



The American Legion - Hopewell Memorial Post 146

General Membership Meeting

December 17, 2019

Consolidated Summaries of Previous Meetings

November 19th General Membership and December 3rd Executive Committee Meetings

Summaries of Previous General and Executive Committee Meetings:

a. November 19th General Membership Meeting:

Presentations: *Life Scout Ethan McQuage* addressed the members concerning his recently completed Eagle Scout project. The project, a chicken coop for the Prince George Animal Shelter, was funded, in part, with a donation from the Post.

Officer Reports:

- Membership (1st Vice):
 - The Post now stands at 78% of the renewal objective with 279 paid members.
 - The following people applied for American Legion and Post 146 membership:
 - William E. Lindus (USA); Richard Keffer (USA); William Orner (USMC); Allan Golden (USA); Robert Shaw (WWII -USAAF); and Thomas Blount (WWII-USA)
 - 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): Thanked everyone for their support for the Nov 11th Veterans Day Ceremony and luncheon. Post current has \$40,767.00 in our scholarship account. The Middle School Essay Contest is in process and on track. We expect to receive submissions by the middle of December for judging.
- Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): No Report.
- House Committee: No Report.
- Service Officer: As of 01 Jan 2020, service -connect disabled veterans and their caregivers will be afforded base Commissary and Exchange privileges. Those seeking these privileges must have a VA Healthcare ID Card. All eligible veterans/caregivers should be receiving a letter from the VA in December. If a person is in that category and needs a VA Healthcare ID Card or authorization

letter, they should contact Valerie Keefer at the Petersburg Veterans Support Center for assistance.

- Chaplain: Tommy Powroznik remains at 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 held a special grave-side ceremony held at the Appomattox Cemetery on Saturday, Nov 9th at 11:00 am. After the ceremony, the family hosted a BBQ at the Denning home on River Road.
- Historian: No Report.
- Finance Officer: (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.
- Sgt-at-Arms: No Report.

Correspondence: Thank you letters received from John Randolph Foundation (support for the annual golf tournament), R&DA Military Assistance Program, and the Knights of Columbus Father Massey Council #4568 and Sisters of the Heart Ministry at St. James Catholic Church for supporting their Veterans Day Recognition Event.

Old Business (Cdr): None

New Business: (Cdr): None

Good of the Legion: (Cdr)

- Hopewell Humane Society will hold a silent auction at the Post on Saturday, Dec 7th, from 9 to 11 am. Money raised will go to helping the shelter provide care for rescued kittens, cats and dogs.
- The commander awarded Post 146 Challenge Coins to the following members for their outstanding service to the Post: Chuck Stininger, Doug Arrance, Dan Benka, Ed Sanders and Ronnie Waddell.

b. December 3rd Executive Committee Meeting:

Officer Reports:

- Membership (1st Vice): Post stands at 80% of renewal objective. We require 72 more members to renew to reach the 100% target.

- Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): No report
- Bingo (3rd Vice): BINGO Report by Commander: BINGO took in less than usual in November. Right now, we have about \$3,000 available in the BINGO account. 3rd Vice recommends we make no donation distribution and place all available funds in the Restricted Account.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to move available funds into the Restricted Account. The committee decided to review possible donations at the January meeting.

- Post Finances (Fin Off): Beginning Balance: \$75,475; Gross Deposits for all accounts: \$98,107; Expenditures \$89,633. Net end of month balance for November was \$81,949. Trend continues to be positive.
- House Committee: Discussed recommendations presented by the Decoration Committee and reviewed list of suggested work projects. [*Decorations Committee recommendations and House Committee comments discussed under New Business*]
- Service Officer: Excused - No Report
- Chaplain: Jim Wisnewski's wife, Carolyn, will undergo knee-replacement surgery on December 10th. Tommy Powroznik remains at home after suffering a stroke.
- Historian: Request: The Post has three flag staffs without tops (finials). Request the Post purchase three gold-colored 'spear' finials for the flag staffs.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to purchase three (3) gold-colored 'spear' finials for the flag staffs at a cost not to exceed \$50.00. The Post Adjutant was tasked to order the items.

Correspondence (Adj):

- Crater Community Hospice: Thank you card for the Post's continuing support
- Freedom Support Center: Letter of appreciation received for the Post's continued support and for the donation of wheel chairs, walkers and portable toilets.

Unfinished (Old) Business:

1. Pending Major Purchase Actions: Status Reports
 - a. Canopy/Awning for E. City Point Entrances: Pending installation by the vendor; possibly in the coming weeks.
 - b. Electrical System Evaluation: Tom Ashworth is still working on developing a list of needed repairs and associated costs.

2. Paralyzed Veterans Association has confirmed using the main activity room on February 22, 2020 to conduct a Fishing Tackle Yard Sale/Flea Market. The Post will cater the event.

Action: No action required at this time.

New Business:

Interior Decorating Committee: The Decorating Committee's suggested and completed actions are shown in the List of Suggested Work Projects (Atch 1).

- The House Committee concurred with all listed recommendations except item 9, *Moving the large mirror over the bar and replacing with a large screen TV*, and item 15, *Remove red, white and blue light strand from above bar*.
- After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed with the House Committee recommendations with the understanding that all work projects will be planned and coordinated with the Facility Manager and major undertakings (such as re-painting, moving liquor lockers, etc.) will be planned, organized and supervised by a named project/work lead and costs reported to the Executive Committee.

Action: A motion was made seconded and approved to initiate those projects recommended by the House Committee.

