

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

**APRIL 21, 2022, MEETING MINUTES-**

Tonight's meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. with 19 members present.

**ROLLCALL:** All officers were present, except the Senior Vice Commander, who was excused.

**READING OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Bill Bennett is attending his first meeting and is looking for an opportunity to volunteer with us. Bill served in the US Air Force.

Bob Amos is a new member and attending his first meeting. Bob served in the US Navy.

Al Faust is a member of Post 465. He wanted to visit our post and attend one of our meetings.

Thank you all for coming to our meeting and thank you for your service. Welcome to Post 36.

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

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

Dennis Lutz reported that we are ready for the parade except for the issues with our float. There will be a brief Memorial ceremony at Riverside at the end of the parade. Organizations are encouraged to lay a wreath there, and along the route at Rose Park. After discussion, Dennis made a motion that we purchase a second wreath and present it at the Riverside ceremony. Seconded by Dan Bement and approved. Dennis will talk to the other house organizations, to ensure we get a wreath that is comparable to theirs. Don Harrison commented that the wreath can also be used at the Ft. Custer Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday May 29. Volunteers are needed for the Ft. Custer ceremony.

Commander Saur reported that he has not heard if Comstock plans to have a Memorial Day parade, but if it does, some of our members will head to Comstock with the float, and others will remain at the ceremony at Riverside.

Dennis Lutz also reported that on Thursday – Sunday July 14-17, the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Wall Replica will be at the Harper Creek High School Soccer Field Complex, 7290 B Dr. North. It will be open 24 hr./day until 2pm Sunday. TAPS will play at 9pm every evening. They need help with set-up, tear down, and overnight guards. Jake Rickli volunteered to help, and after discussion, we will reach out about helping with set-up and plan to attend the opening ceremony, as a group.

For more information visit- <https://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/>

**Americanism- Parade/Float Committee:** (Commander Saur, Cordell Gardner).

Commander Saur reported that when he met several volunteers to move the float from the pavilion and inspect it, they noticed some rotted wood, two balding tires, and one of the main beams was cracked down the length. Dan Bement notified a local trailer and truck repair facility and they stopped out and inspected the beams under the float. They reported the float was safe to use and would make it through the season, but they recommended a sister board be installed next to the bad beam. The cost to install the sister board is \$250, with another \$100 to move the float to/from their facility. After discussion, Steve Tolliver made a motion to move the float to the facility, have it repaired, and then after the season decide the future of the float. Money had already been approved for float repairs at the March meeting. Second by Don Harrison and approved. Steve Tolliver offered to move the float for us.

At the house meeting, it was reported that the BSM have their banner ready for the float.

**Summer Convention Committee:** (Commander Saur, Dave Carvell, and Don G.).

Commander Saur reported that he has been making visits to downtown Kalamazoo restaurants and other businesses, to solicit discounts to Legionnaires who purchase a State Convention pin which we would purchase to sell, as we have in the past. Dan Bement made a motion to purchase ~200 pins if the finances are in our favor. Second by Dennis Lutz and approved. Commander Saur will get prices for the pins. The Michigan Summer Convention will be held in Kalamazoo, at the Radisson on June 23-26.

Adjutant Gillespie received the delegate sign-up sheet for the convention, and it was available for members to sign. We have 6 voting delegate positions and alternative delegate positions available. Delegates can attend meetings and training sessions at the Convention.

**Youth Sports:** (Dave Carvell).

Dave Carvell reported that West Portage Little League games started tonight. We have a Minor boys team who play on Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm at WPLL fields. They have marron jerseys and are called the Wolverines.

We also have a boys team at Milwood, but their schedule is not published, and they play on various field throughout Kalamazoo.

**Youth Projects:** (Commander Saur).

Nothing reported.

**House Committee:** Adjutant Gillespie attended the house meeting and reported -

1. Fire/repairs update – The ballroom is complete, looks great, and is available for rentals. The kitchen expected to be completed in ~August.
2. Red Arrow Riders- The 2022 Blessing of the Bikes is Saturday, April 30. 1130 start time, with food/music at lunch. This was previously reported as having food and music in the evening.
3. RAR- Friday Bike Nights will begin May 13<sup>th</sup> and continue every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. Burgers are available on Bike Nights. Trivia will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays thru the summer.
4. Blue Star Mothers- there will be a Talons Out return celebration at Wings Stadium on April 23 at ~8pm.
5. VFW/RAR are hosting a June 18 charity ride to raise money for VSDO Service dogs from Howell, MI. They have trained and paired over 900 dogs with service members. The program is run by a retired US Army Major General.
6. Horseshoe Club of Kalamazoo- Monday horseshoe leagues will start on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Dennis Lutz reported that the next SAL meeting is next Wed. at 7pm. We are trying to recruit new members and have two signed up in April.

Adjutant Gillespie reported that National's charter committee doesn't meet until May, so we should hear on the charter in late May.

**Search Committee:** (Don Harrison, Dan Bement, and Mike Schewe).

Nothing reported.

