



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

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LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN
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DATE: 19 July 2025

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 6 **VISITORS:** 1 **TOTAL:** 7

NOTE: Visitor today is Jessica, caretaker for Cdr Allen Lawrence.

Members present were: Cdr, Allen Lawrence; Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary; Chaplain, Hank Braun; Sgt-at-Arms, Raul Romero; Hubmaster/Historian, Martin Lawrence, and School Liaison Manny Romero.

Cdr asked if there was a motion to consider the minutes from our June meeting as read. Motion was made by Martin and seconded by Manny. Motion passed by members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Veteran Affairs & Service:** Martin stated that the rumor out there saying our VA will not be caring for democrat veterans has been debunked. Raul stated, "I went to tell them (VA) that one of my outside providers has been billing both Tricare and the VA. Patient Advocate told me that I had to do the legwork and get all the paperwork myself, which isn't my responsibility." Hank reported, "I've been getting good care; no major problems."
2. **National Security:** Cdr stated, "There are so many scams out there targeting vets and seniors. My advice is, if you don't recognize a phone number, text, or email, simply delete it and, if possible, block it. As I've said before many times, do not answer your phone with 'Yes' because they then have your voice agreeing to whatever they are trying to sell."
3. **Americanism:** Dennis reminded members to please wear the American Legion hat while in transit to and from any Legion functions, such as our monthly meetings. Cdr reminded members, "Do not wear anything with the American Legion emblem to a political event; that is prohibited."
4. **Children & Youth:** The search for a local elementary school to which we would like to sponsor continues. Raul stated, "I talked to the people at Parkland Elementary, but they didn't seem interested at all. It was like talking to the wall."
5. **Membership & Post Activities:** Adjutant O'Leary stated, "We have started our new year for the Legion. Unfortunately, we do not have the membership cards yet. I contacted the Dept Adjutant over week ago who told me our District Cdr has them this year and would get them to us soon. I will check with Post 58 for an update on this. But good news is, dues are now \$50, so our Post will accrue some fiscal benefit from renewals this year, unlike last year."
6. **Public Relations:** Members are out in the community volunteering and out following up on Legion business. Martin continues to volunteer to work the Food Drive up at our VA main campus. He had three hundred hours of volunteer work during the past year.
7. **Finance Report:** Dennis stated, "Our checking account balance is \$668.07. We have some renewals already; I'm just waiting for the cards."
8. **Legislative:** Raul mentioned that State has passed a law which states, any garage that is not attached to the home will be taxed as living space.
9. **Service Officer:** Allen stated, "Right now I've got two veterans I'm helping; one is for an increase and the other is for an initial claim for disability. I'm just waiting for paperwork. Allen reported, "I got my 100%, from my last review."
10. **Hubmaster:** Martin stated, we're still getting fifty to a hundred hits per day on our website."
11. **Historian:** Martin stated, "The next national holiday will be Labor Day."

12. **Sick-Call Relief & Employment:** Allen stated, “I’m doing better every day.” Raul stated, “I hope to get my choppers (four implants) next week so I’ll be able to eat solid food again. I’ve lost twenty-six pounds with this dental surgery. If I would have known it was going to be such a big deal, I would have gone to a novelty store and bought some those fake teeth.” (Laughing).
13. **Unfinished Business:** We continue to pursue an elementary school we are searching for which to sponsor. One of our members brought up the fact that we haven’t been looking into assisting a parochial school, so several members volunteered to check on some of those soon.
14. **New Business:** Martin reported that the AWYMCA is looking for volunteers for some of their programs.
15. **For the Good of the Legion:** Nothing presented.

Cdr asked if there was anything further to come before the meeting. There was no response.

Meeting adjourned at 1111, Sat. 19 July 2025

Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs Saturday, 16 August 2025.

Adjutant Dennis O’Leary

Commander Allen Lawrence