



The American Legion - Hopewell Memorial Post 146

General Membership Meeting

November 19, 2019

Consolidated Summaries of Previous Meetings

October 15th General Membership and November 4th Executive Committee Meetings

Summaries of Previous General and Executive Committee Meetings:

a. October 15th General Membership Meeting:

Presentations:

- **4th District Commander Gorlitz** addressed the members stressing the new membership eligibility requirements; i.e. anyone who served in the armed forces after Dec 7, 1941 is eligible for membership. He encouraged everyone to accurately report their volunteer activities to the post adjutant: hours spent and miles driven. This information is translated into the financial impact to the community and nation with each volunteer hour worth \$25 and each mile driven worth \$0.51.
- **Dennis Confer** spoke about the Boys State Program. He reported that 652 boys participated this past summer and there was money available to support alternates. Program goal is 800 boys. School notification letters would be mailed at the end of October explaining next year's program. More counselors and staff are needed.
- **Ron Waddell** presented information about VA Mortgage Benefits and how veterans could use them. He addressed veteran application qualifications, loan limits and how the program operates. He later took questions from the members.

Officer Reports:

- Membership (1st Vice):
 - The Post now stands at 65.5% of the renewal objective with 234 paid members.
 - The following people applied for American Legion and Post 146 membership:
New: Ronnie Keene (USA); Betty Logston (USA-WAC); Glenn Blair (USN); and Ozie Bradford (USAF)
By transfer: Dale Salisbury from Post 75 [Mechanicsville, VA]
Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the above-named applicants as members of The American Legion and Post 146.

- Americanism/ Children & Youth Progs (2nd Vice): No Report
- Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): No Report as the Gaming Manager, Rob Stepp had a family emergency.
- Chaplain: Legionnaires Richard Bruce Denning (08 Sep 2019) and Floyd Andrew Patterson (Oct 11, 2019) passed away. A memorial service for Floyd Patterson is scheduled for Thursday, Oct 17th. Comrade Denning's family is from out of town and the funeral director reports that a Nov 9th service is tentatively planned. Ron Buchanan's granddaughter experienced a series of seizures and underwent brain surgery today. She may have to have additional surgery at week's end.
- Finance Officer: (Finance Officer absent – report by Post Cdr) Beginning Balance: \$92,521; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$103,431; Expenditures \$120,638. Net end of month balance for September was \$75,314.
- Sgt-at-Arms: Plastic tub used to collect personal care donations has been taken from the storage area. It must be returned so that donations may continue to be collected.

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. The adjutant discussed two revisions made to the proposed By-Laws based on recently received comments. Questions about the proposed Constitution and By-Laws were taken from the floor.

Action: A motion as made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the proposed new Post Constitution and Post By-Laws as presented on the Post website and made available in hardcopy in the Post Club Room.

New Business: (Cdr):

- a. Two Rivers Chapter of the Legion Riders is chairing the *Wreaths Across America* event at City Point National Cemetery this year. The event is schedule for a ceremony at 11:00 am followed by wreath-laying on Saturday, December 14th. Wreaths are \$15 each / box of 15 for \$75.00. Forms to purchase wreaths are available in the Club Room and will be on the Post website. [form attached]
- b. Member asked about the consolidation of the General, Vets Game (pull-tab), Social Quarters and Club Room accounts. Commander explained that the action was taken on a recommendation from the newly installed Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee to reduce bank charges. The accounts are still

recorded and maintained separately (a bookkeeping action). The Commander reported that the membership will soon see a financial report in a new format which will provide more clarity and detail.

Good of the Legion: (Cdr)

- Change to the meeting agenda: Beginning next month, new members will be brought in early in the meeting so they don't have to wait in the Club Room for an extended period of time.
 - The House Committee, in conjunction with the SAL and Grover Gaming, is purchasing new furniture for the Club Room. New barstools (18), 16 new dining tables and 52 new dining table chairs have been ordered. The tables were paid for by donations of \$200 each, Grover Gaming purchased the barstools and the dining table chairs were underwritten with money available in the Commander's Club.
 - Veterans Day activities will be conducted on Sunday (Nov 10th) and Monday (Nov 11th). Sunday will feature a parade at 4:00 pm and a special concert at the Beacon at 7:00 pm. A Memorial Service will be held on Monday at 11:00 am followed by lunch at the Post.
-

b. November 4th Executive Committee Meeting:

Officer Reports:

- Membership (1st Vice): Post stands at 74% of renewal objective. We require 90 more members to renew to reach the 100% target. We have exceeded the target new member goal (7) as nine new members have joined.
- Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): No report
- Bingo (3rd Vice): BINGO took in \$55,407.50 in October. Right now, we are about \$3,416 under our total 10% donation target.
- Post Finances (Fin Off): Beginning Balance: \$75,313; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$88,726; Expenditures \$90,565. Net end of month balance for October was \$73,476. Trend continues to be positive.
- House Committee:
 - Shingles on the front of the building were replaced.
 - Electronic Pull-Tabs Kiosk: Having an issue with keeping the kiosk stocked. Mark Creech (Treasurer) is working on improving the re-loading schedule and the amount of money being loaded with Rob Stepp (3rd Vice).

