



AMERICAN LEGION
Post 176 Springfield
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 3, 2024



1. Call to Order, Salute, Prayer, POW/MIA, Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call: Adjutant
3. Commander's Comments
4. Presentation(s)/Remarks
 - a. BSA Funding Support
 - 1) Randy and John presented checks to each of the 5 units.
 - a) Troop 1518
 - b) Troop 1176 (All Female)
 - c) Troop 1344
 - d) Troop 1853
 - e) Sea Scout Troop 1176
 - 2) Commander - Thank you Randy and thank you to all the scouts
 - b. Run for the Wall - Steve League
 - 1) National event
 - 2) Detailed the event
 - a) Will bring 1200 motorcycles, riders, and supporters
 - b) Will generate revenue in the area
 - c) There will be a great deal of media attention
 - 3) Next meeting 9 Jan 2024
5. Reports
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Closing Prayer, Salute
9. Adjourn

Voting Legionnaire's Names and Positions	
Kevin Gaddis, Commander	<p>General Comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Last General Membership meeting for 2024. 2 Great year so far 3 A lot of advances, staff work to move this forward, policies and procedures now incorporated that we didn't have before. Thanks to JA and FO. 4 Stepped up our game with our technology, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Now have Zoom, text alerts, moved us forward b. Best website, thanks to GMU, its very user friendly

	<p>5 Volunteers account for hours. Be sure to put in the hours using the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Programs mature quite a bit over the past 2 yrs, all programs we are chartered to do we are exemplary. Because of our volunteers b. We'd like to expand our volunteers c. If not volunteering, please support this post and show up for the events. People are joining the Post because of activities <p>6 We have critical positions that we can't afford to go down, we need backup for each position, we are temporary stewards, can't afford a gap in anything</p> <p>7 We work for the general membership</p> <p>8 Those that show up - You are the deciders of the post.</p> <p>9 17th District Vice Commander - Henry Dorton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Henry Dorton, wished everyone a safe and happy holiday <p>10 Acknowledge Bob Herr - bought 11 turkeys for our Thanksgiving dinner</p>
<p>Motions from EXCOM</p>	<p>Motion EXCOM to approve this proposed budget of \$1,849,146.39 for FY2025 as presented, for submission to the General Membership Meeting on 3 December 2024. Motion passed</p>
<p>Mona Espinosa, 1st Vice Commander Zoom</p>	<p>VA&R, Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 We have 1214 members, at 71% of our goal 2 6 members - 2 transfer, 4 new 3 Need to be 75% by 12/11, thanks Dennis for sending emails to those who haven't renewed <p>Motion to accept new and transferred members, 2nd Randy Motion carries</p> <p>Commander - thanks Mona and the membership committee, Dennis and Pat</p>

<p>Randy Wheeler, 2nd Vice Commander</p>	<p>Children & Youth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2025 Oratorical 2 1/8 at Post, James Martin to rally troops for volunteers 3 1/19 District will be held at Post 177 4 2/8 Department will be held here 5 Nationals will be held at the Spring Convention in Norfolk (2/28 - 3/2) 6 Last year participant will participate again, will also reach out to Boy's State participant's 7 Solicit 8th-12th graders from any of the schools we support
<p>Jay Byrun, 3rd Vice Commander</p>	<p>Americanism, Calendar</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 12/8 1000 -1300 Breakfast with Santa 2 Thanksgiving – had some new volunteers, thank you for all the new volunteers, and thanks to all volunteers, please go out to the site and put in hours 3 4/19 - welcome home party. 50-year Anniversary Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans. 2025 will be the last year for the anniversary
<p>Denise White, Post Adjutant</p>	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Motion to accept GMM minutes as posted, Randy 2nd</p> <p>Motion carries</p>
<p>Roy Burton, Finance Officer</p>	<p>Finance Budget Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Reviewed Expenses and revenue 2 Approx 8M has flowed through this Post over the 11 months, looking at a small deficient of approx. \$4000 3 Bob - how do you have neg donations? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Roy - top is what post received and bottom is what the post has given out b. Bob - can we get a breakdown of what the donations were c. Roy - yes will get to you 4 2025 Budget <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Post revenue is up almost 13%, about 11% below where we were - using 31 Oct as date for annual projections

	<p>b. Grover put in another 3 machines and pledged \$100,000</p> <p>c. About \$60,000 will be used to replace HVAC</p> <p>d. We are required to make gaming donations</p> <p>e. When you eat here you don't pay sales tax as a benefit to the members, in budget 35,000 to cover</p> <p>Motion: To pass the 2025 proposed budget, 2nd Dennis</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Bob – is it reasonable to present multimillion dollar budget 1 day before the members vote.</p> <p>Marcie - the EXCOM voted on it and we trust them therefore we should vote</p> <p>Dennis – call the question</p> <p>Vote:</p> <p>Majority yea</p> <p>1 nay</p> <p>0 abstentions</p> <p>Motion carries</p> <p>Theron - these are volunteers, we are not Corp that has finance office that is there for 8 hrs. every day. Therefore, the comment by Bob is not substantiated</p> <p>Commander - we are volunteers, FO puts in tirelessly to keep our books in balance, we offer an open forum so people can express their opinions.</p> <p>We voted and the motion for the budget passed</p>
<p>Martie Soper, Judge Advocate</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>Rev. Mark Arbeen, Chaplain Excused</p>	<p>Post-Everlasting update, sick members</p> <p>Jim - provide and update on WJ</p>

<p>Barry Williams, Historian</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Dec. 16, 1919: Relentless lobbying by The American Legion results in an increase of disability compensation for war-wounded veterans, from \$30 per month to \$80 per month. 2 Dec. 7, 1941: Japan’s attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, brings the United States into World War II. Soon, more than 150,000 members of The American Legion (World War I veterans and career officers) return to wartime service. In addition, nearly 400,000 Legionnaires serve as air-raid wardens, 300,000 as volunteer police officers and 50,000 as volunteer firefighters to fill wartime needs in their communities. 3 Dec. 15, 1943: Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery starts to write in longhand, on Mayflower Hotel stationery in Washington, the first draft of what will later become the “GI Bill of Rights”– considered the Legion's single greatest legislative achievement.
<p>Royes Gernandt, Sgt-at-Arms</p>	<p>Quorum We have a quorum with over 55 members in attendance</p>
<p>JD Gibson, Service Officer</p>	<p>Recent Veteran support provided No report</p>
<p>Executive Committee at Large Jack Moar, 1yr Dennis Madtes, 2 yr Nathan Sauvageau, 3yr</p>	<p>No report No report No report</p>
<p>Marty Pfeifer, Past Commander</p>	<p>No report</p>

Non-Voting Invited Attendees	
Charlie Mooney, General Manager	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sink on bar fixed the faucet and plumbing 2 Calanoid on dishwasher 3 Replaced cash dispenser on ATM upstairs 4 Fence damaged by the wind, awning off the SQ damaged, insurance will cover minus the deductible
Kim Palmer, AL Auxiliary President	<p>See notes -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Continue our partnership with the Ft Belvoir Elementary School food pantry, delivered \$1252 in food items 2 Auxiliary's last tailgate 12/15 3 Thanks and gratitude to all the volunteers of our legion family who helped with Thanksgiving 4 Wished everyone a very Merry Christmas
Linwood Jones, SAL Commander	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Wreaths Across America is 12/14 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. thanks to all the members for their donations. b. Over 330 wreaths. c. We will meet at Alexandria National Cemetery at 930 on the 14h 2 Army-Navy game is in afternoon, - Sons will be cooking Brunswick stew 3 Sons donated 4 electronic boards - one for the EXCOM names, and 3 in the SQ for prizes, etc.
Tom Flach, ALR Director	Shared a letter of thanks from the Executive Director for the Canine Connection
Theron Patrick	<p>Blood Drive Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Next blood drive is 12/10 2 Every slot filled however people cancel at last minute, call Theron or check site for openings 3 Have volunteers from all families at the Post - thank you. <p>Commander - no other post does as much as we do with the Blood drive</p>

6. Unfinished Business

a. AC Committee Update – Charlie Buttner

- 1) Assist with RFP for bids
- 2) Received 5 bids after contacting 9 companies
- 3) Range of costs from \$50,550 to \$60000
- 4) The warranty was the same from each
- 5) All had A+ rating with BBB
- 6) Question
 - a) Marty - problem with having it serviced by one other than the co that puts it in -
 - b) GM - Anyone can service

Motion to take the committee recommended brought by Dennis, Kay 2nd

Motion carries

b. Commander - thank Mack Brooks - volunteered and helped with eNews while Karla was on vacation

a. Charlie B

- 1) Thanks to who's been weeding and helping with the grounds
- 2) Looking for a replacement, can't do it moving forward
- 3) Need Tractor operator and 2 push operators to groom the ground
- 4) May want to figure out what to do with the piece of property that the contractor was using to park their trailers

Commander: This past Sunday was Kay's birthday – Happy Birthday Kay!

7. New Business: None

8. Closing Prayer, Salute, Adjournment

9. Executive Session (if necessary)

Annual Board of Incorporation Meeting (if necessary)