

7 DEC 2023 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Commander John Barkley called the 2 NOV 2023 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 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 Josh Gunnison, Aux. Champlain Vicki Olson, member Jason Mayer, member Josh Gunneson, guest Dylan "Rock", Commander Bangor Amer Legion Post 160.
Quorum (of at least 5 AL members) **present**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: None.

Award Presentation: None.

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg minutes dated 2 NOV 2023 reviewed/**approved** as published on Motion of Josh Gunneson, properly seconded, on voice vote.

Committee reports

1. Finance.

- Account status: Per Sean Russell, \$230,174.06 26Nov vs. \$229,783.92 26 Oct vs. \$230,437.36 26Sept
- Quickbooks: \$1,062.74 Oct2023 vs. \$ \$3,771.24 Oct2022, finance report per handout. Sean also gave a report / strategy for investing excess cash in CD's, with various members also providing input.
- Motion to approve Finance Report by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, was approved on voice vote.
- SAL current total funds available: \$11,904.41 14Nov2023
- Aux current total funds available: \$27,182.20 + \$6,418.87 CD 27Nov
- Motion to approve \$10k CD with Sturgis bank was made by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, was approved on voice vote.

2. Adjutant

- Membership status: 29 new, 43 PUFL, 344 renewals, 416 total of 634 members = 65.62%, 65% 15Nov. goal, 75% 13Dec. goal. 4 new PUFL members were "sponsored" by Jim and Judie Montgomery.
- Circulated paperwork for new members.
- Motion to approve new members and Adjutant's report was made by Bruce Thatcher, properly seconded, approved on voice vote.

3. Service Officers report

- Per Steve Hamilton, he provided a ride to Ann Arbor for Veteran in need, on motion of Robert Dargis, properly seconded, and approved by voice vote, Steve will be reimbursed for 383 miles at the standard federal mileage rate as provided by the IRS. Steve also reported two other veterans in need of help with propane fuel costs and gas cards. On Motion Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded and approved by voice vote,
- Funds were allocated for Steve to purchase 1) up to \$200 in fuel cards and 2) up to \$800 for propane for these veterans.
- Commander reported that Susan Schlaact from AUX has been representing a veteran and also coordinating payments by Post 49 for a hotel room, \$60 day for about 30 days.
- Josh Gunneson also reported that he had helped out a vet by providing venison, and that additional venison was available if needed.

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

- Breakfast recommendation payout from Heather and Emily: approx \$7200 to each Aux, KoC and SAL, reducing Breakfast Fund and Total Funds Available by \$21,600.
- Ice Breakers Fri. 2Feb-need chili cook volunteers, Sat 3 Feb-need parking help, Breakfast Sunday 4Feb-need breakfast volunteers.
- Regular Pizza making volunteers for sale by the bartenders should go through Emily.
- YE Christmas bonus checks written for bartenders, Emily.
- Dec/Jan2024 Calendar review.

5. AL Events

- 8Dec 1315 Honor Guard Memorial Service for Marine Corp veteran Stanley Johnston at Starks Funeral Homes, Filbrandt Chapel. The bus will leave the Post at 1300.
- 16Dec 1200Noon Honor Guard support for "Wreaths Across America" Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery in Bangor. The bus will leave the Post at 1100. Following the Ceremony, The Honor Guard will be joined by other support people to place wreaths on graves at Lakeview. 175 wreaths have been purchased for approximately \$3,000, we were given an additional amount to be picked up in Bangor on Dec 13, by us.

6.SAL Events None reported.

7. Aux Events

- Need current periodicals (magazines) for local nursing homes. Drop off prior to mtg.
Lunch will be provided at the Post next Tuesday 12-12-23 at noon by AUX for vets in nursing home.

Old Business

- Law Officer and Firefighter of the year submissions 8Jan2023, Teacher of the Year 1April2023. Have received one firefighter nomination.
- AL Donation targets approved previously and added \$1,000 donation with distribution ASAP to Post 170 last Exec.Com Mtg. Remainder of 2023 distributions scheduled prior to YE2023.

Other/New Business

- Additional \$7,000 previously approved donation checks written. In process. \$1,000 AL Boy's State, Baseball, other TBD held for local distribution based on need.
- SHRGC starting Youth Rifle on Saturday afternoons and Youth Archery on Saturday mornings twice a month this winter and need volunteers to assist with either of these activities. Please contact either Craig Lewis at 269 906-1550, CRAIGL667@yahoo.com or Dave Wiatrowski at 269 767-1078, bigboredave@yahoo.com for more info.
- Tiki Bar shrinkwrap discussion, recommendation.Per Sean Russell should be done this week. Possible Alternatives for Canvas covering of Tiki Bar discussed.
- Donation request from South Haven "Surge" baseball, currently sponsoring 3 teams, more than 30 SH grade school players.
- A Check was issued to AUX for \$1,480 for Children's fund, which will include Children's Xmas party..
- Maintenance items, Mike Andruch expressed some concerns about kitchen cleanliness, which was recently inspected by county and passed after inspection.
- Commander from Bangor Legion post 160 voiced concern about rumors that Bangor post would be closing, he stated unequivocally this wasn't the case and that post 160 would remain open.

Sick call

Rich Ely has respiratory issue apparently, prayers asked for.

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL) .

Bill for \$10,490 received for McCloughan Memorial.

Next meetings

-Membership Mtg 1900 5 Jan 2024.

-Club Operations Com.1530, Exec Com. Mtg 1600 29 Dec 2023.

Memorial to a departed post member None.

For The Good of The American Legion.

Dec. Pearl Harbor Day Dec. 7, Hanukkah Dec. 7–15, National Guard Birthday Dec. 13, Post 49 Children's Christmas Party Dec. 16, we will have honor guard shoot in Bangor at 11:30 at Arlington Cemetery, the return to lay wreaths at Lakeview Cemetery. National Wreaths Across America Dec. 18, Christmas Day Dec. 25, Kwanzaa Dec. 26 – Jan. 1, New Year's Eve Dec. 31

Commander John Barkley conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2022 hours.

Respectfully,
Bob Dargis, Adjutant
American Legion Post 49