

4Nov2021 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Post Commander Jason Turner called the 4Nov2021 American Legion Post 49 membership meeting to order at 1902 and conducted the opening ceremony, followed by an award presentation and order of business.

Adjutant Roll Call: Cmdr. Jason Turner, 1st Vice Cmdr. John Barkley, 2nd Vice Cmdr Jim Addressi, Adjutant Tom Breen, Finance Officer Tom Dryer, Sgt. at Arms Art Farmer, Chaplain and Service Officer Larry Girard, **Service Officer Steve Hamilton**, Historian Jim McCloughan, **Trustee Bruce Thatcher**, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey, **Trustee Patrick Whitlatch**, **Judge Advocate Earl Lash**, **Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch**, **Member Bob Dargis**, Member Leo Flory, **Member Josh Gunneson**, Member Marty Welker, **Member Jim Montgomery**, **Member Pete Petryke**, **Member Jim Barkoozis**, **Member Dan Thompson**

Quorum (of at least 5 legion members) present.

Regular meeting suspended for the introduction of Palisade Power Plant representative Larissa Osterbaan and the presentation of an appreciation award to her for Palisade's generous support of the AL Post 49 12Nov2021 VA Open house.



Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg dated 7Oct2021 approved as written.

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: Members Pete Petruke, Jim Barkoozis and Dan Thompson introduced themselves.

Committee reports

1. Finance: Report summarized below and approved subject to audit.

-Account status (28Oct2021 status \$140,784.15)

- Quickbooks: Sep2021 net operating income \$7,857.51
- SAL current total funds available \$17,139 plus \$5,055 Children's Christmas Fund as of 12Oct2021
- Aux current total funds available \$21,600
- Donation tracking discussion- We currently log the donations we receive and the date received but do not track the reason or intended use for donation. If donations are made to current accounts, they will be deposited in that account and no further tracking required. If donations made for any other reason than a named account, the donation will be deposited into the General Operations account and tracked/shown on monthly American Legion Post 49 Finance Report until expensed for the reason donated.

2. **Adjutant - Membership:**

- Membership update: 620 listed members for this year versus 572 last year.
- Membership update: (369 members or 65.31% paid versus Nov goal of 65%.
- Receive paperwork for two (2) new members for circulation at the next meeting.

3. **Service Officers.**

- Veterans Affairs Director Gary Easterling scheduled to visit Post 49 on 12Nov at 10AM. Palisades support planned for the event, including luncheon snacks.
- Larry's report identified recent/ongoing meetings with Veteran having PTSD to identify help needed and guiding another veteran through the benefit process.
- Steve reported three recent activities: working with homeless vet to find suitable housing at BC VA facility, working with a second homeless vet and a third person in process.

4. **Club Facilities and Operations Committee**

- Calendar review for Nov/Dec2021 including 25Nov AL Mtgs moved to 18Nov,
- Report out and recommendations from Club Opn's Mtg
 - Protemp Repair of ice machine approved.
 - Hernandez pre approved for second year of two (2) year snow removal contract
 - Christmas bonuses recommended at \$100 for bartenders and Ben, \$300 for club manager for 14Dec payment and approved at this membership meeting.
 - Non-members coming to the Post for a drink may be sponsored by a member who is present but member must be present the entire time the guest is on site, to meet MI Liquor Control Board requirements. We all need to keep working on providing a welcoming environment for all veterans and active military, including offering Post 49 membership to them.

5. **AL Events**

- 7Nov District meeting with Past Commanders Mtg 1200, lunch (\$8) served by Aux at 1230, District Mtgs 1330 50/50 Drawing, raffles (for each Aux, SAL, AL requiring different tickets), officers encouraged to attend and RSVP Jason. Please brainstorm ways to assist with Benton Harbor water crisis for meeting discussion.
- Marine Corps Day/Birthday 1800 Nov10 celebration
- 0900-1100 11Nov breakfast at Post 49, 1111 salute at Post 49 followed by a visit to local nursing home.
- 1000AM-1500 12Nov VA "Open House" with American Legion Veterans Affairs Department Director Gary Easterling and two of his VA Service Officers on site to talk with any veterans who have questions about their veteran benefits. The Palisades Power Plant will support with food, soft drinks and people.

6. **Family Meetings - SAL Events**

- Larry Carlson Thanksgiving Memorial Dinner planned for 21Nov2021 with takeout dinner 10AM-1PM, dine-in noon -1400 and limited delivery available on request. Support needed starting at 0900.

7. **Family Meetings - Aux**

- 7Nov2021 luncheon support for 4th District meetings
- Kids Christmas Party scheduled for December 11
- 80 new members since 1July

Sick call - Paul Middleton, Larry Smith

Unfinished business

- “War on Terror” meeting room display space, moving to wall mounted content
- Post 49 hosts 7Nov District Meeting

New Business

- Tiki Bar shrink wrapping approved. Suggestion approved to support business owner with ceiling tile advertising.
- New freezer plan from Jason, Mike and Heather in process.
- Bruce suggested that we support a veteran owned coffee supplier, Black Rifle Coffee Company that supplies premium coffee to “people who love America”, Heather performed cost analysis that identified an annual cost premium of \$72. (versus current \$217) and purchase/premium approved by membership. Will plan to serve samples of the new coffee on Veterans Day.
- New front exterior entrance fascia replacement rescheduled for Spring 2022
- HVAC Air handling filters should be changed (part of annual maintenance contract)
- Bruce suggested that we start planning (1-day) 2022 Christmas trip to Frankenmuth to visit Vet’s museum and Christmas store.
- Jim Montgomery requested that we consider taking some action near term to attenuate or dampen noise level in the clubroom using sound absorbing tiles or other alternatives. Investigation of alternatives is TBD.
- Up to \$700 was approved to purchase a new AL Flag, carrying flag new spear toppers and carrying case.
- Volunteers needed to support the packaging of Christmas Trees for Troops at Wahmhoff Farms Monday, November 29th, 2021 (the Monday after Thanksgiving) with kick-off at 945. Wear work gloves, be dressed for the weather, gather 0900 at post for ride sharing and check in with Betsy on location at 22330 M 40 Hwy, Gobles MI 49055.

Communication & Donations \$300 anonymous donation received by Steve and assigned to support “War on Terror” meeting room display headed by Patrick Whitlatch.

Next meetings

- Membership Mtg 1900 2Dec
- Club Operations Comm 1530, Exec Comm Mtg 1600 18Nov

Memorial to a departed post member None known

For The Good of The American Legion.

Marine Corps Day/Birthday Nov 10, Veterans Day Nov 11, Armistice Day Nov 11, Thanksgiving Day Nov 25, U.S. National Guard Birthday Dec 13, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 7 Dec, National Wreaths Across America Dec 18, Christmas Day Dec 25, Kwanzaa Dec 26–Jan 1, New Year’s Eve Dec 31.

Post Commander Jason Turner conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2025.

Respectfully,
John Barkley for
Tom Breen, Adjutant
American Legion Post 49