

THE AMERICAN LEGION-POST 21
126 Atlantic Street NE — McMinnville — OR — 97128
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
January 18, 2017

Commander Gale Sears opened the meeting at 1829 hours

ROLL CALL:

Commander – Gale Sears, present
First Vice – Larry Brown, present
Second Vice – Terry Ward, present
Finance Officer – Mark Rathburn, present
Adjutant – Shirley Brown, present
Judge Advocate – Steve Randles, present
Service Officer – Jeannie Clayton, present

Chaplain – Thomas Clayton, present
Historian – Leroy Brown, present
Sgt. At Arms – Jerry Perry, present
Past Commander – S. Farley, present
At Large – B. Berweger, present
At Large – F. Martin, absent
12 Officers are present being a Quorum
15 Members in the audience

VISITORS:

AWARDS PRESENTATION – Angel Mendoza and Terry Naig – It is important to Honor our Volunteers, especially when they go “Beyond the Call of Duty”, we have one such volunteer who always volunteers for everything – is always answers the call. She is very compassionate, giving, basically wonderful individual. She has given to all the families not only of her time but of her wealth as well. She has donated money to not only The American Legion but also to each family organization. We would like to award the Benevolent Award to Glenna Smith and her father Warner Heckman. Thank you for all you do for The American Legion and family.

MOTION: By S. Farley that we approve the minutes from last months meeting of the General Membership.
Seconded by L. Brown – **Passed.**

HOUSE COMMITTEE – Terry Naig explained that they held their last Open House meeting. After holding “Open House Meetings” for sometimes and with no attendance it has been determined that there will no longer be “Open House Meetings” and if anyone wishes to address the committee, they only need to Contact the House Committee. The light pole has been installed at the end of the park and we will lease the pole for a cost of \$15 per month which covers any maintenance needed.

Power issues in the Park have been put on hold because of the weather, once it warms up these issues will be addressed.

There are lights that have burned out on the monument in front of the building that will be repaired once the weather warms.

Bar signs – one has been sold, the other two will be advertised in the newsletter for sale to members first.

After Club Manager and House Committee Chair left the room Commander Sears explained that there was a conversation early last week at the bar regarding Gina and the job she is doing managing the facility. Commander Sears asked that we as the Executive Committee let Gina know what an excellent job she is doing.

MOTION: By B. Berweger that we show our Faith in Gina as the Manager and that we wish for her continued happiness in Managing the Club. Seconded by L. Brown – **Passed.**

FINANCE REPORT: Written Report Provided - Finance Officer reported that the Monthly net income for December is \$13,⁰⁰⁰ with a Year to Date income of \$65,⁰⁰⁰, with total fiscal assets of \$94,902.85. Finance Officer explained that there has been an increase in payroll expenses but explained that more events will increase payroll costs, but an increase in events also provides an increase in income.

Finance Officer explained that in comparison to last year the club is doing very well.

MOTION: By S. Randle that we accept the finance report as presented. Seconded by Leroy Brown – all in favor. **PASSED.**

COMMANDERS REPORT: Commander Sears stated that the parking lot light has been installed at the end of the RV park. Spent many hours on the phone with COMCAST and has managed to reduce our monthly bill to COMCAST.

Committee Reports:

Auxiliary: Elva Salinas reported that today was her first meeting since her injury so she is just getting back in the swing of things. She did report that the Auxiliary will be hosting St. Patrick’s Day dinner on March 18th more information to come.

Son's of the American Legion: G. Hamilton reported that the Son's membership is still growing rapidly. Right now, they are in a rebuilding stage so there is not much going on right now.

American Legion Riders: J. Terry reported that the Rider's do not have a meeting in December because it falls between Christmas and New Years and takes away from time their members can spend with their families. They are working on events for the upcoming year and so far, have scheduled the Poker Ride for September. The riders will not be staying out of town this year based on the belief is that this strategy will bring more funds into Post 21.

