

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

**Website:** [badenpost641.org](http://badenpost641.org)

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**Minutes of March 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 the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion were recited.

**Guests Present:** Ray Salinski (member of Port Charlotte, Florida Post)

**A roll call of Officers, Delegates and Executive Board was made and absentees recorded in the Roll Call Book.**

Commander Gerald W. States	P
First Vice Commander Dan Gilarno	E
Second Vice Commander Gene Rees	P
Treasurer Bill Keber	P
Adjutant Tom Stachura	P
Chaplain Kurt Larson	P
Historian Karl Ludwig	P
Sgt at Arms Pete Poninsky	P
Service Officer Larry McGown	P
Judge Advocate Steve Kusnir	P

Commander States recognized Past District 26 Commander George Fleming.

The minutes of the previous meeting of February was previously sent out to all members. **Motion made by Pete Poninsky and seconded by Chuck Jackson to approve the minutes as presented. Approved.**

**Members Present:** Rick Raich, Karl Ludwig, John Ludwig, Linda Davis, Randy Gleason, Roger Zallon, Chuck Jackson, Jean Lemieux, Bob Morrison, Jim Neal, Jim Best, Ben Gingerella, Ray Litzinger, Don Morrissey and Luke Dennis.

**Installation of New Members:** Ray Litzinger (transfer from Midland)

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Post annual data report. Tom reported that all is in order except what we will charge for dues for the next period. Motion made by Chuck Jackson and seconded by Tish Wagner to keep the dues at the current level of \$35 annually. Motion approved with no nay votes.

Department of Pa-Legion awards are due by May 22<sup>nd</sup> for the following: Americanism, Blood Donor, Children and Youth, Community Service, Hospital Volunteer of the year, Distinguished Service, It's a good thing you do, Educator of the Year, Law and Order, Media Award, Norman Streicher Award, Post Home, Post PR, PR Volunteer Recognition, Samuel Naples and Blue Cap of the Year. Post Adjutant and Post Commander are due June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Annual Bowling tournament is April 15 to 30 at Clearfield Pa. Post on bulletin board.

Doctor Almo Sebastianelli Drum Corp Scholarship of \$500 to a child or child of a Pa Legionnaire or deceased Legionnaire, who will be majoring in music. Interested individuals should contact the Post Adjutant.

Robert Trace Essay Scholarship of \$500 is available. 15 to 18 years of age. Deadline is May 31, 2023. Contact the Post Adjutant for information.

American Legion Consolidated Post Report. Given to the Post Adjutant for completion.

IOOF Golf Scholarship. Request is for a tee sponsorship of \$100. Motion made by Bill Keber and Karl Ludwig to sponsor a tee sign. Approved with no nay votes.

Annual Flay Day Round Up is Sunday, June 11, 2023. This is the final day any dues for 2023 can be paid for continuous membership.

Pa American Legion Scholarship Endowment Fund-request for donation. Ordered filed.

Women Veterans Conference is April 21 to 22 at Penn's Valley Pike, Centre Hall, Pa. Ordered Post on the bulletin board.

American Legion School Award Medal Program-it was commented that we do this annually.

2023 Annual ALR State Benefit Ride, May 18-21, Hosted by Leighton American Legion Post 314. Request for donation. Motion made by George Fleming and seconded by Bob Pudo to donate \$100. Approved with no nay votes.

Military Women's Memorial (Arlington Virginia)-Request for donation. Motion made by Tish Wagner and seconded by Luke Dennis to support the memorial with a \$100 donation. Motion approved with one nay vote.

D-Day Conneaut is hosting an event August 17 -10. Request for donation. Ordered filed.

Upper Beaver Valley Veterans' Service Center of New Brighton requesting donation. It was noted that we support the Ambridge facility. Ordered filed.

Shriners Children's Hospital Erie thanked us for our donation. Ordered filed.

Pa State Police Troop D is hosting a camp in August 2023. Request is for a donation. We have previously supported this event. Motion made by Luke Dennis and seconded by George Fleming to make a \$100 donation. Approved with no nay votes.

Beaver Valley Fraternal Order of Police #4(Monaca) is hosting a golf event on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Club at Shadow Lakes Golf Course. Request if for tee sign and/or golfers. Ordered to be posted.

