



BADEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 641, 271 STATE STREET, BADEN, PENNSYLVANIA 15005

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District website: aldist26.org

Minutes of June 25, 2024

Commander Gerald W. States called the meeting to order.
The colors were presented, and the POW/MIA Chair and Helmet were in place.
Chaplain Kurt Larson offered an opening prayer.
The Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion were recited.
Guests Present: None

Tom Stachura reported that all meetings are recorded on a digital recorder.

Commander States ordered the Post elections open for voting and assigned George Fleming and Jeff Olson as tellers.

Commander States presented Jeff Bach with his cover for attending 5 meetings.

	Officers	Executive Board	Delegates
Commander Gerald W States	P	P	
1 st Vice Commander Pete Poninsky	P	P	P
2 nd Vice Commander Gene Rees	P	P	
Treasurer Dannielle Ripper	P	P	
Adjutant Tom Stachura	P	P	P
Chaplain Kurt Larson	P		
Historian Karl Ludwig	P		
Sgt at Arms Dan Gilarno	E	E	E
Service Officer Larry McGown	P		
Judge Advocate Jeff Olson	P		
Bob Pudo		P	P
Charles Jackson		P	
George Fleming		P	P
Steve Kusnir		P	

Commander States recognized Past District 26 Commander George Fleming and Past Western Section Vice Commander Jeff Olson.

The minutes of the previous meeting of May 28, 2024, were previously sent via email. Bob Pudo commented that the Home Association picnic is at the Lions club and not the Wolves club. Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Rick Raich and seconded by Roger Zallon. Approved with no nay votes.

Members present: Karl Ludwig, Randy Gleason, Charles Jackson, Steve Kusnir, Larry McGown, George Fleming, Jeff Olson, Linda McGown, Rich Raich, Kurt Larson, Larry Googins, Lanny Reinard, Bob Santo, Ralph Todaro, Gordon Klinsic, John Barber, Mark Vorderbrueger, George Hartzel, Roger Zallon, Bob Morrison, Terry Wagoner, Jerry Fisher, Jean Lemieux, Jeff Bach, Bob Pudo, Ben Gingerella, Luke Dennis, John Hulbert, Jim Janicki, Mike Prichinello, Don Wagner, Ray Litzinger, and Bob Zalenski.

Initiation of New Members: Commander States initiated Paul Abbott.

CORRESPONDENCE:

*Notice from the Department of Pa that Department Commander Steve Lavelle passed away and that his service was held this past Monday.

*Department of Pa has notified our Post that we will receive two awards at the Convention. These being Children and Youth and Community Service. These are class 4 awards.

FINANCE

Dannielle Ripper presented the financial report for June 2024

Income	\$20,408.57
Expense	\$11,775.38

Bar Bingo:	05/30	\$ 845.00
	06/06	\$ 829.00
	06/13	\$ 800.00
	06/20	\$ 1,040.00

Motion to approve the financial report for June 2024 made by Roger Zallon and seconded by Don Wagner, subject to audit. Approved with no nay votes.

Activities and Community Service (Pete Poninsky) Pete said he has been busy in June. In July 11 is the blood drive. August 17 is the Home picnic at the Lions Club. Our Canteen will be closed that day. August, Pete has plans to do a bike safety program and repair bikes.

Americanism-Gordon Klinsic- Gordy gave 7 pamphlets, served on flag retirement day, county meeting in Hookstown and attended District Caucus.

Blood Donor-Jeff Olson- July 11th, 52 spots available with only 25 currently reserved. Noon to 5:30.

Children and Youth-Jeff Olson- Legion baseball. Our team is in 2nd place. Playoffs are soon. We are co-sponsoring the lunch program at State Street school. Commander States said that all correspondence says that the team is Ambridge, and the sponsor is Baden. Jeff Olson will correct the error.

Homeless Vets-Jeff Olson -meeting is next week to discuss furthering the program.

Keystone Boys State-currently over. Tom Stachura said that we sponsored two young men, Alex Weiss and Anthony Speicher. They will present their views of KBS in the upcoming months.

Tom further said that Anthony was chosen as Senator and will be traveling to Washington DC. Tom motioned for our Post to donate \$200 for traveling expenses. Second to the motion made by Ray Litzinger. Approved with no nay votes.

Law and Order -Currently over.

Emblem and Poppy-Bob Pudo- Bob said that we have been fortunate to secure donations but said that poppies is all year round. Bob further said that all these monies go to veterans causes. Bob thanked all who helped and collected monies.

Essay-Jim Janicki-Jim said that essay is over, and he is gearing up for September.

POW/MIA -Rick Raich- Rick gave his report on Airman R. Cash of the 28th Materiel Squadron, 20th Air Base Group. Cash was captured in Battan and was subject to 1 65-mile death march. His remains were accounted for on April 3, 2024

Legislative-Gene Rees-nothing new currently, as he is getting little information out of Bob Caseys office.

Property-Gene Rees- front doors were shipped yesterday, should be installed within the next two weeks. The upstairs bar remodeling is being considered. The tap system is being reviewed. Luke Dennis said that the downstairs backroom air conditioner is broke. Commander States is aware and has contacted Humbert for quotes. A fan is being used temporarily. John Hulbert said that his company may have some type of equipment available for rent. John will be in touch with Gerry States.

COMMANDER STATES ASKED IF ALL MEMBERS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE. SEEING NO FURTHER VOTERS, COMMANDER CLOSED THE ELECTIONS AND REQUESTED JEFF OLSON TO TALLY ALL VOTES.

Membership-Tom Stachura-

Tom indicated that the Pa Department of the American Legion had a ROUND UP in June, which meant that this was the end of the Legion calendar for paying 2024 dues. Up now is 2025 dues and statements will be coming out in July.

