



Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007



September 22, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 1911 hours by the Commander.

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers and Executive Committee members were present with the absence of Sergeant at Arms Gary Stacy and Executive Committee Members Robert Thomas.

No guests in attendance.

The Commander asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting minutes. No changes were noted, so minutes stand as written.

The **Membership Report** was given showing the Post with 97 of 151 paid members for 64.24%.

Finance Report – The Finance Officer reported we had a checking account balance of \$8,511.45 available with and an additional \$723.35 in savings. We also have \$3,043.31 in a short-term Certificate of Deposit. A breakdown of funds held for the various programs was also provided. Todd Herzog gave a point of order on the motion to accept stating our By Laws stated a vote was not required for acceptance though the report is subject to audit.

Poppies – The next date is set for October 18th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until poppies run out. This will be at the Greenmount Lowes. We will not be ordering poppies for a single sale date.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting will be held September 30th at 7 p.m. at the VAC at 19 Public Square in Belleville. The Commander and Kori Bookman will be attending. If anyone has an issue they wish them to bring up to the commission, let them know.

Community Patriotic Observances – The Commander is contacting Swansea administration to see how we can be involved in any Veterans Day ceremony they will hold. Wolf Branch School will probably hold their annual ceremony on Monday the 10th. We would like to have a three-man rifle squad and a bugler present for the event. Contact Rich Gaebel if you wish to volunteer.

Honor Guard – No Report

Americanism – No Report

Boy Scouts – Dave Devine reported our support scout troops have the largest number of Life scouts at one time in the troop's history. He has already approved two Eagle scout packages for presentation to the District

Eagle Project Board and will be reviewing and signing a third on Tuesday evening. We also have heard back from the scout who will be doing the picnic tables for Messinger Cemetery so that will be a fourth Eagle Scout project.

Constitution and By Laws – Robert Thomas has provided copies of the Post Constitution and By Laws via email. These will be provided to members for review. Anyone who has suggested changes should submit them for review. All the changes approved will be incorporated into the By Laws for membership approval before being sent to the Department for approval.

Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets – There's still no word from Department on the program. Donations for the program have been down significantly the past few years. Department meetings will be held in early October and the status of the program will most likely be discussed. Robin Latrick is ensuring a comprehensive list of names of vets in our two supported retirement homes so all receive gifts at Christmas.

Children and Youth – Todd Herzog spoke on a request from the Swansea Mayor asking for volunteers to help with the annual Halloween and Christmas events to help keep the activities going for the youth of Swansea. He provided the mayor's email address for those that wish to help. The mayor said he will get back with anyone that emails him.

Oratorical – No Report

Boys State – The Commander reported that the program is in trouble due to lack of interest in the youth. The program requires a minimum of 250 as a break even point due to associated costs paid to the college hosting the event.

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment – No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees

1. Annual Dinner – Tabled
2. Buddy Checks – Todd Herzog called for volunteers to help him with Buddy Checks in November.

Sick Call – Bob Enman was reported to be sick.

Unfinished Business

1. USO Meeting is scheduled for the October 27th Post meeting.
2. High Mount School Meeting – Steve Duff stated it was still in the planning process.
3. Executive Meeting Planning – Post leadership will be meeting on Saturday, 27 September at the Belleville VFW for annual planning. Contact an Executive Board member if you have any suggestions. The meeting is open to membership.

Correspondence

1. Invitation to the Egyptian Past Commander's 88th Haven Jamboree for the weekend of 21-23 November.

New Business

1. Post Insurance – Steve Duff motioned that since having insurance is a mandatory requirement for all posts, that automatic approval to spend the \$500 annually should be made without the need to vote each year. Seconded by Jerry Sauerwein. Membership approved.
2. Establish Committees – The Commander put forward four new committees and asked if anyone would be interested in chairing and running the committee:
 - a. Social Camaraderie/Fun
 - b. Fundraising
 - c. Membership Communication – Todd Herzog volunteered to chair.
 - d. Public Relations/Media Outreach
3. Rich Gaebel mentioned he went to Office Depot in Fairview Heights and had his membership card laminated for free after an unfortunate accident involving a washing machine.

Memorial to Departed Members – No known passings.

For the Good of the Legion

1. Steve Duff mentioned that one of the two 100-year-old veterans he nominated for a Quilt of Valor had passed away. He was a veteran of WWII and had been shot down four times and spent time as a POW.
2. The Commander stated he had received an email from US Rep. Bost stating that the backlog for the Department of Veteran Affairs backlog was down by 45%. He also mentioned that he had brought 14 bills to the floor covering veteran needs/programs.

30/30/30 results for a third of the \$54 collected went to Kenney Green who donated his \$18 winnings back to the Visiting Vet program. The Pot of Gold name was pulled with Patrick Wade listed. He was actually present, so the \$172 pot was finally awarded. The pot for the next meeting on the 27th will be \$18 from the 30/30/30 and \$50 seed money for a \$68 total.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2008 hours