

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

May 20, 2021

Stevens-Young Room, Grandview Community Center, Grandview, WA

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 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 ☒ Warren Barmore, PEC-man ☒ Curt Nealen, PEC-man	<u>Guests:</u> ☐ Auxiliary: ☒ Other Guests: Cody Goeppner <u>Members:</u> ☒ <u>Excused:</u> Richard Zook ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
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4. **Chamber of Commerce Presentation:** Cody Goeppner, President of the Grandview Chamber of Commerce, was introduced. He presented the Community Development Award that was to be presented at the Chamber Awards event last year but was delayed by the pandemic. He stated the Chamber was impressed with the Post's efforts to improve the community and lives of residents. A plaque was presented to Commander Gates.
5. **Approve Minutes of April 15, 2021 Meeting:**
Mr. Brown moved with second by Dr. Barmore to approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2021 Meeting as corrected by the Adjutant. The Motion was approved unanimously.
6. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - There were no reported deaths since the last meeting.
7. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$789.97.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$10,669.95.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,620.98.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$1,603.45.
 - One CD is set to mature this next week. Mr. Davidson will try to get a term that provides more than a savings account rate as currently offered.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.*Ms. Gates moved with second by Mr. Brown to approve the Finance Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.*

8. **Adjutant's Report:**

- **Membership:** The 2021 Goal is 90 members. Current paid membership is 80 (88.89% of Goal). Actual membership, including previously-paid transfers not counting for Goal is 82. There are still problems with National's roll-out of the new MyLegion, so membership reports are not being issued.
- **Communications:**
 - The 6th District Spring Conference was discussed. No District Commander was elected and was deferred to the Caucus at Convention.
 - Convention materials were received and have been revised several times.
 - A letter / email was received from Department Commander regarding our complaint about the Post 130 Legion Riders fundraising event held in Grandview. It was not helpful.
 - Letter from the Port of Grandview regarding our request for movement on a travel plaza in Grandview.
 - A request from the Public Works Department to replace the POW Flag at Legion Park and City Hall. **Action: The Budget was reviewed and it was determined the Post has insufficient funds this year to provide such flags (\$63.00 each). Also, it was noted the City is required by state law to fly the POW flags and are responsible for their replacement. It was determined the Post will budget to replace the Legion Park POW flag next year. The Adjutant will convey that message to the City.**

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

- **Community Signs:** Mr. Davidson reminded members they had approved the purchase of three community signs for the east and west entrances to town as well as at the Community Center last year. He delayed ordering the signs because he wanted to speak to a live person at Emblem Sales, but everything was online due to the pandemic. He is prepared to order the signs now, but advises on waiting for the Community Center sign.

10 **New Business:**

- **Convention Delegates:** The Post is authorized two delegates to Convention as well as Mr. Davidson as an at-large delegate as a Past Department Commander. There has been no expressed interest among members to attend the Convention due to a number of factors, but Mr. Davidson must attend. He will submit a Delegate form for the Post listing him as an at-large delegate. If others decide they can attend, they may contact the Adjutant to be certified as a delegate.
- **Annual Election of Officers:** The slate of officers was reviewed. **Mr. Davidson moved with second by Mr. Brown to cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Gates as Commander, Dudley Brown and Richard Zook as 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders respectively, Vicky Gates as Sgt-at-Arms, Warren Barmore as Post Executive Committeeman Position 2 (expires 2023), Jim Davidson as Service Officer, Jim Davidson for 3 year Finance Committee (expires 2024), John Myers for 2 year Finance Committee (expires 2023) and Curt Nealen for 1 year Finance Committee (expires 2022). The Motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Annual Donations:** Past donations and the current budget / profit-loss statement were reviewed. Mr. Davidson suggested that National donations be curtailed this year, with the exception of the Child Welfare Foundation, due both to National's fundraising activities from members and our decreased income during the pandemic. He offered the Post should concentrate on our local and regional charities that have also been impacted by the pandemic. **Dr. Barmore moved with second by Mr. Brown issue the following donations on June 1st:**
 - **Child Welfare Foundation - \$150.00;**
 - **USO Northwest - \$150.00;**

- *Gold Star Mothers of Washington - \$150.00;*
- *Life Options Aware - \$150.00;*
- *Extra Mile Student Center - \$150.00;*
- *Grandview Community Center - \$400.00; and,*
- *Yakima Valley Veterans Coalition - \$100.00.*

The Motion was approved unanimously.

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

- There were no new members, transfers or expired member renewals.

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

- **Claims:**
 - No 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:**
 - John Myers, at home recovering from a medical event.
- **Employment:**
 - **No action.** Mr. Davidson reported the Union for sheet metal workers in Tri-Cities is actively seeking veterans. Walmart is hiring. A number of firms are seeking drivers with a CDL.

13. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:** The May 12th Blood Drive netted 27 units, bringing total donations for this annual reporting period to 119 units.
- **Americanism:** Replacement military flags for Legion Park have been received and installed by the City.
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - Memorial Day Activities: "Flags-in" will occur Saturday, May 29th at 8:00 AM; Memorial Day ceremony will be Monday, May 31st at 11:00 AM; "Flags-Out" will be Monday, May 31st at 6:00 PM. The Lower Valley Honor Guard has been notified.
 - Graves Registration efforts continue. Six veterans still need to be located and mapped but a number who have died during the pandemic have not yet been buried / inurned. Updated maps will be issued to officers after Memorial Day.
- **Economic:** Other than the Port of Grandview, the Post has received no response from the City or Chamber on our Travel Plaza concerns.
- **Membership and Publicity:** The notebook for the Convention Publicity Award will be completed and mailed before June 1st. Applications for other Convention Awards, including Americanism, Scouting, Education and Blue Cap Legionnaire will also be submitted before June 1st.
- **Boys State:** Boys State was cancelled due to continuing restrictions in the host county and delegate cancellations due to schools extending the school year to make up lost pandemic days. Our Post had one excellent delegate. Our payment of his scholarship should be returned soon.
- **Children and Youth:** Our chartered Scout Troops are meeting in person and have resumed camping.
- **Law and Order:** Efforts will be initiated this summer to seek nominations for law enforcement and firefighter of the year awards.
- **Constitutional Speech:** No report.
- **Education:**
 - School Award recipients have been identified for all five Grandview

Schools and Bickleton High School. Nominations were not received from Mabton or Prosser High Schools. Commander Gates will coordinate presentations or delivery of the awards

- Educator of the Year nominations was not received. Efforts will be made to assure that happens in the next year.

14. **Good of the Legion:**

- The "Feed the Pig" piggy bank was circulated for the Child Welfare Foundation.
- The next Chamber of Commerce meeting will be June 10th at Noon at Casa Tequila on Division Street. Post members are welcome to attend. You are not obligated to purchase lunch.
- The Adjutant will be out of town from June 1st to June 16th.

15. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, June 17th at 7:00 PM both in-person and by phone.

16. **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 8:22 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gates
Commander

Date