**American Legion LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN “BEN” AIKEN POST 407**

**10134 RACOON DR**

**EL PASO TX 79924**

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**DATE: 16 February 2019 COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant Dennis O’Leary**

**ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: \_5 VISITORS: 0 TOTAL: 5**

**Meeting room was secured and the Colors were posted by Sgt-at-Arms Raul Romero. Cdr brought the meeting to order at 1000 hrs. Saturday 16 February 2019. Members stood and uncovered as Cdr opened the meeting in prayer. Cdr 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 Romero conducted the POW/MIA ceremony by placing the Cover on the Empty Chair.**

**Roll Call of Officers was taken by Cdr. The following Officers were absent: 1st Vice Cdr Hank Braun; 2d Vice Cdr Olga Kalpakgian; and Chaplain Robert Jeskey.**

**Mbr Hector Balboa made a motion to consider the minutes of the January 2019 meeting as posted. Motion was seconded by mbr Bill Bosanko and passed by the members. (Note: Meeting minutes are sent electronically.)**

**Committee Reports:**

**Veteran Affairs and Service: Cdr stated, “Be careful, the VA is going through one of their money-saving stunts.” Raul stated, “The VA just granted service members exposed to Agent Orange presumptive for high blood pressure.” Cdr cont’d, “There is no ‘Choice’ Program anymore. You just go to an outside physician and present your VA ID card. You need to have been told by the VA that they cannot see you within thirty days.” Hector Balboa stated, “At the DAV meeting last month they said to be aware they may try to limit or eliminate Tricare For Life (TFL).”**

**National Security: Cdr stated, “Who knows what’s going on there.” Raul stated, “The border wall won’t keep the people out. And the President wants to pull troops out of Syria and Yemen.”**

**Americanism: Cdr stated, “All Legion Posts support America and its Constitution.”**

**Children & Youth: Cdr stated, “We have been sponsoring Zavala Elementary School and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your support in this very worthwhile endeavor. We will be collecting school supplies and Christmas presents later in the year. Hank has made a deal with one of the Walgreen’s stores to purchase three to four hundred stuffed animals for only $40. It’s nice to know we will have those to give out around Christmas.”**

**Membership & Post Activities: Adj O’Leary reported, “We have seventy-six members, and sixty are paid up. That is almost 80%, which is very commendable for this Post. 80% is probably higher than all other Posts in the El Paso area.”**

**Public Relations: Cdr stated, “We’re doing really good in the schools. And we have good people like Hank and others getting out there in the community. Our decision to sponsor Zavala Elem Sch can only have a positive effect on PR for our Post and the American Legion.”**

**Finance: Dennis O’Leary stated, “Our current balance is up to $1,137.00, so we’re doing very well with our finances.”**

**Economic: Cdr stated, “We got COLA on 1 Feb.” Raul stated, “President my give a 2.5% pay raise to our active duty service members, which should mean about ½ of that for retirees.”**

**Legislative: Cdr stated, “Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR); which will go through the end of the fiscal year (30 Sep)”.**

**House: Cdr asked members to bring donation for our use of the bldg. next month.**

**Graves and Memorial: Adjutant O’Leary stated, “Thankfully, there were no members who went on to Post Everlasting this past month. We were notified by the widow of one of our members who passed back in Dec. His name was Virgil Adams.”**

**Sick-Call & Relief and Employment: Dennis stated, “Bill Bosanko called me yesterday to tell me he would not be at this meeting today. Another one of his sons was hospitalized, then moved to a rehab facility. Bill will be going up to his sons’ home in Silver City to move his household goods down to Bill’s home over in Canutillo. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.” Dennis asked member Martin Lawrence about his employment. Martin stated, “Yes, I am really busy because I work at H&R Block doing taxes.” Allen stated, “I went in for surgery for a lump on my vocal cord on Wed., everything is ok. Please keep Robert and Olga in your thoughts and prayers; both have back issues.”**

**Hubmaster: Allen stated, “If you get a call and they tell you, ‘We have a job for you.’, don’t fall for it. It’s another scam that’s out there right now. Remember, no govt agency will call you unless you have already made contact with them. ” Raul stated, “Norton Security Suite has gone up from $79 to $139 per year.”**

**Service Officer: Allen stated, “I am still working on getting help for vets with their claims.”**

**Induction of New Member: Cdr asked Sgt-at-Arms Romero to have Martin Lawrence stand at the front. Cdr then officially inducted him into the American Legion and Post 407.**

**Unfinished Business: None**

 **New Business: None**

**For the Good of the Legion: No one had any business for the Good of the Legion.**

**Cdr stated, “Is there any further business to come before this meeting?” There was none. Members stood in silent reverence while Sgt-at-Arms Romero recovered the POW/MIA chair cover. Members remained standing while Cdr led in the Closing Prayer. Colors were retired and the meeting was adjourned at 1055 hrs., Sat. 16 February 2019.**

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