

Monthly Minutes  
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Sunday, December 15, 2013

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on December 15, 2013 at 1426 by Post Commander Carl Edwards.

Roll of Officers was informally called by appointed Officer of the Day – Mr Nave:

Carl Edwards, Post Commander – Present  
Claude Nave, Quartermaster – Present  
Lennie Dombach, Surgeon – Absent  
Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate – Absent  
Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander – Present  
Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander – Present  
George Driscoll, Adjutant – Present  
Frank Kastl, Chaplin – Present  
Shea E. Rooney, 1st Year Trustee – Absent  
Paul Steelhammer, 2nd Year Trustee – Present  
Richard R. Akin, 3rd Year Trustee – Excused  
Mike Keppel, Service Officer – Excused

Membership present:

Phil Daugherty  
William Boyd  
Trazena Jones  
Ellison Lockett  
Jose Badillo  
Ruben Tapia  
Tom Zamaria  
Ramon Fernandez  
Art Gomez  
John Lytle  
Alex Grimes

1426: CDR Edwards called the meeting to order and Mr. Nave verified the roll and authorization for all present.

1427: CDR Edwards led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1428: Chaplain Kastl led opening prayer.

1430: CDR Edwards directed the Adjutant to read the Post's meeting minutes from the

September 2013 meeting. Mr. Driscoll read the meeting minutes from the September 21, 2013 meeting. CDR Edwards called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes as read. Mr. Kastl made the motion. Mr. Cero seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

1435: CDR Edwards called for the Quartermaster's report. Mr. Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report as follows: Beginning Bank balance on 10-31-13: \$13,096.44 – Payments \$934.81 – Deposits \$6,051.54; Ending 11-30-13 Bank Balance: \$18,213.17; Outstanding Checks: \$142.24; Book Balance: \$184,070.93. Mr. Nave announced the finance report was available to all members for personal review. CDR Edwards called for a motion to accept the finance report as read. Mr. Holmes made a motion to accept the financial report as read. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd and passed unanimously.

1437: CDR Edwards called for new members report announcing a new member, Nicholas Peterson, U.S. Army. Mr. Peterson was not present. Mr. Nave made a motion to accept the new member. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1439: CDR Edwards provided a status report on the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen programs which included the Post's submission of a nomination package for Sophia Mastery.

1440: CDR Edwards called for a status report from the various committees and awards efforts. Mr. Nave reported that the Teacher of the Year Award nomination package has been submitted on Ms. Solwinger. Mr. Steelhammer described the Boy Scout of the Year award has two nominations and he is waiting on the write-up packages for each. Additionally, he described an Eagle Scout candidate is in the process of drafting the request for his Eagle Scout project which will include upgrading the service area in the rear of the Hall. Mr. Cero announced that the Buddy Poppy effort was a complete success. It generated approximately \$6,000. Mr. Holmes reported there was NSTR from the communications committee.

1444: CDR Edwards requested Mr. Zamaria provide an after action report on the Veteran's Day events. Mr. Zamaria announced that the events were extremely successful and personally thanked the honor guard for their performance. He then described his efforts to move the Martinez Veteran's Memorial from its current location to a more suitable location—possibly City Hall. This effort is prompted because the current location is not well suited for ceremonies.

1446: CDR Edwards called for any other committee reports. A quick general discussion was had regarding the postponement of the Post's crab feed. The topic was tabled for future discussion and planning.

1447: CDR Edwards called for Post nominations for the VMBB. After a general discussion the membership nominated Mr. Gomez, Mr. Driscoll, Mr. Cero, Mr. Daugherty,

and Mr. Tapia. CDR Edwards directed that the vote on the nominees will be held at the January 2014 meeting to ensure greater Post participation and consideration. CDR Edwards then gave a description of the VMBB role and duties of the members. Mr. Zamaria asked for general descriptions of the issues currently facing the VMBB to better assist the membership make an informed decision on their nomination/voting choices. Several members joined in describing VMBB issues and procedures. A general discussion followed.

1452: CDR Edwards asked Mr. Nave to provide a report on the current efforts by the Post for All American status. Mr. Nave gave an overview, and then reminded all that the Post's success last year entitled Post members to a commemorative ball cap. A lively discussion, based on service rivalry, followed. Mr. Nave then provided an after action report on the Post's flag support to Vincenty High School. He then reminded the membership of the District meeting scheduled for 2-1-14/1300 at the Antioch VFW, and the beginning of the Post's Memorial Day planning process and the need for volunteers. Mr. Zamaria emphasized the significance of Memorial Day for the City of Martinez and particularly how the city's archives are flush with photos and reports on VFW Honor Guard's presence and attraction. Mr. Lockett announced his frustration with the Martinez Post Office's lack of respect for the National Colors in front of their building on Court St. CDR Edwards asked Mr. Lockett to represent the Post and meet with the post office leadership to motivate them to show respect to our flag. Mr. Lockett agreed.

1459: Mr. Daugherty announced Vietnam Helicopter group is available to provide rides on a Vietnam era HUEY. The contact information is: Mike Haus, 2100 Meridian Park BLVD, Concord, 925-305-1325.

1505: CDR Edwards asked if any member has heard of any other member in extremis. No new information from the membership was announced; however, CDR Edwards solicited from Mr. Fernandez an update on his condition. Mr. Fernandez provided an update—no additional assistance from the Post was sought.

1508: CDR Edwards reminded the membership of the annual dues.

1509: Mr. Nave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cero seconded the motion. CDR Edwards called for a general vote, it carried unanimously. CDR Edwards adjourned the meeting.

George Driscoll

Monthly Minutes  
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Saturday, September 21, 2013

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on September 21, 2013 at 1009 by Post Commander Carl Edwards.

Roll of Officers was informally called by appointed Officer of the Day – Mr Cero:

Carl Edwards, Post Commander – Present  
Claude Nave, Quartermaster – Present  
Lennie Dombach, Surgeon – Present  
Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate – Present  
Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander – Present  
Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander – Present  
George Driscoll, Adjutant – Present  
Frank Kastl, Chaplin – Present  
Shea E. Rooney, 1st Year Trustee – Absent  
Paul Steelhammer, 2nd Year Trustee – Present  
Richard R. Akin, 3rd Year Trustee – Absent  
Mike Keppel, Service Officer – Present

Membership present:

Gus Kritikos  
Marjorie Detiege  
Jose Guzman  
Phil Daugherty  
William Boyd  
Gus Kritikos  
Trazena Jones  
Bill Harbin  
Ellison Lockett  
Mike Driggers  
Jose Badillo  
Michael Charlot  
Mike Gauthier  
Gary Rath

Guests:

Don Black, District 25 CDR  
Paul Carroll, Post 1525 CDR  
Kathleen Clancy, American Legion, Post 29

Dave Jackson, American Legion Post 29

1005: CDR Edwards, prior to calling the meeting to order, introduced Ms. Kathleen Clancy who provided the membership with an overview of resources available to veterans at the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office. Ms. Clancy introduced Mr. Dave Jackson as a point of contact for additional veteran resources. CDR Black announced that the Delta Veteran's Group was having a veteran's resource fair today on Shipyard Road in Antioch.

1009: CDR Edwards called the meeting to order and Mr. Nave verified the roll and authorization for all present.

1012: Chaplain Kastl led opening prayer.

1014: CDR Edwards led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1015: CDR Edwards confirmed that the Post Officers roll call had been completed.

1016: CDR Edwards introduced Mr. Carroll and CDR Black who reported to the membership the results of their just-concluded inspection of the Post. Specifically, CDR Black said the Post not only past the inspection, but described it as an extremely well run Post. Further, CDR Black congratulated the Post on its successes at National, and specifically attributed its successes to the Post's leadership.

