



The American Legion, Post 22
 Membership Meeting - Minutes
 September 18th, 2024, 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 (R. Skjoldal)	X		
b. 1 st Vice Commander (D. Dosch)		X	X
c. 2 nd Vice Commander (R. Jendry)		X	X
d. Adjutant (D. Harris)		X	X
e. Finance Officer (P. Rodriguez)		X	X
f. Chaplain (K. Donnell)	X		
g. Historian (J. Miller)	X		
h. Sergeant-at-Arms (A. Anable)	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:
 - Richard Berg, USN, hospital corpsman, Vietnam veteran.
 - New member coins presentation.
 - Guests:
 - Blixia Broussard, Boys State/Nation
 - Presentations:
 - Dan Joynt, Celebrate Recovery Welcome Home
 - Program for veterans
 - Peer support
 - MSgt Wilson with the Soldier for Life program
 - Focus on transitioning soldiers out of the service
- Financial Report (P. Rodriguez) as of: 9/18/2024
 - Business Account: \$
 - Membership Acct: \$
 - Benevolence Acct: \$ (Deposit from Business Acct. of \$500).

- Americanism Acct: \$ (Deposit from Business Acct. of \$500).
- SAL Acct: \$().
- Honor Guard: \$.
- Scholarship Sav Acct: \$ (Paid 2023 Boys State Scholarship of \$1,000 to Quinn Hasse).
- Capital Improvements Savings: \$ (\$1,000 deposited from Business Acct.).
- Loan: (\$) (\$2,450 pd on loan since last report).
- **Executive Committee update:**
 - Will be held on September 21st: 0900
- **Membership (Harris/Dosch): 2025 Membership year starts 1 July = Goal is 548.**
 - TAL renewals/new members to date: **338 for 62% of goal**
 - New members:
 - Doug Harris (4)
 - Don Dosch (2)
 - Ernie Sanford (1)
 - Lyle Tolsma (1)
 - Mike Ball (1)
 - Gary Stanley (1)
 - Corby Hall (HG) (1)
 - Transfers In: 3
 - 2025 Goal is 51
 - SAL renewals/new members of **45 for 88% of goal**
 - New Members:
 - Doug Harris (1)
 - Ryan Skjoldal (1)
 - Gary Stanley (1)
 - C. P. Van Delist (1)
 - Corby Hall (1)
- **AL Riders Report (John Fleming/Ernie Sanford):** Next meeting will be in October.
 - Cool Deadwood nights 22 -24 Aug
 - 8th September picnic.
 - 18th September did an escort of wounded warriors to Orman Dam.
 - 27th September Bingo at Fort Meade at the mess hall @ 2pm
 - October going to go the first-grade class in Sturgis
 - 27th October having a Halloween party @ 1pm
 - 15 Veterans will be presented with Quilts of Valor – Late October/ Beginning November.
 - Applied to decorate a Christmas tree at the capitol building
 - 5th December the riders Christmas Party at the Post @ 6pm.
 - 8th December is going to be the kids Christmas Party @ 2pm to 5pm. – Picture with Santa
- **Honor Guard (R. Skjoldal):**
 - Always recruiting new members.
 - 11 Nov – Veterans Day – Possibly marching Color Guard

