

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

December 17, 2020
Stevens-Young Room, Grandview Community Center, Grandview, WA
Conducted by Teleconference

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in regular form at 7:00 PM by Commander Gates. The Invocation was offered by Chaplain John Myers. The POW / MIA Empty Chair was recognized in abstentia. 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
Guests:
☐ Auxiliary:
☐ Other Guests:
☒ **Members:** Warren Barmore
☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
4. **Approve Minutes of November 19, 2020 Meeting:**
Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Houser to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2020 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - The Post honored Past Department Commander George LaPold (2000-2001). Memorial Prayer was offered by Chaplain Myers.
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6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$1,475.78.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$8,455.57.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,333.86.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is -\$53.06.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.
 - Chamber of Commerce 2021 dues paid.**Mr. Houser moved with second by Vicky Gates to accept the Finance Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.**
7. **Adjutant's Report:**
 - **Membership:** The 2021 Goal is 90 members. Current paid membership is 66 (73.33% of Goal). Actual membership, including previously-paid transfers not counting for Goal is 69.
 - **Communications:**
 - Thank you letter sent to Prosser Memorial Hospital as ordered at November meeting.

- Received a receipt from the Yakima Valley Veterans Coalition for the food donation from the Grandview High School DECA Club.
 - Thank you letter sent to Grandview High School DECA Club for the food donation of \$1,500.00 to the Veterans Pantry.
 - Completed the Grandview Chamber of Commerce Social Media questionnaire.
8. **Unfinished (Old) Business:**
- **Post Executive Committeeman Vacancy:** *Mr. Davidson moved with second by Mr. Myers to nominate Dr. Warren Barmore, USAF veteran of the Vietnam Era to fill the vacancy as Post Executive Committeeman expiring in 2021. The Motion was approved unanimously.*
 - **Fundraisers:** There was general discussion on whether to proceed with the Penny-a-Day campaign in February and the Crab Feed. Mr. Davidson noted coin collection will be difficult in the schools under current COVID restrictions. Also, the Post may not have access to the Community Center to conduct the Crab Feed. There was agreement to check with the schools regarding Penny-a-Day and with the crab vendor about availability and cost of crab. A Post Executive Committee call will be made to decide on the Crab Feed.
9. **New Business:**
- None.
10. **Balloting on New Applications / Renewal of Expired Members:**
- There were no new members or transfers since the last meeting.
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.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
 - **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - Robert Doty, Doug Hilmoe, Eddie Houser, Richard Zook.
 - **Employment:**
 - No activity
 - **Other:**
 - Mr. Davidson reported on Department Service Office activities and challenges facing the Division..
12. **Committee Reports:**
- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - The Grandview High School DECA Club donated \$1,500.00 in food supplies to the Veterans Pantry.
 - Hygiene Kits are slowly being assembled by Adjutant Davidson and Auxiliary Secretary Nancy Davidson. Some supplies are awaiting acquisition due to the current COVID hoarding.
 - The 2020 Operation Homefront Holiday Toy Drive was successfully completed with \$3,600.00 in toys donated to the 792nd Chemical Company at the Grandview Armory.
 - **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:**
 - The December 9th Blood Drive netted 23 units. There were 27 donors including one Power red donation. Three donors had insufficient donations and two donations were contaminated.
 - The March 10th Blood Drive has 21 pre-scheduled donors out of

33 slots.

- **Americanism:**
 - City Hall has offered to host the Flag Disposal Box in the building air lock. However, access to City Hall is not available due to COVID restrictions, so the box is best left at the Community Center for the time being.
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - **Graves Registration:** Graves Registration Cemetery Maps are up-to-date pending additions recently noted during Wreaths Across America preparations and other recently-published deaths.
 - **Wreaths Across America:** The ceremony will be Saturday, December 19th at 9:00 AM. Wreaths were delivered to the Walmart Distribution Center on December 13th. They will be placed at the cemetery blocks at 7:30 AM in preparation for a socially-distanced grave placement after the ceremony. The ceremony is shortened. Assistance is needed in directing volunteers to graves within the blocks.
- **Economic:**
 - **Travel Plaza:** A draft resolution (57-2020-008) regarding pursuit of a travel plaza in Grandview was reviewed. ***Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Houser to approve Resolution 57-2020-008. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Membership and Publicity:** No report.
- **Boys State:** No report.
- **Children and Youth:**
 - **Scouts:** Rechartering is underway though going slowly. Adults need to complete Youth Protection Training. Dues must be paid. The Cub Scout Pack will not recharter at this time due to COVID restrictions, Zoom-incompatible programs and no parents willing to be den leaders. Both Troops will recharter.
- **Law and Order:** No nominations for awards have been received.
- **Constitutional Speech:** The Department contest will be held at Ephrata High School on March 12-13, 2021.
- **Education:** No report.

13. **Good of the Legion:**

- Attend the Wreaths Across America ceremony to help set out wreaths. Dress warmly and wear a face covering.
- Chamber of Commerce meeting might be January 14th at 11 AM by Zoom. Members will be advised if appropriate notice is received.

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2021 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 8:06 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gates
Commander

Date

APPENDIX “A”

Resolution 57-2020-008

PUSUIT OF A TRAVEL PLAZA IN GRANDVIEW

Whereas, The City of Grandview has long associated itself as a community where agriculture and industry meet, and

Whereas, The community has successfully located a number of processors, fruit warehouses, agricultural supply firms, fuel distributors, cold storage warehouses and associated support businesses, and

Whereas, The Walmart grocery distribution center was successfully located in Grandview becoming a major community partner, and

Whereas, All of these businesses rely on local commercial and interstate trucking to receive and distribute product, and

Whereas, The community has previously recorded over 1,000 trucks a day entering and leaving Grandview, and

Whereas, With the destruction of the Yakima River rail bridge and absence of rail traffic for transport of products causing a continuing increase in interstate truck traffic into the community to meet the needs, and

Whereas, Commercial truck drivers have federally-mandated work-rest periods where they must stop and not drive for at least 10 hours, and

Whereas, These drivers must stop and safely park their vehicle for this period of time preferably near their delivery or pick-up location, and

Whereas, Trucks arriving in Grandview try to park along entry roads, vacant lots, and other locations where they do not have access to food, restrooms, showers, fuel or motels, and

Whereas, The City of Grandview has posted no parking signs along highway approaches to Walmart, and

Whereas, Other travel plazas in Prosser and Sunnyside fill up by mid-afternoon leaving other trucks with no safe or legal area to park, and

Whereas, There is little or no active effort to locate another suitable safe, revenue generating travel plaza on available lands near Walmart to meet the needs of commercial, interstate trucking and other travelers from among other suitable vendors and providers; now therefore be it

Resolved, That Fred E. Hayes Post No. 57, The American Legion, Grandview, Washington, meeting on December 17, 2020, calls upon the Port of Grandview, the City of Grandview and the Grandview Chamber of Commerce to actively pursue placement of a travel plaza in Grandview to serve travelers, local commercial and interstate truck commerce, and be it finally

Resolved, That such pursuit be among all potential competing truck plazas, hotels and food service providers with the assistance of local businesses dependent upon commercial and interstate truck service.