



## AMERICAN LEGION POST 326 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**14 September 2021**

Acting Commander Stan Lipinski called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. In attendance were 15 members in person, one via Zoom (see attached list) and two guests. Emmitt Thomason gave the benediction. Stan Lipinski led the Pledge of Allegiance, and read the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution.

Mike Jackson, Sergeant at Arms, verified that a quorum was present. He then call roll of officers present.

Bob Pillmore advised the Post that the minutes of the last general meeting and the recent Executive Committee were posted on the Post website and had been available for review prior to the meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes. Following the second the minutes were unanimously approved by those present.

### **OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Adjutant - Bob Pillmore

- The final membership count for 2021: 118
- Membership renewals for 2022 began on July 1
- Members renewed for 2022 to date: 62 which is good for this early in the campaign.

Webmaster:

- Meeting Minutes have been posted for all meetings prior to July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The newly installed officers have been posted to the webpage.
- The Events Calendar has been updated for all currently scheduled meetings.
- A request was made for the Executive Committee members to review the webpages dealing with their area of responsibility to provide updates.

Financial Officer's Report – Tom Harder was unable to attend via Zoom

- Tom presented his report in the August newsletter which was available to the membership.

High School Scholarship Chairman – Bob Jordan

- The annual budget was for \$8000 or 8 scholarship awards.
- Due to issues associated with the Covid pandemic, the school counselors only submitted 2 applications, both of which were selected for award. To Date, only one of the two students has met the requirements for disbursement of funds.

First Vice-Commander – Mike Jackson

- Mike looked into parades and patriotic celebrations that the Post might participate in. There was no 9-11 event in the City of Austin. He was not able to get any information on the Veterans Day parade. He will continue his effort to get information.
- Mike is chairing Nomination Committee to fill the open positions on the Executive Committee as well as the various committees that need to be populated. The primary positions that need to be filled ASAP are Adjutant, Finance Officer and Membership Chairman. Both Bob Pillmore, Adjutant and Membership Chairman, and Tom Harder, Finance Officer, have expressed a desire to resign from their positions. In addition, a new EC position, Judge Advocate, will be created when the new Constitution and By-



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Laws are approved. Mike solicited both members to fill the available positions and/or participate on the Nominating Committee.

Chaplain – Emmitt Thomason: Nothing to report

Service Officer – Bill Baran: Not in attendance

Veteran Scholarships – Bill Welch:

- Only four scholarships were awarded due to Covid restrictions.

### Approval of Post 326 Constitution and By-Laws (CBL)

- The CBL approved in our July 22<sup>nd</sup> General Membership meeting were rejected since they did not fully comply with the recommended CBL. The recommended CBL were mostly a duplicate of the July 22<sup>nd</sup> version with the exception of additional content addressing more current issues including social media accounts and content and diversity. The revised CBL also adds a Judge Advocate to our required Executive Committee roster.
- Discussion followed and some questions were raised by Rocky Eubanks:
  - In the paragraph regarding qualifications for membership the language specifies Military and naval separately. It was agreed that no explanation was available and we would proceed with the wording as written.
  - In the description of the duties of the First and Second Vice Commander, there was duplication. A probable explanation that the Second Vice Commander was an optional office and not all Posts would have the Second. It would be up to the Commander to clarify responsibilities.
- A motion was made by Mike Jackson to approve the CBL as posted on the Post website. The motion was seconded by Bill Welch, and approved by voice vote with no dissent.

### Budget 2021-2022

- Stan introduced the Budget with a goal of producing a budget with a balance between revenue and expenses, rather than planning to overspend the budget and draw down our savings. That will require some belt tightening and additional fund raising
- Stan asked that the members suggest projects that we should continue and askes for volunteers to participate on the budget committee. Bill Welch volunteered to participate on the Finance Committee.

### Veterans Day Parade

- This item will be on hold until we get information that there will be a parade this year.

### Open Officer and Committee Positions

- Open Officer Positions are: Adjutant, Finance Officer, and Judge Advocate.
- Jerry Patterson volunteered to fill the JA position if the new member with JAG experience does not wish to fill the position. Charles Teague, a former JAG, also volunteered and Jerry stepped down.
- Bob Pillmore is stepping down as Adjutant, Membership Chairman and Webmaster, since he will be moving out of town. The membership chair as well as webmaster require computer skills for maintaining the Post and National records and modifying the website. Bob would be available to transition the new person.
- Stan brought up the need of a Board of Trustees, but in a full review of the CBL, the only mention of a Board of Trustees was regarding the sale of Post owned real estate.

