

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 2 February 2021**

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 until such a time that it is safe to return to the Hall.

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 at 1900. Commander Halldorson led the Pledge of Allegiance and declared Post 1555 ready for the transaction of business and then read Section 230102 of the Congressional Charter and declared Post 1555 open for business.
2. Opening prayer by **Acting Chaplain Ed Wrona**.
3. The Commander recognized as Distinguished Guests: our District 15 Commander **Mike DiGiordano** and CSUC Student Veteran Organization President (SVO) **Stephen Martinez.**
4. Draping of the Charter: At the next meeting at the Hall, we will drape the charter for **Art Wells** – 98, USMC/WWII, Pearl Harbor survivor and **Larry Fournier** – USAF/Vietnam -

**Bud Byrd** – USAF/Vietnam and **Joe Mace** – USA/Vietnam – Former Dist. 15 Surgeon.

1. Roll Call of Officers: By acting Adjutant Jimmy Smith
2. Commander: Mike Halldorson – Present
3. Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Johnston – Present
4. Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Zebley – Excused
5. Quartermaster: Mike Orr – Excused
6. Adjutant: Don Campbell – Excused
7. Judge Advocate: David Bruhn – Absent
8. Chief-of-Staff: James Crow – Excused
9. Surgeon: Ed Wrona - Present
10. Chaplain: Bob Roberts – Excused
11. Veteran Service Officer: David Miller – Present
12. 1st Year Trustee: Len Spesert – Present
13. 2nd Year Trustee: Terry Hopkins - Excused
14. 3rd Year Trustee: Larry Wahl – Present
15. Sergeant-At-Arms: Craig Lindquist – Excused
16. New Members**:** No new members**.** Our Post currently has **253** members for a **99.12%** rating.
17. Reading of Minutes**: Minutes for January 2021** have been emailed**.**
18. Quartermaster’s Report**: Due to our Quartermaster’s health issues, Commander Halldorson** gave a brief report on our various accounts. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Quartermaster or Commander.
19. Veterans Service Officer Report**:** The VSO is constantly in contact with Veterans as he travels or visits business establishments. The VSO is pursuing 1 potential new member.
20. Sick Call and Distress**:**

**Don Campbell** – Had back surgery on Jan. 5th in San Francisco. Don has since returned to Chico.

**Jay Winter** – Cancer has returned.

**Thomas Gaines** – Diagnosed with Cancer.

**Terry Hopkins** – Recovering from COVID-19.

**Pat Hurton** – Hip Surgery, originally scheduled for Jan. 4th. Surgery rescheduled for a later date due to COVID-19.

**Greg Anderson** – Heart Surgery.

**Gerald Bonds** – Bladder Surgery. (Note: Gerald will get his 70 year-pin this year).

**“Please keep these members and their families in your thoughts and prayers**!”

1. Committee Reports**:**
2. Bingo: No report – Activities cancelled due to the Pandemic.
3. Buddy Poppies: No report – Activities cancelled due to COVID-19. Checking in with Safeway and other stores to prepare for post-COVID activities.
4. Honor Guard**:** Post photographer Brianna Farrara took 6 pictures of our Honor Guard member’s in uniform and sent the photos to be edited. Individual photos will be digitally edited to create a composite group photo. VFW Honor Guard is forming, and **all members have uniforms**. Mike clarified that regular VFW Garrison Cap is appropriate for Honor Guard. Mike Orr has a contact who will do a **Fly Over for Honor Guard at Veterans funerals**.
5. Welfare Team**:** We currently have 6 teams of members headed up by **Mike DiGiordano.** 40% of committee members reported back after contacting Post members. Overall, contacted members reacted positively to the committee outreach. The Members list will be rotated so committee members will contact different members. **Future goal:** Combine Zoom and In-person meetings after COVID-19 to promote active Post participation. Post Members who are interested in serving on the Welfare Team should inform either Commander Halldorson or Mike DiGiordano to be considered for appointment to the Welfare Team.
6. 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 their name plaque on the soon to be erected monument). Chico Cemetery will determine when the Avenue of Flags will be posted again.
7. Social Committee: Chairperson is needed for social activities once COVID-19 ends. If you like planning parties – We Want YOU!
8. Website: Down Range is a sponsor on our website. Please remember to use them for all your guns and ammo and gun training. Our Website: **vfw1555.org**.
9. National Children’s Home Remembrance**:** **Acting Chaplain, Ed Wrona**, gave a Blessing.

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

1. Unfinished/Old Business**:** 
   1. **Commander Halldorson appointed Jimmy Smith as Acting Adjutant** until Don Campbell recovers from surgery and can resume his duties as Adjutant.
   2. **Commander Halldorson** thanked everyone who volunteered to paint the shed.
   3. **The Post received donated medical supplies.** Contact Commander Halldorson if you or another Veteran needs medical supplies which include wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc., contact Commander Halldorson.
   4. **Surgeon Ed Wrona** researched andlearned that the Post Office no longer donates Old Postal Boxes for use by other organizations due to the Boxes being mistaken for actual Postal Boxes. Mike DiGiordano contacted Sacramento regarding this same topic. Butte County will be asked for permission to post a Postal Box at a location where Flags can be deposited for proper, and honorable, disposal. The Boxes may also help bring awareness of Post activities like Bingo to those dropping off flags. **Mike DiGiordano** contacted the Chico City Manager **Mark Orme** who is reaching out to help the post acquire a Metal Box which the City has**.** Currently, the Elks Lodge is one of few locations where a flag can be properly, and honorably, disposed, but accessing the box inside the Elks Lodge is difficult due to COVID-19 restrictions and restricted to the hours that the Elks Lodge is open.
2. New Business**:**
3. **Post 1555** wishes to **recognize and honor women veterans in general** and to specifically honor Post members: **Cheyenne Bart, Brianna Farrara, Sarah Parker, Jeraline Edwards, Leigh Ann Badger, Nancy Groshong, Deena Guin, Dawnyel McCarthy, Jessica Washburn, and Mercedes Westmoreland.**
4. **Post 1555** congratulates the new **CSUC SVO Officer Corps**: **President Stephen Martinez, Vice President Mireya Garcia, Treasurer Sage Hagan, and Social Media Officer Jessica Eagles.**
5. **Veterans in Need** – Veterans have been helped recently in Butte County. If you know of someone in need, contact the Commander.
6. **Commander Halldorson** recognized some Post Members who earned **longevity pins**. Since there will be no Awards Banquet this year, members will be contacted on how to get their pins.
7. **Commander Halldorson** – Every member of the Post is challenged to **bring in 1 new, eligible member** or a member who has not attended a meeting or who has been inactive. Please review the qualifications of membership beforehand.
8. **Commander Halldorson** – Requested a member perform a rubbing of the name of a Veteran honored at the Veteran Memorial in the Chico City Plaza for the benefit of the family of this Veteran. **BT Chapman** stepped up and did that. (Note: that rubbing was sent to the son of the Veteran).
9. **Commander Halldorson** – Sergeant-at-Arms **Craig Lindquist** is coordinating with Vitalant (at the location of the former Blood Source) about setting up a VFW Post-hosted Blood Drive.
10. **Post Phone** – Discussion began concerning the benefit of establishing a dedicated Post Phone with Voice Mail that Officers can access. This will require internet at the Chico Veterans Hall. Further research is necessary.
11. **Welcome to Chico Signs** – Post Member **BT Chapman** researched and brought a proposal to the membership about acquiring 3 24”x24” VFW signs to be installed on the Welcome to Chico signs. After discussion, Acting Adjutant **Jimmy Smith** moved toallocate $150. The motion was seconded by Post Member **Steve Pereira**. After discussion, **Sr. Vice Commander Michael Johnston** moved to amend the motion toallocate $220**.** The amendment was agreed to by both Jimmy Smith and Steve Pereira who made and seconded the original motion, respectively. The Membership unanimously adopted the amended motion. The adopted motion: Allocate $220 to acquire 3 24”x24” VFW signs to be installed on the Welcome to Chico signs located at the North, South and West ends of town.
12. Good of the Order**:**
13. Acting Adjutant **Jimmy Smith** requested Post Members brainstorm ways that Post 1555 can help Veterans in the growing homeless population in our community.
14. 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.
15. The new VA Clinic on Concord Avenue (off Bruce Road) is requesting **ALL VETERANS** sign-up for the program even if you do not need assistance now. The number of enrollees helps them attain much-needed new services to augment those already offered. The VA is screening everyone at the door for signs/symptoms of the Corona Virus. Masks with an exhaust vent are not allowed. (Note: Many Post members have called to thank us for alerting them to the shots provided by the VA).
16. **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.
17. **Angel Flight West** provides free air travel for a Veterans and 1 helper to medical facilities in Northern California. Contact the Commander for additional details.
18. Mike DiGiordano, the District 15 Commander is looking for volunteers to be District Chairpersons for the 17 different committees. If you are interested in this, please contact Mike.
19. Post 1555 Auxiliary is Active!! Spouses and Family Members might want to consider membership. Contact **Mary Wahl**, President of the Auxiliary, at: (530) 321-5218.
20. District Commander **Mike DiGiordano** Report –
    1. Commander’s Challenge for re-instated members in January and February.
    2. District Accolades: Certificates will be sent to Posts. Goal of establishing a monetary award for next year.
    3. Sunday audits will come down on Posts and Districts that break rules and/or laws. Disciplinary action will be taken against Posts and Districts that break guidelines during the lockdown.
    4. District Commander **Mike DiGiordano** is looking for members who are interested in learning about **leadership opportunities at the District and Department levels**. The **Jr. Vice Commander post of District 15 is currently vacant.** If you are interested, contact the District Commander.
    5. On **Saturday, February 20th**, District 15 will host a **Round Table.** **ALL MEMBERS from all posts in District 15 are invited to participate** and answer the questions: (1) Why the VFW? (2) What can we do to make Posts better? Contact the District Commander for more information.
    6. **VFW District 15 is sponsoring a Raffle** for prizes to include a Springfield XD 9mm and case. Tickets are limited to 500 tickets total. Each ticket is $20. District 15 Post Commanders and the District Commander have tickets.
21. 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**.** Our Post is a proud supporter of the **Golden Bear Division of the Sea Cadets.** 
    1. Approximately 150 Sea Cadets participated in virtual training including Combat Medicine, Urban Search and Rescue, and training about different branches of service and MOS’s/AFSCs/Rates.
    2. The Golden Bear Division of the Sea Cadets helped facilitate training benefiting Sea Cadets nationwide.
22. Dates to Remember**:**

* March 5th – United States Navy **Sea Bees** – Birthday.
* April 11th – United States Navy’s Submarine Service.
* 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 **Acting Chaplain Ed Wrona**
* Flag salute by Commander Halldorson
* Adjournment at 2021 hours.
* **Next Meeting is** **March 2nd, on Zoom** (the 1st Tuesday of the month) at 1900 hours. Jerilyn Edwards will be facilitating.

Respectfully submitted by:

**James Smith**

James Smith, Acting Adjutant

Chico Post 1555

(530) 591-5494