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

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**DATE: 18 January 2020 COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O’Leary**

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

**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 18 January 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 Dec 2019 meeting minutes and consider them as posted. Motion to do so was made by Historian & Hubmaster Martin Lawrence and seconded by member and assistant Sgt-at-Arms Hector Balboa. Motion passed by the members.**

**Committee Reports:**

1. **Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr asked if anyone had a report. Hector stated, “They’re not helping me at all. They charged my Blue Cross.” Cdr stated, “The VA will charge you if you have other insurance. The solution might be to cancel your Blue Cross.” Dennis asked Bill Bosanko about the motorized chair. He stated, “Yes, the VA delivered it the other day.” Cdr reported Wm Beaumont Army Med Ctr now comes under the Defense Health Agency, not Dept of Army.**
2. **National Security: Cdr stated, “There have been shootings at two naval bases and two Army bases recently. Just remember to stay alert and if you see something or someone that seems out of place, call 911.”**
3. **Americanism: Cdr reminded members to wear your Legion hat if you’re doing anything related to American Legion business.**
4. **Children & Youth: Cdr stated, “**
5. **Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, “We are now at fifty-one paid-up members out of sixty-four which is 78%. We continue to be in the top three in the District.”**
6. **Public Relations: Cdr, “We are doing good work for the El Paso community with our assistance to Zavala Elementary School.”**
7. **Hubmaster: Martin started, “Our website is up and running and we’re getting about ten hits per day. Available on Facebook. The website is: AmericanLegionPost407elpasotx.org. The email is: AmericanLegionPost407eptx.org. Martin reminded members of the program through H&R Block which will donate $20 to our Post for every person we refer to them for their tax preparation.”**
8. **Service Officer: Cdr stated, “The female veteran that I assisted received a substantial increase in her disability.”**
9. **Legislative: Cdr, “Congress has passed a bill for military and social security increases of 1.6% which should take effect on 1 Feb.”**
10. **Finance: Dennis stated, “Our current balance is $939. I’d say we’re doing well.”**
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 news.”**

**Sick-Call & Relief & Employment: Cdr stated, “I’ve got some spots which may be melanoma. I’ll see my dermatologist in Feb to either confirm or rule it out, so keep me in your thoughts and prayers, please.” Cdr asked Bill how his wife was doing. Bill stated that Eleanor gained two pounds. She was hospitalized twice in the last couple of months.**

**Unfinished Business: No report.**

**New Business: Cdr stated, “If you have any school supplies, please bring them next month. In 2019 our Pot donated approx. $800 worth of supplies.”**

**For the Good of the Legion: Cdr stated, “Let us recognize our WWII member, Bill Bosanko for attaining ninety-four years of age on 9 Jan.” Members gave Bill a standing ovation. Olga, “Get your flu and pneumonia shots.” Bill stated, “I got my flu and pneumonia shots from the VA nurse who comes to my home.” Olga asked for thoughts and prayers for her nephew in the Green Zone in Iran. Hector reported the “Relay for Life” walk/run for cancer survivors will be on 18 Mar.**

**Cdr 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 Raul Romero recovered of the POW/MIA chair cover. Meeting adjourned at 1105 hrs Saturday 18 Jan 20.**

**Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 15 Feb 20.**

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