7 AUG 2025 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Post commander: " the meeting is about to open; Officers shall take your stations."
Post commander *gives one rap* "take your seats", and "sergeant-at-arms please close the doors".
Post commander *gives three raps*, and "all stand" (face the flag). "Hand salute" , "two"
Post commander: "The chaplain will offer prayer." : "Members/guests please remain standing with caps removed and placed over the heart for the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance."
Chaplain: "Almighty God, Father of all mankind and Judge over nations, we pray Thee to guide our work in this meeting and in all our days. Send Thy peace to our nation and to all nations. Hasten the fulfillment of Thy promise of peace that shall have no end.
We pray for those who serve the people and guard the public welfare, that by Thy blessing they may be enabled to discharge their duties honestly and well. We pray for our comrades that by Thy help they may observe the strictest justice, keep alight the fires of freedom, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy, and preserve untarnished our loyalty to our country and to Thee. Finally, O God of mercy, we ask Thy blessing and comfort for those comrades who are suffering mental and physical disability. Cheer them and bring them the blessings of health and happiness. Amen."
Post commander: "A POW/MIA empty chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor!"
Post commander: *leads the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance*."I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
Post commander: "Everyone will re-cover."
Post commander: "Everyone recite the preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion":
"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
"To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
"To maintain law and order;
"To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
"To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in ***ALL*** Wars;
"To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
"To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
"To make right the master of might;
"To promote peace and good will on earth;
"To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
"To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."
Post commander: *gives one rap of the gavel* -"Seats".
Post commander: "I now declare this meeting of Edward W. Thompson Post No. 49 open for business

Order of Business

Adjutant Roll Call: Cmdr. Bob Dargis, 1st Vice Cmdr. Earl Lash, 2nd Vice Cmdr Jim Addessi, Adjutant Dan Thompson, Finance Officer Sean Russell , Judge Advocate Jason Turner, Sgt. at Arms Sieg Freitag, Chaplain Larry Girard(excused) , Service Officer Steve Hamilton, Service Officer Jason Mayer, Trustee Dan Gomez, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey, Trustee Rich Ely, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch, Past Cmdr. John Barkley, Member Kane Goodson, Member Marty Welker, Member Bruce Thatcher, Member Leo Flory
"Is a quorum (of at least 5 Legion members) present? YES
Introduction of guests and prospective new members - None

Award Presentation(s)
Honor Guard Thank-you for recent Ceremony

Reading/approval of last meeting minutes- Membership Mtg dated **10 JULY 2025.**
Motion by Jim Adessi, seconded, and Approved

Committee Reports

1. Finance.
-Account status: $213,630.62 vs $172,946.79 29May2025 vs: $208,616.43 26June2024, noting that

$38,047 of the $213,630.62 are donations and committed to special projects.
-Quickbooks: $ 9,632.03 vs. $6,412.28 May 2025 vs. $14,152.69 June 2024
-Finance Report motion for approval by Chuck Aubrey, seconded and approved.
-SAL funds available: $ 30,000 approx.
- Aux funds available: $23,400, $6700 in CD's
-Club Operations Committee recommendations:
-Cal reviews for Aug/ Sept
-AUX recently had the kitchen cleaned by Lakeside Fire and safety (hood degrease, floor and fryer cleaning) and paid the invoice of $936, thank you.
-Lakeside recommends additional work re: Fire Extinguishers, and Exit signs/lights and Chemical Tank, Tabled pending Asst Fire Chief/ Member evaluation
-Emily investigating bar pricing, will prepare spreadsheet for further consideration when available
Motion to approve Finance Report by C. Aubrey, seconded and approved

2. Adjutant

-Membership report: As of 6-29-25: 45 new, 47 PUFL, 546 Renewals, 6 transfers = 644/667 for 96.55%. Goal was 100% by May 14, 2025. Note the report is from 6/29, since 7/1 Adjutant has processed approximately 160 renewals
-Circulate new member applications and consider, Motion to approve
Adjutant's report and new members .Motion C. Aubrey , seconded, and approved

3. Service Officers report -

New VSO at Paw Paw Office

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee

-AUG / SEP 2025 calendar review highlighting special/OTP events, club rentals, other.
Aux reports over 400+ attending recent breakfast, ran out of various items due to attendance volume
Commander has asked that two members from all three organizations in addition to civilian clubs to provide workers for Labor Day Weekend Breakfast.

