



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



**26 September 2022 Minutes**

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

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers present.

Guests in attendance were Mike Kling of Post 1937 and Gary Thomas, Commander of Post 1937.

August meeting minutes were read with motion to accept by Steve Duff and seconded by Doug Jameson. Minutes approved by membership with one correction.

The meeting was paused to allow Tyler Palmer to give his report on his Eagle Project at Messinger Cemetery. He and members from his unit cleared an overgrown area in the open field and created a burn pit for the retirement of flags. Tyler asked for a donation of \$100. Rich Gaebel motioned to approve the donation of \$100. Robin Latdrick seconded. Membership approved. Steve Duff suggest that we do a press release to the local publications on the Burn Pit. Gary Thomas of Post 1937 also donated \$100 towards Tyler's efforts.

The Membership Report was given with 96 paid members as of this evening for 2023.

There Finance Officer reported the Post currently has \$11,658.59 in total between all accounts. Steve Duff motioned to accept the finance report subject to audit. Seconded by Tom McCaw. Membership approved.

Poppies – The Poppy Chair reminded membership of the upcoming Poppy Day at Lowes in Belleville. He has not received any word back from Menards despite several attempts of contacting them. He will look to find another location for November 5<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, he would be submitting a form to the owner of Menards concerning the lack of response one way or the other to allow us to sell poppies at their store. Steve Duff said he would talk to the Swansea Schnucks manager about allowing us to use that location.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting of the St. Clair VAC will be Sept 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Community Patriotic Observances – The Post attended the POW/MIA ceremony at Walnut Hill Cemetery. The event was hosted by Post 1937. The Commander thanked all members who attended.

Honor Guard –The Honor Guard performed at the POW/MIA ceremony and looked sharp. Rich Gaebel emphasized his appreciation to al the members that helped.

Americanism – We collected five flags at the St. Clair Township Recycling event on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Commander talked to many vets and passed out meeting information. Several said they would try to attend.

Boy Scouts – We have a scout that is constructing a Burn Pit at messenger Cemetery. He started by clearing the site on September 24<sup>th</sup> and is working to complete it by the end of October. We have a second scout that would like to construct four flag boxes for us as part of her Eagle Project. She is in the early stages of planning. The Commander has a follow up meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Adjutant stated that all the required paperwork had been signed by the old sponsoring organization and the two scout troops and submitted to the council. The only thing lacking now is the adult application as the Chartered Organization Head.

Constitution and By Laws – We require a new Constitution due to some minor changes needing to be made. Steve Duff suggested emailing the draft copy to members for review instead of killing trees to make paper copies.

Gifts to the Yanks – Jennifer's has been tied up with work lately. She has contacted one of the Assisted Living centers. They stated they want to work with us, but to date no one has return her calls or emails. The Commander provided Jennifer with contact information for the Cambridge House Swansea. Jennifer will contact Amanda at the unit to see if we can work with them. Robin stated that she is getting conflicting information from Mercy than what was given to Jennifer. The Commander asked for volunteers to help Jennifer due to her busy schedule. Orders for the gifts need to be turned in by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

No reports for any other program area.

Sick Call – no report of any sick members.

Unfinished Business –

Sign on Swansea Improvement Center – changes have been made for the sign and were approved by the Swansea improvement Center. The cost will be \$250. Doug Jameson motioned to approve the funds for the sign. Robin Latdrick seconded the motion. Membership approved. The sign is to be placed on the corner of the building by the flag.

Ceremonial Rifles – Mike Kling stated he has the four rifles back from the gunsmith, but they need cleaning. The cost was \$160. The VFW already donated \$100 so the post only needs to provide \$60 of the previously approved \$100 for this purpose.

Horseshoe Pit – Tabled until Spring.

New Business –

- We had a request for \$300 to support an Eagle Scout project by Malikia Miller. He is trying to raise money to purchase new flags for The Flagman Project. The Executive Committee agreed that a donation can be made. Rich Gaebel motioned to donate the money. This was seconded by Tom McCaw. Membership approved. Rich McCaw donated \$100.
- Post Insurance is due November 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be paid out of the Mission Blue Book donation.
- Kory Bookman is filling Les O'Neal's seat on the Executive Committee for the rest of the term.

Memorial to Departed Members – On September 12<sup>th</sup> Charter Member Billy Juergens passed. It was a short notice to the Post, so only the Commander was able to pay his respects for the Post. Billy is to be buried out of state. The Commander asked for a moment of silence to honor Billy.

For the Good of the Legion –

- The cost of polo shirts has gone up. They will try to keep them at \$35 plus tax. If we order in bulk, it's possible to get a reduced cost.
- The Commander has coins for sale. The coins support the Quilts of Valor, The Haven, Police Academy, Mayfest and Gifts to the Yanks. They are \$20 each.
- Wolf Branch school will have a Veteran's Day ceremony on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The Honor Guard was requested. The question concerning the use of the rifles to provide a salute was discussed. The Commander said he would talk with the Swansea Police Chief about both firing blanks at the school as well as practice at Messinger Cemetery.
- There will be an organization at the O'Fallon VFW on October 1<sup>st</sup> that provides a free suit, shirt and tie to veterans. They will be there 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Steve Duff spoke on the Wolf Branch ceremony needing a wreath for the wreath laying. He asked for a donation of \$400 for the purchase of a reusable wreath. Robin asked if the cost included storage fees. Rich Gaeble motioned for a donation of \$200 which was seconded by Tom McCaw. There was a spirited discussion on whether the Legion and the VFW could use the wreath for various other ceremonies rather than a once-a-year event at the school. It was agreed the Post would donate funds towards the purchase with the agreement that it could be used by both the Legion and the VFW with the caveat that Wolf Branch ceremonies will always have priority of use. Rich amended his motion to \$300. Membership approved.
- Tom McCaw asked if he could get the names and addresses of Korean War combat veteran Post members. A four-star general at Scott AFB will have a ceremony for them, but it is only for Korean War combat veterans.
- Tom McCaw also stated the Urban League of St Louis, MO would be in Fairview Heights on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10220 Lincoln Trail and again on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. You will need to call them after October 1<sup>st</sup> to let them know you are coming and when. Interested parties should call Rick Elcan at 314-200-5520.

50/50 Results – Won by Barb Page who collected \$26.50. Was donated back to the Post.

Next Meeting to be held on 24 October with Executive Meeting at 1830 hrs.

Meeting adjourned at 2048 hrs.

- Corrections in red