

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

June 18, 2020
By Teleconference, Grandview, WA

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order via teleconference in regular form at 7:00 PM by Commander Gates. The Invocation was offered by Chaplain John Myers. The POW / MIA Empty Chair was recognized in abstentia. 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:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Gates, Commander <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dudley Brown, Vice Commander <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ricard Zook, Vice Commander <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Davidson, Adjutant / Finance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vicky Gates, Sgt-at-Arms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Myers, Chaplain <input type="checkbox"/> Leonard McGrath, PEC-man <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curt Nealen, PEC-man	<u>Guests:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary: <input type="checkbox"/> Other Guests: <u>Members:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quorum <input type="checkbox"/> No Quorum
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4. **Approve Minutes of May 21, 2020 Meeting:**
Ms. Gates moved with second by Mr. Brown to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2020 Meeting as corrected. The Motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Post Everlasting / Memorial to Departed Comrades:**
 - There were no recorded deaths during the last month.
6. **Finance Report:** Adjutant Davidson reported the following:
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Checking (General) account balance is \$870.69.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union Savings (Programs) account balance is \$9,148.88.
 - Lower Valley Credit Union CD (Investments) account balance is \$26,036.31. The matured CD was rolled over for one year at a rate of 0.20%. Paperwork has not yet been received due to consolidation of bank branches.
 - The donations approved at the May meeting have been dispersed.
 - The insurance Bond for the Adjutant / Finance Officer is due in July in the amount of \$317.00. A donation is pending that will cover that cost.
 - The Web Site is due for renewal in August.
 - The Budget / Profit-Loss statement was circulated. The current year-to-date balance is +\$2,789.92.
 - The account registers were reviewed for income and expenditures.***Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Myers to approve the Finance Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.***
7. **Adjutant's Report:**
 - **Membership:** The 2020 Goal is 90 members. Current paid membership is 88 (97.78% of Goal). Actual membership, including previously-paid transfers not counting for Goal is 88.

- **Annual Post Reports:** All required annual Post Reports have been submitted to Department.
- **Convention Awards:** Applications for several Convention Awards have been submitted to Department. It is unknown if those will be presented this year.
- **Chamber Award:** The Post is the recipient of the Chamber of Commerce's Community Development Award. The Post has not been formally notified of the award. It was announced online on June 16th.
- **Communications:**
 - Lower Valley Credit Union has announced a consolidation of the Grandview and Prosser branches and operations moved to the Sunnyside branch. ATM services remain at Grandview.
 - A letter was received from Department regarding cancellation of various Department activities and programs due to the COVID pandemic.
 - Thank you letter from the City of Grandview for the donation.
 - Thank you letter from Life Options Aware program for the donation.
 - Thank you letter from USO Northwest for the donation.

Mr. Brown moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve the Adjutant's Report. The Motion was approved unanimously.

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

- Flag Disposal Box: Mr. Zook reported a proposed design for the Flag Disposal Box has been received from Monster Graphics that it will cost between \$100.00 and \$125.00. The images were sent to officers by email just before the meeting. **Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Myers to approve the expenditure of \$150.00 from Programs to pay for the graphics. The Motion was approved unanimously.** Mr. Zook asked if a thank you award was given to Dion Built Trailers for painting the box. Mr. Davidson was waiting until the box was finished so they could see a photo.

9. **New Business:**

- Standard Uniform Insignia: In follow up to an earlier decision on a uniform for Post Honor Guard, funerals and other presentations, discussion was held regarding what insignia is authorized and placement of those insignia on the uniform. **Mr. Brown moved with second by Mr. Myers that the US Flag be worn one inch below the seam on the left arm and that the branch of service patch be worn one inch below the seam on the right arm; Additionally ribbons earned in service may be worn above the left pocket ("Mil-Thin" magnet backed ribbons from Medals of America are encouraged) and metal rank insignia (brass or black) may be worn on the shoulder loops (available from Medals of America). The Motion was approved unanimously.** The Adjutant will prepare an order sheet and can place an order for all who wish to obtain Legion uniform items.
- Finance Committee Meeting: members of the Finance Committee (Mr. Davidson, Mr. Gates, Mr. Nealen and Mr. Myers) need to meet to formulate a proposed working Budget for the 2020 fiscal year. All agreed to meet by teleconference on Thursday, July 16th at 7:00 PM.

