Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2020

Meeting opened at 4:04pm by Cdr. Rico Pacatang, with 24 in attendance.

Salute to the flag, opening prayer, MIA/POW opening ceremony, Pledge of Allegiance, AL preamble, and singing of “America, the Beautiful” were conducted.

Roll call by Adjutant: all officers present less Historian and Chaplain.

Recognized visitor Don Castella, Jr. Vice Cdr. of Post 911 in Illinois; also new member/transfer John Farris.

Guest speaker: Micha Gauthier of Mental Restorations, who talked about their non-profit and its mission in assisting veterans, first responders and challenged youth in overcoming trauma and PTSD. Donations of goods and services are needed, call (808) 315-5594.

Minutes were posted on the webpage, motion made by Paul Kelly to accept, seconded by Jim Hussey, passed.

Finance report by Dick Scritchfield: Money on hand as of today 2/8/20 is $7789.45 with $2011.52 of that reserved for building fund. Motion made to accept report by Nestorio Domingo and seconded by Dave Carlson, passed. Jim Hussey made a motion to send the $500.00 to Department for Oratorical Contest, seconded by Jim Traxler, passed.

Committee reports

District/Antonio Gaspar. (1) We have 119 paid members and 27 unpaid and now suspended as of 2/1/20. Next report due 3/6/20 and we need 90% paid. (2) Honor guard were used for one funeral. (3) JROTC awards is coming up, will need medals and $100.00 checks for 4 awardees. Shane Gardner made a motion to award the amounts needed, seconded by Jim Hussey, passed. (4) Next police call is 2/15/20, 6-8 am. (5) We need to start thinking about officer nominations for March meeting. (6) Antonio is again this year doing free tax returns for veterans. See him for times and places.

Homeless/Rex Corpus. He continues to meet with homeless veterans at Hope Services, he sees more homeless coming in lately. He will be attending a meeting on 2/20/20 at the Civic Center on helping the homeless in Kona.

Building/Jim Traxler. Nothing new, still need funds for AC.

Golf/Jim Hussey thanked Paul Kelly for chairing this again this year. Finances who $3336.72 came in with yet another $2000 worth of items to be auctioned off at the Valentines dinner. Certificates of Appreciation for given out to businesses today and to members at the meeting.

NEC Dave Carlson reported he was charged with meeting with Senator Brian Schatz and tracking his activity relating to veterans. Commissary and Exchange privileges are extended to Purple Heart recipients, former POW’s, veterans with service-connected disabilities and primary care givers of veterans. Federal fund to Hawaii were increased $500 million, military construction in Hawaii $330 million, native Hawaiian education $36.9 million, health care $19 million and housing $2 million. Veterans affairs $99.2 billion nationally, a $5.4 billion increase. This will go to an increase in Pacific Islands health care system, major construction in Hilo, expanded VA telehealth, blue water Navy veteran’s benefits and expanded support of homeless vets, particularly homeless women vets and vets in rural communities.

New Business

Memorial Day May 25 this year, it is our turn to host.

June 18 and 19 is the state convention, Aug 29th to September 3rd will be the national convention.

Birthdays: Wayne Holum 1-2, Antonior Gaspar 1-9, Micah Amilo 1/16, Phillip Hiavanston 1-23, Steve Miller 1-24, Tim Brady 2-10, Edwin Uyeda 2-14, Joan Gregan 2-15, Richard Crook 2-19, Gary Eley 2-22, Peter Callahan 2-25, Russell Faust 2-28.

Celebration of Life for Carla Scritchfield will be held on Sunday, March 8th from 3 to 5 at the Elks Club.

Lions Club pancake breakfast is Sunday, March 1 at Hale Halawai from 7:30 to 11am.

Closing prayer, closing MIA/POW ceremony and salute to the flag conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03pm. Next meeting Wednesday, March 11 at 4:00pm. Dress is white shirt.

Susan Bickell, Adjutant