

Religious Emphasis Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2018

Opening

The regular meeting of the Religious Emphasis Committee was called to order at 10:00 AM on October 6, 2018 in Bloomington, Illinois by Virgil Oikion.

Present

Virgil Oikion, Department Chaplain / Chairman

Floyd Henderson

Robert Meier, Vice-Chairman

Richard Wray

Open Issues

Virgil Oikion reported on the National Convention in Minneapolis. Of particular interest was his recounting of his meeting with one of the former Army lieutenants who fought in the Battle of Ia Drang on November 14, 1965. This was the first major battle of the Viet Nam war and was the basis for the 2002 movie, "We Were Soldiers."

Chaplain Oikion also discussed the Chaplains' Conference in Indianapolis. The convention included a lengthy discussion on the problems associated with PTSD. The discussion is posted on the mylegion.org website. Chaplain Oikion expressed his hope that the conference in September 2019 will be better attended.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Discussion was had about various post's upcoming Veteran's Day and Christmas events. Post 52 will be conducting their annual Santa Clause event at Senior Star. Post 1922 will be conducting their annual Christmas Party during which gifts are given to the residents of the veteran transition home in Springfield. Post 1080 will be having a Santa Claus party for the veterans and the children.

Chaplain Meier brought "Remembering Our Fallen" to the group's attention. The project began as a remembrance of the veterans killed in the 911 attacks. Bob reported that the project is now open to all veterans. Bob also reported that he will be traveling with the State Commander during many upcoming events.

Chaplain Oikion reported that the traveling Viet Nam Wall is for sale, as a new wall is being constructed in Texas.

Chaplain Henderson led a discussion about the desirability for posts to support the Four Chaplains by way of a remembrance activity during the month of February 2019. Such events may be held on any Sunday during February. Floyd also reported that he recently presided at a funeral that was covered by the local paper.

Chaplain Oikion expressed his disappointment in the Chaplain's Cross or Star of David Award program during the last year. He commented that new nomination forms will be soon forthcoming and expressed his hope that District and Division Commanders will have a higher level of participation this year in nominating chaplains for the award.

It was discussed that a special 100 years of service 4 Pillars Pin has been designed by the Department. This pin will be sold for \$100 with 100% of proceeds distributed evenly to the "four pillars:" Special Olympics, Boys State, Gifts to the Yanks, and the Oratorical Contest. A special certificate will accompany the pin. Pins may be purchased by a Post or by individual Legionnaires. Order forms are coming soon.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM by Virgil Oikion. Members will be notified as to time, date and place of the next Committee meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Richard Wray

Approved by: Virgil Oikion, Department Chaplain / Chairman