

29 April, 2016



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

Post 1980 Minutes Post Meeting – 26 April, 2016, Revision 2

Meeting held at Teller County Veterans Service office while Vets hall under re-construction

Revisions in green

Call to order at 7 PM – Commander Williams

Welcome to members and guests; District 7 Officers, Dean Noechel, Commander; Marvin Weaver Jr, Adjutant; Mike Hall. Senior vice Commander; and Mike Fry

District Presentation:

District is now at 103% of 2016 membership goal

May 7 will be the District conference at Post 209 in Colorado Springs from 1-4 PM

May 21 the Run to the Wall will ride through Fountain.

May 21 is leadership training in Arvada

May 23 the National Commander will visit Colorado Springs at Post 209; a walk through Garden of the Gods is planned for that day followed by dinner at 4-4:30 PM at Post 209. RSVP if you wish to attend. Walk T shirts are available for \$10 each.

June 16-19 is Department Convention in Longmont; Nominees for Dept Commander include Jay Bowen; for Sr Vice Commander Dean Noechel

Roll Call (Sign in Sheet) – 16 Members present; see roster at end

Minutes from March Post meeting – Approved

Finance Officer's Report – Presented and approved

Committee Reports/ old business:

- **Boys State:** Chuck Gardner reported there are now 5 candidates. Applications have been forwarded to State; the post will pay for their fees.
- **Scholarship:** There is one application for the \$1K Scholarship; deadline for additional candidate submission is May 1.
- **WPHS Award Ceremony:** will be at the High School at 6:30 PM **May 18**
- **Membership:** Dan Weber reported the goal set for 2016 is 122 members renewed for Post 1980; we are at that goal. Paperwork for the last 2 will be mailed to Department tomorrow. 2017 membership renewal starts July 1, 2016.
- **McCandless Vets Home:** Bob Lowry reported 6 Post members visited the home on April 9, bringing donuts, clothes, books and Jim Spieth's toys. This is always an inspirational visit with these elderly vets. Bob also attended the Volunteers banquet held the following Wednesday.
- **Vet's Hall Remodel:** Dan Weber reporting. Home Depot foundation is funding the renovation. The hall, owned by the VFW, was originally built in ~ 1938. Local contractors submitted bids to Home Depot who is supplying most materials, and paying for all. This has been split into at least 2 phases. Work has been reviewed and approved by Teller

county inspectors under a tight schedule. On April 9, ~ 15 volunteers removed all items, storing them in a storage bin on the premises. Underway now is removal and replacement off inside walls, ceiling, and electrical wiring, as well as extensive landscaping on the south side. The upstairs furnace has been removed and main furnace replaced. The downstairs area is also being remodeled. Flooring for the entry way and kitchen has been removed in order to level the front of the building, which had no foundation. The outside has been power washed and scrapped and will be primed. Key date is May 11, when 100+ Home Depot employees attending a meeting at the Broadmoor will arrive ~ 7 AM to spend 4 hours doing "finishing" work, (painting, tree planting, picket fence installation, picnic bench construction, etc.). The Post and VFW will have a brief (10 min) ceremony with honor guard (Robby Cox, Paul James, Chuck Gardner, Rod Herk and at least 1 member of the VFW). Press will be present. Phase 2 work (whatever is not done by May 11) will include new kitchen appliances. Depending on condition of the kitchen/ front hall on May 11, the hall may be usable for our May 24 Post meeting.

