



Jewish War Veterans

of the United States of America

West Suburban Post 54 – Illinois
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MEETING MINUTES JUNE 14, 2020

Commander Bruce Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:10AM, via Zoom.

Members present: Howard Goldstein, Leslie Turner, Ron Weinger, John Wilkerson, Rich Heisler, Steve Fixler, Joel Bernstein, Bruce Mayor, and Mark Turner.

Minutes of the May 3, 2020 meeting were approved.

Commander's Report: Commander Bruce Mayor thanked everyone for their service and assistance during his years as commander of the post. Members thanked Bruce all his work and service to JWV and affiliated organizations.

Quartermaster Report: Quartermaster Leslie Turner reported one financial event since the last report: receipt of \$34.50 from JWV for the post's portion of membership dues. Total in Post 54 bank account is now \$2076.54.

Old & Continuing Business:

- **Social action** with other synagogues: Howard Goldstein suggested that follow up calls be made to Oak Park and Naperville synagogues. Bruce Mayor suggested that consideration be given to Zoom meetings with other synagogues to encourage Jewish veterans in those synagogues to become members and provide community support to veterans.
- **Merger with Post 407:** Howard Goldstein reported that Post 407 would again like Post 54 to consider a merger. The issue that caused the first merger talks to end was the inability to agree on how to allow Post 407 to retain some funds for their local activities. This issue was resolved by allowing a certain portion of funds (\$1000 is suggested) to be retained in Post 407's account. By providing receipts of expenditures to the Post 54 quartermaster, the funds will be replenished.

Post 407's auxiliary members can become JWV Patrons, though will have no voting rights.

The proposed name of the merged posts would be *PVT Sam Neivelt Post 54*.

Representatives from the two posts will discuss the merger. Howard can arrange a Zoom meeting.

- **Memorial Day Virtual Ceremony:** Howard Goldstein reported that the virtual ceremony was much appreciated by Zoom attendees. There were approximately 50 attendees. Thanks were

given to the rabbis from Oak Park Temple (Rabbi Daniel Kirzane) and Cong. Etz Chaim (Rabbi Andrea Cosnowsky) for their opening and closing prayers.

New Business:

- **DuPage County Veterans Assistance Commission:** Steve Fixler, Superintendent of the DuPage VAC and Post 54 member, reported that DuPage County may experience a shortfall of between \$20 million to \$60 million for the current fiscal year (11% to 35%). The county has asked the VAC to prepare budgets for the coming fiscal year reflecting 10%, 20%, and 30% reductions. The proposed budgets are to be submitted by July 2 for approval by November 30th, the start of the new fiscal year. To date, the shortfall has not affected dispersal of funds for veterans' assistance.
- **JWV National Convention:** Department of Illinois Commander Howard Goldstein reported that the in-person national convention has been canceled for this year. A virtual convention will be held in its stead. All members are invited to attend; the charge will be \$18 for all meetings and seminars. The dates of the convention are August 23 through August 27.

Annual Election: the annual election of Post 54 officers was held. The results are as follows:

- *Commander:* John Wilkerson
- *Junior Vice Commander:* Mark Turner
- *Quartermaster:* Leslie Turner
- *Adjutant:* Steve Fixler
- *Judge Advocate:* Robert Honig
- *Chaplain:* Rich Heisler
- *Surgeon:* Jordan Trafimow

The post of *Senior Vice Commander* remains vacant.

New elected Commander John Wilkerson thanked Bruce Mayor and Howard Goldstein for their work and assistance.

Good of the Order/Comrades in Distress: Commander Bruce Mayor and his wife, Linda, are both recovering well from their recent bouts of COVID-19.

Next Meeting: Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 10:00AM. A Zoom link will be sent to members prior to the meeting.

Commander Wilkerson adjourned the meeting at 11:00AM.