



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

American Legion  
LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN  
POST 407  
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DATE: 20 Jan 2024

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 4 VISITORS: 1 TOTAL: 5

(NOTE: Our visitor, Ms. Kira Edwards, is here as an assistant for our Commander.)

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

After bringing the meeting to order and securing the meeting room, Cdr asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes of our Dec '23 meeting as read. Motion was made to do so by Martin and seconded by Manny. Motion passed by members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Cdr stated, "They're treating me very well. I'll be going to the Podiatry Clinic for care of my feet. I'm having numbness and circulatory issues with my lower extremities." Dennis stated, "I'm getting good care, also."
2. National Security: Cdr stated, "As I frequently say, be aware of your surroundings. Please don't pick up any packages or currency that you may see find; it could be laced with a narcotic or even some type of poison. Also, when you answer the phone, don't say, 'Yes.' It could be used by those unscrupulous people to say, yes, you did agree to buy something which you didn't intend to purchase."
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."
4. Children & Youth: Manny, our school liaison stated, "I was not able to contact the manager at this Walmart (on Dyer). Raul and I met with him last month and he said he could get us a gift card for \$95. I'm going to go back there and see if he will donate that gift card to us. We'll use it to buy sporting equipment for Zavala (Elem. Sch.)."
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, "We now have fifty paid-up members of the fifty-six on our rolls. We're doing very well." Cdr stated, "Yes, we're doing better than nearly all other Posts in the EP area. We're at 92% now. Martin stated, "Yes, we're doing better than most Posts in the entire United States."
6. Public Relations: Cdr stated, "We continue to sponsor Zavala Elementary School. Martin volunteers at the Food Drive at the main VA every Wednesday. But he was not able to do it every week due to his car being damaged by vandals, so his car was in the shop for many weeks."
7. Finance Report: Dennis stated, "We now have \$842.25 in our bank account. We're doing ok."
8. Legislative: Cdr stated, "The Defense Omnibus Budget passed, so Social Security, Mil Ret and VA benefits all received COLA of 3.2% earlier this month."
9. Service Officer: Allen stated, "I'm still working on another person to get his disability increase. It's over in Waco, which is really swamped with claims."
10. Hubmaster: Martin stated, "We're getting eight hundred hits on our website each month."
11. Historian: Allen stated, "Yes, I have something to add here. ABC, Channel 7 TV, interviewed me and one of another disabled veteran back in December which aired a couple weeks ago. When we get it, Martin will put it on our website."
12. Sick-Call Relief & Employment: Dennis stated, "We still do not have any info on Bill Bosanko." Cdr stated, "I'm having some circulation problems, but I'll be ok." Manny reports he's having sleep issues.

13. Unfinished Business: School needs sporting equipment. Manny will contact manager of Walmart regarding donation.

14. New Business: Cdr indicated the need to make minor changes to our By-Laws. Tabled for the time being.

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 1045, Sat. 20 Jan 2024 Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs 17 Feb 24.

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Adjutant Dennis O'Leary

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Commander Allen Lawrence