



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

21 July, 2022 MEETING MINUTES:

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

- Commander Gillespie briefed on Former Adjutant Steve Tolliver moving to Post Historian and introduced the new Adjutant Steve "Radar" Caudill to the members.

-- Jim Saur motioned to accept the position changes, seconded by Senior Vice Commander Lutz, motion passed.

ROLLCALL:

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

READING OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the June 16th meeting

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

3rd District Commander Sonja Patrick

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Americanism:

- Senior Vice Commander Lutz and Dan Bement met with District Boy Scout Executive Jasup Mason to explore having the Legion do a flag ceremony at a Scout function.

- Junior Vice Commander Sinclair volunteered to approach the various school administrators. The intent is for the Legion to do something Patriotic at a school assembly, (i.e. Flag Day). Dennis Lutz will look into sponsoring/chartering a troop. Stated he learned a lot about the current BSA organization.

- Dave Carvell, Finance Officer, has agreed to talk with the Baseball League to see if there is a ceremony the Legion can do with the League (i.e. Opening day for Base/Softball Season)

-- Emails have been sent to appropriate offices but has not received any responses.

Motion was presented to accept the Americanism Committee report by Jim Saur and seconded by Dave Carvell. Motion passed

- Float was in 3 locations, all parades went well
- Decision needs to be made at a later time on repairing or replacing the trailer.
 - Steve Tolliver suggested installing anti-sway bars to help stop the swerving of the trailer at higher speeds
- Jim Saur express his thanks to Commander Gillespie for letting the Post store the float at his residence.
- Country Veterans Picnic is 6 August at Markin Glen Park

Summer Convention Committee:

- \$304 was raised selling pins
- No bid for Kalamazoo to hold the State Convention for the next 5 years

Youth Sports:

- Dave Carvell briefed we have received our plaques from the little league teams we sponsored.
 - Both were very appreciative of our sponsorship.
- Reached out to Kalamazoo United (rocket football) about possible sponsorship but have heard nothing back.
- Considering looking into sponsoring a youth hockey team.

YOUTH PROJECTS:

Nothing to report, committee on hold until the fall

HOUSE COMMITTEE:

- The VFW is seeking bartenders and a bar manager.

Planning for a Veterans Day meal, tentatively 12 Nov, start at noon, free to Veterans and a donation jar will be available to offset cost. More to follow.

- End Of Season Bash on Sat. 24 Sept 2022, starts at 11:30 AM, Car show on grass, Bike Show on parking lot. Free to enter, winners by popular vote, trophies for winners. Live music & food. Entrance fee \$10. All funds raised go to the VFW and Veterans in need.

- If we have an electronic 'poster', please forward it to Jon Carter vfw1527@gmail.com.

- Storeroom reorganization is Sat. July 23 at 9AM. Each group will have 1 - 2 people there to empty and return items to their specific group shelves within storage area.

- Jim Saur, Jake Rikli and Commander Gillespie volunteered to sort out the shelves

- There was a discussion of possibly doing a ceremony for September 11th remembrance.

- The will be no downtown ceremony

- ceremony will be at a sporting event maybe during halftime.

More to follow

SAL COMMITTEE:

- Senior Vice Commander Lutz discussed the continuing saga for the lack of approved SAL charter. Has sent an email to National HQ expressing our concern. Commander Gillespie has also reached out to Department of Michigan and National HQ. Has been told that we should have it in a few weeks. Dennis remarked we know that we're not the only one's with this issue. 3 District Commander Patrick asked if the letter that is being written by Dennis could be completed quickly and she will hand carry it to the National Convention in August.

Search Committee:

- Dan Bement briefed he contacted the Kalamazoo Land Bank, there are not buildings available at this time. Was told that the Land Bank has a program for non-profits interested in buying from the Land Bank.

- Check out the Land Banks lot list and has 3-4 options for lots.

- Checked with the Methodist Diocese to see if they have a building, also was told to check with independent churches to see if they have any buildings.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Dave Carvell briefed the following:

- Operation Account balance - was discussed

- Disbursements from this account include supplies for newsletter (postage, printing, envelopes, etc).

