

Monthly Minutes
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351
Martinez, CA 94553
Saturday, 18 August 2019

Post Commander Trazina (Kandie) Jones called the meeting of Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 to order at 10:08 on 18 August 2019. Jason Caiado led the opening prayer.

Roll Call, Officers:

Trazena (Kandie) Jones – Commander - Present
Rich Cheney – Adjutant - Present
Ellison Lockett – Second Vice Commander - Present
Claude Nave – Quartermaster - Present
Jason Caiado – Chaplain - Present
Art Miller – First Vice Commander - Present
Stanley Rux – Surgeon - Present
Stephany Cornejo – Second Year Trustee - Absent
Paul Steelhammer – Third Year Trustee – Present
Jorge Martinez – Sergeant of Arms - Absent
Brian Chauvin – Service Officer - Absent

Members in Attendance:

Phil Dougherty
Bruce Bauer
Mac Cerro
Shae Rooney
John Lytle
Carl Edwards
Emmet Schumer

1. The charter was uncovered after 30 days for the passing of Gus Krikitos. Jason Caiado led the prayer.
2. The July 2019 minutes led to a lengthy discussion concerning the inclusion of the proposed budget. Art Miller moved to include future proposed budgets in the minutes. Second by Cheney. Vote was 14 yes, 1 no. **The motion passed.** The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
3. Shea Rooney delivered the financial report (distributed under separate cover) and were accepted by unanimous voice vote.
4. There were no new members.
5. Committee Reports.
 - a. Membership – Claude will reinstate a former member. This is a new year for recruiting and Claude asked everyone to sign up eligible veterans.
 - b. VOD & PP – The 2019-2020 theme for both is “What Makes America Great.” Our website has been updated with an information brochures and entry forms for both programs. Rich has contacted all local schools’ principles with the brochures and entry forms and offered to make a personal presentation to the schools, if desired. The following schools were contacted: middle schools: St Catherine’s, Martinez M.S., Valley View; high schools: Alhambra and College Park. Close out of both programs is 31 Oct 2019. Rich proposed cash awards for both programs: first place - \$250, second

- place - \$150, third place - \$100. Second by Mac. **Motion passed** by unanimous consent.
- c. Website update – Rich – posting of new pictures for the 2018 and 2019 Fourth of July parade. Discussion on linking our site to the Mesothelioma.com website. The discussion ended in a vote stating our website would only endorse causes that are on the vfw.org website. **The motion passed** by unanimous consent. Rich will remove any advocacy website not meeting this criterion.
 - d. Scouts – Paul Steelhammer – we have 22 scouts in Troops 1351. The scout master will store the recently purchased scout equipment in Rich’s storage locker.
 - e. Bocce – Phil announced we have two more weeks and may end up in fifth place – a new high for our team.
 - f. Poppies – Mac – the next distribution will be on Sept 11 at the AMTRACK station in Martinez at 0800. All are welcome to this event. Veterans Day is on a Monday so the next distribution will be the weekend before (7-9 Nov) at Virginia Hills Safeway. Walmart is unavailable that weekend – Mac will attempt to find a new date – TBD.
 - g. Honor Guard – Ellison – next service will be at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center on 25 August.
 - h. Building – Ellison – New lights need to be installed.
 - i. There was no interest in hosting a Labor Day BBQ at the Post.
6. The next District Meeting is January 18, 2020 at 9 a.m. at our hall in Martinez. The School of Instructions is September 7, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at our hall in Martinez.
 7. Jason Caiado led the National Home prayer.
 8. Old business. The 2020 budget was discussed. Claude proposed and Ellison seconded. The **2020 budget was approved** by unanimous consent.
 9. New business.
 - a. Rich announced an initiative to provide more information on the service personnel who are on the Martinez War Memorial. Information would include pictures, family stories, maps showing the battle areas and YouTube videos of the battle sites. Five of the Fallen were researched for the memorial service and will form the core of the project. Members were invited to join in the effort. All work to be posted to the website.
 - b. Mac proposed we create a wall of pictures of our former post commanders. The question was asked how far back should we go. Mac’s answer was as far back as we can.
 - c. Carl suggested a contest (details to follow) for the person who brings in the most new members. The prize would be a World Mart room (location TBD).
 - d. Shea has organized a walk around a reservoir on 23 August at 1400. Contact her for details.
 - e. Mac: **DISTINGUISHED VETERAN PASS - No Fee (Lifetime Park Pass)**. Honorably discharged war veterans who are residents of California with an overall / combined rating at 50% or greater service-connected disability, or were held as prisoners of war by forces hostile to the United States, or recipients of the Medal of Honor are eligible to receive the Distinguished Veteran Pass (formerly Disabled War Veteran/Prisoner of War Pass). More information at: <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>
 - f. Veterans’Voices is a live interactive TV show for Vets by Vets. The live show is the 3rd Monday of the month at 1900: <http://www.contracostatv.org/veteransvoices>.
 10. The closing prayer was led by Jason Caiado.
 11. Kandie closed the meeting at 1125.

Signed,
Richard Cheney, Adjutant

Monthly Minutes
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351
Martinez, CA 94553
Saturday, 20 July 2019

Post Commander Trazina (Kandie) Jones called the meeting of Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 to order at 10:03 on 20 July 2019. Jason Caiado led the opening prayer.

