Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 28 July 2026 (Tuesday)

Opening Ceremony: 7:08 pm (1908)
Standard opening ceremony held per Officer's Guide.
(Flag salute, POW/MIA Chair, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Post Chaplain, and Preamble to The American Legion Constitution.)

Sergeant-at-Arms reported a quorum was present.

Guests and Prospective Members Present: None

Reports:

Administrative: Report provided by the Adjutant

Previous month's minutes not provided due to no business transacted. Officer installations only. www.Post175.org/Meeting-Minutes

Motion forwarded from ExCom for membership approval:
Post accept using Zeffe for electronic payments and donations.

Motion properly presented and seconded, discussion followed.

Q: Any fees associated with Zeffe? A: No sir. None. User (donor) is responsible for the overhead.

Q: What are we using now? Why are we changing? A: Post currently has no method of accepting electronic payments. We accept checks or cash for donations.

Finance Officer comments: We have around 300 members. About 25 or so show up for meetings. This will allow remainder of members to donate directly to the Post via a link on the Post website. That way those attending events at the Post don't have to remember to bring a check with them for a donation and others can easily donate online with a credit card.

Q: Can they renew their membership with Zeffe? A: No. Zeffe is a donation (fundraising) mechanism.

Communications and Media Comment: Link already exists on the Post website for renewals, whether for one year or three years.

First Vice Commander Comments: Zeffe can also be used to support Post events. Example: A business can donate in support of the Women's Veterans Dinner with a credit card. You could also sell tickets for events, like for the Fish Fry, through Zeffe. So, Zeffe provides another avenue for selling tickets.

Special Events Coordinator Comments: Also, when we were helping distribute poppies, we were asked if we had Venmo. Zeffe is just another version of Venmo. Those donations were lost, as we did not have a way for them to give electronically.

Commander called the question (the Motion to accept Zeffe as an electronic payment platform). Motion was approved with one dissention.

Finance / Fiscal: Report provided by the Finance Officer

Hard copy report with Post financial standing for the month of July as well as Fiscal Year to date presented. Also presented: status for The American Legion Riders (ALR) and Sons of The American Legion (SAL). New reporting line on report: Mortgage Reduction Donations (Status as of 28 July 2026.) Post finances continue to show an overall net loss for the year.

Motion to accept finance report was properly presented and seconded, discussion followed.

Chaplain Comment: I received an e-mail message, already discussed with Finance Officer, containing the finance report. Membership has previously approved the prohibition of providing finance documents via electronic means for security purposes.

Commander's Comment: When we post documents, such as minutes, to our website they do not contain financial data.

Finance Officer Comment: I sent a targeted e-mail to Post officers to obtain input for Fiscal Year budget preparation for 2026-2027.

Commander's Comment: Under normal circumstances, we do not send financial information out on e-mails. This was specific to Post officers only seeking input for budget preparation so we can seek where to stop 'bleeding' money by not purchasing items that are not crucial to our operations, and revitalization of Post financial situation.

Chaplain Comment: We voted to not post financials on the internet, as not everyone has a secure internet.

Communications and Media Comment: No financial data is posted to the internet. Message was a 'targeted' e-mail.

Chaplain Comment: Understood. Maybe, instead of sending the financials electronically, have a special in-person meeting. Could be done on Tuesdays, at coffee and doughnuts.

First Vice Commander Comment: Not all Post officers are available on Tuesday mornings, as several of us still work.

Commander's Comment: Points noted and taken, and will proceed in the future accordingly.

Commander called the question: Motion to accept finance report as presented was unanimously approved by the membership.

Membership: Report provided by the 1st Vice Commander

We do not have our membership goal number for 2026-2027 as those are not available until after the National Convention.

Membership status: As of today, 99 members have already affiliated for the 2027 membership year. I would love to have a 100% renewal rate by December.

And… for the 15 or so people that have asked, we have to vote on one prospective member: Greg S., Marine Corps Veteran (Field Artillery). DD-214 and Honorable Discharge verified. Second and final vote for membership.

A motion for membership acceptance was properly made, seconded, and unanimously approved by a voice vote.

First Vice Commander will personally deliver membership card to Greg S. on Saturday.

Rentals: Report provided by the 2nd Vice Commander

We had a good July with four (4) events, we have four (4) events scheduled for August, and eight (8) rental events for September though December plus three (3) Post 175 events.

Rentals for 2026 are running way behind 2024 and 2025. Reason: economy, folks are more price conscious. (Our pricing versus competition.) For the remainder of 2026, I have been granted more flexibility in contracts so we don't lose rentals to another facility that may only be only $100 or $200 cheaper than ours.

Humorous announcement: This is my last general membership meeting… as a single. I get 'hitched up' a week from tomorrow…

Q1: Is she a member? Q2: Do you need someone to play taps?

I will be on my honeymoon from August 17 to 27. George B. will be rental manager ("pinch hit") during that period.

Q (Tom E.): Does the Post have a marketing plan for rentals at this facility?

Commander's Comment: We are on several social media mechanisms.

Tom E. Comment: I highly recommend Post Commander convene or appoint a commission to write a marketing plan. There are many examples on the internet and I think that instead of looking to the past, a strategic plan for this facility might be beneficial.

Commander's Comment: Bill is actually in the process of looking at where we are compared to competition for rentals. That is not marketing, I understand, but it is a step towards where are we in comparison to what we are up against.

Second Vice Comment: I will try to do that. I will talk with Tom E. and I will put something together.

Tom E. Comment: I recommend you appoint a committee to solve that.

Commander's Comment: That is what Bill T. is saying, he will get together with two or three other people and put together a marketing plan. Q: Tom… Are you interested in being involved in this? A: Absolutely not.

Sharon S. Comment: I would be glad to be a part of that committee.

Doug S. Question for Bill T: On June13th we had the District Convention here. Q: Did they pay rent? A: I didn't receive anything.

Judge Advocate (also District Commander) Comment: No, we never have and neither has anyplace else charged either.

Doug S. Comment: We also had a meeting on March 8th, which makes an annual meeting… there's ten (10) Posts in the District, which means we should be hosting only every three or four years. And, I believe the Bylaws state it (hosting) should be shared.

Commander's Comment: It is being shared.

Doug S. Comment: If we are doing it once a year, it is not being shared.

Judge Advocate (also District Commander) Comment: Some of the Posts in the District do not have the capability of hosting a conference or convention. They do not have the facility space to do that when we have these joint meetings with The Auxiliary. They only have one space, so the Auxiliary would have to go somewhere else to meet. That is why it has been done this way for years. Louisa does not have the space. Ashland does not have the space.

Doug S. Comment: If their members pay dues, they can pay rent for the meeting. Commander's Q: What?

Doug S. Comment: If they are allocated one meeting every four years, and we have them meet more frequently, then the other Districts can pay rent.

Judge Advocate (District Commander): Q: The other Districts? You mean the other Posts? A: Yes.

Judge Advocate (District Commander): Q: Why would you want to do that? Doug S. A: Because we're broke.

Judge Advocate (District Commander) Comment: We understand that, but we are not the only ones that are in this way, and we are going to turn the corner. We go to their Posts and we don't pay rent at their Posts. They don't pay rent at our Post. And… of the ten (10) Posts we have, only six (6) can hold these events. Other Posts, like Ashland, they don't have the money to pay rent. They have 25 people and only six (6) show up (for meetings). Louisa doesn't have the funds to pay rent. We are not 'outside', we are 'inside' The American Legion. It's a District meeting.

Commander's Comment: Point taken. Thank you Doug. Thank you Bill for your report. While you are up, Judge Advocate: Do you have anything else to report?

Legal: Report provided by the Judge Advocate

Other than we had the District Conference… then State Convention back in June, there are many (District and State) committee members that are members of this Post. Myself… I am on the DEC (Department Executive Committee) because I am a District Commander and will remain a DEC member for another year.

A lot of information is coming out, such as: we now have a 501(c)3 through the State. It is a direct “pass-through” to the Post from the Department at no cost to us. For donations: You will be given the name of the charity for the check and The American Legion Post 175 goes in the byline (memo section). Each Post has an account for donations. We can ‘draw down’ from that account as we need, what we need, and how we need. This is an opportunity for us, now, and our Finance Officer is working with other people to get the notice out on how we can reach the businesses (how to do it). We will all use the same notice, If you speak with someone who wishes to donate, great! You will have the standard ‘notice’ on how they write the check, and that can be done immediately. If you provide them with the name of the charity and they do not place Post 175 in the byline (memo section), the money goes directly to the Department and it stays in their account. Any Posts that do not have their own 501(c)3 can utilize the Department one.

There are a lot of other fundraising opportunities that come about, there’s a lot of ‘shaking’ moving around and next month I will have more to report on that. As Judge Advocate for the Post, I will be bringing forth those items from the State and report appropriately.

Buildings and Grounds Chair: Q: So… We get a person to write a check, does that person send the check to the State? (Meaning Department) A: No, they give it to our Post Finance Officer.

Redirect: So… What if we give them the proper information, they put The American Legion Post 175 in the memo line, but mail it directly to Department… Q1: How do we (Post) know they sent money to Department or if Department received it? Q2: Is there a way for our Finance Officer to check, like a spreadsheet or something?

Judge Advocate Comment: For the foreseeable future, have them give the Post Finance Officer the check, and he will track and inform Department Charity Principal about the donation (check amount, issuer, etc.).

Buildings and Grounds Chair Comment: I am on this committee, so I want to make sure I understand the process. If they are going to mail a check in two or three days, mail it to the Post. Q: Yes? A: Correct.

Finance Officer Comment: The State mailing address will not be available to them. They will not have that information. The Department address is not on our website. The information they receive will have the Post address.

Discipline / Protocol: Report provided by the Sergeant-at-Arms

Nothing significant to report (NSTR).

Americanism: Report provided by the Committee Chair

Three (3) boys went to Boys State and graduated.

Commander's Comment: Boys State is a huge, wonderful program. I don't know how many of you have gone to see Boys State… I went this year for the first time. It was at Hampden-Sydney (moved there from Radford) Wow! It was a show! They were hyped-up young men. If you get a chance to attend, it is the Friday at the end of their week: Legion Day.

Communications and Media Chair Comment: Boys State runs Sunday through Saturday. The Friday at the end of their week is Legion Day. Any Legionnaire can go to Boys State to see the events. They sit with the families in the stands and observe the closing ceremonies with all the boys.

Commander's Comment: It is impressive. If you haven't seen it, you should.

Sick (Binnacle) List (Buddy Checks): Report provided by the Chaplain

As mentioned this morning, Betty F. is doing remarkably well. She is hoping to get Harold F. back to normal, but I believe it is beyond hope. After coffee

and doughnuts, Buddy had to go to the hospital – stomach cancer. I have been in touch with his wife and am sending a card tomorrow morning. Communication with his wife has been mostly text messages, but please keep them in your prayers.

Commander's Comment: We also had Liz C. in the Post this morning and stated John C. is going to undergo an assessment of his shoulder. She also mentioned he was going to attend Physical Therapy (PT) to try and see if he can walk again. That is a big deal for John.

Veteran Assistance: Service officer not present. No report provided.

Commander's Comment: His vehicle broke down on the way home this morning after coffee and doughnuts.

Communications and Media: Report provided by Committee Chair

Website is up-to-date. Links now provided on Post website landing/front page for those wishing to affiliate with the S.A.L. or Auxiliary. Online form for new members to join is available, and we have a link for renewals as well.

Buildings and Grounds: Report provided by Committee Chair

We did a full repair on the floor behind the bar. It has been fully completed, to include waxing to match the rest of the floor.

Commander's Comment: That was a great job. Thank you.

Special Events: Report provided by the Committee Chair

We are signing up people for the next Honor Flight. I hear people say, when I ask if they've been: "It's not for me. I didn't do anything. I didn't go." Or… "I've seen all the monuments."

If you are eligible, I highly recommend you go. Please see me. I'll help you get signed up. It's a free trip for everyone that is eligible, not just for someone who won the Medal of Honor (MoH). It's not that restrictive.

Commander: Q: What is the eligibility criteria? A: If you served before May 7, 1975, you are eligible. It's that simple.

Committee Chair: And, if you wish to sponsor Honor Flight, does not matter when you served, or even if you served. You can also go as a Guardian. They are always accepting Guardians, because the Guardians help pay the way for the veterans.

Moving on from Honor Flight: I confirmed our transportation today, as we are only 30 or so days away from submitting our application for the Christmas Parade. We are 'on board' with our in-house deuce and a half as our ride. This deuce and a half rides extremely well.

Q: I heard you could not be a sponsor if you did not participate in Honor Flight. A: Not true. Anyone who is able bodied, and of age, except for the spouse of the veteran going on the trip, can be a Guardian. Anyone. If you are able-bodied enough and can push a wheelchair all day long, you are welcome to attend as a Guardian. Example: The Post Commander at Sandston just went on his 13th Mission. He is a Vietnam veteran.

