

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

March 19, 2020

Via Teleconference, Grandview, WA

(This meeting was conducted via teleconference due to the COVID-19 situation as a precaution for active members who are in the at-risk age category.)

1. **Call to Order:** The teleconference meeting was called to order in regular form at 7:00 PM by Commander Gates via teleconference. The Invocation was offered by Chaplain John Myers. The POW / MIA Empty Chair was honored 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
 - ☒ Vicky Gates, Vice Commander
 - ☒ Jim Davidson, Adjutant / Finance
 - ☐ John Travis, Sgt-at-Arms
 - ☒ John Myers, Chaplain
 - ☒ Leonard McGrath, PEC-man
 - ☒ Richard Zook, PEC-man**Guests:**
 - ☒ Auxiliary: Nancy Davidson
 - ☐ Other Guests:
 - ☒ **Members:** Curt Nealen, Jim MartinSgt-at-Arms John Travis's status is unknown.
☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
4. **Approve Minutes of February 20, 2020 Meeting:**
Mr. McGrath moved with second by Mr. Brown to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2020 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - There are no reported deaths among Post members. One community individual who the Post helped with a VA claim, Samuel Powell, has died and listed as a member of The American Legion (Post unknown). Also, the niece of member Jerry Frank has died. The Adjutant will mail sympathy cards on behalf of the Post.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$1,046.85.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$9,706.05.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$25,868.34.
 - Penny-a-Day income was \$1,643.37, about \$80.00 more than last year. Smith School did not participate this year.
 - Top Community Donor: Eli & Kathy's Family Restaurant
 - Top School Donor: McClure Elementary
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$3,355.29.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.
 - Mr. Davidson requested a budget increase for the line item for Office Supplies and Postage. *Mr. Brown Moved with second by Ms. Gates to increase the Budget line item for Office Supplies and Postage to \$600.00. The Motion was approved unanimously.*

Mr. Martin moved with second by Mr. Brown 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 – Report of new collection procedures and report of blood drive.
 - Boy Scouts of America – Bankruptcy notice (National). This does not affect local operations.
 - Post Data Report – The annual Post Data Report (contact information, dues, etc.) was filed with Department on March 13th.

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

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

- Crab Feed: The Crab Feed was cancelled due to low ticket sales and COVID-19 concerns.
 - Alternative fundraisers were discussed, including raffles (motor scooter, another hand-made wooden flag).
- Flag Disposal Box: Mr. Zook reported that Dion-Built Trailers sand-blasted the box and painted it (inside and out) at no charge. It has been transported to Yakima for graphics.
- Appointment of Sgt-at-Arms: There have been no volunteers or recommendations for replacement of the Sgt-at-Arms. It was noted that with teleconferences the norm for the foreseeable future, there is not a pressing need to fill the position as required by the Bylaws. **Mr. Davidson moved with second by Mr. Martin to postpone election of Sgt-at-Arms until the Annual Meeting in May. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

9. **New Business:**

- COVID-19 Impact on Post Operations: With the current CDC guidelines, Governor's orders and the unavailability of the Community Center, there will be no in-person meetings of the Post. Teleconferences will be used for meetings. The scheduled "Bunny Breakfast" for the Easter Egg Hunt has been cancelled.
- Change in June Meeting back to normal date: Mr. Davidson reported that his planned absence in June has been cancelled and the regular meeting may be rescheduled for the normal date. **Mr. Davidson moved with second by Mr. Brown to schedule the June meeting for June 18th. The Motion was approved unanimously.**
- Call for nominations for elected officers at the April meeting: Commander Gates noted the Bylaws call for nomination of officers at the April meeting, to be elected at the May meeting and assume office at drop of the gavel following the Department Convention in July or August 1st. All positions are open for nomination except the Executive Committeeman position held by Mr. McGrath.
- GHS Scholars: The Vocational scholars for the second trimester and athlete scholars for winter sports were named (Appendix "A," below) and certificates have been provided to the students.

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

- No new members or transfers recorded.

