

27 JULY 2023 American Legion Post 49 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Post Commander John Barkley called the 27 July 2023 American Legion Post 49 Meeting to order at 1600, conducted the opening ceremony and declared the meeting of Edward W. Thompson Post No. 49 open for Business

Adjutant Roll Call: Cmdr. John Barkley, 1st Vice Cmdr. Earl Lash, 2nd Vice Cmdr Jim Addressi, Adjutant Bob Dargis, Finance Officer Sean Russell, Judge Advocate Jason Turner, Sgt. at Arms Sieg Freitag, Chaplain Larry Girard, Service Officer Steve Hamilton, Service Officer Marty Welker, Historian Jim McCloughan, Trustee Bruce Thatcher, Trustee Patrick Whitlatch, **Trustee Willie Reinhardt**, Trustee Chuck Aubrey, Trustee Rich Ely, **Trustee Guy Cherry**, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch, SAL Commander Brett Novy, **Auxiliary President Mary Fitzgerald**, **Club Manager Emily Fitzbaker**, Member Jim Montgomery, **Auxiliary Chaplain Vicki Olson**, **Member Rudy Rodriguz**, **Member Josh Gunnison**, **Member Brad Vandenberg**, Quorum (of at least 5 AL members) present.

On Motion of Earl Lash to revise the agenda, properly seconded and approved by oral vote, Steve Hamilton addressed the following: A) Need for service officer Sept/Oct time frame B) Recommended a “Patriot Award” for a local business displaying the American Flag C) Need for Honor Guard at Glenn School in September, and possibly St Basil in South Haven.

Josh Gunnison mentioned and addressed A) Medal of Honor coin of the Daughter of Dwane Dewey B) He suggested more entertainment at the post in the form of a small swing set for kids, horse shoe lanes and corn hole boards. C) He asked for a comparison of money spent on helping veterans vs. money spent on the bar. It was pointed out that all members have access to all financial records and that he was free to peruse said records. **On Motion of the Adjutant**, properly seconded, the committee approved Josh’s request for access to the financial records, which the Commander agreed would be forthcoming.

On Motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, and approved by oral vote, the meeting returned to the regular Agenda

Previous Meeting Minutes dated 29 June 2023 reviewed/approved on motion of Earl Lash, seconded and approved by the membership.

Meeting purpose reminder. Review recommendations from committees (including the Club Operations Committee), adopt those recommendations that are judged to be useful for the successful operation management of the post, and present major recommendations/changes to the general Membership Mtg for member approval.

Business

-Account status: \$207,649.56, on motion of Earl Lash, finance report was approved.

-Quickbooks: June 2023 profit of 19,214.07.

-Finance Officer, Sean Russell, addressed in detail some members request for the need of an audit other than the usual yearly audit. After discussion, it was determined by membership consensus that no other audit would be conducted.

-SAL current total funds not available.

On Motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, the Finance report was approved.

-Aux current total funds available \$27,442.86 +\$6,379 CD.

-Club Operations Committee recommendations were discussed.

-July 29 Breakfast to be staffed by volunteers Billie Coon, Brian and Patti Sheehy, Paul Middleton, Sean Russell, Jim Addressi, Jason Turner and John Barkley due to Hartford American Legion being unable to cover July 29 as previously agreed.

- In regard to allocation of funds to Primal Outfitters and Josh Gunnison, Member Guy Cherry stated that the “Commander’s Policies (unspecified) were in conflict with the Post By-Laws” . When Challenged by the Adjutant and asked to provide specifically which by-Law was in conflict, Member Guy Cherry did not have any response.

AL Events

-28 July 2023 Military honors for Navy Veteran John Calkins CANCELED once again at request of family.

- 29 July 2023 Honor Guard event for Army Veteran Chuck Moore will be hosted by the Moore Family at Mooresville Park, Honor Guard to be at the post by 1300 for departure to Mooresville Park.
- 12 Aug. Military Honors for Thomas Estes at Monks Cemetery, Geneva Twp, 1300 Saturday 12 Aug. 2023. Please meet at the Post by 1200 12 Aug to support (1245 arrival at cemetery).
- 18 Aug. Host dinner for Operation Injured Soldier Outing.
- 19 Aug. Support fishing return with 1200 noon salute. Please meet at the Post by 1130.
- 27 Aug 2023, at 1400, a celebration of life for Army veteran Philip Thompson is being planned to take place at Post 49, please plan to be at the post by 1430 for an estimated 1500 Honor Guard ceremony.
- Donation of take-off assist module to Kalamazoo Air Zoo (Ben Page) per Jim Addressi request in process..

SAL Events

- SAL will continue Thursday dinners through October.

Aux Events

- Need current periodicals for use at (850 Phillips St) South Haven Nursing & Rehabilitation Community. Vicki will pick up magazines at meetings and deliver during one of her regular visits.

Other Business

- Maintenance Items: North side lawn leveling to insure safe walkability with hard surface option: Plan/top view drawing with feature content available for markup. Paint the Tank project update by Rudy Rodriguez, \$11,000 estimate for paint only, no sandblasting. Some possibility of grant money to be looked into.
- Jim McCloughan memorial dedication target - Veterans Day 2023. Additional funding requirement
- Donation process discussion, target setting planned for Sept-Dec 2023..
- Capital Spending list available/distributed for review.
- On Motion of Guy Cherry to fund** Primal Outfitters (Josh Gunnison) an additional \$5,000, properly seconded, discussion was had by members regarding “sponsorship” (painting *Post 49 American Legion* on the side of his Boat) vs. a “donation” without any such designation on his boat. It was noted by the Post Adjutant that any display of the actual American Legion Emblem would require approval by National Headquarters. Said Motion was continued to the next Membership meeting on August 3, pending the Adjutants research into the Sponsorship issue.

Next meetings:- Membership Mtg 1900 3 Aug 2023 - Club Operations Com.1530, Exec Com. Mtg 1600 31 Aug 2023.

2023 days to remember:

August: Purple Heart Day Aug. 7, Agent Orange Awareness Day Aug. 10, Navajo Code Talkers Day Aug. 14, Marine Corps Reserve Birthday Aug. 29 Sept: V-J Day Sept. 2, Labor Day Sept. 4, Patriot Day Sept. 11, National POW/MIA Recognition Day Sept. 15, Air Force (USAF) Birthday Sept. 18, Gold Star Mother’s Day Sep 24, VFW Day Sept. 29.

Post commander John Barkley declared meeting of Edward W. Thompson South Haven Post No. 49 Adjourned at about 1800.

Respectfully,

Bob Dargis, Adjutant for American Legion Post 49