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

- TRANSFER: Candelario Ortiz, US Army, Vietnam Era, Headquarters transfer from Post 110 AD. **Mr. Zook moved with second by Ms. Gates to approve the transfer membership of Candelario Ortiz, US Army, Vietnam Era from Post 110 AD effective June 2, 2020. 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 but held up in backlog due to COVID restrictions on exams.
- One claim pending completion of paperwork.
- No Health care requests are pending.
- The VA is denying all Agent Orange claims from Guam claiming the use there was commercial, not tactical. A challenge by multiple Veteran Service Organizations is expected.
- **Sick Call & Relief:**
 - Antonio Sanchez is recovering from surgery.
- **Employment:**
 - No action. Veteran unemployment has increased a bit. Members are reminded of the Unemployment fraud that occurred with the Washington Department of Employment Security.

12. **Committee Reports:**

- **Rehabilitation** (includes Veterans Affairs and Volunteer Services):
- **National Security (includes Homeland Security):**
 - **Blood Drive:** The next scheduled blood drive is August 12th.
- **Americanism:** No report.
- **Community Service and Post Activities** (includes Wreaths Across America):
 - **Graves Registration:** Four graves have been located at the Grandview Cemetery. Maps for Blocks 3 and 4 have been updated and shared with Sally Van Horn and Post Officers for back up.
- **Economic:** No report.
- **Membership and Publicity:** The publicity notebook has been submitted to Department for an award application. A total of 2,414.83 column inches of publicity was recorded for 2019-20.
- **Boys State:** The payment for the first Boys State Delegate has been refunded due to cancellation of the program.
- **Children and Youth:**
 - Our Boy Scout Troops continue to meet via Zoom. There have been no outdoor activities other than a physical test for Tenderfoot rank.
 - The Boy Scouts have announced an increase in membership fees for the coming year, going into effect on August 1, 2020. Youth fees are now \$66.00, adult fees are \$42.00 and there is now a new member joining fee of \$25.00. This is going to pose considerable difficulty for many of our families, especially in Cub Scouts and families with multiple youth. In addition, the Charter fee, paid by the Post, has increased to \$75.00 per unit. The Scout units have not been able to conduct a fund raiser since last year. The Post may need to come up with a plan to help Scouts pay for registration and summer camp next year.
 - The Boy Scouts have announced a Diversity Merit Badge will now be required for Eagle Scout and modifications are being made to Citizenship in the Community and American Cultures Merit Badges. This is in response to current national turmoil.
- **Law and Order:** No report.
- **Constitutional Speech:** Assigned topics for the 2021 Contest have been announced. Boys and Girls State delegates identified this year will be encouraged to prepare to compete in the contest. Attempts to give a briefing to interested students will be made.
- **Education:** School Awards, Boys and Girls State Citizenship Awards and a special athlete scholar award were presented individually to students prior to graduation (See Appendix "A," below). Scholar medals were ordered but could not be presented. They will be held in reserve for next year.

13. **Good of the Legion:**
- The Department Executive Committee will meet this Saturday via teleconference. Mr. Davidson will attend to learn what is happening. He noted there has been some turmoil in the Department leadership again.
14. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular Post meeting will be Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM.
- Finance Committee Meeting.** The Finance Committee will meet via teleconference on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM.
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 8:27 PM.

Appendix "A"

- Boys State Good Citizenship Award: Angel Flores and Elias Villa.
- Girls State Good Citizenship Award: Alexandria Bruinekool and Dulce Maria Licea Savedo.
- Athlete Scholar Gold Medal: Rocco Parrish.
- The American Legion School Award: Grandview High School - Alexandria Bruinekool and Alexander Hultberg.

James A. Davidson
Adjutant

Robert G. Gates
Commander

Date