



**Charles A. Woodford**  
**American Legion Post 2007**



**October 27, 2025**

This Regular Membership Meeting was called to order by the Commander at 7:03 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 Adjutant, Dave Devine, and one of the Sergeant-At-Arms, Gary Stacey.

**Sgt-At-Arms Report on Guests:** The Sergeant-at-Arms stated there were no guests in attendance, but Bill Latz was in attendance who was invited to our meeting by the Commander to brief our members.

**Special Guest Presentations:** The Commander introduced Bill Latz from the USO at the St. Louis International Airport. Mr. Latz provided an overview of the USO operations that take place at the St. Louis International Airport, an overview about the personnel they service, and informed members of how they can volunteer to help. Several questions were asked by our members and answered by Mr. Latz.

**Review and Acceptance of Sep. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** The Commander informed members that the September meeting minutes were emailed and mailed to our members, and asked if there were any changes that needed to be made. No changes were noted, so the minutes stand as written.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

The **Membership Report** was given by the Jr. Vice Commander stating that 109 of 151 members the Post (72%) have paid the 2026 membership fee. The Commander hopes we can reach our goal of 100% paid 2026 membership before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The **Finance Report** for the period ending Sept. 30th was given by the Finance Officer, Steve Duff, and he also distributed the report to members in attendance. There was \$8,164.45 in checking account, with \$1,862.11 checks outstanding, leaving \$6,302.34 available. There was an additional \$723.36 in savings. The CD of \$3,043.31 purchased in May earned \$38.81 in interest. A motion was given by Jim Nickles to accept the report, and the motion was seconded by Chip Barbour. The Commander called for discussion, none was conducted, and then a vote on the motion was taken. The ruling on the vote resulted in the motion being passed.

The **Poppy Program Report** was given by the Commander, who informed members that we collected \$313.57 in donations during the October 18<sup>th</sup> event at the Belleville Lowes. It was our 3<sup>rd</sup> Poppy event for the year 2025, and our 38<sup>th</sup> event since we've been established. He thanked Bill Martin, Robin Latdrick, and Barbara

Page for volunteering their time to distribute approx. 235 poppies on a day that had unfavorable weather. The Executive Council will discuss the distribution of the donations collected that are in our Poppy account.

The **Veteran Affairs Report** was given by the Commander, who informed members that he and Chip Barbour will attend the Oct 28<sup>th</sup> St. Clair County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) 6 p.m. annual dinner at the Elks Lodge in Fairview Heights, followed by a 7 p.m. VAC meeting.

The **Community Patriotic Observances Report** was given by the Commander and supplemented by other members in attendance.

The Wolf Branch Middle School Veterans Day Assembly will be conducted Nov 7, 9:00 a.m. Ken Green, Rich Gaebel and Andrew Dunham have volunteered to assemble as a rifle team for the event, and we will provide our bugle to one of the school students for the event.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be conducted Nov 11, 10:45 a.m. at the Honorary Veterans Memorial Square in Belleville. Todd Herzog volunteered to be our American Legion flag bearer for the event.

The **Honor Guard Report** was given, announcing our participation in the Nov 7<sup>th</sup> Wolf Branch Middle School Veterans Day Assembly.

The **Americanism Report** was given by the Commander who announced that enrollment for the Department of Illinois American Legion 2026 Essay Contest is now open. A printed copy of the Essay Contest flyer was distributed to members in attendance and an electronic copy has been uploaded to our Facebook group page.

The **Boy Scouts Report** was given by the Commander who announced that one of the scouts, Zac Anderson, who is undergoing advancement to an Eagle Scout is working on a project involving the build of 2 picnic tables for the Messinger Cemetery new concrete pads. Steve Duff also informed our members that he was approached by a girl scout troop in the local area for a community service project, and he invited the troop girls and parents to our Messinger Cemetery cleanup on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 a.m.

The **Constitution and By Laws Report** was given by our Commander who informed members that he received proposed revisions to the two documents. Those revisions will be provided to Robert Thomas for review and consolidation into finalized documents and then mailed and emailed to members of our Post, along with a 15-day advanced announcement that a vote on the two documents will be taken at an upcoming general membership meeting.

The **Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets Report** was given by Robin Latdrick who announced that the order to provide 24 gifts for our Yanks has been submitted to the Department of Illinois American Legion. The Commander informed members that the Gifts to the Yanks program is financially struggling at the Department level because the recipients of gifts have expanded over time. Robin also announced that the number of veterans in the local care homes has increased to 19 veterans. There were mixed discussions by our members about the gifts that we will provide to veterans in the local care homes. Robin asked members to provide her their ideas.

The **Children and Youth Report** – No Report

The **Oratorical Report** was provided by our Commander who informed members that enrollment for the American Legion Oratorical competition is now open and the entry fee is \$175. The 5<sup>th</sup> Division will be judging

the contestants' oratorical presentations on January 10, 2026, at Post 446 in Centralia, IL. Information about the 2026 Oratorical Scholarship Program competition has been uploaded to our Facebook group page.

The **Boys State Report** was provided by our Commander who informed members that registration to the 89<sup>th</sup> session of the Illinois Premier Boys State program is now open and registration fee is \$400. Currently the Department shows 10 boys registered. The program is scheduled to be conducted June 13<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Eastern Illinois University. An electronic copy of the program information has been uploaded to our Facebook group page.

The Commander informed members that the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program is scheduled for June 21 through 27<sup>th</sup> at Eastern Illinois University, and that Gabrielle Ortega, a Junior at Belleville East High School, inquired about the Girls State 2026 application. Commander Page is working with her. Information about the 2026 American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program and registration has been uploaded to our Facebook group page.

**Rehabilitation Report** – No Report

**Employment Report** – No Report

**Post Service Officer Report** – No Report. The Commander informed members 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.

#### **Other Reports Designated by the Commander**

1. **Fundraising:** Held Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at McAlister's Deli, 3240 Green Mount Crossing, Shilo, IL. During the Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> event we received \$195.56 and Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> we received \$244.61.
2. **Buddy Check:** Todd Herzog thanked Jim Nickels for volunteering and said he still need 2 additional volunteers. The Buddy Check volunteers meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, at Todd's house.
3. **Community Service (Messinger Cemetery):**
  - a. Met with Mr. Shannon, Executive Director of the St Clair County Historical Society, on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at Messinger Cemetery to inform and show him what our post does, and gain insight from him about the Historical Society's near and long-term goals for Messinger Cemetery. A written recap of the meeting was provided to Mr. Shannon on Sep 26th. On Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Shannon replied to the recap and said the items which were agreed upon can be done on our schedule. Mr. Shannon will send the thank you letters as suggested. He will also pass the recap of the meeting to his facilities committee with the instruction that they are to review it and take action as needed.
  - b. The next "clean-up" is schedule for Saturday Nov 8th at 9 a.m. in preparation for Nov 11th Veteran's Day. We will also be placing small US flags at the headstones and the large flags along the property adjacent to Old Collinsville Road. A local Girl Scout Troop will be assisting.
  - c. Todd Herzog developed a design and cost estimate for a wooden staircase leading to the east-facing door of the historic Messinger Schoolhouse. The design and cost estimate needs to be presented to the St Clair County Historical Society for review and follow-on action. If we decide to take on the work to construct the staircase as a community service project, Ken Green informed us that we could use his auger to drill the holes for the concrete footings.

**Sick Call** – Don Parrone has recently been in the hospital and then spent a week in rehab. He is now receiving physical therapy at home.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade American Legion Essay Contest prizes and other American Legion awards focused on students.
3. Volunteers to establish a Social (camaraderie and fun) Committee, Fundraising Committee, and Public Relations and Media Outreach Committee.
4. Placing order for our Post shirts from United Inc. Need to order at least 12 shirts, but thus far only 11 members have placed their name on the pre-order list.
5. Acceptance of the Post's 2025-2026 programs, events, and calendar created during the Sep. 27<sup>th</sup> Organizational Meeting. Our Commander emailed a copy of the documents to members of the Executive Council on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> asking for input. He will make the appropriate changes and then the documents will be emailed to our members, and mailed to members who do not have email.

### **Incoming Correspondence**

1. Received a letter from The Memorial Day Foundation who informed us that there are 25 burial grounds overseas that contain 124,908 US soldiers, and are administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. They requested a monetary donation to place a Holiday wreath on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 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 donate \$75 to the VA CDCE in Marion, IL, for them to use in providing a Thanksgiving Blessing Box to 1 of 365 veterans that they plan to help. The motion was seconded by Jerry Sauerwein. The Commander called for discussion, none was conducted, and then a vote on the motion was taken. The ruling on the vote resulted in the motion being passed.
2. Steve Duff made a motion to donate \$100 to the Memorial Day Foundation for placing a Holiday wreath in the overseas cemeteries where American service members are buried. The motion was seconded by Rich Gaebel. The Commander called for discussion, none was conducted, and then a vote on the motion was taken. The ruling on the vote resulted in the motion being passed.
3. Mary Monett announced that she made arrangements for a blood donation event with ImpactLife Blood Center and the Swansea Improvement Association to conduct a blood donation drive on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Swansea Improvement Association's meeting hall. We need at least 22 donors in order to get the ImpactLife Blood Center to come to the Swansea Improvement Association to conduct a blood donation drive. If we're unable to get 20 members to donate blood at the Swansea Improvement Association, the other option is for our members to make an appointment for a Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> blood donation and travel to the blood donation center located at 10900B Lincoln Trail, Midway Plaza, Fairview Height, IL. Contact Mary if you are willing to donate blood on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Memorial to Departed Members** – The Commander informed members that one of our original Charter Members, Tom Sheeler, passed away on September 30, 2025, at the age of 86. Members of the post performed a “Walk Through” at Union Methodist Church on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> to honor Tom. Jerry Sauerwein informed member that the United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL, planted a tree for enduring remembrance of Tom.

**For the Good of the Legion.**

1. The Commander reminded members to take an extra step in welcoming newcomers, guests, and even long-time members who attend our meetings, and to introduce them to other members. Taking that little bit of time to do so fosters a friendly and inviting atmosphere, and boosts camaraderie and builds a strong community within our Post.
2. Todd Herzog announced that he designed a data collection form for our members to fill in to help the Commander and Adjutant complete the annual Consolidated Post Report that is submitted to the Department of Illinois American Legion and the National headquarters for consolidation with other Post submissions from around the world. The final product is used by the National Commander for the testimony to Congress. The Sergeant-At-Arms should distribute the data collection forms to the tables before our membership meetings begin and collect them after the meetings. The data collection forms and instructions have also been emailed to our Post members.

**30/30/30 Raffle Drawing.** The ticket drawn for one third of the \$63 collected matched the ticket held by Barbara Page. Barbara donated the \$21 back to our Visiting Veterans program.

**Pot of Gold Drawing.** The name drawn for the \$68 Pot of Gold was Roger Homeier. He was not present to collect the prize, so the pot was rolled over and money added for the next meeting on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> with \$89 in the pot for that drawing.

The next **Regular Membership Meeting** will be held on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. with our Sr. Vice Commander presiding over the meeting.

The next **Executive Council Meeting** will be held on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

The Commander adjourned this October 27, 2025, Regular Membership Meeting at 8:31 p.m.