



American Legion
Elk Grove-Laguna Post 233
July 28, 2016 - Elks Lodge 2577

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order. Commander Larry Sahota opened the meeting at 1910 hours.
2. Roll Call. Officers present were Commander Sahota, 1st Vice Commander Ted Daniels, 2nd Vice Commander Mike Ploszaj, Finance Officer Max Baumgartner, Chaplain Thad Brown, Sergeant-at-Arms Doug Philips, Past Post Commander Henry Sanchez, Service Office Frank Goehringer, Judge Advocate James Burton Adjutant and Adjutant Kate Grunwald.
3. Minutes. May General Meeting and June and July Executive Meeting minutes were email in advance for review. The minutes were accepted as written.
4. Guest and New members: Stan Hoffman, Steve Hernandez, Gus Saca, Emory Hanson, Barry Stone, Luis Espinosa, Dan Boschee, and Vada Turner.
5. Officer Reports.

First Vice Commander Ted Daniels reported that we ended last year with 257 members and 135.26 % of goal. Then as of Thursday July 18th we have 45 PUFL and 27 new or renewal memberships giving us 24% of post goal of 300 paid members.

Second Vice Commander Ploszaj announced that we have reserved the SES Hall for March 25, 2017 for our Annual Fundraiser. He then thanked all the State fair volunteers, they had a great event.

Upcoming we have the following events:

- Saturday, August 6 at 1100 hours, Post Luncheon on the Patio of Pizza Bell 8996 Grantline Road.
 - Thursday, August 11 at 1800 hours, Sons of the American Legion meeting at Elks Lodge 2577.
 - Saturday, August 13 at 900 to 1600 hours StandOut 2016 Celebrating Military Diversity at American River College. We still need volunteers,
 - Thursday, August 18 at 1000 to 1500 hours Cosumnes River College Welcome Back BBQ at American River College.
 - Thursday, August 18 at 1830 hours, Post Executive meeting at Elks Lodge 2577.
 - Thursday, August 25 at 10:00 to 1500 hours American River College Welcome Back BBQ at Cosumnes River College.
 - Thursday, August 25 at 1900 hours Post meeting at Elk's Lodge 2577.
 - Saturday, August 27 at 900 to 1000 hours Multicultural Festival at Elk Grove Regional Park.
 - Thursday, September 8 at 1800 hours, Sons of the American Legion meeting at Elks Lodge 2577.
 - Thursday, September 15 at 1830 hours, Post Executive meeting at Elks Lodge 2577.
 - Saturday, September 17 at 0900 hours POW/MIA Ceremony Elk Grove Regional Park. Chairman is Drake Abendroth. He is looking for about 14 volunteers.
 - Thursday, September 22 at 1900 hours Post meeting at Elk's Lodge 2577.
7. Finance Report Finance officer reported as of July 28, 2016 the current balance at \$25,832.63, which includes Checking (\$20,602.01), Savings (\$5,200.00), Interest (\$0.62) Petty Cash (\$30.00); Restricted Funds: Veterans Day Parade (\$1,078.37), Food (\$2,577.99), Building Fund (\$5,200.62), Veterans College Student Fund (\$213.23), and Stand Down (\$185.75). The total available funds are \$16,576.67.

8. Adjutant Report. Adjutant Grunwald reported As of today we are starting the 2017 membership year with 45 Paid up for Life (PUFL) members and 62 new or renewal membership giving us a total of 107 member and 35.66% of the Post goal of 300 paid members for 2017.
We have not been given our department goal yet but expect it to be 191 members, putting us at 56.02% of a department goal of 191 members. Some target dates are September 14th to reach 50%, December 14th to reach 75% and May 10th to reach 100%. Our goal is to reach these percentages of our *Post Goal of 300* by these dates!
I have confirmed we will be having a table at the Stand Out-Celebrating Military Diversity to be held on Saturday August 13th from 9 am to 4 pm. I am still looking for a few more volunteers; I am only asking you fill a 2 hour shift. You can contact me or use the Signup Genius link in the weekly blast to sign up, or sign up [with Signup Genius HERE](#)
9. Committee Reports: Brent Kone reported we have two BBQ coming up the first will be Thursday, August 18 at 1000 to 1500 hours American River College Welcome Back BBQ at **American River College**. A signup Genius will be sent out in the weekly blast or sign up to volunteer with this link. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa5af23a1f85-american>.
The second is Thursday, August 25 at 1000 to 1500 hours Cosumnes River College Welcome Back BBQ at **Cosumnes River College**. A signup Genius will be sent out in the weekly blast or sign up to volunteer with this link. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa5af23a1f85-consumnes>. Volunteer positions will be set up, BBQ cooks, static display, and breakdown.
A request was made by First Vice Commander to have a BBQ for the Elk Grove Police Department, the commander spoke to the Police chief and was told that they have had so many request that this would not be feasible, yet they came up with an alternative. The chief stated the next time we have a flag retirement ceremony he could send his drill team out and we could have a BBQ afterwards. The co-chairmen for this event will be Ted Daniels, Bob Samiego and Butch Daniels.
We still need a few volunteers for the Multicultural Festival at Elk Grove Regional Park. Signup Genius is available for volunteers. Click this link to volunteer at the Festival: [Elk Grove Multicultural Festival Signup Genius](#)
10. Service Officer Reports: He is currently working with three (3) homeless veterans for employment opportunities and housing. Commander Sahota then spoke about a Vietnam veteran that Kevin Spease referred the post. The veteran Santiago Bonita has been granted a Habitat for Humanity's grant to rebuild his house which is in shambles. We have worked on getting Home Depot, Bell Brothers and others to donate supplies for the home. We will keep you posted on when the rebuilding will take place as we will need volunteers to swing a hammer, turn a screwdriver and other jobs!
11. Unfinished Business: We still have spot available to sign up for Saturday, August 27 Multicultural Festival at Elk Grove Regional Park from at 900 to 100 hours. Click this link to volunteer at the Festival: [Elk Grove Multicultural Festival Signup Genius](#).
Next James Burton our Judge Advocate read our first Amendment to the By-law. The change is to Article 7 Section 1 "The Post recognizes the Auxiliary Unit 391 from Unit George W. Fruitridge to read "The post recognizes an Auxiliary Unit known as American Legion Auxiliary Unit 233 Department of California." This was the first reading.
Past Commander then spoke to the Post concerning the continuing need to recruit new members. Invite them to our next Post meeting.
Commander Sahota presented a 100% membership plaque to Past Commander Sanchez, Past First Vice Commander Bill Boles and Gail Hyden for their contribution in reaching this 2016 membership goal.
12. Sick Call. Past Commander Floyd Davis, Eric Sprier and Ernie Costa, please keep them in your prayers.

13. New Member Initiation: The following new members participated in the initiation: Vada Turner, Dan Boschee, Louis Espinoza, Emory Hansen, Cheryl Stern and Lonn Stern.
14. New Business. Voting for the Legionnaire of the Year took place. The nominees were Henry Sanchez and Ted Daniels. The winner will be presented a plaque at the August meeting.

A request was made from Post 861 for donations of \$150 each for a 32" LED TV, mounting and antenna for the Village at Mather. A new housing unit for previously homeless veterans, they have a goal to purchase Fifty (50) TVs. We passed the hat for individual donations then a motion was made for the post to donate \$150 to purchase one TV, seconded by Doug Phillips. Discussion followed and the motion was amended to donate \$300 for the purchase of two (2) TVs, seconded by Henry Sanchez. The amended motion carried. Passing the hat resulted in donations of \$300; the post will be donating funds to purchase four (4) TVs for the Village at Mather.

A request was made from the Sacramento Stand-down Chairman to donate \$525 to the Sacramento Stand-down to replace the kitchen coffee pots. A motion was made to add \$339.25 to the Stand-down restricted funds of \$185.75 and donate a total of \$525 to purchase the coffee pots, seconded by Doug Phillips. The motion passed.

Robert Ruiz proposed that we consider developing a resolution to be present before the City Council, to the Chief of Police for their service the citizens of Elk Grove. We will submit this to the Grants Committee and bring it to the next meeting. He then talked about the Blood drive efforts. Comrade Sanchez then reminded us that if you donate to Blood Source our group number is 0352.

A question was posed about having a Post T-shirt made to wear at events during the warmer summer months. The member was invited to the next executive meeting to discuss this issue.

15. For the Good of the Legion. Historian Taps requested help in getting together with Ernie Costa to interview in order to start recording the history of the post. He was referred to Bill Boles.

Comrade Sanchez spoke about the Yountville Picnic to be held this weekend, dinner on July 29, with the picnic on July 30, 2016.

Commander Sahota discussed the status of the Elk Grove Memorial Hall. He was asked by the City to meet with them to chat about what it would take to get the American Legion interested again. He did present eight issues that the executive committee agreed would need to happen. The largest item would be that the American Legion would be the administrators of the hall. The City asked that we present to them a business plan, which was then developed and presented. On August 8th Commander Sahota, 1st Vice Commander Daniels and Past Commander Kone will meet once again with the City Manager and they are going to present their plan. At this point we are just doing fact finding. The City has agreed to fully furnish the hall so it will be turnkey for whoever opens the doors. Comrade Kone and Ted Daniels then discussed the structural design changes that can be made to accommodate 200-250 for a dinner. Comrade Daniels did remind us that we would have an agreement to receive one event a year at cost in the larger community center for our annual fundraiser.

This meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours.

The next meeting will be held August 25, 2016 at 1900 hours at the Elks Lodge 2577 (9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove).

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Grunwald, Adjutant
American Legion Post 233