



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

**August 17, 2021 General Membership Meeting and
September 7, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting**

September 14, 2021

The following is a summary of the August 17, 2021 General Membership Meeting and September 7, 2021 Executive Committee Meetings.

August 17, 2021 General Membership Meeting

1. A summary of the July 20th General Membership and August 3rd Executive Committee Meetings were provided for member review on the Post website and before the meeting. The meeting summary was approved as presented.

2. Officer Reports:

a. Membership (1st Vice):

- Candidates for membership in the Legion and Post 146 were: **Frank Kencitzeki (USA)**, **John Dane (USAF)**, **Don Hayes (USA)**, **Gray Ball (USN)** and **Christopher Castle USA/USAF**
- Candidates for transfer to Post 146 were: **Ellen "Ellie" Blanding (USAF)** [from Post 100, Reno, NV] and **John Houlberg** [from Post 284, Colonial Heights]

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the above listed candidates as members in the American Legion and Post 146.

- The Legion Year and all members should renew as soon as possible. Dues remain at \$40.

b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice): No report

c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): BINGO continues to provide a strong revenue stream. In July, BINGO grossed over \$40,000. After pay-outs and expenses, we have \$10,550 in the BINGO account. Average participation is about 70 people per week. We are always looking for people to assist with selling pull-tabs from about 6 to 8 pm.

d. House Committee:

- In the process of replacing the emergency exit door in the admin area (commander's office)

- Member Appreciation Day: Saturday, 25 September; Weston Manor; 1 pm to 4 pm. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken Qtrs, sides, iced tea, water, etc. Will be available. All are welcome
 - Conducting an annual property/equipment inventory on Saturday, Aug 21st beginning at 2:00 pm. Looking for helpers to count and verify property and equipment. See Bob Brown for details.
 - Continuing to explore ways to repair the roof and stop the leaks. We are reviewing bids for repairs and full replacement.
 - Two air conditioning units are failing. One serves the Club Room, the other the administrative offices and Legion Hall rest rooms. We plan to present alternatives and recommendations to the Executive Committee at their September meeting.
 - Looking to hire more bartender/servers. Also looking at creating a busser/dishwasher position to improve service during busy periods. If you know of anyone looking for a part-time position, let us know about them, and them about us.
 - We are reviewing liquor locker procedures. Target date for new procedures is 01 Jan 2022. Details will be coming shortly.
- e. Finance Officer: July End of Month Total Income: \$63,879.13; Total Expenses: \$54,444.55; Net Income: \$9,434.58. Account Balances: VTAB -\$40,614.80; BINGO - \$10,550.10; Restricted - \$7,746.49; General - \$31,556.00 [ATM/Kiosk Holdings: \$44,747.00]
- f. Chaplain: On Friday, August 20th we will conduct a Celebration of Life in memory of Hanna Phillips followed by her Famous Schnitzel Dinner. The ceremony begins at 4:00 pm with dinner at 5:00 pm. Also, on Sat, Aug 28th we will celebrate the life of Tom Ashworth The event begins at 6:00 pm
- g. Service Officer: No report
- h. Historian: Special dates/events
- September 1, 1939 - Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe.
 - September 2, 1945 - President Harry Truman declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) commemorating the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.
 - September 7, 1994 - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.
 - September 9, 1776 - The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies.

- September 18, 1947 - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.
 - September 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.
 - i. Judge Advocate: No report
 - j. Sgt.-at-Arms: New member Initiation Ceremony is scheduled for the September 21st meeting. Invitations will be sent shortly. If the new member wishes, he or she may join members for dinner at 6:00 pm. The ceremony will begin at 7:00 pm.
 - k. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Executives: No report
3. Correspondence: None received
4. Old Business: None presented
5. New Business: (Cdr): None presented
- a. Member reported that he observed people coming into the Post with food from an outside restaurant. He felt that this should not be allowed.
ACTION: Commander directed the question to the House Committee for review.
 - b. Burrowsville Ruritan Club is hosting a ShrimpFest on Saturday, September 25th beginning at 4:00 pm. Cost is \$35.00/ticket
6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):
- The Virginia Legacy Ride raised \$43,000 toward scholarships for children of military members killed or 50% or more disabled since 9/11/2001. The Ride organizers wish to begin next years ride at Post 146. This is something the leadership would like to do, but we need the full support of all Post members to do all that is necessary to logistically support more than 200 Legion Riders.
 - On August 3rd, we conducted a strategic planning session with the goal of identifying events, programs, and actions which may be accomplished over the next year. Representatives from the SAL and ALA participated along with members of the Executive Committee.
 - The family of Ronnie Keen will hold a memorial service for him at St. James Roman Catholic Church on Thursday, August 26th.
 - Michael Bonneville urged members to volunteer at BINGO. This weekly event is the Post's main source of revenue and proceeds provide the money which allows us to support local veterans and their families.

