



American Legion Post 176  
6520 Amherst Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22150  
703 440-0335 Fax 703 440-0338



## General Membership Meeting, February 7, 2023

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

Kevin Gaddis, Commander – Present

1. Announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Mona Espinoza, was in attendance.
2. Commander Gaddis attended the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Four Chaplains ceremony on Sunday, 2/5/23, and recommended that everyone attend this ceremony at least once.
3. The George Washington Birthday (Presidents Day) Parade is a 17<sup>th</sup> District event and will be held on Monday, 2/20/2023.
4. It is time to be thinking about officer elections. Members should let Rex Cunningham (Executive Committee at Large 1 year) know if they are interested in resigning their current office or if they would like to run for office. The commander reinforced that anyone may volunteer, regardless of whether they are an officer.
5. A volunteer is needed to facilitate Zoom for future meetings.

Adam Rocke is with Hiring Our Heroes organization and announced the upcoming job/career fair on 2/28 at the American Legion Winter Conference, with 30+ companies in attendance. On 3/16 there will be a similar job/career fair at Fort Belvoir with over 100 companies attending.

Special guest Phyllis Wilson, Retired CWO5 and a 37-year veteran spoke about the Women's Military Memorial, the curved wall at Arlington National Cemetery, and the Education Center housed at that location. She also mentioned this is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Iraqi war, in which Jessica Lynch was taken as a POW.

Dennis Madtes, First Vice Commander – Present

1. 96% membership reached. Post 176 needs 51 members by the end of May.
2. **A motion** to vote 43 transfer/new members en masse was requested. Chaplain Mark Arbeen made the motion; JAG Martie Soper seconded.
3. **A motion** to accept the members was requested. Chaplain Mark Arbeen made the motion; Julio (last name?) seconded.

Randy Wheeler, Second Vice Commander – Present



American Legion Post 176  
6520 Amherst Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22150  
703 440-0335 Fax 703 440-0338



1. Regional oratorical contest will be held on 2/25 at 10:00 am at The Stafford American Legion. Ella Ridgway will compete if the winner of the District competition is unable to compete.
2. American Legion Baseball – parents and/or grandparents of students at Lake Braddock, West Springfield and South County are needed as coaches. The Commissioner for the 17<sup>th</sup> District will be Mike Farabaugh.
3. Request for Post 176 to sponsor Springfield Little League. Member Jess Treu is a coach, but more are needed. Randy requested that a motion be made to spend \$1000 on a sponsorship, which would include a banner. The motion was made and seconded, and the vote passed to sponsor.
4. Boys State will take place in Radford, VA. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice would like Post 176 to sponsor 30 boys at \$400 each. Randy Wheeler made the motion and Jay Byrum seconded. Discussion was regarding if the money would come from the Dentz Fund. Finance Officer Karla Pfleeger answered in the affirmative. The vote passed.

Jay Byrum, Third Vice – Present

1. An Easter Egg Roll will take place on Saturday, 4/8/23. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice will work with Carol Harlow, Auxiliary member, on details.
2. The Riders will host a Poker Run and Bike Blessing on Saturday, 4/22/23.
3. Saturday, 5/13/23\* will be the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans party, co-sponsored with the VFW Post 7327, who has pledged up to \$5000. The Military Order of the Purple Heart may also provide a pledge. \*Date is unavailable and will be scheduled on Sunday, 5/14/23.
4. Sonny's Fish Fry will take place on Sunday, 6/25/23.
5. Volunteers are needed for all of the events listed above.

Denise White, Adjutant - Excused

Karla Pfleeger, Finance Officer – Present

1. Report given showing account balances from June 2022 through January 2023.
2. Post is doing well overall, and still awaiting \$15,000 invoice for a/c coil.

Martie Soper, Judge Advocate – Present

1. No report.

Mark Arbeen, Chaplain – Present

1. VSO Ali Nikolai, Commander Kevin Gaddis and the Chaplain attended the funeral service of John Keuker. The Chaplain stressed the importance to have your final wishes documented, known to and agreed upon by family members prior to passing.

Scott Logan, Historian – Present

1. No report.



American Legion Post 176  
6520 Amherst Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22150  
703 440-0335 Fax 703 440-0338



Kay Croll, Sergeant-at-Arms – Present

1. There is a quorum.
2. No report.

Ali Nikolai, Veteran Service Officer – Present

1. A request was made from an Army veteran who left his job due to increasing PTSD. Past due rent is \$750, and the name and address of the landlord are known. Ali asked for a **motion** to be made to pay the rent. Chaplain Mark Arbeen made the motion and JAG Martie Soper seconded. The vote was **passed**. \*Check was written from Gaming, as the requirement is to spend 10% on charitable giving.
2. Adam Rocke announced that he has ample resources to assist veterans with PTSD.

Rex Cunningham, 1 year Member-at-Large – Present

1. Nominations will be made at the April meeting for the upcoming elections, and Rex will need another member on the Election Committee.
2. The following positions will need to be filled:
  - a. Finance Officer
  - b. Sergeant-at-Arms
  - c. 1 year Member-at-Large

Floyd Cline, 2 year Member-at-Large – Present

1. No report.

Joseph Byrnes, 3 year Member-at-Large – **Excused**

Marty Pfeifer, Past Commander – Present

1. No report

Carl Simchick, General Manager – Present

1. Volunteers are needed in order to move forward with offering Zoom during the meetings.

Mike Wolfe, SAL Commander – Present

1. Chili cookoff will take place on Saturday, 2/11/23. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes will be awarded with no entry fees. 1:00 pm arrival, 2:00 pm judging. Donations accepted.

Tom Boltik, Riders Director – Present

1. Washington Birthday Parade on Monday, 2/20/23.
2. Poker Run and Bike Blessing on Saturday, 4/22/23.

Susan Hedrick, Auxiliary President – Excused (Gave statement to Commander to read)

1. Silent Auction & Friday Night Dinner in the banquet hall on Friday, 4/12/23. Donations of auction items needed.



American Legion Post 176  
6520 Amherst Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22150  
703 440-0335 Fax 703 440-0338



Theron Patrick, Blood Drive Chair – **Excused**

1. Commander Gaddis announced blood drive to take place on Tuesday, 2/14/23.

Unfinished business:

1. Pinewood Derby will take place in the Post 176 banquet hall on Saturday, 3/4/23.
2. Julio (last name?) requested a donation of \$500 for the Police Memorial Fund, when they bicycle from Richmond to DC during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May, which is Police Week. The AL Riders pledged \$500 and the SAL pledged \$100. Randy McCoy also pledged \$100. Julio made a motion that the Post also pledge \$500, seconded by Marcie (last name?). The motion was tabled until the EXCOM could discuss on 2/21 and will be addressed at the March GMM.
3. Marcie (last name?) inquired about the Post sponsoring Girls State, and it was recommended that she discuss this with the Auxiliary.