



The American Legion - Hopewell Memorial Post 146

General Membership Meeting

August 12, 2019

Consolidated Summaries of Previous Meetings

July 16th General Membership and August 6th Executive Committee Meetings

Summaries of Previous General and Executive Committee Meetings:

a. July 16th General Membership Meeting:

Officer Reports:

- Membership (1st Vice):
 - The following people applied for American Legion and Post 146 membership: Jerry Byerly (USA), Brenda Holmes (USA), John Stancil (USN), Robert Chute (USMC), Norman Murry (USN), and Ronald Minter (USA). In addition, David Holiday (USA), Gerald Mastrovito (USA) and Andrew Pawlowski (USMC) applied to transfer into Post 146.

Action: Motion made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the six new applicants and three transfer applicants as members of The American Legion and Post 146.
 - The Post had an issue with receiving 2019-2020 membership cards. This year, the Department sent the new membership cards to District for them to distribute. In the past, they were personally picked up at Department Headquarters. This new distribution process caused a delay in receiving the cards. However, we have them now and new membership cards are being sent out as quickly as possible.
- Americanism/ Children & Youth Progs (2nd Vice):
 - Lindsey Shank, who we sponsored at this year's Youth Law Enforcement Program, will speak at the August 20th General Membership meeting
 - This year's Veterans' Day program is scheduled for Monday, November 11th and we are looking for a Master of Ceremonies
 - We are also looking for someone to chair this year's American Legion Oratorical Contest
 - Working with the LTC Pape, Sr. Army Instructor for the JROTC Program at Hopewell HS to develop a Marksmanship Program
- Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): Position remains open and we are actively seeking someone for it. Rob Stepp is the Gaming Manager and doing an outstanding job.

- House Committee: Club Room is doing well. A chest-type, half freezer in the kitchen is broken and deemed not economically repairable. The committee proposes to replace that unit with a full freezer. The committee received four bids ranging from a low of just under \$3,000 to a high of just over \$5,000. The committee recommended a unit that is the same brand and type as is currently in the kitchen as they know that the unit is reliable and will use the same repair parts as the one currently in operation. The proposed cost is about \$3,666.
A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to allocate not more than \$4,000 for the purchase of the full freezer recommended by the House Committee.
- Chaplain: Attended a memorial service for Fedrick 'Jack' Williams who passed away on July 15th. Clyde Smith is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments.
- Historian: Recommend people support the city's Hometown Hero Program. Would also like to obtain short biographies of all members who have passed away so they may be added to the information the Post has on them.
- Sgt-at-Arms: The U.S. Senate just passed the Legion Act (S.504) to expand eligibility to for membership in the American Legion to all veterans, regardless of when they served. Members are encouraged to contact their Members of Congress expressing their support for this initiative. The House has a similar bill pending (H.1641) which contains similar wording. Recommend all members write their Congressional representatives and encourage them to support these bills so more veterans are eligible to join the American Legion.

Old Business (Cdr):

Revisions for Post Constitution and By-Laws

Discussion centered on specific issues with the proposed Constitution and proposed By-Laws. First, some members did not have or were not aware of the latest versions of the proposed documents and presented their disagreement with various policies or procedures, e.g. designation of 1st, 2nd or 3rd Vice Commander to act in place of the Elected Commander. A second question was raised about Art III, Nature, Sec 1 which states that "This Post is a civilian organization..." member stated that the American Legion is not a civilian organization, it is a 'veterans' organization.'

Cdr Harless referred the member to The Constitution of the American Legion (National), Art II, Nature, Sec. 1 which states: ***The American Legion is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.***

Cdr Harless further pointed out that the Proposed Post Constitution uses the same words, verbatim, in Art III, Sec 1.

As there were other specific questions concerning both proposed documents, it was proposed that a special meeting be called to specifically review, in detail the proposed Constitution and By-Laws so all opinions and concerns could be heard.

New Business: (Cdr):

1. Charging for Coffee and Iced Tea in the Club Room: It was suggested that the Executive Committee and House Committee to entertain changing policy for iced tea and coffee in the Club Room. Many members come to the Post and drink iced tea and purchase nothing else. Other drink coffee and do not donate to the “Coffee Fund” as they disagree with having to pay for coffee while iced tea is free. It was recommended that \$1.00 be charged for coffee and iced tea.

Cdr Harless responded that the idea of changing the policy has been discussed by the House and Executive Committees and that a change to the policy will be forthcoming. That change and the effective date of the change will be announced in the Post newsletter.

2. Designation of Facility Manager: Member commented that Mr. Chris Hacker had been hired as Facility/Kitchen Manager. Member stated that the position of Facility Manager had been rejected in favor of Social Quarters Manager many years ago. Secondly, because of Mr. Hacker’s background, his employment places the Post’s ABC and Gaming Licenses in jeopardy.

Adjutant reported that the Facility/Kitchen Manager position description does not include responsibilities for gaming or ABC operations. Those operations are under the control of the Bar Manager. The Adjutant also stated that the position descriptions had been discussed and cleared by an ABC Agent and a member of the Gaming Commission to ensure that the Post was in full compliance with those portions of the Code of Virginia which address ABC and Charitable Gaming Operations. Copies of the position descriptions for Facility/Kitchen Manager and Bar Manager would be made available upon request.

3. Roles of Facility/Kitchen Manager and Bar Manager: Members stated that as these positions are new and were not reflected in the proposed By-Laws, the membership needed to have more information about the By-Laws and overall Post operations. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and

APPROVED to hold a special meeting to review and discuss the Proposed Constitution and By-Laws.

Action: A special meeting will be scheduled and announced with the sole task being to review the proposed Constitution and By-Laws and make changes as necessary to gain consensus. Once comments are heard, the reviewed documents will be presented to the membership for acceptance by vote.

b. August 6th Executive Committee Meeting:

Officer Reports:

- Americanism/ Children & Youth Progs (2nd Vice):
 - Unfortunately, Lindsey Shank, who the Post sponsored to attend this year's Youth Law Enforcement Program, cannot attend the August meeting. She rescheduled and plans to attend the September General Membership meeting.
 - Presented a detailed budget request, the format of which will be used as the basis for planning donations throughout the year.
- Bingo (3rd Vice/Gaming Mgr): Presented newly formatted report which indicates that as of 31 July, BINGO gross revenue is \$365,805 and the donation target is \$36,580. So far, the Post has made donations of \$27,070 and used proceeds \$10,720 in proceeds for authorized improvements for a total of \$37,790 putting the Post \$1,210 over target or 103% of the donation objective.
- Post Finances (Fin Off): Beginning balance was \$92,495. Gross Receipts for all accounts: \$98,144. Expenditures: \$98,361. Pending Checks: \$9,531, with a net end of month balance for July of \$86,746.
- Chaplain: Ida Waddell (wife of Legionnaire Ronnie Waddell) home from Chippenham Hospital.
- House Committee:
 - Members approved the purchase and delivery of a new double freezer at the 16 July General Membership Meeting. A used 2-year-old triple freezer was found at an auction in Northern Virginia and purchased for \$800. Over the weekend of 20-21 July, the equipment was transported and installed at the Post by Chris Hacker, Ronnie Waddell, Bert Cole, and Dave Harless. The purchase gives the Post a much better freezer at less than ¼ of the approved purchase price, a savings of \$2866.
 - Master Electrician Tom Ashworth (SAL member) has been assessing the Post's electrical system and completing needed repairs.

- Based on comments at the July General Membership Meeting, the price of coffee and tea will be \$1.00 (with unlimited refills) beginning on 01 September 2019. The House Committee also recommends adding a “pour charge” of \$0.25 for all spirits and mixed drinks.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to implement a \$1.00 charge for all coffee and tea (with unlimited refills) and a “pour charge” for all spirits and mixed drinks served.

Donation Actions: The Donation Committee presented the following requests for Executive Committee approval:

1. ALA Unit 146: Requests \$300 to support their Girls State Fund
2. Larry Gammon on behalf of the Ft Lee Retiree Committee: Requests a donation of \$500 to support the Annual Retiree Ball. The donation will be used to offset the cost of meals for those soldiers volunteering to support the event. The Post supported this request last year.
3. Hopewell HS: Requests the Post once again support the school’s Athletic Program with a donation of \$815. As it was last year, the donation is recognized with a 6” x 6” logo on the school T-Shirt (design at right).

Action: Committee chose to table item 1) till a later date. Motion made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$500 to the Ft Lee Retiree Committee to support the annual Retiree Ball; and to sponsor the Hopewell HS Athletic Program with a donation of \$815.



Unfinished (Old) Business:

1. Approved Major Purchase Actions:

Going forward, all approved purchase action will be listed as “Old Business” and monitored until completion or final disposition.

a. Pending

1. Real estate acquisition (expanding Legion into old NAPA Bldg., acquiring parking lot, etc.) – currently pending negotiations with landowner
2. Purchase new barstools and chairs for Club Room – possible solution working: status: in progress

3. Purchase/install new canopy/awning at E. City Point Rd. entrance – this approved action may also involve establishing a patio at the front of the building; status: in progress
- b. Completed
 1. Replace ATM with upgraded unit – completed 12 Mar 2019
 2. New dish/utensil washer/sanitizer – installed 23 Apr 18
 3. Install AED units and train staff in their use – completed 28 Apr 2019
2. Key FOBS: New key FOBS were ordered and received; however, they did not work with our computer system and were returned to the vendor. Awaiting resupply.

Status: New key FOBS (75) were received and are being assigned.

New Business:

1. Chaplain Fund: Chaplain requested that a budget line item be created for a Chaplain's Fund. Money allocated will be used to purchase cards, stamps, flowers, memorial donations, etc. Request an annual allocation of \$750. Money would be used at the Chaplain's discretion. Unused money would be returned to the general fund at the end of each year.

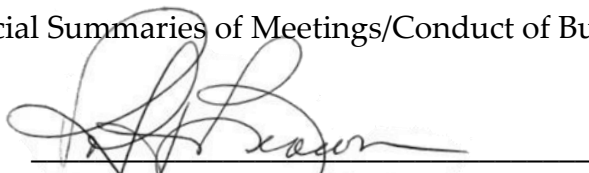
Action: Motion made, seconded and APPROVED to establish a budget line item for a Chaplain's Fund in the amount of \$750.

2. Special Meeting to Review Proposed Constitution and By-Laws: As a result of discussions at the July General Membership Meeting, a date was set for a special working meeting to hear questions and discuss changes to the proposed new governing documents.

Action: Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 13th at 6:00 pm in the Appomattox Regional Library (Hopewell) 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Good of the Legion: Movie production company is filming a spin-off of the American Movie Classics (AMC) series "The Walking Dead" one block from the Post. Access to the Post may be difficult because of traffic congestion

Official Summaries of Meetings/Conduct of Business is attested by the undersigned.



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant