



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



September 22, 2024

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

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers and Executive Committee members were present with the absence of Executive Committee Member Robert Thomas and the excused absence of Kori Bookman.

Sgt at Arms, Kenny Green introduced guests Don Scheyer, 22nd District Sr Vice Commander and Al Mahan, 22nd District Commander.

The Adjutant stated minutes were sent out to all members with an email on record. No corrections were noted. The Commander stated that as there were no objections, the minutes were accepted as posted.

The **Membership Report** was given showing the Post with 87 of 158 paid members for 55.06%.

Finance Report – The Finance Officer reported we had a checking account balance of \$7,876.10 available with and an additional \$3,723.17 in savings. A breakdown of funds held for the various programs was also provided. A motion was given by Rich Gaebel to accept the report subject to audit. Seconded by Chip Barbour. Membership approved.

Poppies – No Report

Veteran Affairs – There will be a 7 p.m. meeting on the 23rd at the VAC at 19 Public Square in Belleville. The Commander spent last week at the VAC conference in Peoria. There was a lot of crosstalk, but we seem to be heading in the right direction.

Community Patriotic Observances – The Post Color Guard participated in a Patriots Day presentation at PSOP. The Commander thanked Rich Gaebel, Andrew Dunham and Doug Reed for folding the flag. There will be a POW/MOA ceremony at the VFW Post 805 in O'Fallon on 28 September at 10 a.m. It is suggested that members arrive by 0930 due to the number of people expected. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost, but donations are accepted.

Honor Guard – Rich Gaebel stated that he had spoken with the Commander of the Belleville VFW on joining forces with their Honor Guard for funeral honors. He is receptive of the idea.

Americanism – No Report

Boy Scouts – We will be inviting Gabe to our next meeting for an update on his Eagle Project at Messinger Cemetery.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report

Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets – Robin Latdrick stated we are back to 14 vets in our supported homes. She has sizes and all the information needed.

Children and Youth – No report

Oratorical – No report

Boys State – The Commander is going to invite Gabe to our next meeting for a report on his time at Boys State.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment – No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees – No Report

Sick Call – Kori Bookman is not feeling good. A check needs to be made on Robert Thomas due to multiple absences and no phone calls.

Unfinished Business

1. POW/MIA Ceremony – The host did not contact the Commander until the Thursday before the event. The date was changed from Friday to Saturday. Our Post had two members attend and only two members from the host Post attended.
2. Eagle Scout Project – Gabe is working on approval from the Council for his project.
3. Flags for Messinger Cemetery – Steve Duff provided a detailed breakdown of the material needed with the cost. Rich Gaebel motioned to accept the proposal with costs not to exceed \$500. Robin Latdrick seconded. Membership approved. We will need to create a list of days the flags would be displayed at Messinger Cemetery. They will be stored at the Swansea Rotatory when not in use. Steve and Gary will help with sourcing the material at Menards.
4. Attendance – A proposal was made for a 33/33/33 lottery drawing to replace the current 50/50 drawing. Mary Monett The system allows funds to build up over time. The names of all members would be placed in a container and at each meeting a name would be pulled. The member must be present to win. The winner would receive a third of the pot. Rich Gaebel motioned to accept the new system. This was seconded by Barb Page. Membership approved. Mary Monett then motioned that \$50 be allocated as seed money. Seconded by Todd Herzog. Membership approved.
5. Eagle Plaque – Steve Duff provided a photo of the Eagle Plaque given to Wolf Branch School in its new position within the school.
6. Scott AFB Honor Guard – The Commander stated he spoke with the base Honor Guard and found they only provide service for active duty and retirees of the Air Force, Army Air Forces and Army Air Corps. The Commander said that an Army unit from northern Illinois has in the past provided services for Army service members. JB Barracks does have several teams; however, they are normally tied up with the many burial ceremonies held there. The Navy does have a team in St Louis that can provide

services for Naval service members. Steve Duff says he will check with Lakeview Cemetery staff to see if there were any other options available.

Correspondence

1. The Department Newsletter and Call to Caucus announcements for the 22nd District and 5th Division.

New Business

1. Steve Duff stated we needed to replace the Preamble banner with one with the update verbiage.
2. Steve Duff asked about the possibility of putting some of the Post money into short term CDs. The Commander asked him to get the information from the bank on what they can do.
3. Steve Duff then spoke on the upcoming Wolf Branch School Veterans Program scheduled for Friday, 8 November. We need to coordinate the Firing Team with the school's Resource Officer. The Commander asked for volunteers for the Honor Guard. We will need to get the wreath from storage and ensure it is presentable.
4. Steve Duff also noted that the Donor wall at Wolf Branch had lettering that was coming off. The school is addressing the issue.

Memorial to Departed Members – No known departed members.

For the Good of the Legion

1. Don Scheyer presented the post with a 90% membership certificate. The award was given to Bill Martin for his continuing efforts in the membership program.
2. Al Mahan, 22nd District Commander, then spoke on membership. He stated that everyone needs to recruit 2 members: one to grow and one to replace. He then spoke briefly on the National Convention. He also wanted to establish a VAC in every county. They have a few new locations already in the works. He also emphasized the importance of attending District and Division meetings. They need more units to attend. It was noted that the 5th Division Caucus was being held on 20 October in Marion and the 22nd District Caucus was being held on 6 October in O'Fallon.

50/50 results for half of the \$56 collected went to Steve Duff who donated the \$28 back to the Gifts to the Yanks program.

Next Meeting to be held on October 28th at 7PM with Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2048 hours