

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 7 July 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. The meeting was a lecture format with NO questions or responses allowed. The State of CA has again shut down our facilities until further notice.

Our June and July meetings were conducted using ZOOM and was set up and managed by Jeraline Edwards, a Post member, United States Army. Jeraline will again host our August 4th meeting on Zoom. The Commander has sent 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 at 1900.

Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance by Commander Halldorson.

Opening prayer by Chaplain **Commander Halldorson**.

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. Introduction of Guests:
3. VFW Charter**:** The Commander read the VFW Charter.
4. Roll Call of Officers:
5. Commander: Mike Halldorson – Present
6. Sr. Vice Commander: Cheyenne Bart – Present
7. Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Zebley – Excused
8. Quartermaster: Mike Orr – Excused
9. Adjutant: Don Campbell – Present
10. Judge Advocate: David Bruhn – Absent
11. Chief-of-Staff: James Crow – Excused
12. Surgeon: Ed Wrona - Absent
13. Chaplain: Bob Roberts – Excused
14. Veteran Service Officer: David Miller – Present
15. 1st Year Trustee: Len Spesert – Absent
16. 2nd Year Trustee: Bud Byrd – Excused
17. 3rd Year Trustee: Larry Wahl – Present
18. Sargent-At-Arms: Craig Lindquist – Absent
19. New Members/ Applications: None
20. New Members**:**  **Earnest Porter – USN – Iraq – Life Member.** Our Post currently has **247** members for a **96.18%** rating. We still have too many 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.
21. Reports of Investigating Committee**:** No Investigations in progress.
22. Induction and Initiation of New Members**: None**.
23. Reading of Minutes**: Minutes for June 2020** have been emailed**.**
24. 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.
25. Veterans Service Officer Report**:** Actively contacting and providing information on the VFW to veterans in our community and when he travels.
26. Sick Call and Distress**:**

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

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

**Joe Mace** – Vietnam War Vet – US Army - On Oxygen at home is doing better.

**Hans Ploog** – Recovering from surgery.

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

1. Committee Reports**:**
2. Bingo: No report
3. Buddy Poppies: The Buddy Poppy Program for this year has been cancelled until further notice due to the COVID 19 virus.
4. Scholarship Committee**:** None
5. 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. Mike Orr has a friend that would be willing to do a “FLYOVER” in his private aircraft to honor veterans.
6. Welfare Team**:** No report - 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.
7. 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.
8. Post 1555 Auxiliary: No report.
9. 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. **The National Convention has been cancelled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.**
5. 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. Good of the Order**:**
2. The Chico High School Veterans Ring of Honoris proceeding and is schedule to open late summer. You can learn more on this project by typing in Chico High Ring of Honor on your browser.
3. **The Butte County VSO** is located at **765 East Ave, Suite 200 Chico, CA 95926.** Secondfloor above Sportsman Warehouse. Phone number is **530-552-6608**. The following advice is from **VSO John Zepeda**:
* The VA is screening everyone at the door for signs/symptoms of the Corona Virus.
* Please reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline if you need assistance 1-800-273-8255. I hope all are well and staying safe during this trying time.
1. **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.
2. Chico State will replace diplomas for those that were lost due to the Camp Fire.
3. Post 1555 ball caps are now available for purchase at $15.00 each on a first-come-first-serve basis. See Commander Halldorson.
4. 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.
5. **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.
6. Helped a Veteran with his PG&E bill.
7. Sea Cadets**:** **No report.** See [**https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets**](https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets)for more information**.**
8. 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** **August 4th on ZOOM** (the 1st Tuesday of the month) at 1900 hours. Jerilyn Edwards will be facilitating that.

 Respectfully submitted by:

 

 Donald W. Campbell, Adjutant

 Chico Post 1555

 (530)-828-7298