

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

September 17, 2020
Via Teleconference, Grandview, WA

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in regular form via teleconference 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. 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 (21)
 - ☒ Curt Nealen, PEC-man (22)**Guests:**
 - ☐ Auxiliary:
 - ☐ Other Guests:
 - ☒ **Members:** Sally Van Horn, Gary Van Horn, Eddie Houser, Dale Burgeson

☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
4. **Approve Minutes of June 18, 2020 Meeting:**
Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Myers to approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2020 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
Approve Minutes of July 16, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting:
Mr. Nealen moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve the Minutes of the July 16, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - David French, US Army, Vietnam Era. *Mr. Houser moved with second by Mr. Brown to approve Resolution 57-2020-005 (Appendix "A", below) transferring comrade David French to Post Everlasting. The Motion was approved unanimously.*
 - Leonard McGrath, US Marine Corps / US Army, Korea Era. *Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Houser to approve Resolution 57-2020-006 (Appendix "B", below) transferring comrade Leonard McGrath to Post Everlasting. The Motion was approved unanimously.*
 - Memorial Prayer was offered by Chaplain Myers.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$1,112.78.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$8,760.49.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,176.64.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is -\$227.49.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.
 - Alternative sources of additional fundraising were discussed.*Mr. Houser moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve the Finance Report.*

The Motion was approved unanimously.

7. **Adjutant's Report:**

- **Membership:** The 2021 Goal is 91 members. Current paid membership is 45 (49.45% of Goal). Actual membership, including previously-paid transfers not counting for Goal is 45.
- **Communications:**
 - Thank you note from Washington God Star Mothers.
 - Thank you note from Extra Mile Center.
 - Thank you note from USO Northwest.
 - Thank you receipts from The American Legion Charities.
 - City of Grandview regarding Half-Staffing of the flag for Mayor Childress. The Governor has since authorized half-staffing on Friday, September 25th.
- **Newsletter:** The "Post Gazette" has been mailed with various reminders regarding renewals and meeting information. Newsletters are being mailed to expired members as a recruiting effort.
- **Conferences:** The status of Fall District and Area Conferences is unknown at this time (due to COVID restrictions).

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

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

- **Flag Box:** Mr. Davidson reported the Post is still waiting word back from the City regarding placement of the box at a central location in the city. The box may be temporarily moved to the dining room of the Community Center to replace the cardboard box.

9. **New Business:**

- **Adoption of 2020-2021 Meeting and Event Schedule:** ***Ms. Van Horn moved with second by Mr. Houser to approve the 2020-2021 Meeting and Event Schedule (Appendix C", below)with the addition of a Wreaths Across America donation collection date at Safeway on November 7, 2020. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Resolution 57-2020-007 Alternative Methods of Disposal of US Flag:** The previously submitted Resolution of this title for the 2020 Department Convention could not be addressed due to the postponement of the Convention. Department has requested it be resubmitted for the 2021 Convention. ***Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve Resolution 57-2020-007, titled Alternative Methods of Disposal of US Flag (Appendix "D", below). The Motion was approved Unanimously.*** At his previous Post, Mr. Houser took collected flags to Yakima Fire Department Station 5 for ceremonial disposal. He offered to do the same for our Post. This would eliminate the proposed transport of flags to Idaho for disposal.
- **Recognition of Mayor Norm Childress:** There was a brief discussion of what the Post could do to recognize recently-deceased former mayor Childress. Due to COVID, there will be no service. Members suggested the Adjutant prepare a suitable certificate for the family.

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

- The following individuals have transferred to or renewed expired memberships in the Post:
 - Gerald Riggs, USAF / Vietnam Era, transfer from Post 110 AD (effective 6/14/2020);
 - Christopher McCauley, USMC (active) / PGulf-WOT Era, expired

- membership renewal;
- Edie L. Houser, USAF / Vietnam Era, transfer from Post 88 (effective 9/13/2020).

Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Burgeson to accept the listed transfers and expired renewals into the Post. The Motion was approved unanimously.

- ***Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to appoint Eddie Houser to the position of Judge Advocate. 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.
 - Two claims pending completion of paperwork.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
- **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - None currently known.
- **Employment:**
 - No action.

12. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - **Operation Homefront:** The Back to School Brigade campaign raised \$1,820.00 in supplies that was donated to the 792nd Chemical Company at the Grandview Armory. This is a decrease from previous years, likely due to donors being unsure about schools opening.
 - **Yakima Stand-down:** The Yakima Valley Veterans Stand-Down is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th, 0900 to 1600 at State Fair Park under COVID restrictions. Participants must register to attend.
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:** The August 12th Blood Drive netted 21 units. The October 14th Blood Drive is nearly a full schedule.
- **Americanism:**
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - **Graves Registration:** Mr. Davidson reported updates of grave locations have been delayed due to COVID, delayed burials / inurnments and poor air quality. Ms. Van Horn reported there is another name located in Block 9. She will provide the name to Mr. Davidson for location.
 - **Wreaths Across America:** Chairman Sally Van Horn reports the campaign will begin soon. The National Ceremony date is December 19th. The National organization is suggesting four possible formats for the ceremony day. We will need to work with the City to determine what we can do locally.
- **Economic:**
 - **Broadband Support:** A letter was sent to the Washington Department of Commerce supporting a grant request for Broadband services for Grandview. It does not appear as though a grant was issued for this area, but a final notice is due in late October.
- **Membership and Publicity:**
- **Boys State:**
- **Children and Youth:**
 - **Scouts:** Both Troops continue to meet via Zoom. The girls did have a campout but the boys campout was cancelled due to smoke from the fires. Cub Scouts are inactive. Recharter packets will be mailed soon.
- **Law and Order:**
 - Letters are being sent seeking Law Enforcement Officer / Firefighter of

the Year nominations.

- **Constitutional Speech:**
 - Letters have been sent to candidates seeking participation in the Constitutional Speech Contest.
- **Education:** Grandview schools are meeting virtually. It is unclear how to proceed with the scholar programs.

13. **Good of the Legion:**

- Commander Gates issued a call for nominations or volunteers to serve in the unexpired term of Post Executive Committeeman for 2021 (Leonard McGrath's seat). Action will be taken at the October meeting.
- Chamber of Commerce meetings are on Zoom if called. Members will be notified if the Post gets a call.

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, October 15, 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

APPENDIX "A":

Resolution 57-2020-005

POST EVERLASTING FOR DAVID W. FRENCH, US ARMY, VIETNAM

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, The Great Commander, to summon to the immortal legions our beloved comrade, David W. French, US Army, Vietnam Era, and

Whereas, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of distinguished service to our country and outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Fred E. Hayes Post No. 57, The American Legion, Grandview, Washington, does mourn the passing of our comrade, David W. French, that we commend to all the works and to God the spirit; and be it further

Resolved, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution transferring David W. French to Post Everlasting, The American Legion, is presented to the next of kin.

APPENDIX "B":

Resolution 57-2020-006

POST EVERLASTING FOR LEONARD E. MCGRATH, USMC / US ARMY, KOREAN ERA

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, The Great Commander, to summon to the immortal legions our beloved comrade, Leonard E. McGrath, USMC / US Army, Korea Era, and

Whereas, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of distinguished service to our country and outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Fred E. Hayes Post No. 57, The American Legion, Grandview, Washington, does mourn the passing of our comrade, Leonard E. McGrath, that we commend to all the works and to God the spirit; and be it further

Resolved, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution transferring Leonard E. McGrath to Post Everlasting, The American Legion, is presented to the next of kin.

APPENDIX “C”:

SCHEDULED / PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2020 - 2021

Subject to change

Regular Meetings:

*All meetings are held at 7:00 PM at the Grandview Community Center Conference Room, 812 Wallace Way, Grandview. Enter through the Senior Center entrance. **Members may call in at 518-318-5026.***

Thursday, September 17th

Thursday, October 15th

Thursday, November 19th

Thursday, December 17th

Thursday, January 21st

Thursday, February 18th

Thursday, March 18th

Thursday, April 15th

Thursday, May 20th (**Annual Meeting / Elections**)

Thursday, June 17th

All Blood Drives are from 1:00 to 6:00 PM in the Dining Room of the Community Center.

Wednesday, August 12th

Wednesday, October 14th

Wednesday, December 9th

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021

Wednesday, May 12th, 2021

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021

Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

Wednesday, December 8th, 2021

Ceremonies:

Wreaths Across America

Saturday, December 19th, 9:00 AM
Grandview Cemetery

Memorial Day Activities / Ceremonies

(All events at Grandview Cemetery)

“Flags-in”

Saturday, May 29th, 8:00 AM

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 31st, 11:00 AM

“Flags-out”

Monday, May 31st, 6:00 PM

Red Cross Community Blood Drives:

Meals:

All events are at the Grandview Community Center.

Veterans Day “SOS” Brunch and Public Safety Awards

Saturday, November 7th, 10:00 AM

Reservations Preferred

Annual Community Crab Feed

Saturday, March 20th, 6:00 PM

Reservations Required

“Bunny Breakfast”

Associated with Grandview’s Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 3rd, 9:00 AM

Fundraisers:

Wreaths Across America

*Saturday, November 7th, Grandview Safeway.
Raises funds to place wreaths on Veteran graves
and pay for Post programs. Runs July to
December (includes direct purchases, donations
and wrist band sales).*

Community Penny-a-Day Campaign

*This activity raises funds to pay for Post
programs, including many youth programs and
runs during the month of February. Please mail
your donations to The American Legion, PO Box
56, Grandview WA 98930.*

APPENDIX “D”:

Resolution 57-2020-007

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 September 17, 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.

