



**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**Post 176 Springfield**  
**General Membership Meeting (GMM) Minutes**  
**Date: August 4, 2020**



- 1. Call to Order:** Salute, Prayer, POW chair, Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble
- 2. Roll Call:** Adjutant
- 3. Adjutant's summary of EXCOM meeting:** Minutes are posted on our website ([www.post176.org](http://www.post176.org))
- 4. Presentations:** None
- 5. Officer and Program Reports:**

**a. Post Commander: PRESENT**

Here are the Post commander's opening remarks.

- As you know, we had an unprecedented General Membership meeting last month. First off, let me tell you thank you for all your kind words about how well I kept the meeting "under control." I sure did not feel like it at the time. Also, I never should have let that vote be taken the way it was. We all know that a Post 176 Legionnaires meeting is for Post 176 Legionnaires only.
- There are some other things you need to know and should be mentioned so they get in the minutes. Let me be clear: the four bartenders quit their jobs and tried to get the kitchen staff to quit also. It was their decision to leave.
- Also, during our July General Membership Meeting, a Legionnaire from Post 290, Stafford, was in attendance. He left our meeting about 7:40 pm and for the next 20 or so minutes, he was observed on video tape going upstairs and coming back down two times. After the meeting, we discovered that the contents of the Commander's and Membership computer were deleted. A couple weeks later, I confronted him in writing and he confessed to deleting the files.
- Using pictures from our video surveillance system, I provided the evidence to the Department Internal Affairs, Judge Advocate, and Adjutant. They all concur that we should press charges and that Post 290 would take action to remove him from membership in the American Legion. This week, I was also told by the 17th District Commander that the Department Judge Advocate thinks we should take additional civil action and sue for damages. This was serious and some members of Post 176 helped them take these actions.
- Let's talk about employment issues for just a moment. ARTICLE V of our bylaws describe the position of the General Manager. I would like to mention that Marty, the Interim General Manager and Mike the Assistant General Manager, are doing a superb job managing our post during this difficult time. The bylaws say that all employees work for the General Manager. If an issue needs to be elevated, it goes to the EXCOM. It is intended that no Post officer or member should supervise, or otherwise exercise immediate authority over any Post 176 employee.
- I contacted the Department of Virginia Adjutant, Internal Affairs, and Judge Advocate to talk about some changes that we thought should take place. They are fully satisfied and supportive of the direction Post 176 is taking. We are taking efforts to enforce ethical gaming. It is the position of the Department (Dale Chapman, Adjutant; Dave Stein, Judge Advocate; and Brett Reistad, Internal Affairs) that:
  - - Pull tabs: We are correct in setting rules that bartenders cannot play.

- - Paid Staff: They quit. Do not hire them back. If they are auxiliary members you can suspend them from the post. Remember the Auxiliary are guests in the post. Brett Reistad recommended sending them letters of trespass.
  - The kiosk is the right way to go.
  - Paid staff should have income tax withheld or provide the proper tax forms to the employee and the IRS.
  - General Membership Meeting: Remember unless they are a Post 176 Legionnaire (owner of a DD-214) they can be asked to leave. If they do not leave, they can and should be escorted out of the building.
  - Let's move on. We have three new bartenders that everyone loves and they all love working here.
- b. **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:** PRESENT.  
Seventeen new members were voted in by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- c. **2<sup>d</sup> Vice Commander:** PRESENT. No report.
- d. **3<sup>d</sup> Vice Commander:** PRESENT. No report.
- e. **Adjutant:** PRESENT. No report.
- f. **Finance Officer:** PRESENT. No report.
- g. **Judge Advocate:** PRESENT.
- An updated draft of the proposed By-laws will be posted to the website by COB on Wednesday, August 5, 2020.
- h. **Chaplain:** PRESENT. No report.
- i. **Historian:** PRESENT. No report.
- j. **Sergeant at Arms:** PRESENT.
- A quorum is present with 43 Legionnaires in attendance.
- k. **Service Officer:** PRESENT.
- The Post is continuing to work helping veterans.
- l. **Executive Committee Members:**
- 1yr – EXCUSED.
  - 2yr – PRESENT. No report.
  - 3yr – PRESENT. No report.
- m. **Past Commander:** EXCUSED
- n. **Blood Drive report:** Theron Patrick: Next Blood Drive: August 11, 2020
- o. **Acting General Manager:**
- [See Interim General Managers Report, August 4, 2020.](#)

## 6. Legion family / programs

- a. American Legion Auxiliary (ALA): Stephanie Dabbe, President
- The Auxiliary will start meeting again in September.
- b. Sons of the American Legion (SAL): Jay Rodriguez, Commander
- The SAL will be hosting a pig roast on September 19, 2020.
- c. American Legion Riders (ALR): Craig Hendrickson, Director
- The Riders will participate in the Legacy Run on September 12, 2020.

## 7. Old Business:

- a. Project ATLAS - Grand opening, September 22, 2020
- b. Facilities Committee
- The committee has not formally met since February, but a lot of work has been done around the post. See the Interim General Managers Report, August 4, 2020, for more details.
- c. Change start time of GMM to 7 pm effective with the September GMM on September 1, 2020.

d. Hire General Manager

- Planned for the future. In the meantime, Marty Pfeifer has agreed to continue in his non-paid role as Interim General Manager.

**8. New Business:**

a. Dentz Trust

- A motion was made to temporarily suspend the Dentz Trust, take out enough money to pay off the Mortgage—about \$234K, and then repay the Trust by placing the current monthly mortgage payment of about \$3500 back into the Trust.
- The motion was seconded and a vigorous debate ensued over the Trust’s original intent; which was for “charitable purposes”. Most of those that spoke were in opposition to that motion.
- Another issue of whether or not we even had a quorum for this motion was brought up. The current By-laws state the following:

“A quorum for Post 176 Legionnaire membership meetings shall be determined as a percentage of Legionnaire members in good standing as reported on the most recent membership report from the previous membership year, as follows:

- A. Regular meeting — 1.5%
- B. Sale/purchase of property or transfer of funds from the Corpus — 7% “

**And**

“All business conducted at a GMM, other than voting to accept candidates for membership, requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Post 176 Legionnaires in good standing present at the meeting.”

- The last membership year we had 1465 Legionnaires in good standing in the post. That means that a quorum for a regular meeting is 22 and for the sale/purchase of property or transfer of funds from the Corpus is 103. There were only 43 Legionnaires in attendance at the GMM that night.
- After all of the discussion, another motion was made to table the first motion. That passed by a unanimous vote.

**9. Adjournment** – Closing prayer, Salute, meeting adjourned

Date	Time	Event	Additional info
August 4, 2020	7:30 pm	General Membership Meeting	
August 7, 2020		Purple Heart Day	
<b>August 9, 2020</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>17th District Orientation Meeting</b>	<b>Post 176</b>
August 11, 2020	1:30 pm	Blood Drive	
August 14, 2020	7:00 pm	DJ Joe Clay after dinner music	
August 18, 2020	7:00 pm	Executive Committee	
September 1, 2020	7:30 pm	General Membership Meeting	
September 11, 2020	5:30 pm	<b>Patriot Day Dinner</b>	
September 13, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Philadelphia Eagles	SAL
September 15, 2020	7:00 pm	Executive Committee	
September 18, 2020	8:00 am	Retiree Appreciation Day	
September 20, 2020	4:05 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Arizona Cardinals	Auxiliary
<b>September 22, 2020</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Project ATLAS Grand Opening</b>	<b>VA Secretary attending</b>
September 27, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Cleveland Browns	Riders
October 2, 2020	5:30 pm	<b>Early Bird dinner</b>	
October 4, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Baltimore Ravens	Legion
October 4, 2020	9:00 am	Car Show "Prince William Cruisers"	
October 6, 2020	7:30 pm	General Membership Meeting	
<b>October 6-18, 2020</b>		<b>Commander on Leave, Elk hunting</b>	
October 11, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Los Angeles Rams	Auxiliary
October 13, 2020	1:30 pm	Blood Drive	
October 16-18, 2020		Motorcycle Rally, more than 500 bikes	Post 176 parking and banquet hall
October 18, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs New York Giants	Auxiliary
October 20, 2020	7:00 pm	Executive Committee	
October 25, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Dallas Cowboys	SAL
<b>November 7, 2020</b>		<b>Department Commanders Dinner Post 176</b>	<b>???????????</b>
November 8, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs New York Giants	Auxiliary
November 10, 2020	7:30 pm	General Membership Meeting	Moved because of election day
November 11, 2020	11:00 am	Veterans Day Celebration Joint VFW/AL w VFW lead	
November 15, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Detroit Lions	Riders
November 17, 2020	7:00 pm	Executive Committee	
November 22, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Cincinnati Bengals	SAL
December 1, 2020	7:30 pm	General Membership Meeting	
December 6, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Pittsburgh Steelers	Riders
December 8, 2020	1:30 pm	Blood Drive	
December 11, 2020	5:30 pm	<b>Classic Christmas Banquet</b>	
December 13, 2020	4:25 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs San Francisco 49ers	Auxiliary
December 15, 2020	7:00 pm	Executive Committee	
December 19, 2020		Wreaths Across American	National Cemeteries
December 20, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Seattle Seahawks	Legion
December 25, 2020		<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Post Closed</b>
December 27, 2020	1:00 pm	Tailgate: Redskins vs Carolina Panthers	Legion
December 31, 2020	7:30 pm	New Year's Eve Gala	Social Quarters Post 176
January 1, 2021		<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>Post Closed</b>