



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



22 November 2021 Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 1906 hrs. by the Commander.

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers present except the Senior Vice.

The Sgt. At Arms introduced guests Janet Smith from VFW Post 4183 and Chris Coulter.

October meeting minutes were read with motion to accept by Steve Duff and seconded by Jerry Sauerwein. Minutes approved by membership with one correction.

The Membership Report was given showing the post currently has only 102 paid members for the current year.

The Finance Officer provided a breakdown of the post's accounts with \$11,264.72 in the General Fund, \$35 set aside for the Haven, \$66.50 for Gifts for the Yanks and \$109 for the Honor Guard with an additional \$3,283.85 in Savings. Rich Gaebel motioned to accept the finance report subject to audit. Seconded by Steve Duff. Membership approved.

Poppies – The Poppy Chair stated that \$1,704.93 had been raised at the Poppy Sales at Lowes. He suggested the funds be disbursed with \$300 to the Gifts to the Yanks program, \$250 to Camp Hope, \$250 to Honor Flight Southern Illinois, \$250 to Fischer House, \$250 to the Quincy Mayfest and \$354.93 to The Haven. The Commander informed the membership that the Quincy Mayfest is sponsored by the 22nd District Auxiliary and will provide activities for vets at Quincy. Les O'Neal raised the concern that sending funds to the Department program rather than using it locally would leave the local program without funds to buy gifts for our supported retirement homes if Department doesn't have enough money or supplies to provide for our needs. Rich Gaebel motioned to allocate the funds as suggested. Robin Latdrick seconded. Membership approved. It was noted that money was set aside from the 50-50 drawings to support the program will be held for now.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting of the St. Clair VAC will be November 30th at 7 p.m.

Community Patriotic Observances – There were two Veterans Day events during the month of November at Wolf Branch School and Belleville Square. Both are well attended by Post members. The next event is the 7 December ceremony at Messinger Cemetery.

Commented [JP1]: \$250

Commented [JP2]: \$250

Honor Guard –Rich Gaebel stated he would like to order ascots for the Honor Guard for use during warmer months instead of having to wear a tie. He motioned to use the money set aside for the Honor Guard to buy 10 gold ascots. Jerry Sauerwein seconded. Membership approved.

Americanism – Senate Bill 544 is still bouncing around with no headway.

Boy Scouts – The Commander presented scholarship opportunities for scouts at the St. Clair District Roundtable. He talked to both parents and scouts.

Constitution and By Laws – No report.

Gifts to the Yanks – Al Mahan, the District and Division Chair, reported that the 22nd District donated over \$4,000 for the program. It is uncertain, but it's believed the material will be sent out the first week of December. We still need to find out how many local veterans we have in our supported homes.

Children and Youth – The Commander will try to get into the Wolf Branch School to get contestants for both the Oratorical and Essay contests.

Oratorical – If we succeed in getting participants, they will be judged by the Post. Only the 1st place winner can go forward.

Boys State – Juniors and Seniors can go to the state level program, but they cannot go to Boys Nation.

No reports for any other program area.

Sick Call – no report of any sick members.

Unfinished Business –

Horseshoe Pit – The cost is estimated to be between \$196 to \$ 220. Rich Gaebel motioned to table the project until Spring. Robin seconded. Membership approved.

Flag Collection Barrel – The Commander stated he had already paid \$110 to have one completed. Still waiting on it.

McAlister's Fundraiser – still no update from McAlister's on when and if they will continue the program.

Sign on Swansea Improvement Center – Still no news from the vendor.

Messinger Cemetery Cleanup – Scheduled for 4 December from 0900 to Noon. Davey Tree will be out on 29 November to work of trees and brush pile removal. The SCCHS will allow small rose bushes. Jerry Sauerwein will be putting poinsettias on Rose's grave.

Pearl Harbor Ceremony – December 7th at Messinger Cemetery. Be in place by 10:30 a.m.

Post Polo Shirts – we need an approved design.

New Business –

- Les spoke about members that cannot make it meeting might like to know what is happening. A knock on their door to make contact would help. Rich Gaebel asked if the Commander was sending out emails. The answer is yes, so check your spam folder if you aren't seeing them.

Memorial to Departed Members – No members were reported as departing.

For the Good of the Legion –

- Steve Duff gave an update on the Wolf Branch Dedication. He stated donations large and small came in and helped fund the project. He received several positive comments on the plaza. The staff and students helped out a lot to make it happen. He thanked the Post for participating. Over 1,000 people attended. A 90 yr old Korean War vet was selected to receive the Peace Medal. Rich Gaebel thanked the Honor Guard members that attended.
- The Commander read an email he sent out concerning buddy checks. Buddy checks do work.
- Rich reiterated on how much we actually did for veterans during the Poppy event by sending them to the truck.
- The Commander mentioned how we need to determine what women veterans need who have returned from Afghanistan.
- Steve Duff stated that the VA was now looking into the Burn Pit issue with vets that served in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- The concern was raised about returning vets needing help. The Crisis Hotline is 1-800-273-8255.

50/50 Results – Won by Bob Burrack – again, which he donated back to the Gifts for the Yanks program.

Next Meeting to be held on 27 December with Executive Meeting at 1830 hrs.

Meeting adjourned at 2035 hrs.