

American Legion Post 60

Minutes of the General Meeting December 13, 2011

1st vice Commander John Pearson called the meeting to order at 1850 hours. The following officers were present in addition to John: 2nd vice Commander John Dickey, Finance Officer Tim O'Leary, Adjutant Terry O'Keeffe, Post Service Officer Rob Garrison, Sgt. at Arms Ed Bulgin and Member at Large Jack Knoblock. There were eight additional members present.

New SAL member Jon Bear was introduced by John Bear. Jon spoke briefly to the membership.

The minutes from the General Meeting of November 9, 2011 had been previously distributed to the membership. The motion was made by Ed Bulgin and seconded by Joe Posluszny to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed.

Finance Report

Tim O'Leary provided the cash report from November 27th (See attachment). As of that date, we had \$2068.85 in the operating account. Since that time a lot has gone on. We have paid some more bills, and collected some more money. Granite Excavating had their annual Christmas party here on Saturday night. We made about \$1500.00 income on that event. Tim was not sure what the expenses were on the party, but we probably cleared about half of that.

Tim asked if there were any questions on the finance report. There were no questions from the members present.

The motion was made by Jack Knoblock, seconded by Joe Posluszny to accept the Finance Officer's report as submitted. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous to accept the report.

Adjutant Report

Terry O'Keeffe reported we have 167 members, two down from last month. Of that number, 129 or about 75% have paid their dues for 2012. The goal for this year is 171 paid members and the Adjutant did not think we were going to make that this year.

Terry advised the members present that if you renew your membership on line to be sure and let him know. If he knows, then he can send the new membership card in a timely manner. National does not automatically let the Adjutant know who has paid their dues on line. They were sending a notice to the member initially, advising them to let the adjutant know of the renewal. That has evidently not been happening recently. The report is available to the Adjutant on-line monthly, but it is not routinely checked.

Jack Knoblock suggested we have an "Adjutant's Corner" in our newsletter so that items of interest to the members could be posted.

1st Vice Commander Report

John reported the volunteer system is going pretty well.

As of last night the city approved our liquor license, so we will be operational next year.

The County Commissioners are meeting here tomorrow. After the meeting tonight we have to set up the hall for them. The stage and PA system need to be set up along with seating for 100.

This is going to be a busy weekend. We have a Friday night dinner. We have to tear down and set up for the wedding on Saturday. We have to tear that down and get ready for Santa on Sunday.

2nd Vice Commander Report

John said that we are going to be setting up for the Commissioners meeting right after this meeting, so if you can stay and help it will be appreciated.

John wanted to know if we could set up and display State flags so they could be seen by everyone. Jack Knoblock said he does not believe we have ever had any comments on that. They were posted like that because they had the proper stanchions and that is the way they are suppose to be displayed.

John discussed the quantities and locations of fire extinguishers around the post. After checking with the fire department he found the mounting height from the floor to the top to be 4' so that someone in a wheelchair can get a hold of it. The fire department said that the large extinguisher with water in it should not go out front where it could freeze. The fire department would like to see a fire extinguisher at each entry way. John asked Joe Posluszny if there was a loose fire extinguisher in the kitchen. Joe said no, his were mounted. John indicated the fire department said there was suppose to be a loose one in there. Joe said he has an adequate fire suppression system in the kitchen. Tim O'Leary asked if we have enough fire extinguishers. John said that there is no required amount. After further discussion it was determined there adequate extinguishers and they were properly mounted. Tim O'Leary indicated they should be properly signed also. Tim recommended that John obtain hangers as necessary to hang fire extinguishers and place a chemical fire extinguisher in the lobby, one at the back entrance to the south, and one at the back entrance to the north.

Post Service Officer Report

Rob Garrison gave a update on the Oratorical contest. The local contest will be held at the high school on January 18, 2012. There are a few more details to be worked out on the time and number of participants. Jack Knoblock questioned the location of the contest was up at the school and not at the post. Rob said he was going to have it held in front of the government class so the participants would have an actual audience. The district completion will be the January 28, 2012 starting at 11:00AM at the Payette Post 33. The area "B" contest will be on February 11, 2012 starting at 11:00AM at the Meridian Post 113. The state contest will be at Gowan Field in bldg. 440 on February 24, 2012. No time has been specified as yet. Rob said that he lost one of his judges and is seeking a replacement. Rob has a list of names of the home schooled students and he will be giving them a call to see if they want to participate. He still has no idea how many students up at the school want to participate. Rob asked if there were any questions. There were none forthcoming.

Valley County Service Officer

John Pearson reported that Mike Keithly said he had processed two new claims for service connected disabilities on December 1st, and they are in the early stages of processing a VA claim for aid and attendance on a local Veteran.

