

# The American Legion Reed-Gregory Post 7

## General Membership Meeting 2/19/2024

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P.O. Box 1671 in Elko, NV 89803. Meeting at the SCA at 401 Fairway Blvd in Spring Creek at 7 pm.

One rap of the gavel for all to be seated.

Commander Fonda asks the Sgt-at-Arms to secure the room.

Three raps of the gavel for all to stand

Formal Opening Ceremony: Commander Fonda

The colors are in place: hand salute, two

Commander Fonda: Uncover and remain uncovered until the Preamble.

Chaplain Nott will offer the opening prayer:

Almighty God, Father of all mankind and Judge over nations, we pray Thee to guide our work in this meeting and in all our days. Send Thy peace to our nation and to all nations. Hasten the fulfillment of Thy promise of peace that shall have no end. "We pray for those who serve the people and guard the public welfare, that by Thy blessing they may be enabled to discharge their duties honestly and well. We pray for our comrades that by Thy help they may observe the strictest justice, keep alight the fires of freedom, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy, and preserve untarnished our loyalty to our country and to Thee. Finally, O God of mercy we ask Thy blessing and comfort for those comrades who are suffering mental and physical disability. Cheer them and bring them the blessings of health and happiness. Amen.

Sgt-at-Arms Croxon: place the POW/MIA chair cover on the empty chair.

Commander Fonda: Resolution 288 adopted at the Legions 67th National Convention. A POW/MIA empty chair is placed at all official meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

Commander Fonda -Recite the Pledge of Allegiance

Commander Fonda: Recover

Recite the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion:

For God and Country

We associate ourselves together

For the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and good will on earth;  
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;  
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Meeting Elko Post 7, Department of Nevada, regularly convened. One rap of the gavel for all to sit.

#### Roll Call of Officers – Adjutant Horton

Commander Loyd Fonda 775-934-1343: [lfondapost7@yahoo.com](mailto:lfondapost7@yahoo.com)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Ron Petroski 775-385-8164 [manyhatsal@gmail.com](mailto:manyhatsal@gmail.com)  
2nd Vice Commander; Brian Chapman 775-389-0283 [nb9e@me.com](mailto:nb9e@me.com)  
Service Officer: Open  
Adjutant: Brenda Horton 720-394-5969 [BAnnHorton3@aol.com](mailto:BAnnHorton3@aol.com)  
Chaplain: Robert Nott 775-340-0045 [robertnott09@gmail.com](mailto:robertnott09@gmail.com) excused  
Finance Officer: open  
Sgt-at-Arms: Kathy Croxon 775-738-5466 [kcroxon@icloud.com](mailto:kcroxon@icloud.com)  
Historian: open  
Website Master:  
Legion Riders Director: Robert Nott 775-340-0045  
Judge Advocate: Dave Evans 775-997-5823 [hmcs8425@att.net](mailto:hmcs8425@att.net)  
SAL Commander: Ron Petroski  
EC Member: James Byars  
Auxiliary President: Kim Fonda

#### Introduction of guests and prospective members: Sgt-at-Arms Croxon

#### New Member(s)/Transfer(s): Sgt-at-Arms Croxon:

Two expired members renewed their dues for 2024: Bud Minto, and Lynn Scott.

#### Minutes Adjutant Horton:

The minutes for January are at the end of the agenda. Please read and ask questions at the end of the meeting if there are any.

#### Officer Reports:

Membership: 1st Vice Commander Ron Petroski:

- The Post has 97/125 members. We are at 77.60% membership.
- District 3 has 227/313 members. We are at 72.75% membership.
- Department has 5,240/5,893 members. We are at 88.91% membership. We met our target date of 85% membership. We are in 19<sup>th</sup> place on the National Level. We are in 3rd place in the Western Region.
- You can sign up for automatic renewal instead of getting notices every year.
- Who is responsible for membership? Everybody!!!!
- Who is responsible for retention? Everybody!!!

Finance Report: Brenda

- The Vets for Kids program has \$3,100 for the Riders.
- The Riders balance is a bit over \$\$9,825.41 in their “general” account (expenditure of \$1,500 for See’s Candy).
- Need to deposit \$150 in cash from the Armed Forces Day from last year.
- Nevada State Bank: Don’t have a statement for January. Commander went to the website for the information: Current balance is \$76,662.63.
- The Post has a bit over \$34,000 from the Quarter Auction.

