



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

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LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN
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DATE: 17 October 2020

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

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

Cdr opened the meeting at 1000 hrs. Sgt-at-Arms Raul Romero secured the meeting room. Cdr then asked Raul to post the colors. Cdr then led the members in the reciting of our Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion.

Roll Call of Officers was taken by Adjutant Dennis O'Leary. The following Officers were absent: 2d Vice Cdr Olga Kalpakgian (was sequestered in her home due to the chinese virus) and 2d Exec Committeeman James Foster (chronic physical issues).

Cdr asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the Sep 2020 meeting minutes and consider them as posted. Motion to do so was made by 1st Vice Cdr Hank Braun and seconded by Hubmaster/Historian Martin Lawrence. Motion was passed by the members.

Committee Reports:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr stated, "There are no in-patient appointments; they are done by regular phone or cell phone video. Community Care is going away, your PCP (Primary Care Provider) be doing all referrals." Adjutant Dennis O'Leary stated, "I rec'd a letter from my PCP letting me know he will be working out of the West Side Clinic. Was told I have a new PCP and she will be working out of the main VA Clinic." Raul stated, "They send me all over the city and when I get to my appt, they tell me they don't have any record of it." Cdr and others suggested that we take a copy of any and all referrals to the specified appt.
2. National Security: Cdr stated, "Everybody knows what's going on with the virus, wear your masks. Just keep your eyes open, beware of everything." Hank stated, "There was a young man that was trying to kidnap the Gov. of Michigan."
3. Americanism: Cdr stated, "Voting is one of our rights and it's also our responsibility. I don't care how you vote, just go and vote. Also, if you attend a political rally, we cannot wear our Legion hat. The American Legion's Charter prohibits members to advocate for any political party." Martin stated, "There will be early voting at the YMCA on Will Ruth." Hank stated, "The wife and I went and did the early-voting at Arlington Park on Pasadena Circle and we only had to wait a few minutes. On another matter, who does flag disposal?" Dennis replied, "Post 58 used to have the ceremony where they burn the unserviceable American flags. I don't know if they are doing it now, but I think they will take them. To make sure, call the Adjutant at 751 -0850."
4. Children & Youth: Cdr stated, "The Adjutant and I have attempted to contact the principal at Zavala Elem Sch without success, so we don't know yet when we can take supplies down there." Hank stated, "I've still got boxes full of books to donate to Zavala whenever they open up again. No car shows are being held. Our big annual show had to be cancelled due to the virus." Cdr then added, "There won't be a door-to-door Halloween this year."
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant O'Leary stated, "We still have fifty-seven members in our Post. We still have forty-four paid-up members which is about 80%. We are doing well." Cdr stated, "We remain in the top ten in the District for paid-up members."
6. Public Relations: Cdr, "Post is doing good work for the El Paso community with our assistance to Zavala Elementary School." Cdr stated, "When you are out and about doing anything related to Legion business, please wear your hat or shirt or jacket which displays the American Legion emblem. It can and does generate interaction."
7. Hubmaster: Martin stated, "The website is up and running and the revised Constitution and By-Laws have been posted. The code for us to receive funds from H&R Block will be the same # as last year. More on that later."

8. **Service Officer:** Cdr stated, "I haven't been able to assist service people for months due to the virus."
9. **Legislative:** Cdr, "Nothing going on in Congress right now."
10. **Finance:** Dennis stated, "Our current balance is up to \$1,423.00 now, so we're doing really well with our finances."
11. **Economic:** No report.
12. **House:** No report.
13. **Graves & Memorial:** Adj O'Leary stated, "No members went on to Post Everlasting this last month, so that's always a good thing."
14. **Sick-Call & Relief & Employment:** Cdr asked Bill how he and his wife are doing. Bill stated, "Well, she's not doing very good. She just won't eat and she won't drink that protein drink, either. They've done all kinds of tests for cancer, but they haven't found any." Cdr stated, "I had some polyps removed from my parathyroid gland and they're all negative. And last Saturday I was at the ER due to food poisoning. Had a hamburger at a McDonald's on Sunland Park."

Unfinished Business: Cdr stated, "If you have any school supplies, please keep them at your home for the time being."

New Business: Cdr stated, "Our Constitution and By-Laws had to revised/amended to comply with new policies. We were commended by National on being one of the first Posts to comply with the new guidelines." Martin asked if we could do Zoom for our meetings. Cdr said we would table this subject til next month. Hank asked if members could get Zoom on their phones at the next meeting. Cdr stated, "Yes, we can set it up on your cell phones at our next meeting."

For the Good of the Legion: Cdr asked if any members had any items to share for the Good of the Legion. There was none.

Cdr asked, "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. Raul performed the POW/MIA ceremony by removing the cover from the empty chair. Meeting adjourned at 1110 hrs Saturday 24 Oct 20.

Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 21 Nov 20.

Adjutant Dennis O'Leary

Commander Allen Lawrence