Roll Call, Officers:

Trazena (Kandie) Jones – Commander - Present
Rich Cheney – Adjutant - Present
Ellison Lockett – Second Vice Commander - Present
Claude Nave – Quartermaster - Present
Jason Caiado – Chaplain - Present
Art Miller – First Vice Commander - Present
Stanley Rux – Surgeon - Present
Stephany Cornejo – Second Year Trustee - Present
Paul Steelhammer – Third Year Trustee – Present
Jorge Martinez – Sergeant of Arms - Absent
Brian Chauvin – Service Officer - Absent

Members in Attendance:

Phil Dougherty
Bruce Bauer
Mac Cerro
Shae Rooney
John Lyttle
Carl Edwards
George Driscoll
Dave Hol

12. The charter was covered to honor the passing of Gus Krikitos this past month. Jason Caiado led the prayer.
13. The June 2019 minutes were accepted by unanimous voice vote.
14. Carl Edwards delivered the financial report (distributed under separate cover) and were accepted by unanimous voice vote.
15. Carl Edwards led the ceremony to install the new officers for 2019-2020.
16. There were no new members.
17. Committee Reports.
 - a. Membership – Claude said no new members as the national convention is in session.
 - b. VOD & PP – Rich - awaiting national new topics for this year; Carl announced the topics are on the VFW website. The 2019-2020 theme for both is “What Makes America Great.” Our website will be updated from national’s:
<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>
 - c. Website update – Rich – posting of Kandie’s selection as Woman of the Year for Contra Costa County from Congressman Thompson’s office; also the minutes from June 2019.
 - d. Scouts – Paul Steelhammer – we have 20 scouts in Troops 1351. The scout master requested \$500 for new supplies. The motion was moved, seconded and approved by

unanimous vote.

- e. Bocce – Phil announced we have won 11 out of 12 games – a new record for our team!
 - f. Poppies – Rich – the next distribution will be on Sept 11 at the AMTRACK station in Martinez at 0800. All are welcome to this event. Veterans Day is on a Monday so the next distribution will be the weekend before (7-9 Nov) at Walmart and Virginia Hills Safeway. Rich is bowing out for Walmart and asked for a volunteer. Ellison said the lead is the responsibility of the First Vice Commander – no volunteer required.
 - g. Honor Guard – Ellison – last event was the 4th of July Parade. There have been no funeral details in the past month.
 - h. Building – Ellison – New lights need to be installed. The materials for the ceiling were donated by Art; now we need the labor to complete the work. The peeling paint in the front of the building continues but it is the County that must complete this work.
18. The next District meeting will be in Hayward on 10 August at 0900. Instruction will be in Martinez on the same day starting at 0930. Post inspection will be in Antioch at 1100.
 19. Kandie announce Taco Daddy on Main Street offers a military discount on their food.
 20. The National Home prayer was led by Jason Caiado.
 21. Kandie announced we will have a speaker at our next meeting discussing hospice care.
 22. The closing prayer was led by Jason Caiado.
 23. Claude circulated next year's budget (attached). It will be discussed at next month's meeting.
 24. Kandie closed the meeting at 1105.

Signed,
Richard Cheney
Adjutant

1 Attachment
VFW Budget 2019-2020

VFW
 Budget
 7-1-2019-6-30-2020

Description	Actual 2018-2019	Budget 2019-2020	Variance
Income			
Membership	545	600	55
General Fund	666	100	(566)
Poppies	11,886	11,900	14
Total Income	13,097	12,600	(497)
Expenses			
General Fund	417	450	33
District-Nat Dues	152	160	8
Total General Fund	569	610	41
Brunch	852	840	(12)
Bocce	150	150	
Charity	10,889	6,500	(4,389)
Website	164	168	4
Standdown		500	500
Filing Fees, Bonds	120	120	-
Insurance	275	280	5
Meeting Expenses	755	1,200	445
Poppy Purchases	908	1,000	92
Store Purchases	37	60	23
Newsletter		100	100
VFW Programs	511	500	(11)
Miscellaneous	393	400	7
Total Poppies	15,054	11,818	(3,236)
Total Expenses	15,623	12,428	(3,195)
Total Income (Loss)	(2,526)	172	2,698

**Monthly Minutes
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351
Martinez, CA 94553
Saturday, 15 June 2019**

Post Commander Trezina (Kandie) Jones called the meeting of Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 to order at 10:00 on 18 May 2019.

Roll Call, Officers:

Trazena (Kandie) Jones – Commander - Present
Rich Cheney – Adjutant - Present
Ellison Lockett – Second Vice Commander - Present
Claude Nave – Quartermaster - Present
Jason Caiado – Chaplain - Present
Art Miller – First Vice Commander - Present
Stanley Rux – Surgeon - Present
Gus Kritikos – First Year Trustee - Absent
Stephany Cornejo – Second Year Trustee - Absent
Paul Steelhammer – Third Year Trustee – Absent
Jorge Martinez – Sergeant of Arms - Absent
Brian Chauvin – Service Officer - Absent

Members in Attendance:

Phil Dougherty
Bruce Bauer
Mac Cerro
Shae Rooney
Frank Kastl
John Lyttle

Guests:

None

Opening Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Pledge of Allegiance: Kandie Jones led.

