



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

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LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN  
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DATE: 16 Dec 2023

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 5 VISITORS: 1 TOTAL: 6

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

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Martin stated, "The upper leadership positions are changing." Dennis added, "They can't seem to keep good people. Also, just to let you know, Breeze is a volunteer up there now."
2. National Security: Cdr stated, "As I always say, be aware of your surroundings, don't pick up any currency that you may see lying on the ground; it could be laced with a narcotic or even some other poison."
3. Americanism: Cdr stated, "Please wear your hat and/or an American Legion shirt when you are involved with any veterans' activities. But remember, do not wear any clothing with the Legion emblem to any political event. Do not answer the phone if you don't know who it is. And do not say, 'YES!' They can splice your yes into anything they are pushing." Raul stated, "What are we doing about the millions of people here who are from other countries?!"
4. Children & Youth: Manny, our school liaison stated, "I was able to contact Mr. Mendoza (the Principal at Zavala Elem School) just the other day to see what kind of items they need." He said he really needs sporting equipment, such as soccer balls, basketballs, volleyballs. Then he thanked me for our donation of twelve sports balls. I didn't know it, but when I told Raul about it, he said he took them himself about ten days ago. Raul and I went to the Walmart on Dyer and the manager there told us he might be able to give us a \$90 gift card." A motion was made by Martin and seconded by Manny for our Post to donate \$100 for the sporting goods (balls for different sports). Motion passed unanimously.
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, "We now have forty-seven 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. And, we're at 84% paid up. Which is better than all other Posts in this area."
6. Public Relations: Cdr stated, "We continue to sponsor Zavala Elementary School."
7. Finance Report: Dennis stated, "We now have \$893.25 in our bank account. We're hanging in there."
8. Legislative: Raul stated, "Did you see that the people voted to spend all that money on the three amendments that were on the ballot. That's all we do, spend, spend, spend. There's no end to it." Cdr stated, "The Defense Budget passed, so SS, Mil Ret and VA benefits all are doing up 3.2% in Jan." Raul added, "I got mine already."
9. Service Officer: Allen stated, "I have a veteran that I was able to get 60% on his disability. And I'm working on another person to get his increased as well."
10. Hubmaster: Martin stated, "We're getting 80-90 hits per day on our website."
11. Historian: Allen stated, "Yes, I have something to add here. One of the TV channels interviewed me and another disabled vet. I'll let you know when and which network is going to be airing it."
12. Sick-Call Relief & Employment: Dennis stated, "We still do not have any info on Bill Bosanko." Raul said he intends to go try to make contact with him in the upcoming week. Cdr stated, "I'm getting better every day." Manny reports he is much better after the pacemaker placement.

13. **Unfinished Business:** School supplies are not something we should concentrate on as the principal now told Manny what the school really needs is sporting equipment.
14. **New Business:** Cdr reported that his provider company, **Seniors Helping Seniors**, did the interview with a Navy corpsman and will let us know the particulars when he finds out.
15. **For the Good of the Legion:** No report.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1055, Sat. 16 December 2023. Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs 20 Jan 24.

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Adjutant Dennis O'Leary

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Commander Allen Lawrence