

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

Commander: Juan Palacios – Present  
1st Vice: Paul Krutsch – Present  
2nd Vice: Jim Connelly – Present  
Finance Officer: Cheryl Saville-Miller – Present  
Adjutant: Shirley Brown – Excused  
Judge Advocate: Steve Randles – Present  
Service Officer: Chris Dauterman – Present

Chaplain: Thomas Clayton – Present  
Historian: Leroy Brown – Present  
Sgt at Arms: Armand Pilotte – Present  
At Large: Mike Billings – Excused  
At Large: Bruce Peterson – Present  
At Large: Gale Sears – Present

**Motion:** By Rich that we accept the minutes as printed – Seconded by Leroy Brown – **PASSED.**

Introduction of Dignitaries: Carlton Post 173 Commander Anthony Schuh

**New Members:**

Steven LASTNAME?– California TRANSFER – Does not have DD214

**Chaplain Prayer Requests: Thomas Clayton** – Members that have passed are William Loop and Vic Banke. Please keep their families in your prayers. Sick and Prayers Requested; Bob Schultz, Terry Ward, Mike Morris, Gene Hamilton, Sam Fields, and Jim Connelly. Also please pray for Jimmy Wagner as he has had several falls. Also members needing prayers are Chaplain's wife has surgery scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ride of Honor was a success with 22 motorcycles. The events for Memorial Day were well attended. Chaplain asked everyone to pray for Veterans and Families that may not know are sick and in need of prayers.

**DRAPING OF THE CHARTER** – Vic Banke. Vic was the last World War II veteran with active membership with VFW Post 4015. He completed his basic training and was en route to Europe on D-Day, June 6, 1944. An infantry replacement, he was assigned to glider training in England, where he remained until early December, when he was sent to France. There, he joined a rifle company in the 325 Glider Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division. He saw his first combat in the Battle of the Bulge. His next campaign was the Rhineland. Half his battalion was lost in that February 2 battle. Vic was hit by small arms fire and was hospitalized for three weeks in France before returning to combat. His next and last campaign was Central Europe. On May 2, 1945, the 82nd Airborne Division liberated about 3500 survivors of the Wöbbelin concentration camp. He was preparing to go to the Pacific Theatre when the war ended. Vic was discharged on January 25, 1946. Along with VFW, Vic was a member of Veterans of the Bulge, Regimental and Division Associations, and the All Veterans Honor Guard. He and his wife Ruth attended numerous regimental reunions, including one in Europe. And in October 2013, Vic visited Washington, D.C. as part of the "Flight of Honor" program. A memorial service was held at St. John Lutheran Church. Vic was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. Donations in Vic's honor can be made to St. John Lutheran Church or Legacy PeaceHealth Hospice.

**Commander report** – Acknowledged work of the Legion Riders.

**Commanders Project** - Would like to see a fundraising effort for Rose Garden to have flag poles installed with flags for each branch of military service. The fundraiser could be based on each branch of service. This would be an honorable way to recognize our Veterans.

Father's Day Breakfast: Commander met a family of Veterans that served in the Marine Corps. Father and Mother Lieutenant Colonel's and daughter serving as Colonel. Commander acknowledged the Auxiliary donation of food for Fathers Day breakfast. Kitchen volunteers were also acknowledged with appreciation.

Commander reports there will be a 4<sup>th</sup> of July event at Wascher Elementary School in Lafayette at 10am. This event features Jim Connelly's band. The National Anthem will be played and students will march to the park for a festival.

Buddy check – call vets and check on them – calling to ask how they are doing – buddy check is not about collecting dues.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Report: Paul Krutsch** – Tunnels to Towers (T2T) donations \$880 with over and AROUND \$1,600 still in account. Routine donation checks have been \$110 per month.

Calls on membership – 411 total 88 new, Target of 449 – running at 91%, 306 renewals – Commander states that this is very good considering the Post does not have membership committee.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Report Jim Connelly** –

28th Riders Meeting, 30th Riders KP (I discovered last night that our night is to be the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bummer Dude), July 4th Post 21 Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ; July 4th Maverick Baseball in Salem/Keizer July 5th SAL mtg; July 6th Band of Brothers at Evergreen; July 7&8 POW WOW Grand Ronde July 11th House comm mtg; July 17th Activity comm mtg; July 17th E-Board; July 18th AUX Meeting; July 19th Gen Leg Mtg; July 26th Rider Mtg July 29th News due to Shirley. July 30 Korean War Vets dine by the SAL from 8-11

Coming Up

August 26th Rider Scholarship Poker Run; September 9th District 2 Meeting at Post 21; September 28th-October 1st Oregon International Air Show; November 28<sup>th</sup> – 500 Christmas Trees arrive at the Post.

**Service Officer:** Department of Oregon American Legion has a mission to reduce Veteran Suicide through an Outreach campaign known as BE THE ONE. The website is online at <https://www.legion.org/betheone>. The new phone number for Veterans is 988. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. The Veterans Crisis Line serves Veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and those who support them. Reminded everyone that it is the Veterans decision to select a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), attorney, or claims agent for assistance in filing claims. Many Veterans choose to get free assistance from organizations such as the American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Post 9/11 Combat Veterans are eligible to request assistance from the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). VSO's staff accredited Service Officers that will ask you to sign a limited power of attorney. This allows the VSO to speak with the VA on your behalf. It's important to know that Department of Oregon American Legion accredited Service Officers can be reached by calling (503) 412-4706. Additional contact information is online at <https://orlegion.org/service-officer/>.

