

THE AMERICAN LEGION-POST 21
126 Atlantic Street NE — McMinnville — OR — 97128
General Membership Meeting – July 19, 2023

ROLL CALL:

Commander – Juan Palacios – present
First Vice – Paul Krutsch - present
Second Vice – Jim Connelly - present
Adjutant – Shirley Brown – excused.
Judge Advocate – Steve Randles – present
Finance Officer Cheryl Saville-Miller
Sgt. At Arms – Armand Pilotte.

Service Officer – Chris Dauterman - present
Chaplain – Thomas Clayton – present
Historian – Leroy Brown - present
At Large – Mike Billings - present
At Large – Bruce Peterson - present
At Large – Gale Sears - present

Motion: By Mike Billings that we accept the minutes as presented – seconded by Gale Sears – PASSED.

New Members: Russ Ludwig – Served with Oregon National Guard for 8 years of service, David Lipscomb – US Army and currently works at VA; Andy Benedict– US Air Force – Aviator with three tours of combat in Vietnam. Currently volunteers at Evergreen Aviation.

Motion: By Thomas Clayton that the post vote for membership approval, seconded by Mike Billings – PASSED.

Commander – Introduction of Dignitaries

President Auxiliary State of Oregon – Deb Godwin
Past Post Commander – Steve Farley
American Legion Auxiliary – Gregoria “Goya” Hernandez

Chaplain Clayton – Sick and Prayers Requested; Terry Ward, Mike Morris, Chaplain Clayton’s Wife, Mrs. Peterson broken foot. Bob Berweger reported visit at hospital for Tom Schmidt. It was reported that James Earl Black passed away. Chaplain asked everyone to pray for Veterans and Families that may not know are sick and in need of prayers.

1st Vice – Calls on membership – Would like to soon report percentage of paid membership – Calls have been going well with commitments for people to join. Received commitment of \$2,000.00 from members towards the \$4,000.00 needed to purchase Christmas trees. Kraemer's Garden located in McMinnville has committed 200 trees. Tunnels to Towers (T2T) donations \$770 with over and over \$1500 still in account and over \$150 to be added to the account. Routine donation checks have been \$110 per month.

2nd Vice Commander Report Jim Connelly – Election of officers for Legion and Riders completed in April.

The scholarship committee met – 4 finalist picked – Two from Dayton (L. Wilson and A. Hargott) and two from Willamina (L. LaPoint and A. LaPoint). Each will receive \$1200 for a total awarded of \$4800.

Riders will be visiting four locations in Amity, Dayton, Carlton and McMinnville for Memorial Day Honor Ride. Requesting everyone available to attend opening day of McMinnville Park and Recreation Baseball Opening Day. Please be there for a group photograph.

State Convention June 14-17, Riders will deliver teddy bears; June 17th Take a Vet Fishing PIC Connelly; June 17th Sheridan Days; June 18th Father’s Day Aux doing the Honors 8-11; June 30th Korean War Veterans Breakfast – Free Breakfast provided by Sons of the American Legion; July 4th Legion Car Show; July 4th Baseball game in Keizer – TBA

Finance Officer Report: Current Post Account Balance \$273,058.76; Lottery Account \$90,323.99; Maintenance Account \$3,938.02; Operating Cash \$10,365.10; Total Assets: \$ 377,658.77. Monthly Asset Growth \$16,873.73; 12 month growth \$87,842.52

Motion: By Leroy Brown that the post accept the Finance Report as presented, seconded by Jim Connelly – PASSED.

Sons of the American Legion Report – Terry Naig – Korean War Breakfast is being hosted by Sons.

Riders Report Gale Sears – Riders Manual and new members – Auxiliary has an excellent method of transfers verification – Riders need to have a way to vetting them as members 27th is Riders night to help for Friday night dinner.

Requested to Speak to riders after the meeting in regard to department advertisement -- At a point with Post 21 riders being largest in the state – need to recognize success.

At Large Report Gale Sears – Applauded excellent work that Cheryl is doing with taking over as Finance Officer.

Auxiliary: Gregoria “Goya” Hernandez – Cinco de Mayo went fine, but hard to compete with many people going out of town. Mother’s Day event was a success. On Memorial Day we will go to cemetery to read poems and prayers. Urging Veteran families to reach out if you need help. The upcoming events are Poker Run and teddy bear collection. Poppies are held at Evergreen Aviation Museum from 10am-3pm on Saturdays – Any Legion member that would like to attend and assist are welcome as Veterans appreciate comradeship. The auxiliary will be at Evergreen Aviation Museum on May 26th poppy donations.

Chaplain Thomas Clayton – Extended prayer request to Veteran Dan Johnson to heal problems so he can once again become involved with Legion and VFW.

Memorial Day – A time to honor the ones that served this great country – Ride of Honor and Respect for the men and women who have served this great country. May we never forget them.

