

ROCKLAND / ORANGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A.

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Comrades:

The next meeting of the Rockland/Orange District Council will be held on Thursday, May 8 at the Nanuet Hebrew Center at 7:30 pm

Rockland / Orange District Council Jewish War Veterans of America Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on February 27, 2014 at the Nanuet Jewish Center. District Commander Joel Hershkowitz called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

The following were in attendance:

Past National Commander Sheldon Ohren

Post 425 Al Zeilburger

Post 720 Orrin Getz

Post 756 Mort Sanders

Randy Glucksman

Bernhard Storch

Joel Hershkowitz

Alan Moskin

Bernhard Storch discussed the Gift-Pack program in view of fewer troops being stationed there. Bernhard was informed by the West Point Chaplain that he knew of someone who was going to Afghanistan and would be willing to bring the packages, thus saving postage. If this comes to be, Commander Hershkowitz will arrange with the Nanuet Hebrew Center for their youth group to assist in making the packages.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on March 23 in Pearl River. Commander Hershkowitz asked who would be attending. The parade starts at 1:30 PM.

On March 30, the District Convention will take place at the New City Jewish Center at 10 AM. We are requested to arrive at 9:30 AM. Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee will be the guest speaker. Guests are welcome, but Commander Hershkowitz would like to know in advance how many would be attending from each Post. Generally the Posts collect the \$5 from their members and pay by check. Randy Glucksman offered to collect the \$5 from the elected officials. The New City Jewish Men's Club provides the service and at the end, will send a bill. Following was a discussion of who was to be invited: State and local elected officials.

Bernhard Storch reported on future events at the Montrose VA Hospital:

March 10 – Meet at Nanuet Jewish Center 12:45 PM for Purim celebration

April 7 – Meet at Nanuet Jewish Center at 12:45 PM Passover celebration

The National Executive Committee Meeting was held between February 12 and February 16 in Arlington, Virginia. There is a 7-panel exhibit at the New City Jewish Center about the March of the Living. Commander Hershkowitz said that PNC Monte Mayer wanted him to announce the NY State Convention will be held over the weekend of June 20 – 22, we are allowed to arrive on June 18. The National Convention will be in Charleston, South Carolina from August 17 – 24. \$2400 will be available to be divided by the number of people attending. The motion was made by Commander Hershkowitz, seconded by Bernhard Storch and passed.

DC Joel Hershkowitz spoke about holding a fundraiser around either Memorial Day or Veterans Day where we can have some of the youth assisting. The DC reported that he being contacted by a bandleader who offered to perform for \$1700. That was not what he was looking for. PNC Ohren spoke about being contacted at Department Meetings and asked to make a pledge of funds to support various activities. The next meeting will be March 23. Good and Welfare: Alan Moskin reported that he was contacted by a woman who knew of someone who would be going to France, specifically to Normandy, and wanted to place a candle at the grave of someone from Rockland County. Alan was given suggestions of who to contact. Al Zeilburger spoke about the partial property tax exemption for Veterans. He was recently invited by Howard Golden to attend the Ramapo Central School District meeting in Hillburn. If a school district should approve this, the application must be filed by March 1, 2014, making it impossible to benefit this year. Bernhard Storch spoke about Don Siegel, a past Post and District Commander who recently passed away.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

A reminder to all that The Department of New York JWV 84th Annual Convention and the Department of New York JWVA 80th Annual Convention will take place at Villa Roma, Resort and Convention Center in Calicoon, NY, from Thursday, June 19 thru Sunday, June 22. The National Convention will take place August 17 thru August 24 at the Embassy Suites, Charleston, South Carolina. Once again, the R/O District Council has voted to provide \$2400 to be divided amongst the members who will be attending the convention. The exact amount that each person will receive will depend upon how many members are going and the number of days each person stays at the Embassy Suites. I think that is a fair as we can be with the money available.

Our Rockland/Orange Annual Convention went very well. It was well attended considering the usual bad weather we have been experiencing. Ellen Jaffee's speech displayed her real concern about veterans in our area. As did the many elected officials who attended. However, unless the new New York State School tax veterans benefit is amended, it most likely will not help our group. With local school boards allowed to make their own decision whether or not to implement it, we are not expecting it to happen here.

We have some important events coming up and we need your participation if possible. Yom Ha'shoah Commemoration Ceremonies, sponsored by the Rockland Holocaust Museum will be held at Clarkstown South High School on Sunday, April 27 at 5 pm. Our group will serve at Honor Guard. So we need 6 people for that. And we need a good turn-out in general. If not us, then who?

Then, there are the Memorial Day events. First, on Sunday, May 25, there is the annual ceremony at the Fred Loescher Veterans Ceremony. Last year, it was very cold and windy. Overall attendance was understandably poor. Let's hope for better weather and a better turn-out. This is immediately followed by the Korean War Veterans Ceremony at the Gary Onderdonk Veterans Cemetery. On Memorial Day, Post 720 will be joining with the local American Legion Post to lay wreaths at Veterans Memorials around the Nanuet area. This is followed by the main ceremony at the Veterans Park adjacent to the Nanuet Railroad Station. There are also events taking place in the village of Nyack and the town of Monsey.

See you May 8 at the Nanuet Hebrew Center.

Joel Hershkowitz
Commander
Randy Glucksman
Adjutant