



The American Legion - Hopewell Memorial Post 146

General Membership Meeting

October 15, 2019

Consolidated Summaries of Previous Meetings

September 17th General Membership and October 1st Executive Committee Meetings

Summaries of Previous General and Executive Committee Meetings:

a. September 17th General Membership Meeting:

Presentation: Ms. Lindsey Shank, with Mrs. Elaine Shank, gave a presentation on Lindsey's experiences at the American Legion sponsored Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program conducted this past June at the Virginia State Police Academy in North Chesterfield. Lindsey showed a short video about the training she and other cadets received and took questions from the membership.

Officer Reports:

• Membership (1st Vice):

- The following people applied for American Legion and Post 146 membership via transfer: Reginald Wilkins (USAF), James Pape (USA), and Thomas A. Richbourg (USN).

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 60% of the membership renewal target.

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

- LTC Pape, Chief Instructor, Hopewell HS JROTC Program, received approval from the school district to operate the Air Rifle Marksmanship Range at the high school. He is in the process of having the range certified. Once certified, the program will begin. Right now, LTC Pape is seeking volunteers to assist with the program. If interested, contact the 2nd Vice Cdr for enrollment forms and instructions.
- The 20th Annual John Randolph Foundation Golf Tournament will be conducted at the end of the month. The tournament helps raise funds for all the scholarships awarded by the Foundation. We have a team playing this year which is captained by Andy Pawlowski. Proceeds will benefit the Post's

Daniel Barbee Memorial Scholarship Fund and other funds which fall under the Foundation's umbrella.

- Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): No report as the Gaming Manager, Rob Stepp was out of town.
- Chaplain: Attended the memorial service and internment for Danny W. Johnson, Sr. who passed away on September 5th. Clyde Smith is recovering from chemotherapy and Lee Kilby has not been feeling well.
- Historian: Re-purposing the wall boards which previously hung in the Activity Room to list those members who have passed away. This action will change the boards into a Memorial plaque dedicated to our past members.
- Finance Officer: Beginning Balance: \$96,277; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$121,835; Expenditures \$125,592. Net end of month balance for August was \$92,520. Trend continues to be positive.
- Sgt-at-Arms: Next month, McGuire VA Hospital will become smoke-free. This appears to be done by administrative action and does not take into account the wishes of patients. The hospital is not providing a smoking area and this is unfair to patients who smoke. Personal e-mails were sent to members of Congress and the President complaining that this makes no sense – there must be some accommodation made for those who wish to smoke.

Old Business (Cdr):

Revisions of Post Constitution and By-Laws

Revisions to Post Constitution and By-Laws: Changes to the Post Constitution and By-Laws were announced at the last meeting. Draft copies are available on the Post website and in the Club Room. To date, no new comments, suggestions or corrections have been received. A vote to approve the revised Post Constitution and By-Laws will be taken at the October 15th General Membership Meeting.

New Business: (Cdr):

Rob Stepp was nominated by the Post Commander for the position of 3rd Vice Commander (Gaming). Rob has been serving as the Post Gaming Manager for the past three months and has 25 years' experience with charitable gaming operations and is an account by trade.

Action: The motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to ELECT Rob Stepp as 3rd Vice Commander (Gaming) for the remainder of the Legion Year.

Good of the Legion: (Cdr)

- City of Hopewell Department of Recreation and Parks recently won three departmental awards plus individual awards at the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society Annual Conference. The Department received the “New Special Event Award” for the 2018 Veterans’ Day Parade which was coordinated with our Post and the VFW.
- Sgt-at-Arms suggested that the Quarterly New Member Orientation, which had been held earlier in the evening, be included in regularly scheduled General Membership Meetings so more members may be involved and that new members have an opportunity to see and meet other members.

b. October 1st Executive Committee Meeting:

Officer Reports:

- Membership (1st Vice): The Post has received about 225 membership renewal applications. We stand at 63.8% of our Department established objective of 357.
- Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): Hopewell JROTC is now planning for JROTC District Drill Competition.
- Bingo (3rd Vice/Gaming Mgr): In September, BINGO took in \$44,607.00. The Post is about \$3,416 under our total 10% donation target. There was \$2,925.38 available for donations.
- Post Finances (Fin Off): Beginning Balance: \$92,521; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$103,431; Expenditures \$120,638. Net end of month balance for September was \$75,314. Trend continues to be positive.
- House Committee:
 - Repaired wall in ladies’ bathroom (off Activity Room)
 - Obtaining bids for se-sealing and re-striping the parking lot. Estimated cost is about \$3,000 without re-striping.
 - New barstools will be ordered on Wednesday (02 Oct); we need 16 tables in the Club Room and have received donations (\$200 each) for 9 tables so far.
- Chaplain: Richard Bruce Denning, passed away Sept 8, 2019. Bill Broaddus at Sitter-Barfoot taking physical therapy.
- Other Comments: Past Commander Dan Benka commended 2nd Vice Cdr Robert Horneck for his continued outstanding work in building strong Americanism and Children & Youth Programs.

