



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

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LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN  
POST 407  
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DATE: 21 September 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 21 September 2019 at the ASYMCA located at 7060 Comington St. El Paso, TX, 79930. Members stood and uncovered while 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 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cdr/1<sup>st</sup> Exec Committeeman Hank Braun, (he was not able to make this month's meeting for physical reasons.); 2d Exec Committeeman James Foster (chronic physical issues).

Cdr asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the August 2019 meeting minutes and consider them as posted. Motion to do so was made by Hubmaster/Historian Martin Lawrence, seconded by Sgt-At-Arms Raul Romero and passed by the members.

Committee Reports:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr stated, "I talked to the new Dir up at the VA about all the problems and he told me that he told them to 'Get your act together or hit the door!'. The Dir now has authority to hire and fire, so things should get better soon. 2d thing is the new policy at VA is all meds will be mailed out now. Another item is that all Army Med Ctrs are now under DOD Health." Dennis stated, "Raul and I rec'd our medical records from the second floor in only two days."
2. National Security: Cdr stated, "Just remember people are out there wanting to do harm to certain groups. If you see something, say something; call 911." Dennis asked at what alert level is Ft Bliss currently. Cdr replied, "We're at Bravo right now and it goes up to Delta for the most serious situations."
3. Americanism: Olga Kalpakgian stated, "I have a flagpole and display the flag whenever the weather permits." Cdr responded, "We should all fly the flag at all federal holidays."
4. Children & Youth: Cdr stated, "In two weeks Raul, Dennis and myself will be going down to Zavala Elementary School. We will be distributing all of the collected school supplies and will be meeting with the principal." Olga expressed interest in going also. Cdr encouraged attendance by as many members as possible. After discussing the day and time for this, it was decided to do this on Thursday, 3 Oct at 1300.
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, "We are now at 66 members and we have 42 are paid-up, which is 64%. So, we're ahead of schedule. In fact, Post 407 is first or second in the entire District."
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 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. Available on Facebook. The site is: [AmericanLegionPost407elpasotx.org](http://AmericanLegionPost407elpasotx.org) The email is: [AmericanLegionPost407eptx.org](mailto:AmericanLegionPost407eptx.org). The ASYMCA will be having a food drive for military families of E-5 and below.
8. Service Officer: Cdr stated, "I have one female veteran's case which is still pending at Waco. A new policy is going to have three or four people trained to do compensation cases. They won't have to go over to Waco for decisions."
9. Legislative: Cdr, "Congress still has bills which are under review, but they're going on another recess shortly."
10. Finance: Dennis stated, "Our current balance is \$1,155 now. I'd say we're in good fiscal shape."
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, “Wonderful.”

**Sick-Call & Relief & Employment:** Cdr stated, “I’ve been diagnosed with neuropathy in my feet which makes walking very painful. It’s due to walking on steel decks on ships for over fifteen years.” Bill Bosanko was asked how he and his wife were doing. Bill stated, “We’re both doing pretty good.” Raul stated, “I’m supposed to have surgery on gallbladder and kidney. I’m still getting shots in my eyes, too.”

**Unfinished Business:** No report.

**New Business:** Cdr stated, “Please try to make it to the meeting at Zavala on 3 Oct at 1300; let’s try to have a good representation of our Post.”

**For the Good of the Legion:** Olga stated, “Mil Appreciation Day will be on Sat 28 Sep at East Bliss 0900-1300.” She continued, “Everyone get your flu shots.” Also, “There will a Tricare webinar on 26 Sep from 1300-1400.”

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 1105 hrs Saturday 21 September 2019.

Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 19 October 2019.

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Adjutant Dennis O’Leary

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Commander Allen Lawrence