

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

November 19, 2020
Conducted via Teleconference

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in regular form via teleconference at 7:02 PM by Commander Gates. 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. Davidson.
3. **Roll Call of Officers:**

☒ Robert Gates, Commander ☒ Dudley Brown, Vice Commander ☐ Ricard Zook, Vice Commander ☒ Jim Davidson, Adjutant / Finance ☒ Vicky Gates, Sgt-at-Arms ☒ John Myers, Chaplain ☐ Vacant, PEC-man ☒ Curt Nealen, PEC-man ☒ Eddie Houser, Judge Advocate	<u>Guests:</u> ☐ Auxiliary: ☐ Other Guests: ☐ Members: ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
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4. **Approve Minutes of October 15, 2020 Meeting:**
Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Brown to approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2020 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - There were no reported deaths in the last month.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$1,097.98.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$8,455.22.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,833.86.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is -\$381.02.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.
 - A check was sent to the Area IV Christmas Party Fund as approved by the members.
 - A ballot was returned to Lower Valley Credit Union approving a merger with Self-Help Federal Credit Union.
 - Due to an expenditure exceeding the budgeted line item, Mr. Davidson asked the Expense line item for Service Officer Fund be increased. *Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Houser to increase the Service Officer expense line item to \$150.00. The Motion was approved unanimously.**Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Myers to approve the Finance Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.*
7. **Adjutant's Report:**
 - **Membership:** The 2021 Goal is 90 members. Current paid membership is 60

(66.67% of Goal). Actual membership, including previously-paid transfers not counting for Goal is 62. Mr. Houser's membership reverted back to Post 88 when they finally paid his 2021 dues. A Member Data Form will be submitted to transfer him back to Post 57.

- **Communications:**

- The Post received a second letter from the BSA Risk Manager regarding the final date to file abuse claims.
- A National Legislative Report was received and noted the campaign for Buddy Check legislation.
- A reminder was received regarding the Buddy Check campaign. Posts and members are encouraged to call veterans and Post members to check up on them.
- Information was received regarding National's Blue Mission Program. This is a grant program for Posts suffering financial hardship due to COVID. Our Post does not qualify nor have a need for the program.
- The Department Adjutant sent a memo seeking nominating resolutions for 6th District Commander.
- Notice was received of a planned Mid-Winter Conference in Wenatchee on February 5 – 7, 2021.
- The Community Center advised the Post that very limited activities could be conducted by reservation. However, the latest round of COVID-related restrictions has cancelled that.
- The City Clerk stated the City is willing to place the Flag Box in the breezeway of City Hall.

Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Houser to approve the Adjutant's Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.

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

- **Replacement for Post Executive Committeeman.** Mr. Davidson has not been able to reach several potential candidates. He spoke with Mr. Hilmoe and learned he has now moved to Arizona. He will continue to try to find a replacement.

9. **New Business:**

- **Member Request for Thank You letter to Prosser Memorial Hospital:** Mr. Davidson presented a request from a member to thank Prosser Memorial Hospital for providing a breakfast for veterans on Veterans Day. Most members were unaware of the event. Members were not sure of the benefit other than for public relations and the fact most groups keep forgetting the Legion exists despite our multiple programs. ***Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to authorize the Adjutant to send a thank you letter to Prosser Memorial Hospital. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Disposal of Accumulated Flags:** Mr. Houser previously mentioned he could assist with the disposal of retired flags through the Yakima Fire Station on Nob Hill Boulevard. They dispose of the flags on Flag Day. The Post has a number of flags to dispose of and is not sure we can wait that long.
- **Penny-a-Day Campaign:** Mr. Davidson asked whether the Penny-a-Day Campaign should be cancelled for this next year since schools are not fully in session and restaurants are closed. Discussion ensued. There was no decision.
- **Future Community Projects:** There was brief discussion of potential future community projects. They included addition of two more flag poles at Legion Park to accommodate the addition of the U.S. Space Force and either the Legion flag or Merchant Marine Flag; replacement of the portable toilet at the cemetery, either with a handicap model or a vault toilet like those use in the parks; or a backdrop to the stage at the cemetery.

