

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 1555 Chico, CA**

**Mike Halldorson – Commander**

**Minutes of 5 January 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.

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.**

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** – USAF/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 – Excused
8. Judge Advocate: David Bruhn – Absent
9. Chief-of-Staff: James Crow – Excused
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 - Excused
15. 3rd Year Trustee: Larry Wahl – Present
16. Sargent-At-Arms: Craig Lindquist – Present
17. New Members**:** **Donald Gangemi** **– USN – Vietnam – Life Member** and **Tim O’Connell – USN – Classified Submarine Operations – Life Member.** Our Post currently has **254** members for a **97.36%** rating.
18. Reading of Minutes**: Minutes for December 2020** have been emailed**.**
19. Quartermaster’s Report**: Due to our Quartermaster’s health issues, Commander Halldorson** gave a brief report on our various accounts. **Mike Riggle and his wife donated $500** to the post. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Quartermaster or Commander.
20. Veterans Service Officer Report**:** The VSO is constantly in contact with Veterans as he travels or visits business establishments.
21. Sick Call and Distress**:**

**Don Campbell** – Back pain – Having surgery in San Francisco today. Will learn status.

**Jay Winter** – Cancer has returned.

**Joe Mace** – In home – Not doing well.

**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** – Gall Bladder Surgery.

1. Committee Reports**:**
2. Bingo: No report – Activities cancelled due to the Pandemic.
3. Buddy Poppies: No report – Activities cancelled due to COVID-19.
4. Honor Guard**:** Mike DiGiordano will be working with our Post photographer Brianna Farrara in taking individual pictures of our Honor Guard members in uniform. Individual photos will be digitally edited to create a composite group photo. VFW Honor Guard is forming, and **all members have uniforms**. Mike Orr has a contact who will do a **Fly Over for Honor Guard and other events when requested**.
5. Welfare Team**:** We currently have 6 teams of members headed up by **Mike DiGiordano.** 40% of committee members reported back after contacting Veterans. Overall, **contacted veterans reacted positively to committee outreach**. Some veterans can be helped. Veterans list will be rotated so committee members will contact new groups of veterans. **Future goal: Combine Zoom and In-person meetings after COVID-19 to promote active Post participation.** Commander Halldorson is interested in updating Veteran addresses and information. Committee Chair DiGiordano identified 40 Veterans on the roster without phone or email information.
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 whether the Avenue of Flags will go forward.
7. Social Committee: Chair needed for social activities once COVID-19 ends.
8. Website: Down Range is a sponsor on our website.
9. Newsletters: 84 Newsletters were mailed to Post Members without email. Some Post Members responded thanking the Post for sending the newsletter. 25 Newsletters were returned by the Post Office as undeliverable.
10. 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. **$360 was paid to maintain the Post Website for 2021**. Please visit the website and give any thoughts that might improve it. The site is being managed by Webmaster Pat Hurton and is located at: **vfw1555.org**.
   2. **Commander Halldorson appointed Jimmy Smith as Acting Adjutant** until Don Campbell recovers from surgery and can resume his duties as Adjutant.
   3. **Surgeon Ed Wrona** learned that the Post Office no longer donated 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.
2. New Business**:**
3. **Instagram –** We are taking inspiration and ideas from other Posts using it.
4. **Veterans in Need** – One individual has been helped recently in Butte County. If you know of someone in need, contact the Commander.
5. **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 potential new members beforehand.
6. **Commander Halldorson** – Requested input from the Post about sponsoring a Blood Drive. There is always a need for blood and Post discussion revealed that Blood Centers will make the necessary health and procedural arrangements for Blood Drives.
7. Good of the Order**:**
8. Post Member Lacy Stalnaker presented information to the Post regarding procedures for entering or leaving Nursing Homes during COVID-19.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. **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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. District Commander’s Report – Commander’s Challenge for re-instated members in January and February. Quarterly Reports are due. Council of Admin is cancelled and will continue as a Zoom Meeting. Fundraisers. Inspection is complete. Minor discrepancies will be addressed. District Accolades: Certificates will be sent to Posts. Goal of establishing a monetary award for next year. 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.
16. 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.**
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**:**

* **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 1956 hours.
* **Next Meeting is** **February 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