



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: 17 June 2023

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 4

VISITORS: 0 TOTAL: 4

NOTE: Cdr Allen Lawrence was able to attend and preside over our meeting today. He requires assistance to do so, as his medical/physical issues continue.

NOTE: This is our third ZOOM meeting. The ZOOM meeting host is our Hubmaster, Martin Lawrence.

Members present were: Cdr Allen Lawrence; Adjutant Dennis O'Leary; Sgt-at-Arms Raul Romero; Hubmaster Martin Lawrence. (Hubmaster reported no other personnel joined our meeting via ZOOM this month; probably due to it being Fathers' Day weekend.)

Hubmaster opened the ZOOM meeting at 0945.

At 1000 hrs, Cdr asked Raul Romero to secure the meeting room which was done. Cdr opened the meeting in prayer. Cdr then led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the placement of the POW/MIA cover on the chair. Cdr then led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.

Cdr asked if there was a motion to consider the minutes of the last meeting as having been read/posted. Martin made the motion and it was seconded by Raul. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr stated, "The VA has changed a lot. There are meds that they say they cannot get from the supplier. But the VA does help me a lot with other goods and services; I can't complain." Raul stated, "I've got a bunch of meds that are due for refills, but the VA says they don't have them. It's a big mess." Martin stated, "There's a new chief of the volunteers and that's where we meet for the food drive now."
2. National Security: Cdr stated, "Just watch out. There are a lot of bad people doing bad things nowadays. Be aware of your surroundings. Raul stated, "And if you see a \$20 or \$100 bill on the ground, do not pick it up. There have been cases where people have died from fentanyl-laced currency." Martin stated, "There is another one out there now where they have kids' voices in their systems, and they call the grandparents saying they need money to get them out of a bad situation. Everything you say or enter on the computer or cell phone are being recorded and they can cut and paste anything together."
3. Americanism: Cdr stated, "Please wear your hat and/or an American Legion shirt when you have anything having to do with veterans."
4. Children & Youth: Raul Romero presented the Post with a Certificate of Appreciation from Zavala Elementary School for our support for their graduation celebration. (Manny Romero, our school liaison, received it when the principal, Jesus Mendoza called him on the 31st of May.)
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, "We have fifty paid-up of fifty-five members in our Post. We are doing very well." Martin stated, "We made \$50 at the Memorial Day poppy fund-raising event that he, Raul, Hector and I did on the 26th of May." Dennis stated, "Hector told me he hasn't forgotten he owes us \$20 from the poppies that he got that day."
6. Public Relations: Doing things for Zavala school and the poppy event gets us out in the community.

7. **Finance Report:** Dennis stated, “We now have \$1,014.24 in our bank account. We’re doing all right.”
8. **Legislative:** Cdr stated, “We’re supposed to get a 5% raise, but it won’t take effect til January.” Raul stated, “I’ve seen a figure of 8.7% for military; 6% for retirees and 5 something for social security. It’s all wrapped up in the Defense Authorization Bill which is supposed to be done by 1 October.”
9. **Service Officer:** Allen is assisting one former Marine at this time.
10. **Hubmaster:** Martin stated, “Our website (americanlegionpost407elptx.org) is getting 183 visits per day. Post 407 is leading the way in that regard. We’re also way ahead of rest of the Posts when it comes to Hubmaster items.”
11. **Historian:** Martin was presented with the Cert. of Apprec. (2 sheets) to photograph for historical purposes.
12. **Sick-Call Relief & Employment:** Allen stated, “I probably will be in this thing (power chair) as long as I live. Dennis asked if it was due to his stroke. Allen replied, “That and other stuff.” (He did not wish to elaborate.)
13. **Unfinished Business:** Dept meeting was brought up by Martin, but our Cdr, Adjutant nor Hubmaster has received any information on it.
14. **New Business:** None.

Cdr asked if there was anything further to come before the meeting. There was none. Nothing offered for the Good of the Legion.

Meeting adjourned at 1055, Sat. 17 Jun 23. Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 15 Jul 23.

Adjutant Dennis O’Leary

Commander Allen Lawrence