



**VIRGINIA BEACH POST 110**  
**Virginia Beach, VA**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the presiding Post Commander, Wes Latchford.

A roll-call of officers was conducted. Reading of the minutes of the August 10, 2011 meeting was suspended by the Post Commander to facilitate introduction of guests and giving the floor the Post's guest speaker.

- In the introduction of guests, the Post Commander first introduced the fourth and final Delegate to Boys State this year, who relayed his perceptions of Boys State, what he learned, and thanked the Post for its sponsoring him.
- Post welcomed Mr. Tom Wood, who spoke to the membership about *Cell Phones for Soldiers*, (<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com>) which was founded in 2004 by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist from Norwell, MA with \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization has raised almost \$2 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas. The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays *Cell Phones for Soldiers* for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad. Over the next couple months, Post 110 will seek to work with Our Lady of Perpetual Help and *Cell Phones for Soldiers* to partner in becoming an official sponsor and collection site for the program in Virginia Beach.

CDR Latchford went over the Planning Calendar, highlighting the following upcoming events:

- NAS Oceana Air Show celebrating 100 years of Naval Aviation will be September 23-25, 2011. Post 110 will have a tent in "Vendors Row" on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> as in previous years.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District Fall Conference will be held from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, Sunday, October 2, 2011, at Tidewater Post 327, Norfolk, VA.
- Department of Virginia Fall Conference will be held November 4-6, 2011, at Crowne Plaza at Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, VA
- Annual Tidewater Veterans Day Parade will be Friday, November 11, 2011 beginning at 9:00 am. Hampton Roads Council of Veterans Organizations (HRCVO) luncheon will follow the conclusion of the parade at the Double Tree Hotel.

**Committee reports:** The following committee reports were given.

- **Membership** – As of September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, 213 members had renewed through mail, 26 renewed online, 1 new member was added, with 39 Paid Up For Life (PUFL). Post was currently at 279 renewed/new members (65% of 414 Goal), which meet the Veterans Day membership award gate (November). Post only needs 135 renewed/new members to reach its 100% membership goal.
- **Finance** – Finance Officer Steve Sokolowski was on travel and unable to give a full report. A partial report was provided by the Post Commander in the Finance Officer's absence.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Next Meeting:**  
**7:30 pm, Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at**  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 4560 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA**

- **9/11 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Healing and Remembrance** – Thirty-four members of The American Legion from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Honor Guard, Officers, and Legionnaires from the District's 14 Posts participated in the ceremony.
- **NAS Oceana Air Show** – Final plans were discussed for manning a tent at the Oceana Air Show, to be held this year on September 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are to contact Post Historian/Public Relations Officer Brian Abbott to sign up for one of four 4-1/2 hour shifts over the weekend.

#### **New Business:**

- **Post Awards for 2010-2011** – The Post Commander presented awards received by individuals and the Post for the 2010-2011 Legion Year:
  - Department Monthly Membership Goals Award – Virginia Beach Post 110
  - Department 100% Membership Award (Silver Award ) – Virginia Beach Post 110
  - Department 100% Membership Honor Ribbon – Virginia Beach Post 110
  - National Commander's Recognition of Post Excellence – Virginia Beach Post 110
  - New Member Recruiter – Brian Abbott
  - Membership Excellence (Category V) – Wes Latchford
  - Eastern Region Post Commander of the Year – Wes Latchford

#### **Correspondence:**

- **Tidewater Unit 327, American Legion Auxiliary** – Member T. Anne Stark is running for 2012-2013 Department President.
- **After Hours History** – Hampton Roads Naval Museum - *Skin Deep: Sailors' Tattoos in Norfolk*, 6:00 pm, Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Admission is free, but reservations are required by September 19th / Call 757-322-3109.
- **Veterans CrisisLine** - Post Commander was appointed as liaison for southside Hampton Roads for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans *CrisisLine* (<http://www.veteranscrisisline.net>) and *VetCenters* (locally in Virginia Beach at 324 Southport Cir., Ste. 102 / 757-248-3665). Post members were provided information about this initiative, and viewed various :60 second public service announcements on *Veterans CrisisLine* and *VetCenters*.

#### **Good of the Legion:**

- Nothing significant to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm

Submitted by: Wes Latchford