



AMERICAN LEGION POST 402

Minutes for General Membership Meeting May 3, 2021

OPENING – The meeting was called to order at the Emerald Coast Post 402 by Commander Bob Hoffman at 6:00 p.m. The flag of our country was saluted, and opening prayer was offered by Commander Hoffman. The Sergeant at Arms draped the POW chair and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS – All were present except for Judge Advocate Mike Starkman and Chaplain Ed Nendick, who were both excused.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the April 2021 meeting had been e-mailed to all Members. A motion was made, and seconded, to accept the minutes as written. The Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Currently we have 157 paid members for 2021. Our annual goal from Department was 145, so we have exceeded our goals. We have 1 new application for membership and 1 transfer.

NEW MEMBERS – We had a new member application from Anne Sherrill, USA and a transfer application from Louis P. “Scott” Kooken IV, USAF. Both were voted on and approved.

FINANCE REPORT – Provided by Finance Officer Mike Taft.

OLD BUSINESS

Fund Raising – The drawing for the pistol raffle was held at the March meeting. Historian Bill McGrath won the pistol and ammunition. After expenses, the Post made about \$1,900.00 on the pistol raffle.

Fund-Raising Events – Legion Bingo 13 March, there was a decent turnout.

Adopt-a-Highway – Will be held on Saturday, 8 May at 10 AM.

NEW BUSINESS

Report from Bay County Veterans Council – Adjutant Mike Dwyer reported on the April meeting of the Council. The Military Welcome Center at the airport could use more volunteers. The National Personnel Records Center had been closed for 12 months due to the COVID virus. They are backed up approximately 400,000 requests for military and medical records. Processing of a request is estimated at 18 months, to 2 years.

Correspondence – A note was left at the Post from a member, Louis Glubaskas. The note said he never received his 2021 membership card. The person who took the phone call from Mr. Glubaskas said that when he described his card over the phone it was dated 2021. Adjutant Dwyer checked the Post records and Mr. Glubaskas' card had been issued and he is paid up for 2021. Unfortunately, we have no phone number or email address for him. Adjutant Dwyer sent Mr. Glubaskas a letter explaining the situation to him.

A packet was received from Department containing all the paperwork for our end of year report..

Post Elections – Post elections will be conducted at the June 7th member's meeting. Nominations were first taken at the April meeting. At this meeting Jimmy Bowers removed himself as a candidate for Commander and new member Scott Kooken was nominated for Vice Commander. The nominees are:

Commander – Bob Hoffman
Vice Commander – Scott Kooken
Chaplain – Ed Nendick
Historian – Bill McGrath
Sergeant at Arms – Bill McCurdy
Finance Officer – Mike Taft

Members must be paid up for 2021. Dues cards will be inspected at the door and only members showing a 2021 dues card will be allowed to vote.

Unity Ride – American Legion Rider President Jimmy Bowers announced that the recent Unity Ride raised \$141,900 in donations.

Bingo – The post will conduct bingo at 1 PM on May 8th.

Fund-Raising Events – Next Legion Bingo is 10 April. A motion was made, and seconded, that the post conduct another pistol raffle. Bill McGrath suggested that this time the post purchase two Ruger LCP .380 pistols and award them, and a box of ammunition, to two different winners. Bill McCurdy made a motion to expend up to \$700 for purchasing the two pistols and boxes of ammunition. The motion was seconded and passed. It was decided to print 300 tickets this time since the 250 tickets for our last pistol raffle sold out in only two weeks.

GOOD OF THE LEGION

West Bay Flag Placement – The post will replace the flags on the veteran's graves in West Bay Cemetery at 10 AM, May 30.

Memorial Day Service – The post, along with VFW Post 10555, will host a wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Aaron Bessant Park. The mayor of Panama City Beach will attend. Don Adsit made a motion, seconded by Bill McGrath, to split the cost of the wreath with VFW Post 10555 and pay for half. Motion carried.

VFW Security System – VFW Post 10555 has had a new security camera system installed. It had come to the attention of some of our members that the new system also recorded audio, in addition to the video. There were very strong feelings expressed that this was a invasion of privacy. Four members, Vice Commander Jimmy Bowers, Rick Leopold, Stacy Talbot, and Paul Hughes expressly asked that their names be recorded in the minutes as being opposed to any audio recordings being made of any American Legion meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER was offered by Commander Bob Hoffman.

MEETING ADJOURNED – by Commander Bob Hoffman at 6:52 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

/S/

Mike Dwyer
Adjutant

/S/

Robert Hoffman
Commander