



AMERICAN LEGION POST 402

Minutes for General Membership Meeting December 7, 2020

OPENING – The meeting was called to order at the Emerald Coast Post 402 by Commander Bob Hoffman at 18:00 hours. The flag of our country was saluted, and opening prayer was offered by the Commander. Sgt. At Arms (Acting), draped the POW chair and the Commander lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS – All were present except for 1st Vice Commander, Mike Dwyer; Sgt of Arms, Bill McCurdy; and the Financial Officer, this position was vacant at the time of the meeting. Judge Advocate, Mike Starkman and Chaplain Ed Nendick joined the meeting via Zoom.

GUEST – None

MINUTES – The Minutes of the November 2020 meeting have been e-mailed to all Members. A motion was made by Jimmy Bowers to accept the minutes as written. The Motion was seconded and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Commander, Bob Hoffman provided the available balances for the Post for the months of October and November. Ken Hoffman requested a member audit of the financial reports for the months of July through 5th October; three members reviewed the balances and expenditures for the requested period. Those members signed an audit form, and a copy was provided to Commander Hoffman.

Banking Account Access - Commander Hoffman discussed and motioned the need to have visibility to all American Legion Post 402 accounts: American Legion Corporation, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders. The access would support accountability of financial status and could be accessed in person and online at the backing institution. Additionally, he requested that himself and Adjutant, Michael S. Taft have the ability to sign checks for Post 402. The motion was 1st/2nd and carried by a vote of the membership.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT Currently we have 114 members for 2021. Our annual goal from Department is 145. Our goal for December 7th was 77.24% and we have 114 which is 78.62% of our annual goal! Reminder, all 2020 memberships need to be renewed by 31 DEC 2020.

NEW MEMBERS – We have three (3) new membership applications; Bobby Turner (USA), William Weber (USA) and Carol Crisp (USA) and all paperwork has been reviewed/received. Two transfers; Nicholas Doefler and Gary Scholl. A motion was made to approve the new members, the motion was seconded and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fund Raising – Bingo made \$33

Flag replacement West Bay Cemetery was completed on 8 NOV 2020 (Report - Bob Hoffman)

Veteran's Day Ceremony - Was held at Arron Bassett Park Veteran's Memorial @ 1600, 11 NOV 2020 (Report – Mike Dwyer)

Patriot's Run 14 NOV 2020 (Report)

Post license plates and awards display were organized – (Report – Jimmy Bowers/Bob Hoffman)

Adopt-a-highway – 12 DEC @1000 meet at Escape Room parking lot

JROTC Awards – Commander, Bob Hoffman presented the JROTC Scholastic and Leadership awards to Arnold HS JROTC recipients on 3 December 2020 .

NEW BUSINESS

Report from Bay County Veterans Council – (no report)

Financial Records Audit – Ken Hoffman requested a member financial records audit (see Financial Report above). A discussion also included the annual payment for the Post storage unit and whether the AL Auxiliary. Sons of the AL and the AL Riders owned their portion of the bill. Jimmy Bowers indicated the other entities had paid their portion previously and that the next payment was due in May 2021.

Correspondence – Received a request for donation from St Jude Children's Research Hospital. Mary Lemburg recommended that Post should focus on local charities at this time, others agreed. No action was taken.

Wreaths Across America – Commander Hoffman reported that on Saturday, DEC 19, 2020 @ 1400, American Legion Emerald Coast Post 402 (FL0718) will be helping West Bay Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Programs (Adj): Homeless Veteran's Outreach award – due 14 DEC 2020
Boy State registration - due 6 JAN 2021

Fund-Raising Events – Dinners, Bingo, Entertainment. Commander Hoffman proposed having a pistol raffle to support fundraising. Robert Lemburg put forth a motion to purchase a pistol, one box of ammunition and raffle tickets not to exceed \$650, motion was seconded and carried.

GOOD OF THE LEGION

Florida Flag & Emblem Sales is having a large sale with up to 80% off through the month of December. All profits earned stay with the Department of Florida, in support of our Florida Veterans and programs. **Shop:** <http://www.floridalegionstore.org>

Holiday Blood Drive begins November 26 – December 31, 2020. Take this time to give a gift that will save a life. Posts can schedule your own blood drives and encourage others to participate.

Bluetooth Speaker – Bill McGrath, proposed a motion to purchase a bluetooth speaker to ensure members on the Zoom connection could be heard. Motion was seconded and carried to procure a device not to exceed \$50.

A local veteran was identified to provide one of the two Boston butts; K. Grimes.

CLOSING PRAYER was offered by Chaplain Ed Nendick.

MEETING ADJOURNED – by Commander Bob Hoffman at 19:00 hours.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 4th, at 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted

/S/

Michael Taft
Adjutant

/S/

Robert Hoffman
Commander