



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



January 27, 2025

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

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers and Executive Committee members were present with the excused absence of Sgt at Arms Gary Stacy and the absence of Executive Committee Member Robert Thomas.

Sgt at Arms, Kenny Green introduced guests Al Mahan, 22nd District Commander and CJ Ocasio Post 292.

The Commander suspended the reading of the minutes so copies of the minutes for November and December could be passed out to membership for review.

The **Membership Report** was given showing the Post with 136 of 158 paid members for 86.08%. There was a brief discussion on the difference National's numbers and the Department's. The Commander explained why these differences occur at the various levels.

Finance Report – The Finance Officer reported we had a checking account balance of \$6,927.78 available with and an additional \$723.27 in savings. We also have \$3,000 in a short-term Certificate of Deposit. A breakdown of funds held for the various programs was also provided. A motion was given by Chip Barbour to accept the report subject to audit. Seconded by Todd Herzog. Membership approved.

Poppies – No Report other than the Commander would be trying to schedule three events once businesses start accepting reservations.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting will be held January 28th at 7 p.m. at the VAC at 19 Public Square in Belleville. The Commander would be turning in the Delegate Confirmation Form for himself and Kori Bookman at the meeting.

Community Patriotic Observances – No Report

Honor Guard – No Report

Americanism – No Report

Boy Scouts – Dave Devine reported that after some system issues with National, both units were successfully rechartered.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report. The Commander asked for volunteers to review the bylaws.

Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets – The Commander stated that 5th Division Commander reminded members that if they planned on donating to the program, they had until March 1st for it to count for 2025. Anything after March 1st will count for 2026. Robin stated another vet had passed. We've made an impression on the vets. The Committee is planning a Valentine's event in February. The vets look forward to our visits. We did not receive anything this years from Department for the Gifts to the Yanks program. Donations are primarily used for the VA homes and anything left over is then given to Posts.

Children and Youth – No report

Oratorical – The Commander was a judge for the competition held in Centralia on January 11th. Grady won our Division competition and will compete in Springfield during the first weekend in March. Our runner-up was Kayden, who may also get to compete. We are waiting on the other Divisions to complete their competitions.

Boys State – No Report

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment – No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees

1. Fundraisers – None currently scheduled. We'll look into having one at McAlister's. This would be a 3-hour block. We could possibly set up a Poppy table if allowed. Texas Roadhouse also allows fundraising efforts between 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. This would be a 6-hour block. Steve Duff asked about using Swansea locations. The Commander stated if they found a business that was willing, we could look into it. Right now, most of the busiest locations seem to be in the Shiloh/O'Fallon shopping area. The Swansea Applebee's no longer allows us to use their location for fundraisers.

Sick Call – None reported

Unfinished Business

1. Post Invitation Cards – Todd Herzog's suggestion to have cards printed with meeting time and place details and POC were discussed. The cards would be used to hand to veterans who could be perspective members. After discussion a motion was made by Mary Monett to allow up to \$50 for 200 cards. Seconded by Jim Nickles. Membership approved.

Correspondence

1. Invitation from Post 1937 to participate in the upcoming Memorial Day parade and events in Belleville.
2. District Per Capita has been paid, \$15.80 (\$0.10 per member).
3. Division Per Capita will be paid after the amount is determined (est. \$31.60). The Commander personally pays for the Post.

New Business – None

Memorial to Departed Members – No known passings.

For the Good of the Legion

1. We will be having a Four Chaplains Ceremony during the February meeting.

2. The Commander announced that Andrew Dunham will be Chairing the Post meeting next month, He is being mentored for a future position as Post Commander.
3. Don Wallace announced that on March 29th, the Vietnam Veterans Breakfast will be held at the Edwardsville Post. Let him know if you are going by March 22nd.
4. Steve Duff asked if anyone wants to learn about the Post Finance Officer position.
5. Steve Duff asked about the retention time of financial records. He suspects it's 7 years. The Commander will check on it.
6. Steve Duff stated that Davey Trees worked on the trees at Messinger Cemetery on January 8th. They have recommitted themselves to helping with any tree needs there.
7. Robin stated that Joe Ocasio is her backup and has created a listing of vets we are supporting in the two assisted living facilities.
8. Our original Facebook page was re-accessed by Steve Duff, and it will replace our suspended page. All scam artists and their posts have been deleted and the page locked down so this cannot happen again.
9. Minutes were approved with two minor corrections for December.
10. Al Mahan, 22nd District Commander, spoke on a variety of topics. He started off by thanking our Commander for everything he has done for the Legion. He also thanked the membership and our Membership Committee for helping to raise our numbers in the District last year. District was near the top in membership numbers. He then asked members to consider serving in a position at various levels, replacing others in an elected position. He also impressed the importance of reviewing the Bylaws. Commander Mahan announced he had t-shirts available for the upcoming Suicide Awareness Walk that will be held on May 10th. Shirts are \$20 each. He then mentioned the membership year is August to August and spoke on related subjects, such as per capita and membership fees. He then expressed his appreciation for Jim Page and Don Scheyer for their mentoring of others. He finished up by expressing the importance on speaking to those who are in need. It can save a life.

50/50 results for half of the \$44 collected went to Jerry Sauerwein who donated back to the Visiting Vet program. The Pot of Gold name was pulled with Mark Keiser listed. He was not present so the \$103 rolled over to the next meeting on the 24th with \$125 in the pot.

Next Meeting to be held on February 24th at 7PM with Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2038 hours