



Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Department of Michigan

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Minutes of the November 24, 2019 JWV Post 135 Meeting

OFFICERS 2019-2020

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In attendance at Temple Shir Shalom were Saul Arsht, Jack Backalar, Larry Berry, Jack, Caminker, Ted Gittleman, Steve Haas, Fred Peiss, Gene Shaffer, Louis Storbinsky, and Hans Weinmann. Before the meeting commenced, Gittleman stated that, if you plan to attend the 15 Dec Chanukah party, let Ted know by December 9 so he can assure that we have food (and a seat) for you. At 10:03 AM, Mark Weiss led the combined Posts meeting. Adler opened the altar, Weinmann recited the opening prayer, and Fishman led the salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. Gittleman called the Post 135 meeting to order.

Fred Peiss gave the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service report. The Red Coat Ambassador program training has been implemented to help vets who are visiting centers for appointments. The program is hiring people to conduct inpatient and outpatient surveys. The 4th floor clinic will open soon. The VA MISSION Act will give vets greater access to health care in VA facilities and the community, and to improve the VA's ability to recruit and retain the best medical providers. An anti-harassment policy has been implemented at the VA. The Dingell facility is averaging 1200 appointments per day. In answer to a question, Fred said that he would go there for his health care needs.

Hans Weinmann gave the Holocaust Report. The Kindertransport exhibit continues through 31 December with the last scheduled docent-guided tour on 15 December. Another exhibit called "Aftermath: Detroit Jews in the Wake of the Holocaust" continues through 5 Jan 2020. It displays Holocaust issues as reported in Detroit Jewish media as well as what Detroit Jews did to help displaced Jews (no cost other than general admission, free to members). At 2 PM on 8 December, the documentary film "Into the Arms of Strangers," dealing with the Kindertransport, will be shown. It is an Academy Award winner for Best Documentary Feature Film in 2000 (and is free for us). As a side note, Hans noted that there is an exhibit currently at the HMC about Kindertransport veteran, Hans Weinmann. He gave no review of that exhibit but, I would bet that it is well worth seeing.

Haas then read the Minutes of the October 20 meeting. It was noted that an "Upcoming event" on 10 Nov at the JCC did not occur. Berry corrected those Minutes to say that most of our current income comes from memorial tributes for our WW II members and the number of those vets is declining. With those corrections, the Minutes were approved. Quartermaster Berry then gave his Report. We took in some money, spent some money, none of which went to Berry via embezzlement, and we remain solvent. Caminker asked "what are we spending our money on?" The reply was that we had, at this time, no real plans for spending it. Berry did note that most of our income comes from the poppy sale in May. Memorial tributes usually occur from funerals of our WW II vets and their number is declining. Thus, the tributes are declining which leads to the need for a fundraiser. It was noted that we could do more programs, including visiting the sick. Perhaps we should attempt to maintain a list of our ailing veterans. We could create a presentation on what we do which we can share when asked "what do you do?" It would be about "Veterans taking care of Veterans." Shaffer suggested that we produce a card of what we do to share when that question is asked.

The solicitation of College ROTC students was raised. Berry and Weiss need to do criteria and then approach the University of Michigan. The topic was then tabled to the next meeting.

Upcoming Events:
15 Dec 10 AM Post Meetings followed by Chanukah Party.
25 Dec – Annual Battle Creek trip. Get to Beth El by 7:45 AM as bus leaves at 8:00.

Commander Gittleman is looking for poppy volunteers for ½ hour shifts. After the closing prayer, the closing of the altar, and the salute to the flag, Ted adjourned the Meeting at 10:47 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Steve

Steven Haas,
Acting Adjutant JWV Post 135