

## **Minutes General Membership Meeting August 19, 2014**

**Opening:** Commander, Raymond Baker, opened the meeting at 7:25 p.m. following presentations to a joint Legion and Auxiliary session by 2 Girls State attendees and 3 Boys State participants. They were very appreciative, had a great learning event, and committed to recommending the experience to classmates during their senior year.

**Minutes:** The Adjutant read the minutes from the immediate past General Membership and Executive Committee meetings. The minutes stood as read.

**Finance:** Charlie Baker read the financial report. Alan Praytor moved to accept the report as read subject to audit. Lance Olson provided the second to the motion: unanimously approved.

**Membership:** Pat Downing reported that the Post has 106 members which puts us at 70% of goal. This includes the 6 new and 7 renewals from the August 9<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast. Charlie Baker provided an explanation of the Jan1 – 31 Dec membership year and the renewal cycle for 2015.

**Service Officer:**

- Amador Lugo provided statistics on the number served at the breakfast: 114, nearly double last year's tally.
- He attended the weekly Thursday coffee at The Grille sponsored by Mary Jo Schaffer, Bandera County VSO, although she was not in attendance. There were 11 veterans on hand. He provided all of them his card and encouraged them to visit the Legion and participate in the Veterans Day parade.
- Richard Gringe, retired local lawyer, will celebrate 80 years on August 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m.
- He provided the group Ben Rosario's background with the VA and now Texas Veterans Commission. He assisted 8 veterans during and after the Pancake Breakfast.
- Discussion ensued regarding the job description and performance of the County VSO. The Legion obtained a Texas Veterans Commission training slot in September; Susan Junker will attend.
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**Chaplain:** Bill Bowie reported on his weekly visits to the 2 Bandera County nursing/rehabilitation facilities; no change in status of the veterans there. He is providing Sunday services at Cedar Creek.

**Hubmaster/Website:** Newsletter went out electronically. There were 2 articles in local newspapers; 1) County VSO; and 2) SSG (Ret) Matayka home groundbreaking. The June 7<sup>th</sup> change in VA burial benefits will be posted to the

website. Other new sections include; legislative and VA. A plea for additional input was made.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Boys State**: Nothing new to report; closed with all sponsors.

**Safety Incident**: No new information.

**SSG (Ret) Matayka**: An update provided on the short notice support of a color guard for the Groundbreaking on August 14<sup>th</sup>, and added Ed and his wife, Karen, as new members.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Department Executive Committee Training**: Training is scheduled for September 27. Charlie Baker and Susan Junker are registered so far. Amador will not be able to attend.

**Membership for Nursing Home Veterans**: Alan Praytor moved that the American Legion pay the renewal or new dues for veterans residing in the nursing and rehabilitation centers in Bandera County. Victor Strickland provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**: There being no additional business, AJ Hodges moved to adjourn and Pat Downing provided the second. The meeting ended at 8:35.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 – List of Attendees
- 2 – Finance Report

Raymond E. Baker, Sr.  
Commander  
American Legion Post 157

Susan L. Junker  
Adjutant  
American Legion Post 157