

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

May 18, 2023

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 Commander Brown. 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:**

☒ Dudley Brown, Commander ☒ Nikolaus Schultz, Vice Commander ☐ Ricard Zook, Vice Commander ☒ Jim Davidson, Adjutant / Finance ☐ Sgt-at-Arms (vacant) ☒ John Myers, Chaplain ☒ Warren Barmore, PEC-man ☒ Curt Nealen, PEC-man ☒ Robert Gates. Past Commander	<u>Guests:</u> ☐ Auxiliary: ☒ Other Guests: Darrel Farnworth, Jan Farnworth, Tim Bardell ☒ Members: Vicky Gates ☐ Excused: ☒ Attended by Teleconference: Robert Gates, Curt Nealen, Vicky Gates ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum
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4. **Approve Minutes of April 20, 2023 Meeting:**
Dr. Barmore moved with second by Mr. Myers to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2023 Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - FORMER MEMBER: William LaForce, US Navy, Korea War Era, date of death unknown.
 - A Memorial Prayer was offered by Chaplain Myers.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$293.40.
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$17,034.07.
 - Self Help Federal Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$27,138.60.
 - Auxiliary Unit 57 Account Balance (in Savings): \$3,980.66.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$3,241.58.
 - Auxiliary Budget / Profit/Loss – Current year-to-date balance; +\$3,980.66.
 - Boy Scouts Checking Balance: \$8,560.92.
 - Boy Scouts Savings Balance: \$1,363.22.
 - One CD renewed for one year at 4.08% APR. Another needs to be renewed in the next few days for a similar term and rate.
 - Remaining ARPA Funds have been transferred to the Boy Scouts.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.***Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Schultz to approve the Finance Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.***

7. **Adjutant's Report:**
- **Membership:** The 2023 Goal is 69 members. Current paid membership is 73 (105.80% of Goal).
 - **Communications:**
 - Letter regarding the BSA Bankruptcy status (Deleware Court) was received.
 - NEC Decision on Department Charter
 - The Annual Consolidated Post Report is being completed.
 - Potential Membership Renewal options apparently are being suggested but no information was been distributed to Posts regarding this matter.
8. **Unfinished (Old) Business:**
- **Community Signs:** The Community Signs for the East and West entries to town that were approved last year have been ordered.
9. **New Business:**
- **Resolution 57-2023-005:** revision to the U.S. Flag Code to adopt alternative methods of disposing of unserviceable U.S. Flags (See Appendix "A", below). ***Dr. Barmore moved with second by Mr. Myers to approve resolution 57-2023-005 and refer to the Department of Washington Convention. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
 - **Resolution 57-2023-006:** Combining Evergreen Boys State and Girls State (see Appendix "B", below). ***Mr. Shultz moved with second by Dr. Barmore to approve Resolution 57-2023-006 and refer to the Department of Washington Convention. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
 - **Elections:** A nomination was received for Keith Jenks as Sgt-at-Arms. No other nominations were received prior to the meeting. ***Mr. Davidson moved with second by Mr. Gates to nominate the following members for the positions and terms specified and cast a unanimous ballot for them: Commander, Dudley Brown (1 year); 2nd Vice Commander, Richard Zook (2 years); Chaplain, John Myers (1 year); Sgt-at-Arms, Keith Jenks (1 year); and Post Executive Committeeman, Dr. Warren Barmore (2 years). The Motion was approved unanimously.*** All elected members will assume (or continue) their positions after the Department Convention in July (if held) but not later than August 1, 2023.
 - **Distribution of Donations:** Distribution of donations for this membership year was discussed. ***Mr. Myers moved with second by Mr. Gates to authorize the Adjutant to make the following donations from Program funds not later than the end of June:***
 - **TAL Veterans & Children Foundation - \$100.00;**
 - **TAL American Legion Charities - \$50.00;**
 - **TAL Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) - \$50.00;**
 - **TAL National Emergency Fund (NEF) - \$50.00;**
 - **TAL Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) - \$150.00;**
 - **TAL Legacy Scholarship - \$50.00;**
 - **TAL Citizen's Flag Alliance - \$25.00;**
 - **USO Northwest - \$100.00;**
 - **Gold Star Mothers of Washington - \$100.00;**
 - **Life Options (Aware Program) - \$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.***