Tom said our goal is 447 and we have 450. We have achieved our goal.

New

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Recommended by</u>
Anthony Hermankevich	Pittsburgh	Marines	Ben Gingerella

Motion made by Karl Ludwig and seconded by Charles Jackson to approve the new member.

Approved with no nay votes.

Transfer

None

Tom Stachura talked about the 945 list and said that within 10 miles of our zip code, the names amount to 359. These dues will increase to \$52. Our dues will be \$45. Tom said that he has 14 pages and requested individuals to call and request these members to transfer. Tom asked about the necessity of a DD214, and Commander States said this is mandatory. Once the 945 says yes, Tom will take it over and send the necessary documents. All forms are due back by the next meeting. Tom said that time is of the essence because the billing will be coming out. Several members requested that we meet at the post on July 9th to make calls. Some said it would be easier to call from their home. Tom said if we can capture 50 transfers, this would be a success. Letters could come out later. Calls are to put the 945 on notice.

Sons of the Legion-Gerry States- Wing bash will be on October 27th. Blood drive will be supported by the SAL on July 11th.

Post Home-Luke Dennis-Busy month is month and business is slow but moving. Items are being reviewed for bringing more activity to the canteen.

Oratorical-Luke Dennis- Luke said that the topics will be coming out and he will contact the schools. Tom Stachura said that in a recent article in the Legion Magazine it discussed the overall winners and the winners received \$25,000, \$22500, and \$20,000. Tom mentioned that when we approach the schools, it would be advisable to take a copy of this article.

Public Relations- (Linda McGown)- Linda suggested sharing information on Facebook on our activities. Doing this expands our network.

Women's Advisory Veterans Committee-Linda McGown. – No report.

Scouting-Steve Kusnir- Steve said that he gave two awards to Eagle Scouts recently. Troop 405 is going to summer camp soon.

Post Service Officer's report-Larry McGown-Randy reported that he and Larry McGown are making changes for visitations. This will be effective on June 22. Phone numbers will be available for appointment. CBOC in Rochester will discontinue the shuttle service in June. Rochester now has acupuncture and a cardiologist at their facility. If you get a survey from Rochester, it is important that you take time to fill it out completely with good or bad comments. This is needed to improve the services.

Sick Call, Relief, and employment- Dan Gilarno is in the hospital and is doing well after his operation. Steve Crano (99 years old) has been reported to be in bad health.

Unfinished business-

Luke Dennis discussed the "Cover Policy" and stated that is not to disrespect veterans and that there is nothing in the Legion Policy regarding hats. Luke motioned to allow hats within the canteen with no political jargon and to remove hats during moments of silence. A second was made by Ron Wagner. Discussion ensued. Bob Pudo said he is not in favor of wearing hats and said it is a sign of respect for our veterans. Kody commented that the POW table should be enough presence of respect. Jim Janicki supports hats off and said that if you go to church you take hats off. Ron Wagner discussed taking away freedoms and hat is no issue and said to wear hats. Steve Kusnir said to take a vote. Bill Silver said to keep hats off. Jeff Olson indicated that there is no legion policy for hats. Linda McGown said that you will push away young people if you cannot wear hats. Change is enviable. A hand vote was taken and to wear hats was 19 and not wear hats was 15.

Roger Zallon said that this might be an opportunity for the Post/Canteen to sell hats. Luke said that he will coordinate this effort.

New Business –

Randy Gleason said that social media is a power tool to use, and we need to take advantage of all methods of social media. Gerry States encouraged all to spread the word of our Post through social media.

Tom Stachura said that stamps are going up from 68 cents to 73 cents and Tom indicated that the 2025 dues cards are sent out to all regular members. Tom requested that we buy 1000 stamps costing \$680.00. Motion made by Ray Litzinger and seconded by Karl Ludwig to support this purchase. Approved with no nay votes. Ben talked about bulk mailing and was advised that we do not do bulk mailing as bulk is 250 pieces at one time.

George Fleming motioned to pay all delegates \$2500 to attend the Department Convention.

Seconded by Bob Pudo. Discussion took place. Approved with 3 nay votes.

Election Results:

Commander:	Gerry States(unopposed)		
Finance Officer	Dannielle Ripper (unopposed)		
First Vice Commander:			
Dan Gilarno	16	Pete Poninsky	25
Second Vice Commander			
Ben Gingerella	26	Gene Rees	16
Executive Board			
George Fleming	25	Randy Gleason	21
Karl Ludwig	21		

Jeff Olson said that all ballots are subject to review for the next 3 days after which will be destroyed. Motioned by Karl Ludwig and seconded by Don Wagner. Approved.

Tom Stachura said that committee reports are due shortly and if you want to be on a committee, see Gerry States

Jeff Olson said that at the District 26 Caucus, he was selected at the next District 26 Commander. Jeff challenged all Baden Post members to bring in at least one new member for the next year.

Good of the American Legion

Hat Fund

\$100	#006	Rich Storar	Not registered
\$100	#080	Louis Hamill	Not registered
\$100	#302	Keith Kaleman	Not Registered
\$100	#185	Robert Brown	Not Registered
\$100	#225	Don Brisco II	Not Registered
\$ 68	#181	Daniel Shumsky	Not Registered

Commander States asked for a moment of silence.

MEMORIAL TO DEPARTED POST MEMBERS:

Kurt Larson recited a prayer for our departed members.

CLOSING:

Sergeant at Arms retired the POW/MIA flag.

Closing Salute to the Flag.

Next regular meeting date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas R. Stachura, Adjutant