



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 176

American Legion Post 176 Springfield • 6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield, VA 22150

**Minutes**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m. Post Home**

Sons of the American Legion Squadron № 176 Vice Commander Rodriguez opened the General Membership Meeting at 7:01 p.m. on January 14, 2020 at the American Legion Post № 176, Springfield, Virginia.

The following members were present:

Marty Pfeifer, First Vice Commander  
Jason Rodriguez Second Vice Commander, *Commander acting*  
Tyler Vanice, Adjutant  
Kevin Campbell, Finance Officer  
Mike Wolfe, Historian  
Paul Kaeppel, Chaplain  
Chuck Seward, Sergeant-at-Arms

As was Erich Pfleeger and Karl Dobbe.

Mike Wolfe was excused by the Commander.  
Bryan Steele was not excused by the Commander.

Vanice made a motion to approve minutes of the December 10, 2019 General Membership Meeting as written and was seconded by Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

The Adjutant discussed the Membership Drive that occurred last Saturday. Five members came together at 11:00 am to contact our membership to request updated information for our files and to request they renew their membership. We had mailed about fifty letters and emailed or called a few dozen more. We were able to fix incorrect data in the process.

The Finance Officer submitted his report. The end of year balance was \$12,730.97. He stated some concern that the \$1,000 Scholarship check has not be cashed yet and will review further. He stated the \$500 donation from the Springfield Hilton during the Pig

Roast event did not go through. The Commander stated he will work on getting the donation made.

The First Vice Commander gave his report that he will be visiting other squadrons in the district in the coming weeks. He updated the membership that the Oratorical Contest has been cancelled due to conflict with one potential candidate and no response from the other. Boys State is in progress and interviews are expected to be late February or early March.

Vanice mentioned that the Four Chaplains Memorial Service is occurring on February 2 at Post 177 and that all should attend if they are available.

Vanice discussed the Spring Conference occurring February 28 through March 1, 2020. Vanice made a motion to reimburse squadron members up to \$300 for attending the Spring Conference and was seconded by Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

Pfeifer talked about Detachment Vice Commander Graulau's Hospitality Room occurring at the Spring Conference and that he needs assistance running the event and could also use a financial contribution as costs are all out of pocket. Marty made a motion to support the Hospitality Room with a donation of \$250 and was seconded by Vanice. Discussion was had about contributing a lower amount. The motion passed with Campbell in opposition.

Vanice discussed the "Homecoming for National Commander" Clint Bolt occurring April 17-19 in Norfolk and shared the flyer and itinerary. It is a National level event within our state and he strongly encourage all members to support our states National Commander. Vanice made a motion to reimburse Squadron members up to \$300 for attending the event and was seconded by Rodriguez. Campbell discussed about how the squadron needs to spend less money or find ways to raise more funds. The question was asked, and the motion passed eight to one with Campbell in opposition.

Vanice discussed the need for the squadron to increase its dues for the upcoming year. National Sons of The American Legion haven't increased their per capita since 1982 and with The American Legion National organization stating they are stopping their financial support of the Sons next year, the National Organization needs to raise its own funds. Both needs require the per capita to be increased and many squadrons across the country will be increase their dues to reflect the changes. The motion to increase the dues will be brought up next month.

Vanice brought up that Commander Steele has been absent for four consecutive months and that the squadron had little to no contact with in in the proceeding months and that

Post Commander Madtes has taken notice. It was recommended that the Executive Committee should remove Steele from office of Commander and to have the Second Vice Commander replace him as Commander. It was proposed that no action be taken yet and to inform Steele of the situation. Everyone agreed that Steele will need to have a meeting with us prior to the next meeting.

The Commander reminded us that our next General Membership Meeting is February 11, 2020.

With the colors of the nation being in place, the Commander rendered a hand salute and moved that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Vanice and was declared closed at 7:30 p.m.

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Vanice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tyler Vanice  
Squadron Adjutant