3 APRIL 2025 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

After the Opening ceremony was conducted, Commander John Barkley called the 3 APRIL 2025 American Legion Post 49 membership meeting to order at 1900.

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 Jason Mayer, Service Officer Steve Hamilton,** Historian Jim McCloughan**, Trustee Bruce Thatcher, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey,** Trustee Rich Ely**, Trustee Guy Cherry, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch,** Trustee Josh Gunneson, **Trustee Dan Gomez**, member Tim Gregory, member Brad VandenBerg, **Member Dan Thompson,** member Kane Goodson, member Don Karrus, Member Richard Schmidt, SAL member Paul Middleton**, member Bradford Kramer**.**Quorum** (of at least 5 AL members) **present.**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: None.

Award Presentation: A 50 Year continuous membership certificate was awarded to First Vice Commander EARL LASH.

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg minutes dated 6 MARCH 2025 reviewed/**approved** on motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, on voice vote.

Committee reports

1. Finance.

-Account status: Per Commander Barkley;
$165,931.53 31Mar2025 vs $172,230.56 6Mar2025, $188,398.37 25Mar2024
-Quickbooks: $7,578.32 Feb2025 vs $ 14,596.00 loss Jan2025, $4,525.71 Feb 2024
-Finance Report motion for approval was made by Earl Lash, properly seconded, was approved by the members, subject to Audit.
-SAL funds available: $27,652.15
-Aux funds available: $27,623 including $10,000 “reserved for ADA improvements” plus $6,579.99 CD

2. Adjutant

-Membership as of 28 MARCH 2025: 34 new, 47 PUFL, 525 Renewals, 6 Transfers = 612/667 or 91.75 %. Goal for 3-12-25 was 90% ; Next goal 95% by 4-9-25.
-A motion to approve 2 new members and the Adjutant’s report was made by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, was approved by the members.

3. Service Officers report

-Steve Hamilton reported that he needs a wheelchair for a Veteran in a nursing home.
-Honor Guard may be needed at River Ridge senior home for Memorial Day.

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

-Apr/May2025 calendar review highlighting special/OTP events.
-The Auxiliary approved payment for two clubroom blinds and a microwave for the kitchen

5. AL Events

-12 Apr Honor Guard support for past Commander and (more than 75 yr) AL Post 49 member John Lammert celebration of life 12 noon at the VFW. Bus will leave the Post at 1145.
-1 May2025 1900 Membership Mtg at Post.
-2 May 1700-1930 Pizza Dinner. People who support preparing/cooking dinner should be there by 1630.
-6 May 0900 meet at (north end of) South Haven Lakeview Cemetery to place flags and 30 flag holders
-10May1300 Army Salute for Vietnam War Veteran John Jackson at Post 49 as part of celebration of life.
-13May Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor Campus, Room D-112, Afghanistan presentations 1900-2100 by 1st Sgt Mayer & Lt Col Russell. Bus leaves the Post at 1800 for trip to LMC.
-17May Retirement Ceremony for USAF MSgt Stacey Bartholomew. Time will be announced later.
-Volunteers for Poppy Sales 23-26May2025 should Sign up at the Post for locations/days.

-25May2025 0600-1200 Breakfast. AL members prepare and serve breakfast.
-26May2025 Memorial Day Parade. Be at Post by 0800 to March in Parade to Lakeview Cemetery.
-10-12 July2025 MI Dept. Convention

6.SAL Events
- June 6,7 & 8, 2025 is the SAL Department convention.

7. Aux Events
-Selling Dept raffle tickets for 5June2025.
-Offering $1,500 scholarship sponsored by AL Post 49 Aux (Patti Sheehy)
-1100-1300 12 Apr Easter Bunny appears at Post for Kids Easter Party so Hop On By.

Old Business
-Lakeview Cemetery Flag replacement survey update.
-Landscape leveling proposal plan approved and waiting funding. Internal (ADA levels of accessibility) improvements funding TBD.
-State funding for Post 49 major improvement projects TBD.
-Fund raising update.

Other/New Business
-Nomination discussion: On motion of Earl Lash the meeting was suspended for nominations, made for each open position and on motion again by Earl Lash the meeting was reopened. Sheet will be posted for additional nominations 3 April-1 May to support 1 May Elections, 5 June Installation.
-26, 27 Apr 2025 Wilwin Lodge Clean-up 231-757-0140. Steve Hamilton described the property.
- Larry Girard to explore acquiring equipment and software to make custom canes.
- The Commander offered Vietnam Era Veterans Certificates for those who had not received one.

Memorial to a departed post member
Honor Guard support for past Commander and (more than 75 yr) AL Post 49 member John Lammert celebration of life 1200 on 12April at the VFW. Draping Ceremony conducted by Sgt at Arms Freitag.

Sick Call Dan Farmer, Steve Hamilton, Sieg Freitag, Dan Gomez wife.

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL)- None.

Next meetings
-Membership Mtg 1900 1 May2025, Exec Com Mtg 1600 24 Apr2025
-Fourth District Service officers 1100 training, 1230 dinner, 1330 Meetings 27Apr at Dorr Post,
-10-12July2025 MI Dept. Convention

For The Good of The American Legion.
Apr: 13Apr Palm Sunday, 16Apr Emancipation Day, 18Apr Good Friday, 1100-1300 **12Apr Childrens Easter at Post 49,** 20 Apr Easter Sunday, 21 Apr Patriots' Day, 24 Apr Take our Children to Work Day,
May: 1 May National Day of Prayer, 1 May First Day of Military Appreciation Month, 5 May Cinco de Mayo, 6 May National Teacher Day, 8 May **V- E Day,** 9May Military Spouse Day, 11 May Mother's Day, 15 May Peace Officers Memorial Day, 17 May Armed Forces Day, **26 May Memorial Day**,

Commander John Barkley conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2005 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adjutant Bob Dargis, American Legion Post 49