2Nov2023 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 Addessi, 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 Dan Gomez.**
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 5 OCT 2023 reviewed/**approved** as published on Motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, on voice vote.

Committee reports

1. Finance.

-Account status: $223,516.37 29Oct vs. $230,437.36 26Sept vs. $228,027.70 28Aug2023
-Quickbooks: $9,891.25 vs. $12,362.67 Sep2022. Good results from strong club performance.
- Commander anticipates payouts by the end of year to approximate $50k and finance statements reduced accordingly. Per Jason Turner, stock value of donation received years ago now $ 3,349.
-Motion to approve Finance Report by Jim Addessi, properly seconded, was approved on voice vote.
-SAL current total funds available: approximately $9,000 per Earl Lash.
-Aux current total funds available: $27,665.96 + $6,418.87 CD

2. Adjutant

-Membership status for 613 members as of 27Oct2023: 27 new, 39 PUFL, 286 Renewals, 352 total or 55.52% of goal vs 18Oct goal of 55%. Goal by 11Nov is 65%
-Circulated paperwork for new members.
-Motion to approve new members and Adjutant's report, by Earl Lash, properly seconded, approved on voice vote.

3. Service Officers report

-Steve Hamilton advised that County Service officers will be providing 5 Thanksgiving dinners for families in need, potential recipients next to be identified for Steve by Nov 8, Volunteers needed to pick up and deliver these dinners ; Also, a veteran in Bangor needs a ride to Battle Creek Nov 9, Steve has also been checking occasionally on a lonely Veteran in Kalamazoo, We should consider buddy calls to our members who have not yet paid dues. Adjutant to compile a list of deceased and unpaid veterans.

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

-Replacement bar stools purchased by SAL ready for P/U Monday Nov 6, by Earl Lash and Josh Gunnison. Cleaning of floors set for Monday Nov 6 at 8:00 am.
-11Nov2023 MOH memorial reception /dedication open to public license. Raffel being considered.

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5. AL Events

-Veterans Day 11-12 Noon 11Nov MOH Monument Dedication Ceremony, reception luncheon 12noon-1400. Jason Turner mentioned names of dignitaries that will or will not attend. Plans for ceremony detailed. Honor guard to meet at post at 10:30 proposed.

-Marine Corps Birthday celebration 10Nov2023 at 1700.

6.SAL Events.

-Larry Carlson Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner 1200-1400 19Nov, eat-in, take out. Need help breaking down turkeys 0700 18Nov. and cooking/serving starting 0700 19Nov.

-SAL planning fundraising Dinner for Guy Cherry family here 25Nov., 5-7:30 pm. Bring new Child's fishing pole to 25 Nov dinner and receive a free dinner..

7. Aux Events

-Need current periodicals (magazines) for local nursing homes. Drop off prior to mtg.

-South Haven nursing home 10 Nov. Salute, blanket drop. Timing TBD in regard to coordinating for funeral by honor guard earlier that day.

Old Business

-Jim McCloughan memorial dedication target 11-12noon Veterans Day, 11Nov2023.

-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

-Wreaths across America: payment due mid November. $1,000 from Amer Legion and $1,000 from Aux. Regional leadership, flag raising plus local participation.

-AL National organization dues tax $5 increase partially offset by MI Dept. savings for not distributing AL newspaper hardcopy to members. The net result is that Post level membership fee retention goes from $10 to $8, an annual loss of approx $1,226 to Post 49. No need to raise dues at this time; revisit June.

-"hospice of holland" asking for volunteers to meet/talk with terminally ill veteran patients. To volunteer, call Jody Correa at 616-355-5514 or email volcoor@hollandhospice.org. Vicki Olson will update.

-Keri Montgomery taking over memorial brick processing/improvements. New brick cost now $45 and two new brick courses requested around North and South sides for late next Spring. Mike Andruch, recommended an additional quote to compare cost structure of 4 rows and 2 rows.

-Annual Exec Com bonus recommendation for club manager, bartenders: $200 for each bartender here less than 3 years, $250 for each bartender here more than 3 years. $400 for Emily, Heather excluded this Year. On motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, these bonuses were approved on voice vote.

-Honor Guard support requested for Marine Corp veteran E1 Ben Walter Johnson 1230 10Nov2023 at Lake View Cemetery.

-Trees for Troops Nov 27 at 9:00 am Wahmhoff tree farm, Address: 22330 M-40, Gobles, MI 49055, volunteers needed per Jim Addessi.

-Maintenance items- Work team to clean club room floors Monday 6Nov2023 at 0800.

Earl Lash asked us to consider a donation of $1,000 to Brett Holtz, who is running for national Commander. After some discussion, On motion of Sean Russell, the members approved an invitation to Mr. Holtz to appear at one of our upcoming membership meetings to learn more about his key initiatives.

Sick call

Larry Smith recovering well per Steve Hamilton.

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL) .

-Students who graduate from high school in Michigan with a diploma or certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency certificate in 2023 or after will be eligible for more financial aid from Michigan:

Up to $2,000 if they attend a career training program in Michigan, per year, up to two years
Up to $2,750 if they attend a Michigan community college, per year, up to three years
Up to $4,000 if they attend a Michigan private college or university, per year, up to five years
Up to $5,500 if they attend a Michigan public university or are enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college, per year, up to five years.

Next meetings

-Membership Mtg 1900 2Nov2023, Honor Guard salute at 1800 before meeting for Pearl Harbor day.
-Club Operations Com.1530, Exec Com. Mtg 1600 26Oct2023

Memorial to a departed post member God Bless Tom Dryer and his family, to be kept in our prayers. Tom will be remembered for his friendships and his contributions to Post financial strength.

For The Good of The American Legion.

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
Dec. Pearl Harbor Day Dec. 7, Hanukkah Dec. 7–15, National Guard Birthday Dec. 13, Post 49 Children's Christmas Party Dec. 16, 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 2035.

Respectfully,
Bob Dargis, Adjutant
American Legion Post 49