- **Confederate Memorial Day:** Buck Duggar reporting; 2 members of Post 1980 are also members of the local Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter, Jefferson Davis Camp 175. . Those and 2 additional Post 1980 members attended a ceremony held at Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs on April 23 to honor 16 confederate veterans interred there. Buck thanked Post 1980 who assisted by writing a letter of support to cemetery management encouraging them to allow this ceremony to honor these American veterans. The ceremony included bagpipes and a 21 gun salute from an honor guard dressed in Confederate attire firing flintlocks. **If you have confederate soldiers in your ancestry and would like to honor them, let me know and I will put you in contact with Buck.**
- **Adopt a Highway;** Keith Wilson reporting. For the 3rd week in a row we are cancelling HWY 67 cleanup due to weather. We will reschedule for next month to a time TBD. Also, Norm Steen will intervene so we can get the MIA/POW signage reposted.
- **Pig Roast/ Silent Auction:** Chuck Gardner reporting. The event will be at the Crystola Roadhouse on June 11. We still need volunteers to go to local businesses and solicit donations for the silent auction. We see these local business each year and they are very supportive of our programs, so this is always a great way to be active in the community. **Contact me if you can assist** alone or with another member. Also attached is the sign-up sheet for the pig- cooking from 11PM June 10 through 9AM June 11. **Please let me know if you can assist.**
- **Resolution:** Bob Lowry presented the resolution **to expand membership eligibility in the American Legion to all members who have honorably served in the Armed Forces of the United States, not just those who have served in wartime.** Tom Bock at State has been consulted and his recommendations have been incorporated. Bob did extensive research on countering National objections to previous similar resolutions and these have been incorporated in the resolution. Post 1980 members present unanimously approved the resolution; which will now be forwarded to district for consideration. The request is for review at the May 7 District convention, although the requirement for submission 30 days prior can't be met, District officers present will inquire if an exception can be granted. If not, it will be considered at a future convention. If approved by District, it will proceed to Department of CO, then National, then Congress for consideration. **A copy of the resolution is attached.**
- **July 4 Booth:** Paul James reporting; Vern Wilson has secured a booth for the event Vern also checked with event management, who OKd (and the post approved) offering food on a donation basis rather than charging specific amounts.

- **Officer Elections and Inductions:** Officer Nominations were held at the March 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)

All nominees were present at tonight's meeting. Election of nominations were approved by members present. District Commander Noechel inducted the officers, who will assume duties starting with the May 24 meeting.

New business

- **Salute to Veterans:** Show up and be honored. Norm Steen reporting Salute to Veterans events will be held:
 - May 11 at Florissant Library, 8:30 – 12:30, breakfast included
 - May 12 at City Hall council chambers in Woodland Park 11 to 12; Honor Guard needed. Bronco Billy's will cater lunch. Honor Guard needed
 - May 13 in Cripple Creek 4-7 PM includes
 - **Memorial Day- May 30;** planning at May 24 meeting; will include flags at Memorial Park; mini-flags at all Vets graves in Woodland park and Ceremony w/ honor guard/ gun salute at gravesite of most recently interred vet at Woodland Park Cemetery.

Auxiliary update: No report.

Correspondence: Letter from Wounded Warriors thanking Post 1980 for sponsoring families

Sickness/ Illness: Greg Alberts

- Bob Lowry and Keith Wilson attended **Pets for Vets** event at the animal shelter. The VA will pay for adoption and training of dogs to be given to disabled or PTSD veterans.
- Keith also now on an **advisory board for the VA clinic** in Colorado Springs
- Bob Lowry presented information on VA action for those stationed at Camp Lejuene suffering from ingestion from the water supply from 1958 – 87. Contact Bob for more information at robertwlowry@aol.com
- Bob also mentioned an article from Army Times on a panel suggesting VA medical be terminated and all vets referred to private sector at a rate of 10% above Medicare. Bob stated he is not in favor of this because Medicare pays rates most doctors won't tolerate and so won't serve these patients.

Next Post Meeting: May 24. If Vet's hall is not available on that date, the meeting will be moved to another location.

Adjourn: 8:26 PM

Attendees: Dan Williams, Norm Steen, Dan Weber, Paul James, Rod Herk, Bob Lowry, Bob Mericle, Al Pickup, Chuck Gardner, Jim Spieth, Don Spence, Buck Dugger, John Gomes, Keith Wilson, Larry Ingram, Bruce Taylor

Summary of Upcoming Events:

- May 7: District convention, 1-4 PM, Post 209 Colorado Springs; Lunch at 12
- May 11:
 - 7AM ceremony with Home Depot foundation and VFW at Vets Hall; 100+ volunteers will finish up phase 1 of the hall reconstruction
 - Salute to Veterans event at Florissant library, 8:30 – 12:30, breakfast included
- May 12: Salute to Veterans at Woodland Park City Council chambers, 11-2, lunch included. Honor guard needed
- May 13: Salute to veterans in Cripple Creek, 4 -7; dinner included
- May 18: WPHS Award Ceremony, 6:30 PM
- May 23- National Commander visit to Post 209 in CO Springs; dinner 4-4:30
- May 24- Next post meeting; location TBD if hall reconstruction not complete
- May – TBD ; reschedule of Adopt a Hwy cleanup when weather permits
- May 30 – Memorial Day
 - Flags at Lions Park – 7AM up 7PM Down
 - AM time TBD flags on all Vets graves in Woodland Park
 - Time TBD Ceremony honoring most recently interred Vet in Woodland Park cemetery
- June 11 – Pig roast and Silent Auction, Crystola Roadhouse