



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

**February 16, 2021 General Membership Meeting and  
March 2, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting**

March 11, 2021

The following is a summary of the February 16, 2021 General Membership and the March 2, 2021 Executive Committee Meetings.

**February 16, 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.

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**March 2, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting**

NOTE: Due to changes in COVID-19 restrictions, the February 2, 2020 meeting was conducted with some members participating telephonically.

1. **Correspondence:** Non received

2. **Officer Reports:**

- Membership (1st Vice):
  - As of February 25th, the Post stands at 90.68% of the target (365) for this year
  - Candidates for membership: Because the December, January, and February General Membership meetings were cancelled, request that the Executive Committee approve candidates for membership.
    - New: Charles Spain (Navy); David Merritt (Army); Charles Wright (USMC); and Aubrey B Connelly (Army)
    - Transfer: Daniel Lindsey (Army); transfer from Post 141

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
- Bingo (3rd Vice): No Report
- Post Finances (Fin Off): Beginning Balance: \$80,505.03; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$63,618.47; Expenditures \$58,315.52. Net end of month balance for January was \$85,807.98. (see attached report)
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
  - Nealy all the new floor covering has been installed.
  - In the process of replacing metal doors leading into the building to strengthen building security.
  - Plans underway for installing countertops and redesigned bar area.
  - Two four-person, high tables added to Club Room. Purchased by donations.
  - New Post Wi-Fi system with firewall installed and operating.
  - Based on Governor Northam's latest guidance, we still cannot hold group meetings of more than 10 people. Previous guidance on Club Room operations remains in effect. Continue to use Sundays to thoroughly clean and sanitize Club Room area.
  - Actively searching for at least two new bartender/servers using "Indeed". One bartender/server candidate, Lindsey Baldwin, hired. Seven (7) more candidates asked to come for interview. Cannot open for full weekend operations until we have additional staff.
- Service Officer: No report
- Chaplain:
  - Completed video recording of Four Chaplains and Post Everlasting Ceremonies on February 20th. Videos (or links) will be posted to Post website and Facebook page as soon as they become available.
  - Attended funeral service for Dan Benka on February 20th.
- Historian: February events are:
  - March 4, 1789 - The first meeting of the new Congress under the new U.S. Constitution took place in New York City.
  - March 5, 1770 - *The Boston Massacre* occurred as a group of rowdy Americans harassed British soldiers who then opened fire, killing five and injuring six. The first man killed was Crispus Attucks, an African American. British Captain Thomas Preston and eight of his men were arrested and charged with murder. Their trial took place in October, with colonial lawyer John Adams defending the British. Captain Preston and six of his men were acquitted. Two others were found guilty of manslaughter, branded, then released.
  - March 8, 1863 - During the American Civil War, Confederate Colonel John Mosby, leader of Mosby's Rangers, captured Union General E.H. Stoughton at his headquarters in Fairfax County Courthouse, Virginia.

- March 23, 1775 - Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"



- March 29, 2017 – President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, creating Vietnam Veterans Day. The day honors US military members who served during the Vietnam War (1955-1975).
- Sgt-at-Arms: No report
- Judge Advocate: No report
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Executives: No reports

3. **Donation Requests:** Received an announcement from Post 88 in Suffolk. They are holding their 13th Annual Golf Tournament on May 15, 2021 at the Sleepy Hole Golf Course in Suffolk. Entry fee is \$260.00 for a four-person team.

Check-in/Registration begins at 11:30 am; Shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Reservation and Registration due not later than May 8th. Sponsorships ranging from \$50.00 to \$1,000 are available.

ACTION: a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to field a four-person team and pay the \$260 team entry fee and purchase a \$125 Silver Sponsorship (Total: \$385)

4. **Old Business:** None presented

5. **New Business:**

- a. Reference the question about authority for employee personnel actions brought up at the February meeting. As noted in the 02 Feb 21 meeting summary, the Post By-Laws do not address the question of responsibility for personnel actions (including pay). In view of this shortcoming, recommend that Art III, *Duties of Officers*, Sec.13, *House Committee* be changed to add a sub para c. which reads:

**c. The House Committee shall have the primary responsibility to oversee all employee personnel policies and procedures to include setting salaries and wages; and the employment, evaluation, discipline, and separation of Post staff members.**

Paragraphs c and d would be redesignated as paras d and e, respectively with their content unchanged.

- b. As restrictions initiated because of the COVID pandemic required the cancellation of General Membership meetings for periods greater than 30 days, the Executive Committee found itself in the unprecedented position of having to approve expenditures, purchases or allocations in excess of the \$2,500.00 authorized in the By-Laws. To correct this shortcoming, recommend that By-Laws Art. II, *Management*,

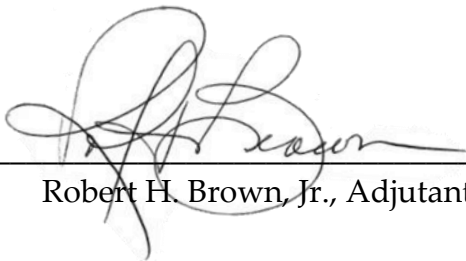
Section 6, *Financial Authorities*, sub para a be changed to read: [addition highlighted in blue]

a. After consultation with the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee, the Executive Committee may authorize and approve normal expenditures of Post funds in an amount not to exceed twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) in the normal operation of the Post. Any and all expenditures authorized by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Post membership at the next regular meeting. Any expenditure exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) shall be referred to the Post membership for a vote at a regularly scheduled meeting. **Should an emergency occur in which the full Post membership is not be able to meet for a period of more than 30 days, the Executive Committee may obligate and expend the funds necessary to initiate and/or maintain Post operations (i.e., pay staff salaries/wages, make operations-related expenditures, purchase expendable and non-expendable supplies and equipment, make necessary repairs and improvements, and pay other bills, taxes and fees required to keep the Post operating.**

ACTION: Committee members were asked to review the proposed changes and be prepared to make final edits, if necessary, at the April Executive Committee meeting. Once accepted by the Executive Committee, the recommended changes will be presented to the general membership for review at the April General Membership meeting and presented for approval at the May General Membership meeting.

- c. Officer Nominations for the 2021-22 Legion year: The Commander polled committee members and ascertained that the positions of 2nd Vice Commander, Chaplain and 3rd year Executive will need to be filled. The Commander asked all members to recommend candidates for those positions to the Nominating Committee [Andy Pawlowski, Clyde Powers and Beau Tucker], himself or the Post Adjutant. It was also recommended that the vacancies be announced in the April newsletter.

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



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Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant