



Hopewell Memorial Post 146, The American Legion
Summary of Previous Meetings

December 21, 2021 General Membership Meeting and
January 4, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

January 10, 2022

The following is a summary of the December 21, 2021 General Membership and January 4, 2022 Executive Committee Meetings.

December 21, 2021 General Membership Meeting

1. A summary of the November 16, 2021 General Membership and December 7, 2021 Executive Committee Meetings. was provided for member review on the Post website and before the meeting. The meeting summary was approved as presented.

2. Officer Reports:

a. Membership (1st Vice):

- Candidates for membership in the Legion and Post 146 were: James Aultman (USAF), Joseph Budjinski III (USMC), Toret Shone (USN) and Christopher Baldwin (USA).

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the above listed candidates as members in the American Legion and Post 146.

- Post now stands at 77% of the renewal goal [284 completed renewals vs. the 369 target] which means we have 85 members yet to renew.

b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice): No report

c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): Cannot hold Bingo on December 22nd as the caller is out of town and we do not have sufficient volunteers to staff tables and sell instant game cards (pull-tabs). Bingo is planned for Wednesday, December 29th.

d. House Committee:

- Walk-In Cooler: Dutton Equipment Repair Co. serviced the unit and repaired it.
- Sanitizer: Circulation Pump broke and was repaired. Heating element and installation anchors must be replaced Awaiting parts.
- Staffing: Staffing remains a problem. The NEED IS CRITICAL. Advertisements are running on the Post website and Facebook page.
- Sewer pipe replacement: City must survey Hopewell Street to determine if we can run a line from the Legion Hall rest rooms to the sewer. We are awaiting the city's report. If we can connect to the sewer system via Hopewell

Street rather than replacing the present line which runs to Poythress Street, it will save the Post time and money.

- Annual Staff Performance Evaluations: Performance evaluations are underway and expected to be completed by the end of December.
 - Liquor Lockers: Locker repair and upgrade is underway. Plan is to complete all work by the end of December. Members may begin to rent lockers on January 1, 2022. Members may begin to use lockers as of January 3, 2022. Annual rental is \$12.00.
 - New Year's Eve Party: There will be a New Year's Eve Party in the Legion Hall this year. Doors open at 7:00 pm; tickets are \$25.00. This event is open to the public. Advance tickets are on sale in the Club Room.
- e. Finance Officer: For EOM November - Total Income: \$60,653.04; Total Expenses: \$64,460.35 Net Income: -\$3,807.31 Account Balances: VTAB -\$16,136.90; BINGO - \$18,704.18; Restricted - \$2,746.49; General - \$24,680.63 [ATM/Kiosk Holdings: \$31,114.00]. The Edward Jones investment account stood at \$80,788.99.
- f. Chaplain: No report
- g. Service Officer: No report
- h. Historian:
- December 16, 1773 - **The Boston Tea Party** occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 containers of expensive tea into the water.
 - December 25, 1776 - During the American Revolution, **George Washington led 2,400 men across the Delaware River and conducted a surprise raid on 1,500 British-Hessians (German mercenaries) at Trenton, New Jersey.** The Hessians surrendered after an hour of fighting with nearly 1,000 taken prisoner by Washington's Continentals who suffered only six wounded (including future president then Lt. James Monroe). The victory provided a much-needed boost to American morale.
- i. Judge Advocate: No report
- j. Sgt.-at-Arms: No report
- k. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Executives: No reports
3. Correspondence: None received
4. Old Business: (Cdr): None presented
5. New Business (Cdr): None presented

6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):

- Commander Harless reminded all present of the upcoming Christmas Eve Dinner from noon until 2:00 pm on December 24th. All were encouraged to attend. Sides and desserts are welcome. The Post will close at 5:00 pm that day.
- 50/50 Drawing winner (Sgt.-at-Arms): John Whitehead won \$3.00 in the 50/50 drawing.
- Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt.-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$140. The number drawn was 052, Steve Shirley. Legionnaire Shirley was not present, so the jackpot will be \$160 at the January 18, 2022 meeting.

