



Bill

American Legion
LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN
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American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

DATE: 16 Jan 2021

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

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

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); 2d Exec Committeeman James Foster (chronic physical issues); and our WWII veteran, Bill Bosanko, death in family.

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

Committee Reports:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr stated, "First of all, if you get the Covid vaccine anywhere, notify the VA. Sgt-at-Arms Raul Romero stated, "I tried to take the proof of my vaccine to the VA, but they wouldn't let me in." Hank stated, "I was able to do so because I had an eye appointment. So, if you have any appointments you can get your proof of vaccine to your Team."
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. Also never touch unattended packages - notify the authorities. Also, if you do not have to go out, it would be better to just stay at home around election day, from the 19th to the 21st. All fifty states have activated their National Guard units. (This is just in case of any violent unrest.)"
3. Americanism: Cdr stated, "I would ask you to wear your Legion mask when you're out and about, it can really spur interest in our organization."
4. Children & Youth: Cdr stated, "I think school will start up at Zavala Elementary School on Tuesday, the 19th. The Adjutant and I have made multiple attempts to contact the principal without success, so we do not know yet when we can take school supplies to them. It's possible that she isn't the principal there anymore."
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant O'Leary stated, "We still have fifty-seven members in our Post. We have forty-nine paid-up members which is about 85%. We are doing very well." Cdr stated, "We remain in the top ten in the District for paid-up members."
6. Public Relations: Hank made a motion to collect donations to reimburse the Post for the wreath we purchased for Bill Bosanko. Motion seconded by Asst Sgt-at-Arms Hector Balboa and passed by the members. (NOTE: \$105 donated by members to go back to Post funds.)
7. Hubmaster: Hubmaster Martin Lawrence reported, "Site is getting about three hits a day. Tax season started yesterday (15 Jan 21); any childcare type deductions will not be done till 21 Feb 21. Cdr asked if everyone had received their \$600 stimulus check. Hector and Dennis replied, "No, not yet." All others have received them. Martin concluded by saying that you can go to IRS.GOV for more information. Martin had one more item, and that is, the Post isn't tax exempt just yet, I need Dennis to give me the tax-exempt form." Dennis then turned over the paperwork to him.
8. Service Officer: Cdr stated, "I've been helping two veterans on the east coast via ZOOM and have talked to three others locally."