Unfinished (Old) Business:

1. Pending Major Purchase Actions: Status Reports
 - a. New Barstools and Tables for Club Room: [See House Committee Report]
 - b. Canopy/Awning for E. City Point Entrances: 3rd Vice Cdr Stepp reported that the canopy has been ordered. Total cost is \$7,355. This canopy is 10 ft wide rather than the original 8 ft design, covered with higher quality material than used in the original design, and includes a large American Legion medallion and the words "Post 146". Installation date has not yet been set.
 - c. Electrical System Evaluation: Tom Ashworth inspected the Post building electrical system and is developing a proposal for correcting problems.
2. Review of Proposed New Post Constitution and By-Laws [update]: Second reading presented at the September General Membership Meeting. Copies of the draft proposals are available in the Club Room (hard copy) and on the Post website. No requests for changes have been received. New constitution and by-laws will come up for a vote at the October 15th General Membership Meeting.
3. Tracking Hours: As part of every meeting, officers are asked to list hours of service done over the previous month
4. Parking Lot Repairs (re-sealing and re-stripping): [see House Committee report]
5. Finding Assistants: Commander again emphasized his call for all officers to identify assistants who can attend meetings and provide reports in their absence.

New Business:

1. Donations Budget: The Post Adjutant presented a draft donations budget for committee members to review. The draft budget will be a discussion item at the November Executive Committee meeting.
2. Advertisement in Moose Lodge Program Book: The Hopewell Moose Lodge is preparing their annual Winter Celebration Program Book and wishes the Post to again advertise in the publication. Cost would be \$60.00 for a full-page ad.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to buy advertising space in the Hopewell Moose Lodge Winter Celebration Program Book at a cost of \$60. Adjutant will coordinate the ad submission.

Donation Requests:

1. Boy Scout (Life) Ethan McQuage, Troop 900, Prince George requested an unspecified amount to support an Eagle Scout Project which will build a

chicken coop for the Prince George County Animal Shelter. Action tabled at September meeting awaiting further information.

Follow-up: Recent discussions with Ethan revealed the following:

- The project is scheduled to begin in October
- Supplies will cost approximately \$650.00 - \$700.00
- Attempted to solicit supplies from Lowe's and Home Depot but request was turned down
- Held a fundraiser at Luca's Italian Restaurant in September and netted \$300.00
- Donations should be sent to Troop 900 or Prince George County Animal Shelter

Recommendation: that the Post donate \$400 to Troop 900 or Prince George County Animal Shelter to support this project.

Action: A motion was made. seconded, and APPROVED to donate \$400 to Troop 900 or Prince George County Animal Shelter to support this project.

2. Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation: Annual request for support. Suggested support levels run from \$50 to \$10,000. Last year we gave \$525.

Recommendation: that the Post donate \$525 to the Foundation so the Post continues as a "Sustaining Sponsor".

Action: A motion was made. seconded, and APPROVED to donate \$525 to the Foundation so the Post continues as a "Sustaining Sponsor".

3. Annual Military Assistance Program Concert and Fundraiser: The Military Assistance Program (MAP) Board members invited the Post to sponsor their annual MAP concert in November. Like last year, the concert will be held at the historic Beacon Theater in Hopewell. The concert will feature music from the "Last Honky Tonk Music Series" artists and include some surprise gifts for wounded veterans who need assistance.

Last year MAP surprised six wounded veterans with \$5000 each.

MAP claims that "every penny raised goes to help wounded veterans and their families."

Last, they ask that if we know of any wounded veterans that need assistance to attend the concert, let them know so they can get them and have them attend the concert.

Note: MAP is an IRS recognized 501[c]3 organization registered as #26-4016794.

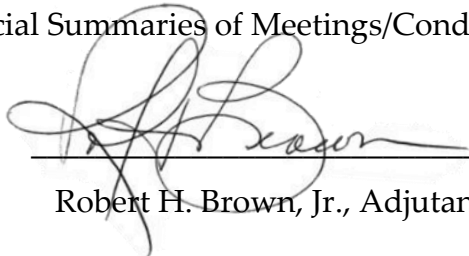
Recommendation: that the Post donate \$500 to the R&DA Military Assistance Program, Inc. to support this event.

Action: A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to donate \$500 to the R&DA Military Assistance Program (MAP) to support their annual Concert of Light.

Good of the Legion:

1. District 4 Leaders Conference (Sunday, Oct 6th): Lunch will start at 12:30. Main course is meat loaf, mashed potatoes and green beans for \$7.00. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm. [Must RSVP to Post 2 by 03 Oct for lunch headcount].
2. Street Closure in Hopewell: The Commander notified the committee that Broadway will be closed to all traffic October 8 through 10 for more movie filming. The production company will be renting the Activity Room for those three days for feeding, doing make-up, costuming and providing a break area for actors.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant