



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

**June 15, 2021 General Membership Meeting and
July 6, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting
July 20, 2021**

The following is a summary of the June 15, 2021 General Membership and July 6, 2021 Executive Committee Meetings.

June 15, 2021 General Membership Meeting

1. New Member Orientation: The Post conducted a New Member Initiation Ceremony for those new members which had joined the American Legion and the Post since last January. The ceremony was conducted as outlined in the Officers' Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.
2. A summary of the May 18th General Membership and June 1st Executive Committee Meetings were provided for member review on the Post website and before the meeting. The meeting summary was approved as presented.
3. Officer Reports:
 - a. Membership (1st Vice): Candidates for membership in the Legion and Post 146 are:
 - Bradley Sales (USA/USAF) - Chia Gallahun (USAF)
 - Carmen Martin (USAF) - Vincent Forrest (USA)

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the above listed candidates as members in the American Legion and Post 146.
 - b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice):
 - Tariq Abdullah (Hopewell High School junior) attended Boys State Delegate this year. The Post was only allocated on spot for this year's Boys State Program.
 - John Randolph Foundation will announce scholarship winners soon. Watch the Post Newsletter for the name of this year's winner.
 - Hopewell High School will begin classes on the new schedule very soon.
 - c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): BINGO continues to provide a strong revenue stream. Average participation is about 70 people per week. We still need people to assist with selling pull-tabs from about 6 to 8 pm.

d. House Committee:

- Negotiated a new maintenance contract with Air Maxx to monitor, maintain and repair our HVAC system. New contract is a cost saving over the previous year's contract
- Working on a number of small items still remaining to complete renovation of the Club Room and Legion Hall
- Executive Committee approved updates to Legion Hall Rental Policy and is considering updates to the House Rules
- As mentioned in the June newsletter, costs for food, beverages, supplies and utilities are increasing, some rather dramatically. This is causing a small increase in Club Room prices. New prices will become effective on July 1st.
- We continue to search for additional bartender/servers. If you know of anyone with bartender/server experience and is interested in a part-time job, please ask them to contact the Facility Manager, Lucky Hacker, or a member of the House Committee.

e. Finance Officer: Beginning Balance: \$91,426.57; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$105,899.95; Expenditures \$113,217.11. Net end of month balance for May is \$84,029.41.

f. Service Officer: Working with the state Veterans Service Office and local politicians to establish a Veteran's Services Office in Hopewell.

g. Chaplain: New Chaplain, Fred Sissan introduced himself. He reported that the mother of the immediate past chaplain, Valerie Keefer, had recently passed away.

h. Historian:

- Celebrated the U.S. Army's 264th birthday yesterday with MG Fogg, the Ft Lee Commanding General, joining us for the celebration.
- June 18th marks the 209th anniversary of the beginning of the War of 1812.
- June 20th is the 239th anniversary of day the U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America (at right).
- On June 24, 1948, the Soviet Union began the Berlin Blockade. For more than a year afterward, American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies to two million Berliners. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from eleven Allied staging areas in West Germany.
- June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began 71 years ago as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full-scale invasion of South Korea. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at



Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

- i. Judge Advocate: No report
- j. Sgt.-at-Arms: No report
- k. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Executives: No reports

4. Correspondence: None presented

5. None presented

6. New Business: (Cdr): None presented

7. Good of the Legion (Cdr):

The American Legion Riders Virginia Legacy Run will stop at Hopewell on June 25th. There will be a special ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Circle beginning at 1:00 pm. The Post will make a joint donation to the Legacy Ride.

July 6, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

1. **Summary of Previous Meeting** (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the May 4, 2021 Executive Committee meeting was provided to all committee members and acted as the basis for the meeting. The summary of the May 4, 2021 meeting was reviewed and approved.
2. **Correspondence:**
 - 'Thank you' letter from the Wonder City Garden Club for the Post's donation towards the upkeep of Veterans Memorial Circle.
 - 'Thank you' letter from State Senator Joseph Morrissey for hosting the Chamber of Commerce Business Update Forum. He commented on the "terrific job renovating the facility".
3. **Officer Reports:**
 - Membership (1st Vice): As of May 27th, the Post hit the 100% renewal target. New membership cards are on hand.
 - Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): No report