10. **Balloting on New Applications / Renewal of Expired Members:**
- TRANSFER-IN: Shawn Roller, USAF, PG/WOT Era, transfer from Post WA-0110 AD;
 - TRANSFER-IN: Keith Sorensen, USN, Other Conflicts, transfer from Post WA-0110 AD.
- Mr. Schultz moved with second by Mr. Nealen to approve the transfer of Mr. Roller and Mr. Sorensen into Post 57. 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.
 - No claims pending completion of paperwork.
 - No Health care requests are pending.
 - **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - Mr. Zook, Mr. Nealen and Ms. Gates.
 - **Employment:**
 - No advertisements were posted in the last month.
12. **Committee Reports:**
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:** The June 14th Drive has 24 of 37 slots filled at this time. The August 9th Drive is open for scheduling.
 - **Americanism:**
 - Plans for Memorial Day weekend were discussed.
 - 4th of July plans are still in the works. Mr. Schultz will be the feature speaker.
 - **Community Service and Post Activities:**
 - Graves Registration: Cemetery Maps are in the process of being updated in time for the Memorial Day weekend.
 - Graveside Services for Melvin Krous: The Post has been asked to perform the graveside services for Melvin Krous on June 28th at 10 AM. Krous was a 77 year member of the Post. Mr. Davidson has been working with the family to get the needed documentation so a flag can be obtained. A standard military service will be done with minor modifications. Assistance will be needed from members. Mr. Myers and Mr. Davidson will perform elements of the service. Flag bearers for the Post's colors are needed.
 - **Economic:** Construction of a Travel Plaza / Truck Stop at Higgins Way has been announced. The Post's efforts in promoting this need have been recognized.
 - **Membership and Publicity:** The Convention Award Publicity Notebook is being finalized.
 - **Boys State:** No delegates for Boys State have been identified from any of our targeted schools. Four Girls State delegates from Sunnyside and Mabton have been identified, though one has had to drop out because her parents will not approve of her traveling outside the state (course held in Idaho). The Auxiliary had up to ten girls in the works from four schools, but everything was thrown amiss with the cancellation then the move to Idaho.
 - **Children and Youth:**
 - **Boy Scouts:**
 - Commander Brown presented Eagle Scout Darrel Farnworth of the Post's Scouts BSA Troop 643 with an Eagle statuette as congratulation for his achievement.
 - Commander Brown presented Tim Bardell with a plaque of appreciation honoring his years as Scoutmaster of Troop 643. He and his wife Ann are now the Scoutmasters of Troop 644

(girls).

- Two Scouts from Troops 643 and 644 (a boy and a girl) have been registered for National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) to be held in June.
- A proposed Eagle Scout Service Project by Maleah Jones of Troop 644 (girls) was discussed. Her project will be to make 1,000 slip knot bracelets, attaching pairs to a door hanger promoting the “Be the One” campaign of the Legion to decrease veteran suicide. The other side would promote teen suicide awareness. Costs are not expected to be high. Members approved providing financial assistance to the project.

- **Education:** Mr. Davidson reported on the status of nominations for the School Awards.

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, June 8th at Noon at Caa Tequila. Members are welcome to attend. Lunch is not required. The Chamber Social is May 25th at 5:30 PM at the YVC tasting Room.
- Memorial Day Weekend activities and plans were reviewed.

14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, June 15th 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 Brown at 8:40 PM.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Dudley B. Brown
Commander

Date

Appendix “A”

Resolution 57-2023-005

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 May 18, 2023, 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.

Appendix "B"

Resolution 57-2023-006

COMBINING EVERGREEN BOYS STATE AND GIRLS STATE

WHEREAS, One of the pillars of The American Legion is the wholesome development of youth; and

WHEREAS, One such means of meeting that pillar within the Department of Washington is Evergreen Boys State; and

WHEREAS, A companion program administered by The American Legion Auxiliary is Evergreen Girls State; and

WHEREAS, Attendance at both programs has fallen due to multiple reasons; and

- WHEREAS,** Both programs are not meeting the required number of delegates to meet the contracted minimum attendance at host facilities; and
- WHEREAS,** Failure to meet contracted minimums results in the expenditure of Department funds from both organizations that are not covered by delegate fees; and
- WHEREAS,** There are inequities in fees charged to the two organizations by host facilities that impact or impair the delivery of a quality program; and
- WHEREAS,** Fees charged by Girls State based on a University setting are higher than Boys State and are increasingly difficult to fund by many Posts, Squadrons and Units; and
- WHEREAS,** There are significant inequalities in the content and delivery of programs between the two programs; and
- WHEREAS,** There are more frequently voiced concerns among members of both organizations, delegates and parents that the Girls State program is not non-partisan in nature as suggested by the name "Evergreen" and city names; and
- WHEREAS,** There are differences in what the programs teach as current Washington State law to place into practice during the course of the programs; and
- WHEREAS,** These differences could place one or both organizations in legal jeopardy similar to Title IX complaints;
- WHEREAS,** Corporate donations and funding of both programs could be easier as a coed program; and
- WHEREAS,** Both programs could run side-by-side during the same week, each maintaining their own cities and elections, including all elected positions and delegates to Boys Nations and Girls Nation, coming together only for classes, speakers, meals and banquets; and
- WHEREAS,** Failure to consider offering combined programs will result in continuing loss of overall enrollment and the loss of viable programs in government and Americanism for Washington youth, Now be it
- RESOLVED,** by Fred E. Hayes Post 57 of The American Legion assembled in a regular meeting in Grandview, Washington on May 18, 2023, That the Department of Washington of The American Legion shall discuss with the Department of Washington of The American Legion Auxiliary the consolidation of both Evergreen Boys State and Evergreen Girls State; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That both programs shall be run at Warm Beach Conference Center as currently contracted on the same week; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the registration process be the same for both programs to increase the ease of placing delegates into the programs; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That a report of findings and recommendations be brought forward not later than the 2024 Mid-Winter Executive Board meetings.