**RALPH GRACIE POST # 14**

**ANNUAL POST HISTORY**

Commencing May 22, 2014

**Officers Elected** May 22, 2014

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| Commander | Bob Aitken | Historian | Jim Haskell |
| 1st Vice Commander | Chris Settle | Chaplain | Ken Brandt |
| 2nd Vice Commander | Bill Pagel | Service Officer | Rachel Buttenhoff |
| Adjutant | Harry Settle | Sergeant at Arms | Tom Annonson |
| Finance Officer | Claude Sand | Club Manager | Diane Anderson |
| Past Commander | Dan Vital | Gambling Manager | Ryan Johnson |

**FEATURED LEGIONAIRES**

| | |
|---|---|
| May/June | Bruce Malterud; Army-Nike Hercules missiles; 40/8 Lampiste |
| Sept/Oct | Paul Arneson; turned in Honor Guard uniform after 25 years |

**CLUB ACTIVITIES**

Pool and dart leagues
Sunday evening dinners
Host site for 40/8, VFW and Legion Auxiliary organizations
Honor Guard for funerals throughout the year
American Legion Baseball team sponsorship
Legion Boys State sponsorship
Little League baseball team sponsor

**EVENTS**

5-22-14 Election of Officers
5-26-14 Memorial Day Ceremony, Greenwood Cemetery; featured Speaker-Tim Hodapp, USMC
6-01-14 Honor Guard send-off for Ride for the Troops
6-14-14 Flag Day with Elks Club
7-4-14 40/8 Pancake Breakfast; Fry Bread Taco Lunch; Walleye supper
8-16-14 Legion Annual Summer Picnic, Diamond Point Park, 11:30-4:30
10-5-14 Annual Patriotic Dinner (fund raising)
12-7-14 Hosted VFW Pearl Harbor Day Dinner
02-13 to 02-15-15 Hosted Men's Novice Bonspiel at Bemidji Curling Club
03-20 to 02-21-15 Hosted Legion Mixed Bonspiel at Bemidji Curling Club
04-23-15 Honorary dinner for long-term members at Eagles Club

**COMMENTARY**

As the reporting year started, the Club was recovering from the effects of the prior year's issues of roof repairs, air conditioning replacement, freezer failure and losses from a restaurant leasing arrangement that had to be terminated. Adjutant, Harry Settle, noted declines in gambling revenues affecting this and other organizations as well as the effects of the economic downturn and lower membership dues receipts. Commander, Bob Aitken noted fiscal accounting improvements, successful Sunday evening dinners each week and operations were keeping the Club in the black overall.

Effective August 1, Gambling manager, Ryan J. Johnson resigned for his primary job transfer. Effective late August, Club Manager, Diane Anderson resigned to take a job with an employer providing benefits, subject to assisting until a replacement is found. The position of Assistant

Club Manager was renamed "Post 14 Interim Events Coordinator". Diane Anderson accepted that position. The duties of the Lead Bartender for the posting of the position were specified to be tending bar, supervising and directing all bartenders under the supervision of the commander and making recommendations to the commander for hiring and firing decisions. Mike Exely served as Lead Bartender.

Former bartender/pull tab booth operator, Dawn Marie (Emerson) (Hadrava) York died in September 2014. The Post held a fund raising event for her.

The 2nd Annual Patriotic Dinner was held in October and proved a financial success. Doug Julin, Command Sergeant Major of the 34th "Red Bull Division headquartered in Rosemount, MN was the keynote speaker. Donald Letson thanked to Post for his selection for Legion Boys State, indicating that he learned a lot about leadership and State government from his attendance.

Ken Brandt took over as Gambling Manager in November, 2014. Effective 3-1-15, Ken Brandt resigned as Gambling Manager-position open, license not in effect until replacement-plan to commence again in fall when new Bar 209 construction completed in former Legion building and it opens for business. The remodeling is underway at present-plans call for Legion gambling space next to new bar on west side of building.

Attendance at Sunday dinners was down for the summer months.

The Income and Expense report for period ending August 31, 2014 (fiscal year end) showed the Club in the black, substantially improved from the significant loss the previous year but a continuing struggle per Commander Aitken. Dinner fundraising was of importance to that result.

Difficulties with membership registrations involving the State organization are being worked on by the Adjutant, Harry Settle. Some members who signed up online have incorrectly gotten entered as members of the St. Paul Legion Post.

At a membership meeting held December 7, 2014, the sale of Post real estate (Club building) for $360,000.00 to Brothers Group, LLC, was approved unanimously, including a lease of space upstairs for the Post's pull tab booth and operation, buyer to receive 10% of net profits, with the Executive Committee authorized to negotiate the specific terms of the sale and possible lease back of portions of the downstairs. This had been approved at an regular meeting held December 4, 2014 andwas with the support of Past Commander, Dan Vital, and Past Adjutant, Mike Liapis. It was widely believed that there was too much of a building for the Club and that, even with substantial efforts, the bar and restaurant operation had struggled to stay ahead financially. Attendance at events was inadequate.

A Pearl Harbor Day dinner sponsored by the Bemidji VFW and hosted at the Legion Club by Post staff was held with the Post to receive $8.50 of all receipts. Scotty Allison, Beltrami County Veteran's Service Officer was the main speaker. He detailed interesting facts about the Pearl Harbor invasion of December 7, 1941.

On December 23, 2014, at a regular meeting, the Executive Committee approved the sale of the Club real estate on the above stated terms with additional storage space under the stairwell for storage of pull tab supplies, together with a separate lease back of the arms room for 3 years and storage space for 90 days from the date of the closing on the real estate sale space downstairs for the equipment and furnishings not included in the sale, pending sale of same by the Legion Post. The purchase agreement was signed December 18, 2014 with closing set for January 26, 2015. A separate lease was signed December 23, 2014 relative to the arms room use for 3 years and downstairs storage for 90 days.

On January 17, 2015, an auction sale of Post personal property was held online and on site through McLaughlin Auctions with gross sale of $36,000, netting $$25,000.

On January 26, 2015, the Post real estate at 217 Minnesota Ave., Bemidji, described as Lots (1) and (2), Block 16, Bemidji, was sold to Brother's Group, LLC, for a gross sales price of $360,000.00. The closing that day was at First National Bank of Bemidji, the Post's mortgagee and new Buyer's mortgagee as well. In attendance were Leander "Goose" Peterka, Ken Dunlap, Bob Aitken, Harry Settle and Jim Haskell for the Post and Derek and Brett Leach for Buyer. After closing expenses and paying off multiple existing mortgage loans totaling $166,390.27 with First National Bank, Bemidji, the sale netted $191,670.77). The conveyance was by warranty deed dated January 21, 2015, recorded with the Beltrami County Recorder January 27, 2015 as Document A000545427. The deed was expressly subject to the lease provisions of the above noted purchase agreement of December 23, 2014 for pull tab booth space upstairs in buyer's bar-restaurant to be and storage space for pull tab supplies under the stairwell for 3 years starting upon the buyer's completion of remodeling and opening of its bar and restaurant. The buyer will receive 10% of the net profits from the pull tab operation which will be operated exclusively by the Legion Post. By a separate lease dated December 23, 2014, the arms room was leased back to the Post for one year (effective on the closing of the building sale (later determined to be January 26, 2015), also with temporary storage downstairs for 90 days from the same effective date, all at monthly rent of $50.00.

The Past Commanders photos that were on the wall in the downstairs at 217 Minnesota Ave have been taken down and boxed up pending decision as to a place to put them up or copy them for computer display. A complete list of Past Commanders has been prepared and on computer. A historical summary of Post 14 and associated local organizations has been prepared and put onto computer.

John O'Boyle has also served as Chaplain.

On April 23, the Post held an honorary prime rib dinner at the Eagles Club for those members who had achieved 50, 60 or 70 years membership. Those honored were:

50 years: Phil Buhn, Thomas Hill, Tom Van Brunt, Tom Tolman;

60 years: Jack Mattison, Adren Mann, Ronald Batchelder, Romaine G. Wilson; and
70 years: Harold M. Fruetel, Richard W. Hobbs and Leander : Goose" Peterka.

A regular meeting was held following the dinner with officer elections scheduled to be held at the May meeting.

This concludes the Historian's Annual Report (starting with the election of officers in May of 2014).

Updated 5-13-15
Prepared by Post Historian, Jim Haskell