

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**Joseph B. Westnedge Post 36**  
Kalamazoo, MI

**JUNE 16, 2022. MEETING MINUTES-**

The meeting was called to order at 1905 hrs. with 13 members present.

**ROLLCALL:** Commander Don Gillespie, Sr. Vice Dennis Lutz, Jr. Vice Commander Mike Sinclair, Finance Officer Dave Carvell, Chaplain Stan Rop, Sgt. at Arms Cordell Gardner, Judge Advocate Jim Saur, Adjutant Steve Tolliver.

**READING OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the May 19 meeting were approved as written.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Carol Malmud, wife and driver of Jerry Malmud attended. Welcome and thanks for bringing Jerry.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: (committee members are listed in parenthesis)**

**Americanism- Patriotic Events Committee:** (Dennis Lutz, Mike Sinclair, Don G.).

The committee reported the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade is in Schoolcraft. 10am lineup, 11am the parade starts. The parade ends at the Schoolcraft American Legion, where they are selling chick and rib dinners. Members can carpool from the Red Arrow if they are there by 0930. Commander Gillespie will bring the float, and Dave Carvell will follow. The Blue Star Mothers will not have any members participating.

**Americanism- Parade/Float Committee:** (Jim Saur, Cordell Gardner). Discussed above.

**Summer Convention Committee:** (Jim Saur, Dave Carvell, Don Gillespie).

The committee reported on the State Convention, which is held next week, from Thursday June 23 – Sunday June 26 in Kalamazoo. We have signup sheets for 3-4 hour shifts at the pin sales table. The Convention pin sales include the meal and local business discount. We are also selling District 3 pins. Information sheets and a poster need to be printed. Parking passes are expected. The Keynote speaker is Medal of honor recipient Leroy Petry.

**Youth Sports:** (Dave Carvell)

Dave reported that our Milwood team has several members who made the All-Star team and are continuing to play. A couple members and spouses attended a recent all-star game.

**Youth Projects:** (on hold until the fall).

**House Committee:** There was no June house meeting-

1. The Red Arrow 2022 Golf Tournament is cancelled.
2. Friday Bike Nights are every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. Trivia will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays.
3. The Red Arrow Riders Charity Ride is this week Sat., June 18. Event opens at 1130, kickstands up at 1PM. Riders will visit the Marcellus VFW and Climax Legion, before returning at ~4:30-5PM. Pig roast, live music, 50/50 etc., at 5pm. ALL are welcome to attend, \$10 for non-riders. Cost for bikes is \$15 solo, \$20 w/passenger. All funds donated to Veteran Service Dogs Org.

**SAL Committee:** (Steve Caudill and Dennis Lutz).

Dennis Lutz reported there is no word on the charter, however we should still focus on recruiting and planning.

**Search Committee:** (Don Harrison, Dan Bement, and Mike Schewe). Nothing to report.

**Finance Officer's Report:** Finance Officer Dave Carvell reported on our operating, lotto, and money market funds, and recent spending. The financial report was approved subject to audit.

JAG Saur will confirm our tax-exempt status and tax form 990 are up to date when he completes our taxes and has them verified by an accountant.

**Membership:** As of June 16, we are 105% renewed for 2022. With 263 members on our roster.

**Americanism:** The county VSO veteran picnics are being held every month through the summer. Sign-ups are required. June 26 at Prairie View Park, July 17 at River Oaks Park in Galesburg, and on August 6 at Markin Glen park.

**Sick call, relief, and employment:**

Dan Bement visited Jim Boven who is losing his sight. Jim has loose railings on his deck. Dave Carvell reported that Senior Services and south County will make repairs. Several members also offered to make repairs. Dan will follow up with Jim.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The Fort Custer Memorial Day ceremony, Kalamazoo/Comstock Memorial Day parades were well attended. Thanks to everyone who helped and attended. The memorial service at Riverside was very nice, although it was longer than planned, so the float left for Comstock before the ceremony ended. Wreaths were presented at Ft. Custer and at both Rose Park and Riverside. Closed.

The Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Wall Replica will be in Harper Creek, July 14-17. We plan to welcome it and the escort on July 12, and we are attending the opening ceremony and will schedule a group tour on July 14. Members are also volunteering throughout.

Cdr. Gillespie reported all required post-election forms have been sent to State and National. Closed.

The next veteran breakfast is next week Tuesday, June 21 at 0830, at LaRue's Family Restaurant.

The Post 36 website has expenses that need to be covered. This is tabled until our volunteer web-designer, Steve Caudill provides more details.

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.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The VA bingo nights have begun again. We have been requested to provide 2-3 members on Friday July 8. Bingo begins at 1800 hours.

Bob Edwards will be honored on the next Talons Out Honor Flight on June 18. This flight will have all Vietnam veterans.

**DEPARTED MEMBERS:** Chaplain Rop reported and provided cards to sign.

Dale Wells – USAF Korea (passed in 2020)

Ed Peters – USA WWII, US Navy Korea, then USAF. (Passed in 2020)

Mike Topp (US Coast Guard Vietnam) passed away. His visitation is Monday 6/20 from 5-7pm, and a private funeral service will be held on 6/21 at 1pm.

Clayton Champion's Celebration of Life will be held at noon 7/9, at River Oaks Park, in Galesburg.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION:**

Our next meeting is Thursday July 21st at 7pm.

Our next SAL meeting is next Wednesday June 22 at 7pm.

The National Convention is in Milwaukee, WI. August 26 – Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ADJURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hrs.

**Members in Attendance:** Jake Rickli, Dennis Lutz, Dan Bement, Dave Carvell, Steve Tolliver, Mike Sinclair, Fran Reidy, Cordell Gardner, Stan Rop, Don Gillespie, Jim Saur, Eldon Cattell, and Jerry Malmud.