



AMERICAN LEGION
Post 176 Springfield
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 4, 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

Voting Legionnaire's Names and Positions	
<p>Kevin Gaddis, Commander</p>	<p>General Comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have a quorum 2. Theron and Rosemary are relocating, we need someone to step up to run the blood drive. It's every 56 days. 3. We're trying to build redundancy. Going to work on the next couple of months 4. Karla has Mac helping with eblast 5. Elections in May, if you're interested in running for a position, let us know. 6. The power is with the general membership 7. Dues increase for the Post. \$40 a month for legionnaires. It hasn't been raised in years. National raised their dues last year by \$5. We didn't raise ours. We went from receiving \$11 per member to only \$6. The rest goes to Department and National. Department will raise theirs this or next year. <p>Motion to raise our dues by \$5 to \$45, Adjutant, 2nd by 3rd vice</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What do we do with the money we make from the dues? --The post pays the taxes on food and drink here -If we think it's going to go up again \$5 - Would it better to raise to \$10 to \$50? --It's better to raise incrementally <p>-Can circumvent the increases by paying up for life. You don't have to made one big payment, you can make payments</p>

	<p>-There are also have 3 yr memberships, those that paid for 3 yr memberships are locked in at the price</p> <p>-We need to raise to cover expenses. We also need to take into consideration those on a fixed income, maybe grandfather those in</p> <p>-Probably not an option, have to turn in our dues to national and they put that dollar amount out</p> <p>-We pay Korean and WWII dues</p> <p>-This wouldn't take effect until July 2025</p> <p>Motion carries</p> <p>8. Taylor in line for Detachment Commander for the Son's this year. It will be announced during the convention. He will be elected and installed in June</p> <p>9. He will be the top Son in VA. Asking the Post to support him to include contributing something financially</p>
<p>Motions from EXCOM</p>	<p>- Resolution: George Navas, Post 175, for Department Vice Commander</p>
<p>Mona Espinosa, 1st Vice Commander</p>	<p>VA&R, Membership</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1482 - 87% for yr, reached our goal that was set for this month. 2. 15 new members - Read names <p>Motion to accept new and transferred members, Mona, 2nd Mark</p> <p>Motion carries</p> <p>Commander - even though we're ahead according to the goal set, we're behind where we were last year</p>

<p>Randy Wheeler, 2nd Vice Commander</p>	<p>Children & Youth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank you to everyone who supported the Post and regional oratorical 2. Boy's State kicks off this weekend. We sent 37 last year. 3. Baseball kicking off again this year, there are some changes 4. Standing up a girls softball team, without our help they wouldn't have the resources to do so 5. Thank you for all your help
<p>Jay Byrun, 3rd Vice Commander</p>	<p>Americanism, Calendar</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last tailgate - we put together and it was an all Legion family, the Sons, Riders, Auxiliary, Legionnaires all worked together 2. We need help with the Super Bowl <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If can help decorate starts 11 AM on Sunday, starting to cook Saturday b. Bring dishes if you'd like. We'll have the banquet hall set 3. 4/26th having party for Vietnam veterans, looking for volunteers 4. If interested in 3rd Vice position, come see Jay 5. See Greg, has raffle ticket for the guns the Riders are raffling off. \$10 per tickets
<p>Denise White, Post Adjutant</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPR report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dates are 01 Jun thru 31 May b. Please continue to track and input in your volunteer hours c. EXCOM start putting together your reports – same as previous years 2. Minutes <p>Motion to accept GMM minutes as posted</p> <p>Motion carries</p> 3. Read resolution - George Navas, Post 175, for Department Vice Commander Dennis - there isn't a requirement to bring to general membership and vote on unless a member of Post 176

<p>Roy Burton, Finance Officer</p>	<p>Finance Budget Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Went over the main revenue and expenses 2. A little deficient for month because of 2 pay periods during the month 3. Gave balance of the Dentz fund 4. Last month met with financial advisor Dentz fund up 12% for 2024 5. Taxes - provided everything to accountant to start taxes for 2024 6. Provided W-2s to 35 employees for their taxes 7. Following Jays lead - anyone interested in Finance Office, please see Roy. 8. Roy will not be running for re-election. Will always be an asset will not be in the seat
<p>Martie Soper, Judge Advocate</p>	<p>No report</p>
<p>Rev. Mark Arbeen, Chaplain</p>	<p>Post-Everlasting update, sick members</p> <p>No report</p>
<p>Barry Williams, Historian</p>	<p>3 FEB 1943 (Four Chaplain's Day) U.S Army Transporter (The Dorchester) was torpedoed and sunk during the Battle of the Atlantic. Immediately after the Dorchester was struck, the ship lost power and began sinking. Four Army chaplains Reverend George L. Fox, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Father John P. Washington, and Reverend Clark V. Poling began assisting with the evacuation. Life jackets were dispersed and passengers were directed to the lifeboats.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Dorchester lacked enough life jackets for everyone on board. While passengers and crew members continued to seek refuge off the ship, all four chaplains gave up their life jackets, well aware that the frigid waters of the North Atlantic offered virtually no chance of survival.</p> <p>As the ship continued to sink, survivor accounts claim the four chaplains held arms while singing hymns. None of the four survived, and the attack ultimately led to the deaths of over 700 people.</p> <p>On Feb. 28, 1991, President Bush declared a ceasefire on 28th February 1991, formally ending the Persian Gulf War. To prevent future aggression, the UN enacted Resolution 686 and Resolution 687. BL: this day officially ended the Persian Gulf War.</p> <p>**January 1st 1956 - Post 176 received its charter</p>

<p>Royes Gernandt, Sgt-at-Arms</p>	<p>Quorum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning started for Bridge Walk 2. Representing the legion teaching flag protocol at Crescent Elementary School <p>Commander -coordinate with 2nd vice to get in CPR</p>
<p>JD Gibson, Service Officer</p>	<p>Recent Veteran support provided</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No report for Post Service Officer 2. If you or anyone you know can help as the Veterans Service Officer, please let us know 3. Kay is the current VSO, We can have as many as we need, may not be on the EXCOM but it's part of this Post <p>Commander - Kay's been doing a great job. We have almost 1700 members and we only have 1 person. We need more veterans who can do.</p>
<p>Executive Committee at Large</p> <p>Jack Moar, 1yr Excused</p> <p>Dennis Madtes, 2 yr</p> <p>Nathan Sauvageau, 3yr Excused</p>	<p>2nd yr - no report</p>
<p>Marty Pfeifer, Past Commander</p>	<p>No report</p>

Non-Voting Invited Attendees

Charlie
Mooney,
General
Manager

Excused

Kim Palmer,
AL
Auxiliary
President

Excused

1. "Sleigh your Winter Blues Away- Raffle of Cheer"
2. Drawing Friday, February 14 at 9pm Social Quarters

Linwood
Jones, SAL
Commander

1. Thank everyone who came to 1/25 to support the 5th Casino Night. Very successful night
2. Introduced Tyler
 - a. Tyler - thanked everyone for the opportunity,
 - b. Discussed his background

Motion to contribute \$1,000 to Commander Tyler's, Commander, 2nd by Dennis

Discussion

-Dennis - this is a common tradition, when someone runs for a state position, Post supports and pledges funds

-Roy - suggested \$5,000. Having an idea of how much to run hospitality suite and stocking in, \$1,000 is too low

-Jay - what funds would this come out of and can we afford it

Roy - we can afford it and it would come out of the general funds

Martie - this should come through the EXCOM 1st, to vote on and bring to GMM.

Discussed during the EXCOM but not voted on

Called the vote

1 abstention - Martie

Motion carries

<p>Tom Flach, ALR Director Excused</p>	<p>No report</p>
<p>Theron Patrick</p>	<p>Blood Drive Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 week from today for blood drive, we have 10 vacancies 2. One of the most rewarding things Theron's done 3. 2 parts to job - 1st is recruiting and during event, Rosemary keeps people happy, signs them up, Paul Kappal comes in and give name tags, fills out paperwork. 4. Sign up people for the next drive as they are leaving, emails are sent to previous donors 5. Doesn't have to be a single person can be a team 6. See Theron for information <p>Commander - its a big lift to do the blood drive. You've taken to another level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Theron - we were the only donor site during the pandemic

6. Unfinished business

a. Rex

- 1) 18 people on cash team,
- 2) Come in 2 at a time each day, go through Grover machines and collect the money, determine how much has to go back into the machine
- 3) Loosing 2 members, review the way we do business, may have to stop one day because we need more people
- 4) Need to get more people involved, need new blood

b. 17th district - reminder about the George Washington day parade, in honor 250th anniversary of the American revolution,

- 1) Post 24 inviting other legion posts and the families, ask that wear legion hat or service moral cap, grand Marshall is Lieutenant General Heidi J. Hoyle, Deputy Chief of Staff, US Army
- 2) Website is washingtonbirthday.com - tells about the parade - the route, etc.
- 3) Can come between 9 and 11
- 4) Tyler is on the committee as well

5) Post 176 always support

6) Uniform is khakis and blue hoodie or legion shirt

7) Meet there

c. Commander - got lucky with EXCOM however you, the members who show up here for the GMM make the final decisions

7. New Business

8. Closing Prayer, Salute, Adjournment

9. Executive Session (if necessary)

Annual Board of Incorporation Meeting (if necessary)