

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 7 January 2020**

1. Post Speaker Program (6:30-7:00)**: – “Healing Waters” –** Presented by Pete Wiik and Harrison Jack – This program to help Veterans heal is a non-profit which teaches Veterans how to fly fish, how to tie flies, how to make rods, and take Veterans to locations for fishing. This at no cost to the Veteran. Two of our Post members just happen to be in the Chico Fly Fishing Club and assist with this program – **Larry Willis** and **Steve Pereira**. See David Bruhn if you would like to share your experiences in a future program.
2. Opening Ceremony**:** By Commander Halldorson at 1900.

Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance by Commander Halldorson.

Opening prayer by Chaplain **Bob Roberts**.

1. Draping of the Charter: **None.**
2. Introduction of Guests: VFW District 15 Commander **Cheyenne Bart**

**Sy Schultheis –** USMC – Iraq/Afghanistan**, Mike Guzzi –** USN Seabees– Iraq**, Greg Anderson** – USAF –Vietnam**, Jim Pulling** – USAF – Vietnam**, Ron Volpato** – USN - Lebanon.

1. VFW Charter**:** The Commander read the VFW Charter.
2. Roll Call of Officers:
3. Commander: Mike Halldorson – Present
4. Sr. Vice Commander: B.T. Chapman – Present
5. Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Zebley – Present
6. Quartermaster: Mike Orr – Present
7. Adjutant: Don Campbell – Present
8. Judge Advocate: David Bruhn – Excused
9. Chief-of-Staff: James Crow – Excused
10. Surgeon: Larry Fournier – Excused
11. Chaplain: Bob Roberts – Present
12. Veteran Service Officer: David Miller – Excused
13. 1st Year Trustee: Len Spesert – Present
14. 2nd Year Trustee: Bud Byrd – Present
15. 3rd Year Trustee: Larry Wahl – Present
16. Sargent-At-Arms: Craig Lindquist – Present
17. New Members/ Applications: None
18. New Members**: Pete Enriquez** – USN – Vietnam **– Life Member -** Our Post currently has **250** members for a 83.47% rating, (19 unpaid) and two new Life Members – **Ray Montoya** and **Alan Halldorson**. 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 you age. See Commander Halldorson for more information.
19. Reports of Investigating Committee**:** No Investigations in progress.
20. Induction and Initiation of New Members**:** None
21. Reading of Minutes from Previous Meeting**:** Minutes were sent to all members with email and a hard copy was provided in the rear of the room for those with no email.
22. Quartermaster’s Report**:** Quartermaster **Mike Orr** gave a detailed report on our various accounts. He detailed receipts and expenditures. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Quartermaster or Commander.
23. Veterans Service Officer Report**:** No report.
24. Sick Call and Distress**:**

**Art Wells** – Pearl Harbor survivor - at Twin Oaks.

**Don Heeter** – Korean War Vet - at Twin Oaks.

**Mike Orr** – Vietnam War Vet - Undergoing Chemo and Radiation treatments for cancer. Mike is still very active in Post business and prepares our books.

**Larry Fournier** – Vietnam War Vet - In lots of pain and has to have the doctors come to him – cannot make hospital visits.

**Joe Mace** – Vietnam War Vet - Pneumonia. In and out of Enloe Hospital.

**Dale Embree** – Vietnam Wat Vet - Surgery in December and another scheduled for January 2020.

1. Committee Reports**:**
2. Bingo: We collected $312.00 from Bingo in December. Attendance has been very good. Our Auxiliary had 54 attendees and collected $500.00 at their Bingo. Hans Ploog’s sister donated $100.00 to our Bingo fund in December. The Post and Auxiliary could use more volunteers to assist with Bingo activities.
3. Buddy Poppies: Buddy Poppy event in November collected $7,040.00, thanks to all who volunteered to participate this year. See **Hans Ploog** (898-0221) to volunteer for future events. Our next Buddy Poppy event is scheduled for May 2020.
4. Scholarship Committee**:** None
5. Social Media Committee**:** No report this month.
6. Honor Guard**:** **Mike DiGiordano** addressed the Post while wearing our new Honor Guard uniform which looks very professional and gave an invitation for anyone interested in joining. While wearing our new uniform for the first time he presented our Nation’s Flag at a Funeral home in Paradise on December 12th, 2019 to the surviving members of a family that had lost a Grandfather and Son. This Post thanks Mike for representing us in a very professional manner. Mike also has plans to have the Honor Guard Post the Colors at our February 4th meeting. We have a PDF file of the USAF 2018 Color Guard Manual that we can use for reference to train.
7. Welfare Team**:** We currently have 6 teams of members headed up by **Bud Byrd.**  They contact and visit veterans and their families in time of need. They also visit those who are shut-ins or at care facilities. Contact Bud Byrd at 530-894-3668, if you would like to be a part of this dedicated, much needed and much appreciated team.
8. VFW Avenue of Flags**:** We will install them on all Federal Holidays (weather permitting). For more information, contact the Commander at 530-513-3730. (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).
9. Post 1555 Auxiliary: No report.
10. Chairmanship Committee: If you are asked to be a part of a committee, please consider it. If we get enough committees in place, we as a Post can do so much more. Our Post does a great deal, but our potential to do more is great!
11. Publicity Committee: No report.
12. National Children’s Home Remembrance**:** Chaplain **Bob Roberts** gave a Blessing for the

