



The American Legion - Hopewell Memorial Post 146

General Membership Meeting

September 12, 2019

Consolidated Summaries of Previous Meetings

August 20th General Membership and September 3rd Executive Committee Meetings

Summaries of Previous General and Executive Committee Meetings:

a. August 20th General Membership Meeting:

Officer Reports:

• Membership (1st Vice):

- The following people applied for American Legion and Post 146 membership via transfer: Joseph Tedeshi (USA), Alvah Duke (USA), Roger La Pierre (USA), and Ronald Fox (USA)

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the above-named transfer applicants as members of Post 146.

- Membership renewals are being received at a good pace. Currently, the Post stands at 40% (160 renewals) of the membership renewal target.

• Americanism/ Children & Youth Progs (2nd Vice):

- Lindsey Shank, who we sponsored at this year's Youth Law Enforcement Program, unfortunately cannot speak at the meeting and has rescheduled for the September 17th General Membership meeting
- Updated scholarship information was posted to the Post website.
- Members may also contribute to the Post's Daniel Barbee Memorial Scholarship Fund at any time. Instructions will be included in the September newsletter.

• Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): No report as the Gaming Manager, Rob Stepp was out of town.

- House Committee: Bert Cole found a used two-year-old triple freezer at an auction in Northern Virginia. Over the weekend of 20-21 July, Chris Hacker, Ronnie Waddell, Bert Cole, and Dave Harless traveled to Northern Virginia, purchased the freezer unit for \$800 and transported and installed it at the Post. The purchase gives the Post a much better freezer than planned at less than ¼ of the approved purchase price, a savings of \$2866. The group also purchased a freezer full of food worth more than \$300 for \$100.

- Chaplain: Attended a memorial service for Fedrick ‘Jack’ Williams who passed away on July 15th. Clyde Smith is currently undergoing chemotherapy and Danny Johnson is afflicted with advanced pancreatic cancer and is now in hospice care.
- Historian:
 - Lee Dixon presented an update on Hopewell’s Hometown Heroes Program.
 - Historian Mike Bonneville working to gather biographical information on those members no longer living and include it on the Post website
- Finance Officer: 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.

Old Business (Cdr):

Revisions of Post Constitution and By-Laws

1. A working meeting was held in the Hopewell Library Conference Room on Tuesday, August 13th to review the latest drafts of the proposed updates for the Post Constitution and By-Laws. New versions reflecting the comments and changes from that meeting are available for download on the Post website and in hardcopy in the Club Room. The membership will vote to accept the new versions at the next regular meeting on September 17th. Any suggestions for additions, corrections or other changes should be given to the Post Commander or Adjutant either electronically or in hardcopy before the next meeting.
2. On July 24th, President Trump signed the LEGION Act into law. The LEGION Act establishes requirements for American Legion membership. The new requirements are being honorably discharged and serving at least one (1) day in the U.S. Military from December 7, 1941 forward [currently no end date set]. Membership Application Forms will be modified to reflect this change, but current available forms may be used by writing the words “LEGION ACT” in the “Dates of Service” block.

New Business: (Cdr):

1. Status of possible Marksmanship Program for Hopewell High School (JROTC Program): Member wished to know if this program was going to happen at the school or the Post, or happen at all. The 2nd Vice Cdr is scheduled to have meetings with LTC Pape, Senior JROTC Instructor, in August or early September. He will report status of the program at the September meeting.

2. Smoking During Meetings: A motion was made and seconded to make all meetings “Smoke Free”. After much discussion and presentations both for and against the motion, a vote by show of hands was taken. Vote results were: FOR: 15; AGAINST: 8. The motion carried.

b. September 3rd Executive Committee Meeting:

Officer Reports:

- Commander reported that he wishes to appoint Andrew Pawlowski as Judge Advocate.
Action: Motion made, seconded and APPROVED to confirm appointment of Andrew Pawlowski as Post Judge Advocate.
- Membership (1st Vice): The Post has received about 200 membership renewal applications. We stand at 62% of our Department established objective of 357.
- Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice):
 - LTC Pape (Hopewell JROTC) picked up marksmanship range panels. JROTC received permission to operate the range at the high school. LTC Pape is looking for volunteers to assist in marksmanship training. For those interested in helping with this program, volunteer forms are available from the 2nd Vice Cdr.
 - Lindsay Shank, Youth Law Enforcement Program participant, will attend the General Membership meeting and tell about her experiences in the program.
- Bingo (3rd Vice): (Gaming Mgr): In August, the Post took in \$40,109 in proceeds from BINGO. After all expenses, we deposited \$9,697. We have \$3,150 available for donations and are \$1,720 below the mandatory 10% target.
- Post Finances (Fin Off): Beginning Balance: \$96,277; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$121,835; Expenditures \$125,592. Net end of month balance for September was \$92,520. Trend continues to be positive.
- Service Officer:
 - Actively working 15 claims for veterans. Learned that four claims were successfully completed. Support provided is NOT restricted to Post 146 members but is available to any veteran.
 - Attended a Mobile Veteran Resource Center event on August 28th sponsored by Emily Brewer, 64th District Delegate. Event focused on support from Virginia Dept of Veterans Services, Virginia Dept of Motor Vehicles, and East Virginia Medical School VCU Health Programs for veterans.

- Spoke with Ms. Donna R. Williams, Director of Veteran Benefits for Virginia concerning a potential veterans center in Hopewell. Her office would coordinate any state support for the center. She expressed interest in the idea and signaled that they would like to be involved in the effort when it moves forward.
- Spoke with Ms. Valeri Keefer, a VSO working in the Petersburg Freedom Center (and member of Post 146). We plan to forge a partnership in the coming months to better support veterans and coordinate support efforts.
- Attended funeral services for the Virginia State VSO, Arthur Bell, who passed away unexpectedly on July 26th; he was just 54 years old.
- Actively seeking an assistant VSO and have two possible leads. Once a person accepts, training will take several months to complete.
- VA has implemented new procedures associated with the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 which was fully implemented this past February. The purpose of the act is to give veterans more choices in how the VA reviews claim disagreements/appeals and have faster resolution of disputes/appeals. New processing objectives are to complete Supplemental Claims and Higher-Level Reviews in 125 days and Appeals Board actions in 365 days.
- House Committee:
 - The post's walk-in cooler refrigeration unit failed and the compressor had to be replaced. Cost of repairs was \$2,100.00
 - Two new hires: Melissa Cawthorn [bartender/server], Tiffany Beach [bartender/cook]
 - Wilma Turner, bartender/server, completed 90-day probation in late August.
Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to confirm Ms. Turner's employment as a permanent, part-time employee.
- Chaplain: Attended viewing for Moe Taylor (d. Aug 24) on August 28th; Lee Kilby not doing well, but he is dealing with a critical problem.
- Historian: New Member Initiation scheduled for 6:00 pm, Sept 17th, before the General Membership Meeting. New member sponsorship has proven difficult to get started. Looking for ideas about how to do it better.
- Sgt.-at-Arms: [See Old Business for report on awning procurement]
- Other Comments: Past Commander Dan Benka commended Robert Horneck, 2nd Vice Cdr, for his outstanding work with Carter G. Woodson Middle School and Hopewell High School. Benka stated: "He has re-energized the Post's Children & Youth and Americanism Programs, and his hard work shows in the

number of students involved in the Middle School Essay Program; Boys State, Youth Law Enforcement and the High School JROTC programs.”

Unfinished (Old) Business:

1. Pending Major Purchase Actions: Status Reports
 - a. Real Estate Acquisition (adjacent property and building): No action is foreseen. Present owner in negotiations with city to purchase the entire space available on the block. They have been approached and asked to consider selling land and the old NAPA Store to the Post.
 - b. New Barstools and Tables for Club Room: Grover Gaming has offered to donate 18 barstools. The SAL is working on donations which will be used to purchase new tables for the Club Room. Tables donations are \$200 each.
 - c. Canopy/Awning for E. City Point Entrances: Stan Cornett reported that the vendor said that the bid made in 2016 (\$6,400 for main and \$3,200 for Club Room entrances) would be honored, but the quote recently received was \$7,355 for the main and \$3,200 for the Club Room; an increase of nearly \$1,000 over the past bid. Negotiations continue.
2. Review of Proposed New Post Constitution and By-Laws [update]: First reading presented at the August General Membership Meeting. Copies of the draft proposals are available in the Club Room (hard copy) and on the Post website. We remain open for additional comments and suggestions.