1017: CDR Edwards called for new members report. Mr. Nave announced a new member, Robert DiMaggio, U.S. Army. Mr. DiMaggio was not present. Mr. Driggers made a motion to accept the new member. Mr. Lockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1023: CDR Edwards directed the Adjutant to read the Post's meeting minutes from the August 2013 meeting. Mr. Driscoll read the meeting minutes from the August 17, 2013 meeting. CDR Edwards called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes as read with one correction of a typographical error. Mr. Nave made the motion. Mr. Kastl seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

1027: Mr. Keppel reminded the membership of the prohibition to wearing baseball caps indoors during the Post meeting.

1028: CDR Edwards called for the Quartermaster's report. Mr. Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report as follows: Beginning Bank balance on 7-31-2013: \$16,293.64 – Payments \$2,318.00 – Deposits \$119.00; Ending 8-31-2013 Bank Balance: \$14,094.64; Outstanding Checks: \$57.00; Book Balance: \$14,037.64. Mr. Nave announced the finance report was available to all members for personal review. CDR Edwards called for a motion to accept the finance report as read. Mr. Holmes made a motion to accept the financial report as read. It was seconded by Mr. Keppel and passed unanimously.

1030: CDR Edwards called for the Service Officer's Report. Mr. Keppel described several recruiting efforts and recruiting successes. He described various recruiting resources available to members. He then reminded the membership the annual membership dues are now due. Mr. Holmes asked for clarification on the requirement for new members to produce their DD214. A discussion was held and CDR Black, after reviewing the national VFW By-Laws, announced that it the responsibility of each Post to determine the eligibility of new members; a DD214 is not the only way to determine eligibility. Any reasonable documentation or affirmation may satisfy the eligibility determination. Mr. Nave identified members who were responsible for recruiting several of the Post's newest members.

1044: CDR Edwards provided a report on Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen programs then solicited volunteers and described the process and requirements. Mr. Steelhammer requested a Post representative provide a briefing to the Post-sponsored Sea Cadet unit. **Our Post doesn't sponsor the Sea Cadets in a sense, The hall does. However, we do give a Cadet of the year award. I don't know if you want to call that sponsoring.** CDR Edwards agreed to provide a representative and directed Mr. Steelhammer to meet with him off-line for scheduling. CDR Black provided an overview on these two keenly competitive programs and their respective awards.

1052: CDR Edwards called for a status report from the various committees and awards efforts. Mr. Nave reported that there was NSTR on the Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Steelhammer described there was NSTR on the Boy Scout of the Year award. However, he reminded the membership that the Post must approve the Scoutmaster for the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the Post. That position is currently vacant. He provided a brief background on Mr. Gil Patton, who is currently the troop's assistant scoutmaster, and called for a motion from the membership to select **(approve in stead of select, the troop selected him)** Mr. Patton as the new Scoutmaster. Mr. Nave made the motion. Mr. Keppel seconded it. It passed unanimously. Mr. Steelhammer also solicited ideas from the membership for Eagle Scout projects. He said there are several Eagle Scout candidates in the troop who are looking for project recommendations. Mr. Cero announced that the Buddy Poppy effort was beginning again and solicited volunteers for November 7/8/9/and 10 (the four days preceding Veteran's Day). Mr. Holmes reported there was NSTR from the communications committee. CDR Edwards solicited nominations for all the awards.

1058: CDR Edwards summoned Ms. Marjorie Detiege to the rostrum and presenter her with a commendation for her outstanding efforts as the Post's web site manager. Ms. Marjorie Detiege provided there was NSTR on the Post's website other than it is up-and-running, and solicited additional articles and announcements for the website. She further announced that a mosaic honoring veterans and POWs has come available, and asked if the Post was interested in purchasing it. After the membership discussed it the topic was tabled so as to give the Eagle Scout candidates an opportunity to consider mounting the mosaic as a possible Eagle Scout project.

1107: CDR Edwards requested Mr. Nave provide a status report on the Post's efforts towards VFW All State, and All American Awards this year. Mr. Nave announced that to-date the Post has increased its membership toward these goals. He also announced that because of recent successes the Post is authorized to purchase various commemorative ball caps. CDR Edwards called for a motion for the Post to purchase several ball caps for the membership. Mr. Steelhammer made the motion. Mr. Cero seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Marjorie Detiege announced that the application for new members on the Post's web site has been modified with the Post's address vice the VFW National address. Also, she will post on the web site the meeting minutes.

1118: CDR Edwards reminded the membership of the District meeting on 10-19-13 at 0900. This meeting will conflict with the Post's October meeting schedule. CDR Edwards called for interest by the membership to hold the Post's October meeting at the Lafayette VMB so as to be able to fully attend the District meeting as well—and to enjoy the breakfast served at the District's meetings. All members present agreed to hold the meeting at the remote venue. CDR Edwards announced that he will remind all members of the changed location via email shortly before next month's meeting.

1122: CDR Edwards reminded members of the opportunity to enjoy, at no cost, the facilities at a golf course in Sandpoint, Idaho. He asked for those members who may be interested in this opportunity to let him know so he could determine the level of interest.

1124: CDR Edwards asked if any member has heard of any other member in extremis. No response from the membership.

1125: CDR Edwards directed Chaplain Kastl to remove the memorial ceremonial black swag from the Post's Charter. CDR Edwards called for a moment of silence.

1126: CDR Edwards reminded the membership of the timing for annual dues. CDR Black described how VFW National has decided to raise the amount of annual dues by \$10.00. He then gave a breakdown in the distribution schedule of the increased amounts.

1129: Chaplain Kastl led a prayer for the National Home.

1130: CDR Edwards called for any unfinished business. None noted.

1131: CDR Edwards called for any new business. Mr. Dave Jackson gave a briefing on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Korean War recognition ceremony on 11-12-13. He invited all members to the event and reminded them of the uniform requirement (i.e., covers).

1131: Mr. Dombach provided an update report from the last VMBB meeting on August 28. He described: 1) a briefing given by an insurance representative of possible civil liability exposure of VMBB members; 2) the status of the Hall's air conditioning upgrade,



which included a disappointing discovery that the County was not very helpful in this endeavor; 3) on-going efforts to remodel the hall's kitchen; 4) the hall's new sound system installation; 5) By-Laws committee work; 6) block grant efforts; and 7) a bleak outlook of VMB financial status. Mr. Steelhammer asked for specific details on the VMB financial status. Mr. Nave and Mr. Driscoll described the current VMB finances as being able to cover normal projected operations, but lack strategic reserves or the abilities for any capital projects.

1139: CDR Edwards called for closing ceremonies. Chaplain Kastl led the membership in a closing prayer. CDR Edwards led the Post in rendering honors to the colors; adjourned the meeting; and announced the next meeting will be at the Lafayette VMB on 10-19-13 at 1000.

George Driscoll



**Monthly Minutes**  
**For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351**  
**Martinez, CA 94553**  
**Saturday, Aug 17, 2013**

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on Aug 17, 2013 at 1005 by Post Commander Carl Edwards.

Roll of Officers was informally called by appointed Officer of the Day – Claude Nave:

Carl Edwards, Post Commander – Present  
Claude Nave, Quartermaster – Present  
Lennie Dombach, Surgeon – Present  
Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate – Present  
Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander – Present  
Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander – Absent  
George Driscoll, Adjutant – Present  
Frank Kastl, Chaplin – Present  
Shea E. Rooney, 1st Year Trustee – Absent  
Paul Steelhammer, 2nd Year Trustee – Absent  
Richard R. Akin, 3rd Year Trustee – Absent  
Mike Keppel, Service Officer – Absent

Membership present:

Gus Kritikos  
Marjorie Detiege  
Jose Guzman  
Phil Daugherty  
Lisa M. Maloney  
William Boyd  
Ruben Tapia  
Brandon Lewis  
Gus Kritikos  
Trazenh Jones  
Bill Harbin  
Alex Grimes  
Ellison Lockett

1005: CDR Edwards led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1006: Chaplain Kastl led opening prayer.

1007: CDR Edwards confirmed that the Post Officers roll call had been completed.

1011: CDR Edwards summoned Ms. Maloney to the podium. Lisa Maloney, who is also a member of the Martinez Police DEPT, provided an overview of the Martinez PD Volunteer Program, to include its training and background investigation requirements. Ms. Maloney directed the membership to the Martinez City web site for specific details. Additionally, she solicited volunteers for the program and those interested need to visit the application process on the City's web site. She provided all with an announcement flier of the program.

1016: CDR Edwards directed the Adjutant to read the Post's meeting minutes from both the June and July 2013 meetings. Mr. Driscoll read the meeting minutes from the June 15, 2013 meeting. CDR Edwards called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes as read. Mr. Kastle made the motion, Mr. Harbin seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Driscoll read the meeting minutes from the July 20, 2013 meeting. CDR Edwards called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes as read. Mr. Kastle made the motion, Ms. Maloney seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

1027: CDR Edwards called for the finance report. Quartermaster Mr. Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report as follows: Beginning Bank balance on 6-30-2013: \$17,116.99 – Payments \$863.85 – Deposits \$40.50; Ending 7-31-2013 Bank Balance: \$16,293.64; Outstanding Checks: \$207.00; Book Balance: \$16,086.64. CDR Edwards called for a motion to accept the finance report as read. Mr. Driscoll made a motion to accept the financial report as read. It was seconded by Mr. Holmes and passed unanimously.

1029: CDR Edwards called for a "New Members" report. Mr. Nave read the names of new members: Amilcar Cerejo, and Matthew Lynch—neither of whom were present. Ms. Maloney made a motion to accept all new members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lockett and passed unanimously.

1031: CDR Edwards provided a report on Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pin programs then solicited volunteers and described the process and requirements.

1032: CDR Edwards called for a status report on the Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Nave reported that at the present time there was nothing significant to report (NSTR). CDR Edwards solicited nominations for all the awards. Mr. Nave, described all the awards as follows: Teacher of the Year, Police Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and EMT of the year.

1033: Mr. Nave provided a report on the need for volunteers for Poppy sales efforts the last week of October and the first week of November.

1034: CDR Edwards requested Mr. Nave provide a status report on the Post's effort towards VFW All State, and All American Awards this year. Mr. Nave announced that to-date, the Post has increased its membership by six new members and one

reinstatement. Both CDR Edwards and Mr. Nave solicited the membership to affirmatively recruit nominees for VFW membership.

1036: CDR Edwards provided an After Action Report from his attendance at the VFW National Convention. He thanked the membership for their effort which resulted in the great membership drive success last year; further, that success resulting in the awarding of "White Hats" to the Post. Mr. Nave described White Hat significance.

1037: Ms. Marjorie Detiege provided there was NSTR on the Post's website. She solicited additional articles and announcements for the website. ([www.vfwpost1351.org](http://www.vfwpost1351.org))

1038: Mr. Holmes provided a report on Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pin procedures. CDR Edwards again solicited the membership for volunteers to participate in this committee.

1039: CDR Edwards reminded the membership of the Honor Guard practice schedule.

1040: CDR Edwards called Mr. Nave to report on the results of the District Meeting. Mr. Nave reported that he, Mike Keppel, and Terrance Holmes attended. The topics discussed were: the consolidation of the S.F. and "our" district. Mr. Nave opined that this merger will have minimal effect on our Post's operations. He also announced that the committee has agreed to support Mr. Tom Karras for election to Junior Vice Commander for the State. He then announced that the training afterwards was very helpful to understand VFW Post management procedures.

1041: Mr. Alex Grimes reported that he was disappointed in the membership's participation in the Farmers Market recruitment effort. Specifically, he said he saw no other member at the event. Therefore, he solicited volunteers to participate in the up-and-coming Farmers Market events. CDR Edwards directed Mr. Grimes to prepare a briefing or report on what is needed for the event from the membership and exactly what is the objective at the Farmers Market. Mr. Grimes said the purpose of the VFW presence at the Farmers Market is recruitment. The membership discussed ways to enhance the opportunity for the Post at the Farmer's Market. Ms. Maloney suggested greater interaction with the VA. Another suggestion was a uniform of the day order from CDR Edwards for all those who participate at the Farmers Market. Mr. Holmes made a motion for the Post to purchase a cover (hat) for Mr. Grimes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lockett. The motion passed with two in opposition.

1052: CDR Edwards announced a possible opportunity for members to enjoy at no cost the facilities at a golf course in Sandpoint, Idaho. He asked for those members who may be interested in this opportunity to let him know so he could determine the level of interest. Several members indicated interest and CDR Edwards said he will continue pursuing the arrangements.

1055: CDR Edwards reminded the members the District will conduct an inspection of the Post next month. All administrative requirements must be in compliance.

1056: CDR Edwards asked if any member has heard of any other member in extremis. Mr. Nave reported that there has been no recent contact with Ms. CJ Timmerman, and sadly, Gene Williams has passed. CDR Edwards direct Chaplain Kastl to perform the memorial ceremony of draping the black swag over the Post's Charter. CDR Edwards called for a moment of silence.

1058: Mr. Dombach provided an update report on the last VMBB meeting on July 24. He described: the status of the Hall's air conditioning upgrade, which included a disappointing discovery that the County was not very helpful in this endeavor; Hall alarm company challenges; an Eagle Scout project; the completion of the new gun safe installation; By-Law committee work; efforts to pursue Block Grants; and an upgrade for the sound system at the hall. He emphasized that specifically the sound system would never have been undertaken but for the significant generosity of Phil Daugherty. The entire membership applauded and thanked Mr. Daugherty.

1102: CDR Edwards announced that the American Legion Boys and Girls State Dinner will be held 9-14-13.

1103: Mr. Lewis updated the members on his recent family and financial challenges, then thanked the members for their support and loyalty.

1106: Chaplain Kastl led a prayer for the National Home.

1108: CDR Edwards asked for any new business for the good of the order. Mr. Harbin described two recent Korean War memorial events recognizing the 60-year Anniversary of that extremely intense conflict. Mr. Nave announced the Post has received several certificates for various successes from the national Convention. Mr. Grimes announced Concord VFW is holding a swim challenge (Alcatraz to SF) and he will participate in it. Mr. Nave announced we have been asked to do services for a WWII vet Wednesday, AUG 21 at 11am at the San Pablo Cemetery. He asked for volunteers. CDR Edwards reminded everyone to help in the clean-up of the Hall after the meeting. Mr. Kastl suggested there be a "dynamic calendar" to make it easier for members to know about activities. Ms. Marjorie Detiege reminded everyone that the web site is available to all and has a calendar on it which she personally updates as soon as she receives information about activities and events. The membership discussed the current newsletter, but agreed the "dynamic calendar" is one of the Post's web site capabilities and is being done now. Unfortunately, some members don't have immediate access to the internet; therefore member should stay in touch with each other to ensure all know up-and-coming activities. Further, the meeting minutes should be published on the Post's web site for all to access throughout the month.

1119: Chaplain Kastl led the membership in a closing prayer.

1103: CDR Edwards adjourned the meeting, and announced the next meeting 9-21-13.

George Driscoll

Monthly Minutes For Sidney Severns  
VFW Post 1351 Martinez, CA.  
Saturday July 20, 2013

The meeting of Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on July 20, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. by Post Senior Vice Commander Terrance Holmes.

Officers

Carl Edwards, Post Commander-Excused-Attending VFW National Convention

Claude Nave, Quartermaster-Present

Lennie Dombach, Surgeon-Excused

Dennis Hughes, Judge Advocate-Present

Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander-Present

Macario Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander-Present

George Driscoll, Adjutant-Excused

Frank Kastl, Chaplin-Present

Shea Rooney, 3rd Year Trustee-Present

Paul Steelhammer, 1st Year Trustee-Excused

Rickard Akin, 2nd Year Trustee-Present

Michael Keppel, Service Officer-Excused-Attending VFW National Convention

Alex Grimes, Officer of the Day-Present

Membership: Present

Philip Daugherty Scott DeVenney Mike Gauthier Bill Harbin

Ellison Lockett Nathan Padilla William Boyd Jose Guzman

Trazena Jones Dana Brown Ruben Tapia Kent Palmer

Marjorie Detiege

Reading of past minutes-Not Available.

Finance Report:

Beginning bank statement 5-31-2013, \$18,628.99, payments \$1,920.50, deposits \$408.50 and the ending bank statement on 6-30-2013 was \$17,116.99, and the check book balance was \$16,587.42. Finance report was approved as read. Claude Nave presented the 2013-2014 budget. After discussion the budget was approved.

Claude Nave reported our post will be sharing a table with the American Legion at the Farmer's Market at the VA on Wednesdays. Alex Grimes and Dennis Hughes volunteered to attend on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Voted to approve new members Jorge Martinez, TaiAri Zimmerman, and Ruben Tapia.

Dana Brown, Ruben Tapia and Scott DeVenney told about their military history.

Mac Cero reported on plans for Poppy distribution for Veterans Day.

Claude reported the Honor Guard has started practicing for Veterans Day ceremonies. Practice will be before VFW meetings at 8:30 a.m.

No other committee's had reports for this meeting.

Claude reported that Mike Keppel, Alex Grimes and Claude attended Vetcom on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Two new members were recruited and five more possibilities. Marjorie gave a brief report on our website.

Claude reported that the VFW and American Legion had about fifty veterans participate in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. We won the Judge's Award for our performance.

Terrance reported that volunteers are needed for the Peddler's Fair the first weekend in August.

Bill Harbin advised about the ceremony to honor Korean War Veterans on July 22 at the VA in Martinez.

CJ Timmerman and Gene Williams were reported as sick members.

Alex Grimes reported he is working with a local musician to do a VFW Blues Festival fund raiser at the Veterans Hall for the VFW. He was given enthusiastic support.

Bill Harbin made a motion to thank Dennis Hughes for the Starbucks coffee and to Terrance Holmes for the short productive meeting.

Closing ceremonies and meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

**Claude Nave, Quartermaster**

Monthly Minutes  
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Saturday, June 15, 2013

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on June 16, 2013 at 1000 by Post Commander Mike Keppel.

Roll of Officers was informally called by appointed Officer of the Day - Carl Edwards:

Mike Keppel, Post Commander – Present  
Claude Nave, Quartermaster – Present  
Tom Zamaria, Surgeon – Present  
Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate – Absent  
Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander – Present  
Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander – Absent  
George Driscoll, Adjutant – Present  
Jose Badillo, Chaplin – Absent  
Shea E. Rooney, 1st Year Trustee – Absent  
Paul Steelhammer, 2nd Year Trustee – Absent  
Richard R. Akin, 3rd Year Trustee – Absent  
Lennie A. Dombach, Service Officer – Present

Membership present:

Carl Edwards  
Gus Kritikos  
Marjorie Detiege  
Jose Guzman  
Frank Kastl  
Phil Daugherty  
Mike Driggers  
Bill Harbin  
Ramon Fernandez  
Mike Gauthier  
Nathan Padilla  
Alex Grimes  
Emmett Schumer  
Ellison Lockett  
Ben Miers

Guests:

Pete Loechner – Post 1525  
William Boyd – Applicant



1001: CDR Keppel directed the sentry to escort guest Pete Loechner to the podium for the purpose of officiating the change of command and the swearing-in of the new Post officers. CDR Keppel then directed the sentry to secure the entrances to the building. CDR Keppel then called by name, as listed below, each of the new officers to report:

Carl Edwards, Post Commander  
Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander  
Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander  
Claude Nave, Quartermaster  
Frank Kastl, Chaplin  
Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate  
Lennie A. Dombach, Surgeon  
Paul Steelhammer, 1st Year Trustee  
Richard R. Akin, 2nd Year Trustee  
Shea E. Rooney, 3rd Year Trustee  
George Driscoll, Adjutant  
Mike Keppel, Service Officer

Chaplain Mr. Kastl led opening prayer.

1004: CDR Keppel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1005: CDR Keppel introduced Mr. Loechner as the officiating officer for Post 1351 change of command and swearing-in of the new Post officers.

1008: Mr. Loechner questioned CDR Keppel item-by-item to ensure that all proper VFW procedures had been fully satisfied allowing for the transition to the new Post officers. After CDR Keppel had reported full compliance, Mr. Loechner directed that CDR Keppel be relieved.

1010: Mr. Loechner then directed all the new Post officers, save CDR-elect Edwards, fall-in in rank order for administration of the oath of office. After each new Post officer swore the oath of office, Mr. Loechner dismissed them and called CDR-elect Edwards to report.

1012: Mr. Loechner formally informed CDR-elect Edwards of all pass-down orders, duties, responsibilities, and expectations of the position of Post Commander. After acknowledging the responsibilities, Mr. Loechner administered, and CDR Edwards swore the Oath of Office of Post Commander.

1017: Mr. Loechner recalled all newly sworn Post officers to fall-in in rank order. Mr. Loechner administered a pledge by the new Post officer of loyalty and support to the new Post CDR.

1019: CDR Edwards announces he has taken command of Post 1351 then gives a

brief description of his history in the VFW and his association with Post 1351. He expressed his personal thanks for the leadership of Mr. Keppel and Mr. Loechner. He provided an overview of Post programs and his expectations of members' participation and involvement.

1027: CDR Edwards called for the meeting minutes from last month's meeting. Mr. Driscoll read the meeting minutes for the May 18, 2013 meeting. CDR Edwards called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes as read. Mr. Kastle made a motion, Mr. Steelhammer seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. The motion passed unanimously.

1033: Mr. Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report as follows: Beginning Bank balance on 4-30-2013: \$11,171.06 – Payments \$475.19 – Deposits \$7,933.12; Ending 5-31-2013 Bank Balance: \$18,628.99; Outstanding Checks: \$00.00; Book Balance: \$18,628.99. Mr. Nave made a motion to accept the Financial report as read. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

1035: Mr. Nave read the names of new members: Robert Bruce, John Campos, Marcus Bronfeld, and Ben Miers. Mr. Nave made a motion to accept all new members. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Nave recognized William Boyd who is in the process of joining the Post. Mr. Boyd provided a brief biography of his military experience.

1039: CDR Edwards provided a report on Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pin efforts; then, joined by Mr. Nave, they both described the status of several awards (e.g., Teacher of the Year, Police Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year).

1042: Mr. Cero provided an After Action Report on last month's Poppy sales. He specifically recognized and thanked all the volunteers—by name—for the many hours (over 313) donated which proved to be the cornerstone for the overwhelming success of the drive. A total of nearly \$8,000.00 was donated making it the most successful Poppy event for the Post. CDR Edwards specifically recognized Mr. Cero for his leadership and extra efforts in the Poppy sales.

1045: Mr. Steelhammer provided the Boy Scouts report and the schedules and meeting locations of different scout units. He reminded the membership about the Boy Scout of the Year award, and the breadth of those eligible for consideration.

1048: Mr. Zamaria provided an After Action report of the events on Memorial Day. They were a complete success. He also suggested that he was considering an effort to move the Martinez Veteran's Memorial from its current location because the traffic noise and lack of parking and being at the intersection of two main streets does not lend itself to being an ideal location. He solicited the membership for input for a new location. Mr. Nave recognized Mr. Zamaria and the other Post volunteers whose exemplary efforts made the Memorial Day events so successful this year.

1053: Mr. Nave described the success of the membership efforts have resulted in the

Post winning the VFW All-State Award, and, the winning the VFW All-American Award.

1054: Ms. Marjorie Detiege provided a status report on the Post's website. She solicited additional articles and announcement for the website. ([www.vfwpost1351.org](http://www.vfwpost1351.org))

1055: CDR Edwards solicited the membership to ensure all provide their correct contact information.

1056: CDR Edwards reminded the membership of the Honor Guard practice on 6-22 and 6-29 at 0900 at the VA hospital parking lot in preparation for the July 4<sup>th</sup> events. He described the schedule of events on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and solicited volunteers from the membership to participate in the parade—either marching or riding.

1058: Mr. Nave reminded the membership of the availability of VFW covers (hats), and the availability of a U.S. flag which was flown over Afghanistan for any member who served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

1059: CDR Edwards and Mr. Nave reminded and invited the membership to attend the District Meeting at the Antioch VFW hall on July 27 at 1000, followed by a state training session. Mr. Nave described the training session as a very beneficial opportunity to learn what VFW is doing state-wide.

1102: Chaplain Kastl announced he not heard of any member who is in extremis. CDR Edwards solicited the membership to stay aware and alert to any member who may be in need.

1103: CDR Edwards asked for any new business. Mr. Nave described a merger of our District with the S.F. District which should take place in 2014.

1104: Mr. Keppel expressed pride and his gratitude for the efforts of the membership during his term as commander. He received a stand ovation from the membership. CDR Edwards recognized Mr. Keppel's success and thanked him for his leadership.

1107: Chaplain Kastl led the membership in a prayer for comrades in extremis and for the National Home in Michigan.

1108: CDR Edwards provided an overview of the services at the National Home and its location, and then called for any unfinished business or anything for the good of the order. Mr. Keppel volunteered to handle the coffee mess for the Post meetings in the future. Mr. Steelhammer reminded the membership to record their volunteer hours on the VFW state website on form 12. From that source a report is sent to Congress describing the amount of time donated by VFW personnel. CDR Edwards announced a dedication honoring women veterans in Concord at 1300; and a veteran's job fair at the Concord Hilton on July 15; and reminded the membership that the events of July 4<sup>th</sup> will begin with a flag raising ceremony at the hall at 0800 followed by the parade. Mr. Nave solicited volunteers to participate in the parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

1119: Mr. Dombach provided some highlights from the recent Veteran's Memorial Build Board meeting: By-law review is underway; flag collection box update; revenue report; VMBB will join the Martinez Chamber of Commerce; gun safe update; memorial brick sales report.

1122: Chaplain Kastl led the membership in a closing prayer.

1103: CDR Edwards adjourned the meeting, and announced the next meeting will be July 20.

George Driscoll

**Monthly Minutes  
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Saturday, May 18, 2013**

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on May 18, 2013 at 0958 by Post Commander Mike Keppel.

Roll of Officers was informally called by appointed Officer of the Day - Carl Edwards:

Mike Keppel, Post Commander – Present

Claude Nave, Quartermaster – Present

Tom Zamaria, Surgeon – Absent

Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate – Present

Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander – Present

Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander – Absent

George Driscoll, Adjutant – Present

Jose Badillo, Chaplin – Absent

Shea E. Rooney, 1st Year Trustee – Absent

Paul Steelhammer, 2nd Year Trustee – Absent

Richard R. Akin, 3rd Year Trustee – Absent

Lennie A. Dombach, Service Officer – Absent

Membership present:

Carl Edwards

Gus Kritikos

Marjorie Detiege

Jose Guzman

Danielle Hughes

Frank Kastl

Dennis Birch

1001: Acting-Chaplain Mr. Kastl led opening prayer.

1003: CDR Keppel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1004: CDR Keppel announced the sad death of Jim Rowoldt, VFW State Quartermaster, on May 16, 2013. CDR Keppel provided a brief overview of Mr. Rowoldt's life and his significant contributions to the VFW.

1008: Mr. Driscoll read the meeting minutes for the April 20, 2013 meeting. A brief discussion was had regarding a minor correction, after which Mr. Nave made a motion to accept the corrected minutes as read. The motion passed

1

unanimously.

1015: Mr. Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report as follows:

Beginning Bank balance on 3-31-2013: \$11,901.96 – Payments \$834.40 – Deposits \$103.50; Ending 4-30-2013 Bank Balance: \$11,171.06; Outstanding Checks: \$308.19; Book Balance: \$10,835.87. Mr. Nave made a motion to accept the Financial report as read. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

1017: CDR Keppel called for the recognition of new members. Mr. Dennis Birch introduced himself and provided the membership with a brief biography. Mr. Nave then read the names of new members who were not present: Dana Brown, John Lewis, Clinton Morton, and Christopher Wilson. Mr. Nave made a motion

to accept all new members. CDR Keppel seconded the motion to accept the new members with the exception of Mr. Chris Wilson because he has not yet provided the Post with a copy of his DD214. The amended motion passed unanimously

1019: CDR Keppel asked Mr. Nave to provide a status report on the Post's membership. Mr. Nave described the success of the membership efforts have resulted in the Post winning the VFW All-State Award, and, the winning the VFW All-American Award.

1020: Mr. Nave provided an after action report of the events and discussions of the VFW Legislative Day in Sacramento on May 8, 2013, and the dedication of the new VFW building in Elk Grove on May 9, 2013. Our Post was represented at these two events by CDR Keppel, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Nave.

1026: Acting-Chaplain Mr. Kastl lead the membership in a prayer for comrades in extremis and for the National Home in Michigan.

1031: Ms. Marjorie Detiege provided a status report on the Post's website. She solicited additional articles and announcement for the website. She noted website and the Post's calendar is "up-and-running". ([www.vfwpost1351.org](http://www.vfwpost1351.org))

1034: CDR Keppel led a discussion on planned Poppy sales activity. He solicited additional volunteers to participate in the poppy sales efforts. Poppy sales have been scheduled for May 17/18 and again 23/24/25 at Safeway, Nob Hill, Wal-Mart, and Lucky's. Mr. Edwards provided a brief overview of the history, significance, and symbolism of the Poppy. Ms. Marjorie Detiege announced that she will post the poppy sale schedule on the Post's website and calendar.

1042: CDR Keppel called for volunteers to sign-up to participate in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and the events scheduled for Memorial Day. Mr. Nave and Mr. Edwards provided an overview of the schedule of events for both dates, and for the scheduled practice dates and locations. Ms. Marjorie Detiege announced that she will post the schedules on the website and calendar, and will also send out an email to the membership with the schedules.

1049: Mr. Nave reminded the membership of the availability of VFW covers (hats).

1051: CDR Keppel solicited volunteers to attend the VFW District meeting. Mr. Nave and Mr. Edwards reminded the membership that the meeting has been changed from Sunday morning to Saturday morning.

1053: CDR Keppel called for an update if any member was in extremis. None noted.

1057: CDR Keppel called for any unfinished business and anything for the good of the order: Mr. Kastl announced the Martinez Yacht Club has extended an invitation to all members of the Post. He then passed out the announcements and flyers. Mr. Driscoll provided an update on a purposed Eagle Scout project at the Hall. It is in concept the building of one or more small benches near the Memorial Brick walk. He also described the Aleethia Foundation, its resources and events that support vets. Ms. Marjorie Detiege agreed to post a link on the Post's website to the Aleethia Foundation's website. ([www.aleethia.org](http://www.aleethia.org))

1100: Mr. Nave described an effort to establish California state legislation to

prevent the inappropriate closing of veterans' buildings in the state.

1101: Acting-Chaplain Mr. Kastl lead the membership in a closing prayer.

1103: CDR Keppel adjourned the meeting.

George Driscoll



Monthly Minutes  
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Saturday, April 20, 2013

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on April 20, 2013 at 1016 by Post Commander Mike Keppel.

Roll of Officers was informally called by appointed Officer of the Day - Carl Edwards:

Mike Keppel, Post Commander – Present

Claude Nave, Quartermaster – Present

Tom Zamaria, Surgeon – Absent

Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate – Absent

Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander – Present

Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander – Present

George Driscoll, Adjutant – Present

Jose Badillo, Chaplin – Absent

Shea E. Rooney, 1st Year Trustee – Present

Paul Steelhammer, 2nd Year Trustee – Present

Richard R. Akin, 3rd Year Trustee – Absent

Lennie A. Dombach, Service Officer – Present

Membership present:

Carl Edwards

Mike Driggers

Mustafa Bey

Philip Daugherty

Frank Macan

Emmett L. Schumer

Gus Krikos

Ellison Lockett

Melvin Hicks

Marjorie Detiege

Wilbur Daly

Jose Guzman

Mike Gauthier

Kent Palmer

Art Gomez

Dennis Gorman

Danielle Hughes

Bill Harbin

Mike Charlot

Brannan Lewis

John Lytle

Dennis Hulag

Guests:

George May - Representing American Legion Drill Team

George Driscoll – Eagle Scout candidate

1017: Acting-Chaplain Nave led opening prayer.

1020: CDR Keppel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1021: CDR Keppel called Mr. Edwards to describe to the membership the VFW procedure for the selection of Post officers, and provide a general overview of the job descriptions of each position. Mr. Nave provided clarification of the nomination process and which of the Post officer positions were appointed by the CDR versus those selected through the nomination process.

1031: Mr. Driscoll read the meeting minutes for the March 16, 2013 meeting. Mr. Nave made a motion to accept the minutes as read. The motion passed unanimously.

1040: CDR Keppel allowed for a deviation from the agenda in order to have the membership receive a briefing from Eagle Scout candidate George Driscoll who just recently finished his Eagle Scout project at the Hall. Eagle Scout Candidate George Driscoll provided an overview of his project which included establishing at the Hall a depository where the public can place their non-serviceable U.S. flags allowing the Hall to retire the flags in the appropriately respectful manner. CDR Keppel discussed the VFW's Boy Scout of the Year Award, and specifically his expectations of nominations and recognitions. CDR Keppel led the membership in congratulating the Eagle Scout candidate.

1044: Mr. Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report as follows: Beginning Bank balance on 2-28-2013: \$13,234.22 – Payments \$1,503.70 – Deposits \$171.44; Ending 3-31-2013 Bank Balance: \$11,901.96; Outstanding Checks: \$600.00; Book Balance: \$11,301.96. Mr. Nave made a motion to accept the Financial report as read. It was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Nave read a thank you letter from Scott LuVisi who was the veteran who received financial assistance from the VFW as noted in last month's meeting minutes.

1047: CDR Keppel called for the recognition of new members. Mr. Nave introduced Mr. Ramon Fernandez and Mr. Brannan Lewis. Both new members gave a brief biography on themselves.

1053: Mr. Nave then provided a status report on the Post's membership. He described the success of the membership efforts have resulted in the Post winning the VFW All-State Award, and, being on track to win the VFW All-American Award. He noted that the Post is only 2 new members away from qualifying and winning the VFW All-American Award.

1054: Mr. Edwards announced and solicited any and all membership interest in attending the state VFW convention. He advised the membership to contact him for additional details and reservations.

1056: Mr. Lewis provided a report to the membership on a convenient and centralized web site which contains a great deal on information on benefits available to veterans from both public and private sources.

([www.veteransdiscount.com](http://www.veteransdiscount.com))

1058: Ms. Marjorie Detiege provided a status report on the Post's website. She solicited additional articles and announcement for the website. After a discussion on website access, she noted that the Post's calendar is "up-and-running". Mr. Nave added the observation of the calendar being a simple and

efficient way to stay well informed of Post activities. ([www.vfwpost1351.org](http://www.vfwpost1351.org))

1100: Mr. Dombach provided the members with an abbreviated report from the last Veteran's Memorial Building Board meeting:

Concord Electric is donating work for the Hall's new air conditioning system;

VMBB By-Laws require an audit – this is being researched and scheduled;

A ceremony for the memorial bricks – TBD;

A possible funding source from the County to augment resources for building projects;

Hall rental fees will be raised for veterans' groups when they are using the Hall for fund raising events.

1102: Mr. Cero led a discussion on planned Poppy sales activity. He solicited additional volunteers for next month's poppy sales efforts. Poppy sales have been scheduled for May 17/18 and again 23/24/25 at Safeway, Nob Hill, Wal-Mart, and Lucky's. Mr. Steelhammer recommended involving the Boy scouts/Cub Scouts in the Poppy sales efforts because it would allow the scouts to satisfy some of the community service project requirements scouts must complete. After this was discussed, CDR Keppel described his expectations regarding membership volunteering for the Poppy sales.

1108: Mr. Nave provided an update report on the Honor Detail; specifically, its duties, events, and schedules. He described the Memorial Day events and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, including the parade route, and a request for 50 volunteers vets who will either march in the parade or, if they so desire, can ride in a variety of vehicles which will be provided, to include a tractor/trailer provided by Mr. Schumer. George May described a component of the veterans participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade will include a maneuver unit. He briefly described the unit's duties and requirements for participating in practice sessions. He solicited volunteers.

1111: Mr. Nave provided an update report ongoing events:

Quilt of Honor show at the Alameda County Fair Grounds, Pleasanton;

VFW District Meeting, April 28 at 1000, at the Antioch VFW Hall;

an after action report on the New Leaf School of Martinez, 3rd Annual

Veteran's Luncheon, held on March 29 at 1100, at the hall; and

the availability inventory of VFW covers (hats).

1113: Mr. Nave announced the availability of donated parachute chord bracelets for any member free of charge. He passed them out to the membership.

1116: CDR Keppel distributed forms for members to record their survivor's plans.

1117: CDR Keppel called for the nomination of various Post Officers:

For Post CDR, Mr. Cero nominated Mr. Carl Edwards. There were no other nominations;

For Post Sr. Vice CDR, CDR Keppel nominated Mr. Terrance Holmes.

There were no other nominations;

For Post Jr. Vice CDR, Mr. Edwards nominated Mr. Cero. There were no other nominations;

For Post Quartermaster, CDR Keppel nominated Mr. Nave. There were no other nominations;

For Post 3rd Year Trustee, Mr. Edwards nominated Ms. Shea Rooney.  
There were no other nominations.

Mr. Bill Harbin made a motion to accept the nominations of all those listed above. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. CDR Keppel led the membership in welcoming the new officers.

1124: CDR Keppel called for any unfinished business and anything for the good of the order: Mr. Steelhammer read a thank you letter to the Post from Bradley Puckett who was the recipient of the Post's 2013 Boy Scout of the Year Award. Mr. Nave announced delegates to the VFW State and National Convention are: Mike Keppel, Carl Edwards, Claude Nave, Roger Edwards and Paul Steelhammer. Alternates are: Terrance Holmes, Mac Cero, Shae Rooney and George Driscoll.

1126: CDR Keppel called Mr. Nave to lead the membership in a prayer for comrades in extremis and for the National Home in Michigan.

1129: Mr. John Lytle agreed to wait until the next meeting to provide the results of his research into upgrading the Hall's PA and security/surveillance systems.

