



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

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LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN
POST 407
10134 RACoon DR
EL PASO TX 79924
(915)751-4556
doleary2@elp.rr.com

DATE: 28 October 2023

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 5 VISITORS: 1 TOTAL: 6

(NOTE: Our visitor Ms. Kira Edwards, this morning is on duty as an assistant for our Commander.)

We were unable to meet last week, our normal day, so we met informally for a modified Post meeting at a local restaurant.

Members present were: Cdr Allen Lawrence; Adjutant Dennis O'Leary; Sgt-at-Arms Raul Romero; our school liaison, Manny Romero and Hubmaster Martin Lawrence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Adjutant O'Leary stated that the main VA now has Acupuncture for veterans.
2. National Security: Cdr stated, "As I always say, be aware of your surroundings and be very careful answering the phone and unfamiliar emails. Martin stated, "My car was broken into and they destroyed my ignition and the entire steering column was affected. It's costing me \$1,500 and my insurance company has to pay \$9,000. It's a thing on TikTok where these mostly young folk go out and do this and then post it online to show off."
3. Americanism: Cdr stated, "Please wear your hat and/or an American Legion shirt when you are involved with any veterans' activities." (Just do not wear any clothing with the Legion emblem to any political event.) Dennis stated, "It's a great ice-breaker." Cdr agreed, saying, "Yes, it gets people asking questions; it gets a conversation going."
4. Children & Youth: Manny, our school liaison stated, "I will contact the Principal (at Zavala Elem Sch) prior to our next meeting to see what kind of items they need." Dennis stated, "Raul had a great idea which is to get sporting equipment, such as soccer balls, basketballs, etc." Cdr added, "Yes, good idea; those items would benefit the whole school."
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant stated, "We now have thirty-two paid-up members. We're doing very well." Cdr stated, "Yes, we're doing better than Posts not only here in the EP area, but nationwide."
6. Public Relations: We're doing things for Zavala Elementary School and the poppy event got us out in the community.
7. Finance Report: Dennis stated, "We now have \$1,180.24 in our bank account."
8. Legislative: Raul stated, "Everything is held up in the House, so nothing is certain. We're supposed to get a COLA in January, but we'll have to wait and see what they do."
9. Service Officer: Allen stated, "I have a veteran that I was able to get registered with the VA. He is a former Navy corpsman. I'm working on getting his disability and trying to get him to join our Post."
10. Hubmaster: Martin stated, "We're getting about 100 hits per day on our website."
11. Historian: Martin stated, "We have a whole section on our site dedicated to history."
12. Sick-Call Relief & Employment: Dennis showed copy of letter to Bill Bosanko (who is our Honorary Life member) in order to ascertain as to his health to the members present. Raul is getting better after testing + for covid about ten days ago. He re-tested his morning and the test was -, thankfully.
13. Unfinished Business: None

14. New Business: Dennis brought up and there was some discussion among the members to increase our annual dues to \$49 as of 1 Jul 2024. This was necessary due to the fact that Dept increased theirs this year and National will be increasing theirs also on 1 Jul 24. Motion made to do so made by Martin Lawrence and seconded by Manny Romero. Motion passed unanimously. Next, motion made by Adjutant and seconded by Raul Romero to appoint Martin Lawrence as our liaison officer to the ASYMCA for any further business. Motion passed by the members.

Cdr asked if there was anything further to come before the meeting. There was none.

Meeting adjourned at 1055, Sat. 28 October 2023. Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs, 18 Nov 23.

Adjutant Dennis O'Leary

Commander Allen Lawrence