January 4, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

1. **Summary of Previous Meeting** (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet with a summary of the December 7, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting was provided to all committee members prior to the meeting. The December 7th meeting summary was reviewed and approved.

2. Officer Reports -

- Membership (1st Vice): Post now stands at 85% of the LY 2022 target (369), with 52 members still to renew. Difficulties with posting renewal, transfers and new member information to the nation database continue .
- Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice):
 - Submitted the decision of one \$2,000 scholarship for the Post’s annual scholarship in memory of Daniel Barbee to the John Randolph Foundation.
 - Had planned to conduct the Patriotic Essay Contest with students at Carter G. Woodson Middle School but the increase in the COVID Omicron variant has put the contest in doubt. We may not be able to hold it this year because of restrictions at the school.
- Bingo (3rd Vice):

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP - DECEMBER

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Donations	Available for Donation
December	\$40,385.25	\$4,038.53	\$2,925.00	\$2,990.57	\$5,915.57	0
As of Dec 30	\$425,427.20	\$42,543.75	\$29,255.00	\$11,108.77	\$40,363.77	+/- Target -\$2,179.98

- The Post saw average income from Bingo in December, especially as we did not have Bingo on Dec 22nd. End of the year accounting indicated that the Post was \$2,179.98 short of the mandated 10 percent annual requirement.
- As directed at the December 7th meeting, the Post Finance Officer and Post Adjutant met on December 30th and reviewed total Bingo income and donations for the 2021 calendar year to determine if the Post had met the 10% donation target required by Virginia Charitable Gaming Rules and Regulations. The review revealed that the Post had donated \$40,363.77 against a target of \$42,543.75, falling \$2,179.98 short of the required target.
- In view of the shortfall, \$2,500.00 was transferred from the Bingo Account to the Bingo Restricted Account bringing the total donated to \$42,863.77 or 10.07% of Bingo's gross annual receipts, meeting the required target.
- Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM December - Total Income: \$63,749.10; Total Expenses: \$75,112.42 Net Income: -\$11,363.32 Account Balances: VTAB - \$11,001.80; BINGO - \$18,886.20; Restricted - \$6,746.49; General - \$19,825.80 [ATM/Kiosk Holdings: \$28,446.00]. The Edward Jones investment account stands at approximately \$85,000.00.
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Sewer Issues: Awaiting city action to determine if we may have an access point to sewer system on Hopewell Street. Once that is known, plumber can cost estimate and probably work schedule. During work, Legion Hall rest room will not be in service, so we cannot hold Bingo or meetings for groups whose members cannot access the Club Room's rest rooms.
 - Sanitizer: Still awaiting parts to repair the sanitizer. Once received, we will make repairs ourselves at cost saving for the Post.
 - Staffing: Staffing remains a problem. The NEED REMAINS CRITICAL. Advertisements are running on the Post website.
 - Liquor Locker Refurbishing: Work to refurbish liquor lockers began on or about Dec 18th. Annual rental will be \$12.00 (\$1.00/month) which is consistent with other private organizations (VFW, Eagles, Moose). Work was scheduled to be completed by Jan 1st, but we are waiting to receive the new locks. Members may rent lockers and begin using them on Monday, Jan 3rd.
 - Christmas Eve Dinner: The Christmas Eve Dinner was a success with about 70 people attending.
 - Cost Increases and Shortages: As mentioned in the January newsletter, the Post has been experiencing rising food, beverages, and supply costs for the past 60 days. We anticipate the trend to continue. The House Committee is

reviewing possible price increases and possibly limiting menu selection because of shortages.

- End of the Year Club Room Report: The following charts describe Club Room sales compared to previous years' sales.

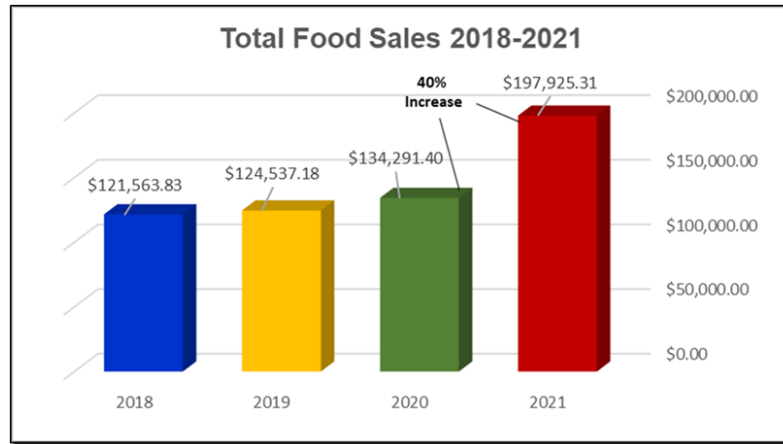


Chart 1 - Total Food Sales Over the Past Four Years

Note: Total 2021 sales do not include \$2,500 realized from the 2021 New Year's Eve Party. Including those sales brings the annual total to \$200,425.31.

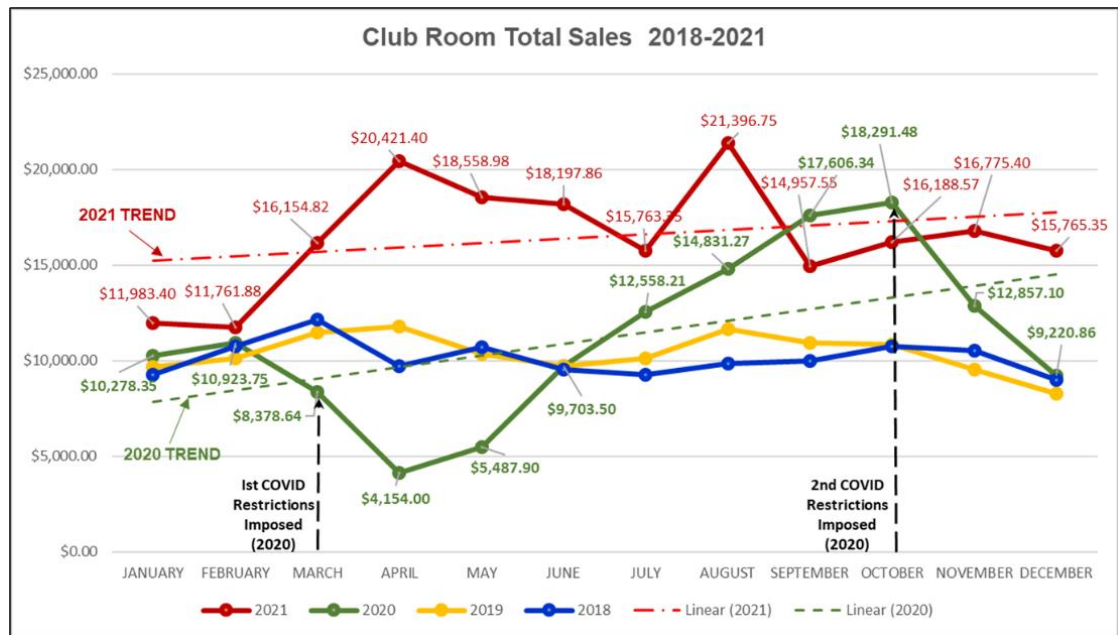



Chart 2 – Monthly Club Room Sales 2018-2021

Although a shallower trend than 2020, average gross sales continued to increase. This, despite the fact that the 2nd COVID restrictions were not lifted until March, 2021. Without COVID impacts, the pattern somewhat reflects the 2019 sales pattern, but at a much higher volume as shown in Chart 2.

- New Year's Eve Party: About 120 people attended the event which featured the Donnie Barber Project as the house band. Proceeds from tickets, plus bar and catering sales totaled about \$2,500.00.
- Service Officer: No report
- Chaplain:
 - **Clyde Powers** is home from the hospital and managing.
 - Attempted to contact **Steven Hunter** as he was recently released from the hospital but could only leave a voice mail on his telephone.
 - **Megan Schummer's** mother-in-law recently passed away. Megan is the Post's Bar Manager. Sympathy card sent on behalf of the Post.
 - **Bible Study** is scheduled to begin Feb 7th at 6:00 pm
- Historian: Special dates/events:
 - January 1, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the **Grand Union Flag**, the first national flag in America. 
 - January 1, 1863 - **The Emancipation Proclamation** by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.
 - January 12, 1991 - Congress authorized **President George Bush** to use military force against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.
 - January 21, 1954 - The **USS Nautilus**, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, was launched at Groton, Connecticut.
 - January 23, 1968 - The **USS Pueblo** was seized by North Koreans in the Sea of Japan amid claims the Navy ship was spying. The ship was impounded and its crew held in captivity until December, with one fatality.
 - January 27, 1973 - **U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended** with the signing of the 'Paris Peace Accords'. The U.S. agreed to remove all remaining troops within 60 days thus ending the longest war [to that time] in American history.
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Quarterly Initiation Ceremony will be conducted at the January 18th General Membership Meeting. Dinner for new members begins at 6:00 pm.
- Judge Advocate:
 - Reviewed the Post's insurance policy with Mr. Lee Mahaney, Ford Insurance Agency. The policy is scheduled for renewal in February and no changes are necessary at this time.
 - Plan to schedule a special Lunch and Learn session on the topic of money management on a Wednesday in February. No date set yet.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Executives: No reports

3. Correspondence:

- Thank you letter from VFW Post 637 and Auxiliary Post 637 for supporting the 8th Annual Jerry Ellis Memorial Golf Tournament.
- Thank you letter from the president of ALA Unit 146, Daniella Kyriakides, for the donation of \$1,000 to the Unit.

4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator): Birch-Miller American Legion Post 9, Milbank SD request an unspecified donation to help purchase land on which the Post will construct a new baseball field to replace the "Legion Field" in use for Legion baseball since 1925. The original tract on which the ball field was situated is owned by the Milbank School District and the City of Milbank, and is now the site for building a new elementary school.

It was recommended that the Post not respond to this request as the request clearly does not meet criteria of the Post's donation policy; it supports activities outside of the policy's established geographical area boundaries.

ACTION: The committee chose to take no action on this request.

Additionally, committee members were provided a Donations Plan (Encl 2) for the 2022 Calendar Year. The plan will help guide donations throughout the next year.

5. Old Business: Bus Tours to Virginia area museums was identified as an initiative at the last strategic planning session. Commander Harless reported that Grover Gaming committed \$2,000 to support such trips for veterans. The first proposed trip is to the USMC Museum at Quantico, VA. Another option is the newly opened U.S. Army Museum at Ft. Belvoir, VA. Research indicates it would cost from \$1,200 to \$2,000 to rent a 50 passenger, deluxe coach and provide box lunches. It was recommended that each participant pay \$10.00 for a trip reservation.

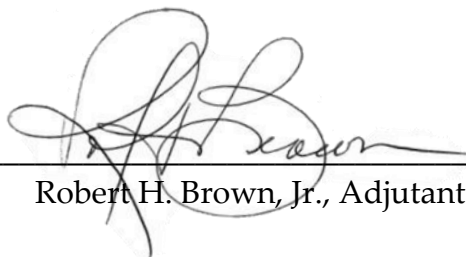
6. New Business: None presented

7. Good of the Legion: Wreaths will be prick up from the City Point National Cemetery on Saturday, Jan 8th beginning at 9:00 am.

8. Closing: Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm

⇒NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Official Summary of the Meeting/Conduct of Business is attested by the undersigned.



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant