

**Meeting Date:** 2018.08.18 August meeting.

**American Legion Brown-Guest Post 30** met at the *Paris Elk's Lodge* at 10am.

Those present included Commander Don Karasek, Vice Commander / Adjutant Mike Hanlon, Judge Advocate Keith Brown; Service Office Amy Burton, members: H.E. (Bud) Mackey, Jr., James Council, Attrell Harvey; and 3 guests.

The commander called the meeting to order; Acting Chaplain Mike Hanlon made the invocation, the members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the American Legion Preamble.

Keith Brown read the July 21<sup>st</sup> minutes. Amy Burton made a correction (regarding transitional housing not available in North Texas for female vets) and Bud Mackey made a correction (the **Red River Valley Fair** in September runs from Wednesday through Saturday; 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> from 1800 to 2200 hours on Wed, Thu, Fri and 1100 to 1800 hours on Sat). Keith Brown moved the minutes be approved as amended. Amy Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Don Karasek read the Financial report. Keith Brown moved the financial report be accepted. Attrell Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Keith Brown made a \$20 cash donation.

The post welcomed Attrell Harvey and James Council as new members. Guest Willie Wooten and his brother plan to join the post next month.

Unfinished business:

- The post needs to man the booth each day of the fair and needs one volunteer each day for Wednesday and Thursday, and two volunteers for each day Friday and Saturday. The post will award one membership as a door prize (to an eligible vet); Keith Brown made a donation so a membership door prize can be awarded on each of the three other days of the fair. Amy Burton will provide additional (donated) door prizes for each day. Don Karasek will provide a fan (to circulate the air) and a bowl for the membership forms (for the membership door prize). There will be two drawings per day (one for membership, one for other). Amy will contact the local paper and radio so they can provide a public service announcement.
- Don Karasek announced Andy Lowen (District Commander) was unavailable to install officers until September.

New business included:

- Robert Lyke sent the post a thank you letter. Though he is unable to attend post meetings, he is a recent **PUFL** member. Amy Burton volunteered to contact him and give him a summary of each meeting.
- Amy Burton announced:
  - the **VA** has instituted a new **RAMP** (Rapid Appeals Modernization Process) to expedite claims with two lanes, which include: (a) the **Supplemental Claim Lane** for those with

additional evidence to present; and (b) the **Higher-Level Review Lane** for those with no additional information but who believe there was an error in their initial claim decision.

See: <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals-ramp.asp>

- The **University of Texas / Dallas Brain Health Center** is offering the **SMART** (Strategic Memory Advanced Reasoning Training) program to active-duty military, veterans, law enforcement officers, and first responders. Though not affiliated with the **VA**, the program / workshop teaches a set of strategies that helps you think smarter, not harder. Amy reported brain training can improve focus for individuals with diagnoses of **PTSD** (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and **TBI** (Traumatic Brain Injury). 'Cause the training is mobile, it might be possible to have it offered here (in Paris). **UT/D-BHC** is also conducting a related study which includes functional **MRIs** before and after training. Participation is open to those receiving the free training, but is not a requirement.

See: <https://brainhealth.utdallas.edu/programs/warrior-training/>

- The **American Society for Suicide Prevention** is hosting a **Out Of The Darkness Community Walk** (a fund raiser for suicide prevention). Registration is at 0800, walk starts at 0830 on Saturday 6 October at the **Legacy Ridge Country Club** in **Bonham, TX**.

See: <https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.event&eventID=5710>

- Mike Hanlon announced the **Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center** now provides hearing tests. Location is 1201 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, **Bonham, TX** 75418.

See: <https://www.northtexas.va.gov/locations/Bonham.asp>

- Don Karasek was loaned the 1931 era scrapbooks for Brown-Guest Post 30 and its Post Auxiliary. Don will see if electronic copies of those documents can be made.
- The Lamar County Cemetery (aka Silver Cross Cemetery) at 2190 FM195 is unplatted and the county needs help identifying veteran gravesites (from circa 1895 on) so those graves can be appropriately memorialized. In order to gather community support for the effort, Bud Mackey volunteered to talk with Judge Superville, and Amy Burton volunteered to go before the County Commissioners Court to urge the county to correct the problem. Mike Hanlon moved the post approve Bud and Amy representing the post in this matter, Amy Burton 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, passed by voice vote.

Lamar County Cemetery see: [http://lamarcountytexas.org/cemetery\\_2/location/silvercross.shtml](http://lamarcountytexas.org/cemetery_2/location/silvercross.shtml)

(corrected) Mike Hanlon stated there were no flags at the Meadowbrook Cemetery on memorial days. Meadowbrook Cemetery see: [http://lamarcountytexas.org/cemetery\\_2/location/meadowbrook.shtml](http://lamarcountytexas.org/cemetery_2/location/meadowbrook.shtml)

- Bud Mackey announced that we are quickly approaching the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original Veterans Day (aka Armistice Day). In 1918 bells tolled around the world to mark the end of the Great War (aka World War I). The Texas WWI Centennial Commemoration has asked municipalities, religious congregations, and organizations around Texas to participate in **BELLS**

*OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR ONE REMEMBRANCE* on November 11 at 11:00 am local time in honor the 116,516 American men & women who died in WWI.

As thus far only 5 churches in Paris have been identified as having bells, Bud asked the members if their church has a bell. If it does please inform him so he can contact the church regarding the TXWWICC request.

See: <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/commemorate/event-map-system/bells-of-peace-a-world-war-i-remembrance.html>

See also: <https://www.texasworldwar1centennial.org/2018/07/07/bells-peace-world-war-remembrance/>

For “the good of the Legion” included:

- Amy Burton volunteered 8 hours.
- Bud Mackey volunteered 8 hours.
- Don Karasek volunteered 16 hours.

Acting Chaplain Mike Hanlon made the benediction.

Commander Karasek adjourned the meeting.