Kickstands up and Department Post 21 – 0845: There will be 4 stops throughout the county, First stop: Amity Cemetery: Second stop Dayton City Hall Wall of Honor: Third Stop Carlton Cemetery: Fourth Stop: Baker Creek Church Flags of Honor. Ride of Honor and Legion riders will be with Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion, and Sea Cadets.

Senator Brian Boquist will be speaking to reveal new sign honoring US Navy fallen hero. Master of Ceremonies will be Commander Palacios. There will be a reading of membership that has passed away over the past year and ringing of the bell along with playing of Taps. A news story has been submitted to the local newspaper. Also been in communication and planning with Baker Creek Church, Carlton Police Department, and the City Hall of Dayton.

Service Officer Report Chris Dauterman – Recognized VFW Commander Mike Billings and VFW VSO Mike Craig for making headway in assisting World War II US Navy Veteran Peggy Lutz. After several phone calls we coordinated Legion and VFW resources to begin the process of helping fix a broken sliding door. In discussions we found that the porch also may need a ramp or stairs. Update to Post 21 Service Officer website to include information and hyperlinks to the American Red Cross and emergency financial assistance: American Red Cross Emergency Services, Army Emergency Relief, Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, Air Force Aid Society, along with the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance. Took a moment to recognize that Oregon Veterans License Plate program was instantiated under the administration of Director Jim Willis and Deputy Director Paula Brown. Explained that we all must let Veterans know that license plate proceeds are the funding mechanism for the Oregon Veterans Home. Requested the Post take a moment of silence in honor of Jim Willis who passed away in June of 2021.

House Committee Gary Bert – Would like to add a Rider to the committee. Electrical box repair is finished. Asked everyone to be on the lookout for maintenance problems so they can be addressed as quickly as possible. Any House Committee member can take a report of a problem.

Unfinished business:

Commander states that Preamble needs to be updated with correction. American Legion advertisement for state convention needs designed.

Motion: By Steve Farley that the post allow Renee at Legion Headquarters design the advertisement, seconded by Leroy Brown – PASSED.

Rich Pimm reports that over the past 27th months the work is now complete on the Memorial. Overall total Cost for monument was \$26,959, Cost was \$18715 and another \$6826 for labor and parts. \$6453 remains in the account. E-Board was recently presented with floor options for main dining room that is broken, and needs replaced.

This was agreed upon to first look at the chairs for repair. A rough estimate is over \$10,000 to replace all the chairs. The chairs were donated by Michelbook Country Club and worked well on carpet. The chairs are on rollers that move when trying to stand. There have been reports of at least eight (8) falls since the chairs were installed. Currently the floor bid is \$12,406 and that includes a 30% discount. The current chair situation could void the warranty of a new floor.

New Business:

Bert's Chuckwagon BBQ requesting help for Oregon Brews and BBQ that is scheduled for June 16, 17, and 18 from Noon until 11pm. The website for the event is <https://orbrewsandbbqs.com/> and a portion of total sales is slated to provide funds to Legion Post 21. Saturday is Military Appreciation Day with discounted tickets for Active-Duty and Veterans. This is a family friendly event with a Kids Zone sponsored by Gormley Plumbing and Mechanical. However, the lead sponsor for glasses is still needed. Bert's Chuckwagon BBQ is requesting \$5,000 for sponsorship. The glasses will be emblazoned with the words American Legion Post 21, McMinnville, Oregon, Support our Troops. The American Legion logo cannot be used due to copyright rules. Both Steve Farley and Mike Billings stood in support of the request.

Motion: By Jim Connelly that the post donate \$5,000 for Oregon Brews and BBQ as sponsor of glasses, seconded by Leroy Brown – PASSED.

Recognition and Thank you from the Commander.

Commander recognized Mike Gregory, Rich Pimm, and Bob Berweger. Mike Gregory recognized for Cancer Foundation Bingo. Rich Pimm for work on Memorial. Bob Berweger for work taking care of Rose garden. Mike announced that cancer bingo is only allowed one day of month – donated \$1826. Rich attended E-Board meeting requesting another \$2,000 which matches VFW donation of \$2,000.

Mike wanted everyone to know that all money stays locally and helps community and military veterans and families.

Good of the Order

Date and time for Korean War Breakfast is being hosted by Sons.

Tri-tip dinner funds went to Juliette's House, Sons adopted Juliette's House.

Honor Guard – Military Honor of James Black

Please pray for families of veterans

United Honor Guard will post to watch over flags during Memorial Day

Honor Guard will present Honor Stones with name, prayer etching and will be managed by Rich Pimm. This honors veterans that do not have family.

Steve Farley – WWII Veteran in need of help – nice that VFW stepped up... Urged that we combine efforts - Wheel chair ramp – VFW Commander and VSO went out to help Peggy today. Combination of everyone working together.

Bob Berweger asked about Mike Paul and working on wheelchair ramp for a veteran – Commander Palacios is working with ramp that has been taken apart. Commander Palacios spent money to get the ramp fixed.

No further business.

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting June 21st