1130: Mrs. Sharon Steelhammer provided a report on the background of the Sea Cadet program and several examples of very successful graduates from the Hall's Sea Cadet unit.

1136: CDR Keppel adjourned the meeting.  
George Driscoll

Monthly Minutes  
For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Saturday, March 16, 2013

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on March 16, 2013 at 1006 by Post Commander Mike Keppel.

Roll of Officers called by appointed Officer of the Day - Carl Edwards:

Mike Keppel, Post Commander – Present  
Claude Nave, Quartermaster – Present  
Tom Zamaria, Surgeon – Present  
Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate – Present  
Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander – Present  
Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander – Present  
George Driscoll, Adjutant – Present  
Jose Badillo, Chaplin – Present  
Shea E. Rooney, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – Present  
Paul Steelhammer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Absent  
Richard R. Akin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Present  
Lennie A. Dombach, Service Officer – Present

Membership:

Carl Edwards  
Mike Driggers  
Mustafa Bey  
Philip Daugherty  
Frank Macan  
Emmett L. Schumer  
Gus Krikos  
Ellison Lockett  
Melvin Hicks  
Marjorie Detiege  
Wilbur Daly  
Jose Guzman  
Mike Gauthier  
Kent Pal(?)  
Art Gomez  
Dennis Gorman  
Danielle Hughes  
Bill Harbin  
Mike Charlot

Guests:

J Paul Gouveia  
Jack Hafen  
Michelle Maestri  
Danielle Maestri  
Sophia Maestri

1007: Chaplain Badillo led opening prayer.

1008: CDR Keppel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1011: CDR Keppel and Mr. Edwards presided over the Patriot Pin Award Ceremony where winner Danielle Maestri was presented with a certificate and a \$100.00 check. Mr. Edwards introduced Miss Maestri and provided a brief bio on her. She then read to the membership her award-winning essay. Mr. Edwards then introduced Miss Maestri's mother and sister who were present also.

1019: CDR Keppel recognized Mr. Edwards for his outstanding effort managing the Patriot Pin Award Program for the Post.

1020: Mr. Nave provided a New Members report for the Post noting that 24 new members were gained by the Post last year. He (Mr. Nave) and Mr. Cero introduced Mr. Mustafa Bey, who provided a brief bio on himself. Another new member, Scott Harlan was introduced by Mr. Edwards. He too provided a brief bio on himself.

1022: CDR Keppel introduced Mr. Paul Gouveia who provided an update/request for assistance for a fellow vet who is in financial extremis. Mr. Gouveia reported that the County Veteran Services Office has made a request for assistance from the American Legion and the VFW for assistance in the form of financial aid. The total amount requested is \$900.00. Mr. Gouveia reported that the American Legion has tentatively agreed to provide a \$200.00 donation and requested that the VFW consider a donation as well. Mr. Gouveia provided a brief background on the vet and his family which includes a teen-age son with Autism, noted that there is a possibility that other veteran entities may contribute, but as of this report nothing has been committed. CDR Keppel called for a discussion. Mr. Edwards made a motion that the VFW donates a total of \$800.00 providing the American Legion agrees to split the total. The motion passed unanimously.

1050: Mr. Driscoll read the meeting minutes for the February 16, 2013 meeting. Mr. Nave made a motion to accept the minutes as read. The motion passed unanimously.

1053: Mr. Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report as follows: Beginning Bank balance on 1-31-2013: \$13, 234.22; Deposits: \$2,903.33; Ending 2-28-2013: Bank Balance \$13,234.22; Outstanding Checks: \$100.00; Book Balance: \$13,134.22. Mr. Nave made a motion to accept the Financial report as read. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Nave then re-opened the new member report and introduced new members Mr. Michael Charlot and Danielle Hughes, both of whom provided brief bios on themselves

1057: CDR Keppel called for a motion to accept all the new members identified during the meeting. The motion was made and passed unanimously.

1104: Mr. Nave provided an update report on issues addressing the Veteran's Building Board. Specifically, he reported that the building was going to purchase a new gun safe to ensure security for the ceremonial rifles owned by both the VFW and the American Legion. The safe will cost approximately \$1,400.00. This cost will be split by a contribution of \$400.00 each from the VFW and the American Legion, and by the sale of the old gun safe to an American Legion member for \$600.00 as previously agreed. Also, he reported that the installation of an air conditioning system for the building will cost \$6,000.00. The VFW will contribute \$1,500.00 for this project. A motion was made and CDR Keppel seconded it. CDR Keppel called for discussion after which the motion passed unanimously.

1104: Mr. Nave provided an update report on the Teacher of the Year Award, and a Post membership status report.

1109: Ms. Marjorie Detiege provided a status report on the Post's website. She solicited additional articles and announcement for the website. After a discussion on website access, she noted that the Post calendar is "up-and-running".

1116: Mr. Cero led a discussion on planning more Poppy sales activity. He solicited additional volunteers for next month's poppy sales efforts and gave a report on locations and Post members who had volunteered during the February, 2013 Poppy sales efforts. Mr. Nave reported that the February Poppy sales had generated \$2,670.33.

1121: Mr. Nave provided a report on the planning status of two future events: 1) The Memorial Day Service, May 27, 2013, will include the performance of the Honor Detail—volunteers are invited; and 2) The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade will include the Honor Detail and hopefully approximately 50 vets who will either march in the parade or, if they so desire, can ride in a variety of vehicles which will be provided, to include a tractor/trailer provided by Mr. Schumer.

1127: Mr. Nave reminded the Post members of the available inventory of VFW hats (covers) for purchase.

1128: CDR Keppel called for the nomination of various Post Officers:  
For Post CDR, Mr. Cero nominated Mr. Carl Edwards. There were no other nominations.  
For Post Sr. Vice CDR, CDR Keppel nominated Mr. Terrance Holmes. There were no other nominations.  
For Post Jr. Vice CDR, Mr. Edwards nominated Mr. Cero. There were no other nominations.  
For Post Quartermaster, CDR Keppel nominated Mr. Nave. There were no other nominations.  
For Post 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee, Mr. Edwards nominated Ms. Shea Rooney. There were no other nominations.  
CDR Keppel noted that the nomination process will continue over the next few months.

1134: Mr. Nave provided a list of up-and-coming events:  
Quilt of Honor show at the Alameda County Fair Grounds in Pleasanton, April 20/21  
Sea Cadet of the Year Awards ceremony, March 22 at 1900, at the hall  
Boy Scout of the Year Award, March 23 at 1500, at the Concord Salvation Army, 3950 Clayton Rd.  
New Leaf School of Martinez, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veteran's Luncheon, March 29 at 1100, at the hall  
VFW District Meeting, April 28 at 1000, at the Antioch VFW Hall

1139: Mr. Nave called for Thoughts and Prayers for all Post members in extremis.



1140: CDR Keppel called for any unfinished business, and directed the “tabling” of discussion on the transferring of events from the American Legion to the VFW. No unfinished business raised.

1144: CDR Keppel called for anything for the good of the order. Mr. Dombach provided the members with an abbreviated report from the last Veteran’s Memorial Building Board meeting:

Eagle Scout project status report

Air Conditioning system efforts

Plans to change the TV provider

Garbage service expansion and needs

Facility’s oven repairs and gun safe plans

Plans for a Memorial Brick ceremony – TDB

John Little conducting research into upgrading hall’s PA system and its security/surveillance systems.

1145: Chaplain Badillo lead the closing prayer

1147: CDR Keppel adjourned the meeting.