**Finance Officer:** Current Post Account Balance \$270,299.26; Lottery Account \$90,949.51; Maintenance Account \$3,938.02; Operating Cash \$10,483.07 – Total Assets: \$375,670.26; Monthly Asset Growth \$-2015.61; 12 month growth \$85,826.91

Discussion – Bob Berweger asked about membership voting on new floor and chair – this was voted for during an emergency meeting due to safety – E-Board passed

Rich asked about the status of the \$2,000 donation that was passed for the Willamette Valley Cancer Foundation.

Motion: By Leroy Brown that Post 21 accept the Finance Report as presented, seconded by Jim Connelly – PASSED.

**Sons of the American Legion (SAL) report:** Del White – New commander for squadron 21. Commander White is implementing a TEAM approach; Together Everyone Achieves More

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bill Lindemann; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Steve Kindel; Adjutant Terry Naig Finance Terry Naig; Chaplain Pete Jensen; Sergeant at Arms Brandon Lepkowski; Advisor Angel Mendoza. Membership cards are being processed. Korean War Remembrance Breakfast will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Juliette's House donation of \$2208.88. The main source of the donation from the Tri-Tip dinner proceeds from April. The additional amount was from the General fund.

**At Large Report: Gale Sears** – Convention magazine – Post advertisement turned out great – picture of the Legion Riders with Peggy Lutz.

**Riders Report: Gale Sears** – Teddy bear run --- 440 bears and toys donated. The event included a Police escort to the Kids' HOPE Center of the Bay Area Hospital. Number of riders was outstanding. \$5,000 scholarships to 4 students – looking to add a 5<sup>th</sup> scholarship for a total of \$6,250. Poker run – \$1,000 donation for high hand – There will be a great amount of planning over the next 6 to 8 weeks. Chaplain needed for membership for Legion Riders.

**At large Report: Bruce Peterson:** Bruce and Commander helped veteran in Sheridan with a ramp – This was a joint effort with the Sheridan American Legion Post helping to install a ramp.

**Auxiliary Report: Gregoria "Goya" Hernandez** – Debra Godwin is new president for Auxiliary Unit 21. Debra praised Post members as best in the state. The Post will be holding a BBQ at the American Legion on July 4<sup>th</sup> and would like everyone to attend. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ will be 11am to 4pm and have an Old Fashioned theme. The event will include a Dunk Tank, Corn Hole, Watermelon. Those attending are invited to bring additional food including desserts and side dishes. Please contact the Auxiliary for additional questions about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ at the Legion.

The Post will be installing a new floor in the dining room. This will require the Post to be closed for up to two days. During this time the Post will undergo a deep cleaning. Deb also stated that this would be an excellent time to add inventory to the POS software. Post members should be aware that there will soon be food increases. Prices have not been changed in many years. There is consideration to add a lower priced Honors Menu/Lighter Fare. Currently meals are provided at no cost for World War II and Korean War Veterans. A smaller portion could be considered for older Veterans who would like half-sizes of dinners.

August 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a Crawfish boil held 5-10pm.

Goya – Auxiliary was not able to help for Father's Day as many members were out of town and helping at other locations. Cheryl acknowledged the volunteers that worked for the event. McMinnville student sponsored Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp. A \$1,500 scholarship was awarded. Another scholarship will be for trade school student.

**Historian Report: Leroy Brown** – Nicole Johnson graduated from Oregon State University. Nicole is the niece of LCDR Angel Uscanga of the Iron Side Division Sea Cadets. Leroy will work to design a card with a picture of the Post building and Rose Garden. If you know the family and would like to contribute, please see Leroy.

**Chaplain Report: Thomas Clayton** – Chaplain is leading the effort to document volunteer hours. ARMY: 288.5 hours; MARINE CORPS: 139 hours; NAVY: 78 hours; AIR FORCE: 20.5 hours; SAL: 252.5 hours; LEGION RIDERS: 295.5 hours TOTAL: 1074 hours

**Judge Advocate Report: Steve Randles** – Vulgarity is an issue in the lounge that may deter membership and families. Please help out and if you see someone being vulgar – please ask them to tone it down. Exercise situational awareness to uphold family environment of dining room. It was reported that a beer can was thrown at staff. It is important to report any incident as our volunteers and cooks deserve respect. Unacceptable behavior should be reported.

**House Committee: Gary Bert** – Requesting that anything broken in the building be reported to the House Committee. Would like to see a fundraiser to purchase larger TV's. Floors and Chairs will be installed in August. Gale request to ensure that the Post remains open for the Poker Run on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Unfinished business:**

Richard Bert of Bert's Chuckwagon BBQ reported on the success of Oregon Brews and BBQ. The opening ceremonies were honorable. Asked for round of applause for everyone that helped. Raised \$52,390. Presented checks for Legion, Aux, SAL, Legion Riders for 10% of sales.

Commander – Bert's Chuckwagon BBQ has done a lot of work for the Legion. Often donating his own money to provide for repair of BBQ equipment. The work and volunteer effort by Bert's Chuckwagon BBQ is very much appreciated and asked for a round of applause.

No further business.

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting July 19th