

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

February 20, 2020
Stevens-Young Room, Grandview Community Center, Grandview, WA

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in regular form at 7:01 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. Casey.
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: Jerry Frank, John Casey Vice Commander Brown was an excused absence Sgt-at-Arms John Travis's status is unknown ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
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4. **Approve Minutes of January 16, 2020 Meeting:**
Mr. Myers moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 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 \$1,030.14.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$7,934.90.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$25,868.34.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$1,559.43
 - Penny-a-Day income thus far is \$408.73. School donations will not be collected until the end of the month due to communication issues. The campaign ends March 2nd.
 - The IRS form 990-N has been filed.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.*Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Zook 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 87 (96.67% of Goal). Actual membership, including previously-paid transfers not counting for Goal is 87.
 - **Communications:**
 - Red Cross Blood Posters
 - Request for partisan political campaign support (refused, thrown away).
 - Conover Insurance about insurance review.

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

- **Flag Disposal Box:** Mr. Zook reported that he learned from the auto-body shop that sandblasting would be okay if the surface is not pitted. Mr. Zook will follow up with the local firm. If that does pan out, a Post member has a shop that we can use to hand scrub the box.
- **Honor Guard / Uniform:** Mr. Davidson reported on uniform suggestions from the last meeting. Choices available from Emblem Sales were reviewed. Choices to not be confused with the VFW Honor Guard were discussed. ***Mr. Zook moved with second by Mr. Myers to adopt a white short-sleeved Legion uniform shirt with yellow Legion tie (either clip-on or standard) worn with dark navy blue trousers as the official uniform for the Post Honor Guard. The Motion was approved unanimously.*** The Adjutant will send an email to officers offering to order the shirts and ties and providing information for self-ordering. Members were again reminded the Legion will be asked to be the Honor Guard for the dedication of the new High School in August.
- **Crab Feed:** The Adjutant reported that only one ticket has been sold so far for the Crab Feed. We must sell at least 60 tickets in order to conduct the event. Flyers must be posted around town. The banners are up at each end of town.

9. **New Business:**

- **Temporary Sgt.-at-Arms:** With the absence of Mr. Travis and his unknown medical status, the position of Sgt.-at-Arms must be temporarily filled. The Bylaws call for nomination of a replacement for the remainder of the term with election to be held the following month. There were no volunteers to be nominated for the position. ***ACTION: The Adjutant is instructed to seek volunteers for nomination from the membership.***
- **Re-schedule June regular meeting:** The Adjutant reported he will not be available for the regularly-scheduled June meeting and asked that it be re-scheduled to another date. Roberts Rules of Order and Post Bylaws require that in addition to a quorum, a recording officer must be present. Previously, no other officer has been willing to serve as the recording officer for the meeting. ***Ms. Gates moved with second by Mr. Myers to reschedule the June regular meeting to June 4th. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Resolution 57-2020-002, Revision to U.S. Flag Code...:** As requested at the January meeting, the Adjutant rewrote the previously-submitted Resolution on the Flag Code and has submitted Resolution 57-2020-002, "Revision to the U.S. Flag Code to Adopt Alternative Methods of Disposing of Unserviceable U.S. Flags" (see Appendix "A", below). The Resolution was read aloud. There were no questions or suggested revisions. ***Mr. Zook moved with second by Ms. Gates to adopt Resolution 57-2020-002 as titled and submit to Department for action and referral to National if approved at Convention. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Information Road Signs:** The Adjutant presented information on Legion Information Road Signs that could be placed on the information boards at each end of town. This was suggested as another means to advertise the Post. ***John Myers moved with second by Richard Zook to authorize the Adjutant to purchase two non-reflective Legion Information Road Signs and authorize funding from the Programs account. The Motion was approved unanimously.***

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

- TXR: Donald Aubrey, US Army / Vietnam Era, transfer from Post 20 / 110;
- TXR: William Owens, US Navy / Vietnam Era, transfer from Post 110 AD;
- TXR: Brian A. Stetter, US Army / PG/WOT Era, transfer from Post 110 AD.

Mr. Myers moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve the listed individuals for

membership in Post 57. 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.
 - Three claims pending completion of paperwork.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
 - **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - Reports were received on members John Travis (post-operative, status and location unknown), Jim Martin (satisfied with new hearing aids), Roger Grove (post-operative) and Antonio Sanchez (surgery pending).
 - **Employment:**
 - Caretaker position at BSA Camp Fife advertised state-wide.
12. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - The Yakama Warriors have announced their annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day activities for Saturday, March 28th at Sarge Hubbard Park.
 - **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:** The next community Blood Drive will be Wednesday, March 11th from 1:00 to 6:00 PM.
 - **Americanism:**
 - Mr. Davidson spoke at the Chamber meeting on how to properly say The Pledge of Allegiance. He has been asked to speak again on flag etiquette before the parade in August.
 - **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - Graves Registration
 - Cemetery maps at Grandview are up to date.
 - Gold Star Mothers / Sons Project. Mr. Davidson reported he initiated a project to tie the names of the Gold Stars Mothers listed on our rolls to the names of their sons. That information has largely been lost over the years. He is working with Ray Vining and John Myers at the Museum and notes some progress is being made. However, there remain quite a few blank spots as well as some confusion.
 - Mr. Davidson reported that he is attempting to find information on a veteran buried at Grandview who does not have a headstone. He has learned the man died in 1975 and a service was done by Smith Funeral Home. He will follow up with them to see if there are any records that would show branch of service, etc. From there, we can request a DD-214 and then request a headstone. Then it's just a matter of paying for placement. Mr. Myers reported there is another unmarked grave at the cemetery, so we will have to work on that as well.
 - Bunny Breakfast. The Post is again slated to sponsor the Bunny Breakfast associated with the Grandview Easter Egg Hunt on April 11th. A budget of \$200 was previously approved with adoption of the current year budget.
 - Community Day of Service. The annual Grandview Community Day of Service is scheduled for May 16th. This was previous conducted out of the Community Center and the Post supervised cleaning of the Center. However, this year the event will operate out of the Nazarene Church. One of the projects will be the cemetery. The Post may wish to supervise that, especially cleaning of some of the old headstones.

- **Economic:**
- **Membership and Publicity:**
 - Membership. Mr. Gates and Mr. Davidson attended the 6th District Revitalization. It was real helpful for the Post, though two members were transferred for Post 100 AD.
 - Publicity. Mr. Davidson reported that media releases to the Sunnyside paper are not being published with any frequency so the number of column inches of news is down this year. We still far exceed what other posts do, but it does hurt advising our communities of what we are doing.
- **Boys State:**
 - Mr. Davidson reported that there will be a need to transport of Boys State delegate(s) to Warm Beach this year since he will be out of state. He can pick the student up at the end of the event. No action was taken.
 - Mr. Davidson reported he is still waiting for the registration paperwork from the Grandview High School boy.
- **Children and Youth:**
 - Scouting
 - Cub Scout Pack 643 Pinewood Derby is Saturday, March 7th in the Community Center Gymnasium.
 - Girls-Only Troop 644. All four girls have already earned their Scout rank and working on Tenderfoot. They are ahead of boys who have been in Troop 643 up to a year.
 - Boys-only Troop 643. Half of the boys (and all the girls) are working on Hiking Merit Badge. They have completed their 5 mile and two 10 mile training hikes. They have one more 10 miler, a 15 miler and a 20 miler to complete.
 - BSA national has declared bankruptcy due to all the lawsuits over abuse. This does not affect local operations
 - The Grand Columbia Council has restructured Districts from six to three. Our area, formerly known as Chief Kamiakin, has been combined with the Yakima area (Skookum). A meeting will be held in Zillah on March 12th to rename the new District and nominate officers.
- **Law and Order:**
 - Law and Order nominations have been submitted to Department. We have not been advised of a decision.
- **Constitutional Speech:**
- **Education:**
 - It is time to seek nominations for Educator of the Year.

13. **Good of the Legion:**

- The "Feed the Pig" piggy bank was circulated for the Child Welfare Foundation.
- Blood Drive, Wednesday, March 11th, 1 – 6 PM.
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Thursday, March 12th at Noon, Casa Tequila

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, March 19th 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 8:47 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gate
Commander

Date

Appendix "A":

Resolution 57-2020-002

**REVISION TO THE U.S. FLAG CODE TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF DISPOSING
OF UNSERVICABLE U.S. FLAGS**

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, The U.S. Flag Code was adopted in 1923, subsequently passed into law and revised on a number of occasions over the last century, 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, The preference of cremation as the preferred way of disposal was written when flags were made of cotton and no other method of disposal was specified or recommended, and

Whereas, Since the mid-1900's, nylon or other synthetics have been used to produce longer lasting, more durable and all-weather flags, and

Whereas, Cremation of nylon and other synthetics produces multiple carcinogenic, irritant, corrosive and poisonous chemicals deemed to be hazardous air pollutants, and

Whereas, Cremation of nylon also produces *Hydrogen cyanide*, a known asphyxiant and deadly human and experimental poison by all routes and thus hazardous and potentially fatal to ceremonial teams performing cremation, 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, citing hazardous air pollution, may authorize limited cremation in some jurisdictions, may authorize disposal in a crematorium in other jurisdictions, or more often totally ban disposal by cremation in any manner in other jurisdictions, often at the threat of arrest, jail and substantial fines for the ceremonial team or organization, and

Whereas, There is no alternative method of disposal of the U.S. Flag specified in the U.S. Flag Code to eliminate the environmental and personal hazards associated with the cremation of non-cotton U.S. Flags; now therefore be it

Resolved, That Fred E. Hayes Post No. 57, The American Legion, Grandview, Washington, meeting on February 20, 2020, calls upon The American Legion to work towards a revision in the U.S. Flag Code to recommend suitable alternative methods of disposal of worn and unserviceable U.S. Flags to eliminate hazards to the environment and ceremonial team members, and be it finally

Resolved, That such alternative methods of disposal allow, without restriction, the ceremonial disposal of worn and unserviceable flags by Veteran Service Organizations without threat of citation, arrest, fines or jail.