



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

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LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN  
POST 407  
10134 RACoon DR  
EL PASO TX 79924  
(915)751-4556  
doLeary2@elp.rr.com

DATE: 16 November 2019

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 6 VISITORS: 0 TOTAL: 6

Cdr Allen Lawrence 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 19 October 2019 at the ASYMCA located at 7060 Comington St. El Paso TX 79930. Members stood and uncovered while Cdr Lawrence 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 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 & Chaplain Hank Braun (out of town) and 2d Exec Committeeman James Foster (chronic physical issues).

Cdr asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the October 2019 meeting minutes and consider them as posted. Motion to do so was made by Historian & Hubmaster Martin Lawrence and 2d'd by WWII member Bill Bosanko and passed by the members.

Committee Reports:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr asked if anyone had report. Raul stated, "Going good; VA & Beaumont checkup with EKG. They said, 'Your stint is twenty years old, we need to check on it.' I will have sonogram on 6 Dec." Bill Bosanko stated, "They (VA) are going to give me an electric scooter."
2. National Security: Cdr stated, "Just remember to stay alert."
3. Americanism: Cdr reminded members to "Fly the flag at all appropriate times." He added, "We donated ninety-eight comic books on the American Flag to Zavala Elementary (ZES) fifth-graders last month."
4. Children & Youth: Cdr stated, "On 7 Nov, for Veterans Day, myself, Olga Kalpakgian, mbr-at-large Robert Jeskey and Hank Braun participated in the ZES flag-raising ceremony." Cdr added, "Photos were taken while the members spoke on various subjects to the fifth-graders in the cafeteria. In addition, approximately \$500 worth of school supplies were donated to the school from the students and faculty at EPCC NW campus. We were there from about 7:30 to 10:00am. A very nice and heartfelt 'thank you' was expressed to us from principal Alma Brockhoff."
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, "We are now at 64 members since one of our members moved to Phoenix and has transferred to a Post there. We now have forty-seven members who are paid-up, which is over 70%. We continue to be ahead of schedule. In fact, Post 407 is in the top four in the entire District."
6. Public Relations: Cdr, "We are doing good work for the community as we sponsor ZES. Also, when the Adjutant and I get together for our Exec Committee 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 up and running and we're getting about ten hits per day. Available on Facebook. The site is: [AmericanLegionPost407elpasotx.org](http://AmericanLegionPost407elpasotx.org) The email is: [AmericanLegionPost407eptx.org](mailto:AmericanLegionPost407eptx.org). Martin informed the members that the program through H&R Block which would give \$20 for every person we refer to them for their tax preparation would start in Jan.
8. Service Officer: Cdr stated, "One of the female veterans rec'd her rating back from Waco at 50%."
9. Legislative: Cdr, "Congress doesn't have any bills pending. But military retirees should get a 1.6% raise in January."
10. Finance: Dennis stated, "Our current balance is \$1,021. We're in good shape."
11. Economic: No report.
12. House: No report.

**13. Graves & Memorial:** Adj O’Leary stated, “Thankfully there were no members who went on to Post Everlasting.” Cdr stated, “That’s always good news.”

**Sick-Call & Relief & Employment:** Bill stated, “I’m hanging in there. Eleanor is in the hospital for fast heartbeat. They also found a growth on one of her lungs. She told me this morning that she might be able to come home today.” Raul stated, “I think my eyes are better. I will need to get the shots in Jan. It costs \$3,400 per treatment.” Cdr reported that he suffers with asthma esp. when the air quality is poor.

**Unfinished Business:** No report.

**New Business:** Dennis, Post Finance Officer, stated, “I would like to donate \$100 from our Post funds to the ASYMCA. Motion to do so made by Raul and seconded by Martin Lawrence and passed by the members.

**For the Good of the Legion:** Cdr, “Get your shots. Flu, pneumonia and shingles.” Bill stated, “I got my flu and pneumonia shots from the nurse from the VA who comes to my home.” Olga stated, “Everyone should get a colonoscopy, also. It is so much better to have a procedure to check for it than not have it and be diagnosed with colon cancer. I went to the ‘Old Glory Ceremony’ on Veterans Day and attended the parade.

Cdr asked, “Does anyone have anything else to come before this meeting?” There was none.

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 recovered of the POW/MIA chair cover. Meeting adjourned at 1100 hrs Saturday 16 November 2019.

Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 21 December 2019.

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Adjutant Dennis O’Leary

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Commander Allen Lawrence