

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

January 21, 2021
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 7:01 PM by Commander Gates. The Invocation was offered by Adjutant Jim Davidson. 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
 - ☒ Warren Barmore, PEC-man
 - ☒ Curt Nealen, PEC-man
 - ☐ Eddie Houser, Judge Advocate**Guests:**
 - ☐ Auxiliary:
 - ☐ Other Guests:
 - ☒ **Members:** Sally Van Horn, Gary Van Horn
 - ☐ **Excused:** Eddie Houser (hospital)
 - ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
4. **Approve Minutes of December 17, 2020 Meeting:**
Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Barmore to approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2020 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - There were no reported deaths since the last meeting.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$1,530.88.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$9,322.01.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,480.44.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$1,015.06.
 - The IRS Form 990-N was filed electronically.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.***Ms. Van Horn 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 90 members. Current paid membership is 70 (77.78% of Goal). Actual membership, including previously-paid transfers not counting for Goal is 73.
 - **Communications:**
 - Receipt of a Thank You card from Sally Van Horn for assistance with Wreaths Across America activities.
 - Red Cross COVID Appreciation certificate and Social Media Badge.

- Request to post Aging & Senior Care Resources in Washington on the Post's Web Page. ***Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve placing this information on the Web page. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
 - Certificates were mailed to Wreaths Across America participants.
 - **Web page Updates:** The Post Web Page is being updated as time allows. The Events calendar is being updated with significant dates. Minutes are being posted as time allows.
8. **Unfinished (Old) Business:**
- **Hygiene Kits:** Mr. Davidson reported assembly of the hygiene kits has been delayed by lack of materials after the most recent run on items with COVID panic. Those items are now becoming available again and effort will be made to complete this task in the next week or so. The plan is for 35 male and 15 female kits.
 - **Travel Plaza:** Mr. Davidson reported he has not had the opportunity to query local industries on truck traffic. He will attempt to gather information from businesses so the resolution may be presented to the City, Post and Chamber of Commerce.
 - **Penny-a-Day:** Mr. Davidson had not had positive response on conducting Penny-a-Day campaigns in the schools, mostly due to the continuing "hybrid" education system under COVID. Continuing governmental restrictions on restaurants makes placement of donation cans impossible. Mr. Davidson suggested doing a mail campaign with Post membership. ***Mr. Davidson moved with second by Dr. Barmore to conduct the 2021 Penny-a-Day Campaign by mail, news articles and Facebook. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
 - **Crab Feed:** Mr. Davidson reported that fisheries remain closed in Washington and Oregon and prices do not look favorable. With anticipated restrictions on occupancy and use of the Community Center, he suggests the Crab Feed be cancelled. ***Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to cancel the 2021 Crab Feed. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
9. **New Business:**
- None.
10. **Balloting on New Applications / Renewal of Expired Members:**
- The following persons were submitted for approval for Post membership:
 - EXPIRED RENEWAL: Jared Dobson, USMC / Persian Gulf Era, last paid Year 2019 with Post 57, effective 12/18/20.
 - TRANSFER / NEW: Domingo Ramirez, USA / Vietnam Era, effective 1/7/21, last paid in 2015 with Post 110.
- Mr. Nealen moved with second by Mr. Brown to approve the memberships of Jared Dobson and Domingo Ramirez. 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.
 - One claims pending completion of paperwork.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
 - **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - Eddie Houser in hospital at Yakima Memorial;
 - Former member Jim Martin (in Mississippi) is home after a stroke.
 - **Employment:**
 - The Department Service Division is seeking a person for a paid Veteran Service Officer position. It would most likely be on the west side of the

state or perhaps Spokane.

- **Vaccinations:**
 - The VA will contact veterans in the health care system for their COVID vaccination appointments. The State-operated vaccination program is not going smoothly.

12. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services): No report.
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:** The March 10th Blood Drive has 23 pre-scheduled appointments out of 33 available slots.
- **Americanism:**
 - **Flag Disposal:** Mr. Davidson suggested that attempts be made through the local fire department to cremate flags on Flag Day.
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - **Graves Registration:** Cemetery maps have been updated but several grave locations are yet to be determined.
 - **Wreaths Across America:** The ceremony was a success and the wreath pick up had a number of volunteers to assist. The first payment from Wreaths Across America has been received.
- **Economic:** No report.
- **Membership and Publicity:** No report.
- **Boys State:**
 - **Boys State:** No materials or information has been received.
 - **Girls State:** The Auxiliary has received notice that Girls State will likely be held virtually either June 13-16 or June 20 - 23. Costs would be \$100 - \$200.
 - Concern was expressed that since these programs are intensive, exhausting hands-on experiences, it is doubtful kids will spend the time required to participate in a Zoom meeting where they cannot learn the required materials and develop the skills to be an effective team member. It was expressed that kids may have Zoom fatigue as is being seen now in classrooms and that the level of active engagement may be far less than expected.
 - **Action: Members are not excited about a virtual experience for either program but wish to wait until additional information is provided.**
- **Children and Youth:**
 - **Scouting:** Scouts BSA Troops 643 (Boys) and 644 (Girls) have been rechartered. The girls have qualified for the Silver Journey to Excellence Award and the boys qualified for the Bronze. Normally, the units would qualify for the Gold awards, but lack of a long-term camp and regular camping decreased eligibility. The Cub Scout Pack did not recharter due to lack of parent involvement.
- **Law and Order:** No report.
- **Constitutional Speech:** No report.
- **Education:**
 - **School Awards:** Discussion was held on whether to offer the School Award to schools this year. ***Ms. Gates moved with second by Mr. Brown to offer the School Award program to the five Grandview schools and Prosser High School. The Motion was approved unanimously.***

13. **Good of the Legion:**

- Chamber of Commerce Meeting, February 11, 2021 at 11:00 AM via Zoom.
- Department Mid-Winter Meeting in Wenatchee, February 5-7, 2021 (expect

cancellation due to COVID restrictions).

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM, most like by 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 8:32 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gates
Commander

Date