



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



June 23, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 1900 hours by the Commander.

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers and Executive Committee members were present with the excused absence of Senior Vice Andrew Dunham and Executive Committee Member Robert Thomas.

The Sergeant at Arms announced two guests in attendance: CJ Ocasio from Post 292 and Marshall Zoss.

No special presentations.

The Commander asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting minutes. One minor change was noted, so minutes stand as corrected. There was a brief discussion on how minutes were disseminated to the membership. It was explained that the first draft was submitted to the Commander by the Adjutant for review and corrections as needed. Revised minutes are then disseminated to the membership via email and then posted to the Post website.

The **Membership Report** was given showing the Post ended the year with 151 of 158 members paid for 95.57%. The Commander stated we needed to work hard at reaching 100% for the coming year. Dues notices will start going out on July 1st with additional mailings in October, November, January, March and May. The Commander emphasized the expiration date on your membership card. Dues are staying the same at \$40.

Finance Report – The Finance Officer reported we had a checking account balance of \$6,480.26 available with and an additional \$723.32 in savings. We also have repurchased our \$3,000 short-term Certificate of Deposit. A breakdown of funds held for the various programs was also provided. A motion was made by Steve Duff to accept the report subject to audit. Seconded by Jim Nickles. Membership approved.

Poppies – Poppy Day on May 24th took in over \$800. The next Poppy Day is August 9th at the Greenmount Commons Lowes. We will wait until after the August date before sending out donations to the various organizations the Post supports.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting will be held June 24th at 7 p.m. at the VAC at 19 Public Square in Belleville.

Community Patriotic Observances – There was a good turnout at the Memorial Day Parade and the ceremony at Walnut Hill. Bill Martin reported we also had a good turnout at the Flag Retirement ceremony at Messinger Cemetery with a large number of scouts plus members from the VFW. Rain caused an early end to the prepared lunch afterwards.

Honor Guard – Rich Gaebel said that the Honor Guard members are few. There was a discussion about keeping the Color Guard element. Asked for those members wishing to volunteer, they could talk to Rich. Rich also noted that the vendor we had been getting uniforms from had closed. He will look for other options.

Americanism – No Report

Boy Scouts – The Commander stated that in addition to our supported scout units' participation at the Flag Retirement ceremony, the scout that originally planned on putting in cement pads had been given an extension for his project due to personal circumstances. He has already cleared two 8 ft by 8 ft areas for the pads and expected the cement to be delivered this week. It was also mentioned our scout troops had just returned from summer camp on Saturday.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report. The Commander stated we may need someone to take this on due to the continuing health issues that Robert Thomas was dealing with.

Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets – Robin Latdrick reported that she discovered additional veterans in our supported retirement homes that were not on our list. We now have 18 veterans between the homes. She also stated that the Eagle statues had been presented to both homes and will be displayed in common areas.

Children and Youth – No Report

Oratorical – No Report

Boys State – The Commander reported that the boy we were supporting did not respond to communications until late. At that point he stated he thought it was later in the year, and he would not be able to attend. Robin suggested posting notices next year in places seniors attend such as community centers in hopes they might suggest attendance to their grandchildren.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment – No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees

1. Annual Dinner – No report
2. Buddy Checks – Completed. The Commander stated that National wanted this done three times a year.

Sick Call – Andrew Dunham was still dealing with issues resulting from his cataract surgery. Robert Thomas was supposed to be released from the rehab center but was not doing well. Carol Davis fell and injured herself.

Unfinished Business

1. Election of 3 Year Executive Board Member – The Commander called for nominations for the vacant position. Bill Martin nominated Todd Herzog. He accepted. No other nominations were made. The Commander asked the Adjutant to cast the single vote which was made for Todd. The election was then closed.

Correspondence

1. Paperwork for the Call for the National Caucus in July which the Commander will attend.

2. Standard election paperwork for new officers and Post report which have already been submitted.
3. Raffle tickets for the Detachment for the Gifts to the Yanks program. Steve Duff motioned to purchase all tickets for \$40 by the Post. This was seconded by Bill Martin. Membership approved.
4. Request for a \$50 donation from the Chicagoland Combined Veteran's Museum and Library, Inc.

New Business

1. The installation of Officers was postponed due to several of the officers not being present.
2. Todd Herzog asked about adding the Commander's Comments newsletter to the website. Adjutant will scan and add them.
3. Todd also asked about posting the By Laws. They will also be added once received from the Commander.
4. Messinger Cemetery cleanup will be held this coming Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The Commander stated that the grommets from the flag retirement had been removed from the fire pit by scouts and the ashes were ready to be properly buried.

Memorial to Departed Members – No known passings.

For the Good of the Legion

1. Rich Gaebel asked about using the microphone and speaker system due to hearing problems on the floor. The Commander said he would bring it to the next meeting.
2. Steve Duff mentioned there was a new superintendent at High Mount school and wondered about the possibility of contacting him to gain access to the school. He suggested going through the Wolf Branch school superintendent for an introduction.
3. Rich Gaebel asked if we had a new address for Les O'Neal. Robin will check to see if she can find the address.
4. Steve Duff spoke about Doyle E. Trese, an Edwardsville WWII veteran who celebrated his 100th birthday this year. He said he was a tail gunner and had experienced several bailouts and time as a POW. He wanted to submit his name for a Quilt of Valor to be presented at the November Veterans Day ceremony at Wolf Branch school.
5. Barb Page showed Jim Page's Quilt of Valor to the membership. The Commander spoke on how much receiving the quilt meant to him. He also said that any member that had not received one could get a request form from Barb.

30/30/30 results for a third of the \$51 collected went to Kenny Green who donated his \$17 back to the Visiting Vet program. The Pot of Gold name was pulled with Lynne Collins listed. She was not present so the \$116 rolled over to the next meeting on July 28th with \$133 in the pot.

Next Meeting to be held on July 28th at 7PM with Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2013 hours