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VFW Post #1347

The meeting of VFW Post 1347 was conducted March 5, 2024 with 9 members present. Opening ceremonies were conducted by Commander Halverson and Chaplain Callihan. Roll Call: 5 officers present and 2 absent.
 The February 2024 meeting minutes were approved as read.
 A motion was made by Comrade Catron and seconded by Comrade Ponte to accept the February 2024 financial report. Motion carried.
 Service officer report: Hall County Service Office is installing and performing training on a new computer system.
 Membership: 364 members with goal of 394 for 92.83%.
 Hospital report: The VFW Auxiliary for Celebrate Veterans week at the VA provided sheet cake and donations to the Food Pantry plus assisting with the VAVS celebrating the nursing staff on Feb. 16th. At present no masks are required on the 3rd floor.
 Board report: See attached Board report.
 VOD/Patriot Pen: Discussion regarding 1 VOD check for \$100 not cleared our bank account. Numerous contacts via email and voice messages have resulted in no action. Consensus is to wait another month for the November check to clear.
 Recognition of the National Home was conducted.
 Unfinished business: 1. Update on Dept 2024 calendar winners from the Post's calendar sales.
 Communications: Received letter from Westside Jr. Bowling program for scholarship donation. Motion by Comrade Ponte and seconded by Comrade McAhren to approve \$100 donation. Motion carried.
 New business: 1. Motion by Comrade Callihan and seconded by Comrade Schleicher to participate in the 2025 Fonner Park Veteran racing blanket when details are known. Motion carried. 2. Motion by Comrade Ponte and seconded by Comrade Catron to sponsor a donated pistol raffle with proceeds to the Memorial Park fund as the scheduling is determined. Motion carried.
 3. Nomination of VFW Post Officers: Commander; Dan Halverson, John Larson; Sr. Vice Commander; Roger Schleicher; Jr. Vice Commander; Richard Catron; Quartermaster; Tim Bartz; 3 yr Trustee; Ron Hitch; 2 yr Trustee; Mike Ponte; 1 yr Trustee; Larry McAhren
 4. Nomination of UVC Board representative: 3 year member; John Larson; 2 year member; Dan Halverson; 1 year member; Mike Ponte
 Good of the Order: VFW National communication, requirements for April Election Reports to be submitted only online.
 Comrade in Distress: Marine veteran family displaced with explosion in Wood River. Contact with Don Shuda for assistance.
 There being no further business, closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be April 2nd at 19:30 hours. All VFW members are encouraged to attend.

Respectably submitted,
Temporary Quartermaster/Adjutant, Ron Hitch

VFW Auxiliary Post #1347

March Meeting

Chaplain Lyanne Kelly gave the Opening Prayer with 13 members and 1 guest attending the March 5th meeting of the Hall County VFW Auxiliary 1347. Mary Lubken read the Opening and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 President Lori Skala called the meeting to order. Minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented. Thank You notes read were received from NWHCS-Grand Island for sandwiches, chips and dip for a party, phone charging cables, food and personal items for the food pantry and Valentines from the Auxiliary and local schools.
 The Treasure's report was approved and submitted to audit. There were no bills. Liza Klein, daughter of member Melinda Klein and granddaughter of our Gold Star Mother, Irene Klein was introduced as our guest.
 For the Americanism Committee, Jean Seely said she had posted 37 pictures of flags not on a standard to the State office. She will continue to take more pictures to submit.
 Hospital Committee Chair Billie Herron said that a Valentine Cake had been

sent to the residents at NWHCS—Grand Island. Cupcakes had also been delivered to Salute the Staff. Fourteen Veterans had spent a day at the Crane Trust. Linda Winget will order cookies for St. Patrick's Day. There are being plans made to play Bingo again in April.
 Lori Skala, Chair of the Veterans and Family Committee, reported that 7 members had attended the Veteran's Day at the Races. They helped to inform people about the VFW Auxiliary. A blanket was given to the winning horse, jockey and owner of a race that day.
 Membership Committee Chair LaVonne Catron reported that the membership dues are still \$21.00 until the new fiscal year which will be July 1st.
 Lori Skala reminded everyone that there are still Scholarships available to be applied for. Most have a deadline of March 31st while the Nursing Scholarship has a deadline of June 15th. Check with LaVonne for more information.
 Best Choice UPC labels will continue to be collected for the Auxiliary. Postage stamps and prescription bottles will be collected and delivered to groups that work with recycling them.
 President Lori asked for volunteers to be a Nominating Committee as election of Officers will take place in April. Lyanne Kelly will chair the committee. You may contact Lyanne to say that you would like to be considered for a position.
 The Charter was Draped for Past Department President Berniece Wiese.
 Greeting and Note cards were donated and will be taken to NWHCS for Veterans and residents use. Also, about 100 Christmas cards were also donated. Some do not have envelopes so if you have odd envelopes, Please bring them to see if they might fit anything we have. Pens, pencils and note paper would also be welcomed.
 The Closing Prayer was offered by Linda Winget.
 Tuesday, April 2nd will be the date of the next meeting of the VFW Auxiliary 1347 when members meet at 1:00 PM. Those wishing to eat together will meet at Noon at the Vet's Club.

Secretary
Cathy McKown

Sons of the American Legion Post #53

Regular meeting of the Sons of the American Legion was held March 06, 2024 at 6:30pm. 22 members were present.
 Minutes and Treasurer's report were presented and approved.
 Discussed Mountain Oyster Feed. Successful night. More to follow.
 Discussed Easter Egg Hunt. More to follow.
 Discussed gun raffle. More discussion later.
 Discussed Armed Forces Day at Fonner Park for 2025. Motion passed for Son's to participate. In January 2025 will need count of people that want to attend.
 Next Son's meeting and future meetings will be held in United Room.
 Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.
 Next meeting April 03, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Barker, Adjutant

American Legion Post #53

March 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Commander Ponte at 1930 hours. Opening ceremonies were conducted. Roll Call: eleven members present; thirteen officers present, three absent.
 Meeting Minutes: February Meeting Minutes stand as read.
 Finance Report: Rich Catron moved to accept the February Finance Report & Bob Lathen seconded the motion; passed.
 Committee Reports: Children & Youth: None; Americanism: None; Activities: None; POW/MIA: None; Athletic: None.
 Membership: 2024 membership is currently at 90%
 UVC Board Report: It is available at the UVC office.
 Service Officer: Veterans Service Office is busy helping many veterans. They have a new computer system to aide them.
 Sick Call: Member Leonard Sloan has been moved to Madonna Rehabilitation. Comrades in Distress: None.

Old Business: American Legion Baseball Steak Feed is March 23rd from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the bar.
 New Business: Glenn Palensky moved that \$200 be given to Auxiliary for their Easter Egg Hunt program; Roger Schleicher seconded the motion and it passed.
 Good of the Post: none.
 Nominations: Post 53 officer nominations were received for the 2024-2025 year, which commences on July 1st. Nominations will also be received at the April and May meetings. After nominations are closed at the May meeting, voting will immediately follow during that meeting.
 Mike Ponte moved that the meeting be adjourned; Rich Catron seconded; passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.
 The next meeting will be on April 9, 2024, at 1930 hours.

Respectfully submitted
Brian Rapp, Adjutant

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53

March 6, 2024

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53 meeting was called to order by President Carmen Larson at 6:30 p.m., March 6, 2024. Co-Chaplain Liz Cline offered the opening prayer. Sixteen members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the ALA Constitution.
 The February minutes were approved as read.
 Avis motioned that the Treasurer's Report be approved and Kayleen seconded the motion. Motion carried. The SONS donated \$250 for the Easter Egg Hunt. New bills were presented. Sue motioned and Liz seconded that \$337.92 be paid for the Easter Egg Hunt favors and prizes. Motion carried. Dora moved and Kayleen seconded that the ALA pay \$41.49 for the new charter and frame and \$29.95 for the medallion/certificate frame. Motion carried.
 Membership Report: 15 members have not paid their dues.
 Historian/Webmaster Report: The Facebook page will be updated with pictures from recent events.

Communications: A thank you note was received for the donations to the VA & R food pantry. Both the District and State need the names of those who have passed away. Information was shared about the Stop the Bleed class, the RED store, and Vet's get Pets.
 OLD BUSINESS:
 Members volunteered to help with Bingo in April.
 Avis, Carmen, Loretta and Charlie gave a recap of the District 6 Convention. There will be one Girls' State attendee this year.
 Both the Veterans' Day at the Races and the Mountain Oyster Feed went well. Scholarships are due April 1st.
 NEW BUSINESS:

