



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: 19 Aug 2023

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 5 VISITORS: (ZOOM: 2) +3 from "Seniors Helping Seniors" TOTAL: 10

NOTE: This is our 5th ZOOM meeting. The ZOOM meeting host is our Hubmaster, Martin Lawrence. 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.

Visitors, Yvonne and Mike Mercadel from "Seniors Helping Seniors" gave a very informative presentation about their business. Caregiver Kira Edwards also attended our meeting.

Members present were: Cdr Allen Lawrence; Adjutant Dennis O'Leary; Sgt-at-Arms Raul Romero; Hubmaster Martin Lawrence and member Hector Balboa.

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 was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Veteran Affairs & Service: The executives from "Seniors Helping Seniors" gave their presentation about their business. For more information on receiving home health care service simply notify your Primary Care Provider and ask him/her for a referral to the VA's Home Care Services Section. The number and email for Yvonne at Seniors Helping Seniors is: 915.200.1199 and yvonne@shseastelpaso.com. For info simply email info@shseastelpaso.com.
- National Security: Cdr stated, "As I always say, be aware of your surroundings and be very careful answering the phone and unfamiliar emails. Do not open them. There were some opinions voiced on the state of our border."
- 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 anything political.
- Children & Youth: Our school liaison was unable to attend meeting due to physical issues. Dennis stated, "the school districts put out their back-to-school flyers which indicated they have plenty of school supplies. Raul spoke to a relative who is a teacher and she said each little desk had a large box of supplies on it. She said they won't need any more until December."
- Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, "As I said last month, our Post has 55 members for FY 2024. We have had fifteen members pay their dues so far already. We're doing really well; having lost no members from last year. Another item I need to tell you all is that one of our members, William Kafka, sent us a check for \$150. He told me that the extra \$110 was a gift to help our Post. I asked for a motion to send him a Certificate of Appreciation. Motion was made by Martin Lawrence and seconded by Hector Balboa. Motion then passed by acclamation."
- 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 \$1,271.24 in our bank account. We're doing well."
- Legislative: Cdr stated, "TX Gov Greg Abbott has received about 12 billion dollars from the US Congress to ease the burden of property taxes here in Texas. The bottom line is that every household will be able to deduct \$100,000 from the value of their home. So a home worth \$189,000 will only have to pay \$89,000 after the \$100,000 deduction. This is to go into effect for 2024."

9. **Service Officer:** No report.
10. **Hubmaster:** Martin stated, “Our website (americanlegionpost407elptx.org) is getting 800 hits per month. And our Facebook page gets from thirty to fifty visits per month. Post 407 is leading the way. 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.
12. **Sick-Call Relief & Employment:** Allen stated, “I’m doing a lot better now, thankfully.” Manny Romero called Raul from the hospital last night. He was supposed to be discharged today, but was referred to another cardiologist. Raul stated, “It may just be allergies. The other specialties never check for that.” He then stated, “I’ve got appointments every day next week. I will go try to go and visit Bill (Bosanko) over there in Canutillo the week after next.”
13. **Unfinished Business:** School supplies will not need to be delivered down to Zavala Elementary School until December.
14. **New Business:** Raul stated, “I called around to try to get information about Fannin School, which is now closed, to see about using the library. I tried three different phone numbers but just got a big run-around.” Cdr thanked Raul for checking around to see about alternative meeting sites.

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 1110, Sat. 19 August 2023. Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 16 Sep 23.

Adjutant Dennis O’Leary

Commander Allen Lawrence