



**Charles A. Woodford**  
**American Legion Post 2007**



**February 23, 2026**

This Regular Membership Meeting was called to order by the commander, Jim Page, at 7:01 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 the post Adjutant, Dave Devine, and Executive Committee members Mary Monett and Robert Thomas.

**Sgt-At-Arms Introduction of Guests:** The Sergeant-at-Arms, Kenny Green, announced that Don Scheyer, Dept. of Illinois American Legion 22<sup>nd</sup> District Commander has joined us, and wife of our member Theo Hughes was also in attendance.

**Special Guest Presentations:** Don Scheyer presented a briefing on a collection of information regarding the 22<sup>nd</sup> District, 5<sup>th</sup> Division, and the National headquarters.

- During The American Legion 2026 membership renewal campaign, period ending Dec. 31, 2025, the 22<sup>nd</sup> District membership declined by 119 legionnaires. Over 50% of the 40 posts in the 22<sup>nd</sup> District did not reach 100% membership renewal. NOTE: The 22<sup>nd</sup> District is comprised of the following counties: Madison, Bond, St. Clair, Monroe, and Washington.
- Don Scheyer emphasized that membership in The American Legion is very important to gaining and maintaining veteran's benefits, and when congressional decisions are being considered. Our national commander has a front row seat during the congressional testimonies and when members of congress know that he is representing over 2 million constituents, they listen.
- He informed our members that 15 of the 55 American Legion departments were represented at the Feb., 2026 Lincoln Pilgrimage.
- He informed our members that attendance in the National Caravan is an excellent opportunity for legionnaires to network among each other to exchange information and learn what other posts are doing to resolve issues they may be having.
- He informed our members that the Department of Illinois Boys State Program had an increase of 622 young men and there were 2000 participant entries for the Department of Illinois American Legion Oratorical Contest.
- He informed our members that the Quincy, IL May Fest is held the first Sunday in May and legionnaires have historically made visits to the veterans in the Illinois Veterans Home on the 200-acre campus.

<https://www.quincyivh.org/>

- He informed members that the 22<sup>nd</sup> District, in partnership with the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, has set goals toward our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration ([The American Legion USA 250 Challenge](#)).
  - Contribute 250 pints of blood to the American Red Cross
  - Contribute 2,500 lbs. of food to local Food Banks
  - Provide 250 hrs. of Community Service
- He informed our members that the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Spring Meeting will be held March 15 at Du Quoin Post 647. All members of posts within the 5<sup>th</sup> Division are encouraged to attend.
- He informed our members that the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Caucus will be held March 22 at Post 110 in Nashville, IL. All members of posts within the 22<sup>nd</sup> District are encouraged to attend.
- He informed our members that there have been instances of members receiving correspondence to submit a "witness slip" to their congressional representative to support House Bill 4333, lowering BAC from 0.08% to 0.05%. The American Legion should not go on record as a proponent or opponent to this introduced legislation, nor take a position on this bill. Anyone wishing to submit a witness slip on this legislation should do it as self and not indicate they are a member of or represent the Legion. If you desire to submit Witness Slips, do so as "self" or as a "veteran," but your opinion should never be submitted as representing the view of The American Legion. Individuals on the commissions at The American Legion headquarters are the only people that can represent the view of The American Legion.
- He informed our members that there is an easy resource for us to communicate with our congressional representatives on legislation that is being considered in the House of Representatives. It's the American Legion Grassroots Action Center <https://www.votervoices.net/AmericanLegion/home>. He encouraged all members in our district to use this resource which automatically submits your opinion about legislation to your elected representatives. With the Washington Conference coming up, this is a great tool get our Illinois voice heard!

#### **Four Chaplain's Remembrance**

Our Chaplain, Robin Latdrick, created a focal point at one of the tables, placing photos of the Four Chaplains, and provided a remembrance briefing about the four US Army Chaplains that gave their life to help others when the USAT Dorchester was sunk by a German submarine in 1943. After the reading she lit 4 candles in remembrance of their selfless service and sacrifice.

**Review and Acceptance of the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Todd Herzog informed the commander that a draft copy of the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was emailed to 114 members on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and mailed to 32 members on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. The commander announced that there were no changes recommended by members, so the minutes stand as written.

#### **Standing Committee Reports:**

The **Membership Report** was given by Bill Martin stating that 133 of 151 members that we started with on July 1, 2025 have paid the 2026 membership fee (88.08%).

The **Finance Report** for January was given by the Finance Officer, Steve Duff, and he also distributed the report to members in attendance. Beginning balance was \$7,834.60 in checking account, with \$40 in deposits, \$580 in withdrawals, \$250 in checks outstanding, leaving \$7,044.60 available cash on hand. There was an additional \$723.40 in savings. The CD of \$3,123.10 purchased has earned \$0.08 in interest. A motion to approve the report, subject to audit, was given and seconded. The Commander opened the floor for

discussion and nothing was brought forward. The commander then called for a vote, and the result was that the motion was carried to approve the Finance Report.

**The Poppy Program Report.** The Commander informed the members that the distribution of \$1,000 of the \$1,610 collected contributions during 2025 has been accomplished. The dates to distribute poppies in calendar year 2026 have not yet been established. He informed members that the Egyptian Past Commanders Club at The Haven in Carbondale sent correspondence to us to thank us for our \$250 donation.

**The Veteran Affairs Report.** The Commander announced that a Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24th, 6:00 p.m. at 19 Public Square, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. The Post forwarded our Delegate Appointment letter for the 2026 year. Both delegates have completed training.

**The Community Patriotic Observances Report.** The commander announced that he attended the Swansea Park Board meeting, learning that the Village of Swansea appointed a Chair for the Memorial Day event. Our commander is working with the Belleville/Swansea Moose Lodge #1221 to conduct a joint Memorial Day remembrance ceremony on the afternoon of May 25, 2026. Our post may need to provide a Color Guard and Bugler for the event, and volunteers should contact our commander. Todd Herzog stated that he would be contacting the Village of Swansea mayor to discuss some prior conversations that they exchanged. More to follow.

**The Honor Guard Report.** No report provided.

**The Americanism Report.** Steve Duff informed the commander that he reached out to both Wolf Branch and High Mount School educators to convey information about The American Legion's School Awards Program, Dept. of Illinois Americanism Essay Contest, and Good Citizen-Super Citizenship Award, and they were receptive. The commander informed members that the medals and presentation folders were ordered Feb 19<sup>th</sup>.

**The Boy Scouts Report.** The commander announced that an Eagle Scout project plan to build 3 picnic tables for Messinger Cemetery has been approved.

**The Constitution and Bylaws Report.** No report was provided. See "Unfinished Business" on page 3.

**The Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets Report.** Robin Latdrick informed the commander that all veterans in the homes that the Visiting Vets Committee visits received our gifts, including the sweatshirts. She also informed him that she had an initial meeting with the new management at the Ever Vella nursing home and walked away feeling that they liked what we are doing for its veteran residents, and will continue to solidify our good relationship. Todd Herzog made mention that Mary Monett sewed a colorful patch quilt and members of the Visiting Vets Committee presented it to the Ever Vella activities director, Lisa, before she moved onward to a new job.

**The Children and Youth Report.** No report provided.

**Oratorical Report.** No report provided.

**Boys State Report.** No report provided.

**National Security Report.** No report provided.

**Other Reports Designated by the Commander**

1. **Annual Dinner Report:** Barbara Page informed the commander that the dinner is still scheduled for 6 pm. April, 27, 2026, and the estimate cost will be \$400, but some unforeseen costs could arise between now and then. Steve Duff made a motion to fund the event from our general account at a sum not to exceed \$500. Jim Nickles seconded the motion. The commander opened the floor for discussion and nothing was brought forward. The commander then called for a vote, and the result was that the motion to fund the event at a sum not to exceed \$500 was carried.
2. **Buddy Check Report:** Todd Herzog asked our commander whether our post was going to conduct a Buddy Check in March, 2026 in conjunction with the anniversary of The American Legion founding. The commander was highly supportive of the March Buddy Check and appointed Todd to reach out to our members to seek volunteers to conduct the Buddy Check.
3. **Member Communications Report.** Todd Herzog informed the commander that we have the ability to send email to 110 of our 134 Active Members. We have 24 Active Members who need postal mail when we send correspondence. We have 59 vetted individuals in our Facebook Group. Twenty-seven separate correspondence messages (email, posts to Facebook) have been conveyed to our members since our Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting. Thirty-two written correspondence mailings were sent since our Dec 15th Regular Meeting. The 15 people who have not yet renewed their membership for 2026 will no longer receive voting-type correspondence from our post, and on 1 July they will be dropped from membership and all correspondence will cease.

#### 4. **Blood Donation Drive Report.**

The commander informed members that the Blood Donation Drive held Feb 3, 2026 with the American Red Cross at the Swansea Improvement Association meeting hall resulted in the collection of 7 pints, and thanked Mary Monett for leading the event.

#### 5. **Community Service Report.**

- A. **Messinger Cemetery.** Todd Herzog informed the commander that Dec 5, 2025 was the last cleanup event and the next event isn't scheduled until May 16th. Five months will have passed without any attention to the cemetery. Todd Herzog recommended we conduct a clean up event on March 28<sup>th</sup> in preparation for Easter Sunday on Apr 5th and POW/MIA Dat on Apr 9<sup>th</sup>. The commander asked members if they support the recommendation and there were no objections.
- B. **American Legion's March Community Service Month.** Todd Herzog informed the commander that the Swansea Improvement Association is planning to hold an event on March 21<sup>st</sup> that involves painting the Events Hall and a general clean-up. Todd stated that this is an opportunity for our post to join their crew in performing the event as a community service project, as well as "pay back" for the 10 years of generosity they extended to us by not charging us the \$300 that they otherwise charge for a night rental of the events hall, saving us approximately \$36,000. Todd recommended our post provide volunteers to assist the Swansea Improvement Association's March 21<sup>st</sup> event involving painting the Events Hall and general clean-up. The commander asked members if they support the recommendation, and there were no objections. Todd Herzog will be reaching out to our members to seek volunteers.

#### **Sick Call.**

1. Dr. Senoria Brown continues healing after surgery. The commander has not received indication from Dr. Brown that she needs assistance in accomplishing any household chores, etc.

2. Steve Duff provided a brief overview of his son's battle with prostate cancer and thanked our members for their prayers.
3. Barbara Page is doing well in her recovery after having hand surgery.

### **Unfinished Business**

1. **Updating the 2020 Bylaws and 2021 Constitution.** The commander announced that our post's constitution and bylaws have been reviewed, updated by the post officers and executive committee, and the final revised draft is complete. The finalized draft will be sent no later than Mar 1, 2026 to all members of our post for review and comments. Comments need to be returned by our members no later than March 20, 2026. A vote by our membership to accept/adopt the revised constitution and bylaws will be conducted at our Regular Membership meeting to be held on March 23, 2026, 7 pm. This item remains open until the vote is conducted.
2. **Post Polo Legion Shirts.** The personally-embroidered shirts should be ready mid to end of March for distribution to those who placed orders. Anticipate paying and picking up at our Mar. 23 Regular Membership meeting. This item remains open until delivered.
3. **2025-2026 Post 2007 Programs and Activities Calendar.** The Jan – Aug 2026 post calendar was emailed Dec 31, 2025 to 114 members, but has not yet been mailed via postal mail to our 24 members who are either without email or declined to receive email. This item is now closed.
4. **Meeting with High Mount School Superintendent.** See The **Americanism Report** on page 3. This item is now closed.
5. **Changing VAC Website.** The change to the Veterans Assistance Commission website hyperlink has not yet been accomplished which needs to 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. This item remains open.

### **Incoming Correspondence (Adjutant).**

1. A letter from Dept. of IL American Legion, Division 5, regarding payment of the per capita tax and donation to the Egyptian Past Commanders Club.
2. Card from the Missouri National Veterans Memorial regarding its tribute to Vietnam veterans, March 29, 2026, National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

### **New Business.**

1. Todd Herzog made a motion to provide a monetary donation to the Swansea Improvement Association in the amount of \$270.00 to help them defray the costs to revitalize their Events Hall. This donation should be sufficient to cover the cost for 8 gallons of paint + tax. Chip Barbour seconded the motion. The commander opened the floor for discussion and some members felt that the amount was shy in consideration of what the Swansea Improvement Association has done for us, and that some painting equipment may also need to be acquired. Todd withdrew his motion.
2. Robin Latdrick made a motion to provide a monetary donation to the Swansea Improvement Association in the amount of \$400.00 to help them defray the costs to revitalize their Events Hall. The motion was seconded by Jim Nickles. The commander opened the floor for discussion and nothing was

brought forward. The commander then called for a vote, and the result was that the motion to provide a monetary donation to the Swansea Improvement Association in the amount of \$400.00 was carried.

3. Steve Duff made a motion to pay the 5<sup>th</sup> Division per capita tax of \$30.20 and a suggested donation of \$22.65 to the Egyptian Past Commanders Club, for a total sum of \$52.85. The motion was seconded by Chip Barbour. The commander opened the floor for discussion and nothing was brought forward. The commander then called for a vote, and the result was that the motion to pay the 5<sup>th</sup> Division per capita tax and provide the donation to the Egyptian Past Commanders Club was carried.

**Memorial to Departed Members.** No memorials were presented.

**For the Good of the Legion.**

1. Barbara Page informed the members that she scheduled a fundraising event for Tues., March 10<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 8 pm at McAlister's Deli in the Green Mount Crossing complex. The event involves delivering food to guest tables and wiping down tables after guests have finished eating. She is seeking volunteers to help accomplish the fundraising event.
2. On Sunday, March 29, 2026, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, the Missouri National Veterans Memorial in Perryville, MO. will pay tribute to Vietnam veterans. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Replica "America's Wall" containing 58,000 + names of those who did not make it home is on display, you're welcome to bring a remembrance item to place at the monument, and Vietnam Veteran volunteers will be nearby to share experiences. 1172 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Perryville, MO 63775. (573) 547-2035.
3. Steve Duff informed members that after The American Legion's School Awards are presented to the Wolf Branch students, the recipient's photo will be taken and framed, a short dossier added beneath the framed photo, and then will be displayed next to the "Thank You Veterans" eagle statue in the school's display area. The display would remain in place until the American Legion's School Awards are again presented in upcoming year, and the process would repeat.

**30/30/30 Raffle Drawing.** The ticket was drawn for one third of the \$56 collected, and it matched the ticket number held by Todd Herzog.

**Pot of Gold Drawing.** The name drawn for the \$113 Pot of Gold cash prize was Jerry Cowart. He was not present to collect the prize, so the pot was rolled over and money added to the pot for the next drawing of \$131 during the Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Membership Meeting.

The next **Regular Membership Meeting** will be held on Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m.

The next **Executive Council Meeting** will be held on Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

The Commander adjourned this February 23, 2026, Regular Membership Meeting at 8:42 p.m.