Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 25 Aug 2026 (Tuesday)

Opening Ceremony: 7:04 pm (1904)
Standard opening ceremony held per Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.

First Vice Commander reported a quorum was present.

Guests and Prospective Members Present: Hal W. and Nina W.

Reports:

Administrative: Report provided by the Adjutant

Previous month's minutes posted to website on 31 July 2026 at 7:55 (1955) www.Post175.org/Meeting-Minutes

Motion to approve meeting minutes properly made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote. One dissenting vote.

Meeting suspended for officer installations at 7:11 pm (1911)

Officers for The American Legion Riders (ALR) and Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L.) for FY 2026-2027 were installed by the Post Commander.

ALR Officers:
Director: Jack B.
Assistant Director: Bob M.
Secretary: Kelly S.
Treasurer: Lyn S.
Road Captains/Safety: Bob M.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim O.
Chaplain: Art A.
Historian: Tom E.

S.A.L. Officers:
Commander: Jim O.
Vice Commander/Adjutant: Anthony W.

Meeting was reconvened at 7:14 pm (1914)

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, presented. Also presented: Mortgage Reduction Donations status as of 31 July 2026. Thirty-nine (39) donors to date helping eliminate our mortgage. One Certificate of Deposit (CD) matures in September.

Motion to accept financial report properly made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Membership: Report provided by the 1st Vice Commander

Membership status: 151 members affiliated for 2027 membership year.

Our membership target for this year is 296 members. I don't see why we can't meet that. Our first goal is 50% by September 9. As of today, we are at 51%. Last year we did well for the first couple of months, then died off.

We may wish to remind members, especially at events like coffee and doughnuts, that they don't have to wait until the end of the year to renew. Membership cards are available for those that have already paid for 2027.

Commander's Comment: Q: How many (members) did we have at the end of last Fiscal Year (FY)? A: 292. Q: And what is our goal for this year? A: 296. That should be doable then.

Membership Applicant – Hal W., U.S. Army Veteran and is accompanied by his wife.

Hal W. Comment: Served from Fall of '89 to Spring of '95, two (2) years in Korea, stationed at Fort Hood, sent to Somalia during Operation Restore

Hope and was there for four (4) months, returned and was branch detailed to Quartermaster. Later met the young lady next to me, she decided to marry me, so I decided it was time to 'get out' and do something different. We have one son still living in Pennsylvania. We actually got married when I was still stationed in Fort Lee, and just moved back into the area in May. We live towards Atlee.

1st Vice Commander's Comment: I do have his DD-214 and it has been verified. This is a first vote of two required.

Commander's Comment: The Judge Advocate will escort Hal W. out of the room while we take a vote on his application.

Adjutant's Comment: Just wanted to mention that his spouse (Nina W.) is also a veteran and can join the Post, and as a female veteran, can also join The American Legion Auxiliary – becoming a dual-member.

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

1st Vice Commander Comment: His second vote will be at the ExCom (Executive Committee) meeting in two weeks.

Commander's Comment: (As Hall W. re-enters the room) Mr. W. You have gone through one vote and you have been accepted in the first vote. In two weeks we will have an ExCom meeting where we will have your second vote. In the interim, you may join us and visit for coffee and doughnuts or any other meeting or events that we may have. Welcome, thank you for coming in and wanting to be a member of our Post. You can be as busy as you want, sometimes you can be busier than you want, or… you don't have to be busy at all. It is your choice. But, again, welcome.

<u>Rentals</u>: Report provided by the 2nd Vice Commander (George B. Acting)

I have received a message from Bill T. and he is in-transit back and will probably be back home by tomorrow evening.

As far as rentals: we had a rental on Saturday (most of the day) and also this coming Saturday after our Community Breakfast. We have two on the books for September. Things are moving along pretty well.

I also wrote a contract on either Thursday or Friday for a rental on the tenth (10^{th}) of October. It appears the season is getting better with schools starting back up again, so I expect we will soon see more activity.

Commander's Comment: We mentioned this at the Coffee and Doughnuts… Tony was here yesterday preparing for the quarterly alarm system inspection, working by himself, when someone walked up behind him and said: "Hey, how are you doing." Tony then asked him: "How did you get in here?"

We found that the second door, on the right, the push bar had been pushed in and locked open using an allen wrench. When don't know when this happened, or how long it was unlocked. We asked the church that rents the hall. We asked others. No one knows how of when this happened.

I have asked Tony to have the guy that was here (for the alarm inspection) get us an estimate to get the second door on a mag(netic) lock so when the lock button is pushed, both doors are alarmed. Both doors would work off the same switch. That way, we don't have side-by-side doors that work differently.

We are also taking additional precautionary measures inside as the doors at the front of the building both have push-bars. They are not on a magnetic lock. Inside, we will be moving some doors around to limit access to where renters should not be. This will cost Tony some time, but there is no cost to the Post to do this.

Bob M. Comment: Q: Will the new lock be tied into the alarm system? A: Yes.

Commander's Comment: What we need to watch out for is: When both these two Main Hall doors are opened, and the right side door push bar is

locked open, when bringing in supplies, etc., need to make sure it is released so the door can be locked.

Bob M. Comment: Q: Where are the allen wrenches located now? One used to hang by the door in the Conference room because when the church or Scouts used that room, they wanted access.

