

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

MAY 19, 2022, MEETING MINUTES-

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. with 13 members present.

ROLLCALL: All officers were present, except the Senior Vice Commander and the Judge Advocate, who were excused.

READING OF MINUTES: Minutes of the April 21st meeting were approved as written. Motion by Dave Carvell, second by Kerry Ogilvie.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: There were no guests present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (committee members are listed in parenthesis)

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

Dennis Lutz reported on the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Wall Replica, which will be at Harper Creek High School's Soccer Field Complex, 7290 B Dr. North, from Thursday – Sunday July 14-17. We will reach out about helping with set-up and plan to attend the opening ceremony. Volunteers work 3-hour shifts, as part of a team, so members are encouraged to sign-up soon and with friends. For more information visit- <https://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/>

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

Commander Saur reported that the float support beam was repaired but will need to be rebuilt before next season. And about 8 members helped to rebuild the deck, sidewalls, and decorate the float. The float is now staged in Don Gillespie's pole barn. Dave and Karen Carvell will pick the float up and deliver it to the parade staging area by 0900, so the final decorations and banners can be added.

Dennis Lutz reported that our Memorial Day parade staging area is Area #1 which is located at Michigan Ave. and Church St., near Bronson Par and the 8th District Court building. Please be there between 0900 – 0930, the parade begins at 10AM sharp. All veteran organizations will be at the front of the parade. The VFW will sell Buddy Poppies and we will hand out candy and flags. Everything must be handed out on foot, not from vehicles. Candy donations are being solicited. For members and family who cannot walk, we will have seating for ~ 12-16 on the float and more seats in the beds of pick-up trucks. The Marine Corps League will have a float, and the VFW & Red Arrow Riders will have pickup trucks. When we arrive at Riverside Cemetery, the Memorial ceremony will start promptly at 11am, after the veteran organizations arrive. There was discussion about shuttling vehicles between the start and end points of the Kalamazoo parade, before the parade starts, so we have vehicles to use for return travel after the parade. Mike Sinclair and Dave Carvell will have vehicles at the end point (Riverside Cemetery) they will use to shuttle members back to vehicles. Final details will be worked out on Memorial Day.

Commander Saur reported that after the Kalamazoo parade, the float will head to the Comstock Memorial Day parade, which starts at noon. Some members will immediately head to Comstock with the float, and the others will remain for the Memorial ceremony at Riverside, and then they can travel to Comstock after the ceremony. Per the plan, there should be plenty of time to do both.

Adjutant Gillespie reported that we have purchased a second wreath from the Blue Star Mothers. Commander Saur and Dave Carvell both have wreath stands. With two wreaths, we can present a wreath at Rose Veterans Park and at the Riverside ceremony.

Commander Saur and others will attend the Ft. Custer Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday May 29.

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

Commander Saur has been visiting downtown restaurants and vendors, soliciting discounts to be associated with the 2022 convention pins, which he has ordered. The pin price is expected to be \$6.

We have 6 convention delegate positions, plus alternate positions. They were filled during tonight's meeting, and the names will be sent into State. Delegates can vote at the Convention and get a parking pass. Any member who attends the convention can go to the various committee and training sessions.

Youth Sports: (Dave Carvell).

Dave Carvell reported that both teams have started playing games. We have a West Portage Little League minor boys team who play on Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm - always at the WPLL fields. They have maroon jerseys and are called the Wolverines.

We also have an intermediate boys team at Milwood (Michigan District 2), and they play on various fields throughout Kalamazoo, at 6pm. Dave brought their schedule. We plan to attend a game during the first week of June, date to be determined. If you have a schedule, our Milwood team is team #2.

Youth Projects: (Commander Saur).

Commander Saur reported that we have not heard back from the Eagle scouts and have not received any applicants for Boys or Girls State. This committee is closed until fall.

House Committee: Don Gillespie and Dennis Lutz attended-

1. Fire update – The re-roofing project is underway. The kitchen is still on track for ~Aug. completion.
2. The Red Arrow 2022 Golf Tournament is scheduled for 6 Aug at Hickory Ridge. \$50 per player. Sponsor signs will be \$50 or \$60 ea. Meal and prizes at the Post. Door-prize items and tee sign sales are needed. More details to follow.
3. Red Arrow Riders reported that Friday Bike Nights will begin May 13th, and every 2nd and 4th Friday. Burgers/hot dogs served on Bike Nights. Trivia will be held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays.
4. The Red Arrow Riders Charity Ride is 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. from Howell MI, who provide dogs and training to vets for free.
5. Blue Star Mothers will hold a special "CARE" package event for deploying local military members. Their target is 75 packages. Donations/assistance requested.
6. Horseshoe Club- Wednesday horseshoe fun leagues start in June.
7. If we have an event scheduled, create an electronic 'poster' and forward a copy to Jon Carter (vfw1527@gmail.com). They will apply it to post's TV slideshow.

SAL Committee: (Steve Caudill and Dennis Lutz).

Adjutant Gillespie reported that National's SAL charter committee meets in mid – late May, so we should be receiving the charter soon. There was discussion about how long this process is taking.

