

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 3 March 2020**

1. Post Speaker Program (6:30-7:00)**: – Kit Oldham** from **The Soroptimist** gave a short brief on the **Erase the Stigma Program** and Post 1555member **Matt McCoy** a Butte County Veterans Service Representative gave an impromptu presentation on the health services provided by the Veterans Administration and how to apply. It was very useful and informative. If you missed this one, on which Matt did such a great job, we might be able to get John to do one in the future. 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: **Alan Shuler – Korean War Vet – US Army**
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 – Present
11. Chief-of-Staff: James Crow – Excused
12. Surgeon: Larry Fournier – Excused
13. Chaplain: Bob Roberts – Present
14. Veteran Service Officer: David Miller – Present
15. 1st Year Trustee: Len Spesert – Present
16. 2nd Year Trustee: Bud Byrd – Present
17. 3rd Year Trustee: Larry Wahl – Present
18. Sargent-At-Arms: Craig Lindquist – Present
19. New Members/ Applications: None
20. New Members**:**  **Benjamin Henry** – US Army – Our Post currently has **257** members for a 91.52% 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 were sent to members by email and a hard copy was provided in the rear of the room for those with no email.
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**:**

**Art Wells** – Butte Counties last 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 will be undergoing surgery 16-17 March but is still very active in Post business and prepares our books.

**Larry Fournier** – Vietnam War Vet – Loss of son Chad. Larry also remains in pain.

**Joe Mace** – Vietnam War Vet – On Oxygen at home.

**Jay Winter** – Cold. Jay called to say he was staying home so as not to expose his comrades – Thank you Jay for your concern.

1. Committee Reports**:**
2. Bingo: Committee Chair, **Hans Ploog**, reported that we collected $332.00 and had 30 in attendance at Bingo in February. The Post and Auxiliary could use more volunteers to assist with Bingo.
3. Buddy Poppies: The next Buddy Poppy drive will be on 6,7 & 8 May and will be extended until 5:30PM. **Ray Montoya** will be replacing **Hans Ploog** for the May event. You can contact Ray at (831) 524-4044 to volunteer for this Buddy Poppy Drive. If you have never sat at a Buddy Poppy table, it is an experience. The public is gracious to us.
4. Scholarship Committee**:** None
5. Social Media Committee**:** No report this month.
6. Honor Guard**:** Mike DiGiordano reported that we have two new female members of the Honor Guard and getting uniforms that match our new ones is challenging for the Uniform Shop. We now have new white gloves and red ascots to enhance the uniforms but are still missing a few brass accouterments, we are still a work in progress.
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. It is very rewarding to bring some joy to another Veteran who really needs it.
8. VFW Avenue of Flags**:** We will 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).
9. Post 1555 Auxiliary: No report.
10. 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. 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.
4. The Post 1555 Awards Banquet will be held here at the Veterans Hall on **13 March 2020,** longevity pins will be presented at this time. We will acknowledge Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners along with Emergency personnel. Please join us for this special occasion. There will be a spaghetti dinner. If you wish to attend, you must RSVP by 1 March to either Commander Halldorson of Auxiliary President Mary Wahl at 342-1904.
5. We received our updated Post 1555 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws in final form approved by the VFW National Commander. They are be available to all who would like a copy.
6. Our Quartermaster Mike Orr made a motion to have our Post fund our Commanders’ trip to the VFW National Convention in Reno, this was seconded by Don Campbell and approved by unanimous vote.
7. Good of the Order**:**
8. 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.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. Chico State will replace diplomas for those that were lost due to the Camp Fire.
12. Post 1555 ball caps are now available for purchase at $15.00 each on a first-come-first-serve basis.
13. 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.
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. **Jimmy Smith** has volunteered to be the Post 1555 Historian.
16. Sea Cadets**:** **Commander** **Jason Smith** informed us that they passed their annual inspection and that their Cadet Ball will be held in April 2020 in Roseville, CA. The Cadets will also be helping us to set up, serve and clean up at our Awards Banquet on 13 March. See [**https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets**](https://www.facebook.com/ChicoSeaCadets)for more information**.**
17. 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**:**
* March 14th and 28th– Post/Auxiliary Bingo 5:00PM at the Veterans Hall.
* March 11th 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.
* March 13th – Post 1555 **Awards Banquet** at 1800 aka 6 PM 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** **April 7th** (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