5 OCT 2023 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Commander John Barkley called the 5 OCT 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. Guest Rich Wroblewski, Guests from Post 170 Bill Thompson, Rich Sutherlin and Josh Williams.**
Quorum (of at least 5 AL members) **present**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: Post 170 members introduced, later discussion with them follows.

On motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, the meeting was suspended to present the following award:

Award Presentation: Was made to Eric Johnson with Commander John Barkley presenting him with a certificate of Appreciation for all of his help with refurbishing and cleaning our rifles used by the Honor Guard.
On Motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, the meeting was called back to order in accord with the written Agenda..

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg minutes dated 3 Aug 2023 reviewed/**approved** as published on Motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, on voice vote.

Committee reports

1. Finance.
-Account status:$228,744.58 4Oct vs. $230,437.36 26Sept vs. $228,027.70 28Aug2023
-Quickbooks: August2023 $278.31 loss (Bar COGS 41%. Higher costs for labor, cleaning, post Operating supplies and dues payment contributing additional >$6k expenses. $4K Memorial cost.)
-Motion to approve Finance Report made by Earl Lash, properly seconded, was approved on voice vote.
-SAL current total funds available:$12,511.85
-Aux current total funds available: $27,407 + $6,400 CD

2. Adjutant
-Membership payment status for 613 members: As of 9-29-23 online report from the State: 26 new 39 PUFL, 252 renewals, 317 TOTAL. We are at 50%; the 10-18-23 goal is 55%.
-Paperwork for new members will be presented at the next member meeting.
-Motion to approve Adjutant's report was made by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, approved on voice vote..

3. Service Officers report
-Steve Hamilton advised that he picked up a suicidal veteran and brought him to Battle Creek VA where he was admitted
- A wheelchair ramp was also provided to another veteran by Josh Gunnison..

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee
-Purchase of 14 replacement bar stools has been approved by SAL members + additional foot padding ($139+$12) X 14 = $2114, 28Sept on motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded. Post 49 greatly

appreciates the SAL organization purchasing these bar stools for club use.
-Pay for use individual drink station setup for use in the club room at $1.50 per cup.
-Annual Post labor day reset of bar hours now in place: 12noon-2100 Sunday-Thursday, 12noon-2200 Friday, Saturday. Bartenders are also authorized by Emily to stay open later based on customer needs.
-Oct/Nov2023 Calendars reviewed.

.

5. AL Events

-Last scheduled Friday pizza dinner 6Oct2023. Breakfast 22 Oct.to be staffed by American Legion members, for the 29 Oct 2023 breakfast, volunteers will be needed.
-U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday 1300 13Oct.
-Veterans Day 11-12 Noon 11Nov MOH Monument Dedication Ceremony, reception luncheon 12noon-1400. Per Jason Turner help will be needed to set up chairs and other items as early as 9:00 am. Dignitaries, local and state, may be attending, honor guard will do a 3 volley, possible flyover and dust off Huey helicopter may also be part of the event.

6.SAL Events. SAL will continue Thursday dinners through October.

7. Aux Events

-Need current periodicals (magazines) for local nursing homes. Drop off prior to mtg.
-South Haven nursing home 24Aug and 11Sep Veterans luncheons enjoyed by all. Will target monthly visit to Legion weather permitting. Vicki will continue her regular/weekly visits to nursing home and solicit needs from residents.
-Steve is planning a trivia contest at Battle Creek VA and perhaps a benefit dinner.

Old Business

-Jim McCloughan memorial dedication target 11-12noon Veterans Day, 11Nov2023. Bruce Thatcher will investigate flyover to support the ceremony. Reception at Post scheduled from 12noon to 1400.
-Law Officer and Firefighter of the year submissions due 8Jan2023, Teacher of the Year 1April2023. Have received one firefighter nomination.
-AL Donation targets (emailed previously) for the remainder of 2023 approved at Exec Com. on motion of Jason Turner, properly seconded, was approved as published, checks to be issued end of Nov. Patriot's Garage by Rich Sutherlin gave a big thank you to post 49 for our continued support.

Other/New Business

-Maintenance items- Mike Andruch reported electricians bill paid for installing new power line to Tiki Hut beverage cooler and upgrading lights in ladies restroom. $4,000 bill for crack sealing, coating, striping parking lot received.
-Average Breakfast sales revenue through middle of Sept: Aux. $2,678.86, SAL $2,562.00, KOC $3,021.94, AL $3,066.00. Rain during the breakfast time period decreases volume approximately 20% but has little/no effect if rain occurs before 0800 or after 1200 noon.
-AL National organization raised dues tax $5, partially offset by MI Dept. of approximately $2.00 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.Post Adjutant to consider possible set aside of funds for this, Earl LAsh recommended no set specific set aside need be done.
-"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.
-Barry Wood and Jim Addessi asked our Adjutant to pay $306.50 (based on 613 members) to Fourth District Association Department of Michigan. Adjutant advised this was done. We will subscribe to same half-page ad for $25 with changes to times as required. We were also asked to review Post 49 Commander and Adjutant data for 2024 (no changes required) and Service Officer data (delete Mccormack and add Marty Welker, 574-596-7152, email mrwelker2009@yahoo.com). The draft for the ad, $25 payment and changes to officers described above was mailed to Dave Buist, 3122 Pinedale Drive SW, Grandville, MI 49418, per the adjutant.

EarlLash suggested that we consider a $1,000 donation to the campaign fund of Mr. Holt from the Department level who is running for National Commander, to be later considered.
-Steve Hamilton suggested a possible “Stand Down” event sometime in the spring, including a possible Luncheon.

Sick call

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL) .
-Two additional requests for wheelchair ramps have been made, Earl Lash to look at fulfilling these requests. Celebration of life for Guy Cherry’s daughter at noon on 7Oct2023 at Comstock High School Colts Center. A “Dish to Pass” is welcome. Card circulated for signing.
-Post 170 Three Rivers members who were present advised that they are having difficulty with their post water supply. They advised that they needed a new well to be drilled and were hoping to get some financial assistance from Post 49. Cost estimates seem to have ranged from $9 - 13K. They were given several suggestions by members to help accomplish a solution to their problem. Mike Andruch to explore possible well drillers that might help. Any financial assistance that might be provided by post 49 will be discussed in the future after post 170 members have considered their options. National may have a 5k grant available for them. Our financial assistance to them to be revisited at the next meeting.

Next meetings
-Membership Mtg 1900 2Nov2023
-Club Operations Com.1530, Exec Com. Mtg 1600 26Oct2023

Memorial to a departed post member None.

For The Good of The American Legion.
-19 Oct 2023 has been set for Honor/Color guard to do three volley salute and presentation at Glenn School and St Basil. Meet at post 0830 for bus to Glenn at 0900 and ceremony at 930 and then ceremony at St. Basil 1230.
- **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 2032.

Respectfully,
Bob Dargis, Adjutant
American Legion Post 49