5 June 2025 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

After the Opening ceremony was conducted, Commander John Barkley called the 1 June 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,** Historian Jim McCloughan**,** Trustee Bruce Thatcher, **Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch,** , **Trustee Dan Gomez**, , **Member Dan Thompson,** , Member Richard Schmidt, Member Leo Flore, .**Quorum** (of at least 5 AL members) **present.**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: Dan Schmidt

Award Presentation: None.

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg minutes dated 1 May l 2025 reviewed/**approved** on motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, on voice vote.

Induction/ Swearing in of New Post Officers as Follows:

Commander- Robert Dargis,1st Vice Commander- Earl Lash, 2nd Vice Commander-Jim Addessi, Adjutant- Dan Thompson, Finance Officer Sean Russell, Chaplin Larry Girard, Sargeant at Arms Sieg Freitag, Judge Advocate – Jason Turner, Service Officer – Jason Mayer, Historian Jim McCloughan, Trustees Guy Cherry, Rick Ely Dan Gomez, Josh Gunneson, Dan Aubrey, and Willie Reinhardt

Committee reports

1. Finance.

-Account status: Per Commander Dargis

$181,933.98 2 May 2025, vs $175,912.12 28Apr2025 vs $192,187.33 30 May 2024

Noted that in the General Operating Account approximately $35 K of $44 K are Donations for designated purposes

-QuickBooks: $2431.51 loss April 2025 vs $ 3678.03 loss Mar 2025 vs $13299.97 loss Apr 2024

SAL Funds available $24,099.65 per Earl Lash

Aux Funds available: approximately $30,000 to $32,000 per Mary Fitzgerald

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

- NOTE: On motion of Commander Dargis, Members approved the following modifications to be made regarding signatories for our accounts at STURGIS BANK, effective immediately:JOHN BARKLEY and JASON TURNER to be REMOVED as signatories from all accounts, and DANIEL THOMPSON and JASON MAYER to be ADDED as signatories on all accounts. ROBERT DARGIS to remain as signatory on all accounts.

2. Adjutant

-Membership as of 30 May 2025: 43 new, 47 PUFL, 543 Renewals, 6 Transfers = 639/667 or 95.8 %. Vs target Goal was 100% by 5-14-25.

-A motion to approve 8 new members Adjutant's report was made by Earl Lash, properly seconded, was approved by the members.

3. Service Officers report

-Jason Mayer reported that he has been helping a veteran in Grand Junction that had issues with water Supply to his home, emergency funds may be needed.

Jason Turner reported that a pact was reached on Agent Orange settlement that includes widows. Jason cited a local case where the widow was eligible for $1700 per month, property tax relief.

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

Several Honor Guard events in the past month,

1st AL breakfast was a success

Memorial Day parade was a huge success

Club is booked up in June and July

June/July Calendar review highlighting special/OTP events, club rentals, other.

- Posts with rental agreements should have them reviewed by an attorney per Department Judge

Advocate, Retired attorney Bob Dargis will review for compliance. Jason Turner cited in paragraph “a” there are to be no political events.
- Additional/new bartender hiring status for summer Tiki Bar.
-Facebook posting for regular May through Oct Breakfasts/Dinners
- Window blinds purchased Sean Russel reminded members that the new blinds are electric and need to be operated by the bar tender.
-Health Inspection passed but cited concern regarding cleanliness of fryers and moisture resistance of some materials used in cooler room, Emily to find out about compliance requirements for cooler walk in area materials.

Breakfast Info
2017-2020 Breakfast cost of goods sold (COGS) 35%, 65% gross profit margin with little variability
2021 COVID partial year with low volume 57%COGS, 43% gross profit margin
2022 COGS 55% 45% gross profit margin, $52K Post 49 breakfast revenue
2023 COGS 39%, 61 % gross profit margin, $66k Post 49 breakfast revenue
2024 COGS 40%, 60% gross profit margin, $60 K Post 49 breakfast revenue

5. AL Events
6 June pizza dinner 1700-1930
6 June COZY radio event, open to the public, has been announced on the radio
10 June, veteran’s luncheon from SH nursing home at 12 noon
14 June Flag Day with scouts at 1100
14 June Army Birthday, 12 noon, Linda Teeter to arrange for Cake, decorations please
27 June, please support Military Honors for AF Veteran David Holmes, 1800 Filbrandt Chapel Bus will leave the post at 1730.
3 July Light up the Lake, help needed from 1100-2300—signup available
Need volunteers as listed below to sign -up for as many hours as possible for each function listed below:

1 person inside door to greet/screen people and solicit donation for major projects
2 parking assistants or aids, Parking lead Paul Middleton will brief all as required including parking fee for non-AL members. Parking lead will administer towing request(s) as required
1 or 2 monitors to police outside areas, answer questions, check 2 port-a -johns inside fence area
1-inside person to wipe tables/floors, empty trash containers as required
1-person 1100-1200 to help people set up including SAL with tables/chairs/grill/food/drinks as required
1 person to “back-bar tiki and inside area per Emily’s direction
Parking free for Members All Posts- member card required, Public- $20

The 3 July 2025 Facebook posting shown below for reference
American Legion Post 49 is please to host the best fireworks viewing location in South Haven starting at 2PM 3 July
12 Noon Indoor bar opens to the public
2 PM Outdoor Tiki hut opens to offer drinks to the public at competitive prices
2 PM Setting up beach chairs, blankets and towels will be allowed after 2 PM.
5 PM Sons of the American Legion will be grilling and selling hotdogs, burgers, brats, and sweetcorn on site. Ice cream sandwiches will also be available
No cover charge this is year and donations gratefully accepted at the door!
Parking for members will be FREE! CURRENT AL POST 49 MEMBERSHIP CARD REQUIRED (recommendation for 2025 was all current AL Members vs Post 49)
Parking $20 for non-members (non-AL or Post members for 2025)
This year Post 49 will also be open to the public Friday July 3, Saturday July 4th and Sunday July 5th starting at Noon each day. We hope you will join us to celebrate the July 4th Holiday
Possible Veteran’s Open House in August, no need to partition alcohol/non-alcohol areas

SAL events- Breakfast and Burgert nights May – Oct
Aux Events

-Clubroom furniture has been cleaned; blinds have been installed on west windows and new microwave installed
-An Architect has been consulted for a reduced fee in the amount of $350 to render drawings/quote for ADA improvements to provide sufficient documentation to submit to the State Legislature for possible funding. Bob Dargis and Vicki Olson met with him to discuss.

Old Business
-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.
Other/New Business
-Approve Keri Montgomery quote for $200 to etch/place brick row markers to enable locating bricks as approve by Exec Committee
-Approve District Commander Dan Cooper's request for donation of $315 from Post 49 (50 cents per member) to Paralyzed Veterans of Michigan as approved by Exec Committee
-Approve Post 49 monument flag lighting replacement spending per quote from Post electrician as reviewed by Mike Andruch in the amount of $681.40
-On motion of Bob Dargis properly seconded, Exec Committee members approved moving Membership meeting from 3 July to 10 July, this was approved by Membership
-AL Post 49 Mission Support Spending to Non-Profits, Veterans/Families reviewed for June 2024-May 2025
-Donations to Post 49 summary, Fundraising status: $35,544 total (incl $8000 last year): $29,499 ADA-E, $3217 ADA-I, $2828 General Total of $35,544 by org: AL $32649, Aux $1600, SAL $295, KOC $1000.
Additional Business:
Entrance way tiles broken, need to remove tiles, install matting, Quote will be solicited
Earl Lash requested $1000 for veteran ramp installation, check payable to Casco United Methodist Church- approved

Memorial to a departed post member None.

Sick Call Dan Farmer, Steve Hamilton, Sieg Freitag, Dan Gomez wife, Paul Moss

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

Next meetings
-Membership Mtg 1900 10 July, -Exec Com Mtg 1600 26 June 2025
-10-12July2025 MI Dept. Convention

For The Good of The American Legion.
-Jun: 14Jun Army Birthday, Flag Day, 15Jun Father's Day, 19Jun Juneteenth,
-Jul: 4Jul Independence Day, 27Jul Korean War Veterans Armistice Day,
-August, August 4- Coast Guard Birthday, 7 August Purple Heart Day, 17 August National Senior Citizens Day**,**
-Sept, 1 Sept Labor day, 2 Sept V-J Day, 7 Sept National Grandparents Day, 11 Sept Patriot Day, 18 Sept Air Force Birthday, 19 Sept National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 26 Sept Michigan Indian Day, 28 Sept Gold Star Mother's Day,
-Oct 13 Oct Navy Birthday, 25 Oct Children's Halloween Party at Post 49, 31 Oct Halloween

Commander Bob Dargis conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2001 hours.
Respectfully Submitted,
Adjutant Dan Thompson, American Legion Post 49