

5Jan2023 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Commander John Barkley called the 5Jan2023 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 Guy Cherry
Quorum (of at least 5 AL members) **present**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: None present

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg minutes dated 1Dec2022.

Committee reports

1. Finance.

- Account status for 2Jan2023 \$176,338.42
- Quickbooks: Nov2022 -\$19,689.46 (\$9000 donation expense, higher PT costs)
- SAL current total funds available not reviewed but approx. \$19,000
- Aux current total funds available approx \$24,048
- Finance report approved (subject to audit)

2. Adjutant - Membership:

- Member report: 46 New members, 38 PUFL, 394 Renewals out of 631, for 75.91 %, meeting 75% Dec goal and expect to achieve 80% by Jan 11.
- No new member applications to circulate. Adjutant report approved

3. Service Officers.

- John Michael reported directing disabled veteran to Van Buren Co.Veterans Service Officers Dave Krzycki and Dennis Urquhart.

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

- Had several recent state health inspections but no written inspection report of findings, recommendations.
- People/organizations asked to clean up kitchen area after use or will be billed for any additional clean-up required.
- Jan/Feb 2023 calendars available in main entrance.
- No Update on estimated \$5,000 sales tax for food/drink non member sales payment.

5. AL Events

- Feb3-5 Ice Breakers Discussion: will subscribe to Ice Breakers Trolley and shared VFW Trolley, Emily will be our Chili Cook and asked for help to prep ingredients 1-2 days before event. Mike and Paul will serve the award winning chili at the Post. Tiki bar will be utilized if weather permits. 2-3 bartenders plus back bar support planned. Emily approved for \$1,000 transportation spending.
- Help planned to store Christmas decorations above main entrance as soon as materials are placed in tubs or wrapped.
- Honor Guard supported 5 Memorial Services in Nov. and Dec.2022.
- Steve's van service approved for \$0.625/mile plus rider donations for special events.
- Trip to Grand Haven 1100 4Feb for Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial planned. Please contact Steve if interested in taking trip.

6. SAL Events- Non reviewed

7. Aux Events

- Aux will manage the kitchen cleaning process after 1Nov2022
- Rec'd breakfast distribution of approx \$5,000.
- Oct.30.Kids Halloween Party managed at zero budget, with volunteers and donated goods. Cooked & sold brats. Thank you to all who helped and esp. Willy Reinhardt for tent.
- Dec 10 kids Christmas Party hosted approx 100 kids. All toys donated. Estimated expenses under \$1000. Excess money earmarked for kids parties and will remain in AUX account as a dedicated line item. Shelley Ammerman coordinated support and donations.
- Extra toys donated to Marine Corp. Toys for Tots, We Care..
- Aux member Susie Pacwa, husband Jimmy Pacwa & their business Twisted Twin manage an annual event to help local veteran families and others in need by providing gifts and support for a happier holiday season.
- Poppy Days (25-29May) 2023 – Patti Sheehy will be chair for the event.
- Donations: - focusing on Community & Family (while Legion focuses on Veteran and active military support needs) including:
 - South Haven Helping Hands - a year round cause.
 - Blessings in a Backpack - support national organization with local needs & presence. Most recent activity was a donation to send food home for Christmas break. December 21 was most recent packing event at NorthShore Middle School. AUX funded all the goods for over 200 bags packed going to seven local schools.
 - We Care Teen Tidings – 15 gifts at approximately \$50 per
 - Van Buren Veteran Services – Emotional Support Service Animals
 - Stuffed Animal collection will begin in 2023. SHAES, Police Department & Van Buren Sheriff's Office. Goods for children who may be innocent victims of unforeseen circumstances – car accident, fire etc.
 - New Year's Eve Fish Fry for SHAES, PD & ER to be delivered family style by 6:00 pm for those working through the evening.
 - Girls State – Linda Schubel, supported by Serenity Smith, the senior who attended this past summer, presented at the high school before the holiday break and sparked enough interest to sponsor another student this year.

Sick call - Please keep John Wallet and Larry Girard in your thoughts and prayers.

Unfinished business

- \$2,000 Donation approved by Exec Com for payment from the Veteran's account for Josh Gunneson to support his new non-profit business "The Primal Outfitters Inc." Last Membership Mtg approved \$3,000 for Josh's non-profit business. Next Exec Com, mtg meeting will consider additional donation for business if/when basic business requirements submitted.
- No update from Steve Hamilton for front entrance door opener investigation.
- Waiting on updated quote from Brian beBest for an upper level, northside lawn leveling hard surface option to insure walkability.
- Maintenance items- Mike and Jason added wall insulation and wraparound water pipes in the area where pipe burst last week.

New Business

- Breakfast now planned for Sunday 5Feb at the AL and asking for volunteers to support.
- 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) None

Next meetings

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

Memorial to a departed post member, None

For The Good of The American Legion.

- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Jan. 16
- Four Chaplains Day Feb 3, SH Icebreakers Feb 3-5, National Salute to Veteran Patients Week of Feb12, Valentine's Day Feb 14, President's Day Feb 20

Commander John Barkley conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2025.

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