

American Legion Post 60

Minutes of the General Meeting January 12, 2011

Commander Knoblock called the meeting to order at 1858 hours. The following officers were present: Commander Knoblock, 1st Vice Commander Mike Keithly, 2nd Vice Commander John Pearson, Sgt. at Arms Ed Bulgin, Member at Large John Ernsberger, and Adjutant Terry O'Keeffe. There were thirteen additional members present and one guest.

The minutes from the General meeting of December 8, 2010 had been previously distributed to the membership. The motion was made by Sgt. at Arms Bulgin to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by John Ernsberger. The motion passed.

Financial Report

Financial Officer Wes Hardin was not present. Commander Knoblock presented the financial report as it was presented to him by Financial Officer Hardin. (See attachment 1.) A motion was made by 1st Vice Commander Keithly to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Tim O'Leary. Motion passed.

There was discussion regarding status of kitchen remodel and the remaining cost to finish the project.

Post Service Officer Report

Former Post Service Officer O'Keeffe reported that the High school Oratorical contest had been scheduled for January 11, 2011. There had been no entrants from the high school. No contest was held and the District Commander was notified.

2nd Vice Commander Report

2nd Vice Commander John Pearson reported there was a Friday night social and Avalanche training scheduled for this Friday and he needs help setting up the appropriate rooms. On January 31st there will be Life Line training at the post and he needs someone to open the building. On February 12th the Senior Center will be using the building in a joint fund raiser with the Legion. On February 19th the Chamber will be using the building for their Winter Jamboree.

1st Vice Commander Keithly and 2nd Vice Commander Pearson requested a show of hands for volunteers to join Post 119 in their annual Winter Carnival Parade march. There were many volunteers and there will be a listing to follow with a reminder email sent to those volunteers.

Valley County Service Officer Report

Valley County Service Officer Mike Keithly presented his quarterly report. (See attachment 2.)

Adjutant Report

Based upon information received from National Headquarters and local records the following is available on membership status

Target Renewal from State	140
Total Renewals	148
Total Paid up for Life Members	20
New Members	21
Percent of Target with New Members and Renewals	100.5%

A request was made to notify the Adjutant of any new uniform supplies need by new or existing members so that he can place a timely order and limit shipping expenses.

Old Business

Commander Knoblock thanked all the members, firing detail and the kitchen crew for their attendance and support at Ken Charles' funeral.

Commander Knoblock entertained comments from members regarding the New Years Day Party. 1st Vice Commander Keithly said he would like to see the post have a prime rib dinner on New Year's Eve this year. Commander Knoblock said there would be further discussion at a later time.

John Ernsberger, nominating committee chairman said his committee had met and he proposed the following slate of officers:

- Commander-Mike Keithly
- 1st Vice Commander-John Pearson
- 2nd Vice Commander- Rod Miller
- Finance Officer-Tim O'Leary
- Adjutant- Terry O'Keeffe

The following were recommendations for appointed positions:

- Chaplin Emeritus-Jack Creason
- Chaplin John Pearson
- Sgt. At Arms-Ed Bulgin
- Bar Commander Archie Banbury/John Pearson
- Members at Large-Jack Knoblock/Archie Banbury

- Historian-Gordon Conrad

The proposed slate of new officers will be disseminated to the members and further nominations will be open from the floor during the March General meeting. Elections will be held during the April General meeting.

Bill Leaf reported on the research into the Guitar for Vets program proposed by Mike Waite. Bill said he was will to provide lessons to interested veterans, Legion members and Auxiliary members. Karen Dunkley of Dunkley's Music in Boise has been contacted and has offered to provide entry level guitars and instruction books at a reduced rate of \$109 for guitars and \$9 for instruction books. Valley County Service Officer Keithly advised he has contacted the known vets in the area that might benefit from this program and none were interested at this time. Bill is still willing to provide lessons to interested Legion and Auxiliary members.

A motion was made by Keithly for the post to purchase two entry level guitars and two lesson books for use by needy vets. The motion was seconded by Rod Miller. After discussion amongst the members the motion was amended as follows: The interest level will be further investigated to determine if there is a need for the post to make the purchase of guitar or books. The proposed amendment was accepted by Keithly and Miller. The motion passed.

New Business

Commander Knoblock commented that the Sons of the American Legion Squadron is suffering from lack of guidance and participation. He said we need a volunteer to provide guidance and get the squadron back on path. Adjutant O'Keeffe said that there are currently 8 SAL squadron members and that none of them were current with their 2011 dues.

There being no further business, Commander Knoblock adjourned the meeting at 2006 hours.

Respectfully submitted

Terry O'Keeffe
Adjutant

From: Valley County Veterans Service Officer
To: Valley County Board of Commissioners
Date: 10 January, 2011
Subj: Quarterly Veterans Service Officer Report

Gentlemen,

Since I last reported to you on 12 October, 2010 the following actions have been conducted. Jacques Chung Hee and I met with Veterans at the Department of Labor office in McCall on the following dates: 4 November we met with four Veterans; 2 December we met with three Veterans; and on 6 January we met with two Veterans.

Overall this past quarter was very quiet and not so busy, I attribute that to the Holidays, and an exodus of a fair number of Valley County residents who have left the County either seeking employment or going south for the winter. There have been no significant sea changes to VA policy, so most of my involvement has been centered on answering questions or getting folks pointed in the right direction.

Some of the specific issues I dealt with are as follows:

Worked with three older Veterans, or their families, who have serious health issues and are trying to gain entrance to the Idaho Veterans Home in Boise. There is a waiting period of 4-6 months before they may be eligible for residency. As you Gentlemen are aware, Valley County has a real shortage of assisted living or nursing homes and as our population, not just Veterans, ages there is a dire need for alternative care facilities.

Made the usual number of telephone calls tracking down Veterans or calling different agencies attempting to gather information and then pass it on to the Veterans who requested the information or assistance.

Assisted two Veterans in submitting their claim for a valid service-connected disability to the VA in Boise.

Assisted three other Veterans in their appeal of a VA denial of their claims. We'll follow these and see where they lead.

Finally got a reversal of a New Meadows Veterans' denial and it appears he will finally be compensated for his combat incurred disability. Achieving success and justice in a case such as this is very rewarding.

Gentlemen, this concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted D.M. Keithly, Maj USMC (Ret)