



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



October 23, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 1910 hours by the Commander.

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers and Executive Committee members present with the exception of the excused absence of Executive Committee member Kori Bookman.

No guests in attendance.

Previous month's minutes were read. Motion to accept by Doug Jameson and seconded by Andrew Dunham.

The **Membership Report** was given with 103 out of 162 paid members 23 October for a 63.58% renewal rate. Last year at this time we were at 66.67%. We need to be 80% by the end of November and 110% by the end of the year. The Commander spoke on the importance of renewing on time as you lose insurance coverage for the period of time between 31 December and the date you renew,

Finance Report –The Finance Officer reported there was \$6,822.88 in checking and \$3,722.84 in savings for a total of \$10,045.72. A breakdown of individual program funds was provided on the back of the report. Robert Thomas motioned to accept subject to audit and was seconded by John Boothe. Membership approved.

Poppies – Poppy Day was 21 October at the Lowes across from SWIC. We had good weather, but a small turn out of workers. We raised approximately \$640. A final report will be given once funds are deposited by the Finance Officer. There has been a change to the program with the cost of the poppies increasing to \$165 per One Thousand. This includes a \$15 donation to the Haven. Shipping has also gone up to \$8 for 1,000 or less and \$15 for more than 1,000

Veteran Affairs –The next meeting is 31 October at 7 p.m. at the Millstadt VFW Post 1739 which will include a dinner and election of officers and a recommended budget for the coming year.

Community Patriotic Observances – Wolf Branch School will need 3 rifle bearers for the Veteran's Day ceremony on 9 November. Kenny and Andrew volunteered. November 11th the City of Belleville is holding its ceremony at the Fountain at 11 a.m. Need a volunteer to hold the Post flag. Need to be in place by 10:45. Belleville East is also holding a Veterans Day ceremony on 9 November at 2:30 p.m. All veterans are invited. It will be held at the Performing Arts Center.

Honor Guard – Doug Jameson gave a report on the flag presentation ceremony for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union 101. Carol, Kenny, Andrew and Doug made up the team. Carol gave the invocation. There were approximately 200 people in attendance.

Americanism – We need youth for the Oratorical and Essay programs.

Boy Scouts – Dave Devine stated the Scoutmaster of our sponsored troop invited Post members to attend their Eagle Scout Court of Honor followed by the troop Court of Honor on November 28th at 6:45 p.m. at the Union United Methodist Church's Krause Room.

Constitution and By Laws – There is an issue across the District concerning Constitutions and By Laws. Robert Thomas is reviewing ours to see if we also have the same issue. The Commander asked for volunteers to help Robert on the committee. National has a template that will be used.

Gifts to the Yanks – Robin has selected the gifts and will place the order tonight after the meeting. She also stated there were cards available for members to sign that will be given to veterans in our supported homes. The Commander stated that the Department only received \$94K instead of \$150K for the program, so there is no guarantee on what gifts we will receive. We won't know what we're getting until they arrive.

Children and Youth – No Report.

Oratorical – No Report.

Boys State – The cost per participant has gone up to \$400. The program only had 205 participants this year. We're looking to increase that number next year.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment - No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees – No Report

Sick Call – Robert Thomas is still recovering.

Unfinished Business –

1. Post Insurance – Due by November 1st. Steve Duff stated that he could not find anything cheaper than what we already have.
2. Joe's Pizza Fundraiser – Doug Jameson said it will be held 14 to 16 November from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dine to donate. You can dine in or have delivery, but you must mention the Legion in order for the delivery to count towards the fundraiser.
3. Messinger Cemetery Clean-up and Flag Retirement – October 28th 9 a.m. to noon. Flag retirement will be conducted by the VFW. Steve Duff mentioned the Flagman has about 300 flags that need to be retired.
4. McAlister's Fundraiser – Barb Page informed members it would be held on 24 October from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Shiloh location. Five to six volunteers are needed to work it.

Correspondence – Department newsletter and funds requests from Trees for Troops and Wreaths for National Cemeteries overseas.

New Business – None

Memorial to Departed Members – Though no members of our Post were reported as departed, the Commander spoke briefly on the loss of Wayne Wirz of the Highland Post 439. He was very active in Legion baseball, winning a few state championships as well as being a member of the Sons of the American Legion and held District positions of Adjutant and Commander.

For the Good of the Legion

1. Steve Duff spoke on the repatriation of Cpl Hearst's remains from the Philippine Islands. Cpl Hearst was a Bataan Death March survivor that passed away while interred in a POW camp. He is coming home on 24 October. The Patriot Guard will escort him to the funeral home. The Flagman Mission Continues will be putting out flags long the route. Service will be held on Saturday.
2. Steve Duff also spoke about the Flagman Mission Continues and asked about donations towards his needs in flag replacement. See Steve to donate.

50/50 Results – won by Jerry Sauerwein, who donated his \$27 winnings to the Flagman Mission Continues. Robin then motioned that the entire \$54 of the 50/50 be donated. Seconded by Kenny Green. Membership approved.

Next Meeting to be held on November 27th at 7 p.m. with Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2038 hours