7 NOV 2024 American Legion Post 49 Membership Meeting Minutes

After the Opening ceremony was conducted, Commander John Barkley called the 7 NOV 2024 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 Steve Hamilton**,** Historian Jim McCloughan**, Trustee Bruce Thatcher, Trustee Patrick Whitlatch, Trustee Willie Reinhardt, Trustee Chuck Aubrey,** Trustee Rich Ely**, Trustee Guy Cherry, Ordnance Officer Mike Andruch,** Trustee Josh Gunneson, **Service Officer Jason Mayer**, **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 3 OCT 2024 reviewed/**approved** on motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded, on voice vote.

Committee reports

1. Finance. Report by Sean Russell:
-Account status:$220,307.37 4Nov2024 vs. $229,783.92 26Oct2023 vs $223,720.99 26Sept2024
-Quickbooks: -$7,494.45 Includes $9,816 Federal Income Tax payment for 2022,2023 sales to non-members. Quickbooks $15,331.52 Aug2024 vs $ 9,891.25 Sept2023
-Finance Report motion for approval was made by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, was approved on voice vote, subject to audit.
-SAL funds available: $21,831.69
-Aux funds available: $28,000 with $10,000 “reserved for ADA improvements”.

2. Adjutant
-Membership status as of Nov 1, 2024,: 26 new, 46 PUFL, 332 Renewals, 2 transfers from State, 406 / 667 = 60.87%%, last goal was 55% by 16 OCT, Next goal is 65% by 14 NOV 2024.
-Two new member applications were circulated and a motion to approve those new members and the adjutant’s report was made by Chuck Aubrey, properly seconded, was approved by the members.

3. Service Officers report Jason Mayer saw Steve Hamilton. Jason Turner has been working with veterans at the River Ridge Retirement Village on the north side of town.

4. Club Facilities and Operations Committee
Staff Mtg scheduled date for 9Nov2024.
-Fire extinguisher training TBD.
-Lakeside Fire/Safety recommended upgrading the hood fire suppression system for approx $1,500, looking for a second opinion from another company in Grand Rapids.
-Nov/Dec2024 calendar review highlighting special/OTP events
-Saturday Dec14 Post 49 Children’s Christmas Party
-Kitchen Deep Cleaning to be scheduled

5. AL Events

-Marine Birthday Sunday 10Nov. Celebration at 12Noon.

-Veterans Day Monday 11Nov2024. 12Noon salute here, salute at 1220 at SH nursing home, Glenn School has requested 3 volley salute to be performed immediately following event at SH nursing home, lunch at Legion to follow.

-Nursing Home Veterans lunch at Post 49 12Noon 12Nov.

-Fund raising brainstorming meeting 1800 13Nov.(incl. Jason Turner, Shelley Ammerman, Angela Ely, Mary Fitzgerald, Emily Fitzbaker, Gerry Durkee, John Barkley).

-Honor Guard support for Army Veteran Kierra Marshall 1415 Sat 16Nov2024 at Covert Cemetery, M-140, Covert, MI 49043. The bus will leave the Post 1330.

-Nov AL Exec Com Mtg moved to 1600 21Nov.

-Trees for Troops 9AM 2Dec at Wahmhoff tree farm, Address: 22330 M-40, Gobles, MI 49055

-Lest We Forget would like South Haven American Legion to host a LWF @ Nite meeting on 11Dec from 1830-2000.

-Wreaths across America salute at Bangor Cemetery 12Noon 14Dec. Need Marine and Coast Guard representatives to lay those wreaths. Bus will leave at 1115.

- Children's Christmas Party Saturday Dec14.
- AL Exec Meeting rescheduled from 26Dec to 19Dec2024.

6. **SAL Events**

Planning Nov 24 Larry Carlson Memorial dinner. Help needed 23 NOV at 9:00 am to break down Turkeys.

7. Aux Events.

Saturday Dec 14 post 49 Children's Christmas party.

Old Business

-Lakeview Cemetery Flag replacement survey found 797 missing or damaged flag holders.

-Clubroom sound reduction. Waiting Aux approval for cost share of $22,593 total expected cost.

-Memorial brick addition work scheduled next 2 weeks includes 5 additional rows of bricks added to each side (1680 bricks total), additional gray brick edger material (237 pcs. total), repair/leveling of main walkway. Work in process.

-Landscape leveling proposal update was detailed by Commander per handout provided.Some discussion by members as to whether a deck would be appropriate. Motion to approve deBest proposal was made by Jason Turner, properly seconded, members approved proposal by voice vote.

-Auto Zone debit card status.

-State funding for Post 49 improvements TBD. No activity.

-Fund raising brainstorming in process (Jason Turner, Shelley Ammerman, Angela Ely, Mary Fitzgerald, Emily Fitzbaker, Gerry Durkee, John Barkley) next meeting 1800 13Nov. Donation letter mailing to all AL Post family members completed in Oct. Also working on raffle, silent auction events to raise money for capital pending projects.

-Front entrance support posts replacement completed with help from Members Turner, Andruch and Flory, saving $2,800 from the original $5,000 estimated cost..

-Move plumbing from outside wall timing TBD.

-Post clubroom furnace and A/C system replacement completed. Air ducts were also cleaned.

- Mike Andruch noted wiring problem concern for lights under Bar, quotes for electrical work needed.
- Commander to send a thank you letter to Dennis and Sherry Love who painted the shed and fence.

Other/New Business

-Select 4 members to receive 4 Thanksgiving meals, pick up meals 900-1200 on 23 Nov. at Veterans Services 226 E. Michigan Ave. Paw Paw, Mi 49079, and distribute to the 4 members selected. Names and addresses to be submitted to Jason Mayer.

-Wreaths Across America funding was approved by members in the amount of $1,000 on motion of Earl Lash, properly seconded.

-Christmas bonus discussion resulted in motion by Jason Turner approved by members paying bartenders as follows: $250 for those employed less than 3 years, $300 for those employed three or more years and $400 for Emily, club manager.
-Award dinner proposed to recognize the Post 49 honor guard with timing TBD, using funding from the Uniform fund for this event (up to $600 ?), for approx. 15 honor guard people and spouses/others.

Sick call
Dan Farmer still dealing with brain tumor concerns. Rodney Tolbert recently had Hernia surgery. Steve Hamilton is also sick, and Brett Novi has heart problems.

Communication & Donation Announcements (to/from AL)
-Commander to maintain a Log Sheet of donations made.

Next meetings
-Membership Mtg 1900, 5 DEC..
-Club Operations Com.1530, Exec Com. Mtg 1600 21 Nov (moved from 28 Nov).

For The Good of The American Legion.
-Nov: Sunday Nov 10 Marine Corps Birthday, Monday **Nov 11 Veterans Day**, Sunday **Nov 24 Larry Carlson Memorial Dinner**, Thursday Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day,
-Dec: Saturday Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Friday Dec 13 National Guard Birthday, **Sat 14Dec Wreaths across America** salute at Bangor 12Noon 14 Dec, Saturday **Dec14 Post 49 Children's Christmas Party**, Wednesday Dec 25 Christmas Day, Thursday Dec 26 Kwanzaa (first day), Tuesday Dec 31 New Year's

Commander John Barkley conducted the closing ceremony and declared the meeting adjourned at 2020 hours.

Respectfully Submitted by
Adjutant Bob Dargis, American Legion Post 49