**American Legion LTC George Franklin “Ben” Aiken Post 407**

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**10134 RACOON DR**

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**DATE: 20 July 2019 COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O’Leary**

**ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 7 VISITORS: 0 TOTAL: 0**

**Cdr Lawrence Allen asked Sgt-at-Arms Raul Romero to secure the meeting room and post the Colors. Cdr then brought the meeting to order at 1000 hrs Saturday 20 July 20109 at the ASYMCA located at 7060 Comington St. El Paso, TX, 79930. Members stood and uncovered while Cdr opened the meeting in prayer. Cdr Allen then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion. Members remained standing in silent reverence while Sgt-At-Arms Raul Romero conducted the POW/MIA ceremony by placing the cover on the empty chair.**

**Roll Call of Officers was taken by Adjutant Dennis O’Leary. The following Officers were absent: 1st Vice Cdr/1st Exec Committeeman Hank Braun, (he was not able to make this month’s meeting for physical reasons.); 2d Exec Committeeman James Foster (Note: Mr Foster has much difficulty in walking, so was not able to attend.)**

**Cdr asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and consider them as posted. Martin made a motion to do so and it was 2d’d by member Hector Balboa and then passed by the members.**

**Committee Reports:**

1. **Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr had several handouts to present to the members regarding, among others, the new “Veterans Appeal Process”. Cdr stated, “They have changed the name of the ‘Choice Program’ to ‘Community Care’. He also stated, “I’m being treated well at the VA.” Hector stated, “I went to get a Rx filled and that’s when I found out that my mom Dr. was no longer employed at the VA.” Dennis stated, “I got a phone call telling me one of my providers had retired the first of the month. I asked the person if I would be receiving a notice by mail, and she just said, ‘No’. I thought that was strange. I’ll just have to wait and see.”**
2. **National Security: Cdr stated, “They just arrested a US citizen for terroristic threats and he is a member of ISIS. This happened in OK. He had 300 weapons and 100 bombs.” Dennis stated, “There are sleeper cells all across the country.” Raul stated, “A friend of mine, who is also a neighbor, has been in this country for over 30 years and DHS just arrested him because he never became a US citizen.”**
3. **Americanism: Raul stated, “Racism is going strong right now.” Hector asked, “How do we get the pre-burial authorization?” The Cdr said, “Just go the website; it’ll be under National Cemeteries.”**
4. **Children & Youth: Cdr stated, “We continue to support the Zavala Elem School and ask for you to look over the supply lists. There are three lists, one for kinder, one for 1st grade and one for2d grade. Let’s continue to collect school supplies. I spoke with the principal and she would like the supplies after the students return after the Christmas break.”**
5. **Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, “We are now at 66 members and we have 25 are paid-up, which is about 38%. We have 16 PUFL’s, and nine others have sent in their dues payments already. Please keep in mind that the year just started on 1 July.”**
6. **Public Relations: Cdr, “We are doing good for the community with our assistance to Zavala Elementary School. Also, when the Adjutant and I get together for our Exec Mtg, Dennis wears the Legion hat. Most of the time someone comes over to our table to ask us questions. It’s a great idea if you’re doing anything in the way of Legion business to put on your hat. It puts the American Legion and our Post out there in public.”**
7. **Hubmaster: Martin started, “Our website is now available on Facebook. The site is: AmericanLegionPost407elpasotx. The email is: AmericanLegionPost407eptx.org. I’ve already received several good comments about the site. There are three places which are the origin of scams; Dubai, N. Korea and Iran. Be cautious when opening any unfamiliar emails.” Olga made a motion to give individual members an email address. Seconded by Hector and passed by members.**
8. **Service Officer: Cdr stated, “I helped one veteran get 90% on his disability and the other one is still pending (at Waco).”**
9. **Legislative: Cdr, “Congress has bills which are under review.”**
10. **Finance: Dennis stated, “Our balance is a healthy $1,082. I will make out a check to reimburse our Cdr. He paid $208 for three years for the Post website. Our new balance will be $874. (NOTE: After the meeting, Olga donated $50 to the Post, so current balance is $924.)**
11. **Economic: No report.**
12. **House: No report.**
13. **Graves & Memorial: Adj O’Leary stated, “There were no members who went on to Post Everlasting during the previous month.” Cdr stated, “That’s good to hear. We haven’t had anyone pass in over six months.”**

**Sick-Call & Relief & Employment: Cdr stated, “My fiancé died from her wounds incurred in that ambush of her unit. Many of her fellow soldiers were killed over in SE Asia.” Dennis asked members to keep our Cdr in their thoughts and prayers.**

**Unfinished Business: No report.**

 **New Business: No report.**

**For the Good of the Legion: Olga stated, “I gave a talk to the nurses at Beaumont during Nurses’ Week. Their mouths were wide open when I told them about all the things we had to do back when I was in Nursing Training. I want to remind everyone to get our vaccinations. Veteran Appreciation Day is in September and they will offer the flu vaccine then.” Martin Lawrence stated, “Albertson’s on Dyer is closing and Safeway is coming back to El Paso. They bought out some of the Albertson’s stores here in EP.” Cdr stated, “I communicate with Nat’l HQ quite often. Seems to work out better that way.”**

**Hank stated, “Does anyone have anything else to come before this meeting?” There was no response. Having no further business to discuss, members and guests stood and uncovered while Cdr offered the closing prayer. Members remained standing in silent reverence while Sgt-At-Arms Romero recovered of the POW/MIA chair cover. Meeting adjourned at 1100 hrs Saturday 20 July 2019.**

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**Adjutant Dennis O’Leary Commander Allen Lawrence**