



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

**September 15th General Membership Meeting and  
October 6th Executive Committee Meeting**

October 10, 2020

The following is a summary of the September 15th General Membership and the October 6th Executive Committee Meetings.

**September 15, 2020 General Membership Meeting**

1. **Guest Speaker:** Mr. Ken Emerson of the Hopewell Moose Lodge 1472 presented information about the new Moose Lodge which will open in about 90 days.
2. **Initiation Ceremony:** Post conducted New Member Orientation for those members who recently joined the American Legion and/or Post 146.
3. **Officer Reports:**
  - a. Membership (1st Vice):
    - Candidates for membership in the American Legion and Post 146 were presented as follows:

**New:** John Small (USA)

**Transfer:** Veronica Small (USA) from Post 141  
Norman Pinkleton (USN) from Post 141

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the above-named applicants as members of Post 146.
    - As of September 4th, we have received 234 renewals against our goal of 365 members – 64% of goal. So far, the Post has received 15 new members.
  - b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Progs (2nd Vice): All Hopewell schools will be operating virtually for the foreseeable future. Many programs are still awaiting guidance from the schools to determine if and when we may begin them.
  - c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): BINGO is doing well with about 80 people attending each week. Conducted a special Saturday BINGO to benefit SAL projects on Sep 12th. Need more volunteers to help sell pull-tabs.

d. House Committee:

- Club Room will begin taking credit cards for meals and beverages on October 1st
- New chairs for the BINGO Hall are on order and should arrive in the next two weeks
- Early Bird, Sept. 19th at Weston Manor, 2 pm to 6 pm. Post closes at 1:00 pm to support Early Bird
- Post closes at 3:00 pm on Sunday Oct 4th for staff event
- Post wi-fi system will soon be upgraded to provide better, faster service for electronic devices
- Popular show band, "Steel" will perform live on Sat, Sept 26th from 7 to 11 pm – food, drinks and dancing; admission is \$10

e. Finance Officer: Financial Report for EOM August: Beginning Balance: \$104,800.86; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$114,108.80; Expenditures \$102,810.75. Net end of month balance for August was \$116,098.91.

f. Service Officer: No Report

g. Chaplain: Richard Hummel passed away on May 28th; Boyd Briggs passed away August 8th; and Rick Adams passed away on August 11th. Chuck Steininger (50 yr. member) is being treated for pancreatic cancer and Clyde Powers is at home recovering from surgery.

h. Historian: Sept 15th marks the 80th anniversary of the close of the Battle of Britain. National POW/MIA Day is Friday, Sept 18th. There are still 1,586 service men unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The 18th is also the USAF's 73rd birthday. National Gold Star Mother's Day is Tues., Sept 27.

American Legion's 101st birthday is Sept 16th

Sept 19, 1676 marks the beginning of Bacon's Rebellion - Nathan Bacon led an attack on Jamestown targeting then Royal Governor Sir William Berkeley. Thousands of Virginians from all classes (including indentured servants) and races rose up in arms against Berkeley, chasing him from Jamestown and ultimately torching the capital. The rebellion was first suppressed by a few armed merchant ships from London whose captains sided with Berkeley and the loyalists. Government forces from England arrived soon after and spent several years defeating pockets of resistance and reforming the colonial government to be once more under direct royal control. While the farmers did not succeed in their initial goal of driving Native Americans from Virginia, the rebellion resulted in Berkeley being recalled to England.

- i. Judge Advocate: No report
- j. Sgt.-at-Arms: Next New Member Orientation will be at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting
- k. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Executives: No report

4. **Old Business:** None presented

5. **New Business:** None presented

6. **Good of the Legion:**

A Motor Vehicle Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans Amendment has been proposed as a ballot item in the November election. The proposed amendment states: *Should an automobile or pickup truck be exempt from state and local taxation if it is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the armed forces of the United States or the Virginia National Guard who has a 100% service-connected, permanent, and total disability?*

All members should be aware of this issue and research it before voting in November.

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### **October 6th Executive Committee Meeting**

1. **Correspondence:**

- a. Letter from Philadelphia Shriners Hospital for Children thanking the Post for its donation in Memory of Boyd G. Griggs, Jr. Comrade Griggs passed away August 8, 2020. Donation made in lieu of flowers at family request.
- b. Resolution from Shenandoah American Legion Post 77 endorsing the candidacy of Franklin L. Hillyard for election to the office of Department Commander, The American Legion, Department of Virginia.