-- Money in from pin sales, emblem and hat/shirt sales and awards money (\$250 from 3rd District for post activities) and dues money from State.

- Lotto Account – was discussed

-- Disbursements for convention expenses, memorial for Mike Topp to Tunnel of Towers Fund (previously approved), and \$60 for pizza at VA Bingo Night.

- Money Market Account - no change

- CD - no change

MEMBERSHIP:

- All Honorary Life members have been renewed for 2023. Currently we have 7 WWII Veterans in the post. Jim Saur suggested we think about including the Korean War Veterans for Honorary Life Members. Questions was asked on how any Korean War veterans we currently have in the Post.

-- Post currently has 28 Korean War veterans

- Officer membership renewals have been paid and transmitted to Department of Michigan

SICK CALL, RELIEF, AND EMPLOYMENT:

- Fran Reidy broke his hip

- Eldon Cattell is ill.

- Jim Boven; Dan Bement brief that Jim needed his banister repaired, it was done by local charity.

-- Jim also needed a fence repaired, Postman Fence fixed the fence, left repair bill of \$104, Dan Bement motioned that the Post pay this bill, seconded by Steve Tolliver, Motion Passed

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- The Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Wall Replica was in Harper Creek, July 14-17. Members rode and welcomed it on Tuesday July 12. Several members attended the opening ceremony. Members and a couple spouses had a group tour on July 14. Members also volunteered throughout the event. Those Post members who visited the event stated it was a very well organized and beautiful experience. **CLOSED**

- The VA bingo night on Friday July 8. **CLOSED**

- 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.

-- Steve Caudill briefed that the Post web domain milegionpost36.org has been paid for the next year and was paid for as a donation to Post. Briefed that webpage is being hosted free of charge by other organizations Steve works with on web pages. Only thing Post will need to pay for is the organizational email accounts; commander@milegionpost36.org and adjutant@milegionpost36.org, these accounts will be the official email that Post email communications will be conducted through. Steve stated he will send a quarterly invoice to Dave Carvell for reimbursement. **CLOSED**

- 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**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Members are encouraged to join us at steak night on Thursday 25 August 2022, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Spouses, friends, and family members are welcome. Please RSVP to alpost36@milegionpost36.org with your name and number of people who would like to attend, so we can give South Have Post an accurate number of how many will be attending. There will not be a meeting, this is a social night.

-- Adjutant will send out an email and track RSVPs

- Portage Senior Center has a veterans lunch every 2nd Thursday of the month, if you would like to attend please RSVP by calling 269-329-4555

- Army/Navy game will be Dec. 10. Game starts at 3pm. Tailgate/potluck are planned.

DEPARTED MEMBERS:

- William "Bill" Wahl - Age 93, passed away July 14, 2022. Korean War veteran and served in the United States Air Force.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION:

- The next veteran breakfast is next week Tuesday, July 26 at 0830, at LaRue's Family Restaurant. Reminder LaRue's only takes cash.

- Our next SAL meeting is next Wednesday July 27 at 7pm.

- Post received certificate of recognition at the state convention for 3rd place Post Activities Challenge.
- 3 District Commander Sonja Patrick made a few presentations to the Post
 - Commended the Post on it's 105% membership renewal for 2022, Post 36 was only of only two in the district to make over 100%.
 - Presented certificates to Commander Gillespie, Junior Vice Commander Sinclair, and Sgt-at-Arms Gardner for competing the American Legion Basic Training Course.
 - Commander Patrick asked for suggestion for classes. (i.e. social media use, texting...)
 - 11 Sep 22 the District meeting will be at the Albian Post, Commander Patrick will be handing coins to 911 veterans
- Senior Vice Commander Lutz emphasized to Commander Patrick we need help with the SAL charter problem. Asked for her help on getting this matter settled.
- The National Convention is in Milwaukee, WI. August 26 – Sept. 1st.

ADJURNMENT:

Meeting adjured at 2015 hours, next meeting with be 18 August at 1900 hours.

Members in Attendance: See attached sheet

Submitted by,

Steve Caudill
Adjutant, Post 36