Minutes of May 2019: There being no reported errors or omissions in the minutes posted to the web site, Claude Nave moved that they be accepted as posted; Rich Cheney seconded. Motion passed.

Quartermaster Report: Shay Rooney presented the financial report as of 30 May 2019. Claude moved that the report be accepted, Art seconded. Motion passed. Financial data are available only to members so are excluded from this published copy of the minutes.

New Members: Brian Long – WWII Air Force. Motion to accept by Claude, second by Mac. Vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Claude Nave reported we did not qualify for all state this year. New year for membership begins 1 May.

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen: Rich Cheney reported these programs are currently in abeyance, awaiting HQ VFW proposed subjects this year.

Website: Rich spoke to the updates on the website.

Membership: Claude showed the official VFW spreadsheet used to determine All State qualification. We currently have 100 of the 120 points we need by end of April or May. Claude stressed the need to inform him of every qualifying activity performed.

Web Site: Rich urged members to check web site for the calendar.

Fourth of July events: flag raising at 0900; parade on Main Street at 1000.

Veterans Memorial Building: Ellison said that for every Post sponsored meal, there needs to be a committee to set up, serve, and clean up. Phil reported the flag light has been installed and new all-weather flags have been ordered.

Bocce: Phil reported current status: 6 wins – games every Thursday morning.

National Home Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Sick and Distressed Members: Jack Hafen, Terrance Holmes, Ellison Lockett, Stanley Rux, Gus Kritikos (has had two strokes), Juanita Lockett, Jack Kastl.

Old business: The certificates for BABS were ready but they did not show. Will try again next month.

New Business

Next District Meeting: 10 August, 0900, 22737 Main St Hayward; School of Instruction, 0930 in Martinez. Post inspection – Antioch 1100 (unknown date).

Closing Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Meeting closed: 1057

Signed,
Richard Cheney
Adjutant

Monthly Minutes
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351
Martinez, CA 94553
Saturday, 18 May 2019

Post Commander Trezina (Kandie) Jones called the meeting of Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 to order at 10:05 on 18 May 2019.

Roll Call, Officers:

Trazena (Kandie) Jones – Commander - Present
Rich Cheney – First Vice Commander - Present
Ellison Lockett – Second Vice Commander - Present
Claude Nave – Quartermaster - Present
Jason Caiado – Chaplain - Present
Art Miller – Adjutant - Present
Carl Edwards – Asst. Adjutant - Present
Stanley Rux – Surgeon - Present
Gus Kritikos – First Year Trustee - Absent
Stephany Cornejo – Second Year Trustee - Absent
Paul Steelhammer – Third Year Trustee – Absent
Jorge Martinez – Sergeant of Arms - Present
Brian Chauvin – Service Officer - Absent

Members in Attendance:

Phil Dougherty
Bruce Bauer

Guests:

None

Opening Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Pledge of Allegiance: Kandie Jones led.

Minutes of April 2019: There being no reported errors or omissions in the minutes posted to the web site, Art Miller moved that they be accepted as posted; Rich Cheney seconded. Motion passed.

Quartermaster Report: Carl Edwards presented the financial report as of 30 Apr 2019. Claude moved that the report be accepted, Ellison seconded. Motion passed. Financial data are available only to members so are excluded from this published copy of the minutes.

Convention Delegates:

National: Kandie, Paul, Carl (July 20-24 in Orlando)
California: Carl, Kandie, Claude, Ellison (June 6-9 in Ontario, Doubletree Hotel)

New Members: None.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Claude Nave reported that we are at 95.89% . We need 2 more to pay dues to make all state.

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen: Rich Cheney reported these programs are currently in abeyance. Carl reported that the new theme for both VOD and PP will be “What Makes America Great.”

Scouts: Paul Steelhammer was absent, so there was no report on Scouting.

Replica Monument: Rich presented Shea a full sized replica of the monument in Veterans Park. It was created by Shay Clary, of Bay Area Barricade Services, in heavy gauge aluminum. He moved that we allocate half of the \$395 cost of materials, with the remainder to be contributed by A.L. Art seconded; motion passed. Certificates of appreciation may be presented to Shay and her company next month.

Wreaths for Memorial Day and Veterans Day have been made of live flowers for the past year as and experiment. Rich moved that we continue to buy live flower wreaths at \$250 each, half to be contributed by Am. Legion. The motion passed. The wreath will not be cast into the strait this time due to time issues.

Membership: Claude showed the official VFW spreadsheet used to determine All State qualification. We currently have 100 of the 120 points we need by end of April or May. Claude stressed the need to inform him of every qualifying activity performed.

Web Site: Rich urged members to check web site for the calendar.

Claude passed along George May's request for people to go to the Monument in Pleasant Hill after lunch on Memorial Day.

Poppies: Rich arranged our time at Walmart for the weekend before Memorial Day. Carl will arrange with Safeway. 23-25 May. If we have enough people, we will be able to use both doors at Walmart. We need four or five people to optimize results. At Walmart, set NLT 08:30; Rich will set up there, but someone else must shut down. At Safeway, Carl reported that we will set up at 09:00.

Honor Guard: Ellison reported need for honor detail 22 May at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 11:30 meet time.

Veterans Memorial Building: Ellison reported we are still waiting for Dave to clean out his room. Phil reported that we have the material for lighting the flag, just waiting for a break in the weather to install.

Bocce: Phil reported current status: 2 wins, 7 losses.

Service Records: Kandie showed how to obtain service records using *Form 180 (OMB No 3095-0029)* through the state Vet Center (on Willow Pass) or the county Vet Services (on Douglas). Rich has used the process and reports quick turnaround. The Vet Center will have a

dinner, with us invited. Kandie moved that we contribute \$200 toward meal sides; Carl seconded; motion passed.

National Home Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Sick and Distressed Members: Jack Hafen, Terrance Holmes, Ellison Lockett, Stanley Rux, Gus Kritikos (has had two strokes), Juanita Lockett, Jack Kastl. Also, George Driscoll's son is at Walter Reed Hospital with a skull injury and eye lost due to a climbing accident. He is here in Palo Alto for now. Art Gomez has a spot on his lung and is now using a walker.

New Business

Senior Vet Visits: Claude passed along George May's request for people to visit a WWII vet.

Next District Meeting: In July, but no details yet.

Claude reported that Stephanie Conejo has borne her baby and also has a name change from Conejo to [Tete (sp?)]. He moved that we send her \$100 for her baby. Rich seconded; motion passed.

VetTix.com web site has tickets for veterans to attend events.

Rich asked whether we should have a picnic this year, possibly here at the Hall. As a 501C3 organization, the city might give us space in a park.

Closing Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Meeting closed: 11:15

Signed,
Art Miller
Adjutant

**Monthly Minutes
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351
Martinez, CA 94553
Saturday, 20 April 2019**

Post Commander Trezina (Kandie) Jones called the meeting of Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 to order at 10:05 on 20 April 2019.

Roll Call, Officers:

Trazena (Kandie) Jones – Commander - Present
Rich Cheney – First Vice Commander - Present
Ellison Lockett – Second Vice Commander - Present
Claude Nave – Quartermaster - Present
Jason Caiado – Chaplain - Present
Art Miller – Adjutant - Present
Carl Edwards – Asst. Adjutant - Present
Stanley Rux – Surgeon - Present
Gus Kritikos – First Year Trustee - Absent
Stephany Cornejo – Second Year Trustee - Absent
Paul Steelhammer – Third Year Trustee – Present
Jorge Martinez – Sergeant of Arms - Present
Brian Chauvin – Service Officer - Absent

Members in Attendance:

Phil Dougherty
Bruce Bauer
Shae Rooney
John Lyttle
Alan Munguia
Mac Cero

Guests:

None

Opening Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Pledge of Allegiance: Kandie Jones led.

Minutes of March 2019: There being no reported errors or omissions in the minutes posted to the web site, Art Miller moved that they be accepted as posted; Rich Cheney seconded. Motion passed.

Quartermaster Report: Carl Edwards presented the financial report as of 31 Mar 2019. Claude moved that the report be accepted, Jorge seconded. Motion passed. Financial data are available only to members so are excluded from this published copy of the minutes.

Nomination of Officers for next year:

Commander

Kandie Jones

Rich Cheney
Senior Vice Commander
Kandie Jones
Mac Cero
Junior Vice Commander
Art Miller
Quartermaster
Claude Nave
Chaplain
Jason Caiado
Trustee (3 year term)
Shae Rooney

Election of Officers: Vote for Commander was presided over by Ellison Lockett because the Commander was up for that office. She was elected Commander, so there was no contest for Sr. Vice Commander or for the remaining offices. The final results are:

Commander: Kandie Jones
Senior Vice Commander: Mac Cero
Junior Vice Commander: Art Miller
Quartermaster: Claude Nave
Chaplain: Jason Caiado
Trustee (for 3 year term): Shae Rooney

Appointed Officers:

Adjutant: Rich Cheney
Judge Advocate: Bruce Bauer
Surgeon: Stanley Rux
Trustee (1st yr): Gus Kritikos
Trustee (2nd yr): Carl Edwards
Trustee (3rd yr): Shae Rooney
Service Officer: Paul Steelhammer

Convention Delegates:

National: Kandie, Paul, Carl (July 20-24 in Orlando)
California: Carl, Kandie, Claude, Ellison (June 6-9 in Ontario, Doubletree Hotel)

New Members: None.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Claude Nave reported that we are at 95.89% . We need 2 more to pay dues to make all state.

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen: Rich Cheney reported these programs are currently in abeyance.

Scouts: Paul Steelhammer has doubled to 22 members; 3 nearing Eagle. New scout master Carlotta Canari appears to be well organized and making improvements. Troop needs equipment storage facility, approx 10 ft x 10 ft. Rich volunteered garage space. Rich

questioned currentness of web page; Paul said he would start updating now that he is again active in the troop.

Bocce: Phil reports season is starting 25 April. We have 12 members. Games on Thursday at 09:30, practice Tuesday 9:30 - 10.

Membership: Claude showed the official VFW spreadsheet used to determine All State qualification. We currently have 100 of the 120 points we need by end of April or May. Claude stressed the need to inform him of every qualifying activity performed.

Web Site: Rich presented a tour of the web site and how we can use it to stay current. Claude explained the score sheet showing how posts are graded:

All State and All American status: Claude reported that we should qualify for All state with the submission of a Scout of the Year, worth 20 points that are not yet showing on the report. If we get 100% of membership it would give us an additional 20 points. The benefits are a plaque for the post and qualification for commander and quartermaster to buy and wear a special "all state" hat.

Valor Games: One part of the web site announces Valor Games. Kandie encouraged all to participate.

Memorial Day Schedule:

0830 Flag raising, here, single volley salute

0900 Cemetery

1000 City Hall, 3 volley salute plus reading the names of the fallen in battle

Toll the Bell - Kandie

Read the names - Art, Ellison, Paul

1100 Lunch at the Hall

1200 Maritime Wreath Laying

Mare Island Naval Cemetery: Rich reported that he and Kandie toured the cemetery with Congressman Tanaka (VA Committee) and Congressman Mike Thompson. Discussed the issues with the city engineer and the Congressmen. Volunteered us to help. Support Sen Feinstein's S127 and Rep Thompson's HR 528.

Poppies: Rich arranged our time at Walmart for the weekend before Memorial Day. Carl will arrange with Safeway. 23-25 May. If we have enough people, we will be able to use both doors at Walmart. We need four or five people to optimize results. At Walmart, set up at 08:00; Rich will set up there, but someone else must shut down. At Safeway, Carl reported that we will set up at 09:00.

Celebration of Life for Sharon Steelhammer: Sunday, 28 April here at the Hall at 15:00.

Honor Guard: Ellison reported that we have had one memorial this month.

National Home Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

New Business

Next District Meeting: In July, but no details yet.

Building: Need work on the pool room.

Claude reported that Kandie was named Congressman Mike Thompson's Woman of the Year.

Jorge Martinez moved that we donate \$100 to Sea Cadets' poker tournament. Rich seconded. Passed. Sea cadet of the year is Cadet Martinez.

Alan Munguia announced that he is being deployed to Guyana for four months.

Picnic - considered having it on the Hall's lawn. To be discussed later.

Sick and Distressed Members: Kandie Jones, Jack Hafen, Terrance Holmes, Ellison Lockett, Stanley Rux, Gus Kritikos (has had two strokes), Juanita Lockett. Also, George Driscoll's son is at Walter Reed Hospital with a skull injury due to a climbing accident. Art Gomez has a spot on his lung and is now using a walker.

Old Business: None.

Closing Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Meeting closed: 11:25

Signed,
Art Miller
Adjutant

Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office

- 10 Douglas Drive, #100
Martinez, CA 94553-4078
(925) 313-1481 FAX (925) 313-1490
- 100 - 37th Street, #1033
Richmond, CA 94805-2179
(510) 374-3241 FAX (510) 374-7955



- 3361 Walnut Blvd. #140
Brentwood, CA 94513
(925) 313-1481 FAX (925) 313-1490
- 400 Hartz Avenue, #208
Danville, CA 94526
(925) 313-1481 FAX (925) 313-1490

Burial Benefits

*Sacramento Valley National Cemetery
707 693-2460*

What is a VA Burial Allowance?

A VA Burial Allowance is a partial reimbursement of an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not-service related, the reimbursement is generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot interment allowance.

Who is Eligible?

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- You paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, **AND**
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, **AND**
- The Veteran's discharge was under condition other than dishonorable. In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:
- The Veteran died because of service-related disability, **OR**
- The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**
- The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, **OR**
- The Veteran dies in a VA hospital or while in a nursing home under VA contract.

How Much Does the VA Pay?

Service-related death – VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses, VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some of all of the cost to move the deceased may be reimbursed.

Non service-related death – For deaths on or after October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses (if hospitalized by VA at the time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at the time of death), and a \$700 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. The plot-interment allowance of \$150 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the Veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed. An annual increase in burial and plot allowances, for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011, begins in the fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

What the VA Cannot Do?

- Gravesites in a National Cemetery cannot be reserved.
- The National Cemeteries, normally do not conduct burials on weekends.
- National Cemeteries cannot place headstones or markers from outside sources.
- The National Cemetery system cannot enter into contracts or agreements with local Funeral Directors or Mortuaries.

- The National Cemetery Administration cannot endorse local mortuaries or offer any discounts through a local Funeral Director or Mortuary.
- The veteran and/or family can purchase a prepaid burial plan through any organization of their choice. No Funeral Director or Mortuary can claim that they have any contract or agreement with the National Cemetery Association

Please report any questionable claims or advertisements to your local VA or National Cemetery Office.

Related Benefits

Burial in VA National Cemeteries Headstones and Markers
Presidential Memorial Certificates Burial Flags

What Do I Need To Apply?

Veterans Service Representatives are available to assist you with burial, survivors' or to discuss any veterans' benefit with you. You should bring proof of the veteran's military service (discharge or DD 214), a death certificate, and copies of funeral/burial contracts and receipts for expenses paid by you.

How Do I Get Help Or More Information?

Veterans Service Representatives are available to discuss this or any veterans' issue with you.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A

Veterans Memorial Benefits Seminar

Did you know your status as a U.S. Armed Forces veteran qualifies you for special funeral benefits? Honor your service while protecting your loved ones from unnecessary financial and emotional pain. Oh behalf of Ouimet Bros., join us for this important informational seminar and free meal. Spouses and loved ones are welcome.

Wednesday, May 22
12:00pm

Back Forty Texas BBQ
100 Coggins Dr.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Please RSVP at (925) 401-7423

BACK FORTY
Texas BBQ

OUIMET BROS.



