



AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

POST OFFICE BOX 53
CANFIELD, OH 44406

DATE: February 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Minutes of the February 6, 2024 Post Meeting

1. Meeting called to order by Commander Yoder at 7:00 PM with 5 officers, 10 members and 15 guests present.
2. Hand Salute rendered. POW flag placed by Sergeant-at-Arms Gibson, and a prayer offered by Chaplain Sansenbaugher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Legion Constitution.
3. Roll call of officers: All officer present save for Second Vice Commander, the position of which remains vacant.
4. Recognition of Past Commander Mike Kubitza.
5. Commander Yoder suspended the formal meeting in order to present the LE/FD/EMT annual awards the following individuals:
 - a. FD/EMT Award presented to Cardinal Joint Fire District (CJFD) CPT Conner O'Halloran recommended by CJFD Chief Don Hutchison who accepted the award in behalf of CPT O'Halloran who was on duty at the time of the presentation.
 - b. LE Award presented to Officers Corey Kougher and Ellie Davidson of the Canfield Police Department (CPD), recommended by CPD Chief Chuck Colucci.
 - c. LE Award presented to Deputy Matthew Novicky of the Mahoning County Sheriff Office (MCSO), recommended by CPT Stephen McGeary, MCSO.
 - d. LE Award presented to Trooper Jared Paine, Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP), recommended by LT Eric Brown, Canfield Post, OSP.

Copies of the narratives for each of the award recipients are included as attachments to these minutes.

6. Commander Yoder thanked the awardees and their guests and invited the to remain (of they so desired) for the remainder of the meeting. He then resumed the formal post meeting.

7. Committee reports, correspondences:

- a. Commander: Nothing to report.
- b. First Vice Commander: Nothing to report.
- c. Second Vice Commander: Position vacant.
- d. Chaplain: Nothing to report.
- e. Adjutant: Stated that the January 2024 Post Meeting Minutes were posted to the web site. Sergeant-at-Arms Gibson moved to accept; Member Kosar offered the second and the minutes were approved unanimously
- f. Finance Officer: Provided Finance Reports for January 2024. A password protected copy of the report can be viewed and/or downloaded [HERE](#).

8. Unfinished/Old Business:

- a. Commander Yoder reported that there are currently four (4) applicants for Buckeye Girls State' and two (2) alternate applicants for Buckeye Boys State. First Vice Cooper will reach out to his daughter (a teacher at Canfield High School) in an effort to identify additional candidates. Adjutant Coleman will send a follow-up to Ursuline and Cardinal Mooney for the same.
- b. Adjutant Coleman reported that the stone for the new monuments for the Veterans Plaza are not yet in to Summit Memorial in Akron. There is a container expected next week and they will notify us if our stones are in that container when it arrives.
- c. Past commander Kubitzka stated that we have approximately thirty-eight (38) additional names to be engraved on our new stones, which can accommodate approximately forty (40). Adjutant Coleman noted that we have to be thinking now about additional monuments and where they might be placed in the plaza. Coleman suggested smaller obelisk-type monuments between each of the service flags.
- d. Adjutant Coleman also stated that the Federal Aviation Administration had signed off on our flyover request for Memorial Day and the final application with all required approvals would be sent to the USAF Aerial Events office this week.

9. New Business:

- a. Commander Yoder reported that a speaker from the Veterans Administration (VA) would be speaking about veteran suicides tomorrow (Wednesday, 7 Feb 24) at Post 301, Oakwood Ave, Youngstown's West Side beginning at 7:00PM. Interested members are encouraged to attend.

- b. Commander Yoder also reported that there will be a meeting of the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission at 2:30PM on Friday, 9 Feb 24 at their offices in the Mahoning County Annex (the Old South Side Hospital complex on Oak Hill Ave). Again, interested members are encouraged to attend.
- c. Finally, Commander Yoder reminded members that first call for new Post Officers will occur at the March meeting. Members are reminded that they can nominate themselves or another member, but only after securing the approval of the other member to be nominated.

8. Memorial to a departed member: None

9. For the good of the American Legion: Member Kosar gave a thorough report on the condition of Member Frank Micchia who suffered a fall at home which broke a vertebra in his back causing a partial paralysis. As he has feeling in his extremities, there is a favorable prognosis for a good recovery. He will be moved from the hospital to a rehab facility (Briarfield Place) soon. Details of his room number and visiting hours will be distributed to members when they are known.

10. Chaplain Sansenbaugher: Final Prayer.

11. Recover POW Flag: Sergeant-at-Arms Gibson.

12. Next regular Post meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 beginning at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall.