10. **Balloting on New Applications / Renewal of Expired Members:**
- Headquarters Transfer: Chris Heinz, USN, Persian Gulf Era, Prosser WA, Transfer from Post 110 DMS, effective 10/27/2020.
 - Headquarters Transfer: Farith (Alex) Robledo, UISMC, Global War on Terror Era, Grandview WA, Transfer from Post 110 DMS, effective 11/6/2020.
- Ms. Gates moved with second by Mr. Brown to approve Mr. Heinz and Mr. Robledo for membership in the Post. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
11. **Service Officer:** Chief Service Officer Davidson reported the following:
- **Claims:**
 - Two claims are in progress and in the hands of the VA.
 - One claim pending completion of paperwork. One DIC claim application discontinued due to unexpected assets.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
 - Emergency relief assistance for one Grandview veteran was approved by the Commander. Additional assistance has been provided to get the veteran on meals on wheels, transportation to the bank and County Relief Fund.
 - **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - The current status of Robert Doty; Eddie Houser and Doug Hilmoe was discussed.
 - **Employment:**
 - No actions.
12. **Committee Reports:**
- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - **Area IV Christmas Party:** The Area IV Christmas Party has been postponed.
 - **Hygiene Kits for the Veterans Pantry:** Mr. Davidson noted there is a continuing need for hygiene kits at the Yakima County Veterans Pantry, bot for men and women. Items would include soap, shampoo, razors, shave cream, tooth brush, tooth paste, bad aids, feminine supplies and socks. He stated that he and his wife from the Auxiliary are willing to gather supplies and assemble the kits. Donations have already been received to assist with the effort. ***Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Houser to spend up to \$50.00 to provide Hygiene Kits to the Yakima County Veterans Pantry. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
 - **National Security** (includes Homeland Security):
 - **Blood Drive:** The December 9th Blood Drive has 23 slots filled out of 34 slots available.
 - **Americanism:** No report.
 - **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - **Wreaths Across America:** Mr. Davidson reported that Sally Van Horn reports an abbreviated ceremony will be conducted on December 19th at 9:00 AM. Distribution of wreaths at the ceremony will be done differently by places boxes of wreaths at each block. Volunteers will be sought for presentation of ceremonial wreaths.
 - **Graves Registration:** Four new graves were mapped at the Grandview Cemetery.
 - **Little Free Library:** The Little Library remains well-used. Mr. Davidson reported he will provide labels for books donated by Post members.
 - **Economic:**
 - **Travel Plaza:** Mr. Davidson suggested the Post embark on a campaign to bring a travel plaza to Grandview near the Walmart Distribution Center due to the number of trucks seeking a place to park for needed rest

breaks. The matter was discussed. Mr. Davidson will bring a resolution to the next meeting.

- **Membership and Publicity:**
 - **Early Bird Winner:** A drawing from among qualifying members was conducted on November 12th. The winner was Douglas Martin of Moxee. A \$25 Walmart Gift Card has been mailed to him.
- **Boys State:** No report. Materials should be coming soon.
- **Children and Youth:**
 - **Operation Homefront Holiday Toy Drive:** After two weeks of collections from the Grandview and Sunnyside Dollar Tree Stores, \$1,500.00 in toys has been collected and delivered to the 792nd Chemical Company at the Grandview Armory. Three weeks of collections remain.
 - **Scouts:** Due to continuing COVID restrictions causing no place to meet and lack of parent involvement, it is apparent the Post will not be able to recharter the Cub Scout Pack. Both Troops should recharter but help may be needed for several families to meet the increased registration fees.
- **Law and Order:**
 - **Law and Order Nominations:** No nominations have been received. Mr. Davidson will keep trying. Nominations for the Department Awards are due by February 1, 2021.
- **Constitutional Speech:**
 - **Contestants:** Neither of the two Scouts who attended the orientation session has submitted intent to participate.
- **Education:** Since school is still in mostly remote learning mode and in-person learning and sports has not yet started at the High School, there are no current scholar recognitions.

13. **Good of the Legion:**
 - The status of Chamber of Commerce meetings is unknown. None have been announced or held.
14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 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 Commander Gates at 8:39 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gates
Commander

Date