6Nov2025 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

After the opening Ceremony was conducted, Commander Bob Dargis called the meeting to order at 1900

Order of Business

Adjutant Roll Call: Cmdr. Bob Dargis, 1st Vice Cmdr. Earl Lash, 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, Trustee Dan Gomez, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey, Trustee Guy Cherry, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch, Past Cmdr. John Barkley, Member Jim Neeley, Member Rick Burn,Member Terry Sheffield, Member Leo Flory, Member Bruce Thatcher, District Adjutant Tolbert,
"Is quorum (of at least 5 Legion members) present?" **YES**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members- Guest Tim Gregory

Move to suspend regular member meeting for Trial Summary of Post Member
Motion Made Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, and motion passed

Vote to permanently expel Legionnaire Guy Cherry from American Legion Post 49 and American Legion with no ability to transfer to another American Legion Post

Vote 15 Accept, 4 Rejected–

As a result of this vote Guy Cherry is expelled from American Legion Post 49 and the American Legion and is removed from his office as Trustee.

Resume Regular Mtg starting with Reading/approval of last meeting minutes - 2Nov2025 Motion to approve by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded and motion passed

Committee Reports

1. Finance.
-Account status:
-Quickbooks: Total Funds Available; $202,487 vs. $227,879 30 Sep 25, & $232,965 24 Oct 2024
-Finance Report motion for approval. Moved by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded and motion passed
-SAL funds available: Approx $21,114.38 total incl $10,204.83 CD 1Nov2025
- Aux funds available: $36,265.35 (including $10k set aside for ADA improvements) plus $6,744.70 CD

2. Adjutant
-Membership report as of Nov 2025: As of 10-30-25, 26 new, 48 PUFL, 357 Renewals, 431 / 655 = 65.8 % with goal of 65% by 11Nov.
-Circulate new member applications and consider **motion to approve** members and Adjutant's report.
Motion to approve Adjutant's report by John Barkley, properly seconded and motion passed,

3. Service Officers report:
-Turkey dinner P/U and distribution, 5 Baskets for our post, Steve Hamilton to coordinate distribution.
- Member Mayer noted his assistance to a Coloma vet, who was living in Mexico came back to the local area, to obtain medical and other assistance despite his best efforts, the veteran decided to return to Mexico.

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee
-Cal review for Nov and December
-20 Nov Special Open House with Chamber of Commerce 5-7 PM Help needed 12Noon-? Pizza and softdrinks
Motion by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded and motion passed
-17Nov at 12noon - Clean mtg room floor prior to (20Nov) Chamber of Commerce open house
-Store/shelve Halloween leftovers, currently on floor of the storage room.
-Remove Christmas decorations from "cold storage" 25Nov. After Exec Com Mtg.
-Larry Carlson Dinner- Nov 23rd, Cook turkeys 21Nov, prep 22Nov- 9 AM
-Beer cooler issues resolved by replacing capacitor

-Gordon Provider offering Sanitizing and Soap Dispensers over kitchen sink,,, approved by Ecec Com.

5. AL Events

-10Nov Marine Corps Birthday 1PM celebration at Post 49, Cake– Larry Girard

-11Nov Veterans Day: meet at Post 49 1030 for travel to 1100 Salute at Glenn School, 1200 noon salute at Post 49 followed by Veterans luncheon

-13Nov Honor Guard support for Army Vet. Phillip Copeland 1400 on 13Nov at South Haven VFW Post 667. The bus leaves Post 49 at 1345.

-20Nov South Haven Chamber of Commerce open house, 1700-1900. Please wear AL caps.

-23Nov Larry Carlson Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner (1100-1200 takeout, 1200 eat-in buffet) at Post 49, preparation and help requirements include 2 people to pack/serve pick-up requests, 3 people to serve buffet and 2 for clean-up. Deserts requested starting 12noon 21Nov..

-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, 1130 Ceremony followed by 1200 placing wreaths at Lakeview cemetery,

6. SAL Events:

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

- Working with architect Peterson on indoor ADA Improvements status- getting bids

- 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 posted Oct, scheduled for completion by 20Nov, including wall stone resetting, fence straightening, ADA work at club room door exit and artificial turf placement on upper level.

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

Other/New Business

-AL Breakfast crew 25Oct served about 155 breakfasts and rec'd $1,550 revenue (includes 1 gift certificate from Aux) plus $110 tips for ADA-E

- Bruce Thatcher brought attention to a new documentary film VIETNAM WAR produced by the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association Foundation. This film can be viewed and/or downloaded by going to AVVBA.org. Bruce suggested this film be shown at Post 49 as a potential fundraiser. All are encouraged to view the film, and see if we as a post want to show this film. Discussion item at next Membership meeting.

-Fund raising status:

Responses thru 26Oct2025 for Donations to Post 49 (With 2024 $8,000 donation)								
Donations From			**All**	**AL**	**Aux**	**Sal**	**KOC**	**Other**
Donations For								
	ADA-E	Amount, $	**$41,676**	$33,331	$150	$7,695	$500	
		Amount, %	**85%**					
	ADA-I	Amount, $	**$4,255**	$2,655	$1,100	$0	$500	Fishing Charter
		Amount, %	**9%**					
	General	Amount, $	**$2,828**	$2,378	$350	$100		
		Amount, %	**6%**					
Total $s			**$48,759**	**$38,364**	**$1,600**	**$7,795**	**$1,000**	
Total percent $s			**100%**	**79%**	**3%**	**16%**	**2%**	

-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	Emergency 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 $2,192 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 $18,598 Total C&P AL	

-Additional Business

Current donation requirements:

-Charity Navigator ratings of 93% or greater for both financial and functional categories

-Review prior years federal income tax 990 forms. Look for at least 90% spending for mission, <10% internal overhead (salaries/admin, etc.).

-For new startups and/or those non-profits that are not formally rated: review mission statement, business plan, non-profit status, proof of insurance, proof of service (ie names of those served over year), financial need, perception of leaders as community role models, demonstrating selfless giving on annual basis.

-Primal Outfitters request for funding, $1,000 , Discussed at length amongst attendees, Motion by John Barkley to disapprove request , properly seconded and motion passed

-District #4 Dues for $323 are overdue, Motion by John Barkley to pay $323, properly seconded and motion passed

Sick call: Dan Farmer, Brett Novy, Mike Riston

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL).

Next meetings

-Membership Mtg 1900 4Dec2025.

-Exec Comm Mtg 1600 **Tuesday 25Nov** 2025 (note rescheduled/new date)

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

2025 Holidays and Observances

Nov: 10Nov Marine Corps Birthday, **11Nov Veterans Day**, **23Nov Larry Carlson Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner**, 27Nov Thanksgiving Day, 28Nov Native American Heritage Day,

Dec: 7Dec Pearl Harbor Day, **13Dec Wreaths Across America**, 13Dec National Guard Birthday, **20Dec Children's Christmas Party at Post 49,** 25Dec Christmas Day, 31Dec New Year's Eve

Closing ceremony

Commander Dargis conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted
Daniel Thompson, Post Adjutant