2. **Officer Reports:**

- Membership (1st Vice): The Post now stands at 68% of the target (365) for this year which is ahead of where we were last year.
- Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): Still no firm decision from the schools about possibly conducting the Patriotic Essay Contest (middle school) or JROTC events (high school).

- Bingo (3rd Vice):

**Monthly Recap – September**

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Actual Donations	Other Uses	Total Donated	Available for Donation
September	\$71,086.00	\$7,108.60	\$1,500.00	\$5,498.24	<b>\$6,998.24</b>	<b>\$6,200</b>
As of 30 Sep	\$169,422.50	\$16,942.25	\$7,481.40	\$7,467.95	<b>\$14,949.35</b>	+/- Donation Target <b>-\$2103.26</b>

BINGO is continuing with good attendance each Wednesday night. We conducted a Saturday session on Sept. 12th. At the end of September, the Post was \$2,103.26 under the 10% donation target, with \$6,200.00 available for donation this month. The 3rd Vice Commander recommended that \$4,000 be transferred to the Restricted Account.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to transfer \$4,000 from the BINGO account to the Restricted Account.

- Post Finances (Fin Off):
  - Financial Report: Beginning Balance: \$116,098.91; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$124,598.58 Expenditures \$122,147.34. Net end of month balance for August was \$118,550.15.
  - The Post has a \$10k Certificate of Deposit (CD) maturing on December 1st. The CD made only \$30 over the period of investment. Finance Officer recommends the money be put to better use.

Action: After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to recommend to the General Membership that the money be placed in the General Fund and held for later use rather than re-invested.

- House Committee: The committee has accomplished the following:
  - Club Room Redecoration: Still some items left to be completed (notably, improvements to the rest rooms). House Committee has a punch list and is working it.
  - Use of Credit Cards: The Post began accepting credit cards for food and beverages on October 1st. The new Point of Sale System is operating; staff is still learning the 'ins and outs' of the system.
  - BINGO Hall Redecoration: Two basic items are before the committee: replacement ceiling tiles and replacement lighting [see New Business]
  - Customer Feedback: We are receiving positive feedback from customers about the quality of food and service. Staff is still striving to be more efficient

by greeting all customers, quickly coming to tables and getting food out as soon as it is prepared.

- Chairs in the BINGO Hall: New chairs have been received. The bulk of the old chairs were donated to Prince George Fire Department; remaining chairs were purchased by BINGO patrons or scrapped.
  - Service Officer: The Freedom Support Center in Petersburg is open and providing assistance to veterans and active duty service members and their families.
  - Chaplain: *Ronnie Keene* is currently in John Randolph Hospital. *Billy Slusser's* mother passed away on Oct 5, 2020. *Frank Huston* underwent surgery and is recovering at McGuire VA Hospital.
  - Historian: October 12th is a federal holiday honoring Christopher Columbus. He 'discovered' the Bahama Islands on Oct. 11, 1492 after a treacherous 10-week voyage across the Atlantic. We celebrate the 245th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Navy on October 13th. We will have a ceremonial cake cutting at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, Oct 13th with Master Chief (Ret.) Glenn Blair doing the honors.
  - Sgt-at-Arms: Quarterly New Member Orientation scheduled for December 15th. Working on adding military service information for those on the list of deceased members and working on preparing brass plaques for Honor Boards.
  - Judge Advocate: No report
  - 1st, 3rd Executives: No reports
  - 2nd Year Executive: Disappointed at the poor showing for the Steel Band event (Sep 26th). Committee members must support Post events. If the leadership doesn't support the Post, we should not expect members to do so, either. [Commander commented that key issue was that the event was insufficiently advertised, a major failing with many Post events. Longer lead time, multiple types of communication avenues must be used and leadership must support (attend) such events if they are to be successful.]
3. **Donation Requests** (Donation Coordinator): The Donation Committee presented the following:
- Request from Two Rivers Chapter, American Legion Riders to donate to Wreaths Across America. For the last three years, the Post has supported this program with a donation of \$525.00 for the purchase of 35 wreaths.
  - Request from Unit 146, ALA for a donation of \$250.00 for the purchase of Lice Kits for Patrick Copeland Elementary School. [Note: Maryann Buchanan discussed this request with the school staff. At present, these kits are not

available through the school system or VA Social Services.] Donation would be to the school for their distribution through the school nurse.

- Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation: Historically, the Post makes an annual donation to the foundation in the amount of \$525.00 (bronze medallion sponsor)
- Department of Virginia, The American Legion has requested support with an advertisement buy for the 2021 Annual Conference Program. The Conference is planned for July 8th-11th and will be held in Herndon, VA. Recommend a ¼ page ad at \$250
- Hopewell Moose Lodge: In past years, the Hopewell Moose have requested the Post purchase an ad in their annual Winter Celebration Program booklet. We've received no word from the Moose about a booklet this year. Recommend \$100.00 for purchase of a booklet ad when received.

Recommendations from the committee:

- Request to field a team at the Hopewell Sheriff's Office Golf Tournament on Friday, Oct 30th at 11:00 am. Donation is \$500 to sponsor and field a team. Fee includes hole sponsorship.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to fund all of the recommended donations listed above. Total donations for September: \$2,150.00

#### 4. **Old Business:**

- a. Current Business/Operating Restrictions (Cdr): Last week saw a change in COVID-19 requirements which effect the Club Room. We can no longer serve drinks/food at the bar, only at tables. We must mark positions for people waiting to make orders or pay so they observe social distancing requirements. Staff must wear or have face-coverings. Kitchen staff must continue to wear protective gloves and observe food storage and preparation guidelines. Required signs must be posted at entrances.
- b. Pending Major Approved Actions: Status Reports
  1. Club Room Renovation [see House Committee Report]
  2. Use of Credit Cards in the Club Room [see House Committee Report]
- c. Capital Improvements: It was proposed that the committee establish a "Capital Improvements" line item in the budget where the Post may hold any monies received from fund-raisers, gifts, or allocations from the general fund for the specific purpose of funding major building or equipment repairs, upgrades or replacements. For example: if the Post had an on-going drive to replace the roof, any money raised or donations received could be placed in the Capital Improvements line (for accounting purposes) and tracked in this sub-account. Money could be used in conjunction with other sources or on its own to fund

approved major building or equipment repairs, upgrades or purchases. All purchase approval limits established in the Post 146 By-Laws would apply.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to establish a Capital Improvements line in the Post budget and track funds received from gifts and fundraisers earmarked for capital improvements.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to move the \$10k coming from the CD (when it matures in December) from the general account to the newly established Capital Improvements line (subject to General Membership approval).

## 5. New Business:

- a. Policy on the Use of Service Animals: There was a question concerning which, if any, animals might be allowed in the Post building. The proposed policy addresses this issue using the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Code of Virginia, § 51.5-44, 'Rights of persons with disabilities in public places and places of public accommodation', as a basis for the proposed policy. Recommendation: that the committee approve the policy. (see attached policy.)

Action: After review and discussion, the committee voted to APPROVE the proposed policy, effective immediately.

- b. Purchase of New Overhead Lights for the BINGO Hall: Based on information provided by Mr. Tim Jefferson from Mayer Electrical (Petersburg), the House Committee recommended the purchase of flat panel LED lights (different style from those in the Club Room) as they provide more flexibility in lighting and better fit the room's décor. Each flat panel light cost \$73.35. Analysis indicates a requirement for 30 lights, but because of the output (lumens) of the LED lights, the committee recommended an initial purchase of 21 units at a cost of \$1,710.45 (including tax). Total cost for 30 units is \$2,443.55 (including tax). Once 21 lights are installed, we will better understand complete requirement.

Action: Motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to allocate \$2,500.00 for the purchase of flat panel LED ceiling lights for the BINGO Hall and administrative spaces.

- c. Purchase of Ceiling Tiles for the BINGO Hall: The House Committee recommended the purchase of new ceiling tiles for the BINGO Hall and Post administrative spaces. Ceiling tiles would be obtained from Builders First Source, same supplier used for the tiles for the Club Room. Tiles are the same type and design as used in the Club Room. Total cost for the tiles required: \$1,509.44.

Action: Motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to purchase ceiling tiles for the BINGO Hall and administrative spaces at a cost of no more than \$1,510.00.

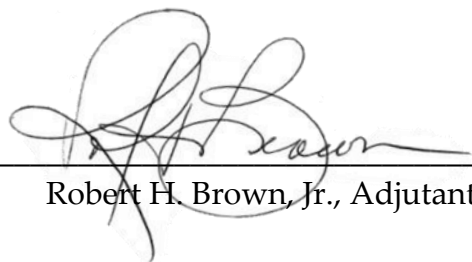
**6. Good of the Legion:**

- Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd, which is Election Day.

Action: Commander will select an alternate date which will not conflict with Election Day and notify the committee of the new meeting date.

