

Lumpkin County Veterans Affairs Committee – July 2025 Meeting Minutes
Wednesday (July 9, 2025), 1630 Hours

Meeting is called to order at 1634 by Stan Kelley

Invocation provided by Stan Kelley

Heath Williams led The Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Members Present: Wes Chambers, Michelle Johnson, Stan Kelley, Michelle Webb, Heath Williams

Guests in Attendance: Bill Poole, Andrew Johnson

Motion made (by Michelle Johnson) to approve the May 2025 Meeting Minutes; motion seconded (by Michelle Webb); motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was provided by Stan Kelley:

General Fund Balance: \$2,187.41

Tank Fund Balance: \$3,778 (+ recently received \$300) = \$4,078

Old Business:

Memorial Day After Action Report (led by Stan Kelley):

- Small setback with availability of chairs; recommendation to acquire chairs from the Pinetree Rec Center going forward.
- Stan confirmed the total cost for the 2025 Memorial Day Event was \$214.51; it was noted that the LCVAC would ask the Daughters of the American Revolution to supply the refreshments for next year's event
- Discussion of next year's speaker (ret. General James Terry was suggested)

Paint the Tank Status Report (provided by Stan Kelley):

- Enough funds have been raised in the 'Paint the Tank' campaign to initiate the work as outlined in the proposal (previously reviewed and accepted) to sandblast and paint the tank in the LC Veterans Park.
- Work is set to begin late July or early August; a recommendation was made to contact The Dahlonga Nugget to arrange photos and publicize the work being done as a result of the community's generous contributions.

Monthly UNG Corps Update (provided by Heath Williams):

- 273 FROGs enrolled for Fall 2025 (the largest enrollment in 7-8 years), bringing the Corps total to 754; long-term goal of reaching 1,000 cadets by 2028
- Crown Mountain Run set for Saturday, August 9th at 0800

New Business:**LC Veterans Cemetery Update (provided by Stan Kelley)**

- Stan updated everyone on the conceptual plans (maps, renderings, etc.) that have been created in preparation for the upcoming presentation by LCVAC to the LC Board of Commissioners for purposes of developing the veteran's cemetery in Lumpkin County.
- A discussion of estimated timeline, anticipated costs from land clearing, roads, signage, and construction of a committal shelter were discussed. It was noted that several cost estimates were still under review but expected to be received in the coming days/weeks.
- Discussion of private fundraising (expectations of amount and methods) took place; Stan informed those in attendance of a generous \$10,000 donation had been committed if/when the project gains approval from the LC Board of Commissioners.
- Bill Poole (prior LCVAC chair) was commended for his continued efforts in pursuit of a veteran's cemetery.
- Stan encouraged everyone in attendance to be at the August 5th (@ 1600) meeting in which he would make a presentation to the LC Board of Commissioners for support in developing the veteran's cemetery in Lumpkin County

Veteran's Park Maintenance (led by Stan Kelley):

- It was noted that the LC Veteran's Park recently received some maintenance by a volunteer group (TBD). The volunteers mowed the immediate area and added some additional white rock to the gravel areas.
- A monthly clean-up project was proposed; Michelle Johnson offered to take the lead organizing a monthly effort to maintain the LC Veteran's Park area.

Final comments were made on the upcoming efforts toward planning the Veteran's Day parade, as well as comments on the date/time for future LCVAC meetings

Motion made (by Heath Williams) to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded (by Michelle Webb); motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 1740

