



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

American Legion  
LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN  
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DATE: 16 September 2023

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 4 VISITORS: 1 TOTAL: 4

(NOTE: Our visitor this morning is on duty as an assistant for our Commander. Ms. Kira Edwards.)

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 the members in the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.

Members present were: Cdr Allen Lawrence; Adjutant Dennis O'Leary; Sgt-at-Arms Raul Romero and our school liaison, Manny Romero.

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

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Veteran Affairs & Service:** Cdr reported that the current Dir of the EP VA will be leaving soon, and his replacement will be coming from Wash. D.C. Raul stated, "I'm still getting the run-around from them (the VA). For instance, the Optometry wouldn't fill my prescription even though it was from my Ophthalmologist. I had to go up to the top floor and talk to the Director. He said, 'Yes, Mr. Romero, you are correct, you are authorized glasses from us (the VA). He then called down to the Eye Clinic and told them to fill the prescription ASAP."
- National Security:** Cdr stated, "As I always say, be aware of your surroundings and be very careful answering the phone and unfamiliar emails. Raul stated, "Don't answer with, 'Yes.'. They will splice it to whatever they want to use to scam you." Cdr echoed that and added, "There's a new one out there which concentrates on veterans. They want a fee to get whatever you tell them you need. Of course, that's a scam, too."
- Americanism:** Cdr stated, "Please wear your hat and/or an American Legion shirt when you are involved with any veterans' activities." (Just do not wear any clothing with the Legion emblem to any political event.) Dennis stated, "It's a great ice-breaker." Cdr agreed, saying, "Yes, it gets a conversation going."
- Children & Youth:** Manny, our school liaison stated, "The school districts all have plenty of school supplies. I will contact the Principal (at Zavala Elem Sch) prior to our next meeting to see what kind of items they need." Dennis stated, "Raul had a great idea which is to get sporting equipment, such as soccer balls, basketballs, etc." Cdr added, "Yes, those items would benefit the whole school."
- Membership & Post Activities:** Adjutant stated, "We now have thirty-one paid-up members. We're doing very well." Cdr stated, "Yes, we're doing better than Posts not only here in the EP area, but nationwide."
- Public Relations:** We're doing things for Zavala Elementary School and the poppy event got us out in the community. (Also see Hubmaster, below.)
- Finance Report:** Dennis stated, "We now have \$1,180.24 in our bank account. We're doing well." Dennis reported that our Post sent in the money (\$191) for our Post Blanket Bonding. Cdr stated, "This is highly recommended for all Posts, so we're going the extra mile. I ordered some items from Flag & Emblem. A gavel, a flag desk-set, and some other items totaling \$210. (Dennis then made out check to reimburse Allen for the purchase.)
- Legislative:** Raul stated, "Everything is held up in the House, so nothing is certain. We're supposed to get a COLA in January, but we'll have to wait and see what they do."

9. **Service Officer:** Allen stated, "I have a veteran that I was able to get registered with the VA. That's the first step. I'm working on getting his disability."
10. **Hubmaster:** Martin absent today.
11. **Historian:** Martin absent today.
12. **Sick-Call Relief & Employment:** Allen stated, "I'm doing a lot better now, thankfully." Manny Romero stated, "I've had every test you could have, and everything looks good. I just get these dizzy spells. Visitor, Kira, stated, "My father had an inner ear problem which caused his dizziness. I recommend you get your ears checked." Raul stated, "It may just be allergies. The other specialties never check for that." He then stated, "I've got relatives here and multiple appointments nearly every day lately. I will go try to go and visit Bill Bosanko over there in Canutillo soon."
13. **Unfinished Business:** School supplies will not need to be delivered down to Zavala Elementary School until at least December. Will table this until next month, when Manny is to report on the needs of the school.
14. **New Business:** Cdr stated, "I rec'd this letter from the Cdr at Post 122 in Anthony. Dennis had the letter and read it to the members. It was regarding the Fall District Convention. It will be held 20-22 Oct. Fri-Sun. Members advised to notify Adjutant for more information.

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 1105, Sat. 16 September 2023. Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 21 Sep 23.

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Adjutant Dennis O'Leary

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Commander Allen Lawrence