First Vice: Larry Brown stated that the Legion has applied to join in the 50 Year Vietnam Commemorative Partner Program. The program is designed to give a PIN to recognize anyone who served in the Vietnam Era. There is a potential to recognize the approximate 700 Vietnam Era veterans that reside in the Yamhill County area. This is an informal recognition program wherein we as The American Legion Post – 21 will recognize those Vietnam era participants living in the local area.

HONOR GUARD: The Honor Guard said goodbye to one of our members this week, Herbert King, the Family has requested that any donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: J. Perry explained that the committee will approach a prospective nominee and explain the needs of the position and the requirements. If an individual is nominated for a position, they must be present to accept the nomination. Nominations will be posted in the Club area and in the Newsletter.

2nd Vice/Activities: T. Ward stated that there were approximately 60 people in attendance at the New Year's celebration. The cost to the club was approximately \$600, however bar sales were approximately \$1,700. The Rocky Mountain Oyster feed was a moderate success with approximately 36 participants. Super Bowl Potluck is on February 5th, kickoff is at 3:00. SAL has committed to cooking for Valentines Day Brunch from 10:00 – 2:00. Movie Night will be on the 18th, bring in your comfortable chair and enjoy a movie with your Legion family. Starting in March is the Battle of the Branches; cost will be \$7.00 per person since the Navy won last year they will start the Battle here is the proposed schedule and point of contact: Navy 3/12 – Jim Connelly; Army 3/26 – Jerry Perry; Marines 4/9 – Terry Ward; Air Force 4/23 – Dan/Shirley Brown; the winner will be based on gross sales. Activities committee meets at 5:30 prior the General Membership Meeting, where planning of The Battle of the Branches will be discussed.

JAG: Nothing to report as at this time there are no scandals.

Service Officer/Women's Veterans Liaison: Pinewood Derby race will be in July; all families and extended families are invited to compete. This will be an all-day event with a BBQ.

CHAPLAIN: Still visiting the Hospital every Monday. Legion member Herbert King passed on January 8, 2017 and the Chaplain had the honor of officiating over Mr. King's services on Saturday. Also, lost two other members, waiting to find out when services will be.

Legion Member Rich McJunkin mentioned that he attended services for an Army veteran and it didn't appear that the funeral service knew what to do for a veteran. After much discussion, it appears that this seems to be the norm as of late. New Commander of the Honor Guard is Angel Mendoza, congratulations! Angel Mendoza stated that the best way to get the information out is to spread the word, let every veteran, every family you know that we have an Honor Guard and we can perform military services for fallen veterans.

HISTORIAN: Leroy Brown, Historian had no report as, no activities but the Rocky Mountain Oyster Feed.

Bylaws Committee: The final draft of the amended by-laws will be available for review in the next few days. There will be a link on the Post 21 website and they will be emailed to those members who request them, there will also be a link printed in the newsletter for members to review. S. Randles stated that if anyone wants a hard copy please let him know. There is a 21-day notice requirement for members to be allowed to review the amended By-Laws. The goal is to vote on them at the next General Membership Meeting.

Nominations Committee: The procedure has been developed that any one who is nominated or wants to be nominated will meet with one of the members of the committee where the duties and responsibility of the position will be explained and the nominee will be asked if he/she feels they can fulfill the requirements of the position. If a person is nominated they must be appear at the meeting, if a nominee can not attend a meeting they must submit a letter of acceptance or notify the committee that they will or will not accept the nomination.

AT LARGE – B. BERWEGER: Jim Connelly reported that the Oratorical Contest was very successful even though there was only one contestant. It was run very professionally and as if there were 100 contestants. Thank You to all those who attended and a Very Big Thank You to all those who helped, Judges, Time Keepers, Chauffeur's and any I forgot. The Winner Morganne Larmouth, a Junior at McMinnville High School will be competing at the District Level on January 28, 2016.

Police Officer/Firefighter of the Year: Unfortunately due to time constraints we were unable to send in nominations this year but a list of contacts has been developed in preparation for next years' nominations.

