



**AMERICAN LEGION
JOSEPH B. WESTNEDGE POST 36
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49019**

15 September, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

The meeting of American Legion Joseph B. Westnedge Post 36, called to order at 1900 hours with 18 members present.

Rollcall:

Adjutant Caudill conducted roll call. All officers present, quorum requirements met.

Reading Of Minutes:

Minutes of the 18 August 2022 meeting were read,

Dan Bement motioned to accept the minutes as is, 2nd by Dave Carvell, motion passed.

Introduction of Guests:

NA

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee:

Meetings held via Zoom, on August 23 and September 8, 2022, 1900hrs.

1. August 23:

- i. Adjutant Caudill presented a Power Point presentation briefing the following:
 - a. Zoom equipment for the post meetings, which he was unable to completely discuss at the August meeting due to interruptions from the floor, and time constraints.
 - b. Webpage and social media accounts.
 - i. We now have a Twitter account, #milegionpost36
 - ii. Instagram and Facebook milegionpost36.
 - c. After his presentation, Adjutant Caudill made a motion to purchase a camera, microphone, controller, and a Zoom account.
 - i. Finance Officer Carvell seconded the motion,
 - ii. Approved unanimously by the executive committee.

2. September 8:

1. Our post liability/hold harmless policy is due by 10/31. Commander Gillespie reached out to Cleavenger Insurance in Camden for a quote, several Legion Posts use them.
2. Met with the Search Committee so they could present their goals, ideas, and plans to the executive committee. And for the executive committee to present their expectations and guidelines to the search committee. Sr. Vice Dennis Lutz made a motion that the search committee participants select a chairperson, who will liaison with him. The committee can send Dennis questions and ask for any guidance they may need to go forward. He will then take that input and write a mission statement, which would be shared with the executive committee and approved by the commander, which then would be discussed with the search committee. This motion passed by vote.

Americanism:

1. The Post 36 Education Initiative to link together Kalamazoo Public Schools/Kalamazoo Education Association with members of the Post is underway.
 - a. Formal letter to be sent to KEA President Heather Reid
 - b. Early next week: it will be further distributed to KPS teachers
 - c. After that. the focus will be on presenting Flag Ceremonies and public speakers (veterans from the Post talking with students about their military service) at area schools.
 - d. A final version of the letter will be presented to the Post prior to the inauguration of the project.
2. Sr Vice Lutz briefed on the Portage Senior Veteran Lunch, Flag Folding Ceremony. Well received by all. The flag folding team did a great job.
3. Finance Officer Carvell briefed he has been in contact with the Salvation Army about the post manning the red kettle and bell ringing during the holidays, suggested maybe the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Will have more information at next month meeting.
4. Trustee Worden Briefed about South Havens Post 49's, 9/11 ceremony, was a nice, dignified short ceremony. Color Guard, Rifle Squadron, and a prayer was included in the ceremony.

Children & Youth:

Nothing to Report

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation:

1. Post Service Officers, Steve Tolliver and Joshua Clark met with Commander Gillespie on Wed. 14 Sep 22. The discussion included:
 - a. Establishing office hours and needs.
 - b. Office will be up and running either 5th or 12th of October
 - c. Hours 1500 – 1800 hrs. on Wednesdays
 - d. 1st day open will be briefing on the PACT ACT.
2. The Dept. of Michigan will provide additional training to our PSOs once the office is open.
3. The Kalamazoo County Veteran Service Office has also offered support and training. They are grateful we are going to provide additional PSO services to local veterans because there is a huge need, and they are swamped.

Membership & Post Activities:

1. Membership Renewal Current as of 9 Sep 22
 - a. Department goal is 55% by 13 Oct 22
 - b. Post 36 renewal percentage is 57.78%
 - c. Year to date membership breakdown:
 - i. 1 New Member
 - ii. 35 PUFL
 - iii. 120 Renewals
 - iv. 0 HQ Transfers
 - v. Total 159, Goal 270
 - d. Monthly Post 36 breakdown from 18 Aug – 15 Sep 22
 - i. 6 online renewals
 - ii. 10 Mail-in
 - iii. 1 new member - Steve Johns
 - iv. 1 transfer in – Patricia Broten from Post 225

