7Oct2021 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Post Commander Jason Turner called the 7Oct2021 American Legion Post 49 membership meeting to order at 1902 and conducted the opening ceremony, followed by the order of business.

Adjutant Roll Call: **Cmdr. Jason Turner, 1st Vice Cmdr. John Barkley, 2nd Vice Cmdr Jim Addessi, Adjutant Tom Breen,** Finance Officer Tom Dryer, Sgt. at Arms Art Farmer, **Chaplain and Service Officer Larry Girard,** Service Officer Steve Hamilton, Historian Jim McCloughan**, Trustee Bruce Thatcher, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey,** Trustee Patrick Whitlatch**, Judge Advocate Earl Lash, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch, Member Amber Hodge, Member Guy Cherry, Member Bob Dargis**, Member Leo Flory, **Member Josh Gunneson,** Member Marty Melkar, **Member Jim Montgomery Quorum (of at least 5 legion members) present.**

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg dated 2Sep2021 approved as written.

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: Member Amber Hodge introduced herself to those attending the meeting.

Committee reports

1. **Finance**: Report summarized below and approved subject to audit.
- Account status for 30Sep2021 $143,468.82 approved
-Quickbooks: Aug2021 net operating income $15,229.81 vs July2021 income of $13,222.
-SAL 14Sep2021 total funds available: $15,865 plus $4,800 Children's Christmas Fund
-Aux current total funds available approx $15,000.

2. **Adjutant - Membership**:
-Membership update: 620 listed members for this year (552 recognized by District, 565 by Department) up from 572 last year.
-316 members or 56.46% have renewed to date vs a 55% target
-33 new members approved since since 1Jul2021 including 11 new member applications circulated and approved this meeting.

3. **Service Officers.**
-A member reported having difficulty getting disability related homesteader tax reduction from South Haven Township and asked for support.
-Veterans Affairs Director Gary Easterling scheduled to visit Post 49 on 12Nov at 10AM. Palisades support also suggested for luncheon snacks for the event.
-Larry and 3 other Vietnam Vet's visited a Vietnam Veteran reunion in Kokomo and made contact with a service that produces dog tags. Dog tags are currently belong planned for a War On Terror meeting room display led by Pat Whitlatch.

4. **Club Facilities and Operations Committee**
-Calendar review for Oct/Nov2021, 25Nov AL Mtgs moved to 18Nov,
-Report out and recommendations from Club Opn's Mtg:
-Open bar license days recommendations: 29Oct Halloween Party Party and 18Dec Christmas Party.
-Food Handling Training update: The star student completed training, others procrastinating.
-Kitchen matts replaced with grease resistant material.
- $7,218 cost for new Pull Tab machine transferred from Pull tab account to General Operating account
-Bldg Insurance physical audit found 3 items to be corrected: replace ceiling tile in kitchen, CO2 bottles inspection required, SS barrier missing between stove and fryer. All completed or in process.
-Oct last month for regular Breakfasts/Dinners.

-AL vs. VFW membership clarification. State Law as of 6Apr2018 requires that only members of same organization can offer reciprocal bar access, allowing all AL, SAL or Aux family members from any location to access Post 49 club benefits, but not members of VFW or other non-profit organizations. Note that this clarification may also restrict AL member access to VFW clubs.

5. **AL Events**

-Afghanistan memorial-still waiting on marble to arrive from India. Meeting room memorial proposal from Pat Whitlatch to build rack for kevlar helmet, body armor, boots, rifle model and dogtags was enthusiastically received earlier. Pat intends to have dog tags produced for MI vet's that died in War on Terror Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

-Friday 1Oct Americanism presentations to Glenn @1100, St Basil's @1300 went well and were appreciated by both schools.

-11Oct AL National Cmdr Paul Dillard (and party of six) visit agenda reviewed, Post members invited but banquet attendance now restricted to those that signed up earlier. Front entrance flagpole repainted.

-13Oct US Navy Birthday cake planned for noon at Post

6. **Family Meetings - SAL Events**

-Americanism event held with salutes at St Basils and at Glenn School led by SAL Cdr. Hamilton.

-Larry Carlson Thanksgiving Memorial Dinner planned for 21Non2021.

7. **Family Meetings - Aux**

-Currently discussing project spending alternatives for Fish Fry proceeds(profits) announced at $3,900 est. for year.

-2021 AUX Contribution suggestions/recommendations being discussed include 3 items on AL capital spending list (paint the flagpole $1,500, exterior front entrance repair materials $2,000, cooktop cleaning) and upright freezer recently suggested by Aux. Ambor offered that she currently has two (2) upright freezers and would be willing to donate to our Post.

-Color Guard – Appoint chair/training/Identify participants TBD

-Annual volunteer hours tracking ongoing

-November 7 luncheon planning for AL District 4 in process

-Kids Halloween Party date changed to October 31

-Kids Christmas Party scheduled for December 11

Sick call - SAL member Brett Novy in Kalamazoo Bronson Hospital with leg blood clot concern.

Unfinished business

-"War on Terror" meeting room display space report out TBD.

- JATO Rocket display stand being constructed

- Previously approved TV for Post update TBD.

- Post 49 hosts 7 Nov District Meeting. All members were encouraged to attend and RSVP to Jason. Earl requested that the bar be open after the meeting is completed.

-A pilot archery youth league has ended for this year with great reviews from John Michael McCormack and Tom Breen. An after action report is TBD to capture things gone wright and opportunities for improvement, prior to scheduling future events. An $1,149.00 invoice was presented after the meeting to cover $53 target costs, $448 labor cost and $648 for bow/arrow/range rental. The bill will be paid from the Veterans account and the SAL $400 donation will be deposited in the Veterans account. Josh also turned in $164.41 in excess donations for future archery extension/continuation of the program.

New Business

-Jim Montgomery asked what the rules should be for non-members coming to the Post for a drink and being sponsored by a present member, meeting both MI Liquor Control Board requirements and supporting a welcoming environment to all veterans. Heather asked to develop specific recommendation for discussion at our next member meeting.

-Jason, Heather and Mike will meet to discuss freezer strategy and related location after hearing proposals from Amber and the Auxiliary.

-Patriot's Garage non-profit organization status has been approved by both Federal and Michigan governments. A $1,000 donation was suggested and approved with the stipulation that we receive information about how the money was used to assist Veterans..

-Post members including Patrick Whitlatch will propose that Palisades support an informal luncheon during a 12Nov "open House" to coincide with the Gary Easterling visit. Post 49 also approved cost of overnight stay for Gary so that he would not feel rushed finishing discussions with veterans and driving back the same day.

Communication & Donations Josh Gunneson submitted $164.41 in excess donations for future archery extension/continuation of the program.

Next meetings

- Membership Mtg 1900 4Nov
- Club Operations Comm 1530, Exec Comm Mtg 1600 28Oct

Memorial to a departed post member None known

For The Good of The American Legion.

AL National Commander visits Post 49 Oct 11, U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday Oct 13 (noon at the Post), Halloween Oct 31, Marine Corps Day/Birthday Nov 10, Veterans Day Nov 11, Armistice Day Nov 11, Thanksgiving Day Nov 25, U.S. National Guard Birthday Dec 13, National Wreaths Across America Dec 18, Christmas Day Dec 25, Kwanzaa Dec 26–Jan 1,New Year's Eve Dec 31.

Post Commander Jason Turner conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2028.

Respectfully,
John Barkley for
Tom Breen, Adjutant
American Legion Post 49