



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

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LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN
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DATE: 15 July 2023

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 6 VISITORS: (ZOOM): 2 TOTAL: 6

NOTE: This is our fourth 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 and members Hector Balboa and Manny Romero.

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 Manny. Motion was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr stated, "The VA has helped me a lot. They just delivered a Hoyer lift to help me with my mobility. Raul reported that he doesn't get much satisfaction from the VA. Martin said he is satisfied with the service he is receiving. Dennis also reported that he was satisfied with the VA."
2. National Security: Cdr stated, "As I always say, just be aware. There are a lot of bad people doing bad things nowadays. They're targeting veterans, so be very careful and do not answer your phone by saying, yes. They will splice that and use it to say you agreed to whatever scam they are running." Martin stated, "Gov Abbott is placing a net and physical barriers in the Rio Grande to try to stop the flow of illegals into our country."
3. Americanism: Cdr stated, "Please wear your hat and/or an American Legion shirt when you are involved with veterans' activities."
4. Children & Youth: Manny reported that Zavala Elementary School recently graduated 56 students and the enrollment this past year was about 300. And he stated, "I'll contact the principal next month to get the numbers for each grade so we'll know what school supplies to donate."
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, "We have 56 members for FY 2024. Forty-one pay annual dues and fifteen PUFL's. We're doing really well; having lost no members from last year."
6. Public Relations: We're doing things for Zavala Elementary School and the poppy event gets us out in the community.
7. Finance Report: Dennis stated, "We now have \$1,084.24 in our bank account. We're doing well."
8. Legislative: Cdr stated, "Active duty personnel are supposed to get a 5% raise, so military retirees should receive about 2 and 1/2%. Bill has to go through Senate and then conference committee, so we'll see."
9. Service Officer: Allen has had no contacts this month.

10. **Hubmaster**: Martin stated, “Our website (americanlegionpost407elptx.org) is getting 188 visits per day. Post 407 is leading the way in that regard. We’re way ahead of rest of the Posts in our region when it comes to activities of our Hubmaster.”

11. **Historian**: Martin had no report.
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12. **Sick-Call Relief & Employment**: Allen stated, “I’m getting a little better. Dennis stated, “You need to get well enough to use a walker, and eventually just a cane. That’s our hope.”

13. **Unfinished Business**: School supplies were brought in by the Cdr today.

14. **New Business**: We discussed school supplies and when to deliver them to Zavala but need more information, so we will discuss this further next month.

Cdr asked if there was anything further to come before the meeting. There was none.

There was nothing offered for the Good of the Legion.

Meeting adjourned at 1050, Sat. 15 July 23. Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 19 Aug 23.

Adjutant Dennis O’Leary

Commander Allen Lawrence