

24 March, 2016



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

Post 1980 Minutes Post Meeting – 22 March, 2016

Call to order at 7 PM – Commander Williams

Welcome to members and guests; Terry Willems joined the post

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

Minutes from February Post meeting – Approved

Finance Officer's Report – Presented and approved

Member Initiation Ceremony:

Initiation ceremony held for members Bob Rufe, Terry Willems and John Gomes

Committee Reports/ old business:

- **Oratorical contest:** Chuck Gardner reported; no applicants for Post 1980 this year.
- **Boys State:** One applicant; Chuck Gardner working with Mr. Martin of WPHS to invite more applicants by the 1 May deadline.
- **Eric V Dickson personal possessions:** In Dec 2015 we were notified some investors purchased the contents of a storage locker containing possessions (medals, American Flag) belonging to our post namesake. Dan Weber has attempted to contact them 3x regarding the Post taking these possessions but here has been no response. Close.
- **Membership:** Dan Weber reported the goal set for 2016 is 122 members renewed; as of tonight we are at that goal
- **Senior Center Lunch:** Chuck Gardner reported; 5 Post members provided lunch for 42 members of the Woodland Park Senior Center on March 22. The post (or members) supplied the food.
- **Vet's Hall Remodel;** Dan Weber reported we have provided a list of items we would like to have done to 2 contractors. They have visited the site and met with the county inspector, who also has visited the site and all agree the work can be done by the deadline. Home Depot will pay for the work and is expecting bids from the contractors prior to issuing contracts. On May 11 ~ 122 Home Depot employees will complete the remodel. The donation is being done through VFW who owns the building. We (and the VFW) can now start packing the hall so items can be stored in the shed to be provided by Home Depot, pitching trash as we go.
- **Funeral Participation:** Bob Lowry reported the alert system is in place to support any Teller County veteran who is dies. **Bob is looking for a backup in case he is unavailable to email the team when notified. RSVP if you are willing to take this on, please.** A recent death in Teller County will result in a remembrance ceremony to be held along with the Sheriff's department when scheduled. We will need an honor guard then.
- **VA Clinic Meeting:** Bob attended a March 1 meeting sponsored by Commissioner Peggy Littleton on Vets experience with the VA clinic in Colorado Springs. The event was not

promoted well; 15 attendees; only 7 vets who had used the facility. Experience was varied. Bob noted in general many Vets can't coherently communicate.

- **Resolution; expanding membership in the American Legion to all veterans:** Bob made corrections based on recommendations provided by Tom Bock and cited new evidence dismissing the 2 key objections that led to rejection of a previous similar amendment. Our ultimate strategy is to pass Colorado review for proper format, then solicit other posts and states backing.
- **GI Bill education:** Bob provided financial comparisons of educational benefits available to Vets and children vs working full time at entry level jobs (attached). 2 Post members challenged that it was not that simple; tons of paperwork and seldom are payments timely.
- Vern Wilson had suggested we consider providing **food on a donation only basis** for our **July 4 booth**. Dan Weber will check to see if this is OK with the event organizers. Decision deferred until next meeting. Also the time to secure a booth is this month.
- **Pig Roast cooker** for the June 11 Pig Roast / silent auction will be managed by Keith Wilson. Keith and Rod Herk will get the pig. A **sign up sheet for cooking the night before is attached. RSVP if you can man a 2 hour shift.**
- **Donation packets** for silent auction donations are now available from Paul James. We visit local businesses for donations; **if you would like to participate please RSVP.** If you have never done this, team with members who have; this is a great way to get involved with the community businesses who provide support for our veterans.
- **Welcome Home Warriors:** Post 1980 approved sponsoring 2 families in May (\$800 total). Yvonne had mentioned the Auxiliary is also sponsoring 2 families. We are also budgeted for a fall event.

New business:

- **Raffle:** Lee Vulcan will process the State registration again. Post 1980 approved paying the \$100 fee. Lee is starting a 4 year project and needs a backup; Keith Wilson agreed to get trained for this.
- **McCandless Veterans Home** annual visit is Saturday May 9. Meet at Wendy's at 8:45 to carpool. **RSVP to Bob Lowry if you will attend** robertlowery@aol.com. We will bring donuts and clothing. Bring clothing to donate or drop off in advance at the Senior Center.
- **McCandless Annual Volunteer Banquet** will be 6PM April 13 at Sumo Golf Course (across from the Vet's home in Florence). Post members are invited; **RSVP to Kathy 719-784-5305 by 4/1 if you plan on attending.**
- **Adopt a Highway;** Keith Wilson reporting. **Clean-up day will be 4/16.** Meet at Venture Foods at 8AM. Wear good work shoes.
- **Officer Nominations;** Officer Nominations were held tonight. Elections will be at the April meeting; new officers assume duties at the May meeting.

Nominees:

Commander Dan Williams (Incumbent)
Sr. Vice Commander Chuck Gardner
Jr. Vice Commander Norm Steen
Adjutant Dan Weber (Incumbent)
Finance Officer Paul James (Incumbent)
Chaplin Bruce Taylor (Incumbent)
Service Officer Bob Lowry (Incumbent)
Sergeant at Arms Rod Herk (Incumbent)
Historian Keith Wilson (returning)

Auxiliary update: No report.

Correspondence: Letter from Don Creamer Commander Jefferson Davis Camp 175, Sons of Confederate Veterans thanking Post 1980 for making possible an observance of Confederate Memorial Day (April 23) at Evergreen Cemetery on Colorado Springs. At their request, Commander Williams sent a letter of support to cemetery management in favor of honoring all American veterans (including Confederate). Previous requests from Camp 175 were ignored. The event will be at 11 AM on April 23; **Post 1980 members are invited to attend**

Sickness/ Illness: No reports

Good of the Legion: None

Next Post Meeting: April 26 **Due to construction at Vet's Hall, the meeting will be moved to a facility TBD**

Adjourn: 20:24

Attendees: Dan Williams, Norm Steen, Dan Weber, Paul James, Rod Herk, Bob Lowry, Bob Mericle, Bob Rufe, Al Pickup, Chuck Gardner, Jim Spieth, Don Spence, Buck Dugger, John Gomes, Terry Willems, Keith Wilson, Lee Vulcan

Summary of Upcoming Events:

- April 9 : Visit to McCandless Veterans home in Florence
- April 13: McCandless Veterans Home Annual Volunteer Banquet
- April 16: Adopt a Highway day
- April 23: Sons of Confederate Veterans Confederate Memorial Day observance at Evergreen Cemetery Chapel in Colorado Springs
- April 26: Post Meeting – location TBD