### Calendar of Events



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- Stan brought up the subject of establishing a standard calendar and format of meetings. The Executive Committee will continue to meet virtually so scheduling is not an issue. For the membership meetings we need a venue for the meetings that is available when we wish to meet. Currently we are not on the calendar for regular meetings so there is no assurance that the meeting space will be available. We can begin scheduling in the future to secure the time and dates we desire, but in the short term we will have to schedule based on available dates. The Post is not charging us for the facility, only for food service which can only be provided by OCC.
- In the EC meetings we have begun discussions of alternate venues including: Veteran Service Organization in Buda, AMVETS Post 113 in Kyle, and Buda Senior Citizens Center. We also discussed the possibility of a lower priced restaurant.
- Cathy Miller reminded the Post that Chris Bowman, the OCC club manager is a veteran and has expressed an interest in working with the Post.
- From those present, the preferred meeting day of the week was Tuesday.

### **New Business**

- Mike Jackson raised the question of whether the Post should have a Christmas Party this year. Mike will check with OCC to see if there is an available date to schedule a meeting and make it a Christmas celebration.
- A question was raised about programs for the membership meetings. In the past suggestions were solicited from the attendees and individuals were assigned to follow up with the potential speakers. There was agreement that we should have a Program Chairman to coordinate scheduling speakers for meetings. Stan suggested that we have a program every third month and that the rest of the meetings be business meetings. Bill Welch suggested that we defer adding an additional level of organization until we fill the current vacancies. The program responsibility could be assigned to the first or second vice commander.
- Stan raised the possibility of opening up meetings to members who could speak on any topic related to veterans. The idea was well received.
- Stan acknowledged Jerry Patterson for the letter he wrote inviting the membership to participate.
- Debbie Dubois asked if there was a flyer that could be used to introduce the Post to prospective members. We have a flyer that needs to be updated.
- Debbie also pointed out that meetings with a meal totaling \$70-80 per couple might not attract many members, and suggested scheduling the meeting after the dinner hour and limiting food service to a desert, cookies, etc.
- Stan suggested that we need to have something the Post is known for such as our golf tournament. We could simplify the format and also use a contractor to help with the fundraising and organization.

There being no further business, Stan asked Emmitt to lead a closing prayer. Stan then thanked everyone for participating, thanked the officers for their service, and adjourned the meeting.

Robert Pillmore  
Adjutant.



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### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bill Baran – Service Officer  
Jim Brotherton  
Bob Campos  
Bob Caudill – At-Large Member of the EC  
Ron Dubois  
Tom Harder – Finance Officer  
Mike Jackson – Sergeant at Arms  
Bob Jordon  
Stan Lipinski – First Vice Commander, Acting Commander  
Jerry Patterson  
Bob Pillmore - Adjutant  
Charles Teague  
Emmitt Thomason - Chaplain



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### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS 22 July 2021

*Section 5.* At least four members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Post.

*Section 6.* In the event a public emergency or natural disaster makes the holding of an in-person meeting unlawful or impossible, the post may conduct its meeting by electronic or other remote access means as reasonably necessary for the duration of the emergency or disaster.

- a.* The post shall use its best efforts to implement any such virtual meetings with full regard for the need to maintain as much as possible accessibility for all members, including those with disabilities and those who lack the access to sophisticated technology.
- b.* Any action that could be taken at an in-person meeting, including amendment of the constitution and by-laws, may also be taken at a virtual meeting held pursuant to this provision.
- c.* Any action taken at any such virtual meeting shall be ratified at the first regular in-person post meeting.
- d.* During a virtual meeting, the post adjutant shall ensure that all participants are members in good standing and that a quorum is present.
- e.* The post commander shall determine the need for a virtual meeting.
- f.* If there is a vote, the Adjutant must make a record of the vote and ensure that every voter is sufficiently identified and a member of the Post in good standing.



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## FINANCIAL REPORT