



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

Website: www.badenpost641.org Email: legionbaden@comcast.net
District website: aldist26.org

Minutes of November 28, 2023

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: Mayor Judy Montell

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

Mayor Judy Montell presented a Proclamation honoring the Baden American Legion for all the good works performed by its members to the community of Baden.

A roll call was made:

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

Commander States recognized Past District 26 Commander George Fleming.

The minutes of the previous meeting of October 24, 2023, 2023 were previously sent out to all members. Motion made by Roger Zallon and seconded by Karl Ludwig to approve the minutes as presented approved.

Members present: Larry Googins, Karl Ludwig, Randy Gleason, Ben Gingerella, Jerry Fisher, Charles Jackson, Linda McGown, Roger Zallon, Danielle Ripper, John Barber, Milan Cokrick Jr., Paul Ciletti, Bob Morrison, Don Morrissey, and Bob Zalenski.

Initiation of New Members:

Danielle Ripper and Milan Cokrick Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- *Employer of the year award due by December 31, 2023. George Fleming is working to get application completed by his employer.
- *Law enforcement, firefighter, and EMS awards due by January 4, 2024. Tom Stachura commented that Dawn Singleton may have applicants.
- *Post Chaplain of the year due by January 4, 2024.
- *Chaplain Meritorius Service Award due by January 4, 2024.
- *DEC reservation form for January 12-14, 2024, at the Doubletree in Moon Township due by December 10th to Debbie Watson in Department.
- *Thank you letter from VA in Erie for our contribution to the fish derby. File
- *Thank you from the Combat Vets Association for our donation. File
- *St. Josephs Addiction Treatment and Recovery Center in New York is seeking a donation. Ordered Filed.
- *Army Heritage Center in Carlisle, Pa is hosting a free talk with General David Petraeus regarding his new book "Conflict, The Evolution of Modern Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine. Post on board.
- *Inspired Hearts and Hands, Cranberry Twp is requesting a donation. Ordered filed.

FINANCE

Tom Stachura presented the finance report as of November 27, 2023

Income	\$33,700.09	Expenses	\$9,435.39	
		Gross	Post	Delegate
Bar bingo	10/26	\$986	\$493	\$493
	11/02	\$848	\$424	\$424
	11/09	\$766	\$394	\$394
	11/16	\$860	\$280	\$280
	11/22	\$760	\$230	\$230
Deposited to General Account	\$1821		Deposited to Delegate	\$1821
11/13 paid	\$257 for bingo supplies.			
11/22 paid	\$300 for bingo supplies.			

Roger Zallon asked if we were on target for our budget and was advised that we never created a budget for the Post.

Motion made by George Fleming and seconded by Kurt Larson, subject to audit, to accept the financial report as presented. Motion approved with no nay votes.

Activities and Community Service (Pete Poninsky) No report.

Americanism-Gordon Klinsic- No report.

Blood Donor-Jeff Olson- Tom Stachura reported for Jeff Olson. Blood drive was held on Tuesday, November 7. 27 registered. 23 units received with a goal of 25. The Double Red machine was not working. If in operation, the goal would have been achieved. Each participant received an American Flag provided by Jeff Olson. Next drive is January 22, noon to 5PM.

Children and Youth-Jeff Olson- Legion baseball first meeting will be in January. Baden Post baseball manager, JP Wetzel, passed away on November 2. Jeff said that State Street Elementary School will do Christmas Cards for our nursing home veterans.

April is children and youth month. Jeff has ideas and will bring them forward at the first of the year.

Keystone Boys State-June 16 – 22 at Massiah University. Tom Stachura reported that we have an applicant, Alan Weiss. Motion to approve made by Kurt Larson and seconded by Chuck Jackson. Approved with no nay votes.

Law and Order June 9 – 15 at Massiah University.

Emblem and Poppy-Bob Pudo-Bob reported that 2023 was a good year for collections and thanked all who helped in collections and counting of the money. Bob said that we will be getting a check from Corcordia and requested that we send a thank you letter. Tom Stachura said he would comply and requested a name and address of where to send the thank you letter. Bob said he will get the information.

Essay-Jim Janicki- no report

Homeless Vets-POW/MIA -Rick Raich-Rick was not in attendance and Charles Jackson gave his report. Tom Stachura said that the Homeless vet’s dinner is in January and motioned to donate \$1000. Seconded by Bob Pudo. Motioned approved with no nay votes.

Tom Stachura said we have a table of 10 purchased and currently we have 4 paid. Tom said that first come first served. See Tom for reservations. Veterans come first.

Legislative-Gene Rees-Gene reported that our legislators are on vacation.

