



## Department of Massachusetts meeting held from 1212-1329, November 20, 2022, at the Oak Ridge Detachment #628, 20 School St., Greenfield Moose Lodge, Greenfield, MA

**Opening of the meeting:** Commandant Brian Brooks opened the meeting with the Sgt.-at-Arms Keith Buckhout calling all to order and members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Acting Chaplain Fran Curnow reading the opening prayers. In absence of the adjutant, Sr. Vice Cmdt. Jon Zwirblia recorded his presence and those in attendance. They were as follows: Jr. Vice Mike Hines, two-Finance Officers present--Fran Curnow and Bill Maguire, Paymaster Bernie Heaney, Scholarships' Chairman Dom Ricci, Legislative Committee Chairman Warren Griffin, and VAVS Chairman Brian Dupee. Detachments present were Leo T. Fortier, Norfolk, Shutt, Westfield, Oak Ridge, Pequig, and Honorable Few JJ Harris. After the meeting there was a game dinner provided by the hosting detachment, Oak Ridge.

**Dept. Correspondence:** Letter of appreciation received 9/24/202, Woosox recruitment.

**Report of Paymaster:** Bernie Heaney commented on the major changes to overseeing of our money. The last two weeks, Bernie had transferred from our Rainy-Day a/c an amount of **\$90,000.** to the **GFA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 229 Parker St., Gardner, MA 01440.** He opened three (3) \$30,000. CDs to mature in 6-mos. (0.25 %), 13-mos. (3.05%), and 19-mos. (3.25%). Bernie said that he also transferred \$30,000. from the "Burgess a/c" (aka/ "The Department Thief a/c") to two (2)-CDs for \$15,000. –ea. to mature in 6-mos., and 13-mos. and bearing interest rates 0.25% and 3.05% rates, respectively. **FYI: In summary, we have recently invested \$120,000. in "SAFE MONEY" CDs making some reasonably current interest on a short-term basis.**

**Overall, we have a total of thirteen (13) accounts:** 7 ac's at TD Bank, 5 CDs and a single 100-dollar checking a/c at the GFA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION. And our accounts increased by \$431.00 over this period.

**Sick and Distressed:** Fran Curnow's wife in for surgery as well as Fran, too, having some medical issues; Carl King (founder of the Pequoig detachment) in for heart surgery; and, from the same detachment, Rod Whipple out with pneumonia.

**Report of Officers:** I did not receive any reports from the officers; however, I have seen reports listed on our Dept. website which I would refer you to read.

**Committees:** Brian Dupee (VAVS) spoke of restrictions of the Food Pantry and emphasized the importance of meeting up with the VFWs and the American Legions for donations, etc.

**Convention:** Sr. Vice Cmdt. Jon Zwirblia has signed the contract for the convention to be held at the **Sturbridge Host Hotel And Conference Center, 366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 (tel. 508-347-7393),** June 1-June 4, 2023 (Thu.-Sun.) Rooms will be authorized \$25. kickbacks on departure. In addition to other amenities, there are scheduled activities set up to include a "live shoot" (bring your own gun,) 9-hole golf on Thursday, a Burger Burn in the late Thursday P.M. at the local American Legion, and a Lobster Bake on Friday. The hosting detachment will be Det. # 1094, South Central. **AND THEY ARE LOOKING FOR HELP!**

**"SPECIAL" Committees:** Nothing to Report...

**Unfinished Business:** Nothing to Report...

**New Business:** Oak Ridge Junior Vice. Tim McCrory had commented that his detachment had supplied 25 Turkey dinners and will also supply 25 Ham dinners for Christmas to veterans at a cost of \$900.00. He is asking the Dept. for a \$500. Donation. Paymaster Bernie Heaney commented that this is an example of an unbudgeted item and that this *will be* a “line item” made available in the future. A motion had been made, 2d and unanimously approved.

**Compliance:** Compliance Officer Bernie Heaney covered the **FIVE (5)** requirements an attachment must complete annually for their detachment to be rated in Good Standing.

1. **Annual Report** to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Due by November 1<sup>st</sup>).
2. **“PLMs”** requirement by December 31<sup>st</sup> (completed from the June 30<sup>th</sup> Dept. roster or the September 30<sup>th</sup>.) It is to be sent on to the Dept. Jr. Vice Cmdt. who is responsible for forwarding them on to Hq.
3. **ROIs** (updated annually.)
4. **990s** (Tax return filed.)
5. **TACOM** Inventory Report (triennial)

**Good of the League:** No comments mentioned. ***Continuous Camaraderie is the endless esprit of the “Good o. t. League”.***

**Announcements:** Next meeting will be held by the Honorable Few Detachment #1302, April 16, 2023, located at the Joseph L. Mottolo VFW Post 4524, 61 Lucia Ave., Revere, MA.

**Closing:** The commandant asked members to stand, and the Sgt at Arms retired the colors. The Acting Chaplain read the closing prayers and the Sr. Vice Cmdt. was asked to perform the last duties of his post. The Sgt at Arms, Keith, declared the meeting closed until April 16, 2023.

**SF, Frank Serra, Adj./Asst. Paymaster**

**Report of absent adjutant:** Paymaster Bernie had sent to me a “compute stick” which had the minutes of this meeting recorded. Had I been present, I would have had our “sound recorder” in possession and pause on it if needed to interpret a comment being said. On this “compute stick”, I could neither “pause” on it nor slow it down to carefully record what is being said. I am self-taught and if there is a

way to do this “stick” *with pausing(?)*, I have not mastered it yet. For this reason, please accept my apologies if I missed someone present, etc., or a comment of his that is not showing here. *FYI: I have been doing the minutes since 2015 and I have learned to tweak, adapt and adjust. I am forever learning and willing.*