Old Business

John reported on the results of the Thanksgiving Dinner. We served 283 meals at the Post, delivered nearly 30 meals to housebound folks and provided over 10 meals to local law enforcement personnel on duty that day. As usual the public was very generous to the Post in the donation jar, and we covered our expenses. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to plan, prep, serve and clean up. Everyone did a tremendous job.

New Business

We've lost another WW II Veteran. Frances "Killer" Killingsworth, US Navy Wave, passed away at the Boise Veterans Home the end of November. We will conduct the funeral service for her at the Post on Sunday 22 January at 2 pm. Estela Renich has her discharge paperwork and the burial flag. SSGT Engleston has been notified. She and SGTMAJ Chinn will do the flag folding. Joe Posluszny will coordinate with the Auxiliary on food for that day. We will identify the members of the ceremonial detail in January.

Santa will visit to the Post on Sunday, December 18, from 4-6 pm. Gail Greenfield has volunteered to be Mrs. Claus again. Joe Posluszny was asked if he needed helper elves. He said the Auxiliary would be doing that. The toy collection boxes are at D-9, Wheelers, Howdys, Harpos, Sterling Bank and the Credit Union. They all need to be picked up and brought to the Post on Wednesday the 14th. The Auxiliary will wrap the toys on the 15th. Final set-up for Santa will happen the morning of December 18. George Greenfield has ordered additional color cartridges for the photos, and he will order the photo quality paper as well.

The Post donated 28 strings of the old incandescent Christmas tree lights to KWP to put them on the trees at the entrance to KWP.

John Pearson reported that last year we donated \$500.00 to the Boise Veterans Home for their Christmas efforts. We should do the same this year. The motion was made by Jack Knoblock, seconded by Rob Garrison to donate \$500.00 to the Boise Veterans Home. The vote was unanimous for approval.

John spoke on the floor issue. We had received a letter from the Pickards that they were going to match the first \$10,000 that we raised for the floor. We recently received a check for the entire \$20,000.00 from Mark and Kristina. Those funds will cover the cost of the main hall. We still need to raise money for the lounge and the hallways. We are having a plaque made honoring Mark and Kristina for the efforts that they have made.

Dick Carter said he wanted to interject something about that donation. He said it sounds like there might be a misunderstanding there about the \$20,000. Mark and Kristina said they would match up to \$10,000, and that was on the first \$10,000. Whatever the legion was able to match up to that \$10,000

and it never got there. He just popped in the \$10,000. Dick said that Mark called him later and said if they are still trying to match that \$10,000, have them go ahead and do it, trying to get as much as he could match with, but then he wanted to put the additional \$10,000 in as kind of a side bet. It was not to match the first \$10,000; it is an additional \$10,000. Dick asked if any of this made any sense at all. Tim O'Leary and others said no, it did not. Tim explained what we asked for or what we discussed was we felt it was going to cost about \$20,000 to do the hall. What Mark said was he would match up to the first 10,000 that we raised. Then we received a check for \$20,000, with no explanation. Jack Knoblock said there was an explanation and it was to go toward the flooring. Tim said we are in the process of raising funds to get an additional \$10,000. Tim said that the entire membership really appreciates their generosity.

Jack Knoblock said that there are two things we are doing to show our appreciation. One is a plaque that is signed by all of the executive committee. That plaque will be mounted out in the main hall. We are also sending a certificate directly to Pickards from the American Legion.

Jack Knoblock read the wording that would be on the plaque and the certificate:

"We are honored to bestow upon Mark and Kristina Pickard the title of "Honorary Members" and Legionnaires of Post 60. Your philanthropic efforts in our community are well known and generous beyond belief. Your kind and thoughtful gifts to Post 60 have enabled us to expand and remodel our kitchen facilities and replace our aging flooring. While Post 60 is designated as the Valley County Veterans War Memorial, we also, in an informal sense, serve as a gathering place for many different and diverse occasions. The residents of the Cascade area, our friends and neighbors, who come here for social events, fund-raisers, elections, blood drives and other community centered affairs will all benefit from your sense of fellowship and goodwill. We all extend our warm thanks for your dedication to community betterment and excellence."

John Pearson reported that we did a survey of our members concerning a New Years Eve party. Six replied that they would not attend; seventeen replied that they would; seven said they preferred the December 30th; three preferred December 31st; seven said they would go on either date. The party and dinner were discussed and it was decided to not have a Friday night dinner or party on the 30th or the 31st. Joe said he would schedule the prime rib for sometime late in January.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 1925 hours.

Respectfully submitted

Terry O'Keefe

Adjutant