2. Post Activities

- a. 18 Sep 22, 1400, hrs. Flag Folding for Berend Poppen memorial service at the Pathfinder Church, 8740 South Westnedge in Portage
 - i. Post 257 from Harper Creek is providing rifle squad.
 - ii. VFW bugle has been reserved
 - iii. Those participating please plan to be there by 1330 hrs. to practice and plan for the service.
 - b. 8 Jan 23, Hosting 3rd District Meeting
 - i. Need to create a temp committee for planning
 - c. 11 Feb 23, Family Food Fest
 - d. SR Vice Lutz briefed on some ideas for the Family Food Fest
 - i. A scavenger hunt for children (and maybe adults) of things at the Post.
 - ii. A set of "trivia" questions to be answered by each table with a prize for the winners. The questions would all be about military stuff.
 - iii. A slide show of events we did in the last 12 months.
 - iv. Maybe a guest speaker (I was thinking about asking one of the reserve unit commanders).
 - v. The first 3 are easily doable. It might take some work on the scavenger hunt, but I think it would be fun.
 - vi. We should also invite the Sons. I might bring my grandchildren. We should encourage it.
 - vii. Need to create a temp committee for planning; Sr Vice Lutz and Adjutant Caudill volunteered to be on this committee, Sr Vice Lutz is committee chairmen.
3. Adjutant Caudill asked for a volunteer to serve as Membership & Post Activities Committee's, Sub-Chairmen for Post Activities, Trustee Bement volunteer to Sub-Chairmen of this committee.

Finance:

1. Operations Account
 - a. Balance – was discussed
 - i. Money in and out for dues payments
 - ii. Reimbursement from ALNH
 - iii. Expenditure for office supplies
2. Lotto Account
 - a. Balance – was discussed
 - b. Disbursements for:
 - i. Dan First memorial to Talons Out - \$50.00
 - ii. Yearly Payment to VFW - \$1000.00
 - iii. IT Equipment - \$1032.00
3. Money Market Account
 - a. Balance was discussed
 - b. Current Interest Rate 0.10%
4. Insurance coming due

House Committee:

1. Kitchen closed until further notice; renovation ongoing.
2. Eagle Scout project to repaint US Army tank approved. Now being taken over by a new scout.
3. Seeking bartenders to work in canteen. Contact Kerry, Bar Manager
4. Seeking Bar Manager for canteen. if interested contact Jon Carter or Karl Ogilvie.
5. Planning for a “thank you donors” meal is ongoing and tentatively scheduled for Oct timeframe.
6. Will be determined by kitchen completion date.
7. Planning for a Veterans Day meal, Saturday 12 Nov 22
 - a. Starting at noon, the cost will be free to Veterans
 - b. Donation jars will be available to offset the cost.
8. Celebration of POW/MIA Day, “Pizza & Beer” event at Post on 16 Sep 2022, 4-7PM.
 - a. Dave & Tammy Shugars are obtaining pizza donations from local businesses, bar manager will provide
 - b. ‘Specially priced’ pitchers of draft beer (Miller/Bud lite) during event. Jon Carter, Commander
9. New, donated OLED TV installed in canteen.
 - a. Donated high end audio system installation for canteen pending.
10. All University of Michigan and Michigan State University college football games will be shown on the canteen TV’s Saturdays throughout the season. Encourage membership attendance to enjoy these games.
 - a. Michigan vs State, Michigan vs Ohio and Army Navy games will be advertised as “Events”, posters made with details, potluck encouraged for everyone’s enjoyment.
11. Trivia Night will restart in October.
12. Taco Tuesdays will restart once kitchen renovation is completed.
13. A new wall Calendar has been installed in the lobby to right of bathrooms.
14. VFW has been cleared by National to reach out and sponsor local Boy Scout Troop.

SAL Advisor Report:

1. Sr Vice Lutz briefed the following:
 - a. The charter has been approved since April 2022; we are STILL waiting for it to be printed.
 - b. All SAL members are now in the MySAL.org database and membership cards have been printed and mailed to all.
 - c. The squadron has nineteen members as of 15 Sep 22.
 - d. New Squadron Chaplain is Richard Reeves
 - e. The original Squadron 36, founded on 7 October 1935, charter has been found and we are looking into ways to have it restored.
 - f. Briefed on a rumor that that SAL is thinking of taking on a fund raiser for a new electronic sign for the Post for all organizations, this is just a rumor and has not even been brought to the attention of the Squadron leadership. More to follow.

