



The American Legion, Post 22

Membership Meeting - Minutes

December 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): There were 26 members/guests in attendance.

Follow with officer roll call:

Present/Absent/ Excused

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| a. Commander (R. Skjoldal) | X | |
| b. 1 st Vice Commander (D. Dosch) | X | |
| c. 2 nd Vice Commander (R. Jendry) | X | |
| d. Adjutant (D. Harris) | X | |
| e. Finance Officer (P. Rodriguez) | | 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:
 - Malcolm McCalab- USN; Craig Goodrich – USAF; and Bill Paquette - USA.
 - New member coins presentation.
 - Guests:
 - None.
 - Financial Report (Harris) as of: 11/20/2024
 - Business Account (Rodriguez): \$.
 - Membership Acct: \$ (Regular membership deposits/withdrawals).
 - Benevolence Acct: \$ (Deposit from Business Acct. of \$500; Debit of \$200 for Children’s Christmas Party).
 - Americanism Acct: \$ (Deposit from Business Acct. of \$500).
 - SAL Acct: \$ (Deposit \$100 donation; debit \$150 for Children’s Christmas Party).
 - Honor Guard: \$ (Deposit \$2,026; Debits of \$33.53 for phone bill).

- Scholarship Sav Acct: \$
- Capital Improvements Savings: \$ (\$1,000 deposited from Business Acct. and \$389 from Queen of Hearts; Debit of \$11,714.75 transferred to Business Acct to pay 2nd ½ of parking lot check; debit of \$890 to pay QofH winner).
- Loan: (\$) Pd \$2,429.47 on loan in November. This is down from (\$) **one year ago**.
- **Executive Committee update:**
 - Meeting will be held on December 21st at 0900 – No Meeting Report:
- **Membership** (Harris/Dosch): 2025 Membership year starts 1 July = **Goal is 548**.
 - TAL renewals/new members to date: **465 for 85% of goal (1% behind last year)**
 - New members:
 - Doug Harris (**13**)
 - Don Dosch (4)
 - Ryan Skjoldal (**2**)
 - Don Fuller (**2**)
 - Ernie Sanford (1)
 - Lyle Tolsma (1)
 - Mike Ball (1)
 - Gary Stanley (1)
 - Corby Hall (HG) (1)
 - Transfers In: 9
 - 2025 SAL **Goal is 51**
 - SAL renewals/new members of **52 for 102% of goal**
 - New Members:
 - **Jackie Miller (3)**
 - Doug Harris (1)
 - Ryan Skjoldal (1)
 - Gary Stanley (1)
 - C. P. Van Delist (1)
 - Corby Hall (1)
- **AL Riders** Report (Ernie Sanford): Next meeting will be in December due to the November meeting falling on Thanksgiving.
 - Nov 22nd and 23rd decorated a Christmas tree at the State Capitol building.
 - Did an escort on.
 - We were in the Parade of Lights in November.
 - 14 December we placed wreaths at BHNC for Wreaths Across America.
 - We donated money to buy dinner for 5 needy families at Grocery Mart in Sturgis.
 - 5th December the riders held their Christmas Party at the Post.
 - 8th December hosted the kids Christmas Party from 2pm to 5pm. – Pictures with Santa. The remaining gifts (70) were given to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate).
 - On December 27th there will be a social at Ft. Meade retirement community.
- **Honor Guard** (R. Skjoldal):
 - Always recruiting new members.
 - 23 November Fundraiser for the Honor Guard was held at the Post. Raised \$.

