

2Sep2021 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Post Commander Jason Turner called the 2Sep2021 American Legion Post 49 membership meeting to order at 1902 and conducted the opening ceremony, followed by the 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 Paul Helgeson, Member Dean Cooper, Member Bob Dargis, Member Leo Flory, Member Josh Gunneson, Member Rudy Rodrigaz, Member Marty Melkar, Member Jim Montgomery, Member Guy Cherry. Member Steve Walther, **SAL Chaplain John Michael McCormack, SAL Member Harold Bennett**

Quorum (of at least 5 legion members) present.

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg dated 5Aug2021 approved as written.

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: Member Paul Helgeson, Member Dean Cooper, Member Bob Dargis, SAL Chaplain John McCormack, SAL Member Harold Bennett.

Committee reports

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

- Account status for 2Sep2021 \$140,112.38 including \$5303.27 Bank CD. Target Balances for each Account were also presented and totaled \$127,000.
- Quickbooks: July2021 net operating income of \$13,216.11 was reported.
- SAL current total funds available as of 10Aug \$14,105.10 for regular and membership plus \$4,136.20 For Christmas Fund.
- Aux current total funds available \$15,046.69

2. **Adjutant - Membership:**

- Membership update: 620 listed members for this year up from 572 last year. Paid up renewal rate is currently 41,6%.
- Three (3) new member applications were circulated for information and approved for membership.
- Adjutant Breen noted that he currently has 4 checks outstanding that total \$5,531.50 and when finally cashed by MI Department will result in a bank balance of \$8,723.32 vs the current stated balance of \$14,254.82

3. **Service Officers.**

- Larry met with 2 veterans at the Post and conducted conference calls to a Dept of Veterans Affairs Service representative to communicate an intent and date to file a claim.
- Larry noted that newly elected American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard recently shared some statistics on veteran suicide that he researched online. "Veterans are at a 50-percent higher risk of suicide than their non-serving peers," and further, "More than 114,000 men and women who have served in our armed forces have taken their own lives since 2001, nearly double the American lives lost in Vietnam".
- Steve reported that he had no further requests from a veteran in need that he previously provided emergency cash relief to and was asked to seek cost sharing from the VFW who initially identified the individual to Steve.
- A visit to Post 49 will be scheduled in the near future with Gary Easterling.

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

- Sep-Oct2021 Calendar reviewed.
- Open to the public 3&4 Sep for Labor Day. Please contact Heather with additional open-to-public specific suggestions.
- Pull tab machine down time/occurrences noted. Heather asked that all malfunctions be reported to her so that she can instruct restart process and log downtime occurrences.
- Current bar floor mats were reported to be hazardous to Club Operations Committee and Executive Committee approved motion to buy replacement 3'X10' and 3' X 5' mats for up to \$600 plus shipping, handling. A motion to buy the appropriate floor mats as recommended by Club Manager Heather Hahn was approved by the Membership Committee. Floor mat rental was also researched earlier by Heather and found to be \$500/year for the same mats and included cleaning only 2X/year.
- AL vs. VFW membership clarification. Only members of same organization can offer reciprocal bar access, allowing all AL, SAL or Aux family members from any location to access Post 49 club benefits, but not members of VFW or other non-profit organizations. Note that this new understanding may also restrict AL member access to VFW clubs.

5. AL Events

- Afghanistan memorial-still waiting on marble to arrive from India. Meeting room memorial proposal from Pat Whitlatch to build rack for kevlar helmet, body armor, boots, rifle model and dogtags was enthusiastically received. Pat intends to have dog tags produced for MI vet's that died in War on Terror Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.
- 20Aug salute to Vet's. 30 fishing boats supported 70 disabled vet's Sat. fishing trip. 15 Vet's who were able to join us at the Post also enjoyed a free Friday dinner and a drink of their choice. The Aux donated breakfast coupons to fishing boat captains and these coupons continue to be redeemed at Sunday breakfast events.
- AL members asked to support 12Sep2021 Breakfast, normally supported by SAL because of a SAL district meeting conflict.

6. Family Meetings - SAL Events

- Next Americanism event being planned for 17Sept, 1000 salute at St Basils and 1115 salute at Glenn School. Please let Steve Hamilton know if you have color guard uniform needs to support this event. A practice for this event focused on flag folding will be conducted after the planned 11Sep2021 salute
- Steak fry dinners resumed Thursdays 1700-1930, Hamburger night second Friday of the month 1700-2000.

7. Family Meetings - Aux

- Membership 639 including 49 new members for 2022
- Legion Post beautification – Ongoing landscaping work with team of volunteers
- Sunday Breakfast - 1st Sunday of the month. 1Aug sold 247 breakfasts. Next breakfasts scheduled for 5Sept and 3Oct 2021.
- Friday Fish Fry. July 23 fish fry served approximately 66 dinners plus approximately 21 pieces of fish sold with 31% cost of goods sold to create a \$534 deposit., 24Sep, 22Oct next scheduled fish dinners.
- 7Nov District Meeting Luncheon support with menu of fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, veg., biscuits, homemade desert, coffee, water for a planned \$8.
- 30Oct Kids Halloween Party planned
- 11Dec Kids Christmas Party planned

Sick call - John Walleth, Larry Smith, Paul Middleton and Mike Holly

Unfinished business

-“War on Terror” meeting room display space reported to be in process per Pat Whitlatch’s recommendation description above in **AL Events** above.

- JATO Rocket display ideas are still needed. Please coordinate your ideas with Mike.
- Patriot's Garage status: Received State tentative approval for 501C status and Federal IRS approval Was noted to be pending. Willy will forward IRS approval to Jason and John for review when received.
- A pilot archery youth league is wrapping up and received great reviews from John Michael McCormack and Tom Breen . Jason asked that an after action report be scheduled to capture things gone wright and opportunities for improvement, prior to scheduling future events. Jason also asked Josh to draft a later for his signature thanking a food provider and others donating goods and services. SAL agreed to donate \$400 to the AL who funded the program initially.

New Business

- 11Sep2021salute at Legion: meet at 815 with long sleeve shirt, tie and gold braid if available. However your Participation is more important than your dress. 0840 summary of 11Sep2001 events, 0843 prayer and moment of silence, 0845 (time of first attack on North Tower) 21 gun salute followed by taps.
- Post 49 hosts 7Nov District Meeting with lunch served by the Aux. Members. All members encouraged to attend and RSVP to Jason.
- Maintenance Requirements:
 - 1.Sprinkler backflow check valve instal requirement identified by SH Water/Sewer inspection for same and will be managed by Harold Bennett.
 - 2.Harold volunteered previously to lead the replacement of the front entrance cover exterior fascia in Oct for an estimated material cost of \$1,500-\$2,000 and working with 2 other volunteers. This spending approval of an estimated \$2,000 was previously approved by the Exec. Com. and now approved at the Membership Mtg.
 - 3.Harold also volunteered to work with a plumber to address men's restroom urinal flushing overflow problem.

Communication & Donations



SAL Chaplain John Michael McCormack attended the 2Sep2021 AL Membership Meeting and presented a donation from VALOR to the American Legion.

Cmdr. Jason Turner and Finance Officer Tom Dryer are shown receiving the VALOR check from John Michael.

Next meetings

- Membership Mtg 1900 7Oct
- Club Operations Comm 1530, Exec Comm Mtg 1600 30Sept

Memorial to a departed post member .

None noted and AL charter undraped.

For The Good of The American Legion.

Labor Day Sept 6, **Patriot Day Sept 11**, Citizenship Day/Constitution Day Sept 17, National POW/MIA Recognition Day Sept 17, **Air Force (USAF) Birthday Sept 18**, Gold Star Mother's Day Sept 26, VFW Day Sept 29, **U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday Oct 13**, Halloween Oct 31, **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, 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