- Post Audit. We have Kathleen Croxon, Shawn Horton, and Danny Dawson to do the audit. Need to set a date to get this done.
- Taxes done and paid for. Received a letter from the IRS that we owe them \$3,680 in late fees. Our tax people didn't file an extension in a timely manner. Post Commander took the letter to Covert Tax Service and they sent in paperwork to the IRS. Still waiting to hear from them.
- The Commander filled out our 990 form for this year. Didn't have to use the long form this year.
- Raymond James: January statement: Beginning balance of \$79,600.51. Ending balance of \$79,652.81. Income of \$255.71. Expenses of \$247.53. Change in value: \$139.52. Ending balance of \$79,600.51.
- We spent \$5,800 in See's Candy. Need to sell the rest of the candy in order to close this out.

#### New Finance Items:

- Need to write a check to Department on behalf of the Legion Riders in the amount of \$5,000 for the Legacy Fund. Riders voted on this at their February meeting.
- Need to vote on the amount we want to donate to Department: NEF \$200, OCW \$200, Children & Youth \$200, Child Welfare Fund \$200, Hear Today/Learn Tomorrow \$200, Legion Baseball \$200, Boys State \$600.
- Local charity: FISH \$500. We did not donate last year. They help Veterans in need.
- Need to pay our yearly bill to State Farm in the amount of \$475

#### Adjutant-Brenda Horton

- Membership cards/letters were mailed to two members.
  - Emails were sent to all members for the February/March events (See's candy, Buddy checks via telephone)
  - Put together criteria for members who need help with paying their dues due to the increase. The Commander needs to set up EC meeting to look this over and present to the Post for approval.
  - Please keep track of your volunteer hours and the hours you spend doing your Officer duties as these are put into the CPR.
1. Sick Call: Chaplain Robert Nott:
    - Many members are getting over the crud going around.
  2. Service Officer: Open
  3. Veterans Serving Veterans:
    - Donated a car to a Veteran in need.

#### Committee Reports:

1. Legion Riders-Randy Highland
  - Last meeting was on February 10, 2024 at Gold Dust West at 9 am.
  - Finance report: see above.
  - Voted to donate \$5,000 to the Legacy Fund which will be presented at the DEC on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Las Vegas.
  - Next meeting on March 2, 2024 at 9 am at Gold Dust West.
2. SAL: Commander Ron Petroski.
  - There was no February meeting due to the See's Candy Fundraiser.
3. Auxiliary: Kim Fonda

- The new membership year has started. Please talk to Dawn about renewing your membership or renew online. The dues have gone up to \$41.
4. Highland Manor: 1st Vice Commander Petroski and Andrew Courtright.
    - Highland Manor. The assisted living is open.
    - Made one visit in January.
  5. Post Home Fundraising Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Ron Petroski
    - Held a zoom meeting with the committee on January 19, 2024 at 7 pm. There were three members on the call. Chairman Ron, Brenda, and Shawn.
    - Brenda sent Matt, from the Sr Center, her email so he can send a copy of their C & Blaws of their 501C3.
  6. JAG-Brenda Horton
    - The document was sent to Department via email on 3/19/23 and sent snail mail on 3/20/23.
    - Brenda talked to Department Adjutant Motta, he said to email the document again. It was emailed to him on 2/17/24.
  7. Ham Radio Club: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Chapman
    - If you are interested, please contact Brian.
    - National approved program under Homeland Security.
    - If you are a part of this club, remember to get on the net on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.

Unfinished Business: Commander Fonda

- Have not heard from Home Depot for the approval on the roof.
- We have started a finance committee to establish a budget. Need to go over a few items such as net profit from See's candy. Commander needs to submit this to Brenda
- There is a bonding company through The American Legion called NFP (fiduciary/creme bond insurance coverage). We need to bond Post Officers; primarily the Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer. Commander needs to set up an EC meeting to look over the prices and present the findings to the post.
- The Post voted to put some of the proceeds from our fundraisers into the membership account. That amount needs to be determined. Commander needs to set up an EC meeting to determine this and present the amount to the Post.
- There is a member that will step up as Post Adjutant for the 2024/2025 membership year but we still need a Post Finance Officer, a JAG, and Chaplain. Each Post is required to have a Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer in order to keep the Post open. Training is available.
- See's Candy. A huge thank you to those that volunteered their time. Had to combine both sites due to lack of volunteers. Is this fundraiser worth continuing or do we need to find another?

Any questions about the January minutes?

New Business: Commander Fonda:

- Every February, The American Legion acknowledges the Four Chaplains who sacrificed their lives so that others might live. On February 3, 1943, the USS Dorchester was hit by a German torpedo. The Four Chaplains gave their life vests to soldiers that didn't have one. Out of the 904 men on that ship, only 209 survived. The Four Chaplains continued to sing and pray as the ship

was sinking. Those four men are: Rev. George L. Fox – Methodist, Alexander Goode - Rabbi (Jewish), Rev. Clark V. Poling - Reformed (Dutch), and Father John P. Washington – Catholic.

- The Department DEC is March 2, 2024 in Las Vegas. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The Department Oratorical is March 9, 2024 in Carson City. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The purchase of a bugle was voted on to be on the agenda for this meeting.
- Officer Training will be on March 23, 2024 from 10 am – 3 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your Officer Manuals if you have one. There will be refreshments and beverages.

The Good of The American Legion:

**\*\*During the good of The American Legion, membership is permitted to make suggestions of any kind, character or description, save of religion or partisan politics.\*\***

- Next Post meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Commander. Is there any further business to come before the meeting? If not, the chaplain will lead us in prayer.

Three raps of the gavel for all to stand.

Commander: Uncover:

Closing prayer: Chaplain Nott

Our Heavenly Father, we deem this is a fitting time to pay our respects to our departed comrades. As we stand with bowed heads in reverence to them. Let us remember the good deeds they accomplished. Let us revere them as good soldiers who fought the good fight in a just cause. Let us silently pray for peace that passes all understanding. And let us in mind and soul consecrate our hearts and lives to the real America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, the America worth fighting for. As we stand in silence to our departed comrades, may we sincerely say, "May their souls rest in peace." Let us also remember the POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for from the wars and conflicts. Amen

Commander: Sgt-at-arms Croxon, recovers the POW/MIA chair cover.

Sgt-at-Arms: steps forward, picks up the flag off the chair, folds it, steps back, and places it on the table in front of the Commander.

Commander: Recover

Commander: Till we meet again let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of The American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

Commander: Salute to colors: hand salute, two

I now declare this meeting of Post 7, adjourned at. One rap of the gavel to adjourn the meeting.

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P.O. Box 1671 in Elko, NV 89803. Meeting at the SCA at 401 Fairway Blvd in Spring Creek at 7 pm.  
Andrew Courtright secured the room.

Commander Fonda conducted the opening ceremonies.

1st Vice Commander Petroski offered the opening prayer.

Andrew Courtright placed the POW/MIA chair cover on the empty chair.

Meeting Elko Post 7, Department of Nevada, regularly convened at 7:05pm.

Roll Call of Officers – Adjutant Horton

Commander Loyd Fonda 775-934-1343: lfondapost7@yahoo.com present

1st Vice Commander: Ron Petroski 775-385-8164 manyhatsal@gmail.com present

2nd Vice Commander; Brian Chapman 775-389-0283 nb9e@me.com present

Service Officer: Open

Adjutant: Brenda Horton 720-394-5969 BAnnHorton3@aol.com present

Chaplain: Robert Nott 775-340-0045 robertnott09@gmail.com absent

Finance Officer: open

Sgt-at-Arms: Kathy Croxon 775-738-5466 kcroxon@icloud.com excused

Historian: open

Website Master:

Legion Riders Director: Robert Nott 775-340-0045 absent

Judge Advocate: Dave Evans 775-997-5823 hmcs8425@att.net excused

SAL Commander: Ron Petroski present

EC Member: James Byars absent

Auxiliary President: Kathryn Zdunich absent

Introduction of guests and prospective members: Andrew Courtright

Ben Taylor, new member. Air Force

New Member(s)/Transfer(s): Sgt-at-Arms Croxon:

Three new members: Joshua Kufeld recruited by Russell Kinsman, Ben Taylor recruited by Loyd Fonda, and very expired Post 100 member, Clark Williams, transferred to the Post by Brenda Horton. All three were notified about the next item on the agenda.

New Member Initiation: Commander Fonda:

Andrew Courtright escorted new members forward. Ben Taylor.

Continuous Membership Awards: Commander Fonda:

Ron Petroski 10 years

Danny Dawson 5 years

Andrew Courtright 5 years (gave Andrew his Legion cap)

Minutes Adjutant Horton:

The minutes for October are at the end of the agenda. Please read and ask questions at the end of the meeting if there are any.

Officer Reports:

Membership: 1st Vice Commander Ron Petroski:

- The Post has 93/125 members. We are at 74.40% membership.
- District 3 has 216/313 members. We are at 69.23% membership.
- We have three new members and one Post 100 member transfer.
- Department has 4,930/5,893 members. We are at 83.65% membership. We met our target date of 75% membership. We are in 10th place on the National Level. We are in 2nd place in the Western Region.
- Our next target date is January 18th with 80% membership.
- You can sign up for automatic renewal instead of getting notices every year.
- Who is responsible for membership? Everybody!!!!
- Who is responsible for retention? Everybody!!!
- To earn the National Commander's Pin, you need to recruit two new Post members.
- When recruiting new members, keep your "elevator speech" short, to the point and powerful!

Finance Report: Brenda

- Finance report for October: Previous balance of \$76,241.20. Ending balance of \$75,681.11. Deposits of \$227.50: \$227.50 from National, Department, and See's Candy. Charges of \$537.59: presented a check to the BSA Troop 850 of

- \$250, paid Emblem Sales \$196.41 for the items mentioned in the September minutes plus purchased a cap for a Post member, \$311.68 items for trunk or treat including candy and decorations. \$27 for ?, \$2.50 for a paper statement fee.
- Finance report for November: Previous balance of \$75,658.11. Ending balance of \$73,295.93. Deposits totaling \$748.00 from: one deposit of \$70 from membership, \$190 from Veterans Day Dinner, \$180 from cyber security check, \$113 from membership, \$195 from Veterans Day Dinner (50/50 raffle included). Charges of \$1,633.18. Paid Covert Tax Service \$1,500. Paid Stockman's \$1,522.68. Charges for \$27 for ?, \$54 for ?, \$27 for ?, and paper statement fee of \$2.50.
- Finance report for December: Previous balance of \$73,295.93. Ending balance of \$73,617.11. Had four deposits: \$40 from cyber security, \$110 from membership and cyber security, \$300 from the last of the See's Candy and membership, \$175 from membership.
- The Vets for Kids program has \$3,100 for the Riders.
- The Riders balance is a bit over \$11,325.41 in their "general" account.
- The Post has a bit over \$34,000 from the Quarter Auction.
- Post Audit. Patrick Zdunich opted out so we have Kathleen Croxon, Shawn Horton, and Danny Dawson to do the audit. Will set a date once the taxes are done.
- Taxes done and paid for. Received a letter from the IRS that we owe them \$3,680 in late fees. Our tax people didn't file an extension in a timely manner. Post Commander took the letter to Covert Tax Service and they sent in paperwork to the IRS.
- Raymond James: October statement. Beginning balance of \$72,691.05. Ending balance of \$70,727.29. Income of \$47.65. Expenses of \$228.99. Change in value: \$1,782.42.
- Raymond James: November statement: Beginning balance of \$70,727.29. Ending balance of \$75,818.81. Income of \$52.99. Change in value: \$5,038.53.
- Raymond James: December statement: Beginning balance of \$75,818.81. Ending balance of \$79,652.81. Income of \$2,236.58. Change in value: \$1,597.42.

#### Adjutant-Brenda Horton

- Membership cards/letters were mailed to 11 members.
  - Emails were sent to all members for the November-February events.
  - Took over checks/cash to the Commander for deposits.
  - Put together a budget and Mike Musgrove will set a date for the committee to go over it and will present to the Post for approval.
  - Put together criteria for members who need help with paying their dues due to the increase. The EC will look this over and present to the Post for approval.
  - Please keep track of your volunteer hours and the hours you spend doing your Officer duties as these are put into the CPR.
  - All Officers are encouraged to take the Basic Training course through mylegion.org. TAL has a product to sell, membership. How can you sell a product you know nothing about?
  - Renewed our contract with SCA in January to continue to hold meetings here.
  - Sent Department the form for our Dues increase.
1. Sick Call: 1st Vice Commander Petroski
    - A Post 32 member, Charles Wright passed away.
    - Many members are getting over the crud going around.
  2. Service Officer: Open
  3. Veterans Serving Veterans:
    - No report