New Business:

1. Support for Patrick Copeland Elementary School: The ALA is once again helping Patrick Copeland students with school supplies. 2nd Vice Cdr Horneck recommended the Post support this effort as was done in years past.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$250 to Unit 146, ALA for the purpose of providing school supplies to Patrick Copeland Elementary School students.
2. Flag Pole for the new Hopewell Main Police Station: Cdr Harless reported that he was contact by VFW Post 637 and asked if the Post would like to join with the VFW in donating a flag pole to the city for the new main police station.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate not more than \$1,500 to the Hopewell Police Department for the purchase of a 30-foot aluminum flag pole and appropriate marker indicating that the flag pole was a joint gift from American Legion Post 146 and VFW Post 637.

Donation Requests:

1. Hopewell HS Baseball Team: Coach Adam Capps requests the Post support the high school baseball team with a donation of \$200. Money will be used to purchase needed equipment, upgrade and improve facilities, and purchase uniforms. For the donation, the school will display a 4' x 5' banner at the school field recognizing the Post as a major program donor.

Action: A motion was made. seconded, and APPROVED to sponsor the Hopewell High School Baseball Team with a donation of \$265.00. [Note: the additional \$65 covers actual purchase price of the banner.]

2. Historic Hopewell Foundation: Requests a donation to support the “All Manor of Things” Auction which will be held on November 2, 2019 to raise money for the foundation. Sponsorship levels are: Diamond (\$2500), Gold (\$1000), Silver (\$500) and Bronze (\$250). With a donation, sponsorship includes tickets for the auction and a program advertisement as follows: Diamond: 8 tickets + full page ad; Gold: 6 tickets + full page ad; Silver: 4 tickets + half page ad; Bronze: 2 tickets + quarter page ad.

Action: A motion was made. seconded, and APPROVED to donate \$500.00 to the Historic Hopewell Foundation.

3. John Randolph Foundation 20th Annual Golf Tournament: Foundation requests the Post support the tournament. Last year we sponsored at the \$1,000 level which gave us a sponsor sign on one hole; greens fees + breakfast, lunch and dinner for a foursome, and recognition at the tournament. Of the donation, \$740 will be made to the Post 146/Daniel W. Barbee Scholarship Fund.

Action: A motion was made. seconded, and APPROVED to donate \$1,000 to support the John Randolph Foundation Golf Tournament. Andy Pawlowski agreed to lead the foursome representing the Post.

4. Friends of the Army Women’s Museum Association: Quarterly newsletter reported current activities at the museum at Ft Lee. The Post is a long-time contributor to the museum.

Action: A motion was made and seconded to donate \$250 to the Friends of the Army Women’s Museum Association as the Post’s annual contribution.

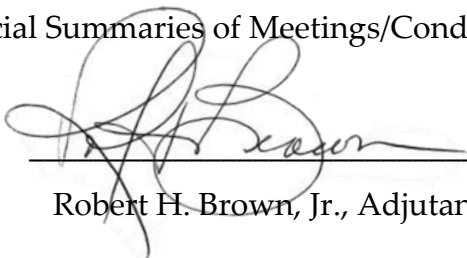
Good of the Legion:

1. Tech For Troops Computer Training (Treasurer, Mark Creech): Mark reported that Tech For Troops is branching out and will conduct training in Lynchburg, VA in the near future. Advance registration stands at 30 veterans and is

increasing. Sixteen (16) students attend the class conducted at the Post on August 13th.

2. Parking Lot Repairs: We are looking for a vendor to repair/reseal the parking lot. A vendor has already agreed to re-stripe the lot once it is resealed.
3. Early Bird Dinner: Set for Saturday, September 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
4. Finding Assistants: Each officer is encouraged to find and train an assistant who is able to fill-in should that officer be absent from a scheduled meeting or event. The assistant could not vote in an Executive Committee meeting, but can provide task updates and speak in the officer's behalf.
5. Tracking Hours: As part of every meeting, officers will be asked to list hours of service done over the previous month.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant