



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



December 15, 2025

This Regular Membership Meeting was called to order by the Commander, Jim Page, at 7:04 p.m.

The Commander announced that a quorum was present to conduct the meeting.

Roll Call by Adjutant: Roll call was conducted and all officers and Executive Committee members were present with exception of Executive Committee member, Robert Thomas.

Sgt-At-Arms Introduction of Guests: The Sergeant-at-Arms, Kenny Green, was delayed for arrival and as such the Commander stated that there were no guests in attendance.

Special Guest Presentations: None.

Review and Acceptance of the Nov. 24th, 2025 Meeting Minutes: The Commander informed members that a draft copy of the Nov. 24th meeting minutes was emailed to 117 members on Dec. 3rd. One change to the meeting minutes was noted; on page 5 the "Pot of Gold Drawing" for Dec. 15th was changed from \$118 to \$100. With the meeting minutes revised, they were accepted and stand as approved.

Standing Committee Reports:

The **Membership Report** was given by Bill Martin stating that 125 of 151 members that we started with on 1 July (82.78%) have paid the 2026 membership fee (83%). We had 5 members pass away since 1 July and gained 1 member, thus 125 of 147 living members (85%) have paid the 2026 membership fee. An email was sent on 12-13-2025 to 24 members to remind them that the 2025 membership expires at midnight on Dec. 31st. The Commander will provide the recent data report from the Department to Bill Martin that lists legionnaires who have not yet paid the 2026 membership fee.

The **Finance Report** for the period ending November was given by the Finance Officer, Steve Duff, and he also distributed the report to members in attendance. Beginning balance was \$8924.75 in checking account, with \$213.00 in deposits, \$484.78 in withdrawals, \$101.53 in checks outstanding, leaving \$8551.44 available cash on hand. There was an additional \$723.38 in savings. The CD of \$3,043.31 purchased in May has earned \$66.74 in interest. A motion to approve the report, subject to audit, was given by Don Wallace, and the motion was seconded by Andrew Dunham. The Commander called for discussion, none was conducted, and then a vote on the motion was taken. The Commander's ruling on the vote resulted in the Finance Report approved/carried.

The Poppy Program Report. The Commander informed the members that the distribution of the \$1,610 collected contributions during 2025 will be distributed, and recommended the distribution as follows:

- \$250 to Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave program
- \$250 to the Visiting Vets Program
- \$250 to the St. Louis USO
- \$250 to the Haven House in Marion, IL
- Remaining balance to be used for purchasing poppies for calendar year 2026, with any residual funds in reserve for unexpected expenses

The Commander asked members if there were any other proposals. None were stated. Marvin Groothius made a motion to accept the Commander's distribution of Poppy funds and the motion was seconded by Don Wallace. A vote was taken and carried.

The Veteran Affairs Report. The Commander announced that a Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) board meeting will not be holding its regular monthly meeting in December. The next VAC meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27th, 6:00 p.m. at 19 Public Square, 1st floor conference room.

- The Commander will be seeking a volunteer from our membership in Jan. 2026 to be on the Veteran Affairs Committee if Kori Bookman is unable to remain on the committee.
- The Commander informed everyone that the St. Clair County budget for the Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC) has been resolved, resulting an opportunity to move to a new building.
- The Commander informed everyone to contact the VAC as soon as possible, rather than later, if assistance is needed in paying utility bills, purchasing food, etc. Don't hold-off until it becomes more difficult to obtain assistance.

The Community Patriotic Observances Report.

- Dec 5. Six volunteer members set out U.S. flags along Old Collinsville Road.am.
- Dec 6. Fifteen people participated in the Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony at Messinger Cemetery.
- Dec 8. Two volunteer members removed U.S. flags along Old Collinsville Road and return them to storage.
- The 85th observance of the attack on Pearl Harbor will be in 2026, and we want a big turn-out for the remembrance ceremony. We will be coordinating with the St. Clair County Historical Society and the Village of Swansea to gain maximum participation from our community. We believe there are 12 survivors living today and would like to invite at least one survivor, possibly to be a guest speaker.
- The next big event will be Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, and the Commander has been coordinating with the Village of Swansea Park Board to provide assistance in conducting a ceremony.

The Honor Guard Report. Dec 6. We had a bugler and flag bearer participate in the Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance ceremony.

The Americanism Report. Steve Duff volunteered to chair the Americanism Committee, and will be coordinating with our local grade schools and high schools to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest that awards state-level winners with cash prizes and scholarships. The deadline for the 2026 essays to reach our post for judging is Feb. 6th.

The **Boy Scouts Report** was given by the Commander and Dave Devine who announced that there will be a meeting on Dec. 16th with a scout who has interest in building 3 picnic tables for Messinger Cemetery. There is also another scout who has interest in building an additional 3 picnic tables for Messinger Cemetery. One female scout has an Eagle project at the review board. The Soaring Eagle District collected 128,000 items during its recent food drive with great participation from Troop 53.

The **Constitution and By Laws Report.** The Commander will be meeting with Todd Herzog before the end of Dec. to make final edits to the draft revisions of the post's Constitution and Bylaws. The drafts will then be sent to all Post members for review in January. They will be given 15 days to provide proposed changes. The goal is to have the revisions voted upon for approval by membership at the Feb. 23, 2026, Regular membership meeting.

The **Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets Report.** The report was given by Mary Monett and Robin Latdrick who announced that the committee built the Christmas gift bags for our veterans on Dec 8th, and delivered them on Dec. 15th to 19 veterans residing at the Evervella of Swansea Nursing Home and the Cambridge House of Swansea. Gifts included sweatshirts, lap blankets, stocking caps, carrying bags for those who have walkers, puzzles, squish balls, tissues, and other items. Photos will be posted to the websites of the homes.

The **Children and Youth Report.** No Report. Todd Herzog inquired about whether we reached-out to the Mayor of the Village of Swansea for volunteer assistance needed with the Santa House. The Commander said he met with a member of the village board and learned that additional assistance was no longer needed.

Oratorical Report. The post did not sponsor a high school student for the 2026 Oratorical contest. Our Commander informed everyone that he will be one of the judges for the entries that were submitted to the 5th Division. Judging will occur Jan. 10th in Centralia.

Boys State Report. Steve Duff informed everyone that he will be charging forward at reaching out to our local High Schools to announce the 89th session of the Illinois Premier Boys State program which will be held June 13th through the 19th at Eastern Illinois University.

National Security Report. Based on recent events that occurred, our Commander informed everyone to be alert of their surrounding and contact local police if encountered with a situation that "just doesn't feel right," feeling unsafe, or that something about the situation feels wrong.

Other Reports Designated by the Commander

1. **Annual Dinner Report:** The Commander informed members that the dinner is still scheduled for April, 2026.
2. **Buddy Check Report:** The Commander informed members that a final report from the November Buddy Check was provided to the Post Officers and Executive Committee members on Nov. 25th.
3. **Member Communications Report.** Todd Herzog informed the Chair that we have mailing addresses for 146 of our 147 living members. We have good email addresses for 114 of 147 living members, but 2 of those members opted postal mail in lieu of emails. We have 35 members who need postal mailings. We have 58 vetted individuals in our Facebook Group. Fifteen separate correspondence messages (email, posts to Facebook) have been conveyed to our members since our Nov 24th Regular Meeting. Postal mail to 35 of our members will be sent after receiving an electronic copy of the December Commander's Comments newsletter and a draft copy of these meeting minutes.
4. **Blood Donation Drive Report.**

Mary Monett reiterated the announcement that the event is still scheduled for Jan. 23, 2026 between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. at the Swansea Improvement Association meeting hall with the American Red Cross. Todd Herzog sent a Community Service announcement to the Swansea Government Center for inclusion in its January 2026 edition of the Swansea Report.

5. **Community Service Report.** Steve Duff informed everyone that Davey Tree Expert Company spent a day, Dec. 4th, cutting, trimming, and hauling away the ill, damaged, dead, and drooping limbs and branches. They also left a pile of mulch that can be used in the cemetery to control weed growth, and by the St Clair County Historical Society for other properties that they manage. Todd Herzog made mention that the next project for the historic schoolhouse is to put the floorboards back in place, but warmer weather is needed.

Sick Call.

1. Don Perrone's wife, Joyce, informed us on 12/3/2025 that Don entered the hospital for an aortic valve replacement TAVR. He has been ill with CHF since June.
2. Dr. Senoria Brown informed us on 12/8/2025 that she has been down for a few months recovering from a previous surgery, and will be undergoing surgery again in Jan. and will be down a couple more months recovering. The Commander informed everyone that Dr. Brown can use some volunteers as helping hands for minor household chores while she is recovering. The Commander will be the conduit between volunteers and Dr. Brown.
3. Steve Duff informed us that his son will be undergoing surgery for cancer and asked for our prayers.

Unfinished Business

1. **2025-2026 Post 2007 Programs and Activities.** The Commander will be sending the calendar to the Executive Committee one more time for review. After the review, and any changes if needed, it will be converted to PDF format and sent via email to all members having an email address, and via postal mail to those without email.
2. **Updating the 2020 Bylaws and 2021 Constitution.** The finalized drafts will be sent to all Post members for review in Jan. for any recommended changes. They will be given 15 days to respond with any proposed corrections. The goal is to have the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws voted upon for approval by membership at the Feb. 23, 2026 Regular membership meeting.
3. **Meeting with High Mount School Superintendent.** Steve Duff will be sending correspondence to the superintendents and principals of our local middle schools to convey the American Legion School Award Medal Program, Dept. of Illinois Americanism Essay Contest, Good Citizen-Super Citizenship Award, etc.
4. **Ordering American Legion Shirts.** The Commander announced that we have received the minimum number of orders from members to receive the discount price, and he will be placing the order this month.
5. **Changing VAC Website.** The Commander announced that the change to the VAC website hyperlink has not yet been accomplished which will direct viewers to our post's Facebook group page in lieu of our website page. **Note:** The hyperlinks to Mascoutah, Millstadt, Stookey, and Belleville Posts take viewers to their Facebook Group page.

Incoming Correspondence (Adjutant). No information presented.

New Business. No new business presented. However, our Chaplain requested a copy of our current membership roster.

Memorial to Departed Members. No memorials presented.

For the Good of the Legion. No information presented.

30/30/30 Raffle Drawing. The ticket was drawn for one third of the \$39 collected, and matched the ticket number held by Steve Duff.

Pot of Gold Drawing. The name drawn for the \$100 Pot of Gold cash prize was Richard Arnold. He was not present to collect the prize, so the pot was rolled over and money added for the next meeting on Jan. 26th with \$113 in the pot for that drawing.

The next **Regular Membership Meeting** will be held on Jan. 26th at 7 p.m.

The next **Executive Council Meeting** will be held on Jan. 26th at 6:15 p.m.

The Commander adjourned this December 15, 2025, Regular Membership Meeting at 8:11 p.m.