Property-Gene Rees-Everything is on hold until we decide our priorities. Tom said that our front door, upstairs, needs to be replaced. Gene to investigate cost. Ceiling tiles need to be replaced. It was suggested that if we put up a list, members might do the work. Gerry States said that in January the Executive Board will meet one hour before the regular meeting and discuss this situation.

Legion College-Dan Gilarno-Gerry States said that 13 attended legion college and will be compensated for their expenses.

Veterans Day Parade-Dan Gilarno-Dan reported that the officials in Beaver said that the parade went well, and the parade paid for itself. Banners were picked up and stored. Donation was made to the Beaver Police for all their efforts and help. The only issue that was bad was that the Legion Riders did a burn out and were cited by the Police. Gerry said he would get his name and turn it over to the Legacy Riders.

Membership-Tom Stachura-

New

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Recommended by</u>
Lucciano Battiani	Baden	active AF	Steve Ostoffie
Daniel Weiss	Coraopolis	active Army	Ben Gingerella
William Crowley II	Aliquippa	Army	Tom Stachura

John Paladini II

Baden

Air Force

Ben Gingerella

Motion made by Randy Gleason and seconded by Larry McGown to approve the new members. Approved with no nay votes.

Transfer

Michael Perri	Beaver	945
Joseph Stignesi	Ambridge	Missouri
Bob Zalenski	Baden	Post Charlotte

Motioned to accept made by Kurt Larson and seconded by Roger Zallon. Approved with no nay votes.

Tom reported that we have 333 paid dues, which is 76 % of the goal of 437.

Sons of the Legion-Gerry States-Wing bash on January 27th. More bricks have been ordered for the Commanders Row.

Post Home-Luke Dennis-no report

Oratorical-Luke Dennis-No report. Tom reported that a student from Ambridge, McKenzie Sutton, is interested and is discussing this with her parents. She is also interested in essay.

Public Relations-Tish Wagner-no report. Bob Zalenski said that on Maplewood Avenue in Ambridge has a unique light display and all proceeds go to St. Jude's Hospital

Women's Advisory Veterans Committee-Linda McGown.

Scouting-Steve Kusnir-No report

Post Service Officer's report-Larry McGown-Larry said that he is back servicing our veterans, but he needs to adjust his hours. This will be reported in the newsletter. Steve Kusnir said that the VA has reimbursement for travel, but it is only one way.

Sick Call, Relief, and employment-None.

Unfinished business- Commander States opened the nominations for Finance Officer:

Tom Stachura nominated Danielle Ripper. Seconded by Dan Gilarno. No other nominations were made. Commander closed the nominations. The Commander asked for a vote and it was unanimously approved effective December 1, 2023. Adjutant cast a unanimous vote for Danielle Ripper.

New Business –Commander States said that the Childrens Christmas party and Nursing Home tour will be discussed after the Post meeting is closed. Steve Kusnir said that the annual Legion Golf event will be held the 3rd weekend of June in Williamsport. Pa. Jerry Fisher said that the trifold made by Linda Davis was well prepared and distributed at the veteran's breakfast. Jerry Fisher said that on December 7 (Pearl Harbor) a young man from Monaca was the first person to perish in the war. He further commented that a memorial ceremony will be held soon. Jerry continued and said that a bus trip wo Bedford Virginia is being planned at the site of D Day Memorial. Jerry highly recommends the trip.

Bob Pudo commented on the past veteran's day Commander Dinner. He felt insulted that he had to pay for the dinner expense. Bob motioned that he and other Baden 641 commanders be reimbursed for their dinner expenses for this year and last year. Second to the motion made by Steve Kusnir.

Motion approved with no nay votes.

Good of the American Legion-

Bob Pudo said that an article in the Legion magazine regarding "Buddy Checks" was great reading.

Kurt Larson said that December 16th is Wreaths Across American. Anyone interested in going should contact me. Kurt. Cost of wreaths is \$17. Motion to pay for a wreath made by Kurt and seconded by Ben Gingerella. It was discussed how many members from our Post are buried at the Cemetery. Kurt to find out, but this may be after the event. Motion put on hold. Ben Gingerella said that the Gold Star Riders missed the cutoff for wreaths.

Tom Stachura motioned that we cancel our December meeting and have the treasurer pay the bills. Seconded by Roger Zallon. Motion approved.

Tom Stachura said individuals have asked about the purchase of jackets and the cost is \$85. A list will be on the board. Tom also said that if you have not paid dues, he requested payment as soon as possible. Tom commented that the National Commander dinner will be hosted by Baden Post in March. A meeting will be held in January.

Hat Fund

\$100	#296	Banker Beech	Not registered
\$100	#057	Sam Gaglardi	Not registered
\$100	#012	John Beckman	Not Registered
\$100	#069	William Orłowski	Not Registered
\$ 90	#362	William Hetrick	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, January 23, at 6:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas R. Stachura, Adjutant