

MINUTES
Fred E. Hayes Post 57
Department of Washington
The American Legion

January 16, 2020
Stevens-Young Room, Grandview Community Center, Grandview, WA

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in regular form at 7:00 PM by 1st Vice Commander Brown. The Invocation was offered by Chaplain John Myers. The POW / MIA Empty Chair was recognized. The Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble was recited by all present.
2. **1900 Hour Toast:** The 1900 Hour Toast was offered by Mr. Myers.
3. **Roll Call of Officers:**

☐ Robert Gates, Commander ☒ Dudley Brown, Vice Commander ☐ Vicky Gates, Vice Commander ☒ Jim Davidson, Adjutant / Finance ☐ John Travis, Sgt-at-Arms ☒ John Myers, Chaplain ☐ Leonard McGrath, PEC-man ☐ Richard Zook, PEC-man	<u>Guests:</u> ☐ Auxiliary: ☐ Other Guests: ☒ Members: John Casey, Ray Vining Officers absent due to illness and inclement weather. ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
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4. **Approve Minutes of December 19, 2019 Meeting:**
Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Vining to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2019 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - There were no Post member deaths reported in the last month. It was reported that Richard Hazelmeyer of Spokane, known to many as the wheelchair-bound photographer, died. Mr. Davidson said he has sent a sympathy card to his wife.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$1,039.45.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$7,525.85.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$25,868.34.
 - Feed the Pig donations for the Child Welfare Foundation for July to December 2019 were \$48.82. This will be combined with final donations to the National Child Welfare Foundation.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$1,166.69.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.
 - Mr. Davidson requested the following Budget line items to be revised: (Income) Investment Dividends, \$1,000; (Income) Boy Scouts Donations, \$1,000.00; (Expenses) Boy Scout Charter Fees, \$180.00. *Mr. Vining moved with second by Mr. Myers to revise the Budget line items as proposed by the Finance Officer. The Motion was approved unanimously.**Mr. Vining moved with second by Mr. Myers to approve the Finance Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.*

7. **Adjutant's Report:**

- **Membership:** The 2020 Goal is 90 members. Current paid membership is 83 (92.22% of Goal). Actual membership, including previously-paid transfers not counting for Goal is 83.
- **Communications:**
 - Chamber of Commerce Report and pro-rated dues notice for 2020 (already paid).
 - Area IV Christmas Party Report and thank you notes from the WDVA Nursing Home.
 - Multiple Department Communications regarding the upcoming Mid-Winter meeting and membership activities in various locations around the state.
 - American Red Cross Blood Services report on last Blood Drive (18 Units).

8. **Unfinished (Old) Business:**

- **Flag Disposal Box.** In the absence of Mr. Zook, Mr. Davidson reported the High School Shop is not able to assist with the box preparation and we have yet to identify a spot where the preparation may be done. Mr. Brown said his garage could be used once the weather breaks and he can park his car outside. Mr. Vining said there is a trucking firm in Grandview that has a sandblaster that might be used as well.
- **Resolution 57-2020-001, Legislative Authority for Cremation of the US Flag (Appendix "A," below.** The proposed Resolution was read. It was noted the UIS Flag Code was adopted prior to the use of nylon in flags and the method of disposal by cremation as indicated in the Code cannot be safely done due to the release of Sodium Cyanide, posing potential hazardous and fatal consequences to participants in disposal ceremonies. There is no other acceptable method of disposal noted in the Code though alternative methods have been mentioned. These are not determined to be acceptable. ***Mr. Vining moved with second by Mr. Myers to table the Resolution until a future meeting and modify wording to seek acceptable alternative means of disposal through modification of the US Flag Code. The Motion was approved unanimously.***

9. **New Business:**

- **Honor Guard.** Mr. Davidson reported the Post will be asked to provide an Honor Guard for the dedication of the new High School in August. He stated this has been mentioned to him twice.
 - Uniform. The Post does not have a standard uniform. Alternatives were suggested. Navy pants with a short sleeved Legion uniform shirt was a general consensus. ***Action: The discussion will be continued at a future meeting.***
- **Crab Feed.** The Crab Feed is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th. A minimum of 200 pounds of crab must be ordered from the vendor, 3-1/2 pounds of crab is ordered for each participant, so at least 57 tickets must be sold. We can seat 64 – 70 people. Crab cost will likely be in the range of \$26 - \$28 person. Other food costs would add a couple of dollars per person. The ticket price last year was \$45 which remains cheaper than other similar feeds. ***Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Vining to set the 2020 Crab Feed ticket price at \$45.00, youth at \$20.00 and spaghetti option at \$20.00. The Motion was approved unanimously.***

10. **Balloting on New Applications / Renewal of Expired Members:**

- The following new members, transfers and expired renewals have been received by the Post:
 - TRANSFER: John W. Casey, USN / Vietnam Era, transfer from Post 8;
 - TRANSFER: Jamie O. Mendez, USA / Vietnam Era, transfer from Post

- 110;
- EXPIRED RENEWAL: Rodney Roberts, USAF / Vietnam Era, expired renewal from Post 57 (2018);
- NEW: Antonio E. Sanchez, USAF / Other Era (LEGION Act)

Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Vining to approve the memberships of the listed individuals. The Motion was approved unanimously.