Sick Call, Relief, and Employment:

Chaplain Rop briefed that Richard Hudson, 42-year member has been moved to assisted living, Provision Living, 210 N 9th Street, Kalamazoo stated Richard would like to have visitors.

Unfinished Business:

1. South Haven steak night on Thurs. 8/25 had 22 member/spouses attend. **CLOSED**
2. 10 Sept 22- Silent Stair climb at WMU. Volunteers needed for the registration table from 0700-0800. Volunteer signup on Post webpage, www.milegionpost36.org and Post Facebook page. Commander Gillespie, Senior Vice Dennis Lutz are walking. **CLOSED**
3. Flag folding training- who and when? **OPEN**
 - a. Motion by Trustee Bement to have quarterly recurring training on flag folding and to have more people trained.
4. **Tabled** - Financial assistance to the VFW to cover fire damage repairs that are not covered by insurance. Tabled until the insurance coverage and unmet needs are fully established. **OPEN**
5. **Tabled** - The Post 36 website has expenses that need to be covered. This is tabled until our volunteer web-designer Steve "Radar" Caudill provides more details. **OPEN**
6. We are planning to have a PSO at our post every week. Same day and time, TBD, and we will need to support this position with a laptop and some other expenses. **OPEN**
 - a. This will be discussed first at the Executive Committee 6 Oct 22
7. Post 257 bought 30 tickets to the 4 Nov 22, K Wings game. They will still cost \$10 but they are having an American Legion Honor guard and auction to benefit the Legion. Can we subsidize this by \$3 – 3 per ticket? Invite at-large members to go with us? **OPEN**
 - a. Trustee Bement motioned we subsidize the cost by \$3, making the cost to members \$7
 - i. 2nd by Finance Officer Carvell
 - ii. Motioned Passed
8. Boy Scout Troop review of documents and decision of sponsoring a troop **OPEN**
 - a. Discussion was held about sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack
 - i. Motion made by Trustee Bement to sponsor
 - ii. 2nd by Historian Tolliver
 - iii. Motioned Passed
 - b. A motion was made by Jim Saur to pay the sponsor fee of \$100 out of the Lotto funds
 - i. 2nd by Historian Tolliver
 - ii. Motioned Passed
 - c. Sr Vice Lutz will contact the BSA to finalize
 - d. Don Tarver volunteered to be the Post Representative to the BSA

New Business:

1. All old Post 36 files (i.e., Financial, Tax, Correspondence, Misc., and Membership files) please turn them in to Adjutant Caudill ASAP **OPEN**
2. Meetings for over the holidays **OPEN**
 - a. 17 Nov 22
 - i. Meeting will take place
 - b. 15 Dec 22
 - i. No meeting
 - c. SAL will not be meeting for these months
3. Department of Michigan Fall Conference, 22-25 Sep 22 Muskegon Convection Center
4. Kalamazoo County Veteran of the Year submission is due by 15 Oct 22,

Departed Members:

1. Name: Eldon Cattell, Service: United States Army Era: Vietnam Legion Member: 11 years
 - a. Funeral Home: Redmond Funeral Home, 4100 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo
 - b. Visitation: Sep. 19, 2022, 1230 – 1330 hrs.
 - c. The burial will take place at Oaklawn Cemetery in Sturgis
 - d. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Faith Chapel Ministries
 - i. Trustee Bement made a motion to donate \$50 to the Faith Chapel Ministries in the name of Eldon Cattell, seconded by Historian Tolliver

For The Good of The Legion:

1. New Post Phone Number : 269-348-0220
 - a. Manned 0800-1600 hrs. Monday – Friday
 - b. Afterhours goes straight to voice mail
2. Next Veteran's breakfast is 27 Sep 22, 0830, at LaRue's Family restaurant.
3. Executive Committee Meeting, 6 Oct 22, 1900 hrs. via Zoom
4. Our next SAL meeting is next Wednesday 28 Sep 22 at 1900

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2025 hrs., next meeting will be 20 Oct 22 at 1900 hrs.

Members and Guests Attended Meeting:

Tammy & Don Tarver, James Nimmer, Don Harrison, Jerry & Carol Malmud

Submitted by

//Signed//

Stephen W. Caudill, Adjutant

Joseph B. Westnedge Post 36