CONCORD FUNERAL CHAPEL
4126 Clayton Road, Concord, California 94521
CA Lic. # FD1508

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
(925) 682-4242 FAX (925) 682-4281

A Name To Remember In Time Of Need

TAI CHI CLASS

Thursdays
8:30 -
9:30 AM

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEDITATIVE MOVEMENT CLASS IS TO TRANSITION THROUGH A SERIES OF GENTLE, HEALTH-GIVING EXERCISES IN A RELAXED AND JOYOUS ENVIRONMENT. TAI CHI COMBINES THE FLUIDITY OF DANCE WITH ENERGETIC MOVEMENTS THAT TONE THE BODY AND IMPROVE CIRCULATION, BALANCE AND POSTURE.

TAUGHT BY
HURSEY BAKER



HURSEY, A MARINE CORPS VETERAN, HAS BEEN PRACTICING TAI CHI FOR 30 YEARS. HE HAS MORE THAN 15 YEARS OF TAI CHI TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND CURRENTLY CONDUCTS MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES AT THE COLLEGE OF MARIN, MEETS WITH A GROUP OF ADVANCED KARATE STUDENTS IN SAN RAMON VALLEY AND PLEASANT HILL. HE TEACHES ON SATURDAY MORNINGS IN BERKELEY AT THE BGRP FITNESS STUDIO...

Offered through a collaboration between:



Concord Vet Center

Monthly Minutes
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351
Martinez, CA 94553
Saturday, 16 March 2019

Post Commander Trezina (Kandie) Jones called the meeting of Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 to order at 10:05 on 16 February 2019.

Roll Call, Officers:

Trazena (Kandie) Jones – Commander - Present
Rich Cheney – First Vice Commander - Excused
Ellison Lockett – Second Vice Commander - Present
Claude Nave – Quartermaster - Present
Jason Caiado – Chaplain - Present
Art Miller – Adjutant - Present
Carl Edwards – Asst. Adjutant - Present
Stanley Rux – Surgeon - Present
Gus Kritikos – First Year Trustee - Absent
Stephany Cornejo – Second Year Trustee - Absent
Paul Steelhammer – Third Year Trustee – Absent
Jorge Martinez – Sergeant of Arms - Present
Brian Chauvin – Service Officer - Absent

Members in Attendance:

Phil Dougherty
Bruce Bauer
Shae Rooney
John Lyttle
Alan Munguia

Guests:

None

Opening Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Minutes of February 2019: There being no reported errors or omissions in the minutes posted to the web site, Art Miller moved that they be accepted as posted; Claude seconded. Motion passed.

Quartermaster Report: Claude Nave presented the financial report as of 28 Feb 2019. Ellison moved that the report be accepted, Jorge seconded. Motion passed. Financial data are available only to members so are excluded from this published copy of the minutes.

New Members: None.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Claude Nave reported that we have one new member and one reinstated. We had 73 members 1/1/19, now 70.

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen: Rich Cheney is absent due to excused conflict, so no

report.

Scouts: Paul Steelhammer is absent; Carl reported that Paul may have someone to take over from him.

Membership: Claude showed the official VFW spreadsheet used to determine All State qualification. We currently have 100 of the 120 points we need by end of April or May. Claude stressed the need to inform him of every qualifying activity performed.

Web Site: Art Miller reported that a mesothelioma support organization had approached Rich Cheney about adding a link from our web site to theirs. Rich and Art concurred that it was a worthy addition, due especially to the Navy's extensive use of asbestos. Art cited health damage due to his parents' Naval and shipyard exposures. The link is under local organizations on the web site.

All State and All American status: Claude reported that we should qualify for All state with the submission of a Scout of the Year. If we get 100% of membership it would give us an additional 20 points. The benefits are a plaque for the post and qualification for commander and quartermaster to buy and wear a special "all state" hat.

Bocce: Phil reported that he has signed us up. Competition, for our team, will start 25 April, after the rains.

Poppies: Rich arranged our time at Walmart for the weekend before Memorial Day. Carl will arrange with Safeway. 23-25 May. If we have enough people, we will be able to use both doors at Walmart. We need four or five people to optimize results.

Honor Guard: Ellison reported that we have had no memorials this month.

National Home Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

New Business

Next District Meeting: 23 Mar at 0900 at 815 Fulton Shipyard, Antioch.

Building: New stoves and tables in kitchen thanks to Phil and Ellison. Need work on the pool room.

28 April there will be a memorial for Sharon Steelhammer here in this Hall at 1500.

Sick and Distressed Members: Kandie Jones, Jack Hafen, Terrance Holmes, Ellison Lockett, Stanley Rux, Gus Kritikos, Juanita Lockett.

Memorial Day: Need 16 people for Memorial Day ceremonies. Check web site for official times:

- 0830 Flag raising and one volley at Veterans Hall
- 0900 Cemetery ceremony
- 1000 Ignacio Plaza ceremony
- 1100 Community Lunch at Veterans Hall
- 1200 Maritime Wreath Laying ceremony at harbor

Other activities: Kandie mentioned PGA Hope for help getting together with other vets and learning

golf. At Diablo Creek 1st and 3rd Monday. Twelve spots available at \$15. Call 707-449-4742.

