



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



March 25, 2024

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 except for the excused absence of the Sr. Vice, Executive Committee Member Kori Bookman and Sergeant at Arms Keith Green and the unexcused absence of Executive Committee Member Robert Thomas.

The Sergeant at Arms introduced Tim Ogier of the Vet Center.

The Commander turned the meeting over to Mr. Ogier who announced a Vet Center sponsored National Vietnam War Veterans Day event to be held on Wednesday, 27 March at the Metro East Vet Center in Swansea. Ceremony kicks off at 1100 with Vietnam Era Veterans receiving pins. The Commander thanked Tim for all he does for veterans.

Previous month's minutes were read by Executive Committee members who voted to accept the minutes as written to shorten the Post meeting. Bill Martin motioned to accept and was seconded by Steve Duff. Membership approved.

The **Membership Report** was given with 151 out of 162 paid members for the new membership which puts us at 93.21%. The Commander asked that if anyone knew of someone who has not paid yet, to encourage them to do so, so we can reach 100%.

Finance Report – The Finance Officer provided balances for the checking and savings accounts, \$7,396.10 and \$3,722.99 respectively. Steve Duff motioned to accept subject to audit and seconded by Rich Gaebel. Membership approved.

Poppies –Poppy Day was held on 9 March 2024 at the Greenmount Common Lowes. There was a chill in the air throughout the morning, but warming up in the afternoon and members were able to collect \$590.

Veteran Affairs – The next VAC meeting will be held on 27 March at 1900 at 1 Public Square. The Commission had sponsored a bus trip to the Vietnam Wall in Perryville. Post members Carols and Andrew participated, representing the Post. The Commander stated it was well worth the trip to visit the Wall. The Commander also stated the VAC has been busy improving services for veterans. They even have a lawyer on retainer to ensure their efforts are done right.

Community Patriotic Observances – We still need to decide if we wish to walk in the Belleville Memorial Day Parade or ride on a trailer. Discussion was held on if we ride, how will the Honor Guard would be utilized. Suggestions were made that possibly scouts would carry the Post flag. Planning for the ceremony at Walnut Hill Cemetery will be a joint Legion and VFW effort.

Honor Guard – Rich Gaebel stated he was having problems finding Honor Guard members to help out at the March 27 Vietnam Veterans ceremony. Many of the members stated they were not available. Carol volunteered to help.

Americanism – No report

Boy Scouts – Troop 8053 is still looking for service project hours for their scouts.

Constitution and By Laws – Committee Chair Robert Thomas was not available, but the Commander stated the bylaws must be reviewed and he is looking for volunteers to help in the review process.

Gifts to the Yanks – The Commander stated that Jennifer contacted him. She is doing fine but felt that she would not be able to put the time into the program as the Committee Chair. Robin stated they were serving 11-12 veterans in our supported homes. There were Easter cards available for signing. She would deliver them by the end of the week. The veterans and their families are very appreciative of the support our team gives them.

Children and Youth – No Report.

Oratorical – No report.

Boys State – We have a youth's name to sponsor – Gabriel Lang. The cost is \$400.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment - No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees – No Report

Sick Call – No news except Kori Bookman is doing well and recovering from his surgery.

Unfinished Business –

1. Annual Dinner – The Commander asked if there were any volunteers to chair the dinner. Barb Page volunteered. The suggested date would be 20 May instead of the usual fourth Monday due to it falling on Memorial Day.

Correspondence – Post Report and Officer Election forms were received.

New Business –

1. Messinger Cemetery – The Executive Board will set dates for future clean ups. Davey Trees will cut trees after Thanksgiving.
2. Dues – National is raising the per capita. The new per capita for National and Department will be \$40 starting with the 2025 membership year. The Executive Committee voted to keep dues at current level of \$40 for the coming year and readdress whether to raise it or not in 2025 for the 2026 membership

year. We may need additional fundraisers to supplement the approximate loss of \$500 we receive back. Rich Gaebel motioned to accept the committee decision to leave dues at \$40. Seconded by Andrew Dunham. Membership approved.

3. Post Officer Nominations – Motion to suspend the meeting in order to make nominations for Post officers was made by Steve Duff and seconded by Andrew Dunham. Membership approved.
 - Commander – Steve Duff nominated Jim Page for the office of Commander. Jim Page accepted.
 - Senior Vice Commander – Rich Gaebel nominated Doug Jameson for the office of Senior Vice Commander. Doug was not present to accept or decline.
 - Junior Vice Commander – Steve Duff nominated Bill Martin for the office of Junior Vice Commander. Bill Martin accepted.
 - Finance Officer – Rich Gaebel nominated Steve Duff for the office of Finance Officer. Steve Duff accepted.
 - 3-year Executive Board Member – Rich Gaebel nominated Andrew Dunham for the 3-year Executive Board Member position. Andrew Dunham accepted.

Nominations were suspended until next meeting.

4. Resolution – Jr. Vice Commander Bill Martin assumed command from the Commander.
 - The Jr. Vice read a Resolution nominating Jim Page for the position of 5th Division Commander. Jim has been a member of the Legion for 31 years and served in various positions at different levels. Steve Duff motioned to accept the Resolution, seconded by Rich Gaebel. Membership approved. Elections for the 5th Division will be held June 9th in Louisville.
 - The Commander resumed command.

Memorial to Departed Members – No news of members that passed.

For the Good of the Legion

1. 5th Division meeting to be held at the O-Fallon Post 137 on 7 April at 1300.
2. 22nd District Meeting to be held at Dupo Post 485 on 14 April at 1300.
3. Steve Duff stated something needed to be done about the Messinger Cemetery benches and tables. He asked if it could be an Eagle project. The Commander stated that concrete pads needed to be poured so the benches and tables would have stable ground to support them. Whatever is to be done needs to be approved by the SCCHS.
4. The Commander stated that Student Awards at Wolf Branch were coming up. We could possibly present Legion supplied medals for the event. Steve Duff will make arrangements.
5. Rich Gaebel reiterated his concern about the Honor Guard. He is very concerned that he does not have members forthcoming when he tries to arrange events for the Honor Guard to attend. The Commander mentioned that the Belleville VFW had similar issues and ventured the possibility of a joint Legion/VFW joint Honor Guard.

Next Meeting to be held on April 22nd, 2024 at 7PM with Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2016hours

50/50 Results – won by Rich Gaebel, who donated his \$16 winnings back to the Honor Guard fund.