

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

April 21, 2022

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

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order in regular form at 7:02 PM by C0ommander 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	<u>Guests:</u> ☐ Auxiliary: ☐ Other Guests: <u>Members:</u> ☒ <u>Excused:</u> John Myers, Chaplain ☒ <u>Attended by Teleconference:</u> Mr. Nealen ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
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4. **Approve Minutes of March 17, 2022 Meeting:**
Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2022 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - *Dr. Barmore moved with second by Mr. Brown to approve Resolution 57-2022-004 transferring Daniel B. Graf Sr. to Post Everlasting. The Motion was approved unanimously.*
 - Past Department Commander Robert "Bob" Schwartz was remembered for his service as well as assistance to Post 57. He died earlier this month from pancreatic cancer.
In the absence of the Chaplain, Mr. Davidson offered a Memorial Prayer.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$676.18.
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$18,789.97.
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,965.81.
 - Auxiliary Unit 57 Account Balance (in Savings): \$3,580.66.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$5,688.73.
 - Auxiliary Budget / Profit/Loss – Current year-to-date balance; +\$3,580.66.
 - Scouts BSA Troop Checking account balance: \$3,520.10.
 - Scouts BSA Troop Savings account balance: \$1,310.68.
 - Penny-a-Day income: \$3,366.44 (final).
 - Wreaths Across America income: \$1,474.08 (not final). One additional check expected.

- 6th District Luncheon Expense: \$118.43. Income: \$230.00.
 - Bunny Breakfast Expense: \$193.26; Income, including purchase of left-over foods: \$131.80.
 - ***Dr. Barmore moved with second by Mr. Brown to donate \$1,000.00 to the Auxiliary Unit as their share in participation of fundraising efforts.*** It was noted they have no other fundraising sources other than sponsorships for Girls State but fully assist with Post efforts. ***The Motion was approved unanimously.***
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.
- Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates 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 63 (78.75% of Goal). Membership renewal reminders were mailed 26 delinquent members from 2021 and 2020.
 - John Fleming received at 70 year Continuous Membership certificate from National. It was framed and presented to the member this week.
 - ***Ms. Gates moved with second by Mr. Brown to allow the present dues of \$45.00 to remain in effect for the 2023 Membership year. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Legion Park Flags:** Replacement military flags and a POW/MIA flag for Legion Park have been ordered. They are on backorder and will be delivered later. The cost was \$476.55.
- **Communications:**
 - Thank you note from CWO Nik Schultz for the gift card for his retirement from the US Coast Guard.
 - Post Data Report (annual required report) completed and returned to Department.
 - Information on the Department Convention in Pasco in July.
 - Information on the National Convention in Milwaukee in August...
 - Thank you note from Parks and Recreation Director Gretchen Chronis for assistance with the Easter Egg Hunt (Bunny Breakfast).

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

- **Convention Awards:** Mr. Davidson will begin applying for several Convention Awards to be submitted by the end of May.

9. **New Business:**

- **Call for Nominations for Officers:** Officers for the next terms of office may be nominated now. The election will be conducted at the Annual Meeting in May. Commander Gates announced he and Ms. Gates will not be able to serve as officers since they will be moving to Tennessee this summer.
- **Sound System:** The existing 30+ year old sound system has been inoperable since December. Repairs were made at Cliff's TV (at no charge). It was found that two switches on the back of the unit that are never used had been moved by someone. Replacement with a portable battery powered unit for use at the cemetery was discussed. ***Dr. Barmore moved with second by Ms. Gates to authorize the Adjutant to research portable battery powered units and report findings to officers to approve purchase before Memorial Day. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
- **Purple Heart State Signs:** In 2021, the Legislature named Washington a "Purple Heart State." It is unclear if the signs may be positioned in the City, but City officials are interested. The Adjutant will follow up with State authorities. ***Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to authorize the purchase of two signs at \$400.00 each for placement on the community organization boards***

at each end of town if the State allows such placement. The Motion was approved unanimously.

- **Delegates for Department Convention:** Delegates and alternates for the Department Convention in Pasco in July will need to be named. The Post is entitled to two delegates and two alternates as well as one delegate at large for Past Department Commander Davidson.

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

- There were no new members, transfers or renewal of expired members during the last month.

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

- **Claims:**
 - No claims are currently in progress with the VA. One has been decided, but seems to be incorrect. The client is referred to the Yakima Service Office for assistance.
 - Three claims pending completion of paperwork.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
- **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - The current status of Mr. Nealen, Mr. Myers and Mr. Davidson was reported.
- **Employment:**
 - Area job postings are posted on the Post's Facebook page.

12. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
 - The 2022 Yakima Stand Down and Veterans Benefits Fair is scheduled for the Sun Dome on Saturday, October 22. More information will be forthcoming.
 - A hand-out on Yakima County Veteran Demographics was distributed.
 - The Adjutant recommended the Poppy Campaign be conducted by mail through the Post and Unit's membership roster.
 - Mr. Davidson reported the Yakima Veterans pantry is getting depleted now that extra food money has ceased as part of the pandemic monies. The Post may need to conduct a local campaign to help.
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drives:**
 - The May 11th Blood Drive has 31 slots of 37 scheduled. Open slots are for "Power Red" donors.
 - The Red Cross has requested August 10th, October 12th and December 14th for upcoming drives. Those dates have been confirmed with the Community Center.
- **Americanism:**
 - **Flag collection and disposal** continues to go smoothly. Commander Gates has arranged for another Post member to handle the disposals after he leaves the area.
 - **Resolution 57-2022-005 (Revision to US Fag Code:** This Resolution, submitted last year, was turned down at national, but similar work continues. It is felt that resubmission keeps the issue in mind at National. ***Mr. Brown moved with second by Dr. Barmore to approve Resolution 57-2022-005. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
 - **Memorial Day:** Memorial Day "Flags-in" will be Saturday May 28th at 0800. The ceremony will be Monday, May 30th at 1100. "Flags-out" will be Monday, May 30th at 1800.
 - **Flag Day:** Mr. Davidson has been invited to speak about the Fag at a

women's group on Flag Day.

- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - **2023 Bunny Breakfast:** *Ms. Gates moved with second by Dr. Barmore to provide the 2023 Bunny Breakfast on Saturday, April 8th (day before Easter). The Motion was approved unanimously*
- **Boys State:**
 - **GHS Delegate:** Anthony Campuzano has registered and his fee has been paid. He was the approved delegate last year. He is a senior and is eligible to attend this year since the course was cancelled last year.
- **Children and Youth:**
 - **Scouts:** The two Troops are planning to attend Camp Easton. Registration is underway.
- **Education:**
 - **Scholar Program:** names of vocational scholars have been obtained. Athlete scholars are pending.
 - **School Award:** Nominations for the School Award will be sought from Grandview, Prosser, Bickleton and Mabton.

13. **Good of the Legion:**

- The "Feed the Pig" piggy bank was circulated for the Child Welfare Foundation.
- The next Chamber of Commerce meeting is Thursday, May 12th at 5:30 PM at Yakima Valley Vintners (YVCC Winery). Members are welcome to attend.

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, May 19, 2022 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 8:16 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gates
Commander

Date

APPENDIX "A"

Resolution 57-2022-004

Post Everlasting for Daniel B. Graf, U.S. Army, Korean Era

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, The Great Commander, to summon to the immortal legions our beloved comrade, Daniel B. Graf, U.S. Army, Korean 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 57, The American Legion, Grandview, Washington, meeting on April 21, 2022, does mourn the passing of our comrade, Daniel B. Graf, 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 Daniel B. Graf to Post Everlasting, The American Legion, is presented to the next of kin.

APPENDIX “B”

Resolution 57-2022-005

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 April 21, 2022, calls upon The American Legion to work with other patriotic organizations towards a revision in the U.S. Flag Code to recommend suitable respectful

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 all methods of disposal, including cremation, allow, without restriction, the ceremonial disposal of worn and unserviceable flags by Veteran Service Organizations without threat of citation, arrest, fines or jail.