4 DEC 2025 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

After the opening ceremony was conducted, Commander Bob Dargis called the meeting to order.
Order of Business

Adjutant Roll Call: Cmdr. Bob Dargis, 1st Vice Cmdr. Earl Lash, 2nd Vice Cmdr Jim Addessi, Adjutant Dan Thompson,, Judge Advocate Jason Turner, Sgt. at Arms Sieg Freitag,, Service Officer Jason Mayer,, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch, Past Cmdr. John Barkley, Member Bruce Thatcher, Member Jim Neely
"Is quorum (of at least 5 Legion members) present?"- YES

Introduction of guests and prospective new members- None

Reading/approval of last meeting minutes - 6 Nov2025- Moved by J. Turner to approve, properly seconded and approved

Committee Reports

1. Finance.
-Account status:
-Quickbooks: Total Funds Available; $188,203.71 vs. $202,487.79 29 OCT 25, & $207,602.79 21 NOV 2024, Discussion of $25,000 contribution, letter and certificate of appreciation to donor
-Finance Report motion for approval.- **Motion to approve by Earl Lash, properly seconded and approved**
- Line of Credit has been tapped for second payment made to Debest for approximately $33,000.
-SAL funds available: Approx $12,654,73, total incl $10,000 CD 25Sep
- Aux funds available: $29,833 (including $10k set aside for ADA improvements) plus $6,579.99 CD 25Sep
-Club Operations Committee recommendations:
-Christmas Bonuses for Club manager and bartenders : Last Year : $250 for those employed less than 3 years, $300 for those employed three or more years and $400 for Emily, club Mgr, EXEC Comm Recommendation this year: $300, $350 and $400 for Emily.
- EXEC Comm also approved/recommends payment of $1,000 to Emily from Emergency fund due to fire she and her family had recently at their home, Motion to ratify ? **Motion by John Barkley, properly seconded and Approved**
-Motion for leftover breakfast supplies to be donated to SOHA VFW, **Motion to approve by Chuck Aubrey, seconded and approved**
-upcoming meetings scheduled for DEC 25 and JAN 1 moved to ***December 22nd at 5 PM*** for a *joint meeting* of Exec and Members meeting

2. Adjutant
-Membership report as of 26 Nov 2025: 30 new, 48 PUFL, 407 Renewals, 485 / 655 = 74.05 % with goal of 75% by 10 DEC 2025.
-Circulate three member applications **motion to approve** members and Adjutant's report. **Motion to approve by John Barkley, seconded and motion passed**

3. Service Officers report: Turkey dinner P/U and distribution Jason Mayer, and Jim Alessi distributed 7 meals with VFW. Update on a veteran that was going back to Mexico, found housing in Berrien Springs with furnishings

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee
-Cal review for December
-20 Nov Special Open House with Chamber of Commerce, went well, approx 120 people attended, Pizza and soft drinks were served by the post with help from AUX.
-Larry Carlson Dinner- Nov 23rd, somewhat low turnout, leftovers donated.
-Beer cooler issues resolved by replacing capacitor
-Gordon Provider offering Sanitizing and Soap Dispensers over kitchen sink, approved by Ecec Com.

5. AL Events

-1Dec Trees for Troops 9AM at Wahmhoff tree farm, Address: 22330 M-40, Gobles, MI 49055

-7Dec Pearl Harbor Day 1300 salute at Post 49, Honor Guard Shoot at 1300

-13Dec Wreaths Across America, TBD Ceremony followed by 1200 placing wreaths at Lakeview cemetery,

-13 Dec Tom and Jerry party by AUX Time 6:00 pm,

- 20 Dec Kids Xmas Party Hours 2 shifts, 11:00 am and 12:30 pm.

6. **SAL Events:**

-50/50 fund raising raffle in the works, will end Dec 15.

- Working with architect Peterson on indoor ADA Improvements status

- Discussion by Dave W for getting cost estimate, ADA-I plans to Linda Teter for grant application

-Donated $7,500 to ADA-E, included in summary below.

7. Aux Events

20Dec Children's Christmas Party at Post 49 timing and help requirements ?

Old Business

-Landscape leveling project (ADA-E) description stone resetting, fence straightening, ADA work at club room door exit and artificial turf placement on upper level. Project to be complete by Year End. Discussion regarding naming of new deck, Members are asked to consider name for new deck

-State funding for Post 49 major improvement projects TBD from Linda Teeter.