11. **Service Officer:** Chief Service Officer Davidson reported the following:

- **Claims:**
 - No claims are in progress and in the hands of the VA.
 - Two claims pending completion of paperwork.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
- **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - No current report.
- **Employment:**
 - No activity.

12. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - A \$40 food donation was made to the Veterans Pantry in the name of the Post.
 - Project Homeless Connect / Point in Time Count will be held at the Sunnyside Community Center, Thursday, January 23rd, 9 AM to 5 PM.
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - Blood Drive: Next Blood Drive is March 11th.
- **Americanism:**
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - Gold Star Mothers: Mr. Vining was able to assist in identifying the names of deceased sons for Grandview's Gold Star Mothers. Mr. Davidson noted the next step is to find those mothers who may be buried in the Grandview Cemetery so Gold Star Mother markers may be applied at Memorial Day. Mr. Davidson also stated another project would be to build a memorial to Grandview men whose burial places are either unknown or at sea. Mr. Vining indicated there are two Grandview men who are MIA. Mr. Davidson noted there are two Civil War veterans and one Spanish American War veteran buried at the Grandview Cemetery, but he does not know who they are.
- **Economic:**
- **Membership and Publicity:**
 - Department Post Revitalization member Drive for the 6th District will be held February 5th and 6th at Yakima Post 36 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM.
- **Boys State:**
 - Boys State materials have been received, which means local high schools have received the information as well.
 - The lone applicant from Grandview High School has not turned in his registration materials. One Sunnyside High School boy is registered from our Post.
- **Children and Youth:**
 - Scouts:
 - The Girls-Only Scouts BSA Troop 644 was chartered on 1/1/2020 with four girls.
 - The Boys-Only Scouts BSA Troop 643 was rechartered with nine boys.
 - The Cub Scout Pack 643 (boys and girls) was rechartered with 17 youth.

- The Cub Scout Pack's Pinewood Derby is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th at 9:00 AM at the Community Center.
 - Assistance is needed for youth to cut out their cars (band saw, etc.).
 - The Boy Scout Council has called for nominations for Council and Board positions. Interested Legionnaires are encouraged to contact Ray Vining. Remaining positions are:
 - VP for District Operations
 - VP for Endowments
 - VP for Family Scouting
 - NESA and Awards Committee Chair
 - VP for Marketing
 - **Law and Order:**
 - Nominations for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Humanitarian of the Year will be made to Department in the next week.
 - **Constitutional Speech:**
 - The Boys State delegate expressed interest in this year's contest but was told he does not have time to prepare as Post certifications must be submitted by the end of the month. He has been encouraged to prepare for the abbreviated contest held at Boys State so he can then have an idea how the Department Contest is conducted. He is very interested in competing next year. The Department Contest for this year will be held at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake on March 21st.
 - **Education:**
13. **Good of the Legion:**
- The "Feed the Pig" piggy bank was circulated for the Child Welfare Foundation.
 - Mid-Winter Meeting, Iacey WA, January 31st and February 1st.
 - Penny-a-Day Campaign begins.
 - District 6 Membership Revitalization, February 5th and 6th, 9 AM to 3:30 PM at Yakima Post 36.
 - Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Thursday, February 13th at Noon, Casa Tequila.
14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM.
15. **Adjournment:** With no other business before the Post, the POW / MIA Flag was retired, benediction was offered and the meeting was adjourned in regular form by 1st Vice Commander Brown at 8:45 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gate
Commander

Date

Appendix "A"

Resolution 57-2020-001

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS TO DISPOSE OF UNSERVICEABLE U.S. FLAGS BY CREMATION

Whereas, The U.S. Flag Code, Title 4, U.S. Code, Chapter 1, specifies the design, display, manner of display, time and occasions for display and manner of respect to the flag, and

Whereas, § 8, paragraph (k) of the aforementioned Code states, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning," and

Whereas, For nearly 100 years, various Veteran Service Organizations have been tasked with the collection and disposal of worn and unserviceable flags, and

Whereas, The disposal or retirement ceremonies call for the cremation of these worn and unserviceable flags, and

Whereas, Veteran Service Organizations are having increasing difficulties in completing the patriotic task of flag disposal due to the wide variance in approval to cremate the flags by municipalities, counties, states and federal agencies, and

Whereas, These agencies, such as Clean Air Authorities, authorize limited cremation in some jurisdictions, authorize disposal in a crematorium in other jurisdictions, or totally ban disposal by cremation in any manner in other jurisdictions, often at the threat of arrest, jail and substantial fines, and

Whereas, Veteran Service Organizations often choose to conduct these cremation ceremonies at unannounced times and locations at off hours to avoid arrest, jail and fines, thus defeating the honor that is to be paid to a worn and unserviceable flag; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Fred E. Hayes Post No. 57, The American Legion, Grandview, Washington, meeting on January 16, 2020, calls upon all municipality, county or parish, state and federal legislative bodies to authorize, without restriction, the ceremonial cremation of worn and unserviceable flags by Veteran Service Organizations without threat of citation, arrest, fines or jail.