



American Legion LTC George Franklin "Ben" Aiken Post 407

American Legion
LTC GEORGE FRANKLIN "BEN" AIKEN
POST 407
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DATE: 20 September 2025

COMPILED BY: Post Adjutant, Dennis O'Leary

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS PRESENT: 6 VISITORS: 0 TOTAL: 0.

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 August meeting as read. Motion was made by Hank and seconded by Martin. Motion passed by members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Veteran Affairs & Service: Martin stated, "The VA has lost seventy-five employees, so some services are no longer available. Allen stated, "Yes, they (the VA) cut my hours for home health. Now I just have a caretaker three times a week. I will soon be going a different route in order to get some more hours. It's called, 'respite care'." Raul had no complaints today. Dennis reported on the Sep Townhall (VA). Veterans called to report lack of communication between the economy providers and the VA. They also spoke about the food drive up near the parking garage at the VA. It is a cooperative operation between the ASYMCA who procures the foods, and the VA volunteers who distribute them. Hank stated, "You can get the flu shot at any neighborhood CBOC's as well as the main VA. If you cannot get up to the VA, they will come to your vehicle for the vaccination."
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. It's a huge problem." Discussion among members regarding the massive holding area for illegal immigrants out in far NE EP and another one out on far east Montana Avenue.
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 isn't permitted."
4. Children & Youth: Manny had no report. Martin reported on the event on 11 Sep at the Northeast Christian Academy, part of Sun Valley Baptist Temple. He handed out approximately 150 US hand flags to students and staff. He also gave a fine presentation on the flag. Pastor Fadi Carlos has many ideas on ways in which we may support the school. Martin also reported that the school has flag ceremony every morning at 8am. They have the US, TX and Christian flags which are presented by two seniors. They also do a morning prayer to begin their day. Further news/updates to follow.
5. Membership & Post Activities: Adjutant O'Leary stated, "We already have had thirteen members who paid their dues. I mail their membership card out within a few days, along with a thank you letter. So- we have twenty-seven members total paid out of our membership of forty-five."
6. Public Relations: Members are out in the community volunteering and out doing Legion business. Martin stated that he 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. And last week he was given a Presidential Volunteer Service Medal for his dedication and outstanding community service from the Volunteer Service Coordinator at the VA.
7. Finance Report: Dennis stated, "Our checking account balance is \$988.07."
8. Legislative: Raul stated, "The Nov election is coming up soon. The state has a dozen amendments for which only a few I would support."
9. Service Officer: Allen stated, "The female who I assisted got her disability increased from 10% to 50%. And I'm working with my caretaker, who is a veteran to help her and also to try to get her to join us here at 407."

10. Hubmaster: Martin stated, "Blue Host bill has been paid and they changed our domain name. It is now: elpasoamericanlegionpost407.org." Allen stated, "I went ahead and paid the bill. It was about \$150. Consider it s donation to our Post."
11. Historian: Martin stated, "The next national holidays will be Columbus Day, 13 October."
12. Sick-Call Relief & Employment: Allen stated, "I'm doing better every day. I was able to get here without a caretaker this morning. Hank stated, "I made it here, so I guess I'm doing ok. It's day-by-day."
13. Unfinished Business: No report.
14. New Business: As stated above, we now sponsor the Northeast Christian Academy (NECA), which is part of Sun Valley Baptist Temple.
15. For the Good of the Legion: Dennis reported on his receiving a call he thought was his financial institution. After thinking about it, he called his credit union to discover, to his dismay, that it was indeed a fraudulent call. Thankfully, he went to the credit union and got new credit and debit cards made. The rep told me to be very careful about where I use the plastic. Especially places like gas stations and stop-and-shop stores. Try to use cash at places with which you are unfamiliar.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1100hrs, Sat. 20 September 2025.

Note: Next meeting will be at 1000hrs Saturday, 18 October 2025.

Adjutant Dennis O'Leary

Commander Allen Lawrence