7 May 2026 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

Upon completion of opening ceremony, Commander Dargis called the meeting to order

Order of Business

Adjutant Roll Call: Cmdr. Bob Dargis**(Attendees in Bold)**, **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, **Service Officer Steve Hamilton**, **Service Officer Jason Mayer,** Historian Jim McCloughan, Trustee Josh Gunneson, **Trustee Dan Gomez**, **Trustee Willie Reinhardt**, **Trustee Chuck Aubrey**, **Trustee Rich Ely**, trustee Bruce Thatcher, **Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch**, **Past Cmdr. John Barkley**, **Jim Neely. Dan Zwar**, **Jim Neeley, Amanda Jones, Prospective member Joe Kasiewicz**
"Is quorum (of at least 5 Legion members) present?"- YES

Reading/approval of last meeting minutes -**Motion to approve by Jason Turner, seconded and motion approved unanimously**

Awards/ Certificates: Mike Andruch

Committee Reports

1. Finance.
-Account status: $ 137,029.05 vs. $135,478.14 April 2026 & $175,912.12 April 2025
-Quickbooks: $-8,815.54 vs. - $10,495.71.70 Feb 2026 & -$3,678.03 March 2025
-Finance Report **motion for approval Chuck Aubrey, seconded and motion approved**
-SAL funds available: Total $25013.46, Checking $8509.00, General Fund $6089.99, CD Savings $10,414.47
- Aux funds available: $17,369.99

2. Adjutant
-Membership report as of : May 1, 2026: 52 New, 48 PUFL, 549 Renewals, for 649/655 = 99.05 %, Goal for May 13, 2026 is 100%, new member applications circulated for review.
Motion to approve adjutant report by John Barkley, seconded and motion approved.

3. Service Officers report:
-Jason Mayer recently paid for hotel room for local veteran, needs reimbursement from Veteran's Fund
-Tentative Honor Guard scheduled for 23 May at 10:30 AM

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee
-Post Improvements to Bathrooms and Front door recently completed
-Improvents/replacement of Beer cooler components in approximately 2 weeks, pending Protemps ability to obtain all needed parts.
-Open Dates for dinners 5/29 and 7/31and Breakfasts 5/31 and 8/30 need to be filled. Asking VFWfor coverage, Bartenders may be considering a "Pasta Night"
-Purchasing Passports and Stamps- Backordered- out of stock
-Kitchen (after use) Cleaning Checklist posted for organizations using the kitchen.
-Cal review for May/June , see below
- Plans for July 3 volunteers needed for parking and monitoring post, When to allow patrons to reserve spots for fireworks, discussion about July 3 ensued. Committee to make recommendations on July 3rd for the June membership meeting formed headed by Adjutant Thompson. The committee consists of Reinhardt, Barkley, Jones, Mayer, Turner, Middleton, Flory.
- Hire new Bar Back assistant to help bartenders with preparing food on Fridays and Saturdays during summer in light of anticipated increase in business due to post improvements.
- Karaoke nights held on a regular basis ? Paul Middleton and Heather to coordinate and recommend equipment purchase vs hiring professional.

5. AL Events
- 15 and 16 May, Garage sale fundraiser held at post on front lawn with donated items to be sold, thank you Willie Reinhardt for agreeing to provide a tent

- 25 May Memorial Day readiness review: parade permit and fee waver from SH city completed, notify participants that have roles, verify other cemetery visits, schedule cars for 6VIPs.
- 19 June, Hillsdale Post 53 Legacy Ride 6/19 evening- Taco Night, 6/20 Breakfast
- 4 June members meeting awards to Stacey Bartholomew and Amanda Jones.
- 6 June Volunteers needed at Michigan Maritime Museum to work with kids games (Dan Thompson)
- 6 June WW2 Vets - Department is planning a Salute to WW 2 Vets at Tiger Stadium vs Seattle game at 1:10 pm in Detroit.
- 19 June, Hillsdale Post 53 Legacy Ride 6/19 evening- Taco Night, 6/20 Breakfast
- 3 July Light up the Lake fireworks, volunteers needed generally and somebody needs to run 50/50 raffles (perhaps 3 total) during the event. When/What time to allow patrons to reserve spots for fireworks ?
-Who will participate in the parade ?
- 18 July honor Guard funeral for Fenske at McDowell Cemetery,
- Sept 5 Gun Raffle drawing at 6 PM
- OCT 10, Veterans Resource fair at post 49, pending confirmation from Toni, only date available
- Legion Convention June 25-June 28

6. **SAL Events:** Elections for Officers held next month

7. Aux Events: Volunteers needed for Poppy day, sign up sheet

Old Business

- Purchase of Adirondack Chairs approved at last meeting as a concept, Sean Russell has obtained prices:$160 a piece, White not currently available, 10 red and 10 blue=$3200. 30 High top polywood chairs cost $7500. Motion **to approve to purchase 20 adirondack chairs ($3200), and 30 high top chairs for($7500) total amount $10,700 made by John Barkley, seconded and motion approved.**
- Sieg Freitags contribution of two benches for lower level, 4 volunteers needed to move.

New Business

-Last call for voting, voting closed, ballot counting, announcement of new officers, ballots to be destroyed. **Motion to suspend meeting for vote counting Motion by John Barkley, properly seconded and approved.**
Motion to resume meeting and destroy ballots by John Barkley, seconded and motion passed:

Officers Elected for Edward W. Thompson American Legion Post 49 for 2026/27 are:

Commander	**Robert Dargis**
1st Vice Commander -	**Jason Turner**
2nd Vice Commander	**Jim Addessi**
Adjutant	**Dan Thompson**
Chaplain	**Larry Girard**
Finance Officer	**Sean Russell**
Sgt at Arms	**Seig Freitag**
Service Officer	**Jason Mayer**
Historian	**Jim McCloughan**
Judge Advocate	**John Barkley**
Trustees (3 year Term)	**Rick Ely, Amanda Jones**
Trustee Replacement (1 year)	**Mike Andruch**

NOTE that otherTrustees (Election Year) are: Dan Gomez (2024/5), Chuck Aubrey (2025/6), Willie Reinhardt (2025/6)

- Nominations for Grand Marshall Memorial Day parade to be asked- Albert Anthony first, Dave Woody back-up
- AUX asking for $250 for Coloring Books to be distributed to local elementary Students to Explain Poppy day
Motion to approve- John Barkley, seconded and motion passed
- Approval of Contract for Men's Washroom partition, $1,100 split with AUX 50/50, $550 needed
Motion to approve-Willie Reinhardt, seconded and approved

Additional Business

- Replacement of west gate, Jim Neely. On hold NOTE: Discussion ensued regarding the installation of panic bar on both east and west gates (see below). Recent inspection by City raised issue about Egress / gates in event of emergency, they are suggesting/(insisting?) we install panic bars somehow on the 4 foot high east gate and we may need to have something similar installed on the west gate, clarification needed.

Sick call: Dan Farmer, Glen Higgs, John Wallach

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL).

Next meetings

-28 May 2026, 4:30 pm Club Op and Exec Comm Meeting now combined
- 4June 2026, 7:00 pm Membership meeting
-Monthly Commander and Adjutant Zoom meetings are being held on the first Tuesday of the month, at 1400 hrs.

2026 Holidays and Observances

May: May 1 – Silver Star Banner Day, May 5 - National Teacher Appreciation Day, May 6 - National Nurses Day, May 7 - National Day of Prayer, May 8 - Victory in Europe Day, May 8 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 10 - Mother's Day, May 13 – Children of Fallen Patriots, May 15 - Peace Officers Memorial Day, Day, May 16 – Armed Forces Day, May 25 – Memorial Day Parade
June: Jun 6 – D-Day Anniversary, Jun 14 – Flag Day & Army Birthday, Jun 21 Father's Day, Jun 23 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday, Jun 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day,
July: Jul 4 – Independence Day – 250th anniversary, Jul 27 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
August: Aug 4 – Coast Guard Birthday, Aug 7 – Purple Heart Day, Aug 14 - VJ Day, Aug 15 - Salute to Veterans, Aug 16 - National Senior Citizens Day,
September: Sept 7 - Labor Day, Sept 11 – Patriot Day – 25th anniversary, Sept 18 – Air Force Birthday, Sept 19 – POW/MIA Recognition Day, Sept. 27 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day
October: Oct 13 – Navy Birthday, Oct 26 – National Day of the Deployed, Oct 31 - Halloween
November: Nov 3 - Election Day, Nov 10 – Marine Corps Birthday, Nov 11 – Veterans Day, Nov 21- Larry Carlson Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Day
December: Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Dec 13 – National Guard Birthday, Dec 20 – Space Force Birthday, Dec 20 – National Wreaths Across America Day, Dec 25 - Christmas Day, New Years Eve - Dec 31.

Any further action to come before this meeting ?

Closing ceremony

Upon completion of the closing Ceremony, Commander Dargis adjourned the meeting at 8:44PM

Respectfully Submitted
Daniel Thompson
Post Adjutant