13. Adjourn at 8:00 PM.



CHARLES M. COLEMAN

Adjutant

Attachments

as

LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD AWARD

TROOPER JARED PAINE

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT ERIC BROWN, CANFIELD POST, OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

TROOPER JARED PAINE OF THE CANFIELD POST IS NOMINATED FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN 2023. JARED IS A WELL-ROUNDED OFFICER WHO HAS SERVED AT ST. CLAIRSVILLE, LISBON, AND CURRENTLY THE CANFIELD POST. HE IS WELL VERSED IN HIS JOB DUTIES AND IS OFTEN LOOKED TO FOR GUIDANCE FROM HIS FELLOW TROOPERS. JARED IS A FIELD TRAINING OFFICER AND SEES THE VALUE IN TRAINING OUR FUTURE TROOPERS. HE IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROMOTION PROCESS TO ADVANCE TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT IN THE OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL.

IN 2023, HIS PEERS SELECTED TROOPER PAINE AS THE CANFIELD POST TROOPER OF THE YEAR FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF OHIO AND HIS WORK ETHIC AND DEDICATION TO HIS JOB. IN APRIL OF 2023, OHIO GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE SIGNED A NEW LAW REGARDING TEXTING AND DRIVING IN OHIO. DISTRACTED DRIVING CONTRIBUTES TO THOUSANDS OF CRASHES IN OHIO LEADING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE, INJURIES, AND DEATH. TROOPER PAINE RECOGNIZES THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM AND HAS AGGRESSIVELY ENFORCED OHIO'S NEW TEXTING AND DRIVING LAW. IN 2023 TROOPER PAINE WAS THE POST LEADER IN ENFORCING THESE VIOLATIONS AND WAS AMONG THE TOP TEN TROOPERS IN THE STATE FOR TEXTING AND DRIVING VIOLATIONS.

TROOPER PAINE IS A UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS VETERAN WHERE HE SERVED AS A SERGEANT. HE HAS SERVED OVERSEAS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ. HE RESIDES IN POLAND WITH HIS WIFE JULIE AND THEIR THREE DAUGHTERS EMMA, MADISON, AND KENNEDY.

FIREFIGHTER/EMT AWARD

CAPTAIN CONNER O'HALLORAN

SUBMITTED BY CANFIELD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT CHIEF DON HUTCHISON

CAPTAIN CONNER O'HALLORAN WAS FIRST HIRED AS A FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC WITH THE CARDINAL JOINT FIRE DISTRICT IN MARCH OF 2011 AND WAS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN IN JUNE OF 2015. SINCE THAT TIME, HE HAS BECOME AN EMT & PARAMEDIC INSTRUCTOR CURRENTLY WORKING UNDER UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF CLEVELAND'S PROTOCOLS AND TEACHING PARAMEDIC UPDATES. THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THIS NOMINATION IS THE TIME AND EFFORT CAPTAIN O'HALLORAN HAS INVESTED IN RESEARCHING ALL EMS CALLS AND CHECKING THE TIMELINE FOR CARDIAC SURVIVAL AND 12 LEAD EKG TRANSMISSIONS TO THE HOSPITALS. THE EXTENSIVE DATA COLLECTION HE HAS DONE ON THESE ISSUES HAS BROUGHT AWARENESS TO ALL DISTRICT PARAMEDICS THAT "TIME IS MUSCLE." ACCORDING TO THE DATA, THE CARDINAL JOINT FIRE DISTRICT HAS A GREAT RECORD OF SURVIVAL WHEN DEALING WITH HEART ATTACKS IN OUR SERVICE AREA. AS A RESULT, OUR DISTRICT WAS AWARDED THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S 2023 "MISSION LIFELINE SILVER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD." CAPTAIN O'HALLORAN'S EFFORTS AT DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS WERE ESSENTIAL TO OUR RECEIVING THIS AWARD.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD AWARD

OFFICER COREY KOUGHER

SUBMITTED BY CHARLES COLUCCI, CHIEF, CANFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2022, Corey Kougher was recruited as an Auxiliary Officer and soon hired as a police officer without yet having attended the Ohio Basic Police Academy, a step not typically taken. However, he demonstrated an unparalleled passion for the opportunity to serve the community. He would graduate the academy in August of 2022 and since then continues to show the highest level of enthusiasm and commitment towards learning about policing and serving the community.

This enthusiasm coupled with his willingness to learn the job has led to significant professional development throughout 2023. As the junior officer, his hard work in 2023 culminated in proactive results previously demonstrated only by officers with longer tenure and more expertise. In fact, he led the patrol division in one of the critical dimensions; proactive patrol arrests. These arrests included several felony drug trafficking and/or possession offenses.