Regan from Girl Scout Troop 8438 asked for support for the Cookies for Veterans program where Girl Scout Cookies will be shared with those in the Veterans Home in Kearney and those in the Veterans Hospital in Grand Island. Charlie motioned and Avis seconded that the ALA donate \$100 to buy 20 boxes of cookies for the program. Motion carried.
 Information was shared about needed items for the Veterans Hospital food pantry and Celebrating Women of Service.
 Easter Egg Hunt final preparations are on schedule. Members should be at the UVC at 1:00 p.m. on March 30 to decorate and make final preparations. Diane will purchase candy for the Easter Bunny to hand out.
 Charlie motioned and Ronda seconded that the ALA participate in the Veterans' Day at the Races in 2025. Motion carried. Those wishing to attend should let Loretta know by January 1, 2025 to ensure enough tickets are provided.
 The ALA and the SONS will switch meeting rooms starting in April. The ALA will meet in Memorial Hall.
 The possibility of getting a CD with money from the treasury was tabled until the next meeting.
 Being no further business, Dora motioned and Sarah seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.
 The next meeting will be held on April 3, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall at the United Veterans Club.

Submitted by
Lisa Hunnicutt, Recording Secretary

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Meeting called to order by Commander David Morrison.
 Opening prayer by Historian Avis Morrison.
 Resolution 288 for the POW/MIA empty chair ceremony performed by SGT at Arms Todd Sinsel.
 All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the ALR Chapter 53 Preamble.
 Roll call completed by Secretary Pam Sinsel. Sixteen Chapter members and one Chapter supporter were present.
 January meeting minutes read by Secretary Pam Sinsel. Accepted as read.
 January finance report read by Secretary Pam Sinsel. Motion to approve, Sarah Martin. Second, Todd Sinsel. Motion carried.
 Jon Monk's granddaughter, Reagan, is selling Girl Scout cookies and taking donations to gift boxes to the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home and to the Grand Island VA Medical Center. A link to her website has been shared on the members chat page.
 Greg Martin motioned to approve a \$500 donation to Reagan for 100 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to be donated to the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home and to the GI VA Medical Center. Second, John Arias. Motion carried.
 David Morrison & Todd Sinsel shared updates on the Grand Island Hometown Heroes committee. The committee has approached the City of Grand Island. If they can get approval, the city estimates the charge will be around \$300 per banner to install. The committee is working on other options and working to get in front of the city council.
 David Morrison & Todd Sinsel brought to the group the guns the raffle committee suggests for both raffles. After discussion, John Arias motioned to approve the guns suggested by the committee be bought. Second, Dan Willets. Motion carried.
 After further discussion, Dan Willets motioned to approve the dates for the first raffle to begin March 19, 2024, and end April 21, 2024. The winners will be drawn at 11 am on April 21st at the United Veterans Club. Second, Rich Catron. Motion carried. First prize is a Rossi Lever Action .357 with case. The 2nd prize is a Sig Sauer scope and range finder.
 The second raffle will have 3 prizes. First prize, a model 1911A1 .45acp. Second prize, a Judge .45 colt/410 pistol. Third prize, a .22. The raffle start date is to be determined. The drawing will be held at The Freedom and Independence Ride on July 20, 2024.
 The next planning committee meeting for the 2024 Freedom & Independence Ride will be held February 27, 2024, after burger night clean up.
 Veterans Day at the Races is February 24, 2024. There was an anonymous donation for our Chapter to blanket race #3.
 John Larson is selling raffle tickets for the Purple Fish MC.
 Greg Martin updated us on Adeline Woods' Eagle Scout project. He has had very little communication with Adeline. She is working up a new drawing for the wrap and working with Dan Naranjo at All Faiths Funeral Home to locate the box there.
 John Arias has finalized the route for the 2024 Legacy Run Across Nebraska. The ride will be 3 days, July 12, 2024, through July 14, 2024. Beginning and ending of the ride will be at the American Legion Headquarters in Lincoln.
 Jon Monk motioned to approve a \$500 donation to the 2024 Legacy Run Across Nebraska. Second, Sarah Martin. Motion carried.
 Nebraska American Legion District 6 Convention is March 3, 2024, in Doniphan.
 American Legion Baseball Steak Feed is March 23, 2024, at the United Veterans Club.
 Sarah Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second, Nicole Reyes. Motion carried.
 Closing prayer by Historian Avis Morrison.
 SGT at Arms Todd Sinsel retired the POW/MIA chair covering.
 Meeting adjourned by Commander David Morrison.

Secretary,
Pamela Sinsel


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