



The American Legion, Post 22

Membership Meeting - Minutes

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6 P.M.

#### Opening Ceremonies (Commander) (6 P.M.)

- Post and salute the Colors
- Chaplain offers prayer (remove cap)
- POW/MIA empty chair (Sergeant-at-Arms)
- Pledge of Allegiance (re-cover cap upon completion)
- Recite Preamble of Constitution of The American Legion
- Roll call to determine if quorum is present (min of 10 members):

Follow with officer roll call:

	Present	/ Absent	/ Excused
a. Commander (D. Harris)	X		
b. 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander (R. Skjoldal)		X	Y
c. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander (R. Jendry)		X	Y
d. Adjutant (F. Pilgrim)	X		
e. Finance Officer (P. Rodriguez)	X		
f. Chaplain (D. Fuller)	X		
g. Historian (K. Skjoldal)		X	
h. Sergeant-at-Arms (D. Dosch)	X		

- Minutes of previous meeting – Electronically posted on website:  
<https://www.alpost22rcsd.com/mtg-minutes-etc> (Adjutant)
- Introduction of guests and prospective new members (Applicable host)
  - New members: Jason Zittel (USMC); Mike Austin (USAF); Tony Anable (USA) – Next Month/Bill Peterson
  - Guests: N/A
- Financial Report (J. Gerry/P. Rodriguez) as of: 12/15/2023
  - Business Account (Rodriguez): \$
  - Membership Acct: \$ (will be reimbursing business account for money spent on Honor Guard supplies – flags/poles/stands etc. for \$562 in near future). Still haven’t received the online payment from Department for Sep and Oct. Lost in the mail.
  - Benevolence Acct: \$ (Deposit from Business Acct. of \$500; debit of \$21.42 for cookies provided to Veterans Legislative Mtg).
  - Americanism Acct: \$ (Deposit from Business Acct. of \$500).
  - SAL Acct: \$ (Deposit from fundraising).
  - Honor Guard: \$ (debit \$48.36 for straight talk phone service; deposits of \$200 for funerals).

- Scholarship Sav Acct: \$
- Capital Improvements Savings: \$. (There will be approximately \$4,550 transferred out this week to pay BHE).
- Loan: (\$)
- **Executive Committee** (EC) minutes (highlights). Reported by Commander Harris.
  - Approved spending approximately \$562 dollars on purchasing flag poles/bases/finials/Space Force Flag/flag spreaders. Equipment was ordered and will be maintained by the Honor Guard. Paid for from Membership Account because it is for the members.
  - Approved year-end donations from the Benevolence fund of \$200/each to 1). Youth and Family Services, 2). Club for Boys, and 3). Meals on Wheels Western SD.
  - Approved replacing our “dated” camera surveillance system in the building. Waiting for a bid. This is currently our top priority due to safety and security.
  - Researching bar chair replacement. Replaced 10 of the old black chairs with the “newer” green chairs for now.
  - Approved replacement of internet hardware/software. Will cost about \$600.
- **Membership** (Harris/Dosch): 2024 Membership year starts 1 July = **Goal is 545**.
  - Paid so far 462 = **86% of goal**.
  - New members recruited – Commander’s Challenge (Steak dinner for anyone who recruits at least 3 new members...at Post 22 only).
    - Doug Harris (5)
    - Joe Aldentaler (3)
    - Lyle Tolsma (2)
    - Gary Stanley (2)
    - Casey Hanson (2)
    - Don Fuller (2)
    - Don Dosch (2)
    - Don Snyder (1)
    - Ryan Skjoldal (1)
    - Kyle Skjoldal (1)
    - Chris Van Delist (1)
    - Jason Skala (SAL) (1)
    - Cody Penning (SAL) (1)
- **AL Riders** Report (Director John Fleming):
  - December 29, 2pm at Ft. Meade to serve pie and ice cream to veterans residing in the Community Living Center
  - We will be providing dinner and gifts for two families of four, one from Cornerstone Family Shelter and one from WAVI. Jane and Melanie will shop for the needed items.
  - Participated in Wreaths Across America at Black Hills National Cemetery is December 16
- **Honor Guard** ():
  - Participated/posted colors at Salvation Army Walk for Life. Donated coats.
  - Will have completed 3 memorial ceremonies at the B.H. National Cemetery in October.
  - A fund raiser will be held at Pizza Ranch on December 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 p.m.
- **SAL** (J. Skala): Football boards have been a great fundraiser.
- **Post 22 Auxiliary** Report (T. Curry/T. Fuller):