- Service Officer:
 - Worked 30.5 hours in October meeting with veterans, researching questions, input to newsletter, visits to Ft Lee and McGuire Hospital, conference attendance, and disseminating VA information to veterans.
 - Identified Richard Keefer as a Post 146 Assistant Service Officer and will begin his training this week.
 - Attended the Department Fall Conference in Williamsburg. Service Officer training presented was at basic level and not really informative. District SO, Norm Jean requested I attend training in DC and Indianapolis.
 - Working nine (9) cases and awaiting decision on five (5) others
 - Heard from Post 284 that an Assistance Clinic was run in NC where the VA made disability decisions on site. On it's face, this seems impossible – will research, but it will take some time to run down any leads.
 - Will have an information table at the Veterans Day luncheon at the Post
- Chaplain: Tommy Powroznik is home after suffering a stroke. He will eventually undergo heart surgery if and when he is well enough to tolerate the procedure. Jim Denning's son invited all Post members to attend a special grave-side ceremony at the Appomattox Cemetery on Saturday, Nov 9th at 11:00 am. After the ceremony, they will host a BBQ at the Denning home on River Road and all are invited to attend.
- Historian: New member initiation scheduled for the regular December general membership meeting. Request notice in the Post website inviting members who wish to participate to contact Mike Bonneville.
- Other Comments: In view of the fact that the SAL post national flags at a number of businesses throughout Hopewell on federal holidays, the commander recommended that the responsibility for the program and the proceeds derived from it be given over to the SAL.

Action: a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to turn-over the responsibility for and any proceeds from the Federal Holiday Flag Program to SAL Squadron 146.

Unfinished (Old) Business:

1. Pending Major Purchase Actions: Status Reports
 - a. New Barstools and Tables for Club Room: New barstools and tables received and put in place in the Club Room.
 - b. Canopy/Awning for E. City Point Entrances: Pending installation by the vendor.

- c. Parking Lot Repairs (re-sealing and re-striping): Parking lot resealed and re-striped.
 - d. Electrical System Evaluation: Tom Ashworth is still working on developing a list of needed repairs and associated costs.
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. Proposed Donations Budget: Adjutant proposed an annual (Legion Year) budget as a guideline for donations. Handout provided at the last meeting. Proposed budget would serve as a guideline only as it is based on known regular programs (essay contest, Boys State, support for JROTC, high school athletic program, etc.) and past year's donation decisions to establish donation targets.

New Business:

Possible advertisement in the Ft Lee Post and Community Guide: Discussion centered on whether the Post wanted to advertise again this year. Suggestion was made that we contact Post 2 (Petersburg), Post 120 (Disputanta), and Post 284 (Colonial Heights) to determine if they would like to jointly run the ad.

Action: Adjutant will check with other Post Adjutants/Commanders to see if they are interested.

Donation Requests:

1. Veterans Day Ceremony: \$800 (Covers cost of providing beverages for set-up [\$200.00] plus meal after service [\$500.00])

Action: Motion made, seconded and APPROVED to allocate not more than \$800.00 to cover the cost of providing food and drink for the Veterans Day Lunch at the Post.

2. SAL Squadron 146: \$66 (To support quarterly special lunch provided to Brighter Living Retirement Center residents)

Action: Motion made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$66.00 to the SAL to support the quarterly luncheon for residents of Brighter Living Ret Center.

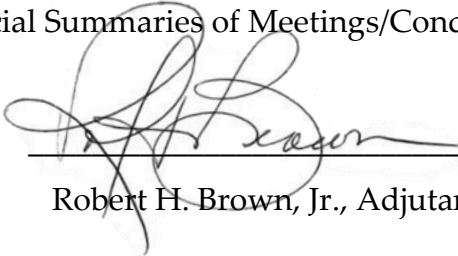
3. Hopewell High School Football Program: Received a special donation request from the Hopewell HS Football coach. He asks that the Post purchase 20 camouflage caps at a cost not to exceed \$400.00 for the staff of the undefeated Hopewell HS Football Team to honor veterans and the school.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$400.00 to the Hopewell High School Football Program for the purchase of 20 custom-made, camouflage hats.

Good of the Legion:

1. Paralyzed Veterans Association will use the main activity room on February 22, 2020 [tentative] to conduct a Fishing Tackle Yard Sale/Flea Market.
Representatives meeting on Nov 26th to plan the event.
2. Veterans Center in Hopewell is a project still under development. VSO Larry Gammon will lead the project once plans are finalized by the City of Hopewell.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant