



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



December 18, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 1907 hours by the Commander.

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers and Executive Committee members present with the exception Finance Officer Steve Duff.

No guests in attendance.

Previous month's minutes were read and accepted by membership.

The **Membership Report** was given with 138 out of 162 paid members for the new membership year which puts us at 85.2%. The Commander reiterated the loss of benefits if dues are not paid by 31 December.

Finance Report – Not given due to the absence of the Finance Officer.

Poppies – Our next Poppy Day is scheduled for 9 March 2024 at the Greenmount Common Lowes from 0900 to 1500. The Commander said that if members knew of youth in the 4th thru 12th grades, they can enter the Poppy Poster Contest. See him for details.

Veteran Affairs – There is no meeting until 30 January 2024 at 19 Public Square in Belleville. If you need to file a claim or have questions about benefits, you can go to 300 N. Charles St in Belleville on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A accredited Veterans Service Officer will be on site. No appointment necessary.

Community Patriotic Observances – No report

Honor Guard – Gloves were ordered and arrived in time for the 7 December ceremony. Six pairs were ordered with a cost of \$48.90 paid by the Commander.

Americanism – No report

Boy Scouts – Dave Devine stated that both supported units would be on winter vacation until January. The Commander mentioned that Eagle Scouts are encouraged to enter the Eagle Scout of the Year Contest. Both the Legion and VFW have scholarship money available for the winners.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report

Gifts to the Yanks – Robin reported that we have 11 vets between the two supported homes. She, Mary and Andrew visited the homes to meet with 10 of the 11 veterans to deliver the gifts to them. The vets were very

appreciative of the blankets and puzzles. There was one vet in the hospital, so his gift was given to the administrators to give him when he returned. The Commander said there were resources that we can work with throughout the year to help with supplies.

Children and Youth – No Report.

Oratorical – The 5th Division Oratorical Contest will be held 6 January 2024 at the Centralia Post with a start time of 9 a.m. Our Division will not be holding one due to no participants.

Boys State – No Report.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment - No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees – No Report

Sick Call – Doug reported Howard Bateman and his wife are dealing with a contagious illness.

Unfinished Business –

1. McAlister's Fundraiser – moved to February. Barb Page will work on arrangements.
2. Blood Drive – will be held on 15 February from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at PSOP on Church St. This will be a collaborative effort between our Post, the VFW and PSOP.

Correspondence – A bill for our Post Office Box was received, due by 31 December. A letter from the SCCHS requesting our vote for this year's Betty Hackmann Volunteer Recognition Award. As the winner of last year's award, we get to vote on the next year's recipient. The Department newsletter and a package of program material sent by the Department were also received. Letters announcing the January Division and District Caucuses would be held in Aviston and Mascoutah respectively were also received.

New Business –

1. Doug Jameson motioned to reimburse the Commander the \$48.90 spent on the Honor Guard gloves. Seconded by Robert Thomas. Membership approved. The Commander stated he would donate the money towards the Boys State scholarship fund.
2. Robert Thomas informed membership of a new 3 yr dues card program that is being advertised on National's website. The card will be initially for new members and members that have not yet renewed at the current rate. Members that have already paid their 2024 dues will be eligible in July.
3. Rich Gaebel motioned to reimburse the \$94.81 Barb Page spent on the Visiting Vets program and was seconded by Andrew Dunham. Membership approved.
4. Rich Gaebel informed the Commander that he had turned the Post bugle over to Honor Guard Co-Chair, Doug Jameson while he is gone for the month of January. It will be stored at the VFW.

Memorial to Departed Members – No news of any Post member's passing. The Commander informed us that Lifetime Legion member, Chuck Ridge of the New Baden Post had departed after a long illness. The New Baden Post will be doing a walkthrough during his viewing on Thursday. The viewing would be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For the Good of the Legion

1. The Commander stated that the drive to replace the Haven's stolen fishing gear has resulted in a large number of donations. Members were encouraged to donate if they wanted to. The gear would be delivered to the Haven at a later date.
2. Rich Gaebel gave thanks to the Post leadership, especially the Commander, for all the work they did on behalf of the Post.
3. The Commander followed up stating how proud he was of the work this Post is doing in the community, especially at Messinger Cemetery. He also pointed out that in response to request from members to add Legion history into his Commander's Comments, he has started adding it in the current issue and encourage members to pick up a copy.
4. Mary stated that the 1099 tax documents are now available through the DFAS website.

Next Meeting to be held on Jan 22nd, 2024 at 7PM with Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1944 hours

50/50 Results – won by Barb Page, who donated her \$23 winnings back to the fishing gear for the Haven effort.