2 April 2026 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Upon Opening Ceremony, Past Commander John Barkley called the meeting to order

Point of order by 1st Vice Commander Lash asking why Past Commander Barkley was running the meeting. Member Barkley cited Post By-Laws citing Post Commander may designate an individual to run the membership meeting. Post Commander Dargis asked Past Commander Barkley to run the April 2nd meeting and that 1st Vice Commander Lash should talk to Commander Dargis upon his return if there were further questions.

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 Josh Gunneson, Trustee Dan Gomez, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, **Trustee Chuck Aubrey**, Trustee Rich Ely, **Trustee Bruce Thatcher**, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch, **Past Cmdr. John Barkley,Member Jim Neely Member Dan Zwar**, **Guest Member Ren Turner**, **Member Amanda Jones**

"Is quorum (of at least 5 Legion members) present?" YES

Reading/approval of last meeting minutes - **5 March 2026**
Motion to Approve by Jason Turner, properly seconded and motion voted on and passed with one no vote recorded

Awards/ Certificates:

Committee Reports

1. Finance.
-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 to approve by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded and motion voted on and approved**
-SAL funds available: Membership $7270, General Fund $15255.99, CD $10343.24
- Aux funds available: Operating- $42622, CD-$6827,with $28 K for ADA I project

2. Adjutant
-Membership report as of 30March2026: New Members- 45; Paid up for life-48, Renewals- 539,HQ Transfers - 0, Total 632, Goal 655 (96.49%) , Target is 96% as of 4/9/26
MOTION TO APPROVE Adjutant's report: Motion to approve by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded and Motion voted on and approved.

3. Service Officers report: one medical equipment request, discussion regarding resources available include WE CARE, Methodist Church (South Haven) , South Haven Senior Center

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee
-Post closed Monday April 6 through Noon Friday April 10 for Hall Builders to complete bathrooms ADA compliance buildout. Aux will fund cost of $28,000.
-Additionally Hall Builders will also replace front door including power operator at a proposed cost of $15,955 as approved last members meeting
-Cooler replacement discussion: ProTEMP submitted 2 separate bids, one for cooling unit only for $17,100.30 and a second bid for bar cooling unit and room upgrade, including shelving and replacing four (4) glass access doors for $35,990.66. Exec. Com. recommends complete cooler room upgrade at $35,990.66 content level. Additional two (2) bids to be solicited for comparison. **Motion to proceed with $37,000 or less with up to two additional bids to be considered: Motion to approve by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded and Motion Passed**
-Open Dates for dinners 5/29 and 7/31and Breakfasts 5/31 and 8/30 need to be filled
-Purchasing Passports and Stamps- Backordered- out of stock
- Kitchen (after use) Cleaning Checklist posted for organizations using the kitchen.
-Cal review for April/May

5. AL Events

- Hillsdale Post 53 Legacy Ride 6/19 evening- Taco Night, 6/20 Breakfast - Expect approximately 50 individuals

6. **SAL Events - none:**

7. Aux Events- Fish Fry April 3rd

Old Business

-Remaining donation money of $4,255 for Internal ADA and $2,828 from General will be used for front door replacement.

New Business

-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. Matt is seeking support from other veterans groups across Southwest Michigan. Exec Com suggested that $333 from each organization (AL/SAL/Aux) be approved at respective membership meetings. **Motion to support by Seig Freitag, properly seconded and motion passed**

-Consider $250 donation from Post 49 to Hillsdale AL Post 53 (Bike Ride fundraiser for Michigan Vets) as requested at last members meeting. In addition SAL/Aux also considering $250 to be discussed at Member Mtgs.Motion to approve $250 from AL for this event, **Motion to support by Jason Mayer, properly seconded, motion voted on and passed**

-Two Post 49 women members are nominated for regional 12June Woman's Veteran award and will be presented with a certificate and hoodie. Our Post 49 nominees are Amanda Jones and Stacey Bartholomew

-West gate replacement and repair., Jim Neely suggests replacement- go forward is to obtain quote

- Rifles received for raffle- need Flyers and Posters to publicize- John Barkley-" Volentold" , Info to be forwarded to John by Jason Mayer

-Service officer training August 18th through20th, Motion to authorize two attendees at $250 each, by Larry Girard, Approved and requesting attendees. **Motion to up $ amount to $350 each by Earl Lash, seconded by Bruce Thatcher,motion passed**

-Kids fun day on June 6th at Michigan Maritime Museum. Coordinators asked for kids to be exposed to Veterans, Dan Thompson asking for Members in uniform to participate, Jason Mayer, Sieg Freitag, and Chuck Aubrey have tentatively volunteered to participate, trinkets to be given, any vet interested contact Dan.

-SAL member Paul Middleton reviewed a donation for clubroom new tables and chairs. Request to meet ADA requirements for food service and review with the Club Manager made last member meeting.Exec Com recommended accepting contribution of two (2) high top tables and eight (8) chairs pending review and approval by current Club Manager Heather Hahn. Motion to approve purchase by SAL going forward on purchase of Tables and Chairs- **Motion by Seig Freitag, to approve and thank SAL for donation , properly seconded, and motion passed.**

-Aux requests AL fund/order 4,000 poppies at cost of $1,520,. **Motion to approve by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, and motion passed**

-Veterans resource fair request thru Steve Hamilton. Date to be determined by Tony and Heather. Planning TBD.

-Discussion regarding purchase of additional (adirondack) chairs for outside terrace **Motion to approve the concept of purchase of Chairs by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, and motion approved**

2Apr Member Mtg, including Sieg Freitag's offer to donate two commercial park benches. Sieg to provide details on benches at next membership meeting

Additional Business

-AL Post 49 2026/7 Officer Nominations- Meeting opened for nominations: Nominations made during meeting Nomination Sheet will be posted at Post entrance and sent to email addressees Nominations may be received up until time of voting on May 7th at Noon

-Exec Com recommendation for non-member use of Post: Anyone including non-members can enter club to visit memorials, purchase food and non alcoholic drinks. However non-member may not purchase alcoholic beverages. Current signage and tax liability not discussed/reviewed.

Sick call: Dan Farmer, Bret Novy, Dan Altenberg

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL).

Next meetings

-30 April 2026, 4:30 pm Club Op and Exec Comm Meeting now combined
-7 May 2026, 7:00 pm Membership meeting
-Monthly Commander and Adjutant Zoom meetings are being held on the first Tuesday of the month, at 1400 hrs.

2026 Holidays and Observances

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 ?

Upon completion of Closing ceremony Past Commander Barkley declared the Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Thompson
Post Adjutant