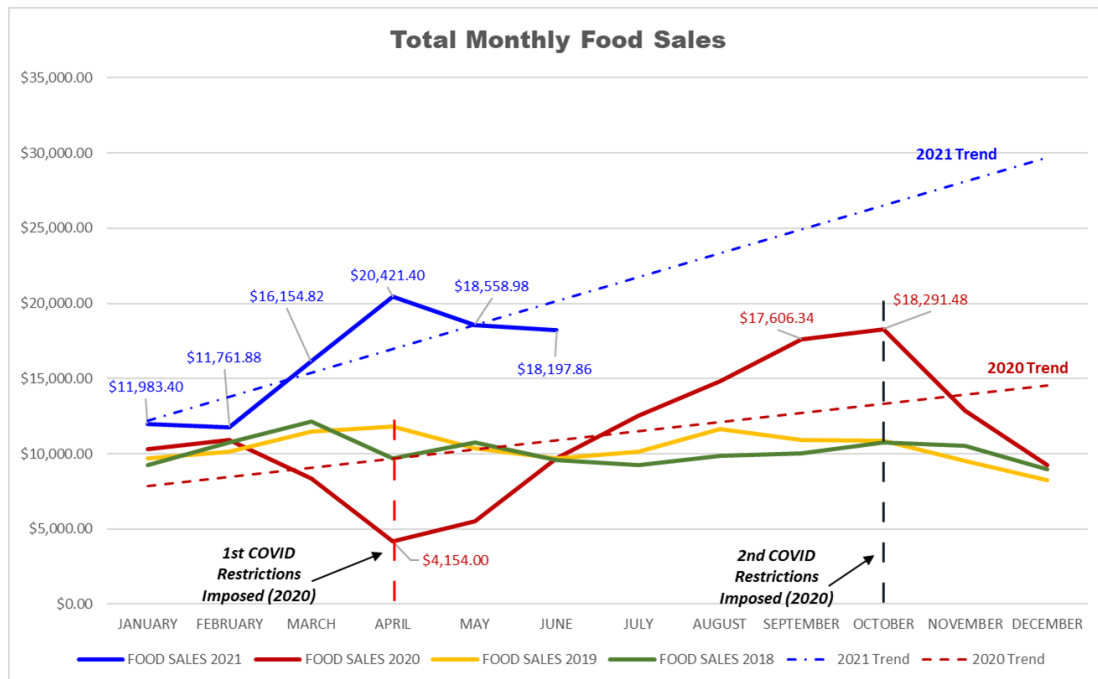
- Bingo (3rd Vice):

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP - JUNE

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total	Available for Donation
June	\$55,974.25	\$5,597.44	\$7,750.00	\$ 955.20	\$8,705.20	\$3,705.20
As of 30 Jun 21	\$147,536.20	\$14,753.62	12,725.00	\$ 3,479.18	\$16,204.18	+/- Target +\$1,667.98

June gave us a five-Wednesday month and our total income averaged more than \$10,000 per week, which is about average for the Post. Overall, we are above the 10 percent donation target for the year and \$3,700 is available for donations.

- Post Finances (Fin Off): Beginning this month, we are using a new financial report to provide the committee with more complete information on the Post’s overall financial; status. Still ‘fine tuning’ the report to remove extraneous data (e.g., SAL and Riders information). Report compares June 21 with Jun 20 to help gauge change.
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Repairs: Still working on a number of small items to finish bringing the Legion Hall renovations to completion (transition strips in doorways, full sink in bar area, etc.).
 - Menu: New menu with updated pricing went into effect on July 1st



- 2nd Quarter Club Room Report: The chart above indicates monthly food sales. April was the Club Room’s best month ever with more than \$20k in sales. May and June have seen a drop, but remain in record territory. Results

- indicate that the Club Room continues on the positive trend which began in 2020 and continued despite the pandemic. It is the House Committee's sense that the Club Room will continue seeing monthly revenue in the \$16k to \$18k range for the remainder of the year.
- Facility Improvements: The Committee is looking at a number of possible improvements but rather than begin any new projects, the Committee will present proposed projects at the upcoming strategic planning session so the Executive Committee can discuss and prioritize them
 - Sound System for Club Room and Patio Speakers: A sound system with outdoor speakers was donated to the Post and will soon be installed
 - Steel Door Replacement: Work is underway to repair and strengthen the main entrance and emergency exit door (admin office) to improve security
 - New Employee Search/Staffing Status/Staff Training: There a number of new faces among the Club Room staff. We continue to seek additional staff to ensure operating hours are fully covered without resorting to overtime
- Service Officer:
 - When preparing disability claims, there three things which must be clear:
 - Must have Honorable Discharge
 - Served in the right place (for wartime wounds, member must have serviced in a combat theater)
 - Must have an identified disability and connection between the disability and military service (identified in military medical records)
 - Working with the Post Commander to establish a Veterans' Service Center in the Hopewell area. A recent opportunity (building availability) can provide an excellent space to centralize a variety of veteran's services. Meeting with state veterans' services representative on July 20th to discuss possibilities. Our mission is to locate a veterans' center in Hopewell.
 - Chaplain: Congratulations to Wanda Knight on the birth of granddaughter, Lay'anna Amari Mitchell, who weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces at birth on June 29th.
 - Historian: Working with Military Tribute Banners (Cape Coral, FL) who are providing an example banner to use in discussions with the city.
- Special dates/events:
- July 3, 1775 - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts
 - July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress

- July 4, 1863- Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, surrendered to General Grant and the Army of the West after a six-week siege. With the Union in control of the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in two, cut off from its western allies
- July 16, 1945 - The experimental atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was exploded at 5:30 a.m. in the New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile
- July 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.
- July 27, 1953 - The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea. The war lasted just over three years and cost the U.S. 40,000 killed and 100,000 wounded.
- Sergeant-at-Arms: We need a Legion logo/insignia up front for General Membership Meetings and especially for New Member Initiation Ceremonies. Also need some American Legion lapel pins to replenish current stock.
ACTION: Adjutant will coordinate with Sgt-at-Arms to order a resupply
- Judge Advocate: No report
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Executives: No reports

4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator):

- a. Support for VFW Post 637 Annual Golf Tournament: VFW Post 637 requests the Post's support for the 9th Annual Jerry Ellis Golf Tournament. Entry fee: \$280 for a team of four and/or sponsor a hole for \$100.
ACTION: A motion was made seconded and APPROVED to donate \$380 to VFW Post 637 to field a team at the September tournament and sponsor a hole.
- b. Hopewell Kiwanis 10th Annual Wine-Tasting Festival: Hopewell Kiwanis requests the Post be a sponsor the 10th Annual Wine-Tasting Event. Proceeds will benefit "the children of Hopewell and Prince George". *NOTE: the Post supported this event two years ago, but the event was not held last year because of the pandemic.*
ACTION: A motion was made seconded and APPROVED to donate \$500.00 to the Hopewell Kiwanis to sponsor the event at the "Platinum" level.

5. Old Business:

House Rules: Committee reviewed a revised/updated version of House Rules and made recommendations on content and wording.

ACTION: The committee APPROVED the revised House Rules and Regulations


6. New Business:

- a. Staff Wage/Salary Actions: The House Committee recommended wage/salary increases for some of the staff. The House Committee's recommendation was based on a recent local wage survey and comparison across local cities and counties. After discussion and debate the Executive Committee APPROVED the recommended increases with an effective date of 01 July 2021.
- b. Early Bird vs. Members Appreciation Day: The committee considered the merits of having a Member Appreciation Day versus the traditional Early Bird dinner. After weighing pros and cons, the committee decided the following:
 - a. To hold a Member Appreciation Day which is open to the ALA and SAL if they agree to share the cost for their members who attend. Member and one guest paid by the respective organization.
 - b. Tentative date: Saturday, 25 September; Tentative Location: Westin Manor (Dave Harless will coordinate with Westin Manor)
 - c. Time: 1 pm to 4 pm
 - d. Meal: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, sides, iced tea, water, etc. Members will be encouraged to bring covered dishes, salads and/or desserts.

7. Good of the Legion:

Strategic Planning Session: A strategic planning session is planned for the August meeting time period. The regular business meeting will begin at 6:30 pm followed by a strategic planning session beginning at 7:00 pm.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant