



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



January 23, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 1903 hours by the Commander.

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers and Executive Committee members present except for the excused absence of Jr Vice Martin.

The Sgt at Arms stated there were no guests in attendance.

The Commander opened with the story of the 4 candles which signified the Four Chaplains that gave their lives during WWII as they gave up their life vests and calmed the men aboard their torpedoed ship before standing together in worship as the ship sank beneath the waves.

December 2022 meeting minutes were read with motion to accept by Doug Jameson and seconded by Robert Thomas. Minutes approved by membership.

The **Membership Report** was given by the Commander in the absence of the Jr. Vice. He stated the last report was 85.67% with 127 out of 150 members registered. The Post turned in 3 renewals, 2 new members and 4 transfers at the Membership Caravan. This should put us at 90.67% with 136 out of 150. We still have 20 people from last year that have not paid. There are a few possibles that need to be followed up on.

The **Finance Officer** provided a breakdown of the post's accounts with \$3,214.19 in Savings and \$6,817.38 in Checking for a total of \$10,031.57 including monies set aside for the various programs. There are still several outstanding checks. Motioned to accept, subject to audit by Andrew Dunham, seconded by Mary Monett. Membership approved.

Poppies – The poppy check has not cleared yet. The machine that makes the poppies is broken and VA homes will no longer allow vets to assemble the poppies. The Commander may have to go to Bloomington to pick some up.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting of the St. Clair VAC will be January 31st at 7 p.m. The VSO at O'Fallon VFW Post 805 has changed. Kurt Daesch from the SCCVAC will be at the Post starting the first Tuesday in February. The SCCVAC will have a trained and qualified Service Officer at Charles A. Fricke Post 805 I O'Fallon from 1100 to 1600 to file veteran claims. The service by the St Clair VAC will be available on the first Tuesday of every month until the VFW resumes with a new Department Assistant VSO.

Community Patriotic Observances – No report

Honor Guard – No report

Americanism – We've received information on the Essay contest.

Boy Scouts – The Commander has applications for scouts wishing to apply for scholarships. He has also sent applications to both Ty Palmer and Connor Macklin who performed their Eagle Scout projects at Messinger Cemetery. He also met with Hannah, the scout wanting to build flag boxes for us. She has sent a donation request to us for her project.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report

Gifts to the Yanks – Jennifer and her team visited the homes on 21 December as planned. Robin stated that one vet had gone home, so we are now down to 19. She also said they have changed on how we sign cards to the vets. For holidays we all sign all the cards. For birthdays they will simply sign them 'from your brothers and sister at the American Legion'. The Commander stated that District was not happy with the District's Gifts to the Yanks program and were looking for suggestions on how to improve it.

The Commander brought gifts to Les O'Neal. He loves the Eagle. He looks good and is talking but has no memory. Robin stated that Tom Scheeler has moved to a Waterloo facility but does not talk at all. She asked about using money to pay for lunches for Les and Tom's wives and widows of past members. Doug stated SCVAC also allows funds for veteran's family assistance. The Commander suggested using a local SAL post to help widows with yard work. He also suggested inviting the wives and widows to the Recognition Dinner.

Children and Youth – No report

Oratorical – The Division had only one person apply for the contest. She was invited to Breese to practice her speeches. Reports from the field indicate she should do well at the Department contest on 25 February.

Boys State – Boys State will be held 10-16 June. Girls State will be held 18-24 June. We would like to sponsor one boy for \$300. If you know of someone who would like to attend, let the Commander know.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment - No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees – We need a committee to plan the Post Recognition Dinner. The dinner is currently scheduled for 24 April. Doug and Andrew volunteered to be part of the committee, but not the lead.

Sick Call – Bill Martin's mother is ill and he is trying to get her settled into a nursing home.

Unfinished Business

1. Building Sign – Kenny and Gary will attempt to install the sign tomorrow at 1400.
2. Ceremonial Weapons – Mike Kling informed the Commander that all four weapons are now cleaned and ready and need to be delivered to the VFW for storage.
3. Flag Retirement Ceremony – Looking to hold it either June 10th or 17th. We will try to get scouts and a SAL unit to help. We also plan on getting the Assisted Living Vets out to the cemetery. We hopefully will have food on site. We need a Committee Chair for this.

4. McAlister's Fundraiser – Scheduled for 25 Jan from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Shiloh location. It was suggested the money would go into the General Fund. Due to possible inclement weather, we need to be prepared to safely arrive if it does turn bad.

New Business – Hannah from Troop 8035G in O'Fallon sent in a request for a donation for her Eagle Scout project of building four flag boxes. Any additional material left over would be used to make boxes for Scott AFB. The estimated cost is \$750. This is for 2 boxes for the American Legion and 2 boxes for the VFW. Doug Jameson motioned to donate \$100. The was seconded by Robert Thomas. Membership approved.

Memorial to Departed Members – No known departed members.

For the Good of the Legion

1. Membership Caravan – The Commander and Jr Vice attended the Caravan. It was well attended. The message on the importance of membership, retaining members and recruiting members was emphasized. Do your best to grow the Legion.
2. The Commander attended the SCC Historical Society's annual meeting. The Post was awarded the Betty Hackmann Volunteer Award. They are very happy with our continued work at Messinger Cemetery.
3. Doug spoke on a Facebook post he saw concerning an organization that provides tickets to vets for things like sporting events. The address is Vettix.org.
4. It was mentioned that all veteran information is now located on one site – VA.gov instead of various sites the used to be on.

50/50 Results – \$15.50 to Kenney Green, he donated back to Veterans Visitation. Total amount \$31

Next Meeting to be held on February 27rd at 7PM

Meeting adjourned at 2014 hours