

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 6 October 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 November.

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** and past District 15 Commander **Cheyenne Bart.**

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 – US Air Force – 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 – Excused
6. Quartermaster: Mike Orr – Excused
7. Adjutant: Don Campbell – Present
8. Judge Advocate: David Bruhn – Absent
9. Chief-of-Staff: James Crow – Present
10. Surgeon: Ed Wrona - Present
11. Chaplain: Bob Roberts – Excused
12. Veteran Service Officer: David Miller – Present
13. 1st Year Trustee: Len Spesert – Present
14. 2nd Year Trustee: Terry Hopkins - Absent
15. 3rd Year Trustee: Larry Wahl – Absent
16. Sargent-At-Arms: Craig Lindquist – Present
17. New Members**:**  **Roger Lewis – USA – OIF Iraq - Life Member.** Our Post currently has **250** members for a **91.66%** rating. We still have a number of unpaid members. Robert Snoberger has become a **Life Member**. 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.
18. Reading of Minutes**: Minutes for September 2020** have been emailed**.**
19. 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.
20. Veterans Service Officer Report**:** Actively contacting and providing information on the VFW to veterans in our community and when he travels.
21. Sick Call and Distress**:**

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

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

**Don Campbell** – Diagnosed with Spinal Stenosis and having trouble with neuropathy in both arms and legs & having difficulty walking. Has appointment with UCSF on 12 November 2020.

**Jay Winter** – Cancer has returned

1. Committee Reports**:**
2. Bingo: No report
3. Buddy Poppies: The Buddy Poppy Program for November will happen as scheduled. We will need someone to put it together and run it as Hans Ploog is no longer able to do it.
4. Honor Guard**:** Mike DiGiordano will be working with our Post photographer Brianna Ferrara in taking individual pictures of our Honor Guard members in uniform. They will then be sent to his son who will create a group picture using graphics software so we can meet our commitment to the Discovery Shop for donating the money for the uniforms. Mike would also like to increase the number of Honor Guard members to 18. We still have $2600 of the donated monies to purchase the extra uniforms.

**\*\*\*** Mike DiGiordano and Steve Pereira will be attending Post member Bud Byrd’s funeral at the Veterans Cemetery in Igo, California at 1030 on 9 October 2020 in full Honor Guard uniform to represent the VFW and Post 1555.

1. Welfare Team**:** We currently have 6 teams of members headed up by **Mike DiGiordano.**  They contact and visit veterans and their families in time of need. They also visit those who are shut-ins or at care facilities. This will start again when the virus is over. The Commander was contacted by FEMA and the Red Cross concerning a veteran from Oroville that was in need of a generator to power his oxygen generating system after being burned out, post member **Len Spesert** donated a generator which was received with much gratitude.
2. 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.
3. National Children’s Home Remembrance**:** Acting Chaplain, Ed Wrona, gave a Blessing for the VFW National Children’s Home in Eaton Rapids, MI.
4. Unfinished/Old Business**:** Approximately 5 years ago, our Post filled out a request and paid the cost for grave markers for two WWI Veterans at the Chico Cemetery. They have been approved Veterans Cemetery Markers Committee and the Commander now needs a volunteer to act as a liaison to finalize this important undertaking.
5. New Business**:**
6. Our new Web site **vfw1555.org** is being managed by webmaster, Pat Hurton, and is a work in progress.
7. In July of 2019, this Post gave the Commander the authority to spend up to $500 at his discretion for Veteran’s needs, this has served us well but there has been a couple of instances where there was a need for a little more. Len Spesert made a motion to approve the $500 for the July 2020 – 30 June 2021 time frame, this was seconded by both Mike DiGiordano & Jimmy Smith, Don Campbell asked for an amendment to upgrade the motion to $750. This was accepted and the vote was unanimous to accept. This must be voted on in June of each year.
8. Good of the Order**:**
9. The Chico High School Veterans Ring of Honoris proceeding and is scheduled to open late summer. You can learn more on this project by typing in Chico High Ring of Honor on your browser.
10. Post 1555 ball caps are now available for purchase at $15.00 each on a first-come-first-serve basis. See Commander Halldorson.
11. 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. The VA is screening everyone at the door for signs/symptoms of the Corona Virus. Cannot have a mask with an exhaust vent.
12. **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.
13. The Commander gave assistance to a Post Member in need by providing him with $200 in gift cards, monies to pay for his Driver’s License and paid for 3 nights lodging in a local Motel. The Commander also contacted the Butte County Veterans Service Office and got him an appointment so he could get further assistance from the VA.
14. The Commander and Larry Wahl met with a Butte County Veterans Service Officer on Monday Aug 21st to get help for 2 Veterans who are struggling.
15. The VFW National Home put out an appeal for financial help and Len Spesert made a motion to authorize the expenditure of $500.00 which was seconded by Ed Wrona and approved unanimously.
16. Post 1555 purchased roof sealer and brushes to fix a leaky roof at the Vectors Veterans Home in Chico.
17. A veteran female Marine moving to Chico requested help unloaded a large trailer of furniture, several members of this post responded and provided the help needed, thank you for representing the VFW and this Post in an exemplary manner.
18. The Commander is looking for ideas on how this Post can help with minor projects to help the community. One idea is cleaning up the weeds and trash in the parking lot to the north of our hall. If you have ideas, please contact the Commander.
19. 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**.**
20. 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.
* **October 13th – The United States Navy Birthday**
1. Closing Ceremony**:**
* Closing prayer by **Acting Chaplain Ed Wrona**
* Flag salute by Commander Halldorson
* Adjournment at 2010 hours
* **Next Meeting is** **November 3rd location to be announced** (the 1st Tuesday of the month) at 1900 hours. Jerilyn Edwards will be facilitating if on Zoom.

 Respectfully submitted by:

 

 Donald W. Campbell, Adjutant

 Chico Post 1555

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