- 50/50 Drawing winner (Sgt.-at-Arms): Freddy Marks won \$7.00 in the 50/50 drawing.
- Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt.-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$60. The number drawn was 75, Lee Dixon. Legionnaire Dixon was not present, so the jackpot will be \$80 at the September 21, 2021 meeting.

August 3, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

1. **Summary of Previous Meeting** (Adj):): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the August 3, 2021 Executive Committee meeting was provided to all committee members and acted as the basis for the meeting. The summary of the meeting was reviewed and approved.
2. **Correspondence:** None received
3. **Officer Reports:**
 - Membership (1st Vice): The Post stands at about 40% of our new annual goal (369) with 136 renewals and 9 new members this year already! The new membership system which National HQ recently implemented is causing unbelievable problems for everyone. Transfers are not processing, so we have no credit for those and transactions submitted are often not processed at all.
 - Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): The Post has the opportunity to review the terms and conditions of our agreement with the John Randolph Scholarship Program. Recommend we do a review.

ACTION: After discussion and with the approval of the committee, the commander directed that the 2nd Vice review the scholarship program terms and conditions and present any recommended changes to the committee.
 - Bingo (3rd Vice): Total BINGO revenue in August was about \$8,000 less than we had in July. Totals are shown in the matrix below:

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP - AUGUST

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total	Available for Donation
August	\$36,397.75	\$3,639.78	\$1,700.00	\$ 775.00	\$1,475.00	\$2,786.46
As of 31 Aug 21	\$228,051.70	\$22,805.17	\$15,505.00	\$5,029.18	20,534.18	+/- Target -\$2,270.99

- Post Finances (Fin Off): Total Income: \$56,890.32; Total Expenses: \$50,854.25; Net Income: \$6,036.07. Account Balances: VTAB - \$39,984.47; BINGO - \$10,679.21; Restricted – \$7,746.49; General - \$31,535.44 [ATM/Kiosk Holdings: \$26,545.00] (Encl1). Investments in the Edward Jones account total \$82,318.10 as of August 27th.
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Annual Property/Equipment Inventory: Inventory completed. Ably assisted by Mike Bonneville, Jinx Traina and Whitney Morris. No outstanding deficiencies.
 - Roof Repair: Received bids from Brown Brothers and Timber Ridge Construction. Awaiting bid from Save More Roofing. All bidders asked to provide bids for full roof replacement and roof repair.
 - HVAC Unit Replacements: Air Maxx estimates cost to replace 2.5-ton ground unit: \$7,500 (Includes moving equip. from ground to roof) and replace 4-ton roof unit: \$10,200 for a total of \$17,700. We are in the process of obtaining two more bids as required by the Post By-Laws. Requires Executive Committee concurrence and general membership approval once a recommended vendor is selected.
 - Staffing: We are short bartender/server staff especially for Sat & Sun from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. NEED IS CRITICAL: Also looking to hire a part-time Busser-Dishwasher to help during heavy work days (Mon, Tues, Thurs evenings and Sat and Sun mornings)
 - Liquor Lockers: We are planning to repair/upgrade the lockers and standardize rental procedure. Changes are tentatively set to take effect on 01 Jan 2021. Recommend the annual rental fee increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Planned work: re-numbering; re-painting; new hinges and locks.
ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to raise the Liquor Locker Rental Fee to \$10.00 annually as of 01 Jan 2022. The fee is fixed and will not be pro-rated regardless of when during the calendar year the locker is rented.
 - Alcohol Policy for Legion Hall Rental: Updated the policy for those wishing to serve alcoholic beverages at special events for which the Hall is rented. Policy updated to reflect changes in the Legion Hall Rental Policy approved by the Executive Committee this past June.
 - US Air Force Birthday Celebration: On September 18th, the Air Force celebrates its 74th birthday. As this date falls on a Saturday this year, we will celebrate one day early, Friday, Sep 17th. Festivities begin at noon.
- Service Officer: No report

