26 March 2026 American Legion Post 49 EXEC Committee Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Commander Dargis following opening ceremony meeting began according to published agenda:

Order of Business

Adjutant Roll Call: ATTENDEES IN BOLD: Cmdr. Bob Dargis, 1st Vice Cmdr. Earl Lash, 2nd Vice Cmdr Jim Addessi, Adjutant Dan Thompson, Finance Officer Sean Russell, Judge Advocate Jason Turner, Sgt. at Arms Sieg Freitag, Chaplain Larry Girard, Service Officer Steve Hamilton, Service Officer Jason Mayer, Historian Jim McCloughan, **Trustee Dan Gomez,** Trustee Josh Gunneson, **Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey,** Trustee Rick Ely, **Trustee Bruce Thatcher, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch,** SAL Commander Brett Novy, Auxiliary President Mary Fitzgerald, ClubManager Heather Hahn, SAL Member Dave Wiatrowski, **Auxiliary Chaplain Vicki Olson, John Barkley, SAL Member Paul Middleton, AL Member Jim Neeley, Aux Member Linda Teeter, Visitor Matt McDaid**

Is quorum of 5 Legion members present ? **YES**

Review/approve Previous Meeting Minutes- 26 FEB 2026 Motion by Lash, properly seconded, and Motion approved

Meeting purpose reminder. Review recommendations from committees (including the Club Operations Committee), adopt those recommendations that are judged to be useful for the successful operation and management of the post,and present major recommendations/changes to the general Membership Mtg for member Approval.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION by Visitor Matt McDaid presented the concept of a Gold Star Family Memorial to be placed at the Veterans Memorial Park in Paw Paw. The project was initiated by Gold Star Mother Laura DaRoie. Rough plans have been developed, project completion by July '26 is aggressive. Matt is seeking support from other veterans groups across Southwest Michigan. Donation by Post 49 will be discussed . Suggestion is that $333 from each organization (AL/SAL/Aux) will be discussed at respective membership meetings

Introduction of guests and awards

Business

-Account status: $ 135,478.11 vs. $136,190.91 March 2026 & $172,225.69 March 2025
-Quickbooks: $-10,495.71 vs. $29,299.70 JAN 2026 & -$7,578.32 FEB 2025
-Finance Report motion for approval. Motion by Aubrey, properly seconded and motion passed
-SAL funds available: Membership $7270, General Fund $15255.99, CD $10343.24
- Aux funds available: Operating- $42622, CD-$6827, Does not include Fish Fry revenue, Note committed $28 K for ADA I project
-Club Operations Committee recommendations:
- Cooler replacement discussion: ProTEMP submitted 2 separate bids, one for cooler only replacement $17,100.30, and a second bid for cooler and entire "box" replacement ($35,990.66) Additional bids to be solicited - detailed discussion ensued. Straw vote indicated preference for complete cooler replacement- unanimous- will be presented to Membership, again. Additional two (2) bids to be solicited.
- ***Hall builders proposal bathroom ADA compliance buildout, Monday April 6 through Noon Friday April 10 Paid for by AUX. $28,000. CLUB TO BE CLOSED during this period***
-Additional project by Hall at same time to replace front door and add ADA compliance power operator at a proposed cost of $15,955 was approved at last members meeting
-New bartender- Samantha Kelley
-Remaining donation money to be used for front door replacement.$4,255 Internal ADA and general $2,828, Move these funds to General Fund
- Consider $1,000 donation to American Legion Post 53 (Bike Ride fundraiser for Michigan Vets) as requested at last members meeting- Go Forward each organization (AL/SAL/Aux) to consider $250 to be discussed at Membership Meetings .
-Nominations for Woman's Veteran award June 12 as previously requested- two individuals nominated Motion by Chuck Aubrey, seconded and motion passed- Nominees will be cited with certificate and AL logo - Hoodie
- Question: can non-members (public) come into post and purchase food/non alcoholic drinks? Discussion followed

with result being non- Members can enter club to visit Viet Nam memorial, purchase food, and non alcoholic drinks, *However they may not purchase alcoholic beverages*
-Cal review for March/April
-Walk-through outside area with Brian deBest identified remaining items for completion. They are temp. sensitive but hope to complete late next week
-Officer Nominations at next members meeting April 2, 2026.
-Veterans resource fair request by Steve Hamilton, Date TBD- Go forward to be discussed with coordinator and Heather for scheduling
- Discussion regarding purchase of additional chairs for outside terrace- Tabled for further discussion by Membership
-Sieg Freitag offered donation of two commercial park benches for consideration during outdoor terrace furniture discussion.

AL Events
- Possible Honor Guard Funeral Memorial Day, would need to be after 1:00 pm
- June 6, 2026 Volunteers needed at Michigan Maritime Museum to work with kids games (Dan Thompson)

SAL Events

Aux Events

Other Business
-Other Business to come before the leadership group ?
-West gate replacement and repair., Jim Neely suggests replacement- Tabled for discussion with membership
- Rifles received for raffle- need Flyers and Posters to publicize- John Barkley-" Volentold"
-Service officer training August 18th through20th, Motion to authorize two attendees at $250 each, by Larry Girard, seconded and motion approved- attendees to be solicited
- Kids fun day on June 6th at Michigan Maritime Museum. coordinators asked for kids to be exposed to Veterans, Thompson to provide "corn hole toss" for kids to use, trinkets to be given, any vet interested please contact Dan Thompson.
-Aux reports 2 Fish Frys remaining- Attendance is down.
-Aux sponsoring Easter Egg hunt Saturday March 28th, 11 AM to 1PM
- Aux- Linda Teeter gave Kitchen update including checklist to be completed by all groups upon using kitchen for proper clean-up
-SAL member Paul Middleton indicated a donation for new tables and chairs in the clubroom has been allocated. Discussion ensued including ADA requirements, go forward is for Heather to get input from bartenders.
Motion to approve SAL contribution of two (2) high top tables and eight (8) chairs by Larry Girard, properly seconded, motion approved

Correspondence to/from AL

Sick Call Dan Farmer, Mike Andruch(removed from Sick call)

Next meetings
-Membership Mtg 1900 2 April 2026
-Exec Comm/Club Operations Mtg **1630** 30 April 2026 (note time change to 4:30 pm and combined meetings)
-Monthly Commander and Adjutant Zoom meetings are being held on the first Tuesday of the month, at 1400 hrs.

2026 Holidays and Observances
March Mar 25 – Medal of Honor Day, Mar 29 - Palm Sunday, Mar 29 – Vietnam Veterans Day

April: Apr 1 - Passover Eve, Apr 5 - Easter Sunday, Apr 5 – Gold Star Spouses Day, Apr 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday, Apr 23 – Army Reserve Birthday, Apr 23 - take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

May: May 1 – Silver Star Banner Day, May 5 - National Teacher Appreciation Day, May 6 - National Nurses Day, May 7 - National Day of Prayer, May 8 - Victory in Europe Day, May 8 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 10 - Mother's Day, May 13 – Children of Fallen Patriots, May 15 - Peace Officers Memorial Day, Day, May 16 – Armed Forces Day, May 25 – Memorial Day

June: Jun 6 – D-Day Anniversary, Jun 14 – Flag Day & Army Birthday, Jun 21 Father's Day, Jun 23 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday, Jun 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day,

July: Jul 4 – Independence Day – 250th anniversary, Jul 27 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

August: Aug 4 – Coast Guard Birthday, Aug 7 – Purple Heart Day, Aug 14 - VJ Day, Aug 15 - Salute to Veterans, Aug 16 - National Senior Citizens Day,

September: Sept 7 - Labor Day, Sept 11 – Patriot Day – 25th anniversary, Sept 18 – Air Force Birthday, Sept 19 – POW/MIA Recognition Day, Sept. 27 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

October: Oct 13 – Navy Birthday, Oct 26 – National Day of the Deployed, Oct 31 - Halloween

November: Nov 3 - Election Day, Nov 10 – Marine Corps Birthday, Nov 11 – Veterans Day, Nov 21- Larry Carlson Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Day

December: Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Dec 13 – National Guard Birthday, Dec 20 – Space Force Birthday, Dec 20 – National Wreaths Across America Day, Dec 25 - Christmas Day, New Years Eve - Dec 31.

Any further action to come before this meeting ?

Post commander: "I now declare this meeting of Edward W. Thompson South Haven Post No.49 adjourned."

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Thompson
Post Adjutant