



AMERICAN LEGION
Post 176 Springfield
General Membership Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2022



1. Call to Order, Salute, Prayer, POW/MIA, Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call: Adjutant
3. Commander’s Comments
4. Presentation(s) (if applicable)
5. Reports
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Closing Prayer, Salute, Adjournment

Voting Legionnaire Name and Title	
Kevin Gaddis, Commander Present	General Comments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amy Torshell, Meghan Wehasen, and Jean Welch from the VA gave a Home Telehealth presentation. Discussing the Atlas room, it’s purpose and advantages. 2. High level - finances, looked at them from last Jan, we’re looking at loss in cafe. Since Jan inflation has gone up 9.1%. We’ve been consistent with prices however we may want to consider raising them a little. 3. Talked with Post 177, they rised their price in march. Right now we’re the same or lower than other posts. 4. Social Quarters (SQ) is making money. Our SQ prices are about 20% higher than other posts. 5. We need a budget. We don’t have one. Finance Officer (FO) is putting together a committee to address this. 6. We should come up with other ways to make money. Other than quinceanera’s, we can do other things. 7. VFW has approached us about hosting Bingo. They will come up with a proposal, the EXCOM will review make a decision to take it to the general membership (GM) to vote on it. 8. The Post gets \$3000 a month from Fairfax County for commuter parking. Once the garage is up, the income stops. 9. Let’s lean forward and think about the future of our post 10. The 4th of July was a good event. Over 151 people showed up and made \$1250.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. We're going to do more things. We get it done by volunteers; a lot of volunteers showed up. Thank you. 12. Next big event is Sonny's Fish Fry. 13. We need volunteers. Things get done by volunteers, people show up and we get things done. With more volunteers, we are better. 14. We did have some new volunteers during the past 2 grass cutting. 15. Membership is very busy. We have 1500 members. Pat and Dennis have mailed mor than 400 membership cards over the last two weeks. 16. Rex and the cash team also do a lot. Some of the team volunteers are duel hatted. 17. If you want to volunteers let Commander know 18. We used Zoom during the EXCOM and it worked very well. Within the next few months, we will have a platform for people to join meeting via teams or zoom. 19. Read an email from the son of veteran who passed requesting support. 20. Floyd was presented his paid up for life honorary membership. He's been a member for 35 years.
<p>Dennis Madtes, 1st Vice Commander</p> <p>Present</p>	<p>VA&R, Membership</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Entered into an agreement, with Penn state to sponsor interim. Her name is Roxana, she will be working with Carl and Karla. She'll be here about 15-30 hours a week. Human Relations is her specialty. 2. Currently have 765 members for next yr. We have about 300 PUFL's and a little over 400 renewals. Sending out cards so if we send you the wrong card or spell your names wrong get it back and we'll fix it. 3. Read names of potential new members <p>Motion to accept new members in mass Motion carried</p> <p>Motion to accept candidates as members Motion carried</p>

<p>Randy Wheeler, 2nd Vice Commander</p> <p>Present</p>	<p>Children & Youth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared America Legion College Experience with the membership 2. August starting to get out to the 5 school, going to need help. Anyone interested in helping get the youth involved, let him know. 3. Thinking about proposing a charitable 4. Hope to support and really put in a good push to get kids for Boys State and/or Oracle. 5. Proposing a chair for Boys State for more exposure 6. 2nd Vice is on the Board of Directors for Central Springfield Little League. Numerous Veteran's children participate so going to recruit. 7. We now have three Boy Scout Troops. 8. Brought our flags to Post 177 for the Veterans Day ceremony. Plan to watch there's and then do one here.
<p>Jay Byrun, 3rd Vice Commander</p> <p>Present</p>	<p>Americanism, Calendar</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A lot of discussion about the Bridge Walk. We will not be able to do it this year. 2. Connecting with Chamber of Commerce and VFW to do a Veterans Day Ceremony. 3. Meeting with the family organizations to get the tailgate schedule out 4. Shout out to Charlie - the law look great! 5. Showed a shirt from a Post in FL. Would like to do something here. Looking at ideas for how to dress up a shirt to show pride in our Post
<p>Denise White, Post Adjutant</p> <p>Present</p>	<p>EXCOM Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requested funding to send 4 members to the National Convention in Milwaukee Motion to fund 4 members to attend the National Convention not to exceed \$6000 Motion carried 2. Family organizations will be responsible for financially supporting their own events 3. Finance Office wrote an SOP for cash collection and the Commander signed it 4. Need a list of Committees, if we don't have a committee on the list, it doesn't exist. Commander establishes all committees.

	<p>Motion is to have everybody that has a committee or knows of a committee present the committee, and then with the committee chair, the committee members, and the purpose of the committee, and we will bring in to the general membership at the next meeting so that the general membership is aware of it.</p> <p>Motion carried</p>
<p>Karla Pfleeger, Finance Officer</p> <p>Present</p>	<p>Income/trends</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash Collection SOP - purpose is to define the procedures for collecting payment during the American Legion post 176 special event, such as tailgate parties, pig roasts, picnics and similar bans. 2. Read the Policy to the General Membership 3. June shows a loss because we are still paying for the portable AC units 4. We are operating in the positive. Report has June however it reflects July's information. 5. We can make a financial report available each month 6. Dentz Fund has increased 7. Have until Sept next year to pay the line of credit
<p>Martie Soper, Judge Advocate</p> <p>Present</p>	<p>Bylaws</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on Disciplinary Action 2. Bylaws on website by 7/8. We have until 8/7 to provide inputs. Been influx for many, many months. Thanks for all who provided updates. Each update comes with a recommendation of why for the change. 3. Asking for committees because we're trying to figure out where we are with the different committees and what's being done. 4. Need to look into voting process if we use Teams or Zoom. That may come as an addendum to the by-laws later. 5. Give an update on the disciplinary action - cause of action filed 6. Charge the Dentz Fund Committee and this Post to define what a charitable purpose is <p>Motion For the Dentz Fund Committee and the EXCOM to come up within the next 90days and report it at the November meeting.</p> <p>Motion carries</p>

<p>Rev. Mark Arbeen, Chaplain Present</p>	<p>Post-Everlasting update, sick members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three cards were sent out to members who needed uplifting 2. One person was in a motorcycle accident. He is in rehab right now. 3. We had a 9/11 ceremony last year for the 20-year anniversary. Does this post want to do something every year or every 5 yrs because it falls on a weekend? Also stopped awarding the Global War on Terrorism Medal and are going to stop the National Defense Metal. The Burn Pit legislation was passed by the Senate. <p>Motion to have a 9/11 ceremony every year</p> <p>Motion carried</p>
<p>Scott Logan, Historian Present</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medal of honor awardee, private first-class Robert E. Simon, United States Marine Corps, passed away yesterday, August 1st, at the age of 92. 2. There are approximately about 1 million Korean War veterans from the 1950 to 1953 period still among us, and the median age is 88. 3. The VA estimates that by end the decade, there will only be about a hundred thousand Korean War veterans left.
<p>Kay Croll, Sgt-at-Arms Present</p>	<p>Asked to speak on veteran's service office</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 volunteer Post Service Officers 2. Anyone wants service, they can go to Post website. Bottom of page is link to schedule. Best way to contact us 3. Can also sign up online.
<p>Ali Nikolai, Service Officer Excused</p>	<p>No report</p>
<p>Executive Committee at Large Rex Cunningham, 1yr Present</p>	<p>No report</p>

Floyd Cline, 2yr Present	No report
Joe Byrnes, 3yr Present	No report
Marty Pfeifer, Past Commander Present	No report

Non-Voting Invited Attendees

Carl Simchick, General Manager

Calendar

1. Status on the coil for HVAC - due in sometime in Aug or Sept.
2. The 25-ton system was bought in 2017.
3. Flow device broke, it was shipped yesterday and should be here in the next few days.
4. Hopefully will be able to regenerate even with that leak.
5. Blowing circuit breakers with the fans and everything plugged in.
6. Status on the roof: Roof Committee, met last year, did a lot of work. Would like to do something with leak in SQ. Reviewing the committees' findings and recommendations first.
7. Charlie suggests trouble shooting ourselves.

Susan Hedrick, AL Auxiliary President

1. We have men in auxiliary
2. Published an article in enews, under her leadership have done really well.
3. Received 2 highest awards as a first time president – the Meritorious Citation and Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Award
4. Went to legion college - her and her husband

Mike Wolfe, SAL Commander

Upcoming SAL events:

1. 7th Annual Pig Roast on Sept 17th.
2. \$20 a ticket sold at the door

Tom Boltik, ALR Director

Upcoming Riders Events

1. Going to convention in Milwaukee.
2. 5-day legacy ride from Mobile AL, to Milwaukee - 2 rider, 2 day to Mobile, 5 days on the road, and 2 days back.
3. Request for support of riders.

Motion to support the 2 riders on the ride to convention, not to exceed \$3000.

3 opposed

Motion carried

Theron Patrick	Blood Drive – 8/14 1. Blood Drive one week from tonight 2. Still a few open slots, go to Red Cross site, or send Theron an email
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6. Unfinished Business:

- a. Dentz Fund Committee Status Report – noted above under Judge Advocate

7. New Business:

- a. Looking for suggestions to decorate the stairway to the 2nd floor

8. Closing Prayer, Salute, Adjournment

Legion College Attendee Comments

- a. Attended sessions and notes:

- 1) **This is The American Legion**; Highlighted the need to build out digital media services, scholarship programs, and demographics of the Legion Past and Present and the path ahead for the future
- 2) **Finance and Charitable Gaming**; Highlights changes to the Commonwealth changes to Gaming regulations. Members only for game playing and having a gaming manager on duty when the games are open; amendments to gaming licence if additional types of gaming are added
- 3) **American Legion Family Etiquette and Protocol**; uniform wear and salutes of the flag. Proper representation of the Legion when wearing legion apparel or in official legion capacity as an officer. Protect the Legion from bad publicity by carrying yourself supporting the legion pillars and values
- 4) **Conducting an Effective Meeting**; Follow the Officer's guide, Constitution and bylaws , Post operating manual. Send out notice of meetings, gather agenda, publish agenda, and set up space before the meeting. Ensure officers are present or excused, committee chairs are present, minutes from previous meetings are published. Avoid getting derailed by using motions from Robert's Rules. Guests are limited to 3 consecutive meetings

5) **New PR Tool Kit-American Legion Family Branding,**

Legiontown.org, Tango Alpha Lima Podcast; the use of Internal and External media sources; KISS and 5w's, only give facts to the media; plant seed, nurture growth; reap the fruit, reseed and repeat. Proper use of Events and campaigns; Ensure local posts foster and represent the Legion in community relations; build partnerships within the local community; rinse recycle repeat mindset. Keep the local community engaged. Invest into digital branding; The American Legion Media Alliance.

- 6) **Building Effective Leaders:** Understanding generational gaps, and partnering with like-minded organizations. How to engage with other organizations, making your post visible, connecting with the community, and reaching out to the youngest generations. Encourage veterans to continue service through community building and taking care of the underserved within the community. Build relations with Team Rubicon, Team RWB, The Mission Continues, and Student Veterans of America. Ensure your post is attractive