

American Legion Post 266
Bennington, Nebraska

Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2021

At 7:01 PM, the Auxiliary and Post members said the Pledge of Allegiance and recited the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion together. Post Chaplain Kay said a prayer.

- Presentation of 4 Chaplains Remembrance Day (February 3rd) by Les Brauer.
- Larry & Heather Gertz with son Brady described draft proposal of a Freedom Scholarship for enlisted military education/training. It would be for Bennington High School seniors upon graduation and include tuition, books, and other needs. They expect a \$25,000 endowment would fund 3 to 5 scholarships/year from earnings and take about 3 years to achieve that dollar goal. Application forms must be submitted by March 1st. The selection committee awards scholarships based on criteria of reason(s) for enlistment, education/training goal(s), character, courage, honor, loyalty, and willingness to learn and advance their career. The Goertz Family established the scholarship in 2020. They reviewed their proposal with the Bennington Public School Foundation but due to restriction prefer Post 266 to house it. The Goertz Family will initially fund two \$500 scholarships. A board would be established of Post, Auxiliary, Family and community members. Various details still need to be resolved. Post members were favorable to their draft and agreed to Post Financial Officer, Rick Reid holding meetings with the Goertz family to further develop the scholarship organization. Once done, PFO will provide an update for action by Post members.
- Commander Musel opened the meeting after the above presentations.
- Members Present: 9
- Guests: None other than Goertz family.
- No December Meeting presented.
- Financial update presented and approved: dated January for 12-1 to 12-28-2020) and February for 1-5 to 1-27-2021.

Old Business

- Pancake Feed: unlikely to be held in March, expect postponement to maybe October.
- Fireworks: still need volunteers; Sally H. agreed to coordinate setup and oversee volunteers; need to order sale items late February or early March.

New Business

- Legion National claim for COVID loses motion to file \$1,000 claim – Jim Cheeks; second Ken - passed. Boys State to be in-person; Girls State to be virtual; Junior Law undecided. Fee increased

to \$275/student. No motion, only informed.

- Fireworks sales: motion by Les B. second Merlin K. to round up to even \$.
- B.H.S. Graduate Recognition for enlistees and family: Motion by Rick R., second Deb N. for PFO to research and present at March meeting. Member suggestions: host a recognition meal; present a plaque to honor graduate; present a gift card; provide graduate a 1- or 2-year membership in Post 266.
- Honor Guard: recognized good job done for Jerry Miles passing.
- Motion to adjourned, passed at 8:20PM.