Kandie also suggested attending Valor Games are athletic competitions for vets over 3 days on Coast Guard Island, Alameda.

Community Service: Mac Cero has brochures for Operation Care and Comfort (OCC), an organization supporting troops overseas with Care packages. His car club donated \$1500; Mac moved that we donate \$200, ellison seconded; motion passed.

Old Business: None.

Nomination of Officers:

Elected officers:

Commander - Kandie Jones
Sr. Vice Commander - Richard Cheney
Junior Vice Commander - Ellison Lockett
Quartermaster - Claude Nave
Chaplain - Jason Caido
Trustee - Shae Rooney

Appointed officers:

Judge Advocate - Bruce Bauer
Surgeon - Stanley Rux
Adjutant - Art Miller
Service Officer - Lennie Dombach

Closing Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Meeting closed: 10:53

Signed,
Art Miller
Adjutant

Monthly Minutes
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351
Martinez, CA 94553
Saturday, 16 February 2019

Post Commander Trezina (Kandie) Jones called the meeting of Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 to order at 10:05 on 16 February 2019.

Roll Call, Officers:

Trazena (Kandie) Jones – Commander - Present
Rich Cheney – First Vice Commander - Present
Ellison Lockett – Second Vice Commander - Present
Claude Nave – Quartermaster - Present
Jason Caiado – Chaplain - Present
Art Miller – Adjutant - Present
Carl Edwards – Asst. Adjutant - Present
Stanley Rux – Surgeon - Present
Gus Kritikos – First Year Trustee - Absent
Stephany Cornejo – Second Year Trustee - Absent
Paul Steelhammer – Third Year Trustee – Absent
Jorge Martinez – Sergeant of Arms - Absent
Brian Chauvin – Service Officer - Absent

Members in Attendance:

Phil Dougherty
Bobby Siebenrock
Bruce Bauer
Frank Kastl
Shae Rooney

Guests:

None

Opening Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Minutes of January 2019: There being no reported errors or omissions in the minutes posted to the web site, Art Miller moved that they be accepted as posted; Claude seconded. Motion passed.

Quartermaster Report: Carl Edwards presented the financial report as of 31 Jan 2019. Carl moved that the report be accepted, Ellison locket seconded. Motion passed. Financial data are available only to members so are excluded from this published copy of the minutes.

New Members: None.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Claude Nave reported that we need two more members to pay dues to be 100% and a couple of new members to make All State. Richard Cheney reported that he had approached eligible student veterans at SFSU to join our post, with benefits at all VFW posts. Carl pointed out that there were also disaster benefits of membership.

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen: Richard reported that we are out of season for both of these programs, and we will not get this year's topics until possibly as late as June. We will resume activities then. Rich displayed the award presented to our Patriot's Pen candidate last month.

Mare Island Naval Cemetery: Richard reported this congressional session's new congressional bills from Sen Feinstein and Rep Thompson. Frank Kastl questioned the VA's cost estimates as reported in the *Stars and Stripes* story. Rich proposed that we, as a post, lobby our District and Department for support.

Scouts: Paul Steelhammer is absent; Carl reported that Paul may have someone to take over from him.

Membership: Claude showed the official VFW spreadsheet used to determine All State qualification. We currently have 100 of the 120 points we need by end of April or May. Claude stressed the need to inform him of every qualifying activity performed. The report is now available on our website: http://vfwpost1351.org/ESW/Files/10_-_Post_Status_Report_-_02-22-19.pdf

Bocce: Phil reported that he has signed us up. Competition will probably start in April, after the rains.

Phil urged anyone interested to support the American Legion corned beef dinner. See flyer, attached.

Activities: Frank Kastl suggested that the Post consider joining the *Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club* for inter-club yacht club benefits. It would give us an additional way to network with other vets as well as with yacht clubs.

Poppies: Rich arranged our time at Walmart for the weekend before Memorial Day. Carl will arrange with Safeway. 23-25 May.

Student Veterans: Rich read thank-you card from Moira Holman for our financial support to them for their national conference. Ms. Holman represented the SFSU student veterans at a District 10 meeting to solicit their support. Post 1351 contributed \$250, District contributed \$1000. See attached.

Honor Guard: Ellison reported that we have had no memorials this month.

National Home Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

New Business

Next District Meeting: 23 Mar at 0900 at 815 Fulton Shipyard, Antioch.

Building: Ellison reported that we need help today to remove old stove from the Kitchen, and we need to clean up the pool room. The stove was removed to Phil's truck immediately after the meeting, then Phil took it to the dump.

Sick and Distressed Members: Kandie Jones, Jack Hafen, Terrance Holmes, Ellison Lockett, Stanley Rux, Gus Kritikos, and Juanita Lockett.

Juanita Lockett had two seizures in the week before the meeting. Terrance Holme's son passed away. We send our condolences to Paul Steelhammer on the passing of his wife, Sharon Steelhammer.

New Business: St. Patrick's dinner sponsored by the American Legion: 2 Mar, \$15.

Old Business: Exterior light for flag pole: The existing light's wiring gauge is too small and must be replaced, but not before rain ends.

