

Sons American Legion 331 Stone Harbor
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2016 • 1900 hrs

Attending, representing SAL:

Greg Kizeik, Commander
William (Bill) Burns
Craig Costigan
Tim Davis
Frank Davis
Sal Emma
Ned Galbally
Joe Gaughan
Jim Govani
Ed Taylor
Carter Winterbottom

Attending, representing AL

Vicki Lachman – via Skype
Tom McCullough

Action items:

1. Sunday 5/29 pre-Memorial Day setup, 1530 (3:30 pm)
2. 5/30 Memorial Day ceremonies: 0830 meet at Post Office; Civic Center 1230; formal dress
3. 5/30 Memorial Day cleanup and breakdown, 1530
4. With Mr. Carusi's passing, AL needs a new rifleman for Memorial Day; any interested Son should contact Mr. Lehmann
5. Chairmen needed for upcoming events, see details below, contact Cdr. Kizeik.
6. Officers' slate upcoming. Members interested in serving as officers should contact Cdr. Kizeik.
7. Members please inform Cdr. Kizeik of any change in phone, address, email since Dec. 2015
8. Additional Lifesaving Station volunteer docents needed for summer, program includes training. Contact Mr. Lehmann
9. For the fishing tournament, Mr. Winterbottom asked for volunteer food runners 6/17, 1800 - 2000 (6 - 8 pm) and 6/18 at 1030 (10:30 am). Two volunteers are needed each day.

Contacts related to action items:

1. Cdr. Kizeik: 848-210-2578 cell, 609-967-5820; gpkizeik@gmail.com
2. Bill Lehmann: 609-368-2098; carolbill2@aol.com
3. Carter Winterbottom: 610-698-1004; carterrw44@gmail.com

Membership report: Cdr. Kizeik

- Roster updated will send to chairs and officers
- Members please update phone, address, email if any changes since last meeting Dec. 2015
- 68 members; last year at this time 58; includes four new members: Mark Chehi, Stephen Chehi, Steve Perry and Richard Hoy. In addition, some past members have rejoined: Charles Frame, James Frame and Joe Faulkner
- Handbooks and cards available for new members

Treasurer's report: Cdr. Kizeik

- Paper report was submitted and explained.
- Balance of \$10,343.53.
- The report was accepted and approved.

AL Report: Ms. Lachman

- Trial on Isle will be 7/12/16, to be added to SAL calendar
- Mr. Coy Zachary, WWII veteran member has passed; funeral on Sat. Info forthcoming via Ms Lachman;
- [Ed. note, the following information was transmitted via email by Cdr. Kizeik on Friday 4/15: *Funeral Services will be Saturday, April 16, 2016 at the First Methodist Church of Avalon, 3344 Dune Drive, Avalon, NJ 08202. Viewing will begin at 10 a.m. Interment will be at Cape May County Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Coy's name to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001;*]
- Bill Lehmann needs Lifesaving Station docents for summer
- Memorial Day – last year Sons stepped up for flags; marching in parade in both SH and Avalon - 0830 meet at post office; Civic Center 1230; Cdr. Kizeik committed to covering flags again and to contact Mr. Lehmann to coordinate deployment of volunteers;
- With Mr. Carusi's passing, AL also needs a new rifleman for Memorial Day;
- 0530 (5:30 am) Memorial Day cemetery call is continuing. Interested Sons are invited to participate. A rewarding and moving event with rifle salute but early hour is consideration so participation is voluntary;
- AL members are handling kitchen Memorial Day – food is covered. Flags and setup are principal needs;
- Mr. Winterbottom asked for AL volunteers for Memorial Day cleanup and breakdown around 1530 (3:30 pm);
- Auxiliary voted to suspend – not disband but suspend activity due to various personal issues and relocations. That leaves setup Sunday night before Memorial Day without coordination, SAL help appreciated. Mr. Winterbottom volunteered to coordinate;
- Be aware that AL Auxiliary will not be available for co-sponsored SAL events. 56 women remain on Aux. membership but last three meetings approx. eight members attended.

- Russ Migeot will distribute raffle tickets starting next week – sold starting in May; major fundraiser for Post for year. As in previous years, Sons encouraged to sell tickets;
- June 17 - 18 fishing tournament; Tim Davis was thanked for donation of fishing tackle;
- Nominations for AL officers, Jim Fleischmann nominee for commander; Tom McCullough stay 2nd vice; opening for 1st vice; Harry Clayton nominated for trustee to succeed Mr. Carusi; Art Faint also trustee nominee;
- Landscaping committee – Ms. Lachman and AL committee keeping Mr. Galbally updated. Committee approved site plan and plant legend from master gardeners. Will be moving forward. An Open Space Grant for \$17,900 has been applied for, but AL won't know status until end of May. AL to put up 50% for porch, steps, windows. Looking at landscaping in phases, last will be steps and porch; Main area to be kept open to accommodate events. Most landscaping around perimeter. Native and low-maintenance plants chosen; drip system for 1st year; SAL has volunteered to help with ongoing maintenance; Mr. Galbally, Ms. Lachman and Master Gardeners will meet to determine needs and divvy up labor;
- Plan includes six benches – approx \$1,200 per bench incl. shipping. Individual donors, Auxiliary and SH Homeowners Association have purchased benches. Two benches and bike rack are still available to sponsor. AL suggested Sons may consider purchasing if membership is amenable;
- Walk – South Jersey Regional Walk for Homeless Veterans June 9

