27 FEB 2025 American Legion Post 49 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Post Commander John Barkley called the 27 FEB 2025 American Legion Post 49 Executive Committee Meeting to order at 1600, and declared the meeting of Edward W. Thompson Post No. 49 open for 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 Jason Mayer, Historian Jim McCloughan, Trustee Dan Gomez, Trustee Patrick Whitlatch**,** Trustee Willie Reinhardt, **Trustee Chuck Aubrey,** Trustee Rich Ely,Trustee Guy Cherry, **Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch,** SAL Commander Brett Novy**,** Auxiliary President Mary Fitzgerald, **Auxiliary VicePresident Linda Teeter, Club Manager Emily Fitzbaker, Auxiliary Chaplain Vicki Olson,** Bruce Thatcher, AUX member Shelley Ammerman, **SAL Member Dave Wiatrowsk**i. **Quorum** (of at least 5 AL members) present.

Review/approve Previous Meeting Minutes- 30 JAN 2025 Executive meeting minutes were approved on motion of Jason Turner, properly seconded.

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.

Introduction of Guests None.

Business

-Account status, per Sean Russell: $169,376.04 24Feb2025 vs vs $190,951.00 29Feb2024, $160,053.21 3Feb2025

-Quickbooks: $ 26,825.88 loss Dec2024 (incl. $16,300 breakfast distribution payout and $6,700 memorial brick payment) vs $11,887.79 loss Nov2024 vs $13,081.53 loss Jan2024.

-Finance Report motion for approval was made by Earl Lash, properly seconded, members approved the Finance Report.

-SAL funds available: $29,280.15

- Aux funds available: $27,623 including $10,000 “reserved for ADA improvements” plus $6,579.99 CD

-Club Operations Committee recommendations:

-Feb/Mar2025 calendar review highlighting special/OTP events.

-As to shredding old Post 49 doc’s greater than 7 years old vs burning., Sturgis Bank has agreed to shred them for us, a box or two at a time. Dates TBD.

-Kitchen fridge will need a recharge per Emily Fitzbaker.

-Corwell Health would like to co-host a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event at your post around National Vietnam War Veterans Day, 3/29/25 or 3/29/25. They offer Welcome Home declaration and Welcome Home beads to Vietnam era veterans as well as Commemoration Pins from the DOD’s Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Program. Gold Star families would also be honored.

- As to the amount to charge for breakfasts this year, amount is to remain the same as last year, for now.

AL Events

-On motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, the Committee approved that we should partner with Corewell Health to support a “welcome home” event, to be held at the post 3-28 or 3-29, to welcome home local Vietnam Era Veterans.

SAL Events

Planning Saint Patrick’s Day corn beef and cabbage dinner 1700-1930 17 March.
Open to the public, Liquor License to be applied for.

Aux Events.
-Fish Fry Fridays start March 7 through April 18, 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm, cost is $12.
-Aux was asked to possibly support with deserts for Saint Patrick's Day.
-Sound mitigation project was reviewed by Linda Teeter, largely successful per hand out that was provided.

Other Business
-AL Post 49 MVGP and AL Bylaws available on website.
-Lakeview Cemetery Flag replacement survey update: cast aluminum flag holders from Flag and Emblem are being considered as most likely alternative. Cemetery has $1,000 per year allocated toward this, possible additional contributions from South Haven City Council to be pursued.
-Landscape leveling proposal plan approved and waiting funding. Internal (ADA levels of accessibility) improvements plan/funding TBD.
-State funding for Post 49 major improvement projects update is to be checked by Linda Teeter next monday.
-Fund raising brainstorming in process (Jason Turner, Shelley Ammerman, Angela Ely, Mary Fitzgerald, Emily Fitzbaker, Gerry Durkee, John Barkley). Next mtg TBD. Member Glen Higgs has suggested a "Reverse Raffle" recently utilized by the Moose Lodge to raise funds.
-Floor cleaning: Quote of $1,400 for all floors except hallway main entrance which has already been completed.
-26May2025 Memorial Day parade permit and fee waiver applied for 20Jan2025
-Seig Frietag explained about possibility of obtaining a used Van for the post from the "Pace" Organization in Saint Joseph. He will speak with the person on charge.

Correspondence to/from AL None.

Sick Call
Steve Hamilton, Dan Farmer, Seig Freitag.

Next meetings
-Membership Mtg 1900 6Feb2025.
-Exec Com Mtg 1600 27Feb2025
-Fourth District Service officers training at 11:00 am, Dinner 12:30 pm, Meetings 1:30 pm: 2 March2025 Hickory Corners 484 (3801 W.Hickory Rd.),18May2025 Dorr 127(4310 18th St.)
-AL Dept. of Michigan Winter Meeting Feb. 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2025 @ BlueWater Convention Center, 800 Harker St., Port Huron, MI

2025 Holidays and Observances
Feb: 1Feb Ice Breakers, 2Feb Groundhog Day, 9Feb Super Bowl,14Feb Valentine's Day, 17Feb Presidents' Day
Mar: 5Mar Ash Wednesday, 7Mar Employee Appreciation Day, 9Mar Daylight Saving Time, 17Mar St.Patrick's Day, 30Mar Vietnam Veterans Day,
Apr: 13Apr Palm Sunday, 16Apr Emancipation Day, 18Apr Good Friday, 12Apr Childrens Easter at Post 49, 20Apr Easter Sunday, 21Apr Patriots' Day, 24Apr Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day,

Finding No further actions to come before this meeting, Post commander declared this meeting of Edward W. Thompson South Haven Post 49 Executive Committee adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Dargis, Adjutant for American Legion Post 49