Officer Kougher from the onset of his career has possessed an innate ability to identify suspicious activity and has implemented recommendations from supervisors and field training officers to further develop this skill. Officer Kougher is in the process of completing his college degree in criminal justice but he has demonstrated that positivity, enthusiasm and implementing mentoring recommendations can lead to success as a CPD officer.

His performance during 2023 is worthy of commendation. There were instances of adversity which are not atypical for new officers. However, he has demonstrated positive change and is actively working to improve. He holds himself accountable and his informal leadership as a junior officer is becoming exemplary as he continues with his commitment to serve the Canfield community.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD AWARD

DEPUTY MATTHEW NOVICKY

SUBMITTED BY CAPTAIN STEPHEN MCGEARY, MAHONING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ON OCTOBER 22, 2023, DEPUTY MATT NOVICKY WAS PATROLLING IN THE CANFIELD TOWNSHIP AREA WHEN HE OBSERVED TWO MALES WALKING WHO APPEARED TO MATCH AN EARLIER DESCRIPTION PUT OUT BY DEPUTY CARMEN COSTANTINO DESCRIBING SUSPECTS IN AN THEFT FROM AUTO EVENT. DEPUTY NOVICKY IMMEDIATELY TURNED ON THE OBSERVED SUSPECTS AND ENGAGED THEM ALONG WITH ASSISTING DEPUTY MATT MEDVEC WHO WAS IN THE AREA. DEPUTY COSTANTINO ALSO RESPONDED TO THE SCENE TO ASSIST WITH THE INVESTIGATION. BOTH SUSPECTS WERE DETAINED AND SUBSEQUENTLY PLACED UNDER ARREST AFTER IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN SAID AUTO THEFT. DURING THE FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION BY DETECTIVE ANTHONY MURPHY, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE MALES WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS OTHER THEFTS IN THE CANFIELD TOWNSHIP AREA.

BECAUSE OF DEPUTY MATT NOVICKY'S ALERTNESS, FURTHER CRIMINAL ACTS WERE PREVENTED AND OTHER COMMITTED CRIMINAL ACTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SOLVED BY MAHONING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETECTIVES. WITH THE APPROACHING HOLIDAYS, CRIME USUALLY GOES UP AND MANY CRIMINAL ACTS OCCUR. BUT WITH THE APPREHENSION OF THE TWO INVOLVED MALES, FURTHER CRIMINAL ACTS WERE THWARTED IN THE AREA DUE TO THE SUSPECTS QUICK ARREST.

ALTHOUGH DEPUTY NOVICKY IS THE PRIMARY IN THIS E-MAIL, WITHOUT THE QUICK "BE ON THE LOOK OUT" DEPUTY COSTANTINO PUT OUT AND DEPUTY MEDVEC'S ASSISTANCE, A SUCCESSFUL ARREST MAY NOT HAVE OCCURRED. IN THIS INSTANCE TEAMWORK PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SUCH A QUICK CAPTURE.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD AWARD

OFFICER ELLIE DAVIDSON

SUBMITTED BY CHIEF CHARLES COLUCCI, CANFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

On October 29, 2023 Canfield Officer Ellie Davidson observed suspicious activity in the north east zone of the City of Canfield. While on patrol at about 0045 hours she observed 4 cars; 3 newer (2 Dodge sedans and a BMW) and 1 older model traveling on E. Main Street and another residential side street. She believed that they were traveling in unison. She continued to monitor their actions and noticed an equipment violation on the older vehicle. She initiated a traffic stop and identified the female motorist. Officer Davidson interviewed the operator who was from Cleveland and was told she did not know the other motorists. Additionally, she stated that she was visiting a college friend though she could not name either the friend or the college.

Without probable cause for further action, Officer Davidson issued the motorist a warning and released her. A few hours later Boardman Police Department contacted Canfield Police as a dealership in their jurisdiction had been victimized and three vehicles, two Dodge sedans and a BMW had been stolen.

Officer Davidson's training allowed her to identify unusual actions by those motorists. She also investigated using the CPD FLOCK camera system and positively identified the vehicles as matching those reported stolen. Additionally, she relayed information to Cuyahoga authorities who were able to activate their FLOCK camera systems and located the vehicles traveling in their county later that morning.

Officer Davidson's proactive patrol efforts were critical in assisting in this major case as she identified the accomplice who had in fact transported those responsible for the motor vehicle thefts at the Boardman dealership. Although new to patrol she is already demonstrating her effectiveness as an investigator. She is cognizant of her "beat" and assisted in keeping the Canfield community safe as well as significantly helping other law enforcement agencies in the Mahoning Valley and beyond.

Officer Davidson embodies the mission of the Canfield PD which states in part, is to *...protect life and property through the provision of excellent public service."*