- On 18 January 2025 at 6 P.M. there will be a casino night fundraiser. Theme of Casino Royale...please dress up and look pretty. Knights of Columbus bring their casino games. There will be a 50/50 drawing and a silent auction.
- Sexy Bingo at Robbinsdale Bowling Alley for the Month of March. Mention that you are there for Post 22 and they will set aside some of the funds for our Honor Guard.
- Will be working with VFW Honor Guard to split days at BHNC. Still working the issue.
- **Next meeting will be the 23rd of December at 6:00 P.M.**
- **SAL (J. Skala):**
 - Still doing pick'ems for football games.
 - Donated \$150 for the ALR Children's Christmas Party
- **Post 22 Auxiliary Report (T. Fuller):**
 - Held a Craft Show held on 7th of 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. Dan Conrad is the principal; you can contact him at 605-394-4033.
 - We donated \$150 to ALR for Christmas Party gifts.
 - **Pancake breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of every month. Next breakfast will be on 12 January from 8 - 11.**
 - Next meeting will be January 28th at 6 P.M.
- **Americanism (D. Harris):**
 - The application for 2025 Boys State is now available at <https://southdakotaboysstate.org/>
 - We have two Stevens HS Seniors signed up for the Oratorical Contest.
 - The Post level Oratorical competition took place on 8 December at 1130. The winner was Olivia Boerger. She will receive a \$250 scholarship and move on to the next level.
 - The District 2 competition will take place on 12 January at 1000...at SD Mines.
- **Athletic Officer (Lyle Tolsma):** The following information was provided:
 - Baseball registration starts January 1st, and season ticket sales will follow right after that.
 - Post 22 will be hosting the Jr. Class A State Tournament this coming year (2025) and they were also awarded the Sr. Class A Stater Tournament for 2026.
- **Chaplain (K. Donnell):**
 - Deaths and Sick Call:
 - Deaths: Paul Richter and Curtis Helfenstein. A moment of silence for our departed brothers.
 - Sick Call: Nothing to report.
- **Post Service Officer (H. Rossander):** See attached document.
 - 1. Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. The House of Representative passed a new comprehensive bill for Veterans Care and Benefits. The bill does the following:

- Increases the VA's coverage for home and community-based nursing care from 65% to 100%, giving aging and disabled veterans more options to receive care in their homes.
 - Increases per diem payments for transitional housing providers from 115% to 133% of costs.
 - Authorizes the VA to provide basic necessities such as bedding, food, and transportation to medical appointments for unhoused veterans.
 - Includes measures to improve workforce retention within the VA healthcare system.
 - Requires annual pay evaluations for healthcare professionals and allows for recruitment and retention bonuses. Some of the changes are aimed at strengthening the VA's ability to attract and retain qualified healthcare workers.
 - The Bill now moves to the Senate, which must act before the end of the congressional session in January.
- 2. Doug Collins, a Navy Veteran, Air Force Reserve Chaplain, Baptist Minister, and former Congressman has been nominated to serve as the next Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Collins brings a diverse background in Military Service, ministry, and public office to the role, which he is set to assume pending Senate confirmation.
- **Old Business:**
 - Facility update – current projects (Harris/Decker/Smith).
 - Bar Chairs (Decker): **Chairs have been purchased (12) to help replace old/worn out ones.** Waiting to see if we want to upgrade the wheels/seat covers before we put them out at the bar. We were able to purchase these chairs at a much-reduced price but were only able to get 12 instead of the 20 we needed, so there will be a mix of chairs at the bar.
 - The transition piece between the tile and the carpet has been replaced in the bar and on the large meeting room stage. A huge thank you to Tom Grigsby and Doug Harris for taking on and completing this project.
- **New Business:**
 - Jackie Miller has reached out to our First Responder Agencies to get nominations for the Firefighter, Law enforcement (LEO), and EMT/Paramedic (RCFD) of the year. At this point we have received a nomination from Pennington County Sheriff's Office for the LEO, but nothing from the RCFD...still working that one.
 - The 106th Legion Birthday party will be held on March 22nd, 2025 and the Post Everlasting ceremony will be held on March 23rd, 2025. Times to be announced as the date gets closer.
 - Nothing
- **Good of The American Legion (Any member):**
 - DAV Information for our members (C. Speirs): Not present
 - Several bills are currently being considered in Congress that affect Veterans. If you would like to get this information, please go to: <https://www.dav.org/member-resources/legislation/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities (Harris)

- **Gardening for the Post** (John Rankin)
 - Looking for a couple of members to create a group that can help to keep the weeds under control and possibly plant some Perennials. Hoping to get 3 or 4 members to create a “Grounds Committee”. You would take turns working to keep the weeds under control. John will be the Chairman/Scheduler. Please contact John at 517-927-3956, or email at jsrank@sbcglobal.net
- **Event Planner:** Member **Jennifer Haleakala volunteered to pick up this position**. She will begin training with Adjutant Harris and will take on The American Legion 106th birthday party in March.
- Don Fuller talked about Last Man Standing. Gave the details.
- Don Fuller talked about the 40&8 banquet where they raise money to give away Nursing Scholarships. He was offering tickets for the event.
- **Adjournment:** at 6:37 pm. A social hour followed.