- Breakfast feed once a month starting on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Post lower meeting room from 8 AM to 12 PM. Resumes on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- New Years Eve Pizza party at Hot Springs Veterans Center.
- Assist Legion Riders with children's Christmas party.
- **Americanism** (D. Harris):
  - We have a competitor for the Oratorical Contest: Sophomore at Stevens H.S. She won the Post contest on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - District 2 Contest takes place at SD Mines on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. All three judges are from Post 22. Also assisting in the contest are Lisa Jendry, and Ernie Sanford.
- **Athletic Officer** (Lyle Tolsma): A.L. Baseball, tryouts in the next few months.
- **Chaplain** - Sick call, relief, and employment (D. Fuller):
  - Two members have passed away in **December** -
    - George Tennyson
    - Bob Godfrey
    - Les Huebner
  - Members who passed away in **November** -
    - James W. Dowding
    - Oscar A. Rieger
    - David B. Kelly
    - Erney E Sharp
  - Sick Call – Mike Ball, Rod Martin, Mike Woods, Harry Rossander
- **Post Service Officer** report (H. Rossander): Reported on VA initiatives and changes.
- **Old Business:**
  - Facility update:
    - Roof: Project complete.
    - BHE: Completed the front of the old building (Facia/supports) – final bill to be paid this week. Also repaired wind damage to the facia on the East side of the new building (N/C so far).
      - ◆ Completes 2 ½ year project. Still tracking a couple of very minor leaks that BHE will chase down as they happen.
    - Still waiting for bids to complete the patio railing.
    - Placing a new flashing “open” sign in front entry when we can locate one.
    - Tom Smith has been working hard to repair the “new” grill/oven in the Kitchen. He also put tie-downs on the roof to hold the gas piping in place/off the roof liner.
    - Harris caulked/painted the newly repaired/supported front of the old building.
  - Veterans Day
    - We served over 200 members/guests at our Veterans Day dinner.
- **New Business:**
  - Looking for volunteers for the future project of dismantling and removing the brick wall in front of the old building. This will be a Spring project.
  - Looking for a volunteer(s) to manage/help maintain the “green spaces” outside of our facility. Would involve weeding/trimming bushes and rock areas.
  - Looking for someone who would be willing to take over/manage our Americanism Programs (Boys State/Oratorical/Youth Trooper).
    - Contact Commander Harris at 970-231-8556 if you are interested in any of these projects/jobs.

- Review and vote on a Resolution submitted by Post 22 member Christopher Van Delist.
  - Subject: **Credit for Service/Training**
    - In this resolution, The American Legion advocates for the recognition and appropriate awarding of academic credit or certification for military service.
    - Harris will read the resolution and the members will vote on whether Post 22 will support and submit this resolution to District 2 for approval and subsequent forwarding to Department for consideration at the Department Convention in June.
    - Results of vote: **Don Fuller made motion to approve with the condition that required changes will be made; Lyle Tolsma seconded; Motion carried.**
- A member asked if there was any movement on getting a new flagpole. Commander Harris said while the discussion has been brought up several times, no one has offered a plan on how to get one, pay for it, or install it. The EC has not taken this on because there are multiple other projects in the works with a higher importance since we already have a flag pole.
- **The Good of the American Legion** (Any member):
  - Volunteer opportunities: (see above in new business).
  - Membership payment news: National is now offering the option to pay for 3 years in advance at the current price.
    - Those who haven't yet paid for 2024, you can pay (online only) for 2024-2026 at the current \$40. That will save you at least \$15 over the 3-year period as dues go up.
    - Those who have paid for 2024 already will soon have the option of paying (online only) for 2025-2027 at the current \$40. This will save you approximately \$25 over that 3-year period as dues are increased at the National and State levels.
      - This does not affect those with a PUFL membership.
      - Post 22 has no plans to increase their portion of the yearly dues, but we have to increase the basic to price to reflect a \$5/year increase from National (2025) and a future (2026) \$5/year "anticipated" increase at the State (Department) level.
  - DAV Department Commander Presentation (Christine Speirs): Conducted a review of the current legislation that is working its way through congress. HB1139/SB1140 – reinstate claim-shark protections for veterans, SB1545 – Healthcare Freedom; prioritizing veterans over undocumented residents; SB1975 – review of discharges for health conditions that might have affected the character of service.
    - DAV will be open January 6<sup>th</sup> from 0900-1100 to file claims. Also, their services are available Monday – Friday 11 – 3 to file claims. There is also a fundraising raffle available.
  - D. Fuller gave a reminder of the "last man standing" club.
- Adjournment: Meeting concluded at 7:06 P.M.