



**OFFICERS
2021-2022**

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Minutes of the July 18, 2021 JWV Post 135 Meeting

==> **Next Meeting is not until September. The exact date is TBD** <==

In attendance were Saul Arsht, Larry Berry, Jack Caminker, Ted Gittleman, Paul Gould, Steve Haas, Barry Kaufman, Marc Manson, Gene Shaffer and virtually attending was Fred Peiss. Commander Gittleman called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM. He welcomed new Member Barry Kaufman, who was in the Army Security Agency (Intelligence) from 1959 until 1961. Ted then expressed gratefulness for our first in person meeting in 1-1/2 years and his hope that meetings would continue in person. He led a moment of silence for the eight Members who have died in the last year. Those Members were Jack Backalar, Leonard Farber, Mel Goldberg, Harold Greenspan, Richard Menczer, Dr. George Mogill, Udo Salk, and David Stofer. Ted then requested that Brother Berry give the Quartermaster Report. Larry stated that the Post remains fiscally solvent, so solvent that Caminker wondered whether a dividend should be declared. Unfortunately for Jack's idea, since we are a non-profit organization, our Quartermaster noted that IRS rules preclude such a dividend, even if we chose to issue one (which would not happen!). Too bad, Jack. Berry expects no projected expenses of major concern other than those previously budgeted.

The Hazon Michigan Jewish Food Festival will be held this year as a drive-by event, on Sunday, August 15 between 0900-1600 hours at the Marygrove College campus (Six Mile and Wyoming). Commander Glogower of Post 510 is coordinating this event again this year and would like volunteers for the two-hour shifts. You can reach out to him at (248) 914-6988 or to Commander Gittleman. Ted has volunteered, but would like additional volunteers. We will not participate in the Labor Day parade in Hamtramck this year as Labor Day is Erev Rosh Hashanah. We will not go to the Battle Creek VA Hospital this year for our traditional Christmas Day event because Christmas occurs on Shabbat this year; but we will go there on Sunday, December 26. Our next planned parade will celebrate Veterans Day sometime in November. The date has not been selected yet. The JWV National Convention will occur on August 15-20 in New Orleans. While there are usually a couple of hundred attendees, there are only 58 signed up to date. Mid-August in New Orleans, plus Covid concerns, could be a partial cause of the minimal numbers. Our National Executive Committee (NEC) Member, Larry Berry, will attend and Marc Manson expressed an interest in also attending (see below). Several (10-12) members of the Department of Michigan met with Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (at her request) at the HMC on July 8. She wanted to know what issues were important to Jewish war veterans. It was noted, among other topics, that anti-Semitism is on the rise in the United States and must be confronted and combatted. The meeting lasted 1-2 hours and was quite worthwhile and productive. Ted had no updates on replenishing the flags or grave markers. He also noted that Jan Durecki is stepping down as Department Historian due to family concerns. He also reminded us of the recent **60 Minutes** segment, remembering the Ritchie Boys, featuring our own Guy Stern. Haas suggested that, if you have the opportunity to see that episode (on DVR? or CBS On Demand? or ???), you would find the time well spent.

In the Good and Welfare session, Paul Gould suggested that National JWV should be advised to work with the military academies to recruit members from incoming Cadets as well as graduating cadets. He is an Admission Representative at West Point and has personally talked of our existence to the Fernquist brothers (two grads and one current cadet) from Farmington Hills. Jews who are in ROTC meet and we should be there too. New York

Posts (i.e. West Point) should be there, especially, presenting graduates with some token. He estimated that 1,025 enter West Point each year with 1,000 of them graduating. Jews must be at least 50 of those grads. Berry will take this suggestion to the National Convention and Manson volunteered to attend also. Marc also suggested that a "Legacy" category of membership be added for children/grandchildren/other survivors of veterans. Finally, Marc discussed Jack Caminker's history.

Commander Gittleman adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM. After the adjournment, he informed the Adjutant that the Department Commander has notified him (Ted) that in-person meetings will be restricted to Covid-vaccinated individuals and, for those not so-vaccinated, masks will be required to be worn at our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve

Steven Haas, Adjutant, JWV Post 135