Other/New Business

-Fund raising status:

Responses thru 27Nov2025 for Donations to Post 49 (With 2024 $8,000 donation)								
Donations From			**All**	**AL**	**Aux**	**Sal**	**KOC**	**Other**
Donations For								
	ADA-E	Amount, $	**$81,676**	$73,331	$150	$7,695	$500	
		Amount, %	**92%**					
	ADA-I	Amount, $	**$4,255**	$2,655	$1,100	$0	$500	Fishing Charter
		Amount, %	**5%**					
	Gen.	Amount, $	**$2,828**	$2,378	$350	$100		
		Amount, %	**3%**					
Total $s			**$88,759**	**$78,364**	**$1,600**	**$7,795**	**$1,000**	
Total percent $s			**100%**	**88%**	**2%**	**9%**	**1%**	

-Approve “P AL” Donations previously recommended from template for check writing late Nov-Dec 2025.

American Legion Post 49 Mission Support Spending to Non Profits, Veterans/Families

	Organization	Items covered, information	2025CY Spending C-Completed P-Proj. 11/25	Address, Misc Comments
1	Direct emergency support of local vet's	Cell phone bills, gas, food/groceries, short term motel lodging	$1,500 C AL $1,000 P AL $170 C AL	Emergengy funding for car repairs, gas, ST rent, Heating Oil,food
2	Wilwin Lodge	Lodging and recreation for veterans, families	$1,000 C SAL $500 P AL	Wilwin Lodge, 3383 E Hawley Rd, Custer, MI 49405
3	AL Homeless Veterans	Direct support in temporary shelters	$1,000 C SAL $1,000 P AL	American Legion Department of Michigan 212 N Verlinden Ave, Lansing, MI 48915 ATTN Wanda Ophaug,
4	Fisher House, Battle Creek, MI	MI home for disabled vet's, families	$500 P AL	Fisher House of Michigan, PO Box 130466 Ann Arbor, MI, 48113
5	Primal Outfitters		$1,200 C SAL $600 C Aux $2,152 C AL	$600 dinner profit match + $392 trans. cost for fishing tournament + $1,200 for porta potty contract bill from AL, $600 from Aux and $1,200 donated from SAL
6	AL Veterans and Children Foundation	Supports MI Veterans families in financial hardship and direct support, training for AL Service Officers	$1,000 C SAL $500 P AL	American Legion Department of Michigan 212 N Verlinden Ave, Lansing, MI 48915 ATTN Wanda Ophaug,
7	Tunnels to Towers	Pay home mortgages, upgrades for primary providers killed in service	$636 P AL	
8	American Gold Star Women of Michigan	Providing direct support, support animals	$500 P AL	AGSM Western Mich. Chapter,1606 Eastview Dr.,Niles, MI 49120
9	Wreaths Across America	Purchase/place wreaths 17Dec at Lakeview, other cemeteries	$1,000 P AL	Wreaths Ordered, centrally by Post 49
10	Poppies	Buying poppies for AL Post 49	$1,000 P AL	
11	SH, Glenn, Pullman Schools	Supplies	$500 P AL	Heidi Rupley for Lincoln children school supplies.
12	Service Dogs	Trains emotional assistance dogs to help injured warriors to recovery from PTSD, TBI, mobility impairments.	$1,000 P AL	$600 to Magnum K9 Pets, Sturgis, MI 49091
13	Other Misc	Reserve for remainder of CY	$500 P AL	?
14	Food service for veteran memorial meals served at Post 49		$1,000 C AL $500 P AL	food service for 6 memorial events at post
	Total		$8,136 P AL $18,998 Total C&P AL	

-Additional Business

- John Barkley, Jim McCloughan and Bob Dargis recently met with City Representatives Re: Possible revamping of Memorial at City Hall, relocation of Memorials discussed.
- An AUX member (Kay Conklin) is asking to utilize the clubroom with a group of about 16 other people one day per week for bridge games, a Tuesday or Wednesday, from 1 to 4 pm. They would consider paying a fee per head each time if we would like. Perhaps $2 per head, thoughts ? We would probably limit this to the Oct to April time frame, if at all. **Motion to support by John Barkley, properly seconded and approved , Emily to manage**
- Jim Neely volunteered to take used popcorn poppers and recondition as needed to use as backup

Sick call: Dan Farmer, Brett Novy, Mike Riston

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL).

Post 49 recently received at our last EXEC Comm Meeting a donation of $25,000 from a current member to be used for Our post improvements, Cert of Appreciation to be sent with a letter acknowledging this generous donation.

Next meetings

-***Membership Mtg 22 Dec 2025, to be held jointly with EXEC COMM meeting at 6:00 pm***

-Monthly Commander and Adjutant Zoom meetings are being held on the first Tuesday of the month, at 1400 hrs.

2025 Holidays and Observances

7Dec Pearl Harbor Day, **13Dec Wreaths Across America**, 13Dec National Guard Birthday,
20 Dec Children's Christmas Party at Post 49, 25Dec Christmas Day, 31Dec New Year's Eve
Post to close early at 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

Closing ceremony

Commander Dargis conducted closing ceremony and declared “ I now declare this meeting of the Edward W Thompson South Haven Post No 49 adjourned: at 8:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Thompson, Post Adjutant