

The University of Akron American Legion Post 808
Mon., Feb. 15, 2016, 1830 – Musson Veterans Lounge

Mission: The American Legion University of Akron Post 808 is a collaborative effort by the American Legion, The University of Akron and the Department of Veterans Affairs focused on successful reintegration of student veterans into the community. Our specific goal is recruitment, retention, mentoring and networking with veteran alumni who have both the academic and work experience to guide these students down this unfamiliar journey. The central part of the value and uniqueness of our organization is our access to resources to offer student more engagement with the academic part of their college experience coupled with preparation for graduation and beyond.

Members

Present: Jackie Ashbaugh, Steve Motika, Brad Harvey, Ashley Gorbulja, Donald Howdyshell, Mary Rossett, Chris Catalano, Alex Masters, Pat Stofiel, Robert Maldonado Jr., Robert Scherer Jr., ??????
Check Alex's Sign-in Sheet.

Called to Order: 1835

- Presentation of Colors: All
- Pledge of Allegiance: All
- Preamble: All
- Chaplin Prayer: Donald Howdyshell
- Quorum Call

Order of Business

Approval of January Minutes: Proponed until the March meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Approved.

Announcements:

- Welcome & Introduction of new and/or first time members.

Guest Speakers:

- **James Nice, Chief Akron Police Department, Retired FBI agent, and Navy Veteran**
Chief Nice spoke to the Post members about the American Dream and how it can be achieved through hard work, dedication and discipline. Chief Nice started out as a Kenmore High School student, with a C- average and joining the U.S. Navy after graduation. While in the military, he became fascinated by the naval jets and soon realized that the only thing that stood between him and the pilots, was a four year degree. It was at this time that he begin to believe in the American Dream. Chief Nice returned to school to obtain that four year degree, but by the time he graduated from college, he was too old to fly jets in the military. Upon the encouragement of a friend, he submitted an application and was accepted into the FBI. Life, from that point on, has taken him to places such as CA, working in drug operations, homicide, and to his favorite, which is covert operations. Upon retirement from the FBI, Chief Nice began work with the Akron Police Department. This was certainly a great success story, especially given the fact that Chief Nice started out as a C- student in high school and was told that he wasn't college material and that he would never made it. His advice to other student veterans is that, "It takes time and patience...Students have to do the work." Chief Nice's presentation was well received and very much appreciated.
- **Guest Speaker: Sgt. Jermaine Collins**
Sgt. Collins, representing Greta Johnson, State Representative, District 35, announced that the Representative's office is working on legislation in the House of Representatives to recognize veterans by naming highways, bridges, streets, etc., in their honor. They are especially interested in veterans who have passed away and have been awarded high medals, such as the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, etc. If you would like to share your story or the stories of family members, Sgt. Collins can be reached at (330) 219-6006 or by e-mail at Rep35@ohiohouse.gov.

Reports:

- **First Vice Commander Report:**

- Next Post 808 meeting will be on March 14. Spring break is the following week.
 - Out of Dark event is scheduled for Apr. 24.
 - Boys State: Brad Harvey has already paid the \$300 fee.
 - Sgt. White presentation is Fri., Feb. 19 at 10 a.m. in the Student Union.
 - Scholarship Opportunities: For information on scholarship for veterans, please go to our webpage for more information: <http://www.uakron.edu/veterans/scholarships/>
- **Second Vice Commander Report:**
 - Military Veterans Association BBQ has been canceled.
 - Post 808 will participate in placing flags on graves for Memorial Day weekend at Hillside Memorial Park. More details to follow.
 - A representative from Team Rubicon will be our guest speaker for April. Team Rubicon's primary mission is providing disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters, by pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders.
 - AL Post 808 has been awarded the 2016 Quota Post Award. Pins for the Commander and Adjutant will be presented at the next meeting.
 - Second Vice Pat Stofiel made a motion to send a \$20 donation to the Ohio American Legion on behalf of the Special Olympics events. A vote took place and the motion was passed.
- **Adjutants Report:**
 - Post inspection was completed two months ago.
- **Other Attending Officer Reports:**
 - Steve Motika proposed changes to Article III, Section II of the Post 808 bylaws which addresses the Executive Committee. A copy of these changes is attached. Proposed changes include:
 - The Members at Large, elected members (beside Post officers) being raised from three to four members.
 - The term of service for at large members to be increased from one year to two, with election of two members each year. This should provide stability in the long term rather than a new crew every year.
 - Making the Chair of the Executive Committee, the Convener of the Executive Committee meeting rather than the Post Commander. Since we are unique in that our Cdrs. are students and transient, this would give the post more stability over the long term.
 - The election of the Chair of the Executive Committee be held annually, without a term limit.
 - A vote was taken and passed to make these new changes to the bylaws permanent.
 - Election of Member at Large to complete Sue Rasor-Greenhalgh unexpired term for one year.
 - Nominees: Robert Maldonado & Bob Schere Jr. were nominated from the floor and a vote was taken by secret ballot.
 - Robert Maldonado was voted in as the new Member at Large for the Executive Committee.
 - Steve Motika, current Chair of the Executive Committee will be retiring from The University of Akron at the end of March and made a motion to nominate Brad

Harvey as the new Chair of the Executive Committee. The Post would benefit greatly from Brad's access and contacts with The University of Akron.

- A vote was taken and passed to elect Brad Harvey as the new Chair of the Executive Committee starting in April, 2016.

- **Voting Summary:**

- Motion to send a \$20 donation to the Ohio American Legion on behalf of the Special Olympics events: Approved
- Changes to the By-Laws: Approved
- Brad Harvey as the new Chair of the Executive Committee: Approved
- Robert Maldonado to complete Sue Razor-Greenhalgh unexpired term as Member at Large for one year: Approved

- **Conclusion:**

- Next meeting is Monday, March 14, starting at 1800 in the Musson Veterans Lounge
- Closing Prayer by Ashley Gorbulja
- Adjournment: 1938

- **WebEx recording:**

AL808 Post Meeting 02/25/16-20160215 2335-1

PLAY RECORDING (1 hr 38 min)

<https://uakron.webex.com/uakron/ldr.php?RCID=44927a2f8d515647334e54c3ba5d81eb>

American Legion Post 808 Meeting FY 2015-2016 (1800 – 2000), Musson Lounge: Feb 25, Mar. 14, Apr. 18, May 16, Jun 20, Jul. 24, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 5