



WALTON F. HOFFMAN MEMORIAL POST 179
410 W. Coll Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130-5619

General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** 1902 by Commander Gea Clausier.
2. **Roll Call verified for Quorum.** List of attendees attached.
3. **Review/Approval of Previous Minutes:** MOTION by Tim Powers to approve February General Membership Meeting minutes; SECONDED by Charlie Clopper. Motion PASSED.

4. Officer and Committee Report Summaries:

Commander – Gea Clausier:

- Noted she would be attending the 14th District Spring Convention in Sequin, TX in April and any member is welcome to attend at a cost of \$25.00. Dan Oliver expressed an interest in attending.
- Reviewed several upcoming events – see Announcements.
- Noted several members on our roster had passed away and the draping of the charter for these comrades would be scheduled as soon as the review of the roster was complete.
- Welcomed new transferring member, Lynn Knupp.

First Vice Commander / ALR Director – Jay Grady:

- Noted the Post had achieved its membership goal and has 491 current members.
- Thanked those who assisted with and participated in the ALR's Fasching Run in February.
- Noted the ALR obtained the prizes for October's Wurst Run and Jim Hicks is selling raffle tickets.
- Noted the ALR would be participating in the Converse Rolling Run in March and the Schulenburg Black Bean Run in April.
- Thanked the Sergeant At Arms, Newsletter Editor / Publisher for assisting with Post communications.

Adjutant – Ed Taylor:

- Distributed a form for tracking service hours to assist in required Post reporting. It was noted that mileage should be added to the form. This updated form is attached and is also available online.

Finance Officer – Rick Smith:

- Provided an overview of the financial report which is available to members in the office at the Post. MOTION by Pete Johnson to approve the financial report pending audit; SECONDED by Jim Hicks. Motion PASSED.
- Noted he was working to update the signatories on the Post's Vanguard account.
- Discussed resources available and required for Boys State scholarships and t-shirts.

Chaplain – Charlie Clopper:

- Noted a Four Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony was held in February and he hoped the Post would continue the tradition in the future.
- Encouraged all members to participate in the city's observance of Vietnam Veteran's Day – see Announcements. Noted on March 29, 1973 the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam was completed, and he participated in POW debriefings. The first Vietnam Veterans Day was held in 1974 on the one year anniversary of troop withdrawal. Each state has a proclamation for the observance of Vietnam Veteran's Day. The Texas proclamation was signed by Governor Abbott in 2018.

Sergeant At Arms – Deb Powers:

- Noted the need for replacement of the American Legion Flag in front of the Post.
- Distributed a birthday card for Post member and WWII Veteran James Ulbrich.

SAL Commander – Eddy Seegers:

- Noted two pending SAL membership renewals that will bring SAL to its membership goal.
- Noted SAL finances were good and due to availability of volunteers their primary focus for now is supporting the rest of the legion family.
- Discussed participation in the American Legion Legislative Conference in February and Be the One assistance he and a colleague provided to a waitress whose daughter had served in the Navy (see March newsletter for full story).

5. Unfinished Business:

- Post Bar Enhancements - Lighting for the outdoor seating area and bar flooring is being priced / evaluated: Not discussed.
- Volunteers Needed for Various Events - It was noted that due to requirements imposed by Folkfest organizers, the Post will not be participating in the event this year.

6. New Business:

- An urgent need to repair HVAC components was discussed. A quote of approximately 14,000.00 was received. Pete Johnson will follow up with the Second Vice Commander to clarify needed repairs and assess reasonableness of this quote.
- Quotes for changing Post locks to enhance security were solicited from three vendors. Only one vendor responded and estimated the cost to be between approximately \$2,800 and \$3,850 depending on options selected. Following member discussion, it was generally agreed that given the cost, changing locks is not a priority at this time.
- **MOTION by Jay Grady to approve the purchase of a new American Legion flag for the flagpole in front of the Post; SECONDED by Rick Smith. Motion PASSED.**
- SAL Commander Eddy Seegers, Pete Johnson, and Post Commander Gea Clausier noted the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery is an interesting and worthwhile place to visit if you are ever in the DC area.

7. Announcements:

- March 16, 2024, 11:00 a.m. - Memorial Service for Ryan Edward Blankenship, a 22-year-old active duty member killed in a motorcycle accident on his way home from his ship, the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74); Hillside Fellowship 7055 US-281 Spring Branch, TX 78070
- March 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - AGIF-NVOP Hiring Event 206 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio, TX 78205
- March 21, 2024, 4:00 p.m. - Volunteers needed to help bring items down from the attic to prepare for Auxiliary Rummage Sale; pizza will be provided for volunteers
- March 21, 2024, 7:04 p.m. - SAL Meeting
- March 22, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - Auxiliary Rummage Sale setup

- March 23, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - Auxiliary Rummage Sale; donations accepted at the Post bar area daily after 4:00 p.m.
- March 23, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - Post and Kitchen Cleanup - Auxiliary is leading the event this month but volunteers are always needed. Please contact James Hollon for more information or to volunteer.
- March 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - ALR Meeting
- March 29, 2024, 12:00 p.m. - Vietnam Veterans Day, Downtown Plaza, New Braunfels, TX
- April 27, 2024, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Pop-up Market at the Post Bar - Do a little evening shopping with local vendors and enjoy some food, drink, and great company. Watch the calendar and Facebook for additional bar events like open mic night starting in April.

8. **Closing:** Meeting was adjourned at 2008.

Submitted by:

Deborah Powers
Sergeant At Arms

Approved by:

Gea Clausier
Post Commander

General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

List of Attendees

Commander
First Vice Commander /
ALR Director
Adjutant
Finance Officer
Chaplain
Judge Advocate
Sergeant At Arms
SAL Commander
Golf Tournament Chairman
Security Manager
Members and Guests

Gea Clausier
Jay Grady

Ed Taylor
Rick Smith
Charlie Clopper
Spike Valencia
Deborah Powers
Eddy Seegers
Dan Oliver
Tim Powers
Jerry Chandler
Jeff Coulter
Becky Hicks
Jim Hicks
Pete Johnson
Lynn Knupp
Dennis Moreland
Tom Shuttler
David Stinson
Joe Tambunga
Rich Vassi
George Zavala