- Chaplain: John Reese was recently admitted to McGuire VA Hospital. Because of the recent up-tick in COVID cases, no visitors are allowed. The McGuire Chaplain was contacted and a request made for him to check on Comrade Reese and let him know the Post was asking about him. Planning on beginning a Bible Study sometime around the end of October. Tentatively, the study will be held on Monday nights from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm; study is open to everyone and anyone interested.
- Historian: Special dates/events:
 - September 7, 1994 - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.
 - September 18, 1947 - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.
 - September 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.
- Sergeant-at-Arms: New member Initiation Ceremony is scheduled for the September 21st meeting. Dinner for new members begins at 6:00 pm. Invitation letters will be sent to all new members joining this past quarter. Letter will include an authorization form for a meal on the initiation night. Request all Executive Committee members attend the meal if possible.
- Judge Advocate: Have coordinated a financial management training class with a local financial planning firm. Working to coordinate a day and time to begin classes. Concept is to present it much the same way the Historic Hopewell Lunch 'n Lecture Series was presented.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Executives: No reports

4. **Donation Requests** (Donation Coordinator):

- a. Jacob J. Pearson Post 637, VFW: Received a request to sponsor the VFW's first "Back the Blue" event. Money raised will go directly to support the Hopewell Community's first responders and other police departments throughout the region. The event is scheduled for October 16, 2021. Sponsorship levels are shown below:

Support Levels		Benefit
Supporter	\$100	2 Event Tickets
Bronze	\$250	4 Event Tickets; Name on Bottom of Banner, Recognition at event
Silver	\$500	6 Event Tickets; Name on Top of Banner, Recognition at event
Gold	\$1,000	12 Event Tickets; Event Sponsor, Single Banner Recognition at event

Recommendation: that the Post donate \$250 to the "Back the Blue " event.

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$250.00 to VFW Post 637's "Back the Blue" event.

- b. Hopewell High School Baseball Program: Adam Capps, Head Baseball Coach, requests an unspecified donation to go towards repairing the baseball field house and the bleacher area; and purchasing new equipment and additional uniforms. Their goal is \$1,000. Recommendation: that the Post donate \$500.

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$500.00 to the Hopewell High School Baseball Program.

- c. National Wreath Project: Sgt. Mac Memorial Foundation requests a donation to support the 16th Annual National Wreath Project which will lay wreaths on graves at the Gettysburg and Quantico National Cemeteries on Dec 3rd and 4th respectively. No specific amount requested.

Recommendation: that the committee NOT donate to this project. The organization does not meet requirements of the Post Donation Policy and we annually support Wreaths Across America which places wreaths at City Point National Cemetery.

ACTION: The committee chose to not take any action on this request

- d. Children's Hospital of Richmond: Received a request to donate to the hospital during their "double the impact" drive (donation will be matched by another donor). The Post donated \$500 in May of this year to this charity.

Recommendation: that the committee NOT respond to this request as we just made a donation in May.

ACTION: The committee chose to not take any action on this request

- e. Special Olympics Virginia: Special Olympics requests a donation to support their on-going efforts to support special Olympic games. This year, the local organization wishes to send a team to represent Virginia at the 2022 USA Games in Orlando, Fl. Zach Brown will represent Colonial Heights, Petersburg and Hopewell by competing in swimming events. The cost to send one athlete to Orlando is \$2,500.

Background: The Post donated \$250 in March 2018 and \$500 in June 2019 to this organization. Special Olympics did not receive a donation in 2020.

Recommendation: that the Post donate \$500 to Special Olympics Virginia to support sending a Virginia team to 2022 USA Games in Orlando, FL.

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$500.00 to the Greater Richmond Special Olympics program.

➡ Total Amount Approved for Donations: \$1,250.00

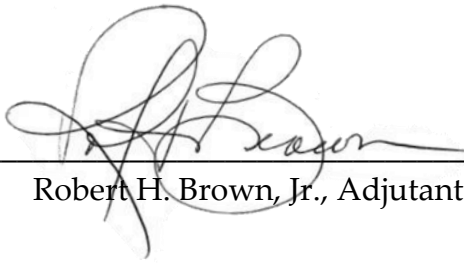
5. **Old Business:** None presented

6. **New Business:** None presented

7. **Good of the Legion:**

As Election Day falls on Tuesday, November 2nd this year, the committee unanimously agreed to change the November meeting date/time to Monday, November 1st at 7:00 pm.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant