



**AMERICAN LEGION  
Post 176 Springfield  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 7, 2025**



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

<b>Voting Legionnaire's Names and Positions</b>	
Kevin Gaddis, Commander	<p>General Comments</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Appreciate you showing up either in person or online in this inclement weather</li><li>2. Volunteerism is carrying the post</li><li>3. Time goes really fast</li><li>4. April is time to identify officers - stay in position or run, encourage you to run if you're interested. As you know we are trying to build a bench</li><li>5. The oratorical is this week.</li><li>6. Support our Post</li><li>7. Thursday is Day on the Hill in Richmond. We get an audience with Delegate Tran. It's important for us to be there. 56 Legionaries showed up and 15 were from Post 176,</li><li>8. Acknowledge the 17th District Vice</li><li>9. 15 Feb is the Washington Day Parade - Riders show up and we also have some that march. Good to support Post 24</li><li>10. Henry - Ole Town Alexandria wanted to save \$ so they switched to the Saturday before the Monday holiday.</li><li>11. WJ had a Christmas party. He's doing well.</li></ol>

<p>Motions from EXCOM</p>	
<p>Mona Espinosa, 1st Vice Commander Excused</p>	<p>VA&amp;R, Membership Dennis reported</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our Post membership is currently at 1,386 members, that puts us at 81% for the year.</li> <li>2. Dennis sent emails to those who haven't renewed yet</li> <li>3. We have reached our January goal set by the Department</li> <li>4. We have 16 members total to vote in, 1 transfer and 15 new members.</li> </ol> <p><b>Motion</b> to accept new and transferred members, Mark 2nd <b>Motion carries</b></p> <p>Commander - When COVID hit, we went almost a year without a meeting, Post 177 was able to continue with Zoom. We now have the capability.</p>
<p>Randy Wheeler, 2nd Vice Commander</p>	<p>Children &amp; Youth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2025 Oratorical <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tomorrow's oratorical, Ella is competing again, Mitch from the Scouts, one from Boys State but we haven't heard from him</li> <li>b. If anyone is interested in overseeing this next year, please let me know</li> <li>c. Need 4 judges tomorrow</li> <li>d. Business attire</li> <li>e. 1800 -1830 for volunteers to report</li> <li>f. Starts at 7, shouldn't take any longer than an hour</li> <li>g. \$1500 to the 2 winners</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Glad we got zoom up</li> </ol> <p>Commander - thank you Randy, you've done a great job for the past 3 years. You've brought this to a new level.</p>

<p>Jay Byrun, 3rd Vice Commander</p> <p>Excused</p>	<p>Americanism, Calendar</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There was an impromptu New Year's Eve party</li> </ol>
<p>Denise White, Post Adjutant</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CPR report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dates are 01 Jun thru 31 May</li> <li>b. Please continue to track and input in your volunteer hours</li> <li>c. EXCOM start putting together your reports – same as previous years</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Minutes</li> </ol> <p><b>Motion</b> to accept GMM minutes as posted, 2nd Martie</p> <p><b>Motion carries</b></p>
<p>Roy Burton, Finance Officer</p>	<p>Finance Budget Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We received \$15K in 2024 of the \$100K donation from Grover that was forecasted for 2025</li> <li>2. We'd planned to use \$60K to replace the HVAC in 2025. The HVAC was replaced on 22 December for \$50,550, leaving us with a deficit of ~\$35K for 2024</li> <li>3. Otherwise, we would have ended 2024 with ~\$12K surplus, vice a realized deficit of (\$22,464) on operations of \$9,376,906</li> <li>4. Congratulations on your successful 2024 and a special thanks to the Finance Team of Stephanie, Charlie and Krystle</li> </ol>
<p>Martie Soper, Judge Advocate</p>	<p>No report</p>
<p>Rev. Mark Arbeen, Chaplain</p>	<p>Post-Everlasting update, sick members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Out of pocket next few weeks due to funeral and inauguration</li> <li>2. Martin James bother passed - keep him in your prayers</li> </ol>

<p>Barry Williams, Historian</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Four Officers meet in Paris. <i>In late January 1919 (could not find the exact date from my research)</i> Four line officers of the American Expeditionary Forces – Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.; Lt. Col. George A. White; Lt. Col. William Donovan; and Lt. Col. Eric Fisher Wood – meet in Paris to discuss the recent passing of former President Theodore Roosevelt, along with morale among the troops, and what might happen at home when nearly 2 million newly discharged combat veterans, many disabled and shell-shocked, return to civilian lives. This meeting, of the four officers, set the foundation for what we know today as the American Legion.</li> <li>2. January 27, 1936 the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act passed in both the House and Senate, which was vetoed a year earlier as the American Legion Bill. Immediately following the law’s enactment, American Legion National Commander Ray Murphy sends by airmail the application forms necessary for veterans to file for the payments (in the form of bonds). He also broadcasts to a national radio audience the procedure for filing the forms. By April 25, 1936, approximately 2.9 million applications for the bonds are filed by veterans.</li> <li>3. Thanks to those who send me little nuggets. I’m learning a lot</li> </ol> <p>Commander - you can tie a lot of what gets done for veterans back to the American legion, for example the GI bill, etc.</p>
<p>Royes Gernandt, Sgt-at-Arms</p>	<p>Quorum</p> <p>No report</p>
<p>JD Gibson, Service Officer</p>	<p>Recent Veteran support provided</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Main job is to help veterans in need, one way is through the website, thanks to the GMU team who put it together, the marques we designed who show the EXCOM committee, thanks to Karla and everyone who have referred veterans in need</li> <li>2. \$2000 to veterans in need <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. One was a motorcycle accident with residual effects, we were able to help</li> <li>b. Another veteran, wallet stolen, car totaled, we were able to help</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<p>Executive Committee at Large</p> <p>Jack Moar, 1yr <a href="#">Zoom</a></p> <p>Dennis Madtes, 2 yr <a href="#">Zoom</a></p> <p>Nathan Sauvageau, 3yr</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> - No report</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> - Working on Post 141 for membership Commander - Dennis may be giving the invocation for Day on the Hill</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> - No report Commander - Nathan won the Chili' contest and \$500 - he gave it back to the scholarship fund</p>
<p>Marty Pfeifer, Past Commander <a href="#">Zoom</a></p>	<p>No report</p>

<b>Non-Voting Invited Attendees</b>	
<p>Charlie Mooney, General Manager</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Randy put up back splash in kitchen, also fixed awning, stained stage so it should hold up better during parties</li> <li>2. Fence is fixed</li> </ol>
<p>Kim Palmer, AL Auxiliary President</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. December 12 – Fort Belvoir Food Pantry Market <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Donated \$1,233 of food for Christmas for our Military families and children at Fort Belvoir Elementary School Food Market</li> <li>b. All were gratefully accepted by Principals Dr. Lazedrick Jemison and Ms. Jennifer Laxton, along with Family Liaison Ms. Dolores Elliott</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. December 20 – ECHO Shelter and Food Pantry <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Donated over \$1,000 to the local Springfield Shelter and Food Pantry for their Christmas Family Program</li> <li>b. Also provided were 10 \$150 Giant gift cards to 10 families</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Sunday, March 23 - Women's Wellness Social event stressing mental health and wellness for women veterans, military spouses, and caregivers</li> </ol>

	4. Looking forward to 2025
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Linwood Jones, SAL Commander	<p>Commander - what a great year you had in 2024, the awards, etc. Hell of a job! you’ve shown a lot of leadership over the past couple of years. Thank you.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Karla does an amazing job</li> <li>2. 14 Dec Army-Navy Game - great time, very successful</li> <li>3. Truck drivers from Wreathes across American came and hung out in the Social Quarters</li> <li>4. 25 Jan - we will be having our 5th annual Casino Night. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adding more table games, will have horse racing, etc. this year will try to push an extra hour</li> <li>b. Be consider of others when you win the maximum chips, and let them sit at the tables and participate</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Tom Flach, ALR Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thanks for Zoom</li> <li>2. Working on the national Legacy Run - this year in August, the run will start in VA goes to Tampa</li> <li>3. It’s going to be competitive but we have a good shot at having it here</li> <li>4. In May big event with Run for the Wall</li> </ol> <p>Gordon (Order of the Purple Heart) - what our legion does for other organizations - thanks to the riders for taking the Purple Heart Chapter under their wings. We really appreciate what the Post does for us. Please thank all the riders.</p> <p>JD - Thanks to the Riders for the prime rib dinner they did for the tailgate</p>

Theron Patrick	Blood Drive Update 1. Next blood drive is 11 Feb 2. Commander - Theron and Rosemary do a great job with it, leading the state
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6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
  - a. Sonny - 6/29 Fish Fry on calendar
8. Closing Prayer, Salute, Adjournment
9. Executive Session (if necessary)
10. Annual Board of Incorporation Meeting (if necessary)