



**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**Post 176 Springfield**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 5, 2023**



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

<b>Voting Legionnaire Name and Title</b>	
Kevin Gaddis, Commander	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Nov and Dec very busy months, Thanks Bob for buying 10 turkeys and 2 hams. Thanks to the volunteers. Without you we do what we do</li><li>2. Pat Locke - thank you for participating on Veterans Day</li><li>3. Jan 17th is the Day on the Hill<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Department is asking for at least 50 Legionnaires to go and represent</li><li>b. The VFW and some other veteran organizations will also be there</li><li>c. Meet and go to Richmond</li><li>d. Kathy Chan is our delegate. She will be there and knows who we are</li></ol></li><li>4. A lot has happened with membership - good things,<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 1t Vice will brief</li><li>b. There will be a 3-yr membership</li><li>c. Dues going up</li></ol></li><li>5. Tonight is special night - we have a quorum.</li><li>6. Going to vote on a budget.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. FO - Roy has done a deep dive on the past couple years on what we bring in and what we put out.</li></ol></li></ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. We need to approve the budget and get this moving forward.</li> <li>c. It's been briefed, analyzed and vetted through the EXCOM.</li> <li>d. It's also been brought to the GMM.</li> <li>e. Let's put the Post first and move forward</li> </ul>
<p>Dennis Madtes, 1st Vice Commander</p>	<p>VA&amp;R, Membership</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commander and Mona please come to the front. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explained Excellence in Membership pin.</li> <li>b. Presented Kevin and Mona with Excellence in Membership pins</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. VA&amp;R – Department is starting weekly Zoom meetings for those interested in being a VSO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Every wed at 2pm starting in Jan.</li> <li>b. More to follow.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Looking for someone to serve as post officer. Ali is stepping down.</li> <li>4. Membership - Multiple year (3-yr) membership will be available, currently annual or PUFL. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. PUFL take age to 80 and multiply by annual membership.</li> <li>b. When the 3 year is available, will be calculated the same way.</li> <li>c. 3 times annual dues.</li> <li>d. Post will mail a membership card each year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. There will be a National rate increase for membership in July 2024.</li> <li>6. Department may increase after voted on in the July convention.</li> <li>7. Currently we have 1327 members for 2024 - 81%, 305 more is all we need</li> <li>8. We have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 12 WWII</li> <li>b. 70 Korean</li> <li>c. 477 Vietnam</li> <li>d. 10 deceased who have already pd for 2024</li> </ul> </li> <li>9. This month we had 4 transfers and 6 new</li> </ol> <p><b>Motion</b> to accept in mass, Theron, 2nd Mike</p> <p><b>Motion carried</b></p> <p><b>Motion</b> to accept as members of Post 176, Rex, 2nd by Mark</p> <p><b>Motion carried</b></p>

<p>Randy Wheeler, 2nd Vice Commander</p>	<p>Children &amp; Youth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kicked off the Oratorical Contest <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hosting Regional competition here</li> <li>b. Dates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Post 176: 3-4 Jan</li> <li>2) District: 21 Jan, location Northern VA</li> <li>3) Regional: date TBD (Feb 10th), hosted by Post 176. We need 18 volunteers, time keeps, escorts, etc. We need an audience as well</li> <li>4) Department: date TBD (March timeframe), Portsmouth, VA</li> <li>5) Finals: May 17-19, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Mich</li> <li>6) Solid 3 candidates hoping for 7. A lot of Boy Scouts who wants to participate</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Sgt at Arms and Mona have been working with the schools.</li> <li>3. WestPoint group are doing a great job recruiting</li> <li>4. Our goal is to send 30 to Boy's State, Greenspring would like to support</li> </ol>
<p>Jay Byrun, 3rd Vice Commander</p>	<p>Americanism / Calendar</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thanksgiving was great success - thanks again to Bob. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped prepare and serve the meals</li> <li>2. Breakfast with Santa is the 17th. Silly Shots taking pictures, tree with gift cards, breakfast is 1100-1300 – 1000 is report time for cooking, servers, etc.</li> <li>3. Jan 27th is Casino Night</li> <li>4. This Sat Army - Navy game, taco bar starting at 1500. Tailgate party. VFW sponsored.</li> <li>5. Holiday season, reach out to people, give someone a call that you haven't heard, always remember our groups</li> <li>6. National intuitive - Be the One - reach out to our veterans.</li> <li>7. Suicide for veterans is way up.</li> </ol>
<p>Denise White, Post Adjutant</p>	<p>EXCOM Minutes</p> <p>no report</p>

Roy Burton,  
Finance  
Officer

**Income / Expense Trends**

1. Cash in Bank: \$123,254.08 as of 4 December
2. Dentz Fund Balances:
  - a. Cash in bank - \$35K
  - b. Edward Jones Account - \$737,101.15 as of 4 December
3. Reviewing Charitable Donations Against Requirements
  - a. Grover Gaming – 20% (~\$40K) **(-\$10,581.33)**
  - b. Pull / Wall Tabs – 10% (~7K) **(-\$3,074.39)**
  - c. Dentz Fund - ~ \$10K **(-\$10,450.00)**

**Motion 1:** Request GMM approval to make the following donations from gaming as part of fulfilling our 2023 charitable gaming requirements - Roy, Kay

- Provide Veteran Support (\$15,000)
- Air Force Aid Society (\$2,500)
- American Legion Child Welfare Fund (\$2,000)
- Army Emergency Relief Fund (\$2,000)
- Fisher House - Fort Belvoir (\$2,000)
- Hope for the Warrior (\$2,000)
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (\$2,500)
- USO Warrior and Family Center (\$2,000)

Discussion:

Theron - left out Coast Guard

Add the CG.

Identify - to CG mutual assistance for \$2000

Added Coast Guard (\$2,000)

Total changed to \$17,000

**Motion carries**

**Motion 2:** We are still reviewing charitable donations against requirements and may come up short. Request GMM approval to make additional donations as needed by 31 December 2023, subject to the EXCOM's approval. Dennis, Marcie

Discussion:

**Motion carries**

4. 2024 Budget Proposal and Motion

	<p>a. Budget through Dec 2024</p> <p>b. See sheet for motions</p> <p><b>Motion</b> Approve budget of \$1,611, 561.09 for FY2024 as presented</p> <p><b>Motioned carried</b></p> <p>Post 176 now has a budget</p> <p>Commander - heartfelt thanks to Finance Officer</p>
<p>Martie Soper, Judge Advocate</p> <p>Excused</p>	<p>By-Laws Discussion</p> <p>Commander - recognized Martie for the successful Dining Out</p>
<p>Rev. Mark Arbeen, Chaplain</p>	<p>Post-Everlasting update, sick members</p> <p>No report</p>
<p>Scott Logan, Historian</p> <p>Excused</p>	
<p>Royes Gernandt, Sgt-at-Arms</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Heard back from Key Middle school</li> <li>2. Proposed date is Monday 11th to visit the school</li> </ol>
<p>Ali Nikolai, Service Officer</p> <p>Excused</p>	<p>Looking for replacement</p>

<p>Executive Committee at Large</p> <p>Mona Espinosa, 1yr</p> <p>Joe Byrnes, 2yr</p> <p>Angela Wilder 3yr Excused</p>	<p>1yr - no report</p> <p>Commander - congratulations for completing National Legion College</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legion boot camp - 12–14 hour days. Honor to represent our post</li> <li>2. 53 students across the nation - started as 53 individuals and ended as a team</li> </ol> <p>2yr - Army -Navy game - every dime we make goes to the VFW Relief Fund</p>
<p>Marty Pfeifer, Past Commander</p>	<p>No report</p>

<b>Non-Voting Invited Attendees</b>	
<p>Charlie Mooney, General Manager</p>	<p>Building Status &amp; Post Operations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Look around - starting working on ballroom, painting and candlelight's will be replaced</li> <li>2. ATM machine, put in a keypad and replaced card reader</li> <li>3. Bonus for Christmas is \$6350, lower than the past year</li> <li>4. Freezer in kitchen needs new fan, will hopefully be fixed by end of week</li> </ol> <p>Commander - thank you Charlie, for everything you've been doing for the Post. A lot of complements</p>

Linwood Jones, SAL Commander	<p>Upcoming SAL events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nov partnered with Wreath Across America - 106 sponsors joined Rider's laying wreaths this month</li> <li>2. 12/11 Mona made it possible for the Sons to lay a Wreath for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier - Post Commander and Sons Vice will be there.</li> </ol>
Tom Boltik, ALR Director	<p>Upcoming Riders Events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New lights being put over the tent.</li> <li>2. Will be able to use later in evening.</li> </ol>
Kim Palmer, Auxiliary President	<p>Auxiliary Updates/Events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Held final tailgate 12/3 - thanks to all who helped and to the Legion family. All proceeds go to VA&amp;R</li> <li>2. Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday</li> <li>3. March 2nd Annual Women's Celebration</li> </ol>
Theron Patrick	<p>Blood Drive</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Week from today</li> <li>2. Every slot is filled, however there may be cancellations so if you're interested go to website and sign up</li> <li>3. Because of number of pints we collect, Department got an award. Theron is being nominated to be Chairman for the Department</li> </ol>

1. Unfinished Business
2. New Business
3. Closing Prayer, Salute, Adjournment