Commander Bond opened the meeting at 9am promptly.

Roll call of officers and delegates was taken. We did have a quorum.

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed in the folders that were handed out at registration.

Dept. Commander Julie Muhle was present and spoke about the Legion family event held at Marshfield Post on October 1, 2022. She stated that there are over 5000 people on the 2930 list. Please make sure you utilize the list and call them. There was an 80% rate of people saying yes to joining a local post. One of the things that have been developed at the national membership workshop. A yearly post membership plan (month by month) was sent out to help posts retain members. If you need it, talk to your commander. They should have it and it has also been sent out. This tool will be utilized by the membership committee. She spoke about working together with your legion family, the SAL and auxiliary. Utilize them for the extra help you may need at your events. She spoke about the roles of officers. There are resources to learning your role that you were elected or appointed to. There are few forms that the dept will be getting rid of. The children and youth form and the VA&R form are being discharged. She thanked us for the opportunity to speak.

A reading of the previous minutes Bill Babb and Rollie Crandall. Motion was made to accept the minutes as printed. Motion seconded and passed.

Karl Stuvengen was presented with a plaque thanking him for his service as district commander. He was also presented with a gavel.

Karl Stuvengen thanked us for our support from the entire delegation at the dept election. He has been assigned to the 1, 2, and 7th districts for the dept. his goals are to get them to 100 percent membership and reporting. Everyone is working hard to keep up the momentum and getting back to basics. The momentum needs to come from the posts. Be the one to contact the members. Use buddy checks and use strong mentorship. Use the past and present members to help you be successful in the legion. We owe it to the new legionnaires to show what it takes to be great in the community state and nation. It is very important to keep our members engaged. Give them a sense of fulfillment and gratitude. When we don’t engage them, they drift away. We lost over 1000 members while he was district commander. We are all proud of what we do, and we need to yell it from the hill tops. Say it loud, proud, and often. The more our community knows who and what we are, the more they will participate in our programs. There has not been a dept commander from the 1st District since 1992. He is announcing his candidacy for dept. commander.

Past Dept. Commander DeMicchi made a motion to nominate Karl for Commander and Jim Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.

Zondra Morris from the District Auxiliary brought greetings to the delegation. During the state convention her and commander bond sat down and discussed wreaths across America, they are asking for $15 donations from everyone to be able to cover every headstone at union grove. Homeless veterans in southeastern Wisconsin need our help. If you can help with any sort of donation to help with veteran homelessness, clothes, food, shelter, etc. please, if you can, please help. Pay it forward to them, we owe them for what they sacrificed. She looks forward to working with Commander Bond.

Post 20 Delegate Shane Morris from Waterford thanked everyone for showing up to the District Conference. He does what he does here for veterans. Pancake Breakfast Next Saturday. It is $20.

The Dept Exec committee will be recognizing the owners of this facility.

Finance Officer Michelle Adams spoke about the mishap of the dues letter that went out. There were 2 reports that went out and there is cash on hand to give out refunds. See Budget. Karl moved to accept the report. Seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: **ALL REPORTS WILL BE SCANNED AND POSTED ONLINE TO THE DISTRICT WEBSITE**

See handouts.

Commander Bond spoke about membership. 72,400 is the number of veterans living within the 1st District. 5233 is the district goal. There is a huge difference in the goal and the availability of of the 67000 veterans that are not members. Membership isn’t about the numbers; it is about the person and their family. Each person matters. It is the posts that need to go out and get these people to join the American Legion.

POW/MIA – Bob Miller Adopted

Camp American Legion – Rollie Crandall Adopted

A&G Testing – Jim Foster Adopted

Oratorical – Lisa Fauster Adopted

Children & Youth – Lisa Fauster Adopted

Historian – Jeff Antczak No Report

Historian Social Media – Susan Knudson

No Report

Americanism – Candace Rothering Adopted

SAL – Chris Sherman Adopted

Legion Riders – Randy Timms Adopted

Badger Boys State – Michelle Adams Adopted

WALLECA – Michelle Adams Adopted

Hospital Liaison – Roger Sass Adopted

VA&R – Richard Strehlow No Report

Legislation – Nathan Bond Adopted

National Security – Jim Schmidt Adopted

Communications – Paul Ciarelli Adopted

***Recessed For Lunch at 11:15 am***

Chris Sherman from the Detachment spoke on how the SAL did awesome and came in at 108.9% for the District. The State is asking for all squadrons to update their info on wisal.org. Please update their info asap. Sign up for the Newsletter.

Conference is in Recess until 1230.

County Commanders Reports: ALL REPORTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE

Kenosha – Tom Visintainer - Adopted

Racine – Frank Konieska - Adopted

Rock – Jeff Johnson – Adopted

Walworth – Mark Gajewski - Adopted

Waukesha – Michelle Adams – Adopted

District Commander Report: Most of you that were at the installation have heard what is about to come. To whom much is given, much is expected. Our veterans deserve an American Legion to continue. We have a legacy to maintain. It is up to us to maintain it. We need to make sure new and old members as well as our communities know what our organization does and will continue to do. Assistance to our fellow veterans, it is why I joined the American Legion. I would like you to share that passion with me over the next two years. It is about the 72,400 veterans in our district and millions around our nation. Do this for them. Duty, I am going to ask more of you. LEAD, you have been chosen to be a leader in your position, please lead.

Old Business:

* Oratorical Contest: Mukwonago Post 375 was awarded the Oratorical Contest for this year.
* National Convention has finished. We had a lot from the 1st District in many of the committees this year. Next year we will be in Charlotte, NC. National has asked Ted and Jim Schmidt to help put on next years’ convention.

New Business:

* POW/MIA Silent March
  + Twin Lakes 544 will host next years Silent March.
* Post 375 will host the Spring 2023 Conference.
* Post 294 Hartland will host the Fall 2023 Conference
* Squadron 21 is hosting a spaghetti dinner October 22, from 3-7pm

Budget:

Motion was made by Ted DeMicchi to write a check to Dan Seehafer for $1000 to clear up the money from last year. It was seconded by Rollie Crandall. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Karl Stuvengen to adopt the proposed Budget. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made to donate $1000 to Fair Child Hall in Racine County at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Center. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Tom Lay to donate $2000 to Endorse Karl Stuvengen for the High Office of Dept. Commander. Motion was seconded by Michelle Adams. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Gary Holden to donate $500 to Vets Roll. Rollie Crandall Seconded. Motion passed.

Good of the Legion:

Karl Stuvengen presented David Latimer Past Dept. Commander Greg Eirch his token of appreciation for his service as dept vice commander.

Motion was made by Susan Knudson, to adjourn the conference. Motion was seconded from the floor.

Closing ceremonies were conducted by Commander Bond at 116pm.

This completes the minutes of the 1st District 2022 Fall Conference. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

For God and Country,

Michael Hellquist

Adjutant

1st District, Dept of Wisconsin