

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 4 August 2020**

1. **COMRADES: –** Due to the advent of the COVID 19 (Corona Virus) and the requirement for social distancing, our Veterans Hall is still closed until further notice by Butte County to prevent the spread of the highly contagious disease. We did have a meeting with Butte County officials on the 17th of this month to lay out the ground rules for re-opening using the guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of California Health Department. Butte County has given permission to use the Hall again however, the requirements are so restrictive (No bathrooms, water fountains, kitchen etc.;) and the sterilization process when done is too manpower intensive to be feasible.

Our June and July and August meetings were conducted using ZOOM and was set up and managed by Jeraline Edwards, a Post member, United States Army. Jeraline will continue to host our meetings on Zoom until further notice. The Commander will send out an email with the meeting site and password. **Thank You** Jeraline for the good work.

Our **Speaker Program** will start again when we are able to resume normal operations. See David Bruhn if you would like to share your experiences in a future program.

1. Opening Ceremony**:** By Commander Halldorson commenced in 1900.

Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance by Commander Halldorson.

Opening prayer by **Commander Halldorson**. A special prayer was said for the Marines and Sailor lost in the recent accident off the Southern California coast.

1. Draping of the Charter: At the next meeting at the Hall, we will drape the charter for **Art Wells** – 98, USMC WWII and Pearl Harbor survivor and **Larry Fournier** – USAF Vietnam.
2. VFW Charter**:** The Commander read the VFW Charter.
3. Roll Call of Officers:
4. Commander: Mike Halldorson – Present
5. Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Johnston – Present
6. Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Zebley – Present
7. Quartermaster: Mike Orr – Excused
8. Adjutant: Don Campbell – Present
9. Judge Advocate: David Bruhn – Absent
10. Chief-of-Staff: James Crow – Excused
11. Surgeon: Ed Wrona - Present
12. Chaplain: Bob Roberts – Excused
13. Veteran Service Officer: David Miller – Present
14. 1st Year Trustee: Len Spesert – Present
15. 2nd Year Trustee: Bud Byrd – Excused
16. 3rd Year Trustee: Larry Wahl – Present
17. Sargent-At-Arms: Craig Lindquist – Present
18. New Members**:**  **Douglas McCarthy – USMC - Vietnam.** Our Post currently has **247** members for a **.87%** rating. We still have a number of unpaid members. Becoming a **Life Member** would alleviate having to continually remember to renew your membership. Life membership can be attained by 11 monthly payments by credit card or simply a one-time check. The amount is dependent on your age. See the Commander, Quartermaster or Adjutant for more information.
19. Reading of Minutes**: Minutes for July 2020** have been emailed**.**
20. Quartermaster’s Report**:** Due to Quartermaster, Mike Orr’s medical condition, the Commander gave a brief report on our various accounts. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Quartermaster or Commander.
21. Veterans Service Officer Report**:** Actively contacting and providing information on the VFW to veterans in our community and when he travels.
22. Sick Call and Distress**:**

**Don Heeter** – Korean War Vet US Army - at Twin Oaks – His wife Margaret and his family was able to visit him from 6 feet away.

**Mike Orr** – Vietnam War Vet US Army - Undergoing Chemo and Radiation treatments for cancer. Mike is home recovering from his surgery but is still very active in Post business and preparing our books.

**Bud Byrd** – Cancer treatments. **Hospice**.

**Don Campbell** – Diagnosed with Spinal Stenosis and having trouble with neuropathy in both arms and legs, waiting on appointment with neurologist 24 Sept, having difficulty walking.

1. Committee Reports**:**
2. Bingo: No report
3. Buddy Poppies: The Buddy Poppy Program for May was cancelled due to the COVID 19 virus.
4. Honor Guard**:** Mike DiGiordano will be providing an invoice of expenditures for uniforms and miscellaneous accouterments. As soon as we can meet again, Mike will get us together for a picture session and start some training.
5. Welfare Team**:** No report - We currently have 6 teams of members headed up by **Mike DiGiordano.**  They contact and visit veterans and their families in time of need. They also visit those who are shut-ins or at care facilities. This will start again when the virus is over.
6. VFW Avenue of Flags**:** (If you would like to honor a Veteran with one of these flags, the cost is $100 for the flag and a name plaque on the soon to be erected monument). Due to the virus – no flags will put out until further notice.
7. National Children’s Home Remembrance**:** Commander Halldorson gave a Blessing for

 the VFW National Children’s Home in Eaton Rapids, MI.

1. Unfinished/Old Business**: None**
2. New Business**:**
3. Our new Web site **vfw1555.org** is being managed by webmaster, Pat Hurton, and is a work in progress.
4. Election and Assignment of Post 1555 Officers. These assignments were effective 1 July 2020.