Closing Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

Meeting closed: 11:07

American Legion

Henry A McNamara Post 29

Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Veterans Memorial Building

930 Ward Street

Martinez, CA



Saturday, March 2, 2019

No Host Pub – 5:00pm

Dinner – 6:00pm

Irish Dinner

Corned Beef & Cabbage

Door Prize
drawing

For Reservations call:

Jeff 925-957-1662

Donation \$15.⁰⁰

per person

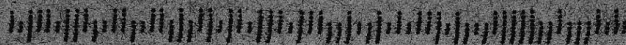


Vets@SFSU
1600 Holloway Ave
#55B303
San Francisco, CA
94132



VFW Sidney Severns
930 Ward St
Martinez, CA

~~94553~~ 94553



On Behalf of the veterans @ SFSU,

I'd like to thank you for your contribution to help us get to the 2019 Student Veterans of America's National Convention. We were able to reach half of our goal & sent 4 students this year!

Thank you for believing in the student veterans @ San Francisco State University
Myra Hallman
Director of Veterans Affairs - Vets@SFSU

Monthly Minutes
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351
Martinez, CA 94553
Saturday, 19 January 2019

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on 19 January 2019 at 1028 by Post Vice Commander Richard Cheney after an informal meeting with guests that began at 1000.

I. Roll Call, Officers:

Trazena (Kandie) Jones –Commander -Excused
Rich Cheney –First Vice Commander -Present
Ellison Lockett –Second Vice Commander -Present
Claude Nave –Quartermaster -Present
Jason Caiado –Chaplain -Present
Art Miller –Adjutant -Present
Carl Edwards –Asst. Adjutant -Present
Stanley Rux –Surgeon -Present
Gus Kritikos –First Year Trustee -Absent
Stephany Cornejo –Second Year Trustee -Absent
Paul Steelhammer –Third Year Trustee –Absent
Jorge Martinez –Sergeant of Arms -Present
Brian Chauvin –Service Officer –Absent

II. Members in attendance:

Phil Dougherty
Emmett Schumer
Mac Cero
Everett Della Rosa
Frank Kastl
JohnH Lyttle III
Bruce Bauer
Frank Macan
Emmett Schumer

III. Guests:

Raul Andrade
Diego Andrade
Joe Prado
Matthew Prado

IV. The official meeting started late to accommodate two guest presentations. The guests were not present for the official meeting.

V. Guest Presentations (before official meeting)

Matthew Prado, accompanied by his father, Joe Prado, offered to assist the Post with service projects. Matthew is an Eagle Scout, and wishes to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. Suggestions included maintenance work on the Hall and on the Mare Island cemetery. Diego Andrade won the Patriots Pen competition at the Post 1351 level, so was awarded our \$250

stipend at this meeting. He was accompanied by his father, Raul Andrade.

The official meeting was called to order at 10:28.

VI. Opening Prayer:Jason Caiado led.

VII. Minutes of 15 Dec 2018:

Motion to accept minutes posted on website by Ellison Lockett, seconded by Claude Nave. Approved with one correction -that the financial report be deleted and that all future minutes

be annotated to state that financial data are excluded.

VIII. Quartermaster Report: Carl Edwards presented the financial report as of 31 Dec 2018. Financial data are available only to members so are excluded from this published copy of the minutes.

IX. New Members: None.

X. Returning members: John Lyttle, George Driscoll

XI. Committee Reports:

Membership: Claude Nave reported that we have one new this year, and should have another 5 or 6, but it is not a qualifier for all state this year.

Voice of Democracy, Patriots Penand Teacher of the Year: In the pre-meeting, Rich Cheney described each competition and their prize levels and encouraged Matthew Prado to continue participating. 2019 is a new year for these competitions. Schools are given the information on the student programs, but they don't generally produce entrants. Claude suggested following the Martinez Gazette's lead for Teacher of the Year.

Scouting: Paul Steelhammer was not present, so did not report.

Website: Rich Cheney reported updated entry reMare Island Naval Cemetery. He has asked the city contact, Erin Hanford (Economic Development for City of Vallejo) to assist with a campaign to shame the VA into taking up the maintenance.

All State Status: Claude reported that we get points for each community activity we complete, and support for military unit.

Bocce: Phil reported that we need 4 more for our team. Meets on Thursday morning (0900), practices on Tuesday morning.

Poppies: Rich suggested doing both Walmart and Safeway the weekend of Memorial Day, rather than separate weekends, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Student Veterans of America: Rich attended the 2019 conference 3-5 Jan. Our post contributed \$250; District gave \$1000. Contributions were distributed among the SFSU participants. At least 1500 veterans attended the conference; 75 agencies attended including VFW and American Legion. There were over 100 breakout sessions covering veterans' issues and employers' needs. Prospective employers interviewed vet attendees.

Honor Detail: Three funerals since Veterans Day. In one, only two attended. Of the other two, we received donations of \$700.

XII. Prayer for National Home: Jason Caiado led prayer.

XIII. New Business: Carl reminded us of the American Legion's corned beef dinner in March.

Next district meeting 0900 on 23 March at 815 Fulton Shipyard in Antioch.

Next building meeting 16 March. The commercial stove that leaks gas will be replaced by two home kitchen stoves.

XIV. Sick/distressed members: Kandie Jones, Jack Hafen, Terrance Holmes, Ellison Lockett, Stanley Rux, Sharon Steelhammer and Juanita Lockett.

XV. Closing Prayer: Jason Caiado led.

XVI. Meeting closed: 11:20