



Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Department of Michigan

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2019-2020

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Minutes of the July 21, 2019 Department of Michigan Meeting

In attendance at Temple Shir Shalom were 25 Members and Patrons. Commander Hirsch called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM, Officer of the Day Adler prepared the Altar, we saluted the flag, recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Weinmann gave the Invocation. There were no new members to introduce. Haas then read the June 23, 2019 Annual Meeting minutes. He corrected them to note that former Junior Vice Commander Gittleman's title was incorrectly stated and Chief Schenk noted that his Medal of Merit's name was incorrectly reported. The corrected Minutes were then approved. Zyla gave the Quartermaster Report which was also approved. She did note that the application to the IRS for a reinstatement of Post 510 is awaiting its approval. The change in Fiscal Year for Posts 135 and 474 is now in place; that change for 510 is awaiting the aforementioned IRS approval before the action can be taken for it. Schenk reported that National Commander Schneider received a letter from Fisher House Michigan about Post 135's recent \$10,000 donation to FHM (\$12,000 in total for the year) towards a new House in Detroit. Commander Hirsch presented acting Post 135 Commander Berry a thank you letter of endorsement to Cdr. Gittleman to accompany the letter from Fisher House Michigan.

The Post Commanders gave their reports. Berry reported on the \$10,000 donation. Weiss reviewed recent and upcoming events for Post 474. Glogower reported on two new Post 510 members. That Post intends to conduct volunteer work for Yad Ezra, filling baskets. He also reminded us all to let our family members know where our DD 214 forms are stored if/when they are needed. Committee Reports were then given. On August 18, the Jewish Food Festival will occur at Shed 5 in Eastern Market. He had open time slots and a sign-in sheet at this meeting. He then reviewed the Upcoming Events which Schenk urged us all to attend. Commander Hirsch indicated that spouses as well as outside organizations were also welcomed to attend. Those events, at upcoming Department meetings, include on September 22, the documentary previously scheduled for the July meeting, on October 20 – a presentation by the Detroit Historical Society, on November 24 (“maybe” as plans are not yet finalized) a presentation by the VA, and the Chanukah party and Battle Creek trip in December. Weiss gave the Membership report. The so-called “Dear Veteran” letter will be presented to the HMC, JFMD, JCC, Temples, Synagogues, and other Jewish Organizations. If you are on a Board of one of these organizations, he requested your help in getting it publicized. He then read the letter as it now stood in its final form. In discussing the Budget, Zyla stated that Post leaders must include a column in their periodic reports about the budgeted amount for the period shown.

The meeting then moved to **Old Business**. The Labor Day Parade in Hamtramck was raised. Hirsch stated that is not a veteran parade; it honors Labor. Peiss noted that, in Hamtramck, it is called the Polish Day Parade and should not do much for our recruiting efforts for new members. On Labor Day, the climate can be poor and our demographics (primarily for senior members) is not conducive for good member health. Berry noted that the Post 135 members, in attendance on that meeting day, voted against our participation. Adler felt that making our presence known was valuable. He received many thank yous at last year's parade. Lewis felt that we should continue to participate. Weiss also felt that we should continue to educate the public that we served and that it was often better to go to parades in non-Jewish neighborhoods. When asked how we started in this parade, Fishman stated that we were asked to attend many years ago and he felt we should go again. Since this meeting is the last Department meeting until after Labor Day, a vote was taken. Twelve voted in favor of attending the parade and five voted against attendance. So, if you intend to participate in the Hamtramck Labor Day parade, provide that information to Art Fishman. Schenk stated that we have a Color Guard problem with an insufficient number of members who “look good.” We need at least around ten able marchers, preferably younger ones, for the Color Guard who can keep up with the other marchers. Schenk wants them “trained” and to meet and prepare before the Labor Day parade. A show of hands of who will participate in the Color Guard showed nine members at this meeting alone. Schenk stated that he would provide their names to Marc Manson, current Commander of the Color Guard and that Manson would arrange practice sessions in advance of the Labor Day event. We need, for this parade, two marchers

and two support (relief) marchers carrying both the USA and the Department flags. The Department banner will also be carried. Hirsch volunteered to get needed supplies for the Color Guard once verified by Manson. Hirsch and Manson will talk about the Color Guard details.

Commander Hirsch talked about the JWV Membership pins presented at the Annual Meeting. If you want one, they can be purchased for about \$9 each. If you are interested in a longevity pin, contact Hirsch and provide your years of JWV service. Jack Caminker asked how the Department was working to combat antisemitism as recent articles have noted its rise both locally and nationally. Schenk said that he would contact the ADL to offer JWV assistance. Hirsch stated that he, Berry, and Weiss were attending the JWV National Convention and that he would ask there what they are doing to fight antisemitism in "the Hinterlands." He will report back to the membership thereon. He felt that more of us should attend the National Convention.

In the area of Good and Welfare, Schenk requested the 474 and 510 Delegate Forms. Art Fishman will be presenting his story of military service at Hill Auditorium on November 7 at 7 PM. Weinmann reported that the Holocaust will be required to be taught in Michigan Public Schools.

After the closing prayer, the closing of the Altar, and the salute to the flag, Commander Hirsch adjourned the meeting at 12:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Steve

Steven Haas, Adjutant
JWV Department of Michigan

Upcoming Events

August 4-9 – Maccabi Games

August 18 – Hazon Food Festival 11 AM - 4 PM (shed 5 - Eastern Market)

September 2 – Labor Day Parade, Hamtramck, MI

Department/Post

September 22 - 10 AM Shir Shalom Post/Dept Mtg - Movie on WW II

October 20 - 10 AM Shir Shalom Post/Dept Mtg

November 17 - 10 AM Shir Shalom Post/Dept

December 15 Chan Party/Dept. Mtg at 10 AM; Brunch at 11:30 AM

EXCOM

September 8 – 9:30 AM Mtg

October 6 – 9:30 AM Mtg

Nov 10 – 9:30 AM Mtg

Dec 8 - 9:30 AM Mtg