Dennis Lutz reported that we have the Sons of the American Legion flag, and it will be displayed on the float.

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

Dan Bement suggested that while we may not move any time soon, if at all, we should consider having recurring fundraisers to build up our savings. This could include breakfasts or dinners, that are open to the public.

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. Motion by Kerry Ogilvie, second by Cordell Gardner.

Commander Saur is working on our 2021 taxes. He will confirm our tax-exempt status and tax form 990 are up to date and will have them verified by an accountant.

Membership: Adjutant Gillespie reported that we are 105% renewed for 2022. We had a good year, with nearly all 2021 paid members renewing for 2022. We gained 12 new to the Legion members, and about 30 transferred members. Thank you all.

Americanism: Saturday May 21 is Armed Forces Day. Dan Bement and Dennis Lutz requested we make better long-term plans and make plans for a Armed Forces day event in 2023. Adjutant Gillespie suggested we have an events committee who can meet through out the year, not just at meetings.

Sick call, relief, and employment:

Chaplain Rop reported that Bruce Ray is unable to get out much, due to health concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Tiger's game bus trip on 5/4 was a success. Due to 14 unfilled seats, on a 56-seat bus, we had an expense of \$283. Overall, it was a great time and hopefully we can plan better next time and fill the bus. We had several members who were ill or had conflicts and they donated their seats to WMU student veterans or military members. Schoolcraft Legion was great and filled half of the seats. Closed.

6 members placed flags on veteran graves, including Joseph B. Westnedge's grave, at Riverside Cemetery on May 14th. Closed.

Delegates and alternate delegates signed up for the upcoming State Convention. Closed.

The next veteran breakfast is next week Tuesday, May 24 at 0830, at LaRue's Family Restaurant. Last month we had 13 people attend, including 5 non-Legion veterans. After we ate, we were surprised to find out that some anonymous donor at LaRue's paid for all of our meals. Thank you.

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

2022-2023 OFFICER ELECTIONS-

All nominees from April's meeting accepted their nominations, except for Don Harrison who communicated to Commander Saur and Adjutant Gillespie that he was declining his nomination for commander. During the meeting Dave Carvell nominated Clarence (Woody) Worden for the open 1-year trustee position.

Our Post 36 2022-2023 Officers are-

Commander- Don Gillespie

Senior/Alternate Vice Commander- Dennis Lutz.

Junior Vice Commander- Mike Sinclair.

Finance Officer- Dave Carvell.

Chaplain- Stan Rop.

Sgt. at Arms- Cordell Gardner.

2022-2023 OFFICER ELECTIONS, cont'd:

Judge Advocate- Jim Saur.

Adjutant- Steve Tolliver.

3 Year Trustee- Jake Rickli.

1-year Trustee- Clarence Worden. (Our current 2-year Trustee has moved and cannot serve.)

Dan Bement is our 2-year Trustee.

All officers were approved by vote at the meeting and sworn in after the meeting. Congratulations and thank you for serving.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjutant Gillespie reported that we will host the January 8, 2023, District meeting. We will need to serve lunch before that meeting. Dennis Lutz commented we will need to ensure a ZOOM meeting hook-up is available.

Adjutant Gillespie reported that our contract to sell Keno/lottery inside the VFW expires May 30. The proposed new 1-year contract is the same as the current contract. Dennis Lutz made a motion to renew the contact, seconded by Steve Tolliver, approved by vote.

Adjutant Gillespie reported the post liquor license is up for renewal. The Legion cost has been \$250 in recent past years, but the overall cost has gone down, and our portion is now \$200. Dennis Lutz made a motion to pay our portion of the license from our Lotto account, seconded by Mike Sinclair, approved by vote.

DEPARTED MEMBERS: Chaplain Rop reported.

Richard Glidden- Dick served in the USAF during Korea and was a 24-year Legion member. He passed several month ago, and there was not a service or public funeral. Condolences have been sent.

John (Jack) Wattles served in the US Army during Korea and was a 38-year Legion member. There will be a June 4 visitation at 3pm, service at 4pm, at the Langelands Funeral Home on 9th St.

Eric Munson, the son of MCL member Dan Munson passed. His funeral was May 6.

There was a change of date for Clayton Champion's memorial service. His Celebration of Life will be held on July 9th at 12pm, at River Oaks Par at 9202 East Michigan Avenue in Galesburg.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION:

Bob Edwards will be honored on the next Talons Out Honor Flight on June 18. Congratulations.

Our next American Legion meeting is Thursday June 16th at 7pm.

Our next Sons of the American Legion meeting is next Wednesday May 25 at 7pm.

The National Convention is in Milwaukee, WI. August 26 – Sept. 1st.

ADJURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hrs.

Members in Attendance: Jake Rickli, Kerry Ogilvie, Dennis Lutz, Dan Bement, Dave Carvell, Steve Tolliver, Mike Sinclair, Fran Reidy, Cordell Gardner, Stan Rop, Don Gillespie, Jim Saur, and Bill Bennett.