

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

April 16, 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 meeting was called to order in regular form at 7:02 PM via teleconference 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 ☒ 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: Scout Grace Binfet, Girls-only Troop 644 (attending to listen to a meeting). ☒ Members: Jim Martin, Curt Nealen. Sgt-at-Arms Travis has moved out of the area. ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
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4. **Approve Minutes of March 19, 2020 Meeting:**
Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Martin to approve the Minutes of the March 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 \$1,041.45.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$10,961.63.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,021.89.
 - Penny-a-Day final income: \$1,643.37.
 - Weaths Across America Share: \$1,240.16.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$4,371.72.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.
 - The only upcoming anticipated expense is the renewal of the Post Liability Insurance policy, which is about \$250.00.*Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to accept 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:**

- National and Department Cancellations: National has cancelled all meetings, activities and competitions until the fall due to the COVID-19 situation. This includes the National Convention and all youth programs. Current officers, commissions and committees will be rolled over to 2021. Department has followed suit with all face-to-face meetings and youth programs. The Department Executive Committee will act on cancellation of the Department Convention and roll over of officers on April 18th.
 - COVID-19 Relief and Economic Relief communications from Department were sent to Post members and posted on the Post Web site.
 - Interim Service Officer: An interim Department Service Officer has been appointed. The former Service Officer decided he could not handle the management tasks associated with the job.
 - Red Cross Blood Drive Posters and COVID-19 Precautions: The Red Cross Blood Services have provided posters for the upcoming blood drive and advised the Post of precautions that will be taken during the drive, including use of masks for all in attendance.
 - Representative Newhouse Town hall Meeting: Rep. Newhouse conducted a teleconference Town Hall meeting on April 14th. Not much useful information was provided other than some movement on replacement of the Yakima COBC facility..
 - **Cemetery Flags:** One gross of replacement grave marker cemetery flags have been received from Emblem Sales.
 - **Military Flags for Legion Park:** Replacement military flags for Legion Park have been received from Carrot-Top Industries and will be provided to the City for change-out before Memorial Day (as is done annually).
 - **Consolidated Post Report (CPR):** The CPR is being updated online. The Adjutant will soon ask members to submit their volunteer hours for inclusion in the report.
8. **Unfinished (Old) Business:**
- **Flag Disposal Box:** In the absence of Mr. Zook, Mr. Davidson reported that Dion-Built Trailers painted the box, inside and out, and it has been transported to Monster Graphics in Yakima for the graphics work. They likely are closed due to the COVID-19 situation, but are to provide us with a design before proceeding.
9. **New Business:**
- **Nomination of Officers:**
 - Because of actions taken at both the National and Department level with cancellations of many events and the suggestion that officers be rolled-over to the following year, even at the Post level. It was noted that the Post has vacancies that need to be filled and may require some shuffling of officers to meet that need. Also, the Post is under no obligation to follow the recommendation with regard to selection of our officers. ***Mr. Davidson moved with second by Mr. Brown to delay nominations for Post Officers until the annual meeting in May, at which time officers may be elected. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
 - **Delegates for Department Convention:**
 - With the anticipation that Department Convention will be cancelled, any decision on Delegates for the Department Convention was postponed until the annual meeting in May.
10. **Balloting on New Applications / Renewal of Expired Members:**
- There were no new members or transfers recorded in the last month.
11. **Service Officer:** Chief Service Officer Davidson reported the following:

- **Claims:**
 - Two claims are in progress and in the hands of the VA. Approval is probably delayed due to VA workers now working from home.
 - One claim is pending completion of paperwork.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
- **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - Sgt-at-Arms John Travis has moved to Belfair WA, where his daughter lives. His health status is unknown. ***Mr. Davidson moved with second by Ms. Gates to make Mr. Travis an Honorary Life Member of Post 57 in recognition of his military service and service to the Post, paying the annual per capita dues until his death. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Employment:**
 - The current COVID-19 situation has placed millions on unemployment. The Post is not yet aware of impact among Post members.

12. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - Veterans Pantry: \$500 in food was donated by Grandview High School and delivered to the Yakima County Veterans Pantry.
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:** The next Blood Drive is Wednesday, May 13th from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. The City is allowing use of the Community Center since this is an essential activity under current government orders. All volunteers, donors and staff will be required to wear masks.
- **Americanism:**
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - Graves Registration: There are one or more veteran burial / inurnment sites to be located at the Grandview Cemetery but we cannot check on locations until public access is allowed at Public Works. Funerals have been curtailed during the COVID-19 situation.
 - Community Day of Service: The status of the planned Community Day of Service on May 16th is unknown. It likely will be cancelled.
 - Memorial Day: It is currently unknown if we will be able to conduct a Memorial Day Service. Placement of flags will still be required.
- **Economic:**
- **Membership and Publicity:**
 - The Publicity Notebook is being maintained. It is unclear if Department Awards will be offered this year.
- **Boys State:**
 - Evergreen Boys State for 2020 has been cancelled. The Post's three Delegates will be invited to attend next year.
 - Evergreen Girls State has been cancelled. The Auxiliary has not heard if our six girls will be invited to attend next year.
 - The Samsung Scholarship program has been suspended this year.
- **Children and Youth:**
 - Scouting Programs:
 - The Cub Scout Pack is operating through home activities with parental guidance. Unfortunately, most of the parents are not helping their Cubs.
 - The two Troops are meeting weekly by video conference and merit badges are being accomplished via videoconference or teleconference. Some Scouts are doing well but others are taking time to come up to speed.
 - Grace Binfet, Senior Patrol Leader of the Girls-only Scouts BSA

Troop 644 was introduced. She is attending the meeting for a Merit badge requirement.

- **Law and Order:**
- **Constitutional Speech:**
 - At least one Boys State delegate is interested in competing next year. Mr. Davidson will approach the other boy and girl delegates as well as two Scouts to see if they will compete.
- **Education:**
 - School Awards:
 - Mr. Davidson noted with the closure of schools for the remainder of the year, it is impossible to effectively get nominations from all the schools for The American Legion School Award. He recommends focusing solely on the High School, which plans to do something for their seniors later this summer or in the fall. Two medallions are in stock with the Post. The Post may also present the medals for Vocational and Athlete Scholars as well as Boys State and Girls State Citizens. Mr. Davidson will work to coordinate this with Ms. Casey, GHS Principal.
 - Educator of the Year Award:
 - The Educator of the Year Award is still in play at Department this year. Mr. Davidson will attempt to get nominating materials from Ms. Casey for the teacher who has helped with Legion programs in the schools and community for the last four or five years.

13. **Good of the Legion:**

- The "Feed the Pig" piggy bank could not be circulated for the Child Welfare Foundation.
- Chamber of Commerce meeting would normally be held May 14th, but it likely will be cancelled. Members will be updated if it is held.
- The previously scheduled 6th District Conference has been postponed / cancelled.

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Members should expect the meeting will be held 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 8:09 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gate
Commander

Date