



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



November 24, 2025

This Regular Membership Meeting was called to order by the Senior Vice-Commander at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll call of Post officers was conducted and all officers and Executive Committee members were present with exception of the excused absence of the Commander, Jim Page; Junior Vice-Commander, Bill Martin; one of the Sergeant-at-Arms, Gary Stacey; and Executive Committee member, Robert Thomas.

Sgt-At-Arms Report on Guests: The Sergeant-at-Arms stated there were no guests, but announced that we had a member in attendance who we haven't seen regularly, Theo Hughes and his wife. The assembly welcomed Theo.

Special Guest Presentations: None.

Review and Acceptance of the Oct. 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Todd Herzog informed the Chair that a draft copy of the Oct. 27th General Meeting Minutes was emailed to 117 members on Nov 6th, and mailed to 32 members, on Nov 6th. No recommended changes from those mailings were received. As such, the minutes stand as written.

Standing Committee Reports:

The **Membership Report** was given by the Sr. Vice Commander stating that 113 of 151 members of the Post (74.83%) have paid the 2026 membership fee.

The **Finance Report** for the period ending October was given by the Finance Officer, Steve Duff, and he also distributed the report to members in attendance. Beginning balance was \$8,164.45 in checking account, with \$1,299.81 in deposits, \$539.51 in withdrawals, \$375.00 in checks outstanding, leaving \$8,549.75 available cash on hand. There was an additional \$723.37 in savings. The CD of \$3,043.31 purchased in May has earned \$58.73 in interest. A motion was given by Todd Herzog to accept the report, and the motion was seconded by Chip Barbour. The Chair called for discussion, none was conducted, and then a vote on the motion was taken. The ruling on the vote resulted in the motion to accept the Finance Report being passed.

The **Poppy Program Report.** The Chair informed the members that the distribution of contributions will be announced during the December meeting.

The **Veteran Affairs Report.** The Chair announced that a Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) board meeting was being conducted tonight to discuss its budget for 2026, and the next VAC meeting was scheduled for Nov. 25th. 7:00 p.m. at 19 Public Square, 1st floor conference room.

The Community Patriotic Observances Report.

- Nov 7. Our post legionnaires participated in the Wolf Branch Middle School Veterans Day Assembly; Presented 2 Quilts of Valor, and provided an honor wreath, taps bugler and 3-person rifle team.
- Nov 11. Our American Legion Post participated in the 27th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Honorary Veterans Memorial Square, downtown Belleville. Members in American Legion uniform were present and our post's American Legion Flag was displayed by a flag bearer.
- Dec 5th we will assemble at 10:00 a.m. to perform Messinger Clean up and set out U.S. flags along Old Collinsville Road.
- Dec 6th we will assemble 11:00-12:30 at Messinger Cemetery for Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony.
 - Meet at 10:00 a.m. Rifle Team: Kenny Green & Joe Ocasio, Bugler: Andrew Dunham, Memorial Wreath: Steve Duff
- Dec 7th we will assemble at 10:00 a.m. to remove U.S. flags along Old Collinsville Road and return them to storage.

The Honor Guard Report. No Report.

The Americanism Report. No Report.

The Boy Scouts Report was given by Dave Devine who announced that the life scouts are working Eagle Scout projects. Two are in the planning stage.

Steve Duff added a Point of Information: On Saturday, November 8th, the Wolf Branch Girl Scout Troop 589 provided help during our Messinger Cemetery cleanup activity, as well as placed small U.S. flags at headstones and helped position the large U.S. flags in their mounts along the roadside.

The Constitution and By Laws Report. No Report. Todd Herzog had a Point of Inquiry: When will the finalized draft be sent to all Post members for review, and what is the target date of the Regular meeting to ratify the documents? The inquiry could not be answered.

The Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets Report was given by Robin Latdrick who announced that there are 24 Christmas cards on the table that will be given to our veterans residing in local assisted living homes, and requested that everyone sign the cards before leaving the meeting. Robin also informed members that the committee could use help building the Christmas gift bags for our veterans on Dec 8th, 10:00 a.m. at the VFW Post 1739, 300 North Charles St., Belleville, IL. Robin also announced that the gift bags are planned to be delivered on Dec. 15th at 10:00 a.m. to the Evervella of Swansea Nursing Home, followed by the Cambridge House of Swansea. All members of the post are invited to participate in the gift bag delivery.

The Children and Youth Report. No Report. Todd Herzog had a Point of Inquiry: Has the Children and Youth Committee Chairperson made contact with the mayor of Swansea regarding volunteers needed for the Christmas program? The inquiry could not be answered.

The Oratorical Report. No Report.

The Boys State Report. No Report.

Rehabilitation Report. No Report.

Employment Report. No Report.

Post Service Officer Report. No Report. The Commander informed members during the Oct. 27th meeting that he will be removing this report from all future meeting agendas due to reasons of training and liability concerns. The St Clair County VAC has the training credentials and manpower to provide services for our local veterans.

National Security Report. No Report.

Member Communications Report. Todd Herzog informed the Chair that:

- We have mailing addresses for 146 of our 147 living members.
1 member does not have any valid contact information.
- We have good email addresses for 116 of 147 living members, but 3 of those members requested postal mail in lieu of emails.
- 33 of our members need postal mailings.
- We have 56 members in our Facebook Group for disseminating American Legion information & our post activities.

Since our Oct 27th Regular Meeting:

- Oct 30th, a Data Collection form for our annual CPR was emailed to 117 members.
- Nov 6th, the Oct 27 Meeting Minutes and Commanders comments were emailed to 117 of our members
- On Nov 7th, a Public Service Announcement was emailed to Swansea Mayor and Admin office (Our participation in Wolf Branch Vet Day Assembly, to include photos).
- Nov 8th, the Oct 27 Meeting Minutes and Commanders comments were printed and mailed to 32 members.
- 18 posts have been made to our Facebook Group page

Other Reports Designated by the Commander

1. **Annual Dinner Report:** No Report. The Chair informed members that the dinner is still scheduled for April.
2. **Buddy Check Report:**
 - Bill Martin, Todd Herzog, and Jim Nickles met Nov. 1st to kick off the Buddy Check program. A list of 147 members was divided between 3 Buddy Check volunteers. Buddy Check emails were sent to 113 members, and Buddy Check letters were mailed to 23 members. No contact information on 1 member.
 - 100% members contacted, except 1 member without contact info.
 - Thus far, 15 members responded via email with "Thank You for the Buddy Check."
 - One member is battling cancer, but said he's being taken care of. No other Legionnaires were noted that require our assistance.
3. **Blood Donation Drive Report.**

Mary Monett announced that she made a slight change to the blood donation event. The event will now be held on Jan. 23, 2026 between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. at the Swansea Improvement Association meeting hall with the American Red Cross. Soup, crackers, other snacks, and refreshments will be provided to blood donors. To seek participation from the local community, Todd Herzog will be sending a Community Service announcement to the Swansea Government Center for inclusion in its January edition of the Swansea Report.

Sick Call. The Chair informed members that our Jr. Vice-Commander is doing well.

Unfinished Business

1. Updating our 2020 By-Laws. Reference the Constitution and By Laws Report paragraph on pg. 2.
2. Meeting with High Mount School Superintendent to provide information about the 7th & 8th grade American Legion Essay Contest prizes and other American Legion awards focused on students. No Report.
3. Volunteers to establish a Social (camaraderie and fun) Committee, Fundraising Committee, and Public Relations and Media Outreach Committee.

Todd Herzog made a motion that post officers and Executive Committee members cease actions to gain Committee chairpersons for the Social (camaraderie & fun), Fundraising, and Public Relations & Media committees, and remove this business item from all future post meeting agendas until such time interest from membership is renewed. The motion was seconded by Kenny Green and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. A member questioned the impact on our fundraising activity at McCalister's Deli. He was informed that it would not have an impact because there was never a fundraising committee established for that event. That event was solely organized by a volunteer from our membership who stated she did not want to be a chairperson for a Fundraising Committee. After discussion the Chair called for a vote. The vote resulted in the motion being carried.

4. Placing order for our Post shirts. Orders from members are still being taken until we reach the minimum quantity of 12.
5. Acceptance of the Post's 2025-2026 programs, events, and calendar created during the Sep. 27th Organizational Meeting. The Chair informed us that the calendar will be sent to all members.

Incoming Correspondence (Adjutant)

1. We received a Thank You card from the Sheeler family for the honors we presented during the memorial service, and the card included a \$100 donation to our post.
2. We received a Thank You letter from the Marion VA CDCE for our monetary donation to help their Blessing Box program for 365 veterans in their community.
3. We received a Thank You letter from the Memorial Day Foundation for our monetary donation to help place a Holiday wreath on Dec. 13th at the central memorials in the overseas cemeteries where American service members are buried, to honor and remember those service members.

New Business

1. Todd Herzog made a motion to contribute \$75 to the Swansea Family Christmas Fund, and that the funds are received by Swansea Government Center no later than Dec. 11th 2025. The motion was seconded by Chip Barbour. The Chair opened the floor for discussion, none was conducted, and then a vote on the motion was taken. The Chair's ruling on the vote resulted in the motion being carried.
2. Todd Herzog made a motion to dissolve the Post's Veterans Rehabilitation Committee, Veterans Employment Committee, and Veterans Education Committee, and in their place provide information about those subjects in the Post's Veteran Affairs Committee Report. The motion was seconded by Steve Duff. The Chair opened the floor for discussion, none was conducted, and then a vote on the motion was taken. The Chair's ruling on the vote resulted in the motion being carried.

3. Todd Herzog began to make a motion that The Charles A. Woodford American Legion Post 2007 shall sponsor Swansea and Belleville students participating in The Department of Illinois 2026 Americanism Essay Contest. He then withdrew the motion due to his perceived desire by members to finish the meeting soon, which was running late.

Memorial to Departed Members. Todd Herzog informed members that Steve Pleshe passed away 11/4/2025, and was laid to rest 11/6/2025. Steve had forty-three continuous years as Legionnaire. Condolence email was sent to Dana 11/9/2025. His two daughters had a private viewing with their father to say goodbye, and laid him to rest immediately after the viewing. Dana, one of his daughters, said "My Dad did not want any fuss or fanfare; he was a humble and private man." "I miss him terribly, and yes, he has been my entire world for the past 6.5 years, and right now I feel quite lost. Todd asked our Chaplain to include his daughters in our closing prayer.

For the Good of the Legion. No information presented.

30/30/30 Raffle Drawing. The ticket drawn for one third of the \$33 collected matched the ticket held by Steve Duff.

Pot of Gold Drawing. The name drawn for the \$89 Pot of Gold was Jerry Cowart. He was not present to collect the prize, so the pot was rolled over and money added for the next meeting on Dec. 15th with \$100 in the pot for that drawing.

The next **Regular Membership Meeting** will be held on Dec. 15th at 7 p.m. with our Sr. Vice Commander presiding over the meeting.

The next **Executive Council Meeting** will be held on Dec. 15th at 6:15 p.m.

The Sr. Vice-Commander adjourned this November 24, 2025, Regular Membership Meeting at 8:37 p.m.