Youth Baseball: We will be sponsoring McMinnville Boys Baseball team, a Girls Softball and a banner will be displayed at the baseball fields in order to promote The American Legion and get it out in the Public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Military Papers – the cost for a subscription to the Military Papers is \$55.00 per year per subscription. Does the Post want to pay for four subscriptions?

MOTION: By S. Farley that we pay the \$55.00 per year for subscriptions to all 4 service papers. Seconded by Leroy Brown – all in favor. **PASSED.**

S. Farley stated he will distribute copies to the local care homes for access to resident veterans.

R.V. Park Electrical Issues: Commander Sears reported that there are issues in the RV Park and some of the breakers need to be replaced. This has been postponed until the weather warms – the power will need to be shut off for a few hours and we don't want the residence to be without power when the weather is in the teens.

Parking Lot – Standing Water (Lake Legion): S. Farley stated he spoke to the construction people from the construction across the street and it will cost in ten to twenty thousand to tap into the city storm drains. S. Farley stated that he would donate a sump pump to the post if someone will place the pump in the vault in the parking lot in order to help eliminate the standing water in the parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership: Commander Sears stated that three members of the Executive Board have been making calls to those members who have not yet paid their 2016 dues and it is a very long process. Soon we will be sending out letters to those members who have not paid their dues explaining that their Legion privileges and membership has expired.

Bingo: Commander Sears explained that he met with the Bingo Committee and they have agreed to the 15% gratuity fee but feel that this might be a little high. The amount will be reviewed periodically to determine if it should be adjusted. The committee asked that the cancellation notice be extended to 7 days instead of the current 3, this was agreed to with the understanding that Legion Members take priority and if the facilities are needed for a Legion Member service or function the notice may be limited.

Christmas Tree Sales: Member Rich McJunkin explained that Arnold Hollander has supplied almost 3,000 trees to the Legion over the years and suggests that we at Post 21 send them a gift certificate for dinner at The Palmer House and pay Arnold Hollander's Legion membership dues for five years.

MOTION: By R. McJunkin that we provide up to \$300.00 in an agree upon form to Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Hollander for the purpose of dinner at The Joe Palmer House in recognition for his continued support in the form of donations of Christmas trees over the past couple years and Post 21 pay Mr. Hollander's American Legion dues starting in 2017 and ending in 2022. Seconded by S. Farley – all in favor. **PASSED.**

Veterans Day: L. Brown explained that the owner of Meineke offered free oil changes to all veterans and on veteran's day they provided oil changes to over 18 veterans.

MOTION: By L. Brown that the post offer to the owner of Meineke a certificate to dinner at the post. Seconded by S. Farley – 4 in favor 7 opposed - **FAILED**

Memorials Identification Committee: B. Berweger explained that a committee will be formed based upon a request from National that all war memorials be inventoried. More information to come.

911 Remembrance: Angel Mendoza stated that he would like the post to have a 911 Remembrance/Patriot Day observed and will be forming a committee to see that we can get this done by September.

Veterans Day: Angel Mendoza stated he would also like to see the Post sponsor a Veterans Day parade and asked for help from the membership in order to make it become a success.

T. Clayton explained that the County Commissioners can apply for money for Veteran's to be used in the county but doesn't know the amount.

T. Ward wanted to say thanks to everyone who helped at The Rocky Mountain Oyster Feed. If you came down and ham, guess we won't see you next year.

Bob Berweger explained that he has been tasked with contacting members who have not renewed their membership. Has spoken to a few members and now understands why some will not renew their memberships. Asked all member that if they see a new face in the Post, stop and introduce yourself make them feel welcome invite them back.

SICK OR INJURED: Commander Sears stated that his wife Sim Sears, will be having a much-needed surgery at the end of the week so he will be out the post for the next two weeks at least. Stated that Thomas Clayton will be in charge during his absence.

Elva Salinas stated that her daughter Victoria Spencer has been very ill, was taken to the E.R. during the holidays and was place in ICU, she was very ill but seems to be on the mend. Wanted to thank everyone for their concerns.

hand **SALUTE:**

CLOSING PRAYER: T. CLAYTON

ADJOURNED: 19:45