

**American Legion monthly meeting**

**MARCH 9, 2022**

Meeting opened at 4:04 by Susan Bickell, Commander.

Salute, Prayer, POW/MIA Opening ceremony, Pledge of Allegiance, AL Preamble, America the Beautiful.

Roll call by 2nd Vice:

Present: Susan Bickell, Commander Rico Pacatang, 1st Vice

Jim Traxler,2nd Vice Antonio Gaspar, Judge Advocate

David Carlson, Alt NEC Rex Corpus, Sgt at Arms

Jim Hussey, Historian Alex Okimoto, Chaplain

Vacant, Adjutant Nestorio Domingo, Treasurer

Guests: Don Castello and Mary Biron from Dept of Illinois. Guest speaker was Brenda Austin, newly appointed Director of the Kona Vet Center. She gave an update on her mission and current activities

Motion to approve February 9, 2022, minutes by John Ferris and seconded by Alex Okimoto. Motion approved.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report by Jim Hussey and seconded by Rex Corpus. Motion approved with an actual balance of $10,251.54 .

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

District IV Hawaii Report: Antonio Gaspar announced that there will an “Adopt the Highway” clean-up on Saturday, March 12th, 6:00-8:00 AM. He also reported that 94 Post 20 members are paid 25 unpaid Post members are on suspension until paid. Commander Bickell stated she has contacted 60 members reference their dues.

Homeless Program: Jim Traxler confirmed that a $1,000 was sent to Hope Services Hawaii. This program is called Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) and will be used to support individuals and families on the Kona side of the Island.

Building and Operations: Jim Traxler had nothing to report.

Oratorical Contest: Jim Hussey reported that there were 3 candidates at the Department level. We will know the winner for the State by next week.

Honor Guard: Ammo is still on order.

OLD BUSINESS:

RVN Memorial- Mel provided an update to the RVN Memorial project for the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery. The estimated total cost is presently estimated to be $43K to include design, materials and construction.

NEW BUSINESS:

Susan announced that the Slate proposed for next years officers will be the same as this year except for the Adjutant. Members are welcome to add members to the slate by contacting the Commander.

A motion to donate $1,000 to the Food Basket Drive was made by Jim Hussey and seconded by Rex Corpus. The motion carried.

A motion to provide money ($700) to an Air Force Vet, Robert Stevens, to help him get home to Puerto Rico was made by Jim Hussey and seconded by John Ferris. Motion carried.

A motion to provide $500 to help buy new team uniforms for the Senior Softball Team on which Rex Corpus plays and coaches was made by John Ferris and seconded by Mel. The motion carried.

Members were asked to support the Boy Scouts by purchasing the 2022 Camp Cards that provide discounts from merchants in the Kona area. The commander has more cards available for purchase.

BIRTHDAYS: 3-2 Adam Dunaway, 3-4 John Ferris, 3-7 Rick Robinson, 3-10 Donald Dietrich, 3-19 Susan Bickell, 3-20 Toni Brigoli

Closing prayer, POW/MIA Closing ceremony, Salute

ADJOURN 5:05PM, next meeting April 13, 2022.

Submitted by Jim Traxler, 2nd Vice Commander