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

1. Unfinished/Old Business**: None**
2. New Business**:**
3. The Commander expressed a need for a functioning **web site** to help disseminate Post information to members and those searching for a Veteran organization. Adjutant **Don** **Campbell** checked with the State VFW Adjutant and was advised to use a website planning program developed by DrivePath. A large percentage of VFW organizations utilize this service and it is interconnected with National down to Post level which provides the advantage of receiving important news and updates automatically to our web site, the cost is $360 per year. **Len Spesert** made a motion to adopt this Web service at $360.00 per year and it was seconded by **Larry Wahl**. The first year is free due to a grant from National. This service gives us the capability of renting some of our web space to advertise. There was discussion as to what is appropriate for our website. It was determined that there will be an over-sight committee to discern the appropriateness of any ad. The motion was modified by **Len Spesert** to reflect this change. After discussion, this was approved by unanimous vote.
4. In December 2019, the Commander sent an email notification to all VFW Post 1555 members informing them that we would be reviewing and updating Post 1555’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws at our 7 January meeting. Our Adjutant, **Don** **Campbell**, presented an updated copy of both using electronic media (Computer and Projector) on a large screen to make the review easily read by all in attendance. All changes were marked clearly, and old data was still present but lined out so everyone could see exactly what was changed. After a few minor grammatical corrections, **Larry** **Wahl** made a motion to adopt the Bylaws and **Jimmy Smith** seconded the motion. These were done separately, and the Articles of Incorporation were then reviewed, and **Steve Pereira** made a motion to accept them as presented and this was seconded by **Jimmy Smith**. The Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were adopted by unanimous vote. 41 members were present and all 41 voted to adopt as presented.
5. Good of the Order**:**
6. 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.
7. **The Butte County VSO** is located at **765 East Ave, Suite 200 Chico, CA 95926.** Secondfloor above Sportsman Warehouse. New phone number is **530-552-6608**. They provide Veterans “Seminars” on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month and Survivor Pension Benefits on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month. They are there is assist Veterans and are a valuable resource.
8. The Veterans Service Office in Chico is heading an effort to have a Stand Down in Chico during the Feb-Mar 2020 time frame. See **Robert Snoberger** for details.
9. **Pat Hurton** will publish the Post 1555 Newsletter semi-annually and send to those members that do not have email. The first one was received good comments.
10. Chico State will replace diplomas for those that were lost due to the Camp Fire.
11. **Home Depot** has a program that will donate $25,000 to a deserving Veteran to help rebuild structures or fencing after the Camp Fire. See **Paul Fisher** for details and help in the submission of data.
12. Post 1555 ball caps are now available for purchase at $15.00 each on a first-come-first-serve basis. The last group was sold out and a new group has been ordered.
13. The new VA Clinic on Concord Avenue is requesting Veterans sign-up for their program even if you do not need assistance currently as the number of enrollees helps them attain much-needed new services at the National/Federal level.
14. **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.
15. **Pat Hurton** volunteered and has been assigned by the Post Commander as the Assistant Quartermaster to **Mike Orr**. This will give this Post the flexibility to continue business as usual as a contingency in the event the Quartermaster becomes incapacitated or otherwise unable to meet the requirements of his duties.
16. Our Post has a need for a VFW Post 1555 Wall Banner which costs $140.00 in the VFW Store Catalog. **Len Spesert** made a motion to purchase it and **Paul Fisher** seconded the motion, this was approved by unanimous vote.
17. **Jimmy Smith** has volunteered to be the Post 1555 Historian.
18. The Commander presented a VFW coin that was designed for Veterans returning home from deployment that says “Welcome Home” to **Justin Pierce** a Post member who recently returned from Kuwait and Afghanistan.
19. Sea Cadets**:** **Jason Smith** gave a detailed report as to the training that the current Cadets received. He also, acknowledged to funds that our Post provided them so that all their Cadets and leaders could attend CPR training.

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

1. Dates to Remember**:**

* 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
* October 13th –United States **Navy** birthday.
* November 10th – United States **Marine Corps** birthday.
* November 11th – Veterans Day
* Third Friday in September – POW**/MIA Recognition Day**

1. Upcoming Events**:**

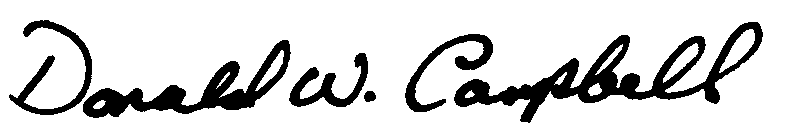
* Jan 11th and 25th – Post/Auxiliary Bingo 5:00PM at the Veterans Hall.
* January 15th and Feb 12th at 1800 is the “All Vets Potluck”, bring one dish and feed your whole family. It is on the 2nd Wednesday - at 6PM at the Veterans Hall.

1. Closing Ceremony**:**

* Closing prayer by Chaplain Bob Roberts
* Flag salute by Commander Halldorson
* Adjournment at 1950 hours
* **Next Meeting is** **February 4th** (the 1st Tuesday of the month) at 1830 hours.

***“Coffee, cookies and fellowship was enjoyed, in the Hall, by the Post and Auxiliary members immediately following their respective meetings.”***

Respectfully submitted by:



Donald W. Campbell, Adjutant

Chico Post 1555

(530)-828-7298