

Leonard Moore Post #71  
American Legion  
Clayton, NC  
Meeting Notes  
11 May 2017

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The monthly meeting of Leonard Moore Post #71 American Legion was held on Thursday night 11 May 2017. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Dave Sammons called the meeting to order at 19:00 in the absence of Commander Eckerson. Our Nations Colors were posted by Sergeant at Arms Larry Tice and Ken Stith. Chaplain Joe Hester gave the opening prayer. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander led the Post in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander recognized guest for the evening, Post 71 Baseball coaches Ryan Sykes, Asst. Coach Herbert Locklear, Asst. Coach Scott Prince and players Coby Prince and Kaleb Locklear.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Sammons wished a Happy Birthday to all May birthdays; Ken Brown, Bernie Brust, Monica Cash, Ron Fouquer, Bob Gretsinger, Pat Millar, Stacy Morgan and Ron Perri. Everyone sang Happy Birthday under the direction and lead of Rick Fornicola.

Cook Committee chaired by Gene Karaszewski served a delicious meal of Chop Suey Casserole, green beans, rolls and iced tea.

Commander called the meeting back to order after the meal.

Adjutant Ken Parker read the minutes from 13 April. Commander asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Gene Tew made a motion and Richard Neville seconded that minutes be approved as read. Motion carried.

**Committee reports:**

**Finance Officer** Ron Perri gave the finance report. Without exception the Finance report was accepted.

**Basement:** In the absence of Chairman Ken Wendel, Allen Smithson welcomed all to visit the basement on any Wednesday evening or meeting nights before and after meeting for socializing and refreshments.

**Building and Grounds:** Again Allen reporting for Ken Wendel that Jennifer Stanley has completely repainted the chain railing going downstairs and attached new lighting. She spent extensive time to do this and we all should thank her next time you see her.

**Golf Committee** Chairman Troy Alcorn stated we had 45 donations with 36 of those as hole sponsors. He reported we had 17 total teams and our net profits were \$5846.17. He thanked all who helped made this a successful tournament.

**Service Officer:** Wade Stanley reported Lowe's Home Improvements has changed their policy to honor the 10% discount for veterans. They are now requiring all veterans to register at [WWW.mylowes.com](http://WWW.mylowes.com) to receive a My Lowe's card or to visit a store in person with a copy of your DD-214 to prove your status as a veteran. Some discussion took place about Smithfield store not knowing anything about this program so it was suggested if you have problems on line to visit the store at 40/42.

**Historian** and Adopt a Highway Chairman Gene Karaszewski had no report at this time.

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**Baseball Committee:** Raymond Payne stated the ball season will start in about two weeks and the schedule is posted on the Post 71 Riders Bulletin Board.

**Scholarship Committee:** Ralph Blevins reported in the absence of Chairman Rudolph Allen, the scholarship winner is Auburn Morgan, the Granddaughter of Stacy Morgan. He along with any others will attend the Clayton High School Awards Ceremony to present the scholarship to her. He thanked the other members of the Scholarship Committee for their work in selecting this year's recipient. The other members were Rudolph Allen, Dave Sammons, and Glenn Creech.

**Boys State:** Chairman Ralph Blevins reported we have three candidates this year and the Executive Board has recommended we fund all three candidates for a total of \$1,050.00. (\$350.00 per)

**Legion Riders:** Director Rick Fornicola reported they participated in the POW/MIA Ceremony at the Capitol. They have logged over 2,000 miles since last month. They have reelected the same officers with the following exceptions; Ken Best is the new Sergeant at Arms and Richard Neville is the new membership Director. They have established new By-Laws, pledged \$150.00 to the Post 71 Legion Baseball program and added new member Brian Collins Sr.

**Unfinished Business:** Mike Arrington reported the Nominating Committee needed to make a couple of changes to their recommended nominations. They are Dave Sammons has withdrawn his name for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander, Bob Hughes has been nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice and Troy Alcorn has been nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander. In another change Ken Wendel has withdrawn his name for Sergeant at Arms and the committee nominates Al Cotham to replace Ken Wendel. Dave Sammons stated his reason for withdrawing his name is he is moving to another town in Northeastern NC, however, he still plans to remain a member of Post 71. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Sammons opened the floor for nominations to the various offices of the Post. Hearing no additional nominations from the floor for any office, he declared the nominations closed. The following Officers are nominated: Commander Beanie Eckerson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Bob Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Troy Alcorn, Adjutant Ken Parker, Finance Officer Ron Perri, Service Officer Paul Noblin, Historian Gene Karaszewski, Chaplain Wade Stanley, Judge Advocate Percy Liles, Sergeant at Arms Raymond Capps, Larry Tice, Ken Stith and Al Cotham. A motion was made by Richard Neville, seconded by Ralph Blevins for the Adjutant to cast one unanimous vote for the listed officers. Motion carried. Adjutant cast one unanimous vote for the slate of Officers nominated.

**Correspondence:** None.

**New Business:** Delegates for the Department Convention were elected and are as follows: Beanie Eckerson, Rick Fornicola, Percy Liles, Devell Durham, Richard Neville, Bob Gretsinger and Ken Stith. We have one Alternate Pam Meek. Motion was made by Gene Karaszewski and seconded by Rick Fornicola to give the Post 71 Baseball program \$1,000.00. Motion carried. Motion was made by Ralph Blevins and seconded by Allen Smithson to fund three candidates for Boys State @ \$350.00 each for a total of \$1,050.00. Motion carried. Memorial Day activities will begin at 07:15 at the Post to place flags on the four cemeteries in Clayton. Then at 11:00 we will travel to Smithfield for the County Ceremony at the Courthouse, followed by our Post Everlasting Ceremony at McLaurin at Pinecrest at 19:00.

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**Sick and Distressed:** Rudolph Allen has been in the hospital and is not doing well. He is back home now but is very weak and still needs our thoughts and prayers. Glenn Creech is under the weather tonight. Royal Williams has had a slight stroke and is in the hospital.

**Good of the Legion:** Richard Neville reported one of our own, Ken Parker, was recognized by the VA Hospital Volunteer Office for achieving 10,000 hours of volunteer service. Past Department Commander Bill Oxford will be a candidate for National Commander for the 2019-2020 year. He also wished Dave Sammons well as he leaves us to pursue his career in another part of the state. Wings over Wayne will be at Seymour Johnson 20 and 21 May featuring the US Navy's Blue Angels. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Sammons thanked the cook committee.

There being no further business before the body, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Sammons asked the Sergeant at Arms to retire the Colors. Chaplain gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned in due form at 20:23.

Half and Half was won by Devell Durham.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Parker, Adjutant