- Will discuss flag retirement ceremony at the Honor Guard meeting on Monday, September 23rd.
- **SAL (J. Skala):**
 - Raised \$810 to RCAS meals – Was rounded up to \$1000 possible more – From the car show. Have been unable to make an appointment with City Finance Officer to present the check. Possibly next week.
 - Also doing pick'ems for football games.
- **Post 22 Auxiliary Report (T. Fuller):**
 - Crafts Show 12th October 9 am – 2pm...here at the Post.
 - Craft Show 7th December 9am – 2pm
 - All year long West Middle School would like to have Veterans speak to children. Call the Principal if you would like to speak.
 - Pancake breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of every month.
- **Americanism (D. Harris):** Nothing new to report.
- **Athletic Officer (Lyle Tolsma):** Nothing new to report
- **Chaplain (K. Donnell):**
 - Deaths and Sick Call:
 - Deaths: Bradley Olson (Aug 15th)
 - Sick Call: Paul Richter has started chemo again. Mike Ball has been in the hospital.
- **Post Service Officer (H. Rossander)**
 - 1. For recipients of veteran's benefits payouts and Social Security benefits, the cost-of-living adjustment beginning in January 2025 could be less than 3%. If so, this would be the lowest mark since before the pandemic, according to the Senior Citizens League, an independent watchdog group. Most analysts believe that the cost-of-living increase will be approximately 2.63%. The actual announcement of the COLA is typically made in early October. Congress ties increases in Veterans payouts to the Social Security Administration's calculations. The COLA is calculated based on the Consumer Price Index.
 - 2. The VA recently announced plans to start transitioning veterans over the coming year to a more streamlined process to access benefit and healthcare services. The plan is to transition veterans to one of two sign-in options to access va.gov, either login.gov or ID.me. Veterans can start the transition now if they visit www.va.gov/sign-in-changes. They can learn how to create a verified Login.gov or ID.me account. The process should take less than 10 minutes
 - 3. How to report a veteran's death. According to the VA, the fastest way to report a veteran's death is to call 1-800-827-1000 and select #5. Agents are available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 9 pm ET. You can also go in person to a VA regional office, or you can send notice in the mail. The VA typically requires a copy of the Veteran's death certificate along with copies of any supporting documents that can help the VA verify the veteran's identity. Examples of documents include the death certificate, or public record of the veteran's death (obituary) and/or a discharge document like a DD214. The mailing address to send documents by mail is: Department of Veterans Affairs, Claims

Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444. The VA asks that as much information as possible be reported to help verify the veteran's identity including the veteran's full name, Social Security number, or VA claim number, date of birth, date of death, and branch of service. It is very important that family members report the veteran's death as soon as possible to avoid having to pay back benefits.

- **Old Business:**
 - Facility update:
 - We upgraded our emergency exit lights and took steps to bring our equipment up to code. Also replaced the system on the "hood" in the kitchen that is used to extinguish a fire. Along with a fire extinguisher inspection/replacement. The cost was approximately \$3,500.
 - Still working to find replacement chairs for the bar. They are exceptionally expensive to purchase.
 - The new handmade high-top bar was installed on the East wall near the pool tables. This project was taken on by EC Member Randy Decker with the assistance of Chaplain K. Donnell.
 - Awards: 2024 Post Membership Retention Award from the Department of South Dakota American Legion. District 2 Legionnaire of the Year Award.
- **New Business:**
 - Our next big event will be Veterans Day celebrations. Harris will be working with all "Family Members" to bring this event together. If anyone would like to volunteer, please let him know.
 - Free meals for veterans
 - Last year we provided about 200 meals for veterans
 - District 2 Mtg Notes (not available)
 - Black Hills Veteran's March
- **Good of The American Legion (Any member):**
 - DAV Information for our members
 - DAV Information Fair: 16 November from 0900-1500, here at the Post
 - Vets Acts Going through Congress:
 - HR 3644 – Addressing Care Timelines (ACT) for Veterans Act
 - HR 6373/S 4009- Veterans Spinal Trauma Access to New Devices (STAND) Act
 - S 3885 – Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment and Retirement Act.
 - HR 8347 – Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act.
 - HR 8560: End Veteran Homeless Act of 2024
 - HR 7816:
 - SB 3571: Veterans Transportation to Care Act
 - DAV open the first Saturday of every month 0900-1100 to do claims. Open Monday-Friday.
 - **Volunteer Opportunities (Harris)**
 - Veterans Day Event planning. This is our largest event of the year. Looking for people to help plan and execute this event. Currently, all Family Member Groups take part in their own way. I'm looking for someone who wants to be

the Point of Contact to bring it all together. This individual will receive training from Harris.

- October 19th is the Derr Foundation dinner. Tickets are available online.
- Marine Corp League is having a birthday dinner on 8 November at Elks Club. Mayor Soloman is the guest speaker that night.
- Air Force Birthday. Please join us for cake following the meeting.
- Stand Down hosted by the VA at the Holiday Inn by the Convention Center from 1000-1400.
- 40/8 Banquet on March 7, 2025. Tickets \$50 each. Mr. Fuller has MC duties.
- **Adjournment: 1900**
- **A social hour followed the meeting.**