**Commander** – Mike Halldorson to remain as Post Commander.

**Senior Vice Commander** – Cheyenne Bart.

**Junior Vice Commander** – Frank Zebley.

**Quarter Master** – Mike Orr.

**Chaplain** – Bob Roberts

**First Year Trustee** – Len Spesert.

**Second Year Trustee** – Bud Byrd.

**Third Year Trustee** – Larry Wahl

The following Officers were appointed by Commander Halldorson:

**Adjutant** – Don Campbell

**Service Officer** – David Miller

**Judge Advocate** – David Bruhn

**Surgeon** – Ed Wrona

**Sergeant**-at Arms – Craig Lindquist

1. Our Senior Vice Commander resigned from the VFW due to health issues and we had an email vote with a closing time of 2PM 4 August 2020 between Michael Johnston and Jimmy Smith. Both candidates were qualified. Michael Johnston was selected by a narrow margin and was installed as Senior Vice Commander effective this date, 4 August 2020. Terry Hopkins was also installed as Second Year Trustee due to Bud Byrd’s health issues.
2. In July of 2019, this Post gave the Commander the authority to spend up to $500 at his discretion for Veteran’s needs, this has served us well but there has been a couple of instances where there was a need for a little more. Len Spesert made a motion to approve the $500 for the July 2020 – 30 June 2021 time frame, this was seconded by both Mike DiGiordano & Jimmy Smith, Don Campbell asked for an amendment to upgrade the motion to $750. This was accepted and the vote was unanimous to accept.
3. Good of the Order**:**
4. The 4th day of August was the 230th Birthday of the United States Coast Guard, a special thanks to all who have served in this great Branch of Service. It was noted that we have a “Coasty” in our Post. James B. Morris is a retired Coast Guard Captain and lives in the Bay Area.
5. The Chico High School Veterans Ring of Honoris proceeding and is scheduled to open late summer. You can learn more on this project by typing in Chico High Ring of Honor on your browser.
6. Post 1555 ball caps are now available for purchase at $15.00 each on a first-come-first-serve basis. See Commander Halldorson.
7. The new VA Clinic on Concord Avenue (off Bruce Road) is requesting ALL Veterans sign-up for their program even if you do not need assistance now, as the number of enrollees helps them attain much-needed new services. The VA is screening everyone at the door for signs/symptoms of the Corona Virus. Cannot have a mask with an exhaust vent.
8. **Vectors,** located at 171 Rio Lindo Ave, Chico opens a food pantry for veterans every Sunday from 1030-1300. There is no charge for deserving Veterans. Please bring a re-usable shopping bag to our next meeting so that we can give those bags to Vectors to enable Veterans to take food items with them. Please pass this information on to any veteran in need.
9. Our Post gave a Veteran $300 in gift cards to help with gas and food expenses to take her daughter to Davis several times for medical care.
10. Sea Cadets**:** Jason Smith informed us that in order to maintain proper distancing during their outdoor training exercises, each Cadet will be required to have their own 1-person tent, sleeping bag, knife, fire starter and MRE’s or the training sessions will be cancelled**.** The cost for this will be $2800. Jimmy Smith made a motion to authorize the $2800 and Ed Wrona seconded it. The motion was passed unanimously.

See [**https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets**](https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets)for more information**.**

1. Dates to Remember**:**
* March 5th – United States Navy **Sea Bees** – Birthday.
* June 14th – United States **Army** birthday.
* August 4th – United States **Coast Guard** birthday.
* September 11th – 9/11 Day – **National Day of Observance.**
* September 17th – United States **Air Force** birthday.
* Third Friday in September – **POW/MIA Recognition Day.**
* October 13th –United States **Navy** birthday.
* November 10th – United States **Marine Corps** birthday.
* November 11th – **Veterans Day.**
1. Upcoming Events**:**
* **TBD**– Post/Auxiliary Bingo 5:00PM at the Veterans Hall.
* **TBD** “VFW Post 1555 All Veterans Potluck”, bring one dish and feed your whole family. It is on the 2nd Wednesday - at 6PM at the Veterans Hall.
1. Closing Ceremony**:**
* Closing prayer by Commander Halldorson
* Flag salute by Commander Halldorson
* Adjournment at 1940 hours
* **Next Meeting is** **September 1st on ZOOM** (the 1st Tuesday of the month) at 1900 hours. Jerilyn Edwards will be facilitating.

 Respectfully submitted by:

 

 Donald W. Campbell, Adjutant

 Chico Post 1555

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