

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

November 18, 2021
Stevens-Young Room, Grandview Community Center, Grandview, WA

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in regular form at 7:03 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. No members called in on the teleconference and the call was terminated at 7:08 PM.
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	<u>Guests:</u> ☐ Auxiliary: ☐ Other Guests: ☒ Members: Ray Vining ☒ Excused: Curt Nealen ☐ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
--	---
4. **Approve Minutes of October 21, 2021 Meeting:**
Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Myers to approve the Minutes of the October 21, 2021 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - There were no recorded deaths since the last regular meeting.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$1,132.91.
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$15,314.89.
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,914.46.
 - Auxiliary Unit 57 Account Balance (in Savings): \$3,580.66.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$2,593.91.
 - Auxiliary Budget / Profit/Loss – Current year-to-date balance; +\$3,580.66.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.
 - Mr. Davidson reported on two CD renewals and the conversion process from Lower Valley Credit Union to Self Help Federal Credit Union.*Mr. Myers moved with second by Dr. Barmore to approve the Finance Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.*
7. **Adjutant's Report:**
 - **Membership:** The 2022 Goal is 80 members. Current paid membership is 52 (65% of Goal).
 - The "Early Bird" gift card was won by Lloyd Phinney.
 - **Communications:**

- James Heinle, Grandview Middle School principal, contacted the Post regarding letters to veterans. Those will be prepared for the Walla Walla Nursing Home.
- The Mid-Winter Department Executive Committee meeting will be held February 4th at the Windrow Hotel in Ellensburg. The Department Legion College will be held February 5th and 6th.
- Hector Mejia of Grandview Public Works asked Mr. Davidson for a letter of recommendation for the position of Foreman. He believes this should come from the Post. ***Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to authorize the Adjutant to prepare a letter of recommendation for Hector Mejia for the position of Foreman for Public Works. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- The Post Web Page (walegion57.org) has been updated and members are encouraged to review it from time to time, especially the events calendar, resources page and service officer page.

Mr. Myers moved with second by Dr. Barmore to approve the Adjutant's Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.

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

- Mr. Davidson reported that ordering of the community signs is pending new pricing.

9. **New Business:**

- There was no new business.

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

- TRANSFER: Jason Alvarado, USMC, Persian Gulf Era, transfer from Post 110 AD. ***Mr. Brown moved with second from Mr. Myers to approve the transfer of Jason Alvarado, USMC, Persian Gulf Era, from Post 110 AD to Post 57. The Motion was approved unanimously.***

11. **Service Officer:** Chief Service Officer Davidson reported the following:

- **Claims:**
 - One claim are in progress and in the hands of the VA.
 - Two claims pending completion of paperwork. Two additional people are wishing help with claims.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
- **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - Executive Committeeman Curt Nealen.
- **Employment:**
 - Area jobs are being posted on the Post's Facebook page.

12. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - Mr. Davidson and Commander Gates reported on the Yakima Stand Down experience.
 - Grandview High School's Hounds Have Heart conducted a "We scare hunger" campaign as a donation to the Veterans Pantry and asked the Post to facilitate transfer of the donation. The value was \$1,500.00.
 - The Operation Homefront Holiday Toy Drive through Dollar Tree Stores is underway. There have been several missteps by Operation Homefront that has impeded participation by the local stores. The first delivery has been made to the Grandview Armory.
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:** The December Blood Drive was cancelled by the Red

Cross due to staffing issues. Blood drives in March and May are still in place and donors are signed up for both drives.

- **Americanism:**
 - Flag Disposal: Commander Gates has found a source to provide the proper cremation of unserviceable flags. All flags that have been in storage have now been properly disposed.
 - Flag Lowering Notifications: An article was placed in the paper advertising the Post would provide notifications to anyone wishing to receive them.
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - Wreaths Across America: Sally Van Horn has reported that 573 wreaths have been ordered, including some for Bickleton and privately-ordered wreaths. Money has been sent in with more to follow. Graves will be flagged after Thanksgiving. The script is being written. We will need to identify presenters for the ceremonial wreaths. The ceremony is December 18th.
 - Graves Registration: 534 identified veterans have been located at Grandview and is current as of a burial on November 17th. Three Union Civil War veterans have been identified. One Civil War / Indian Wars veteran has been identified as has one Spanish American War veteran. There is still a Confederate veteran to be located, thought to be in Block 2.
- **Membership and Publicity:**
 - The Post is still awaiting word on the missing publicity awards.
- **Boys State:**
 - Boys State will be held June 19 – 25, 2022 at Warm Beach Conference Center. Seniors will be accepted this year due to cancellation of the program last year. Our delegate from last year is interested in attending.
- **Children and Youth:**
 - The Post has received legal materials related to the Boy Scout lawsuit and settlement and is asked to make an election in the process. A subcommittee met on November 15th to discuss the case. The Boy Scout Council attorney, and the Department and National Judge Advocates cannot provide legal advice. While the subcommittee believes they have a decision, they wished to have a legal opinion and have approached a Yakima lawyer familiar with Scouting and who is known by members of the group. He has agreed to meet via Zoom and a date is being determined.
- **Constitutional Speech:**
 - As previous reported, the Department contest will be in Ephrata in March. There is no interest among local students to compete in the contest.
- **Education:**
 - Mr. Davidson is contacting the High School about resuming the scholar programs that were postponed the last two years. He will look at expanding the program to the Consumer Education group and possibly the Music programs.

13. **Good of the Legion:**

- The "Feed the Pig" piggy bank was circulated for the Child Welfare Foundation.
- Veterans Listening Session with Representatives Newhouse and Bost, November 19th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Richland Federal Courthouse.
- Veterans Fair, November 20th, 10 AM to 2:00 PM, Yakima Convention Center.
- Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony, November 20th, 10:30 AM to Noon, Yakima Convention Center. Pre-registration required.
- The next Chamber of Commerce meeting is Thursday, December 9, 2021 at Noon at Casa Tequila. Members are welcome to attend. Lunch is not required.

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM in-person and by phone.
15. **Adjournment:** With no other business before the Post, the Veterans Creed was recited, the POW / MIA Flag was retired, benediction was offered and the meeting was adjourned in regular form by Commander Gates at 8:30 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gates
Commander

Date