- Members were encouraged to keep a record of the time involved and milage driven when doing anything for a veteran and/or for the Post. The time and work done on behalf of the Legion is important to capture as the information is used in the annual Consolidated Post Report.
- Concealed Carry Training and CPR/AED Training is scheduled for Oct 24th, Nov 14th, and Dec 5th (all Saturdays: from 8:00 am till 4:00 pm with a break for lunch). Course are taught by a deputy from the Hopewell Sheriff's Office. People must use the Hopewell Sheriff's Office website to sign-up for the courses.
- Veterans Day Ceremonies are still undefined as we've not had a response from City Point Cemetery. Plans will be coming soon.
- Thanksgiving Day: The Post will open at noon and begin serving Thanksgiving Dinner at 2:00 pm. Post will close at 5:00 pm

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant





**The American Legion  
Hopewell Memorial Post 146  
Hopewell, VA 23860**

**Animals at Post**

Approved by Executive Committee - October 6, 2020

**References -**

- a. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for title II (State and local government services) and title III (public accommodations and commercial facilities) as listed in the Federal Register on September 15, 2010
- b. Code of Virginia, § 51.5-44. Rights of persons with disabilities in public places and places of public accommodation
- c. Virginia Administrative Code, Title 12. Health; Agency 5. Department of Health, Chapter 421. Food Regulations

**Definitions -**

Service animal: The ADA defines a service animal as “a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person’s disability.”

Emotional support animal: According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an emotional support animal is “any animal that provides emotional support alleviating one or more symptoms or effects of a person’s disability. Emotional support animals are not limited to dogs.”

Comfort animal: The ADA defines comfort animals as those animals which work during active crises. They offer a calming distraction to those impacted in an active disaster or emergency. While these types of animals may receive extensive training and may interact with all sorts of people, including an individual with a disability, they are not trained to perform a specific task for an individual with a disability.

**Background –**

Many people with disabilities use a service animal to enable them to fully participate in everyday life. Dogs can be trained to perform many important tasks which assist people with disabilities, such as providing stability for a person who has difficulty walking, picking up items for a person who uses a wheelchair, preventing a child with autism from wandering away, or alerting a person who has hearing loss when someone is approaching from behind.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires State and local government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations (covered entities) that provide goods or services to the public to make “reasonable modifications” in their policies, practices, or procedures when necessary to accommodate people with disabilities. The service animal rules fall under this general principle.

Only dogs who have received specialized training to perform a specific task or tasks for an individual with a disability are considered “service animals”. This is the key difference between a service animal and all other types of working animals, including therapy, comfort animals, and emotional support animals.

Neither the ADA nor Virginia’s service animal law (reference b, above) includes pets or what some people call “emotional support animals”; i.e., animals that provide a sense of safety, companionship, and comfort to those with psychiatric or emotional disabilities or conditions. Virginia law specifically states that providing companionship, emotional support, well-being, or comfort does not qualify as performing work or tasks for a person with a disability.

Under the ADA and Virginia law, owners of public accommodations are not required to allow emotional support animals on the premises, only service animals.

Applicable Food Regulations (reference c, above) state that “live animals shall not be allowed on the premises of a food establishment”, with the following exceptions:

1. “Patrol dogs accompanying police or security officers in offices and dining, sales, and storage areas...”
2. “In areas that are not used for food preparation and that are usually open for customers, such as dining and sales areas, service animals that are controlled by the disabled employee or person if a health or safety hazard will not result from the presence or activities of the service animal.”

## **Policy -**

1. Only an ADA recognized “service animal” is allowed to accompany a member or guest in the Post facility.
2. Virginia law (Reference b, above) requires that service dogs be identified in particular ways: “a guide dog must be in harness. a hearing dog must be on a blaze orange leash, and. a service dog must be in a backpack, harness, or vest that identifies it as a trained service dog.”
3. Other animals, such as “support” or “comfort” animals are prohibited. As they have not been trained to perform a specific job or task, they do not qualify as “service animals” under the ADA and Virginia law.
4. Should a member or guest enter the Post facility with other than an ADA recognized service animal, they will be asked to leave the facility. They may only re-enter the facility when not accompanied by an animal.

**Changes –**

This policy may be changed, amended or updated at any regular meeting of the Executive Committee. Proposed changes, amendments, or updates must first be presented to the full Executive Committee for review and discussion at least one regular meeting prior to taking a vote on accepting the proposed change, amendment or updates.

          /s/

Robert H. Brown, Jr.  
Adjutant