

3 Aug 2023 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Commander John Barkley called the 3 Aug 2023 American Legion Post 49 membership meeting to order at 1904, 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, Member Tom Dryer, 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, Member Jim Montgomery, Member Brad Vandenberg, Member Josh Gunnison, Aux. Champlain Vicki Olson, member Dan Gomez, member Tim Gregory.

Quorum (of at least 5 AL members) **present**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: None present

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg minutes dated 6 July 2023 reviewed/**approved** as published on Motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, on voice vote.

Committee reports

1. Finance.

- Account status: \$213,837.88
- Quickbooks: \$19,214.07 June profit
- Annual audit required by the American Legion scheduled for completion end of July.
- Our current monthly accounting process includes review of quick books (list of debits/credits) and bank statements at the end of month by our accounting service to reconcile each account. The Accountant, Heather and AL Officers then compile a list of questions or issues that are worked on jointly to answer. After reviewing process that answered most prior questions, there was still an interest/request for additional audit from two members. Our new Finance Officer, Sean Russel, will review any reasons/concerns from the two members and discuss recommendations in the next Exec Com. Mtg.
- An additional audit suggested by two members, without cause, is no longer being considered.
- SAL current total funds available approx. \$11,000.
- Aux current total funds available \$27,442.86 +\$6,379 CD.
- On motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, **Finance report approved** (subject to audit)

2. Adjutant - Membership:

- Membership payment status: 75 new, 38 PUFL, 497 renewals, 3 transfers from state, 613/631=97.15%
 - 8 new member applications circulated/approved. Adjutant advised we are still waiting for Department to update membership website with 2024 statistics.
- On Motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, **-Adjutant's report approved.**

3. Service Officers.

- Steve Hamilton advised that County Service Officers were available to be at post 49 Sept 15, 10 Am to 2 Pm., also Gary Easterling presence a possibility. Steve also recommended we approve sending Marty Welker to training during September, on Motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, spending up to \$500 was approved by the membership to send Marty Welker to Service Officer training
 - Guy Cherry advised of his ongoing efforts to serve on Board of an organization to help some West Michigan Veterans and that they had acquired some real property to that end.
- Service Officers report approved.**

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

- Emily usually onsite: Monday 10-5, Wednesday 2-6, Thursday 10-5 and, on request
- New bartender Nadia hired last month and is doing a great job.
- Evaluating soft drink dispensing option wants to present to membership.
- Evaluating replacements for 13 current "worn" barstools. Consider a motion to approve \$1,500 for purchase.
- Evaluating current airfryer technologies to replace/supplement current deep fryer.
- Club rented most weekends through Sept. Open to public 5,12,19 Aug.
On motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, it was agreed by members to postpone allocation of \$1,500 for new barstools, pending research by Steve Hamilton and Earl Lash to look into barstool purchase/rehab.
- Earl Lash also pointed out problem of grease disposal, suggested a grease container for outside.

5. AL Events

- 12Aug. Military Honors for Thomas Estes at Monks Cemetery, Geneva Twp, 1300 Saturday 12Aug. 2023. Please meet at the Post by 1200 12Aug to support (1245 arrival at Monks Cemetery)
- 18Aug. Host dinner for Operation Injured Soldier Outing 1700-1930. Bruce Thatcher to coordinate.
- 19Aug. Support Operation Injured Soldier fishing return with 1200 noon salute. Please meet at the Post by 1130. It was Noted that we need a driver for the Van at 11:30 am, as Steve will be absent.
- 27Aug. A 1400 27Aug Celebration of life is being planned at Post 49 for Army Veteran Philip Thompson, followed by a 1500 (approximately) Post 49 Honor Guard ceremony. Please plan to be at Post 1430.

6. SAL Events

- SAL will continue Thursday dinners June-October.

7. 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.
- Ladies bathroom remodel added to capital spending list May 2023 for consideration.

Old Business

- Award sub committee report out, circulated and explained by Commander. Award criteria added per last (11July) mtg recommendation.
- Annual donation process and target setting for total/individual donations discussion. Guy Cherry initially moved to abolish current donation process and target setting, but then withdrew that motion. Guy Cherry then moved to abolish / rescind limits on any and all donations that we make, which was properly seconded. The Motion to abolish / rescind limits FAILED on a vote of 10 against, 4 in favor, with several members abstaining.
- On Motion of Bruce Thatcher, properly seconded, it was agreed that the finance Officer should investigate raising the donation limit (s).
- Jim McCloughan memorial dedication target - Veterans Day 2023.
- Paint the tank project update.
- Maintenance items: new tables assembled/placed, old tables repaired, electrical service upgrade to outside cooler, other.
- North side lawn leveling to insure safe walkability with hard surface option: Plan/top view drawing with feature content available for markup.
- Electricians scheduled to be at post this weekend to service Tiki bar and ladies room lights.

New/Other Business

- Josh Gunnison suggested additional entertainment in form of swing set for kids and corn hole boards.
- Brad Vandenberg is to look into recruiting High School students serving community service hours by working / volunteering at the post. Guy Cherry circulated a pamphlet on parliamentary procedure taken

from American Legion Website.

Communication & Donations (to/from AL) none

Next meetings

-Membership Mtg 1900 7 Sept 2023

-Club Operations Com.1530, Exec Com. Mtg 1600 31 Aug 2023

Memorial to a departed post member none

Sick Call: Larry Smith fell, is in rehab. Also reported that Harvey Mollett passed away.:

For The Good of The American Legion. 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.

Oct. U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday Oct. 13, Post 49 Halloween Childrens Party Oct. 28, Halloween Oct. 31

Nov. Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 5, Marine Corps Birthday Nov. 10, Veterans Day Nov. 11, Larry Carlson Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner Nov 19, Thanksgiving Day Nov.23

Commander John Barkley conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2015.

Respectfully,
Bob Dargis, Adjutant
American Legion Post 49