



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

January 19, 2021 General Membership Meeting and
February 2, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

February 10, 2021

The following is a summary of the January 19, 2021 General Membership and the February 2, 2021 Executive Committee Meetings.

January 19, 2021 General Membership Meeting

The scheduled General Membership Meeting was not held due to new restrictions imposed by Governor Ralph Northam because of increases in COVID-19 cases across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

February 2, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

NOTE: Due to changes in COVID-19 restrictions, the February 2, 2020 meeting was conducted remotely (electronically).

1. **Correspondence:** Non received

2. **Officer Reports:**

- Membership (1st Vice):
 - As of Jan 28th, the Post stands at 88.2% of the target (365) for this year
 - Candidates for membership: Because the December and January General Membership meetings were cancelled, request that the Executive Committee conditionally approve candidates for membership (subject to verification when next the General Membership meets).
 - New: Tim Grooms (USA); Adam Wesley Harless (USA – Active Duty); Joseph Saunders (USAF); Kenneth Hendricks (USAF), Robert O. Brown (USA) and Fred Sission (USA)
 - Transfer: J. Lee Boyle (USAF) transfer from Post 24 in Maine. He is PUFL.

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED which stipulated that during the pandemic emergency, when the General Membership cannot meet, and upon the 1st Vice verifying that a candidate has presented documentation which validates/affirms the candidate's standing as a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces,

Coast Guard or Merchant Marine, the Executive Committee may vote to accept the candidate subject to general membership approval when the next full general membership meeting is convened.

- Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): No report – Schools continuing distance learning. No middle school essay contest will be conducted this year.
- Bingo (3rd Vice): No Report
- Post Finances (Fin Off): Beginning Balance: \$97,379.54; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$83,215.72; Expenditures \$100,086.12. Net end of month balance for January was \$80,505.03. (see attached report)
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Recovered BINGO Hall stage with new carpet tile
 - Installed Levelor adjustable blinds in BINGO Hall windows.
 - In the process of replacing metal doors leading into the building to strengthen building security.
 - Completing the upgrade to the Post Wi-Fi system with the installation of new multi-directional broadcast antenna.
 - Continue to use Sundays to thoroughly clean and sanitize Club Room area. Based on Governor Northam's latest guidance, we cannot hold meetings in groups of ten or more. Guidance on Club Room operations remain in effect.
 - Actively searching for at least two new bartender/servers. Cannot open for full weekend operations until we have additional staff.
 - As illustrated in the February newsletter, old carpet and floor tile were removed from the BINGO Hall. We are awaiting delivery of the new manufactured flooring
 - Completed first ever standardized annual performance evaluations for staff.
- Service Officer: No report
- Chaplain:
 - Dan Benka passed away on January 27, 2021. He was visiting family in Arizona. No funeral/memorial plans have been announced as yet.
 - Looking at the possibility of the Four Chaplains/Post Everlasting Ceremony scheduled for Feb 21st being done 'virtually' due to the governor's restrictions.
- Historian: February events are:
 - February 2, 1848 - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts or all of present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas. The treaty was ratified on March 10, 1848.
 - February 3, 1943 - An extraordinary act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship Dorchester was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains (Chaplain George L. Fox, Chaplain Alexander

D. Goode, Chaplain Clark V. Poling, and Chaplain John P. Washington) on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying. Each chaplain received the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross posthumously.

- February 15, 1898 - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"
- February 22, 1732 - George Washington (1732-1799) was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served as commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and was the first U.S. President.

- Sgt-at-Arms: No report
- Judge Advocate: No report
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Executives: No reports

3. **Donation Requests** No further action on donations until BINGO operations resume.

4. **Old Business:** None presented

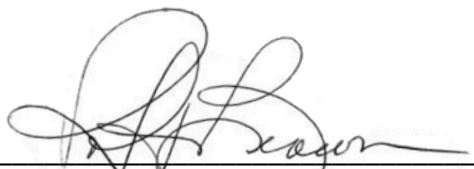
5. **New Business:**

Question was presented concerning authority for staff pay increases. It was understood by some members that the Executive Committee had to approve pay increases.

Action: The pay action was taken by the House Committee. It is the House Committee's understanding that they are responsible for all employee actions. Commander will review the Post By-Laws to ascertain/verify the procedure for employee pay increases and report his findings to Executive Committee members by e-mail.

NOTE: Review of Post By-Laws revealed that employee actions (hiring, firing, pay, etc.) are not addressed. It is therefore recommended that the Post By-Laws be amended to specify such authorities concerning employee management and administration as the Executive Committee may wish to identify.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant