

## 2Feb2023 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Commander John Barkley called the 2Feb2023 American Legion Post 49 membership meeting to order at 1900, conducted the opening ceremony and business meeting as summarized below.

### Order of Business

**Adjutant: Roll Call: Cmdr. John Barkley, 1st Vice Cmdr. Earl Lash, 2nd Vice Cmdr Jim Addressi, Adjutant Bob Dargis, Finance Officer Tom Dryer, Judge Advocate Jason Turner, Sgt. at Arms Art Farmer, Chaplain Larry Girard, Service Officer John McCormack, Service Officer and SAL Commander Steve Hamilton, Historian Jim McCloughan, Trustee Bruce Thatcher, Trustee Patrick Whitlatch, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch, Member Tom Breen, Member Richard Ely, Post 68 Member Frank Thompson, Member Jim Montgomery, Member Dan Gomez, Member Josh Gunnison, Member Seig Freitag**  
**Quorum (of at least 5 AL members) present**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: None present

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg minutes dated 5Jan2023 reviewed/approved.

### Committee reports

#### **1. Finance.**

- Account status for 2Feb \$174,167.33 as of 24Jan2023
- Quickbooks: Dec2022 -\$ 24,895.45 after \$15,228.00 Breakfast distribution to Aux., KOC, SAL
- SAL current total funds available not reviewed but approx. \$19,000
- Aux current total funds available \$24,245 plus a \$6,300 CD
- Finance report approved (subject to audit)

#### **2. Adjutant - Membership:**

- Member report: 48 New members, 38 PUFL, 431 Renewals out of 631, for 82%. 15Feb goal 85%.
- Two new member applications circulated/approved. Adjutant report approved

#### **3. Service Officers.**

- Both Larry and Steve directing veterans/needs including DD214 requests to Van Buren Co.Veterans Service Officers Dave Krzycki and Dennis Urquhart. Steve also reported taking Veterans to VA on two occasions.
- Larry has planned a meeting with Matt Cooper to discuss veteran support.

#### **4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee**

- Feb3-5 Ice Breakers Discussion, chili prep covered., 4Feb Open to public, 5Feb Breakfast. Looking for front door monitor support 4Feb.
- Feb2023 Calendar not reviewed but copies available in the lobby.
- 15Feb plan to host Ryan S's Euchre party with an open to public license approved.
- People/organizations asked to clean up kitchen area after use or will be billed for any additional clean-up required.
- No Update on estimated \$5,000 sales tax for food/drink non member sales payment.

#### **5. AL Events**

- 22Jan presentation to Glenn Higgs at Paw Paw Post 28 reviewed as a very successful event by Bruce Thatcher.
- Steve's van service can support a trip to Southeast Michigan Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service leaving 920 on 4Feb for the 1100 event. Please use sign-up sheet in the bar area if you are interested in taking trip. Ticket donation \$8.
- 5Feb breakfast has 6 volunteers (Steve H., Jim A., John B., Mike A., Paul M.) so please feel free to join us in the kitchen starting 0600.

## **6. SAL Events- Non reviewed**

- Planning St. Patrick's Day corned beef cabbage dinner 17March.
- Steve planning 22Feb visit to Battle Creek to host Trivia game, prizes.

## **7. Aux Events**

- Aux will manage the kitchen cleaning process after 1Nov2022
- Poppy Days 2023 – Patti Sheehy will chair, Shannon Sheehy will co-chair. Planning for make the poppy event in early March. Poppy materials received. Peddler permit & banner reservation applied for.
- 2023 Donations:
  - South Haven Helping Hands is a year round cause. Current needs include new men/ladies socks & underwear
  - Van Buren Violence Coalition January donation \$1000
  - Lenten Fish Fry Fridays coming soon... February 24 – April 7

**Sick call** - Please keep John Wallet, Tom Dryer and Dick Shafer in your thoughts/prayers.

## **Unfinished business**

- Initial business plan draft for Josh Gunneson's non-profit business "The Primal Outfitters Inc." submitted for review. Josh encouraged to also add initial startup and ongoing maintenance costs to plan. \$1,000 donation approved for "The Primal Outfitters Inc."
- Still waiting on updated quote from Brian beBest for an upper level, north side lawn leveling safe hard surface option to insure walkability.
- Maintenance items- fan filters changed and outside light replaced with long life, low energy LED.
- District 4 Meeting 8Jan 2023 highlights
  - 21 MI Posts have achieved their 100% membership renewals.
  - Motion made to support the nomination of Brian Mohlman (Dept 1st Vice) as Department Commander for 2023-24.
  - Department's Winter Meeting will take place Feb 10th to 12th, at the Crown Plaza in Lansing. For more info, please visit the Department's website.
  - The next District meeting will be held on March 5th, at Stevensville's Post 568, Lunch reservations can be made by contacting Auxiliary President, Jennifer Kickles at (269) 313-1010, [jmkick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmkick@sbcglobal.net).
  - District meetings may be supported by video conferencing in the future.
- MVGP distributed and can be found on the Post 49 website by clicking on the MVGP tab.
- AL 2023 Congressional Legislative Priorities published

## **New Business**

- Current reliability of M1s discussed and Seig recommended leaving guns unloaded and in fired position to conserve spring life, cleaning all and possibly having stocks refinished.
- Steve's recommendation to have sign made/posted for "Purple Heart recipient" reserved parking approved. Discussion followed regarding need for additional handicap parking spaces but did not reach Consensus. Further discussion required.
- Projected spending for remaining 2022-2023 physical year noted to include estimated \$5,000 sales tax liability, \$25,000 club volume related losses, \$30,000 for landscaping lawn leveling and walkability.

**Communication & Donations (to/from AL)** Thank you letter for \$500 donation to MI Operations Injured Soldiers circulated to members.

## **Next meetings**

- Membership Mtg 1900 2Feb2023
- Club Operations Com.1530, Exec Com. Mtg 1600 26Jan2022

**Memorial to a departed post member,** Prior Commander Richard Hamilton passed 28Jan2023 and an empty chair with a picture at the bar will be configured Sunday afternoon.

**For The Good of The American Legion.**

-Four Chaplains Day Feb 3, SH Icebreakers Feb 3-5, National Salute to Veteran Patients Week of Feb 12, Valentine's Day Feb 14, President's Day Feb 20

-Hug a GI Day March 4, Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12, K-9 Veterans Day March 13, American Legion Birthday March 15, St. Patrick's Day/dinner March 17, Medal of Honor Day March 25, National Vietnam War Veterans Day March 29

**Commander John Barkley conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2110.**

Respectfully,  
John Barkley for  
Bob Dargis, Adjutant  
American Legion Post 49