

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 2 June 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. We will be notified in the coming days of a meeting that will result in the finalization of our new process for continuing business at our Veterans Hall. As soon as we receive the process, we are as anxious as everyone else to reconvene the very important business of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and this Post.

Our June meeting was conducted using ZOOM and was set up and managed by Jeraline Edwards, a Post member, United States Army. **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 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: **Cheyenne Bart** – Commander VFW District 15**.**
3. VFW Charter**:** The Commander read the VFW Charter.
4. Roll Call of Officers:
5. Commander: Mike Halldorson – Present
6. Sr. Vice Commander: B.T. Chapman – Present
7. Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Zebley – Present
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 - Present
13. Chaplain: Bob Roberts – Absent
14. Veteran Service Officer: David Miller – Present
15. 1st Year Trustee: Len Spesert – Present
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**:**  Our Post currently has **255** members for a **95.76%** rating. We still have 20 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. Our VFW Commander-in-Chief at National has sweetened the pot to become a “LIFE MEMBER” to include a $50.00 gift certificate for any member who upgrades their membership to “LIFE” by the end of the VFW year- June 30, 2020. The VFW magazine for this month on page 2, you can read the Commander-in-Chief’s statement on “Obvious and Significant” membership.
21. Reports of Investigating Committee**:** No Investigations in progress.
22. Induction and Initiation of New Members**: None**.
23. Reading of Minutes**: Minutes for May 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.

**Larry Willis** – Larry’s brother Don, USN – Vietnam - passed.

**Hans Ploog** – Recovering from surgery.

**Bud Byrd** – Cancer treatments.

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. You can contact **Hans Ploog at (530) 898-0221** to volunteer for future Buddy Poppy Drives. If you have never sat at a Buddy Poppy table, it is an experience. The public is so gracious to us.
4. Scholarship Committee**:** None
5. Social Media Committee**:** No report this month.
6. Honor Guard**:** No report.
7. 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. Contact Bud Byrd at 530-894-3668, if you would like to be a part of this dedicated, much needed and much appreciated team. It is very rewarding to bring some joy to another Veteran who really needs it. **The visiting portion of this program is suspended due to the Social Distancing requirement.**
8. VFW Avenue of Flags**:** We install 200 American Flags on certain Federal Holidays (weather permitting). For more information, contact the Commander at 530-513-3730 or Hans Ploog at 530-898-0221. (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. We are hoping to place them on July 4th.
9. Post 1555 Auxiliary: No report.
10. 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. Pat will be contacting you when necessary to collect information that is needed to populate the web site. It looks professional and will meet our needs perfectly. Feedback is encouraged. Pat is requesting our members visit the web site to see the content.
4. **The National Convention has been cancelled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.**
5. Election and Assignment of Post 1555 Officers. These assignments are effective 1 July 2020.

**Commander** – Dave Miller nominated and Don Campbell seconded Mike Halldorson to remain as Post Commander. This was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

**Senior Vice Commander** – Bud Byrd nominated and Ed Wrona seconded Cheyenne Bart, Approval was unanimous.

The following members volunteered to remain in these positions and as there were no other nominations the vote was unanimous.

**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. 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. The following advice is from **VSO John Zepeda**:
* Please be cautious and safe during this Corona Virus Pandemic. I had an appointment this week at the VA Outpatient Clinic in Chico, CA. The VA is screening everyone at the door for signs/symptoms of the Corona Virus. They are open and that is good news.
* The Veterans Benefits Administration Regional office in Oakland, CA is closed to the public. We can submit documents to the VBA if you need us to. The regional office fax machines are not accepting transmittals, but your VSO can send in documents to the Evidence Intake Center in Janesville, WI. Please contact your local county veterans service office for help with this.
* The Butte County Veterans Service Office is located at 765 East Ave Suite 200 Chico, CA 95926 (530) 552-6608. During this time, email is best VSO@buttecounty.net We are working to help those who need our services as best we can during the Corona Virus situation.
* 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. The Commander brought up the subject of lack of participation by other Veterans organization at our “All Vets Potluck” held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and asked if we should change the name to VFW Post 1555 Potluck. Don Campbell made a motion and Ed Wrona seconded it to rename it as stated. Jimmy Smith and Pat Hurton amended it to read “VFW Post 1555 All Veterans” Potluck. This was approved by unanimous vote.
7. Post 1555 was able to help a Veteran that is in ill health pay her Utility Bill and a Veteran that needed help with a water heater installation. The Veteran was able to purchase it but couldn’t afford the installation charge.
8. Sea Cadets**:** **No report.** See [**https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets**](https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets)for more information**.**
9. 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** **July 7th** (the 1st Tuesday of the month) at 1830 hours. It is possible that we will hold the next meeting on Zoom again. Jerilyn Edwards will be facilitating that.

 Respectfully submitted by:

 

 Donald W. Campbell, Adjutant

 Chico Post 1555

 (530)-828-7298

Note: There is to be a meeting at the Hall on June 22nd to discuss the re-opening of the Hall. We will keep you posted.

PS: Thank you to those who “re-upped!” Membership is critical to Veterans and Veteran issues nationally and locally.