5. AL Events

-**16 August 2025**- Salute to Veterans- Bus leaves at 1130, Honor Guard salute NOON
- **23 AUG 2025** ,Two Air Force Veterans, Dorthy Gene Holliday and Norma Lou O'Dell 1100 23August2025 at McDowell Cemetery, 107th Av, Casco Twp, MI. **Bus will leave at 1030.**
-29 August Honor Guard Support Bangor Odd Fellows Hall 5 PM, Bus Leaves- TBD
-Veteran Service open house Sept target.

6. **SAL Events:**

-50/50 fund raising raffle in the works, will end Dec 15.
-Aug 15 Will host Shooting event for Vets at South Haven Rod and Gun club.
-Working with architect Peterson on indoor ADA Improvements, door openers.

7. Aux Events

-On Line Shopping for Aux in works
-Girls State participant- Loved it
-Social Gathering Event- Fall
-Coloma Lady Riders- August 30th

Old Business

-Lakeview Cemetery Flag/holder replacement - no update
-Landscape leveling proposal plan approved and waiting funding.
-State funding for Post 49 major improvement projects TBD.
- Funds from **July 3 Light up the lake**: Parking $1,705; Donations at the door $ 1,979. Gross sales at the Bar: $6,342; Donations from Lock boxes at the bar $39.75 = $10,065.75 Total.

Other/New Business

-AL Breakfast crew July 27 served 298 breakfasts and rec'd $2,790 revenue plus $133 tips for ADA-E and ADA - I. Split 50/50.
-State funding for Post 49 major improvement projects-no update.
-Fund raising 13 July status: $38,047 total (incl $8,000 last year): $31,012 ADA-E,$4,207 ADA-I,$2,828

-**General Discussion, Ratification of and Approval of draft Regulations regarding Trial procedures and Motion practice for Post 49 Disciplinary proceedings of Post 49** members and Summary Suspension of post members.This item is tabled, pending review by State Judge Advocate.

-Service dog recommendation- Service dog recommendation- Reviewed by John Barkley, with questions addressed and answered, Motion to affirm Post policy regarding support for Service Dogs trained for emotional support . Motion by John Barkley, seconded and approved, (two nays)

-New Van is ready to go - Thanked Sieg, Letter and Certificate of Appreciation is being sent by Commander Dargis, Member Freitag cited need for new mirror supports, will investigate, potential for contribution to cover some/all cost

-For those using Kitchen , please make sure to Clean pan on bottom of fryer

-Discussion regarding ADA-E (outside area)- Sean researching potential for loan/and or line of credit to get project going, under logic" if we build it funding will come", along with potential for Membership fund contribution,Finance Officer Russell provided options for Loan and Line of Credit with a number of terms, interest rates etc. Following discussion with membership he recommended a Line of Credit of $150,000 be taken out with $57,000 drawn short term to get the project moving this fall. Motion to approve by John Barkley, seconded and approved for Line of Credit of $150,000 and $57,000 draw immediately.

Adjutant Thompson made a recommendation to move $10,000 from Membership account to support ADA project. Motion made by Thompson, seconded and approved

Memorial to a departed post member - None

Sick call: Dan Farmer, Steve Hamilton, Sieg Freitag,

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL).

Next meetings

-Membership Mtg 1900 4Sept 2025.
-Exec Com Mtg 1600 28Aug 2025

For The Good of The American Legion,

Sep: 1Sep Labor Day, 2Sep V-J Day, 7Sep National Grandparents Day, **11Sep Patriot Day**, **18Sep Air Force Birthday,** 19Sep National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 26Sep Michigan Indian Day, **28Sep Gold Star Mother's Day**

Oct: 13 Oct Columbus Day and Navy Birthday, 25 Oct Children's Halloween Party at Post 49, 31Oct Halloween

Nov: 2 Nov Daylight Saving Time ends, 4 Nov Election Day, **10 Nov Marine Corps Birthday**, **11 Nov Veterans Day**, **23 Nov Larry Carlson Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner**, 27 Nov Thanksgiving Day,

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

Closing ceremony

With no further business coming before the group, Commander Dargis conducted the closing ceremony and concluded the meeting at 2005.

Respectfully Submitted by Dan Thompson, Adjutant
American Legion Post 49