Further discussion ensued among several members about the location of allen wrenches to the doors. Outcome: two exist within the Post and their locations are known. Quartermaster has one additional on his person.

Legal: Report provided by the Judge Advocate

Regarding the property next door… I have met with RNC Builders and they have indicated an interest in that property. They are looking at the two right-of-ways that currently exist in that property . Stand-by for a response from them. They are currently concentrating on building, not on the purchase.

Discipline / Protocol: Sergeant-at-Arms not present. No report provided.

Historical Documentation: Report provided by Historian

Nothing significant to report (NSTR).

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

Nothing significant to report (NSTR).

Veteran Assistance: Report submitted to Commander by Service Officer

Nothing significant to report (NSTR).

Communications and Media: Report provided by Committee Chair

As reported at Coffee and Doughnuts, the website has been updated with the following:

Main Page – Donation link through “zeffe”; Information on how to donate through the 501(c)3 - The American Legion Department of Virginia Charities, Inc. Short tile: Legion Virginia Charities, Inc. Newsletter for September and October. Newsletter now has ‘live’ links for “zeffe”.

There are also ‘live’ links on the webpage and newsletter for membership renewals, with a credit card, for Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion. There have been issues in the past where people go to the National website, believe they are renewing, and re-affiliate and end up with two different membership numbers.

For new members, and Mr. Hal W. has already seen it as he spent a couple of hours on our website before this meeting, there is a New Member Welcome (Orientation) video online. It is 12 minutes long. It is there because this body approved greater outreach to new members to get them more engaged and this is part of that process. It teaches them about our mission, the four pillars, and more.

Buildings and Grounds: Report provided by Committee Chair

Nothing significant to report (NSTR).

Special Events: Committee Chair not present.

Adjutant Comment: For those Guardians escorting veterans on the next Honor Flight, Guardian training has been moved from October 1 to September 24th. Newsletter and calendar have been updated with new date and time.

Quartermaster Comment: Q: How long does the training last? A: about 90 minutes. Q: So, not all day? A: No.

1st Vice Commander Comment: Next Honor Flight is set for Saturday, October 17th.

Color/Honor Guard: Report provided by the Guard Lieutenant

Our next scheduled event is on September 11th at Walnut Grove Baptist Church at 7:00 pm. And, the VFW has requested two (2) members from our Honor/Color Guard to assist this coming Monday for a flag folding. Need to check with VFW Post Commander Joanne Smith for details.

Sons of the American Legion (SAL): Report provided by Commander, SAL

We will resume the Junior Shooting Sports Program (JSSP) this Sunday, here at the Post. We have added the air pistols to our program this year and our member Rich H. is a certified NRA (National Rifle Association) pistol instructor and has agreed to help coach and get that program 'up and running'.

Wanted to also mention, and you will see it in our Newsletter, that one of our member that has graduated and will be attending Liberty University received a $3,000.00 (three thousand) dollar scholarship from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). She deserves it and we wish her the best.

The Elementary School first grade flag education program… I wait a couple of weeks after school starts to get in touch with the Hanover County Elementary Education Director and request permission to offer the program in the schools. Hopefully we will get it (permission). However, I will not call until I get the resupply of booklets and flags from Flag and Emblem, which I ordered two weeks ago. Hopefully I will get them in the next two or three weeks.

Commander's Comment: We had spoken about picking up some as we are going to the National Convention next week. Q: Did you want us to still look into that? A: You can ask them about it. Order has been placed and confirmed. Confirmation states delivery can take up to four (4) weeks, and it's been two weeks. If they have some, feel free to get them. We could use the extras.

Riders (ALR): Report provided by Chapter Director

As reported this morning, the National Legacy Run is in progress. They started in Lincoln, Nebraska, making their way to Louisville (KY). It is a five

(5) day ride. And as far as I know, they have collected some $233,000 (two hundred thirty three thousand) dollars and change. However, one of our members, Bill McK. Was hit from behind by another bike. Had quite a bit of damage to his bike; tore a saddlebag off and the tour kit on the bike. Thank goodness for the 100 mile an hour duct tape he was able to piece it back together. He did go to the hospital, was checked out, he'll be sore for a couple of days, but decided to continue on the ride. Keep him in your prayers.

Unfinished (Old) Business:

Buildings and Grounds Chair Comment: Just wanted to remind everyone of the flag raising on September 8th, two (2) Tuesdays from today.

1st Vice Commander Comment: Just wanted to thank everyone who participated in the National Night Out. National Night Out was a huge success. We had five (5) bikes out there, and yes, it was my first time riding my bike to an event, and I appreciate everyone that came out for their support. We'll do it again next year.

New Business and Correspondence:

I would like to extend an invitation to each and every one of you to come out and meet one of our newest members. We are going to have seven "meet and greet" for Sheriff Greg Six. We have seven (7) meet and greet across the County, there should be one near you. Free food, bring your children, everybody is welcome.

Adjutant's Comment: Greg Six was here three weeks ago and spoke to the membership about policies.

Member Comment: He did not speak about this? No. I guess not, as we had not yet scheduled these.

Member Comment: I am on the Committee to get him elected…

Adjutant's Comment: Stop. We are about Policy, not Politics. We are an apolitical organization. The Legion does not endorse any candidates.

Member Comment: My apologies. Did not mean to break policy.

For the good of The American Legion / Post:

No further items.

Closing Ceremony:
Standard closing ceremony held per Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 pm (1945)

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