Donation Requests:

a. Carried Forward from November:

1. Oratorical Program (Cater G. Woodson MS) \$500 (No history on this program as our Post hasn't sponsored or conducted this program in years)

Action: Not programmed for this year – no action required

2. CGW Maguire VA Hospital Holiday Program \$250 (Covers food costs for students before performing at McGuire VA Hospital; also used to support guest music teacher)

Action: Not programmed for this year – no action required

3. Freedom Support Center \$1,000 (2nd installment toward \$5,000 annual target)

Action: Deferred until January's meeting

b. Recommend Approval:

1. Unit 146, ALA \$200 donation for Children's Christmas Party
2. Richmond Children's Hospital \$1,000 (proposed in Donation Plan/ Budget)
3. Tech for Troops \$1,250 (proposed in Donation Plan/ Budget)
4. John Randolph Foundation \$1,000 (proposed in Donation Plan/ Budget)

Action: A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to donate \$200 to Unit 146, ALA to support the upcoming Children's Christmas Party. Items 2, 3, and 4 deferred to the January meeting.

c. Requests for Discussion:

Hopewell High School Football Program: \$765 Request from the Football Program Boosters to sponsor support for the team with Football shirts for the 20/21 school Year. Sponsors names/ logos are featured on t-shirts.

Action: NO ACTION taken on the request.

d. Recommend Disapproval:

1. Help Hospitalized Veterans: National campaign; out of area (Little Rock, AR). Received one (1) star out of four (4) [LOW rating] by Charity Navigator for very poor financial operations.
2. The Alzheimer's Disease Fund: National campaign; part of "Project Cure"; out of area (Merrifield, VA). Charity Navigator rates Project Cure as a "Social Welfare Organization" whose basic premise is that *America's health care system, which is now geared toward serving the interests of health care providers, must be radically altered to serve the interests of the American public.*
3. This organization is listed with a 501(c)(4) status, which means that it does not pay income tax but contributions to it are **not tax-deductible**.
4. Charity Navigator reports that Florida-based Project Cure has been promoting questionable methods since its inception (1979). Its solicitations have suggested that contributions will be used in the fight against cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and other major health problems. However, its financial reports indicate that (a) it does not sponsor research, (b) its

"educational" programs are unreliable, and (c) most of the money it collects winds up in the hands of professional fundraisers.

Action: The committee took NO ACTION on these four items.

Good of the Legion:

1. *Change to the Preamble of the American Legion Constitution*: Resolution passed at the October meeting of the National Executive Committee. Change to the preamble as follows:

FROM: To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars

TO: To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars

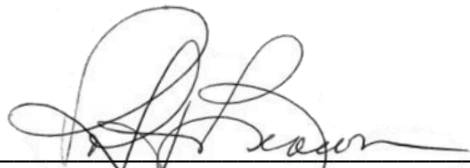
Reason: Based on the passage of the LEGION Act which changed entrance requirements for the American Legion to include 12 additional military conflicts not previously recognized. Eligibility now includes all military service from December 7, 1941 forward.

Effective Date: 01 November 2019

Action: As the pull-down chart can no longer be used when reciting the preamble at General Membership meetings, the Committee directed the Post Adjutant to prepare sufficient copies of the revised preamble for use by members at future meetings.

2. ALA Unit 146 has agreed to sponsor WWII Vets for breakfast on Tuesdays at 9:00 am. No date given for when this will begin.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant

Post 146 Interior Design/Decorating Committee

List of Suggested Work Projects

November 21, 2019

The items listed below are suggested projects/actions which may be taken to improve the Club Room interior. They are listed without priority. Easy-to-do, low/no cost actions shown as 'completed'.

Nr	Item/Action	Remarks
1	Clean (strip and wax) the Club Room floor	Recommend by contract one/twice annually with quarterly buffing
2	Remove all clutter from walls	Complete prior to item #3
3	Paint Club Room walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine color scheme • Identify project lead/coordinator • Identify volunteer work force • Identify target work date
4	Remove cabinet behind pool table and relocate. Move POW/MIA table to the location and spotlight	Completed
5	Determine need for park bench and remove if unnecessary	Completed
6	a. Move personal liquor lockers from behind coffee bar and reposition as front entrance break wall b. Move coffee bar to place formally used by liquor lockers c. Proposed work date: 18 Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify project lead/coordinator and workers • Remove current free-standing break wall • Refurbish lockers (clean, repaint, re-key, re-number) • Face back of lockers with wall board or some other material, install baseboard and molding; paint to appear as wall
7	Install can lights to better illuminate entrances	Tom Ashworth will review
8	Reposition can lights in Club Room and add lighting to V-Tabs area (Coordinate with Tom Ashworth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Row 1 over bar work area • Row 2 over bar proper • Row 3 directly over tables • Row 4 over tables in V-Tabs area • Remove ceiling light and replace with can lights over V-Tabs machines

List of Suggested Work Projects – Interior Design/Decorating Committee

Nr	Item/Action	Remarks
9	Move large (42 x 72) mirror behind bar to opposite wall. Install large screen TV in its place. Best candidates: 80" and 85" models. Possibly consider moving all mirrors to opposite wall.	Large Screen TV actual sizes 70" - 34.5" x 61" 75" – 37" x 65.5" 80" – 39.5" x 70" 85" – 42" x 74.5" 90" – 44.5" x 78.5" 100" – 54.5"x 93"
10	Replace ceiling fans over bar with larger-bladed models without lights	
11	Move high top bar table next to support pole in Club Room	Action depends on completion of item #6
12	Remove old speakers and reposition speakers for maximum sound	Old speakers removed – repositioning pending
13	Reroute speaker, power, TV cable and other wires so they are not hanging down from ceiling and over walls	
14	Install sheer curtains in back of small stage and install mini 'waterfall' lights behind the sheers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify projected cost • Work done by volunteers
15	Remove red, white and blue light strand from above bar	
16	Replace or paint ceiling tiles	Discuss with contractor or building supply to identify best price or obtain donations [Projected Cost: \$1,100]