6 MARCH 2025 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

After the Opening ceremony was conducted, Commander John Barkley called the 6 MARCH 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 Glenn Higgs, Member Dan Thompson, member Kane Goodson, member Don Karrus, Member Richard Schmidt, SAL member Paul Middleton.
Quorum (of at least 5 AL members) **present.**

Introduction of guests and prospective new members: None.

Award Presentation: None

Meeting Minutes Membership Mtg minutes dated 6 FEB 2025 reviewed/**approved** on motion of Jason Turner, properly seconded, on voice vote.

Committee reports

1. Finance.

-Account status:Per Sean Russell,
$172,230.56 3Mar2025 vs $169,376.04 24Feb2025, $193,440.98 4Mar2024
-Quickbooks:-$14,596.00 Jan20215 (Incl $1045 Snow Removal, $846 Plumbing, $651 Electrical, $363 Door (Heather's Maint. Recon.) vs $26,825.88 loss Dec2024 vs $13,081.53 loss Jan2024.
-Finance Report motion for approval was made by Earl Lash, properly seconded, was approved by the members, subject to Audit.
-SAL funds available: $29,280.15
-Aux funds available: $27,623 including $10,000 “reserved for ADA improvements” plus $6,579.99 CD

2. Adjutant

-Membership as of 28 Feb 2025: 32 new, 47 PUFL, 523 Renewals, 6 Transfers = 608/667 or 91.15 %. Goal for 2-12-25 was 85% ; Next goal 90% by 3-12-25 has likewise been met.
-A motion to approve new members and the Adjutant’s report was made by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, was approved by the members. There were no new member applications to circulate.

3. Service Officers report

Jason Mayer reported that he recently helped a local Veteran navigate and fill out some VA claim forms. On motion of Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, Jason Mayer’s report was approved by the members. .

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

-Mar/Apr2025 calendar review highlighting special/OTP events.
-Quote for shredding old Post 49 doc’s greater than 7 years old vs burning. Emily Fitzbaker has reported that Sturgis Bank agreed to shred our old documents for free.
-Kitchen fridge repair: Has been recharged.
-Lakeshore Carpet and Tile sourced to clean club, mtg. room floors, carpet area ($585, $795, $30) For a total of $1,410. This charge will be picked up by the Auxiliary.
-The current Van used by the post needs muffler/tailpipe repair to be supported/funded by the Post at a cost less than $500 per Steve Hamilton..

5. AL Events

-Corwell Health would like to co-host a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans here around National Vietnam War Veterans Day, 3/29/25. They offer Welcome Home declaration and Welcome Home beads to Vietnam era veterans as well as Commemoration Pins from the DOD’s Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Pgm. Gold Star families would also be honored.1200 Friday pre meeting.

-2025 holidays reviewed.

6.SAL Events

-Planning St. Patrick's day corn beef/cabbage dinner 17 Mar 1700-1930. Desert donations accepted that afternoon.

7. Aux Events

-Selling Dept raffle tickets for 5June2025.
-Paid $1,500 scholarship sponsored by AL Post 49 Aux (Patti Sheehy)

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; no update available.
-Fund raising brainstorming in process (Jason Turner, Angela Ely, Mary Fitzgerald, Emily Fitzbaker, Gerry Durkee, John Barkley). Letter soliciting donations from businesses distributed.

Other/New Business

-Donation to Post 49 status, overview
-3May Retirement Ceremony for USAF MSgt Stacey Bartholomew.
-Seig Freitag discussed possible purchase/donation of a used Ford F-450 Van from a local Company In Saint Joseph.

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 12 noon Sat.12 April at the VFW. Draping Ceremony conducted by Sgt at Arms Freitag.

Sick Call Dan Farmer, Steve Hamilton, Sieg Freitag, Frank Thompson, Dan Gomez wife and Carl Lash.

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL)-

-Bruce Thatcher noted a Lecture event to be held by two professors at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, May 13, possible member support and attendance needed.
-Per Earl Lash, one of our post 49 members is currently on active duty with the Army Washington DC Honor Guard. On motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, members approved the purchase of A $50 gift card from Clementine's restaurant for Dan Cooper, current Department Commander.

Next meetings

-Membership Mtg 1900 3Apr2025.
-Exec Com Mtg 1600 24Apr2025
-Fourth District Service officers training at 11:00 am, Dinner 12:30 pm, Meetings 1:30 pm: 27 April Dorr ALPost 127(4310 18th St.)
-Department testimonial dinner 1700 5April, AL Post 179, 2327 Wilson Ave, Grand Rapids. Register $35/person @ www.legionpost257.org/testimonial

For The Good of The American Legion.

Mar: 5Mar Ash Wednesday, 7Mar Employee Appreciation Day, 9Mar Daylight Saving Time, **17Mar St.Patrick's Day, 29Mar Vietnam Veterans Day,**
Apr: 13Apr Palm Sunday, 16Apr Emancipation Day, 18Apr Good Friday, **12Apr Childrens Easter at Post 49 1000-1400**, 20Apr Easter Sunday, 21Apr Patriots' Day, 24Apr Take our Daughters, Sons to Work Day,

May: 1May National Day of Prayer, 1May First Day of Military Appreciation Month, 5May Cinco de Mayo, 6 May National Teacher Day, 8May **V- E Day,** 9May Military Spouse Day, 11May Mother's Day, 15May Peace Officers Memorial Day, 17May Armed Forces Day, **26May Memorial Day**,

Commander John Barkley conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2000 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adjutant Bob Dargis, American Legion Post 49