RALPH GRACIE POST # 14

ANNUAL POST HISTORY

Commencing May 28, 2015

Officers Elected May 28, 2015

Commander	Tom Annonson	Historian	Jim Haskell
1st Vice Commander	Chris Settle	Chaplain	John O'Boyle
2nd Vice Commander	Bill Pagel	Service Officer	Rachel Buttenhoff
Adjutant	Harry Settle	Sergeant at Arms	Randy Hanevold
Finance Officer	Claude Sand		
Past Commander	Bob Aitken		

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (voting members)

Tom Annonson	Ex Officio-Commander
Chris Settle	Ex Officio-1st Vice Commander
Bill Pagel	Ex Officio-2nd Vice commander
Harry Settle	Ex Officio-Adjutant
Claude Sand	Ex Officio-Finance Officer
Bob Aitken	Ex Officio-Past Commander
Wayne Johnson	Elected at large member
Pat Winkler	Elected at large member
Dan Vital	Elected at large member

Non-voting members pursuant to by-laws: Ladies Auxiliary Representative, Sons of the American Legion Representative, Club Manager, Gambling Manager and Post Accountant.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Membership meetings-last Thursday of month at Eagles Club, dinner 6:00, meeting 7:00
Honor Guard for funerals throughout the year
American Legion Baseball team sponsorship
Legion Boys State sponsorship
Little League baseball team sponsor

EVENTS

5-28-15 Election of Officers
5-30-16 Memorial Day Ceremony, Greenwood Cemetery; featured Speaker-Rocky Tibbets, Vietnam Vet
6-13 -15 Honor Guard send-off for Ride for the Troops
6-14-14 Flag Day
7-11-15 Legion Annual Summer Picnic, Diamond Point Park, 11:30-4:30
11-11-15 Veterans Day Dinner at Eagles Club for all Vets (sponsored by Eagles Club)
2/12-16/16 Hosted Kermit Zarling Memorial Novice Bonspiel at Bemidji Curling Club
3/18-19/16 Hosted Legion Mixed Bonspiel at Bemidji Curling Club
TBD Honorary dinner for 50, 60. 70 year members at Eagles Club

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

For purposes of the annual history, a year starts with the election of officers, which for the current history year started May 28, 2015. This was the first full year following the sale of the Post building on Minnesota Avenue. That event did not end normal activities of the Post, save those occurring at the Club site, though some members and non-members apparently have not realized that.

A great deal of time was devoted during the year to what to do following the sale. It was generally felt that the Club should move carefully with due deliberation of the alternatives. Summarizing the discussions is difficult as many varying opinions have been expressed. A main concern, of course, was whether to purchase another building. Various possible sites were considered but, as things progressed, it is probably fair to say that a majority of members attending meetings felt that we ought not to try to get back into the bar and restaurant business again because great efforts had been expended in the past with limited success and due to the substantial competition in Bemidji. Thus, it came to be mainly a discussion of where to hold meetings without buying a building and thereby using up most or all of the proceeds from the sale. We continue to hold approximately $190,000 of those proceeds, though the tax consequences of the sale have yet to be determined, due to the tardiness of the tax preparer. Meetings were held during the year at the Eagles Club which treated us very well, serving 6:00 p.m. dinners for us before our membership meetings. That site remained as a possible solution, though it is probably can be stated that most felt we needed someplace to call home. In that respect, the Club was presented last year with the possibility of prepaying rent to Lazy Jacks for a room to be constructed and which we could use when needed and in which we could display our photographs and display items on its walls. The room would be designated in our name. Those discussions were prolonged by reason of the owner needing specific plans and cost estimates and revisions to those. Eventually, at the January 2016, meeting, Derrick Kringen, an owner-officer of Lazy Jacks made a presentation to the membership followed in April by written lease proposal. It was forwarded to Bemidji attorney, Darrell Carter for review. This issue remains pending at the writing of this summary. A positive for that proposal is that it would include the Post as the pull tabs beneficiary, providing income we could well use. (If the new bar and restaurant at the old Club location becomes a reality, we have an agreement to have the pull tab operation there for 3 years as well). Note: The Gambling Manager position is open. Who would like to step up? At present we do not have a regular source of income.

A related issue was security for the arms. Under arrangement with Brothers Group, LLC, the purchaser of the Club building, the arms have remained at the same “arms room”. This has not been ideal with our not being in control of the building and it being vacant due to the owner’s delays in remodeling it for its contemplated bar and restaurant business. Discussion was also had concerning the possibility of obtaining space at the Eagles Club or Lazy Jacks, both of which would have necessitated expenditures for construction. It was also thought by some members that a bar site would not be ideal. It had long been discussed that the Beltrami County Law Enforcement Center might be a good, secure location. Actually, the concept originated with the Sheriff, Phil Hodapp, himself. Finally, in the last few months, the membership voted to purchase a suitable safe for the arms and finalized plans with the Sheriff for locating it there. It has been purchased. It would be easily accessible to the Honor Guard and secure.

The membership voted to increase our donation to the American Legion Baseball team to lessen the personal expense of the players.

So, let it be known that Ralph Gracie American Legion Post 14 is alive and well!

Elections of officers are scheduled for May 26, 2016 at the membership meeting to start at 7:00 p.m.

Updated 4-21-2016
Prepared by Post Historian, Jim Haskell