

## ZOOM & IN-PERSON MEETING

The meeting started at 1700 hours via Zoom or In-Person, Room 221

| Posts Present:          |                    | Guests:                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 001: Stefanos Zygomas   | 456: Gary Gee      | ALWMC: Merc Martinelli  |
| 315: Paul Cox           | 505: Eddie Ramirez | 1st Vice: Eddie Ramirez |
| 333: Courtney Ellington | 510: X             | Finance: Paul Cox       |
| 384: Nelson Lum         | 599: Jeff Sheibels | VSC: Roger Dong         |
| 448: Tim Mullaney       | 600: X             | OVOV: Hanley Chan       |
|                         |                    | 333: Alec Secord        |
|                         |                    | 448: Tony Benfield      |
|                         |                    | 599: Mitchel Weller     |
|                         |                    | 448: Morningstar Vancil |

**OPENING PRAYER:** Tony Benfield

A quorum was present.

### Review & Approve May 2, 2023 Agenda

- Sheibels motion, Lum 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

### Review & Approve April 4, 2023 Minutes

- Post 448 resolution – give to Martinelli for Zygomas to sign.  
Cox motion, Mullane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

### COMMANDER’S REPORT: CMDR Eddie Ramirez for Helen Wong

- Post Data Reports (PDR) were due April 15. Posts are considered on probation if not done by the deadline. Next report is the cosolated post report (CPR) due 7/1. Recommended to do these online.
- District 8 Officer nominations continues to this meeting. Please make sure your Posts are current with all required admin documents including per capita dues to allow your Post to vote. Posts 510 & 600 haven’t done payments yet – no vote.

### REPORTS: 1<sup>st</sup> VICE REPORT on membership & etc.: CMDR Eddie Ramirez

- Membership at the end of April was 76.84% for the district 8

| DISTRICT 8 Commander HELEN WONG (AREA 2)          |                             |               |           |            |              |                    |               |            |               |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Department of California - 2023 MEMBERSHIP REPORT |                             |               |           |            |              |                    |               |            | 4/28/2023     |
| POST  | Name                        | City          | New       | PUFL       | Members Paid | 1000/DMS Transfers | Total Members | Goal       | %             |
| 1   | San Francisco               | San Francisco | 2         | 21         | 56           | 0                  | 79            | 111        | 71.17%        |
| 315   | Robert Basker               | San Francisco | 2         | 4          | 26           | 0                  | 32            | 51         | 62.75%        |
| 333   | Floyd Bennett Aviation      | San Francisco | 0         | 7          | 4            | 1                  | 12            | 18         | 66.67%        |
| 384   | Cathy                       | San Francisco | 15        | 45         | 77           | 1                  | 138           | 134        | 102.99%       |
| 448   | Alexander Hamilton          | San Francisco | 3         | 46         | 71           | 1                  | 121           | 181        | 66.85%        |
| 456   | San Francisco Police - Fire | San Francisco | 2         | 16         | 167          | 0                  | 185           | 222        | 83.33%        |
| 505   | Cesar E Chavez              | San Francisco | 0         | 42         | 48           | 1                  | 91            | 132        | 68.94%        |
| 510   | Magdalenas Leones           | San Francisco | 0         | 13         | 5            | 0                  | 18            | 27         | 66.67%        |
| 599   | Salesian                    | San Francisco | 4         | 0          | 12           | 0                  | 16            | 18         | 88.89%        |
| 600   | Bataan                      | San Francisco | 1         | 0          | 7            | 0                  | 8             | 17         | 47.06%        |
| <b>Total</b>                                      |                             |               | <b>29</b> | <b>194</b> | <b>473</b>   | <b>4</b>           | <b>700</b>    | <b>911</b> | <b>76.84%</b> |

**Overview of DEC Convention:**

- Ramirez attended the DEC this past weekend. Good Legion info in pamphlets, Ramirez will give to Martinelli for distribution as needed.
- Membership has declined about 25,000 for CA over the past year! Start recruiting! Touch base with members who have not paid and see if they will get back onboard.
- 1,600 members have passed across CA in the last year.
- 3 Posts are going to close in CA due to lack of participation.
- Legion has no VSO in Oakland. There is training for Legionnaires who would like to do this.
- Funds at State of CA = \$6,202. Hugh Crooks looked at this.
- Financial Report was not given. There were \$126,300 in expenditures.
- Status of balloon payment for Sanger building not mentioned.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE REPORT on programs: Jason Chittavong**

None

**BOYS STATE CHAIR CMDR Eddie Ramirez:**

- Ramirez sent the blue cards in and they got returned for low postage. He will try again.
- Eight people going, all are paid for.
- Need a chaperone on the bus (up and back), canvas our Posts for volunteers. May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to volunteer, background check and required training must be complete by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Go up from San Mateo to San Francisco and then on to Sacramento on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June and then return on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Motion to provide \$150 stipend each way for volunteers - Cox, Mullaney 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.
- Motion to provide \$75 stipend for hot chocolate and doughnuts before bus ride – Cox, Mullaney, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

**FINANCE REPORT- Paul Cox:**

|                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Opening Balance D8 - \$47,195.85  | Closing Balance D8 - \$47,202.44  |
| Opening Balance VSC - \$50,506.40 | Closing Balance VSC - \$48,141.07 |

- Note: VSC has \$6,909.92 in liabilities to Post 384 (\$5,000 loan) and D8 (wage overage). Cox forgot to pay back loan. Will do this month.
- Motion Lum to accept finance report, Sheibels 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

**VSC March Report: VSC Acting Executive Director Roger Dong**

- See written report attached for details.
- Cox wants bills from VSC submitted monthly before he pays charges.
- Offline meeting re: VSC leadership and District 8 leadership. Dong to work with Martinelli to set up a date/time.

