner, Leslie Turner, Rich Heisler, Mike Sawyer, Joel Bernstein, Larry Malis, Steve Fixler, and David Baruch.

Quartermaster Report: Quartermaster Leslie Turner reported three financial events since the last report: two donations to Cong. Etz Chaim in the memories of member Harve Bogolub, his wife, Joyce, and the annual renewal fee for the post's Website and domain name. Balance in the post's account is \$2042.04.

Old & Continuing Business: Department Commander Howard Goldstein discussed the plans for a virtual Memorial Day service for both Shalom and Oak Ridge cemeteries. The administration of Shalom Cemetery has decreed that no in-present ceremony make take place. The final decision for what form the Memorial Day ceremony will take is to be discussed and decided at the Department's monthly meeting on May 6.

A discussion of the JWV member survey disclosed that fewer surveys have been than expected, though there are enough survey results to be statistically significant. As only about half of the JWV membership have an email address, about 3600 members were sent the survey via postal service. The deadline for return of the mailed surveys was extended to mid-May.

New Business: Department Commander discussed the work of the National Membership Committee and their efforts to recruit new, and younger, members. The first step was development and distribution of the survey to current JWV members. Survey results will help formulate a national branding of JWV including what JWV does, how to publicize JWV, and why it would benefit Jewish veterans to join.

Target marketing will be formulated. Chief among that marketing is posts contacting local synagogues, particularly their social action committees. The Department of Michigan has developed and is using a letter which appears to be helping in recruitment. Follow-up to the letter is key in the recruitment effort.

Next year – 2021 – is the 125th anniversary of JWV's creation by decree of the U. S. Congress, making JWV the oldest chartered veterans organization in the U.S. There will be ceremonies, yet to be developed, to commemorate the anniversary. The national marketing committee will use these ceremonies to better inform the public of the organization and of Jews who have served in the armed forces.

Annual Election: the required annual meeting to elect officers for the coming year (2020-2021) is slated for Sunday, June 14. John Wilkerson, current senior vice commander, has agreed to take on the position of Commander, if elected. However, there exists vacancies for the senior vice commander and adjutant (the person who take the meeting minutes). Leslie Turner will remain as Quartermaster, if reelected.

Members are needed to fill the two vacancies of senior vice commander and adjutant. It is possible that if those positions are not filled, the post will either disband or merge with another post at the end of the 2020-2021 year.

The slate of officers for election will be sent to post members prior to the election meeting of June 14th, which will be held virtually via Zoom.

DuPage Veterans Assistance Commission: Steve Fixler, Superintendent of the DuPage County VAC reported that commission is open, staffed, and providing services to veterans in need. Veterans in need of financial assistance may contact the commission via email, fax, or postal service.

Good of the Order/Comrades in Distress: Commander Bruce Mayor and his wife have both been released from the hospital after being diagnosed with COVID-19. They are recuperating at home.

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 10:00AM. A Zoom link will be sent to members prior to the meeting.

SVC Wilkerson adjourned the meeting at 11:06AM.