

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

JANUARY 20, 2022, MEETING MINUTES.

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. with 14 members present.

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

READING OF MINUTES: Minutes of the November 18th meeting were approved as written.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS and NEW MEMBERS: Mike Sinclair recently transferred into Post 36, from Post 225. Mike attended Montana State ROTC and served as an infantry officer in the US Army. Welcome to Post 36. Thank you for your service and your support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Youth sports: Report by Dave Carvell. West Portage Little League has asked us to sponsor a team this year. The price and details are \$350, which is the same as 2021. Don Harrison made a motion that we sponsor a team using money from the Lotto fund. Seconded by Dennis Lutz, approved by vote.

House Committee: Report by Don Gillespie.

- Red Arrow "arrow" pins are available for purchase in the canteen.
- Fire repairs – the Banquet room will be completed by end of Feb. The kitchen repairs are not expected to be completed before ~June.
- The Red Arrow Riders host the annual Chili cook-off Sat. Feb. 5th at 1300. \$5 per entry. 50% of entrance fees go to winner. Donations are welcome for tasting. Money goes to the roof fund.
- The post will be having a Super Bowl pot-luck party on Sun. Feb. 13 at 6:30pm.

S.A.L. Committee: Report by Dennis Lutz. The SAL charter has been submitted to the Dept. of Michigan. The VFW is charging a \$25 monthly fee for use of the meeting room, which is the same or less than other groups pay. After discussion, Dennis made a motion that we pay for 12 months of room dues, \$300 from the Lotto fund. Seconded by Bob Edwards and approved by vote.

Search Committee: Report by Dan Bement. Dan reported the new Senior Center in Portage is due to open in a month. Search committee members will investigate renting/purchasing the old senior center.

Finance Officer's Report: Finance Officer Dave Carvell reported on our operating, lotto, and money market funds. The \$200 donation to South County and Leonard Laney's memorial contribution were paid. Dave also reported that district dues of \$235 are due to the 3rd district. The report was approved subject to audit, and the 3rd District dues were approved to be paid from our operating account. Motion by Dan Bement, second by Don Harrison.

Commander Saur confirmed our tax-exempt status is up to date. He annually has submitted the "post card equivalent" for tax form 990. This is an annual obligation, and due in March. At the District meeting, the District commander said that many posts are not correctly submitting the paperwork and proper tax forms. Cmdr. Saur will verify with an accountant that we are doing everything correctly.

Membership: Adjutant Gillespie reported that as of 1/20/22, we are at ~90% renewed vs. our goal of 248. We included a reminder to all non-renewed members in the 22-1 newsletter mailing.

We have a Post 225 transfer request from John Griffith (USAF- Vietnam). Motion by Dan Bement, second by Don Harrison to approve his transfer, subject to verification of eligibility.

SICK CALL, RELIEF, and EMPLOYMENT: *Cards were available for members to sign. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to those who are ill. Our sympathy to the families who lost a Loved One.*

Jim Nimmer has been battling an ongoing health issue.

Chris (Woody) Worden is battling a health issue.

Our sympathy to Karen (Dave) Carvell. Karen's mother Lois Burks passed away on 12/30.

Our sympathy to Cecilia Mallett (Blue Star Mothers). Her husband Peter passed away on 12/22.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Past events were closed with one motion.

Thanks to our volunteers at the Pearl Harbor 80th Anniversary flag folding at Wyndham. Closed.

The Salvation Army bell ringing on 12/10. 4 volunteers served and raised \$417 for the S.A. Closed.

Army-Navy game party, Christmas Party, and New Year's Eve Party were fun & well attended. Closed.

On Jan 11th banners and certificates were presented to two new Blue Star Mothers families. Closed

Commander Saur gave an update on the Veteran breakfast's at LaRue's. On 11/23, 14 veterans/spouses attended, and on 12/28 ~12 total attended. The next breakfast is January 25 @ 0830. All attendees to date have been Legion members or spouses, but all veterans are welcome.

Adjutant Gillespie reported that we received a request from MWU Dept. of Military Affairs to fund the \$500 WMU Student Veteran scholarship. After discussion, Dan Bement made a motion to fund the scholarship from the Lotto find. Seconded by Dennis Lutz and approved.

Commander Saur requested funding for the WMU ROTC annual awards. We give a \$100 scholarship to the top academic senior, and pins to the top cadets in both the senior and junior classes. Dave Carvell made a motion to fund this from the Lotto fund, seconded by Brian Stults and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjutant Gillespie contacted Paxton Jameson who has moved to Jackson for a job. Paxton requested to step down as First Vice. After discussion Don Harrison made a motion to move Brian Stults to the Sr. vice position, which he accepted. Seconded by Cordell Gardner and approved by vote.

Bob Edwards reported on the recent article in the Legion magazine about the tornadoes which destroyed the Mayfield, KY American Legion Post. He made a motion that we donate \$200 from Lotto to the Mayfield post and the post which had supported them. Seconded by Jake Rickli and approved.

Dennis Lutz reported on the needed roof repairs at our own post. The roof needs replacement, however, there is the possibility that the fire repairs will include replacing about half of the roof. Commander Saur suggested that we wait until the insurance company has finished evaluating repairs for a more accurate idea of the remaining expenses.

Adjutant Gillespie reported on our new Website- <http://milegionpost36.org/>, thanks to Steve Caudill. We will need to cover the website expenses. Tabled until Steve can give a report.

Adjutant Gillespie reported that Boys State and Student Trooper are currently scheduled for this summer. Volunteers are needed to head these programs.

Steve Caudill was unable to attend but had suggested that we discuss incorporating Zoom access to our meetings, which might encourage participation from home by members. The cost would be around \$100 per year but could be shared among the VSOs at the post. Tabled until the next meeting.

DEPARTED MEMBERS: *Sympathy cards were available for members to sign. Rest in peace!*

Gene Frary- Gene served in the US Navy during the Korean conflict. He is a past Commander and 40 et 8 Commander and served his community for many years. There was no memorial or funeral service. Commander Saur will talk to Gene's family about a memorial contribution.

Leonard Laney- Leonard is a WWII Army veteran and Korea War era Air Force veteran. We attended his services and made a \$50 memorial contribution to the Shepherd's Center.

Chuck Riddle- Chuck is retired US Army, and a past-Commander of Post 36. We attended his memorial and funeral services.

Dr. Jack Hunt- Jack served in the US Navy and was a doctor, serving in Kalamazoo. There was no memorial or funeral service.

Julius Millers- Julius served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. Unfortunately, we missed his obituary. His memorial and funeral services were held in December.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION: **Our next meeting is Thursday February 17th. Our first SAL meeting is next Wednesday January 26 at 7pm.**

ADJURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2022 hrs.

Members in Attendance: Jake Rickli, Dan Bement, Dave Carvell, Fran Reidy, Bob Edwards, Don Harrison, Brian Stults, Cordell Gardner, Dennis Lutz, Kerry Ogilvie, Mike Sinclair, Stan Rop, Don Gillespie, and Commander Jim Saur.