George Driscoll

**Monthly Minutes**  
**For Sidney Severns VFWPost 1351**

Martinez, CA 94553

Saturday, February 16, 2013

**The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFWPost 1351 was called to order on February 16, 2013 at 10:05 a.m. by Post Commander Mike Keppel.**

Roll of Officers called by appointed Officer of The Day - Carl Edwards:

Mike Keppel, Post Commander – Present

Claude Nave, Quartermaster – Present

Tom Zamaria, Surgeon – Absent

Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate – Present

Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander – Absent

Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander – Excused – Buddy Poppy's

George Driscoll, Adjutant – Present - Had to leave early

Jose Badillo, Chaplin – Absent

Shea E. Rooney, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – Excused - Buddy Poppy's

Paul Steelhammer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Absent

Richard R. Akin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Excused - Buddy Poppy's

Lennie A. Dombach, Service Officer – Excused - Buddy Poppy's

Membership:

Harold Brown - Present

Philip Daugherty - Present

Marjorie Detiege – Present

Mike Driggers - Absent

Carl Edwards - Present

Joe Eno - Present

Mike Gauthier - Present

Art Gomez - Absent

Dennis Gorman - Absent

Alex Grimes - Absent

Jose Guzman - Present

Scott Harlan - Absent

Melvin Hicks - Absent

Dennis Hughes \_ Present

George Johnson - Absent

Trazena Jones (Candy) - Present

Frank Kastl - Excused – Sick

Gus Kritikos - Present

Ellison Lockett - Present

John Lytle III - Absent

Frank Macan - Present

Lisa Maloney - Absent

Kent Palmer - Absent

Daniel Pereira - Absent

Emmett L. Schumer - Present

Cheppette Timmerman - Excused - Operation

Roque Torres - Absent

**Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Commander Mike Keppel**

**Opening prayer:** Comrade Claude Nave

**New Member:** Trazena Jones who served in the Army was introduced. She provided the Post with a brief description of her military experience and biography. The Post voted unanimously to admit her for membership.

**Minutes:** Comrade George Driscoll read the Monthly Minutes from the January 19, 2013 meeting.

They were approved as read.

**Claude Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report:** Beginning Bank Balance 12-31-

2012: \$11,090.63-Payments \$182.46-Deposits \$268.85 Ending 1-31-2013 Bank Balance \$11,177.02-

Outstanding Checks \$384.00-Book balance 10,793.02. Finance report was approved as read.

**Committee Reports:** Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen given by Comrade Carl Edwards. Danielle Maestri received her award for \$100.00 from The 25<sup>th</sup> District January 13, 2013. Danielle will

be invited to our meeting March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Voice of Democracy Candidate was supplied by District 25.

Poppy Report: Comrades Mac Cero, Shae Rooney, Lennie Dombach, Richard Akins were at Walmart distributing Buddy Poppy's and was excused from this meeting today.

The Post has achieved All-State Status and on track for All American Status for the up coming conventions

Commander Mike Keppel requested the membership to consider filling out their last wishes and give the Post the minimum information they would need for military honors if they choose to have

them, that way the post can assist their families if needed. Also, to make a list for their families so they

will know your desires.

Comrade Nave suggested that we try to gather 40 or 50 Veterans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade to march with the rifle detail and carry the colors for the parade. A tractor and trailer will be provided by

Emmett Schumer for those that can not walk.

A motion was made and seconded to sell the new caps with the VFW emblem and our post number at cost. The Post Quartermaster could at his discretion give or price the caps for those who

attend the meetings that need assistance.

**Nominations:** The Post will hold nominations for the officers for the coming year on March 16, 2012.

**District meeting:** April 21, 2013.

**Sick or distressed members:** Gene Williams, Mac Cero and CJ Timmerman.

**Events:** American Legion Corned Beef dinner 3-9-12.

Meeting was adjourned. Next Meeting will be March 16, 2013.

Post 1351 Adjutant

George Driscoll

**Monthly Minutes**  
**For Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351**  
**Martinez, CA 94553**  
**Saturday, January 19, 2013**

The meeting of the Sidney Severns VFW Post 1351 was called to order on January 19, 2013 at 1010 by Post Commander Mike Keppel.

Roll of Officers called by appointed Officer of The Day - Carl Edwards:

Mike Keppel, Post Commander	–	Present
Claude Nave, Quartermaster	–	Present
Tom Zamaria, Surgeon	–	Absent
Dennis C Hughes, Judge Advocate	–	Present
Terrance Holmes, Senior Vice Commander	–	Present
Macario N. Cero Jr., Junior Vice Commander	–	Present
George Driscoll, Adjutant	–	Present
Jose Badillo, Chaplin	–	Absent
Shea E. Rooney, 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Trustee	–	Present
Paul Steelhammer, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee	–	Present
Richard R. Akin, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee	–	Present
Lennie A. Dombach, Service Officer	–	Present

Membership:

Harold Brown	-	Absent
Philip Daugherty	-	Present
Marjorie Detiege	–	Present
Mike Driggers	-	Present
Carl Edwards	-	Present
Joe Eno	-	Absent
Mike Gauthier	-	Present
Art Gomez	-	Present
Dennis Gorman	-	Present
Alex Grimes	-	Absent
Jose Guzman	-	Present
Scott Harlan	-	Present
Melvin Hicks	-	Absent
George Johnson	-	Absent
Frank Kastl	-	Present
Gus Kritikos	-	Present
Ben Kuklok	-	Absent
Ellison Lockett	-	Present
John Lytle III	-	Present
Lisa Maloney	-	Excused
Kent Palmer	-	Present

Daniel Pereira - Present  
Emmett L. Schumer - Present  
Cheppette Timmerman - Excused  
Roque Torres - Absent

CDR Keppel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Pereira led the opening prayer.

Mr. Cero introduced two new members, Scott Harlan, and Jose Guzman. Both new members provided the Post with a brief description of their military experience and biography. The Post voted unanimously to admit them for membership. Mr. Cero reported that there were an additional 3 new members who joined but were not Present for this meeting.

Carl Edwards read the Monthly Minutes from the December 15, 2012 meeting.

Claude Nave provided the Quartermaster and finance report. The previous bank statement balance was \$12,087.98 that ending bank statement as of the Nov. 30, 2012. We had checks and payments totaling \$1,242.55. Ending bank statement as of December 31, 2012 was \$11,090.63. Register balance on January 2, 2013 was \$10,990.63

Mr. Cero led a discussion on planning more Poppy sales activity. He announced that on FEB 15/16/18 he and other volunteers will be at various shopping locations conducting the Poppy sales.

Mr. Steelhammer provided the Boy Scout report and led a discussion on challenge coins. He described the efforts of several volunteers in Maine who support transiting military personnel and stand a vigil in honor of the 9/11 attacks.

CDR Keppel and Mr. Nave led a discussion on members documenting their funeral wishes and keeping them on file at the Post in the event they are needed.

Mr. Edwards announced the honor detail would hold a practice session immediately following the meeting.

CDR Keppel provided a back brief from the District Meeting he and others attended. He also invited all members to join him at future District Meetings.

Mr. Nave provided the Post's membership report and included recruitment plans and membership goals. He reported the Post is in the top 4% regarding membership of all VFW Posts across the nation.

Mr. Pereira provided a mid-meeting prayer for the VFW National Home.

CDR Keppel called for new and/or unfinished business.

Mr. Nave provided a report on up and coming events.

Mr. Edwards made a motion that CDR Keppel appoint a committee to research ideas and methods to better inform the public of the various POST activities. Mr. Nave seconded the motion. After discussion, CDR Keppel called for volunteers for this committee. Mr. Holmes, Mr. Steelhammer, and Mr. Cero agreed to be on the committee, and the membership voted unanimously to establish this committee.

Mr. Steelhammer provided an updating report on “Gold Star Moms” activities, and efforts to lay reefs at veterans’ cemeteries.

Mr. Pereira led the final prayer and CDR Keppel adjourned the meeting at 1132.

Post 1351 Adjutant

George Driscoll