Doug S. Comment: I believe we are conflating the terms Guardian and sponsor.

Committee Chair: You can sponsor an Honor Flight if you wish, or any part of the trip. The term Guardian is the person that goes with, and escorts, the veteran.

Sharon S.: Q: If you just want to sponsor, pay the money, can you do that? A: Sure, yes.
Redirect: How much does it cost? A: The whole trip… approximately $24,000 (24 thousand) dollars. Don't quote me on that number, but it is very expensive to pay for four busloads of veterans.

First Vice Commander Comment: You can donate as much or as little as you wish. They do take donations to offset the cost.

Commander: Q: How much does the Guardian pay? A: $150 (one hundred fifty) dollars. They essentially cover the cost for the veteran and themselves for the trip. So… the Guardians pay ($150) and must accompany the veteran for the entire day. If you wish to donate, there are other mechanisms that Jim E. can explain.

First Vice Commander: You can donate if you don't wish to attend as a Guardian.

Bill T. Q: When is the Christmas Parade? A: It is normally the second Sunday in December.

Judge Advocate: This year it is on December 6th.

Color/Honor Guard: Report provided by the Captain

We have five (5) Veterans Day events scheduled. Three of them are open to 'all hands'.

Commander's Comment: Dang… we're busy… (Note: Post Commander is also the Color/Honor Guard Lieutenant)

Sons of the American Legion (SAL): Commander absent. Report provided by the Chaplain

On Sunday, August 30, the Junior Shooting Sports Program (JSSP) resumes. Anyone may attend and watch the shooters. We are also in need of coaches. Schedule: every other Sunday from 2 pm to 5 pm. Shooting 3 pm to 5 pm.

Riders (ALR): Report provided by Chapter Director

Two items, one is information from our Auxiliary: Our Auxiliary voted this morning to cancel the October 10 Craft Show due to a lack of vendors. Also

for awareness: the Riders donated $1,000 (one thousand) dollars to the Post this past month.

Unfinished (Old) Business:

First Vice Commander: We have the National Night Out event this Saturday. It will be from 10 am to 2 pm at Green Top (Sporting Goods). Riders, if you are bringing bikes for display, please arrive by 9:30 am. I also have received permission to display the deuce and a half. We will also have “give aways”. Last year we had @ 3,500 visit our booth. It will be long, hot day, even though it is only for four (4) hours

Commander: Q: Did we get any new members from our efforts last year? A: Yes.

Finance Officer: At the ExCom (Executive Committee) there was a question about Stripe (ph) Payment Solutions and a five (5) dollar a month fee for processing. I spoke with the owner. There is no longer a monthly fee. Information I provided at the ExCom was in error.

Therefore, I make the following motion:

Motion: That we incorporate Stripe Payment Solutions to provide the opportunity for our customers to use credit cards to make a purchase.

Motion was properly presented and seconded. Discussion followed.

Clarification: Again… this is at no cost to the Post. It is advertised up-front that customers will pay a 3.5% service (convenience) fee. If they do not wish to pay that (the fee), they cannot use their charge card. They pay for the processing.

Adjutant: Q: How does the Post accept payment? A: Stripe provides a processing machine. We do not pay for the machine. They also provide a banner/sign informing customers of the service fee. The screen on the machine also informs them of the charge, and they can accept or decline. We will receive one card reader.

Quartermaster Comment: They can use this for any purchase, not just for the Community Breakfast.

Finance Officer Comment; Can be used for any purchase, but not to pay Post dues. Post dues are paid through the link currently available on our website.

First Vice Commander: Q: So, for Poppy Day we couldn't use this. A: For four (4) of five (5) sites… no. (Only one reader.)

Q: Can you use it at the bar? A: Yes, anywhere in the building.

Commander called the question (Motion to accept Stripe Payment Solutions as an electronic payment platform). Motion was unanimously approved.

New Business and Correspondence: None

For the good of The American Legion / Post: None

Closing Ceremony:
Standard closing ceremony held per Officer's Guide.
(Flag salute. Benediction by Post Chaplain. Adjournment statement by Post Commander.)

Meeting Adjourned: 7:54 pm (1954)

Respectfully submitted: ***George Navas***, Adjutant
Approved for Distribution/Posting: ***Robert (Bob) White***, Commander