

THE AMERICAN LEGION-POST 21
126 Atlantic Street NE — McMinnville — OR — 97128
General Membership Meeting – September 16, 2020

ROLL CALL:

Commander – Steve Farley, **present**
First Vice – Terry Ward, **present**
Second Vice – Cody Pankey, **present**
Finance Officer – Gale Sears, **present**
Adjutant – Shirley Brown, **present**
Judge Advocate – Steve Randles, **present**
Service Officer – Juan Palacios, **present**

Chaplain – Thomas Clayton, **present**
Historian – Leroy Brown, **present**
Sgt. At Arms – Jim Connelly, **present**
At Large – Jeanne Clayton, **present**
At Large – Paul Schnell, **present**
At Large – vacant

New Members: Chad Cape – Army 101st Airborne; Denise Ricketts – Army; Leonard Wickware – Coast Guard.

Motion: Juan Palacios that we accept all three as new members, seconded by Leroy Brown – **Passed**.

Guest: Lilly, Harley and Delaney Riha members of the Junior Auxiliary made over 2,000 air savers that were presented to Oregon Veteran's homes, Willamette Valley Medical Center and to the Grande Ronde Tribe. Commander Farley thanked them for all they did for the Veteran's home, the Hospital and the veterans of Grande Ronde.

Auxiliary President – Debra Godwin on November 11, 1921 the first unknown Soldier was interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Next year marks the 100th Anniversary of The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier there are plans to have a ceremony on third street in McMinnville and we would like to see everyone there to support our troops.

Review of Minutes: Motion by Paul Schnell that the minutes be approved as presented, seconded by Jim Connelly - **Passed**.

Finance Officer: Post Account \$50,054.34; Lottery Account \$38,61; Cash \$17,572.34 for a \$91,176.13. We also have \$8,500 in Key Bank from the Payroll Protection Program. This money should be released to us in November and most likely we will qualify to get most if not all of the \$8,500. Active Tax Accounting is still working on 2018 and 2019 taxes. Finance Committee recommends that the Post purchase QuickBooks for \$75 to do our own Accounting.

Motion: Paul Schnell that we move forward with the recommendations of the Finance Committee and purchase QuickBooks, seconded by Leroy Brown – **Passed**.

Finance Committee also recommends that we hire a bookkeeper at the rate of \$18.00 for a three month probationary period with a raise to \$20.00 after the 90 day probationary period.

Motion: Paul Schnell that again follow the recommendation of the Finance Committee and hire a bookkeeper at the rate of \$18.00 per hour and the Executive Board to review the possibility of a raise after the 90 day probationary period, seconded by Jim Connelly– **Passed**.

Commanders Report: Stated that we cancelled the Executive Board meeting on Monday due to the Air Quality, would like to thank everyone for showing up for today's meeting, it is great to see so many members in attendance.

1st Vice: I will be working with our Adjutant on membership not only new members but retention of our current members.

2nd Vice: Terry Ward filling in as 2nd Vice, since we are still under phase II there isn't much we can do. The Scholarship Poker Run is this weekend and volunteers are needed, if you have the time, please consider helping out – set-up on Friday, ride and BBQ on Saturday with tear down on Sunday. There was a sign-up sheet for last weekend's ride that was cancelled, hopefully everyone who signed up will show up.

Sgt. at Arms: Article in the paper today about Local Author, Mike Paul who wrote a children's book, The Fastest Porker in the West, he will be outside Third Street books selling and signing on Saturday, September 19th from 2-4. Mr. Connelly recommends everyone read this book. There is also an obituary for Richard Carmine, one of our members who recently passed, there will be a celebration of life at the post on October 10 at 2:00 pm. He will be missed. Motorcycle Auction has closed, winner was John Mohammed but having difficulty getting ahold of him.

Service Officer: Request for assistance from a Navy Veteran who served on the USS Constellation, got him into an apartment but it's on the second floor and he has difficulty. Got a call from the Department Service Officer that someone who was evacuated and staying at the Best Western in Sheridan was in need of money to buy diapers. A little concerned because there is no Best Western in Sheridan, called him back and said they already took care of it and got them some money to purchase diapers.

Honor Guard: The Honor Guard performed full military honors for the following individuals: Robert Johnston – US Army at St. James Cemetery on August 17, 2020; Robert Russell – Korean War Veteran at Pike Cemetery on August 22, 2020; Carl Webb – WWII Merchant Marine at Yamhill Carlton Cemetery on August 22, 2020; David Taylor – Air Force Veteran at his home on August 24. The Honor Guard also did a flag raising for a WWII Navy veteran at his home, he was very humbled. Performed a 9/11 ceremony at The American Legion Memorial Post 173 in Carlton and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Oregon Commander for the 9/11 ceremonies. Performed a rifle salute at Macy Funeral homes for returning fallen soldier PFC Alexander Klass.

Adjutant: We have now reached 56% in membership renewals. Please consider paying your dues sooner rather than later. Deadline for October newsletter is September 24th.d

Chaplain: Praying for our members and their families, if you need prayer, just let him know.

Volunteer hours – Army 40; Marines .5; Navy 67; SAL 22.5; Riders 102 = total hours 1,195.

Historian: Post 21 was chartered on August 20, 1920 we were to have a Centennial Celebration but due to COVID and the recent fires it didn't happen. The Coin is in the process, need to pay for the second half. Looking at maybe doing something on Veterans Day.

Motion: Dan Brown that we give active members who show up a Post 21 Centennial Coin with a limit of \$300.00, seconded by Jim Connelly – **Passed.**

Riders: Scholarship Run is this Saturday; volunteers are needed for set-up Friday starting at 4:00. If you have a canopy that we can use, please bring it then. There will be a Raffle and BBQ after the Ride. We have Riders coming in from Portland, Albany, Salem and other outlying areas. We will be riding to Tillamook – registration starts at 8:30 with the first bike out at 9:00 last bike out at 10:00.

Auxiliary: Auxiliary is starting on the Christmas baskets in anticipation of a greater need this year. They will also be helping during the Scholarship Poker Run.

Son's: Still looking at putting on the Oyster Feed as soon as we can. Will be putting the pigs back out with money being donated locally to Juliette's House.

NEW BUSINESS: Bob Berweger stated he would like to see the Post do something to assist those who have been burned out and need help. Gale Sears stated he would like to see more publicity regarding what the Legion does, feels it is important to get our name out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Bob Berweger asked when the new flooring will be going in that was voted on in June. Commander Farley stated that since Terry Naig stepped down from the House Committee and the addition of COVID-19 and the recent fires there has not been anyone come forward to help with the installation.

NEW BUSINESS: Member Dan Brown presented the club with a sign he would like to see at the Post but if the members didn't want to post it that would be ok. Sign reads NOTICE, This place is Politically Incorrect, We Say, Merry Christmas, One Nation Under God, We Salute Our Flag & Give Thanks to Our Troops, If This Offends You – LEAVE.

Motion: Steve Randles that accept the sign and hang it on the front door – second, Leroy Brown – **Passed.**

Acie Dunlap said he would donate a sign that stated We stand for the Flag, kneel for the Cross – second, Tim Anderson – **Passed,** with one member opposed.

Jim Connelly let everyone know that George Beal, WWII Veteran who was stationed on the USS Arizona during WWII has passed away, funeral is Saturday, September 18th at Macy's at 11:00, anyone who can, please attend, we are losing our WWII veterans.