#### Committee Reports:

1. Legion Riders-Randy Highland
  - No meetings from October-December.
  - Finance report: see above.
  - Held a meeting on January 13th at 9 am at Gold Dust West. Discussed the Armed Forces Day Ride on May 18th, elections, and upcoming rides this summer.
  - Some of the Legion Riders participated in the Nevada Day and Veterans Day Parade.
  - Will put in \$1,500 towards See's Candy.
2. SAL: Commander Ron Petroski.
  - Meetings were held in November and December. The last one was held on January 3rd at 11 am at Ruby Mtn.
  - Spent \$250 on candy for the Veterans Day Parade.
  - Spent \$250 on door prizes for the Veterans Day Dinner.
  - Donated \$400 for Shop with a Cop in December. \$200 for the Post.
  - Donated \$200 to help a Veteran with expenses going to SLC for son's medical expenses.
3. Auxiliary: Kim Fonda

- The new membership year has started. Please talk to Dawn about renewing your membership or renew online. The dues have gone up to \$41.
  - President Zdunich officially resigned. Held a zoom meeting with Unit Officers and Department Officers to discuss the future of Unit 7.
  - Kim Fonda has stepped up as the new Unit President.
4. Highland Manor: 1st Vice Commander Petroski and Andrew Courtright.
- Highland Manor. The assisted living is open. Will need to contact the activities director to start visiting again. Need someone to head this up.
  - No visitation from November-January due to illness.
  - Will visit on January 22nd at 11 am.
5. Post Home Fundraising Committee: 1st Vice Commander Ron Petroski
- Will hold a zoom meeting with the committee on January 19th at 7 pm. If you would like to be on this committee, please contact me and I will sent the information.
  - I wrote a business plan and the committee members will help with suggestions. Will present to the Post once the final copy is done to be voted on.
  - Will need a new Constitution & By-laws including board of trustees for the 501c3. This has to be done before filling out the 501c3 because it has to be submitted with it.
  - A business letter will need to be revised with revisions sent to Brenda.
  - Brenda will ask the Sr Center for a copy of their C & Blaws for their 501C3 since they operate under this.
6. JAG-Brenda Horton
- The document was sent to Department via email on 3/19/23 and sent snail mail on 3/20/23. Brenda emailed Department last month about this and have not heard back.
7. Ham Radio Club: 2nd Vice Commander Chapman
- If you are interested, please contact Brian.
  - National approved program under Homeland Security.
  - If you are a part of this club, remember to get on the net on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.
- Unfinished Business: Commander Fonda
- Have not heard from Home Depot for the approval on the roof.
  - We have started a finance committee to establish a budget. So far we have Kathy and Brenda. Mike Musgrove is the chairman. Brenda sent an email to Mike. Need to go over a few items such as profit from See's candy.
  - The inventory of Post property was done and a list was compiled.
  - There is a bonding company through The American Legion called NFP (fiduciary/creme bond insurance coverage). We need to bond Post Officers; primarily the Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer once we get one.
  - The Post voted to put some of the proceeds from our fundraisers into the membership account. That amount needs to be determined.
  - There is a member that will step up as Post Adjutant for the 2024/2025 membership year but we still need a Post Finance Officer. Each Post is required to have a Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer in order to keep the Post open. Training is available.
  - The Veterans Day Dinner/Parade was a great success. Thank you to all who participated. Especially to those that attended the meeting at the courthouse when the parade was cancelled. Quite a few residents including Veterans got together to get the parade planned.

New Business: Commander Fonda:

- See's Candy. Two locations (Khoury's and Walmart) starting on February 3rd – February 9th from 9am-4pm except for February 4th from noon -four. Need volunteers to man the shifts.
- How much does the Post want to spend for See's Candy? We already have \$3,000 (Legion Riders & SAL combined). Brenda Horton made a motion to spend \$3,000 on See's Candy. Jeanette 2nd the motion. All were in favor, motion carried. Brian Chapman made a motion to purchase the candy on the list (Commander Fonda read the list) and to sell the candy according to the selling price. Ben 2nd the motion. All were in favor, motion carried. Brenda will send out sign up sheets (in the back of the meeting room also) via email.
- Brian Chapman: discussed purchasing a bugle at the next Post meeting. Brian made a motion to put this on the agenda for the February meeting, Ben 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The Good of The American Legion:

\*\*During the good of The American Legion, membership is permitted to make suggestions of any kind, character or description, save of religion or partisan politics.\*\*

- Next Post meeting on February 19th at 7 pm.
- Jeanette Evans brought up an interesting piece of news; the VA treating illegal immigrants using our tax dollars and being treated ahead of our Veterans. She wanted to assure us that this wasn't the case.

Commander Fonda conducted the closing ceremonies.



1st Vice Commander Petroski offered the closing prayer.

Andrew Courtright recovered the POW/MIA chair cover.

I now declare this meeting of Post 7, adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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