Calendar review: Cdr. Kizeik

The calendar was reviewed and the following items called out:

- Call for officers, immediate
- 5/11 next meeting, to include officer elections; Frank Davis to unveil new SALPOST331.COM website walkthrough; deadline for 2016 membership dues
- Memorial Day 5/30 – see details above
- 6/1 Daily tours of Lifesaving station resume. Cdr. Kizeik commended SAL members Craig Costigan and John Herr for their service and for returning in 2016 as docents; more docents needed, contact Mr. Lehmann.
- 6/9 - 11 AL Convention in Wildwood: Sons interested in attending should contact Crd. Kizeik.
- 6/9 New addition: South Jersey Regional Walk for Homeless Veterans
- 6/14 Flag Day
- 6/18 AL Fishing Tournament – Mr. Winterbottom is Sons contact
- Opportunity for July if Sons want to run their own event – calendar open
- 7/12 Trial on Isle – will be added to next edition of calendar
- 8/6 Pancake Breakfasts
- 8/20 Seafood Fest & Seabillys
- 9/18 Spaghetti Dinner – coincides with West Point cadets on island
- 9/23 Run for Fallen – Kevin Coyle
- 10/8 Chicken Pulled Pork BBQ
- 10/14-15 Lighthouse Tour, volunteers needed

- 12/3 Holiday Dinner, venue TBD

For other dates and events see updated calendar via SALPOST331.COM.

Open Chairmen Positions: Cdr. Kizeik

- Donations and Gift Giving: chairman to head up this effort and research and coordinate potential gift recipients with membership guidance;
- 50/50: chairman will work with Mr. Migeot to maximize fundraising potential of annual raffle sales;
- Gravesite: chairman needed to coordinate labor for ongoing seasonal maintenance of Stephen C. Ludlam gravesite;
- Spaghetti Dinner: chairman to work with AL dinner committee to coordinate Sons volunteers, promotion assistance and ticket sales;
- Squadron Social Events: chairman to research and coordinate potential Sons and Family-only events, just for fun. E.g. road trips to ballgames, racetrack, etc. and/or social events at Post or elsewhere;
- SAL Pearl Harbor Day: Mr. Emma and Mr. Costigan volunteered to co-chair this event.

Gifts and Donations: Cdr. Kizeik

- Gifts and donations report submitted on a separate sheet, \$1950.57 total;
- In future discussions and with selection of donations chairman, membership to consider increasing gift budget threshold or keeping level same;
- Cdr. Kizeik read thank-you letters from various beneficiaries including Volunteers in Medicine; Disabled Veterans; C/VAC; and Veterans Havens South for homeless veterans;
- Driveway grooming – working with AL Landscape committee to maintain, Mr. Galbally coordinating;
- Cdr. Kizeik commended the Sons membership on their continuing hard work, adding that whether you are flipping pancakes, roasting chickens, frying bacon – it becomes meaningful for real people in need in the community.

AL Bench Discussion (see AL report above)

- Cdr. Kizeik asked if bench could be considered a capital investment;
- Members asked if the matter could be put to a vote however Cdr. Kizeik explained that the dollar level might require a change in previously determined donation budget threshold;
- Citing the previously read thank-you letters – some members asked if \$1,200 would be better spent to support people in need;
- Cdr. Kizeik also suggested soliciting a donation from an individual SAL member to underwrite the bench outside the donation budget;
- Mr. Taylor volunteered to approach public works for a bike rack; donated bench may not work since the AL benches are uniform in design;

- In response, Ms. Lachman commented that the bike racks are not generic and will match overall master plan, so a donated bike rack from Borough may not be suitable. Bike rack cost approx. \$900;
- Due to donation threshold issue, a direct vote was tabled and instead the attending members voted to consider a right-of-first-refusal and to explore potential increase in donation threshold to support the purchase with a deadline of 5/11: the vote carried with six in favor, three against and one abstention.

Other discussion

- Call for officers' nominations by end of April for interested members; positions open in handout and duties outlined in handbook, p 5;
- Next meeting 5/11 1900 hrs (7 pm);
- Mr. Davis was commended for his work on SALPOST331.COM website. Cdr. Kizeik noted that the website will become a clearinghouse for information; in future membership will receive only one update email from Cdr. Kizeik and are afterwards encouraged to use the website to stay on top of new developments;
- Tim Davis is putting foursome together for AL golf tournament; info on website
- AL Convention Wildwood one delegate allotted each five members. This year 11 Sons can attend and vote – Cdr. Kizeik has info;
- Johnny Walker's Veterans Quarter Magazine – copies on tables distributed, request for donations, something for SAL to consider for future. Advertising schedule/deadlines considered for SAL events. In need of article. Mr. Emma volunteered to write SAL feature of 800 words;
- The paper edition of the SAL National newsletter has been discontinued and the newsletter continues but electronic only. If you are not on the list, let Cdr. Kizeik know [ed. note, the newsletter can also be downloaded via <http://www.legion.org/sons/newsletters/>];
- For the fishing tournament, Mr. Winterbottom asked for two volunteer food runners in the Mole Hole June 17 6 – 8 pm; two are also needed on 6/18 at 10:30 am; Mr. McCullough volunteered;
- Al Carusi mass card was sent from SAL – Mrs Carusi has acknowledged with written thanks;
- A reminder that if you need uniform items contact John Tracy, 609-231-5177. Sons 331 pays shipping and tax so your cost is limited to catalog list price;

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned following the benediction by Cdr. Kizeik at approximately 2015 hrs.