



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



June 26, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 1914 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 Kenney Green and Executive Committee member Robert Thomas.

No guests in attendance.

May 2023 meeting minutes were read with motion to accept by Doug Jameson and seconded by Mary Monet. Minutes approved by membership.

The **Membership End-of-Year Report** was given showing the Post at 108% with 162 out of 150 members registered from last year. Any dues paid as of this week going forward will be towards next year's registration. Membership is down across the state with over 3K not reregistering. Our goal for next year is now 108+%.

Finance Report was provided by the Commander with \$6,985.78 in checking with one outstanding check for \$97 and \$3,225.12 in savings for a total of \$10,210.99. A breakdown of individual program funds was not available. The Commander will see if the Swansea Association will allow us to use their address for the post's mail. This will allow us to save \$194 annually in P.O. box rental fees.

Poppies – Our poppy day was 10 June at Swansea Schnucks. We raised \$818.65 in the 5-hour period thanks to the cheerfully energetic group that worked that day.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting of the VAC is Tuesday night, 27 June at 7 p.m. Doug Jameson announced that Kori Bookman has agreed to be our alternate representative with the Commander as our primary. He also reminded members that the VAC was working on setting up an Honor Trip for Vietnam Veterans for 9 November to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Perryville, MO. The currently have a request into the St. Clair County Transportation Board to provide a Metro bus, free of charge to transport the veterans and their guests to the wall. They are shooting for a zero cost for the veterans.

Community Patriotic Observances – The Commander spoke at the Granite City Memorial Day event and Doug Jameson also gave a speech in Chester. Both commented on how well the ceremonies went.

Honor Guard – Doug Jameson informed members that we had a request from the Local 101 Plumbers and Pipefitters union to present the colors at their 175th anniversary celebration.

Americanism – The Post held a Flag Retirement ceremony on 17 June at the Messinger Cemetery. The ceremony went well with a good turnout. Many flags were retired, but we still have quite a few more still to be retired. The VFW will be hosting a ceremony of their own in the future. The Commander thanked everyone involved in cooking and setup.

Doug Jameson represented the Post at the Swansea Flag Collection Day on the morning of the 17th. He collected several boxes of flags in an hour. The next event is 15 July. We need someone to man the event as the Commander will be in Springfield for the Convention.

Boy Scouts – The Commander received a text from the scout building the flag collection boxes. She was concerned that because the boxes were made of wood and would be in direct contact with the ground, that they would rot. She is working on a solution to this.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report

Gifts to the Yanks – The Commander stated that the Division GTTY Chair was not happy with the gifts they were receiving that go to the vets. Robin stated we still had 19 vets in the two homes we support.

Children and Youth – No Report

Oratorical – No Report

Boys State – The Commander received a message from Post 58 that they would not be able to sponsor Ryan McKenzie as planned. He contacted the Boys State Staff and informed them that our post would be sponsoring him. Ryan sent the Commander a letter describing his experience. The Commander already has a name for a boy to sponsor next year.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment - No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees – No Report

Sick Call – Robert Thomas was feeling under the weather.

Unfinished Business – None

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

1. The Commander polled membership on the time and date for our annual Organizational Planning Meeting. It was decided that the officers and interested members would meet on 8 July at 1300 at the Belleville VFW.
2. A motion was made by Rich Gaebel to reimburse Mary Monet for supplies bought in support of the Veterans Visitation Program. It was seconded by Doug Jameson. Membership approved.
3. A motion was made by Jerry Sauerwein to Reimburse Barb Page \$50 for food and supplies bought for the Flag Retirement ceremony. Seconded by Doug Jameson. Membership approved.

4. A motion was made by Rich Gaebel to reimburse the \$300 for the cost of sponsoring one boy to Boys State. Seconded by Doug Jameson. Membership approved.
5. Robin Latdrick motioned to have a separate fund created for donated 50/50 winnings to help fund a scholarship to Boys State. Steve Duff seconded with an amendment to name it the Carl Bales Boys State Memorial Fund. Robin agreed and membership approved.
6. Doug Jameson motioned that the \$50 donation received earlier from the funeral visitation be added to the Vet Visitation Program. Robin provided a quick explanation of what the program does. Seconded by Andrew Dunham. Membership approved.
7. Doug Jameson motioned that the Post buy all the aforementioned raffle tickets at a cost of \$40. Seconded by Bill Martin. Steve Duff asked to amend the motion to any winnings from the raffle would be put towards our Vet Visitation program. Amendment was agreed to, and membership approved.

Memorial to Departed Members – No known departed members.

For the Good of the Legion – Steve Duff, our new Finance Officer, suggested that we move to a new bank, possibly Regions. Our current bank, Commerce, charges us \$5 a month just to have an account. Regions amongst others, does not have fees. A motion to change banks was made by Rich Gaebel and seconded by Jim Wilson. Membership approved. Rich Gaebel then motion to move the account to Regions. Seconded by Jim Wilson. Membership approved.

Doug Jameson spoke on a program called honorrewards.com. It is free for veterans to sign up for. They will receive a letter in the mail with a card that gives you a discount at participating businesses. Currently there are only five local businesses signed up. He encouraged members to promote the site to other businesses.

Robin gave an update on Jennifer. She said Jennifer has been traveling all over the country and is hoping to be back in the Fall.

Steve Duff suggested that members call other members prior to Post meetings to remind them of the meeting in hopes of boosting attendance.

50/50 Results – won by Robin Latdrick, who donated her \$22.50 winnings back to the Vet Visitation program.

Next Meeting to be held on June 26th at 7PM with Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2030 hours