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:**
 - John Travis (status unknown).
- **Employment:**
 - No action.

12. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - Yakima County Veterans Pantry Food Drive is currently underway. We will solicit donations through an article in the paper.
 - “Buddy Checks” are encouraged for all of our members.
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - COVID-19 Impact on National and Department operations and military members.
 - National has limited attendance at the spring meetings to the NEC and committee chairs only.
 - Department has postponed all Spring Conferences and will have a brief DEC teleconference.
 - Military members are impacted by not being able to travel. We may need to support our military members.
 - Blood Drive:
 - March 11th Drive yielded 15 units
 - Next Blood Drive is May 13th. **Action: Mr. Davidson will check with the Parks and Recreation Director as to whether the Community Center will be available for the Blood Drive if the current COVID-19 restrictions are extended.**
- **Americanism:** No report.
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - Community Day of Service, Saturday, May 16th. If current restrictions remain in place by then, this event will likely be cancelled. If it proceeds, the Post will work on the Cemetery.
- **Economic:** No report.
- **Membership and Publicity:**
- **Boys State / Girls State:**
 - One boy has already been sponsored, though he is moving to the Tri-Cities. Mr. Davidson reported Joshua Oliver of Grandview who attends Sunnyside High School and Lorenzo Castilleja of Grandview High School have applied. Both have been interviewed by phone and are suitable candidates. ***Mr. Davidson moved with second by Mr. Zook to approve sponsoring both delegates at \$300.00 each (paid from Programs Account). The Motion was approved unanimously***
 - Ms. Davidson of the Auxiliary reported the Unit has received six applications from girls at Grandview High School. They have funds to pay for one delegate and part of two more. They are seeking assistance to be able to send all six girls and are requesting \$1,125.00. They also sponsor girls from Sunnyside, Granger and Mabton, but funds for those delegates come from those communities. ***Mr. Zook moved with second by Mr. Martin to provide \$1,125.00 from Programs Account to the Auxiliary to sponsor delegates to Girls State. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Children and Youth:**
 - Scouts: Mr. Davidson reported all Scout units are now following the

current COVID-19 guidelines. Cub Scouts are being coached by their parents. The Troops are meeting via teleconference. Their camping trips for the next two months have been cancelled and summer camp has been cancelled. They will be finishing work on their Hiking Merit Badge using "social distancing" during that time. They are working on Merit Badges via teleconference.

- **Law and Order:** No report.
- **Constitutional Speech:**
 - The Department Contest was cancelled due to COVID-19 limitations on group size.
- **Education:**
 - School Awards. There is no clarity as to whether school will resume at the end of April and it may be difficult to obtain nominations for the School Award. **Action: Mr. Davidson will order the awards, including medals for scholars and Boys State / Girls State. If need be, they can be presented next year.**
 - Educator of the Year. With schools closed, it will be difficult to get nominations for the Educator of the Year. **Action: Mr. Davidson will attempt to work with building principals to get nominations.**

13. **Good of the Legion:**

- Chamber of Commerce Meeting, April 9th, Noon, Grandview Museum (likely to be cancelled since the Museum is closed to the public and volunteers).
- 6th District Spring Conference has been postponed.

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 PM (via teleconference).

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 8:04 PM and the teleconference was terminated..

Appendix "A" – GHS Scholars

Skills USA: Fernando Mendoza

FFA: Natalie Copeland, Juan Marquez, Cole Judkins, Eva Espindola

DECA: Jonathan Arguello, Cole Judkins, Arienna Medrano, Rebecca Valler

Boys Swim: Andres De Robles

Cheer: Christin Alvarez

Girls Basketball: Natalie Copeland, Aulani Benitez, Arianna Sanchez, Jazmine Richey

Boys Basketball: Nicholas Gutierrez, Rocco Parrish

Boys Wrestling: Anthony Campuzano

Girls Wrestling: Adri Graf

Volleyball: Daisy Lara, Mia Sanchez, Amaya Newman, Natalie Copeland

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gate
Commander

Date