



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



July 24, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 1904 hours by the Commander.

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

The Sgt at Arms introduced Marvin Groohuis as a perspective member.

The Commander asked if instead of reading the minutes each meeting, that it can be emailed to the membership or posted to the Facebook page to be read at their leisure. The consensus was overwhelming in favor of this.

The **Membership Report** was given with 54 paid members for the new membership year. We have received cards for the 23-24 year. The Commander asked that all members pay their dues as soon as possible.

Finance Report – we have opened an account with Regions. The Commander will try to close the old account this week and move everything to Regions. A consolidated report will be provided next month once funds are moved to the new account. A breakdown of individual program funds was not available. The Adjutant will go through previous minutes to ascertain the last balances for the individual programs.

Poppies – Dates for Poppy Days were set at the Organizational meeting. We will be at Lowes in Belleville on 14 October. We are looking to have another by the end of the year. We have tentatively put 20 April on the calendar.

Veteran Affairs – Doug Jameson stated the next meeting is 25 July at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. The Swansea AG's office would be making a presentation. Bring your Legion cap if you attend.

Community Patriotic Observances – The Commander stated we need to focus on these events. Steve Duff will be coordinating the Veterans Day ceremony at Wolf Branch School. On 10 November. If Swansea has a Veterans Day ceremony on the 11th we will attend. We also need to attend the Swansea 2024 Memorial Day ceremony. In addition, we need to provide Flag Retirement ceremonies as needed. Bill Martin will chair these.

Honor Guard – The Commander has contacted Mike to arrange the acceptance of the rifles at the VFW on either 30 July or 20 August. We will also be doing a Color Guard event on 14 October for the Plumbers and Pipefitters anniversary dinner. We will be gathering information for this event. In addition, we need to be present at the Wolf Branch ceremony and future Swansea ceremonies.

Americanism – We will be working with VFW Post 1739 on a Blood Drive. We will be trying to schedule for 3-5 February 2024. We need a chair for this event to get it scheduled.

Boy Scouts – No news on either project. The scouts are at the National Jamboree in West Virginia.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report

Gifts to the Yanks – We have put a placeholder on the calendar for the committee to make visits the week of December 11-15. We currently have 14 veterans that we serve in the homes. Robin saw Jennifer and she still hopes to be attending meetings in the fall.

Children and Youth – No Report. Need to start program at the end of August.

Oratorical – No Report. Need to start program at the end of August.

Boys State – No Report

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment - No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees – No Report

Sick Call – Carol Davis was feeling under the weather.

Unfinished Business – Rich Gaebel passed the hat for the Visiting Vets program. \$118 in donations were given.

Correspondence – The Adjutant announced the Post had received a \$50 donation from the family of a veteran who were very thankful for the Legion's efforts to recognize the deceased's military service at his funeral. We also received raffle tickets from the Sons of the American Legion in support of the Gifts to the Yanks program.

New Business – None

Memorial to Departed Members – Ed Monet passed recently. The Chaplain gave prayer and taps were played. Mary spoke briefly.

For the Good of the Legion

1. Convention Update

- a. The Department will be operating on a \$37,000 deficit due to the Department fundraiser not producing the expected funds. Additionally, costs for services and materials continue to rise. There is currently no plan to increase the per capita at Department or National. This could change if the trend continues.
- b. A Resolution was passed to see about re-organizing the Districts and Divisions. This is an ad hoc committee. If a plan develops, it will require another Resolution at a Department convention to adopt. Don't expect anything for a few years on this.
- c. Our new Department Commander is Delmar Buske, a retired IL State Police Officer and a good friend of the 22nd District.
- d. Our new Department Sr. Vice is Joe Lampert. He has been the Riders Commander and is looking forward to helping the Department grow.

2. Rich Gaebel asked why we haven't had anything published in the Swansea Report. We would need someone to take on creating articles and submitting them for publication.
3. Robin asked about Legion applications so they can be handed out as needed. The Commander stated they were available. He also spoke on how we should advertise to vets.
4. Bob Burrack Yard Waste – we need a truck and/or trailer and volunteers to remove it for him. The address is 1129 Lebanon Ave at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, the 29th.
5. Robert Thomas said a table could be set up at the Farmers Market held at Rural King for free to advertise for membership, but it would need volunteers to man it.
6. Rich Gaebel suggested creating a scholarship for members that cannot afford Legion Dues. The Commander stated that we can take care of people on a 1 on 1 basis and ensure their dues are paid. There was also discussion on paying dues for vets in the homes we support.

50/50 Results – won by Mary Monet, who donated her \$26 winnings back to the Vet Visitation program.

Next Meeting to be held on Aug 28th at 7PM with Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. Senior Vice will run the meeting as the Commander will be at the National Convention in Charlotte, NC.

Meeting adjourned at 2027 hours