Bob Pudo said that he received a thank you from Concordia for our donations to veterans during the Holiday season. Commander States acknowledged the thank you and said Bob should also tell Concordia that the SAL and Auxiliary supported the event.

Commander States received correspondence from A I Mittiga (Monaca Coaches Association) indicating that several students are receiving financial awards and the request was asking our Post to make a donation. Ordered filed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS;**

**Finance**-Bill Keber-Bill presented March financial statement:

	March 28, 2023	
Income	\$34,677.00	
Expenses	\$ 4,237.87	
Raffle Tickets	\$ 500.00	
Bar Bingo	03-02	\$ 719.00
	03-09	\$ 718.00
	03-16	\$ 889.00
	03-23	\$ 771.00
Total	\$ 3097.00	\$1548 to General, \$1549 to Delegate

Bill commented that the funds in our checking account are low. He said that the balance in the account is high because there are restricted funds in the account (poppy funds). Our current useable funds amounts to around \$3600.00

**Motion made by Roger Zallon and seconded by Tom Stachura to accept the financial reports for March subject to audit. Motion approved with no negative votes.**

Bill commented that our baseball field is in question regarding liming the field. The Ambridge Youth Baseball is opposed to our Legion baseball using the field because they (youth) want to lime the field themselves, which would cost our Legion money for each time we play. Discussion

took place about the field. It was suggested that we do not use the field and play the games away. The coaches are looking into this situation.

Kurt Larson said that he and Tish Wagner did the audit and found no issues.

George Fleming questioned the Veterans Day checking account and was advised that this was rolled into the General fund years ago, as it was sitting dormant. Tom Stachura said that the last time we did the parade, all funds collected paid for all expenses and we had a surplus of \$500,

**Activities and Community Service (Pete Poninsky)** Pete commented on the Pa Wounded Warriors is run by volunteers and is not part of the Corporation. Pete recommended that donations to this organization all go to the veterans. Pete commented on the following dates:

March 29 Viet Nam Recognition 4 to 6

Pete said we should do more for our other veterans in other wars.

April 1 District meeting in Monaca

April 7

Last fish fry at our post.

April 9 Memorial POW

April 29

Stand Down

June 21 Women Veterans Dinner-Our men will act as servers.

Pete further commented that VVA 862 now meets here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month starting at 1PM. Legacy Riders meet here on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6PM. Submariners meet at our Post

Bob Pudo questioned the Viet Nam Recognition event and commented that no social member should be sitting at the bar. This was confirmed by Gerry States. Bob further commented that the VVA meets here and Bob, as part of the Executive Board, wants to see the rental agreement to see what we are charging for rent. Commander States said that we charge nothing and the VVA will make a monthly donation. Bob feels that the VVA should make a definite monthly payment.

**Oratorical-Pete Poninsky**-contest is over.

**Americanism-Gordon Klinsic**- No report

**Blood Donor-Jeff Olson**- March 16, 2023. 32 donors scheduled, 31 registered. 22 whole blood 4 power red. Total collected 30 with a goal of 25. Next one is May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Keystone Boys State-Jeff Olson**- June 18-24 at Shippensburg University. Applicants needed. State Police week is June 11\*17 at Messiah University in Mechanicsburg. Applications are on line.

**Children and Youth-Jeff Olson**- State Street PTO is having an event on April 4<sup>th</sup> and we are invited to set up a table with legion information. 5:30 to 8PM

**Emblem and Poppy-Bob Pudo**-Bob said that all is in order and we have enough poppies.

**Essay-Jim Janicki**- No report. Tom Stachura reported that the Baden American Legion Scholarship information has been given to the area schools. Nothing reported back to date. Due by May 19<sup>th</sup>. What does the American Flag mean to me?

**Homeless Vets -Bob Morrison**- Bob said that this is an everyday thing for veterans. Pete Poninsky is working on getting a home build. Baden Borough will donate the property. Pete is getting with the Homeless Vets Corp for information. This is to be a TRANSITION home and not a PERMANENT home. Pete talked about Cornerstone that has a temporary facility for homeless vets. Pete is looking for a family situation, not just a single veteran. Bob Pudo interjected and said

that he is not in favor of the project and this could become a money pit or a permanent situation for our proposed tenant.

**Law and Order-Steve Kusnir**-No report

**Legislative-Gene Rees**- Gene said the hot topic is the Pact act. Congress is acting slow.

**Property-Gene Rees**- All is currently good. Gene said that we need to eliminate a broiler and add fryers.

**Membership-Tom Stachura-**

Tom reported that our goal is 443 and we now have 416 or needing 27. Tom said that the unpaid current member's amounts to 55 and postcards to these members will be going out next week.

Tom read the list of members currently delinquent and asked members to reach out to these delinquent members.

**New**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Recommended by</u>
Tom O'Neill	Sewickley	Army	Tom Stachura
John Uhrenik	Freedom	Navy	GW States
Richard Heitzenriter	Ambridge	Marine	Pete Poninsky
L. Skip Haswell	Florida	Marine	Larry Googins
Michelle Wilcox	New Brighton	Navy	Larry Googins

Motion to approve made by Rick Raich and seconded by Tish Wagner to approve the membership applications. Approved with no nay votes.

Bob Pudo questioned the membership of Tom O'Neill as he was a member of Sewickley post with 46 years and did not pay for 2022 and 2023. Tom Stachura commented that O'Neill paid \$70 to be reinstated with all his years of service.

**TRANSFER**

	<b>From</b>
Joseph J. Campisi	Carnegie
Rev Benjamin Wright	Beaver Falls
Donald Villella	Beaver Falls
Daniel L. Householder	Monaca
C. Kenneth Knouse	Coraopolis
Raymond Litzinger	Midland

Motion to approve made by Rick Raich and seconded by Kurt Ludwig to approve the transfer memberships. Approved with no nay votes. Commander States commented that just because the veteran wishes to transfer to our Post, we do not have to accept the transfer. If someone knows something about the veteran, speak up. Tom said that with VVA meeting here, the membership down the road will be good.

**Post Home-Luke Dennis**-Luke said that all is good at the Canteen. The new Pepsi system is working well and the draft system has increased in sales. Business has improved. Camera in the small parking lot has been installed and is working well.

**POW/MIA-Chuck Jackson**-Chuck said that we owe a “special debt” to all veterans.

**Public Relations-Tish Wagner**-Tish said she sent a text to Brandy Horchak regarding her dues. She will be also be with the auxiliary for their poppy collections. Tish is organizing a fund raiser for Women veterans. For public relations, Tish will be promoting our halls for rental. Also the website has been updated.

**Women’s Advisory Veterans Committee-Tish Wagner**- see comments listed above.

**Scouting-Kurt Larson**-Steve Kusnir met with troop 405 and they are onboard with Baden Post needs and are willing to assist in projects. Steve has contacted other troops and is awaiting responses. Steve indicated that there are multiple Eagle Scouts this year from a couple troops. Commander States said we have two flag retirements this year. Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>, will be the first flag retirement.

**Sons of the Legion-Gerry States**- SAL will hold a cash bash in the near future.

**Veterans Day Parade**-Gerry States said preparations are being made, as Baden Post is the host of the parade. We are on target. Commander said he will take charge of the fly over for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Commander asked about responses for Memorial Day and said Boy Scouts and Middle school band will march.

**Sick Call, Relief and employment**-Dan Gilarno and Frank Hughes.

**Post Service Officer’s report-Larry McGown**- Larry talked about veterans helping veterans.

**Unfinished business**-none.

**New Business** –Steve Kusnir said he has brochures for predetermination of veteran burials. He will place these downstairs. Tom suggested to put this information on our website.

**Good of the American Legion**- Jean Lemieux said that she has a bamboo plant at her house that needs cut. Jean asked for assistance. Please contact Jean. This is community service.

Pete Poninsky said that CPR reports are coming due and that if community service hours have been performed, get them to the Post Adjutant.

#### **Hat Fund**

\$100	#180	Tom Carr	Not registered
\$100	#080	Lou Schanck	Not registered
\$100	#245	Tracy Soracco	Not Registered
\$ 32	#275	George Conway	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: Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7PM.**

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas R. Stachura, Adjutant