

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 1 December 2020**

1. **COMRADES: –** Due to the advent of the COVID 19 (Corona Virus) and the requirement for social distancing, Butte County has given permission to use the Hall again however, the requirements are somewhat restrictive. We will continue to use Zoom and possibly meet in the Hall in December.

Our meetings are being 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 **Acting Chaplain Ed Wrona**.

The Commander recognized as Distinguished Guests, our District 15 Commander **Mike DiGiordano.**

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 -

**Bud Byrd** – USAF/Vietnam.

1. VFW Charter**:** The Commander read the VFW Charter.
2. Roll Call of Officers:
3. Commander: Mike Halldorson – Present
4. Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Johnston – Present
5. Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Zebley – Absent
6. Quartermaster: Mike Orr – Excused
7. Adjutant: Don Campbell – Present
8. Judge Advocate: David Bruhn – Absent
9. Chief-of-Staff: James Crow – Excused
10. Surgeon: Ed Wrona - Present
11. Chaplain: Bob Roberts – Excused
12. Veteran Service Officer: David Miller – Present
13. 1st Year Trustee: Len Spesert – Absent
14. 2nd Year Trustee: Terry Hopkins - Absent
15. 3rd Year Trustee: Larry Wahl – Absent
16. Sargent-At-Arms: Craig Lindquist – Absent
17. New Members**:**  **Pete Schoeman** **– USMC – Vietnam – Life Member.** Our Post currently has **252** members for a **95.61%** rating. **Brianna Farrara - USA – and Doug McCarthy – USMC – Became Life Members.**
18. Reading of Minutes**: Minutes for November 2020** have been emailed**.**
19. Quartermaster’s Report**: Due to our Quartermaster’s health issues, n**o report this month. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Quartermaster or Commander.
20. Veterans Service Officer Report**:** The VSO is constantly in contact with Veterans as he travels or visits business establishments.
21. Sick Call and Distress**:**

 **Mike Halldorson** – Daughter Stacie Boone passed on 25 November2020. Post 1555

 offers our sincere condolences to our Commander and his wife Merry and family.

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

**Mike Orr** – Vietnam War Vet, US Army. Mike is recovering from surgery but is still continually active in Post business and preparing our books.

**Don Campbell** – Vietnam, USAF - Diagnosed with Spinal Stenosis and damage to spinal cord. Having trouble with neuropathy in both arms and legs & having difficulty walking. Is scheduled for major surgery on 8 January 2021 at UCSF, will be out of commission for 3-6 months.

**Jay Winter** – Cancer has returned.

1. Committee Reports**:**
2. Bingo: No report – Activities cancelled due to the Pandemic.
3. Buddy Poppies: No report, activities cancelled due to Covid 19.
4. Honor Guard**:** Mike DiGiordano will be working with our Post photographer Brianna Farrara in taking individual pictures of our Honor Guard members in uniform. Mike DiGiordano and Steve Pereira attended Post member Bud Byrd’s funeral at the Veterans Cemetery in Igo, California on 9 October 2020 in full Honor Guard uniform to represent the VFW and Post 1555. Thank you for representing our Post in such a professional manner.
5. Welfare Team**:** We currently have 6 teams of members headed up by **Mike DiGiordano.**  They will contact and, eventually visit, veterans in time of need. They also visit those who are shut-ins or at care facilities.
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 the Chico Cemetery allows us to.
7. National Children’s Home Remembrance**:** **Acting Chaplain, Ed Wrona**, gave a Blessing

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

1. Unfinished/Old Business**:** Approximately 5 years ago, the Chico Elks Lodge #423 filled

 out a request and paid the cost for grave markers for two WWI Veterans at the Chico

 Cemetery. They have been approved by the Veterans Cemetery Markers Committee.

 B.T. Chapman has volunteered to work with committee and is in the process of getting

 a grave marker for a third Veteran.

1. New Business**:**
2. Our new Web site **vfw1555.org** is being managed by webmaster, Pat Hurton, and is a work in progress. **Website license has been renewed for 2021**. Please visit the website and give us any thoughts that might improve it.
3. Carl Johnson and the Commander went to Home Depot where the Manager donated all of the paint, rollers and other items worth approximately $400 required to re-paint the shed behind the Veterans Hall. A work day will be on Saturday, 5 December at 1:00PM. Need a shop vacuum and extension cords. Please come help if you can.
4. Good of the Order**:**
5. The commander briefed us on the outstanding support and services to honor veterans rendered by Rotary member, veteran and owner of Rescue 42, Tim O’Connell. Steve Pereira made a motion to have this Post pay for a Life Membership for him and it was seconded by Larry Wahl. Cheyenne Bart added that a Certificate of appreciation from this Post would be appropriate, Jimmy Smith asked for an amendment to the motion to include a certificate to be presented at a Rotary meeting. This was accepted and the motion passed unanimously.
6. Steve Pereira has been assigned as the Membership Chairman by the Commander.
7. The Chico High School Veterans Ring of Honoris proceeding as scheduled. You can learn more on this project by typing in Chico High Ring of Honor on your browser.
8. Post 1555 ball caps are still available for purchase at $15.00 each on a first come-first-serve basis. See Commander Halldorson.
9. The new VA Clinic on Concord Avenue (off Bruce Road) is requesting **ALL VETERANS** sign-up for the program even if you do not need assistance now. The number of enrollees helps them attain much-needed new services to augment those already offered. The VA is screening everyone at the door for signs/symptoms of the Corona Virus. Masks with an exhaust vent are not allowed.
10. **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.
11. Angel Flight West provides free air travel for a Veterans and 1 helper to medical facilities in Northern California. Contact the Commander for additional details.
12. Mike DiGiordano, the District 15 Commander is looking for volunteers to be Department Chairpersons for the 17 Committees at Department. If you have any interest in this, please contact Mike.
13. Sea Cadets**:** Covid-19 restrictions have limited our ability to meet physically so we are working on virtual training programs. See [**https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets**](https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets)for more information**. Our Post is a proud supporter of the Golden Bear Division of the Sea Cadets.**
14. 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 **Acting Chaplain Ed Wrona**
* Flag salute by Commander Halldorson
* Adjournment at 1945 hours
* **Next Meeting is** **January 5th, 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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