



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594
CORE TEAM MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2022

The Core Team consists primarily of elected Post Officers, although Committee Chairs and Project Leads are included as needed to provide updates and enlist leadership support.

New Business:

- Steve Worner, John Stevenson, and Greg Ball, representatives from Boy Scout Troop 449 in Eagan, came to present a proposal that would make Post 594 the chartering organization for the troop. This has been Advent United Methodist Church (UMC), but that charter cannot continue due to legal issues at the national level. The Scout representatives discussed the roles and obligations of being a chartering organization. Cindy Yanchury, Post Chaplain, has been the chartering representative and would continue in that role. Advent UMC would continue to provide meeting space and equipment storage for the troop. There is no financial obligation to the Post. This was presented as an opportunity for partnership to open up new experiences for the troop members and support the Post goals of youth education and engagement. Informal discussion by core team members following the presentation indicated support for the proposal. The information will be presented at the regular post meeting in March and put to a vote. Assuming there is support from Post membership, the charter would take effect April 1, 2022, and continue through September 2022. The charter is reviewed annually and we may opt out at that time.
- Commander Beierman shared information regarding the Wall That Heals event coming to Eagan in July. Commander Beierman and Adjutant Rayman attended a planning and information meeting in January. The planning is in the very early stages and organizers are looking for committee chairs and partnerships with the City, local law enforcement, etc. There will be many opportunities to volunteer and the Post will communicate those opportunities as soon as more details are available.
- Colleen Vaubel was present to represent the Women's Auxiliary. Up to this point, the Auxiliary has operated on the periphery. It is unclear to many what the role of the Auxiliary is in relationship to Post 594. Is it a completely separate and distinct entity, or is it intended to support the goals of Post 594. We are looking to clarify the role and purpose of the Auxiliary and look for opportunities to partner. Colleen was asked to make this a topic of discussion at the next meeting of the Auxiliary.
- Commander Beierman attended a meeting of Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, where they discussed plans for Eagan Fun Fest. It was decided that Fun Fest will take place on July 3-4, 2022, at the Eagan Community Center event grounds. As in years past, Post 594 will sponsor a beer tent. The Lions Club will also be running a beer tent.
- The next blood drive has been scheduled for May 20, 2022, from 0845-1500, at the Eagan Civic Arena. Mike Peiffer is the POC for this event and will be seeking volunteers.

Old Business:

- Oratorical contest is February 26, 2022. Post 594 is sponsoring one individual, Sam Schowalter, of Eagan High School.
- The 2022 event calendar has been posted on the website.
- Post surveys were disseminated to all Post members via email. Those without email were mailed a paper copy.
- Kevin Gutknecht has joined the website/social media management team with David Hammer.

Unfinished Business:

- The results of the Post survey were shared by Rob Cahalan. To date, there is an 18% response rate. Information that can be gleaned from the survey indicates a need to continue to address the needs and concerns of Vietnam era vets, who represent 62% of our Post membership. As a result, email is the preferred method of communication. There is still a need to leverage our website and social media to reach a broader audience. Kevin Gutknecht pointed out that many people 50+ are on Facebook and sees this as an important platform. Agreed there is a need to find ways to identify and attract vets from the Gulf War and War on Terror. Youth engagement, membership, and community engagement were also possible areas of emphasis. The results of the survey will be shared with the members at the regular post meeting, and from that we will try to prioritize and organize goals for the remainder of the year. Kevin Gutknecht suggested a strategic planning group be formed later this year to begin planning for 2023.
- Wayne and John will work on a mission/vision statement based in part on the survey results and preliminary discussion. This will be shared with the core leadership team for feedback with the hope of having a draft statement to present at the March meeting.
- **Next Meeting:** April, 19, 2022, 1800, Fitz's Bar and Grill