

24 February, 2016



Eric V. Dickson Post 1980
P.O. Box 1980
Woodland Park, CO 80866-1980

Post 1980 Minutes Post Meeting – 23 February, 2016

Call to order at 7 PM – Commander Williams

Welcome to members and guests

- Boys State applicant **Jack Fisher**, son of member Denise Fisher. Jack addressed the Post thanking them for inviting him to participate
- Prospective member **Terry Willems**, now working as a VA nurse, and her husband Andrew were guests of Robert Mericle

Roll Call (Sign in Sheet) – 17 Members present; see roster at end

Minutes from January Planning meeting – Approved

Finance Officer's Report – Presented and approved

Member Initiation Ceremony: deferred to March meeting

Special Award: A 50 year membership certificate was presented to Al Pickup, acknowledging his membership in the American Legion.

Committee Reports/ old business:

- **Oratorical contest:** Chuck Gardner reported; no applicants for Post 1980 this year.
- **Boys State:** Chuck Gardner reporting. Jack Fisher has completed his application. Chuck working with Mr Martin of WPHS to invite more applicants by the 1 May deadline.
- **Resolution; expanding membership in the American Legion to all veterans** (rather than to only those that served in war time). Bob Lowry reported; he sent a draft to Tom Bock (Colorado). Tom reviewed, cited some format issues to be corrected, and provided a similar resolution submitted by a Nebraska post that was rejected by National. The rejection cited 3 issues; 1) Legion would lose tax exempt status; 2) Legion would lose ability to petition Congress; 3) It would “change the culture of the Legion”. Bob has consulted with IRS on the 1st 2 objections and has sufficient evidence the objections were not based on fact. Bob will proceed; ultimate strategy is to pass Colorado review for proper format, then solicit other posts and states backing.
- **Eric V Dickson personal possession:** No progress.
- **Membership:** Goal for 2016 is 122 members renewed by June 30, 2016. Currently at 120, including new members **Susan Williams** and **John Gomes**
- **Veterans Funeral Participation:** Bob Lowry reported 10 members of the Post participated in a Vets funeral last month. We were alerted by the County Coroner, approached the family, and were invited to honor the service.

New business:

- **Open Chairs:** Dan Weber reported. Post 1980 events are managed by Chair Persons from the membership. Attached is a list of Chair Positions for 2016 events, a list of who

chaired these positions in 2015, and a list of who has stepped up to 2016. If you are a **newer member, we encourage you to put your name in for an event/ function that calls to you.** The past Chair will assist and many other members of the Post will be on your team (and do the majority of the work).

- **2016 Calendar:** Dan Weber reporting. Attached is a current **Calendar of events for 2016** as well as reminders when actions need to take place to secure resources for the events. As event times change, or events are added, a revised calendar will be emailed with subsequent Meeting Minutes.
- **Flags for Schools:** Dan Weber reporting. In 2015 we provided a ceremony and American Flags to 3 grade schools in the county. 2016 plan is to provide the same for the other 3 schools in the county. Colorado Springs Christian School called for disposition of a tattered flag, so the Post provided them with a new one now; we will schedule a ceremony in the fall around school opening.
- **Vets Hall repair:** Dan Weber reporting. Home Depot is looking for projects to donate. Mike Hall, Commander Post 39 in Fountain, referred them to our Vets Hall in Woodland Park. Executives have visited the hall 2 x with the intent of a massive remodel, as a donation to our community. They have a scheduled meeting in May at the Broadmoor Hotel and are working on a plan to have 125 people on a 1 day project for Vets hall, including repaint in and out, completely redo the kitchen area, construct shelving in the back room, redo the basement room / rest room/ hallway, replace all windows, blow in insulation, provide a deck and rear door, and do extensive landscaping (including fencing, barbeque pits, and picnic tables on the south side of the building). Since VFW owns the building, Andrew Taylor and Dan are working together on this with Dan acting as the project coordinator. An expanded Home Depot team will be here March 1 to start laying out details, including which permits we need to pull (Home Depot will reimburse us) and what local contractor work needs to be done in advance. Once completed, we intend to promote expanded community use, with focus on Vets programs/organizations.
- **McCandless Vets Home visit:** Bob Lowry reporting; event is now scheduled for Sat 9 April. Meet by Wendy's at 8:45 AM and commute. This is always a rewarding event, spending time with older (mostly) Veterans for the day. **RSVP if you wish to participate.**
- **POW/MIA Motorcycle rally:** Dan Williams reporting for John Meyer. This August event brings in thousands of motorcyclists for a rally leaving by Woodland Park High School heading to Cripple Creek. In past years the Fire Department has provided a pancake breakfast fund raiser by the ride start. They no longer do this; Dan Williams is in contact with the city about **Post 1980 providing a breakfast as a fundraiser** or even donation to this Vets organization.
- **Senior Center Cooking:** Chuck Gardner reporting. We have been approached by the Senior Center of Woodland Park about providing lunch for seniors once per month (4th Tuesday of the Month, same schedule as our Post meetings). This could be as a donation or we could ask for reimbursement for food and provide cooking and serving to ~ 50 people. It was proposed and 2nded to provide this next March 22 on a trial basis. We will build a team around this and decide how to proceed.
- **Other suggestions:** Vern Wilson suggested we consider providing **food on a donation only basis** for our July 4 booth. Since Vern will not be available for this year's Pig Roast, Chuck Gardner suggested we consider **cooking pork shoulders at members' houses** rather than on the big cooker. Yvonne mentioned Welcome Home Warriors will have donors not repeating this year, so the Auxiliary I planning on **sponsoring 2 families in May (\$400**

each), and asks post 1980 to consider doing the same. Intention is to consider these at future meetings.

Auxiliary update: Yvonne Wilson reported membership currently at 18; they have started planning for the Pig Roast Silent Auction already. Highlights for 2015 including spending a day honoring McCandles Veteran home ladies (including dinner and spa treatments, adopting families in need at Christmas in conjunction with Community Partnership, Welcome Home Warriors sponsorship, and Girls State.

Correspondence: None

Sickness/ Illness: In contacting members who have not updated 2016 membership. Dan discovered member Richard Kincade (Commander, US Navy) had passed in February 2015. We will conduct a ceremony honoring Richard at the January 2017 planning meeting.

Good of the Legion: None

Next Post Meeting: March 22

Adjourn: 20:43

Attendees: Dan Williams, Yvonne and Vern Wilson, Dan Weber, Paul James, Rod Herk, Bob Lowry, Bob Mericle, Rachael Shryack, Bob Rufe, Bob Waters, Al Pickup, Chuck Gardner, Denise Fisher, Bill Fisher, Jim Spieth, Don Spence

Summary of Upcoming Events:

- March 22 Next Post Meeting
 - Provide Lunch at Senior enter
- April 9 : Visit to McCandless Veterans home