## **POST REPORTS still needed:**

- Need Post lists to update email list for notices.
- Any upcoming events to be listed? Give flyer for posting to D8 Adjutant so it can be sent out to all posts in the District - don't list just on Facebook; not everyone looks there.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- By-Laws Update-committee working on update prior to sending it to Dept. By-Laws committee
  - Bylaws must be updated if over 7yrs old.
- Each Post to review & update their By-Laws per District & Dept. request.
- Again, flyers announcing your post event must be cleared by D8 for posting due to copyright of the American Legion logo use & proper display of the logo. National can order you to cease & desist from using the logo.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2nd round of nomination & election of District Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commanders positions for 2023-2024 will be at this meeting. Posts must be in admin compliance to run and nominate a candidate. Voting will be by Delegate Strength as of May, 2022 numbers.
  - 001 - 5 for Lum
  - 315 - 3 for Lum
  - 333 - 2 for Benfield
  - 384 - 6 for Lum
  - 448 - 5 for Benfield
  - 456 - 6 for Lum
  - 505 - 4 for Lum
  - 599 - 2 for Sheibles

Totals: Lum 24

Benfield 7

Shelbles 2

- Lum won for Commander 2023/2024

First Vice – Ramirez won by acclimation.

Second Vice - Chittavong won by acclimation.

- Department Convention: Visalia Marriott, June 23-25, 2023. Delegates need to register by May.
- Benfield will be the District Secretary at the convention.
- Dist. 8 resolution needs to be read at CA Convention for approval to be presented at National.

- May election of delegates to National Convention at Charlotte, NC. Dates are August 25-31. Posts to submit delegate/alternates names at this meeting to be ratified at the Department Convention in Visalia.
- Benfield and Ramirez volunteered to represent us at the National Convention.
- D8 Commander Nelson Lum & Helen 384 with backups David Wong, Roger Dong, CJ Reeves, and George Tsang will also be there.
- Flag Disposal Ceremony - our district is in charge this year in June, Cypress Lawn in Colma. Date is TBD, although maybe on Flag Day the 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- May 3-June 4, 2023 Duty, Honor, Country, Courage-Asian Americans in Military Service Exhibit, Veterans Gallery, Veterans Building, Wed-Sun, 1-6PM; gallery sitter volunteers needed.
- Memorial Day events in the area:
  - 1. May 27, 2023 Good Turn Day at Presidio & Golden Gate National Cemeteries, 8:30AM
  - 2. May 28, 2023 USS San Francisco Commemoration Ceremony at Lands End, 11:30AM
  - 3. May 28, 2023 St. Mary's Square Commemoration of WWI & WWII Chinese American military killed on active duty, 3PM.
  - 4. May 29, 2023 Memorial Day Program at Golden Gate National Cemetery, 10:30AM.
  - 5. May 30, 2023 Movies4Vets at Regal Theater Stonestown, 1PM.
- Post 599 May 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm Room 210 - comedy night - \$30 tix for 6 comics - (he sent me release)
- Post 384 - May date TBD fishing trip - roughly \$200/person
- Jeff Joules running for Sgt. at Arms for the Dept., Ramirez will be his alternate.

#### **CLOSING PRAYER: Chaplain Benfield**

#### **ADJOURNMENT: 1814**

**Next meeting of AL District 8** will be Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 5:00PM, via Zoom and in-person.

## **April 2023 Report – the Veterans Success Center (VSC)**

**In the 30 day month April 2023, with a limited staff of 6 staff members, the VSC provided support to 19 veterans. The services provided were as follows:**

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Employment Assistance:</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Financial Assistance:</b>  | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Resume Assistance:</b>     | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Email Assistance:</b>      | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Clothing Assistance:</b>   | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Computer Assistance:</b>   | <b>7</b> |

**Other Useful and Valuable services to our veterans conducted on April 7, 2023 was a computer training class for Windows 10 which was attended by 5 veterans. With a very competent Instructor Mr. Joe Brandt, any veteran who uses a computer should attend computer classes conducted by Mr. Brandt. Our Executive Director has observed and attended Mr. Brandt’s IT training classes for several years at the Mastick Senior Center in Alameda, California and speaks very highly of the value of his classes for any veteran who uses a computer. Attending his classes has double the productivity of our Executive Director, and he strongly believes that almost all computer users will gain great value in productivity attending these classes.**

**The range of topics for IT training is very lengthy, from learning about Windows 10 and 11, and also more productive use of our cell phones and tablets which is very valuable.**

**Once our IT classes get scheduled in the future, the value to many of our veterans is very high.**

**Financially, the VSC is living within our budget of \$2500 a month. The biggest expense is our one paid staff which is around \$1600, \$200 for each Manager for traveling expenses, \$300 for website management and communications, and \$200 for printer support (ink and paper). Total April expense was \$2300. We forecast May to be approximately the same.**

**In terms of fund raising, in late May or June, our E.D. will give his briefing “The United States, China and Taiwan.” To date most experts are predicting that China will attack Taiwan. Our E.D. has been a China**

**specialist in the Air Force and DoD since 1972. He disagrees with the Experts and will give a presentation that clearly explains why China has not taken military action against Taiwan. Most useful, attendees will be briefed on the terms and conditions that would cause China to attack Taiwan.**