**Finance Officer's Report:** Finance Officer Dave Carvell reported on our operating, lotto, and money market funds. The financial report was approved subject to audit. Motion by Don Harrison, second by Jake Rickli.

Commander 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:** Adjutant Gillespie reported that we are 101% renewed for 2022! We have transfer requests from Dean Freng and Robert Byrd, and new Legion members James Grace, Bob Jacobs, and Bobby Amos.

**Americanism:** Dave Carvell reported that the Blue Star Mothers are still collecting receipts from D&W and Family Fare. They are halfway to their goal for the year. Please save your receipts and bring them to the post, to help with the BSM Christmas Care Package fundraiser.

**Sick call, relief, and employment:** Senior Vice Brian Stults was unable to attend the meeting due to a health concern. Get well soon Brian.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The Drew Russell Warrior Run at WMU was Sat. 4/9. Several members participated.

The Tiger's Game bus trip on May 4th is \$50 per person. A bus has been chartered, and we still have ~15 seats available.

The Marine Corps League is placing flags on graves at Riverside Cemetery at 0900 on Saturday May 14, in preparation for Memorial Day. Join us at Riverside Cemetery at 0900. Rain date is Sunday May 15 at 0900.

The next Veteran breakfast is next week Tuesday, April 26 at 0830, at Larue's Family Restaurant.

The new Post 36 website has expenses that will need to be covered. This is tabled until Steve Caudill can give us a report.

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:**

**2022-2023 Officer nominations-** All nominees accepted unless noted. Additional nominations will be held immediately prior to our elections at the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Commander-** Dennis Lutz nominated Jim Saur, however Jim declined the nomination. Jake Rickli nominated Don Harrison. Jim Saur nominated Don Gillespie.

**Senior Alternate Vice Commander-** Cordell Gardner nominated Dennis Lutz. Jake Rickli nominated Dan Bement.

**Junior Vice Commander-** Cordell Gardner nominated Steve Tolliver. Don Gillespie nominated Mike Sinclair.

**Finance Officer-** Jake Rickli nominated Dave Carvell.

**Chaplain-** Dave Carvell nominated Stan Rop.

**Sgt. at Arms-** Dan Bement nominated Cordell Gardner.

**Judge Advocate-** Woody Worden nominated Jim Saur. Jim Saur nominated Don Harrison.

**Adjutant-** Don Gillespie nominated Steve Tolliver.

**3-year Trustee-** Jim Saur nominated Jake Rickli. Don Gillespie nominated Woody Worden.

**NEW BUSINESS: Cont'd-**

**2022-2023 Officer nominations continued-**

**1-year Trustee-** (Our current 2-year Trustee has moved and cannot serve as 1-year Trustee.) Don Gillespie nominated Tammy Tarver.

**The current Trustees are Dan Bement (3 year), Tom Paccione (2 year), and Dave Carvell (1 year).** After the elections, Dan Bement will become the 2-year Trustee, Tom moved out of state, and Dave Carvell's Trustee tour of duty ends in May.

**Our current 2021-2022 Officers are-**

Commander- Jim Saur

First Vice Commander- Brian Stults.

Second Vice Commander- open.

Finance Officer- Dave Carvell.

Chaplain- Stan Rop.

Sgt. at Arms- Cordell Gardner.

Judge Advocate- Don Harrison.

Adjutant- Don Gillespie.

**FOR MORE information on the duties and responsibilities of American Legion Post officers, please see the 2022 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies-**

<https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/27IA0222-Post-Officers-Guide.pdf>

Commander Saur recently attended the WMU ROTC Graduation ceremony. He presented a \$100 scholarship to the top academic senior, and also certificates of achievement and pins and to the top cadets in both the senior and junior classes.

Adjutant Gillespie reported that the next District meeting is Sunday May 1 at Albion at 1pm. Commander Saur can not attend. Currently Don G. and Woody plan to attend and vote for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District officers. We have 3 delegate positions for the vote.

Sgt. At Arms Gardner asked where we can find details about the Talons Out Honor Flights. For information about the Honor flights, visit this website: <https://www.talonsouthonorflight.org/>

**DEPARTED MEMBERS:** Chaplain Stan Rop reported-

Russ Barr passed away. Russ was a submariner in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. Visitation will be at Avink, McCowen & Secord Funeral Home at 5975 Lovers Lane on Monday, April 25 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. There will be a private service at Ft. Custer.

Clayton Champion's memorial service is Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at noon, at River Oaks Park in Galesburg.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION:**

Officer elections will be held at our next meeting, which is Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm.

Our next SAL meeting is next Wednesday April 27, at 7pm.

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

**ADJURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hrs.

**Members in Attendance:** Jake Rickli, Kerry Ogilvie, Woody Worden, Dennis Lutz, Tammy Tarver, Don Harrison, Dan Bement, Dave Carvell, Steve Tolliver, Bob Amos, Mike Sinclair, Bill Bennett, Jim Nimmer, Fran Reidy, Donnie Tarver, Cordell Gardner, Stan Rop, Don Gillespie, and Jim Saur.