



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594
POST MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2022

The regular post meeting was held in the conference room at Cedarvale Lanes in Eagan. A social hour was held from 1815-1900.

Before discussing Post business, members present heard from two guests:

- **BOYS SCOUTS CHARTER**: Greg Ball from Northern Star Scouting, and Steve Worner from Boy Scout Troop 449, provided information about the prospect of Post 594 being the charter organization for Troop 449. The United Methodist Church (UMC) had previously been the charter organization but has parted ways with BSA due to litigation around sexual abuse cases. Advent UMC in Eagan will continue to maintain a facilities agreement with the troop, allowing them to meet there. Advent also stores their trailers and provides insurance on the trailers. There would be no financial obligations for the Post. The Post would also not be exposed to or at risk in any way regarding any litigation. As a chartering organization, the Post would provide approval of troop leaders, support troop activities, and include troop members in Post activities to the extent practical. Post Chaplain, Cindy Yanchury, will continue in her role as the chartering representative. The chartering agreement is reviewed annually, and the Post can end that relationship at that time. The current agreement will run until September 1, 2022. BSA representatives answered a number of questions from Post members. Following the presentation, **a motion was made for Post 594 to assume the role of chartering organization. The motion was seconded. Being no further discussion, a vote was taken. All present voted in favor of the motion (none were opposed). The motion carried and Post 594 will assume the role of Chartering Organization for BSA Troop 449. Commander Beierman will inform BSA of our decision.**
- **THE WALL THAT HEALS**: Mike Roth and Jenni Shukhrabekov, representatives of DART transit network, provided an overview of The Wall that Heals event. The $\frac{3}{4}$ scale Vietnam Memorial Wall, will be coming to Rahn Park in Eagan July 14-19, 2022. They highlighted the need for volunteers and the various areas where volunteers can participate. They will provide a volunteer summary to Commander Beierman and Post leadership will work to get this information out to the Post at large so members will have an opportunity to be involved.

Old Business:

- Adjutant Rayman provided a membership update. The Post currently has \$5,249 in its account. There were over \$7,500 in donations in 2021, which helped stabilize our financial situation give the lack of revenue. Year end donation acknowledgement letters have all been mailed out.
- Vice Commander Kirchenwitz provided a membership update. The Post is currently at 92% renewal and on track for annual membership goals. National will be sending out renewal reminders on February 1.
- The Open Door Super Bagging Event took place at Eagan Cub Foods locations on February 12-13, 2022. Unfortunately, there were limited group opportunities and little interest expressed by Post members so no slot were fill by the Post for that event.
- Commander Beierman, Vice-Commander Kirchenwitz, and Adjutant Rayman attended the 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference in Nicollet, Minnesota, on Saturday, January 22, 2022.
- Stewart Fobes advised members who possess retired ID cards that they will need to upgrade to the new Facility Access Card (FAC). Members will need to make an appointment at a local Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) office to get the new ID. DEERS offices are located at the 934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve, and 133rd Air Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard bases near the airport.

- Vice Commander Barrett Kirchenwitz was nominated through official vote to a 5-year term on the 3rd District Finance Committee. The nomination was sent to 3rd District, has been acknowledged, and will be voted on at the District conference in May.

New Business:

- **DONATION REQUEST:** Tribute to the Troops, and the associated “Scoops for Troops,” programs that raise funds to support Gold Star families, have requested a donation. Post 594 has historically provided an annual donation to this cause. **A motion was made to provide \$250 to Tribute to the Troops. The motion was seconded. Being no further discussion or comment, the item was voted on and unanimously passed. \$250 will be sent to Tribute to the Troops.** Adjutant Rayman will take care of payment.
- **RESOLUTION PROPOSAL:** Vice Commander Kirchenwitz shared a proposed resolution that would increase the funding for the State Oratorical Contest prizes at the district and state level. The proposed resolution would increase the state prize level from \$3,700 to \$7500, and the 3rd District prize level from \$2,500 to \$5,000. If Post 594 agrees to help sponsor this resolution, it will be forwarded for vote and approval at the District and State level. The proposal does not require any funding at the Post level. **A motion was made to approve and support the resolution. This motion was seconded. Being no further discussion or comment, there was unanimous vote to have Post 594 submit a resolution to support this change.** Adjutant Rayman will draft a resolution and provide it to 3rd District for consideration at the 3rd District Convention in May.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** Vice Commander Kirchenwitz provided a membership update. We are current at 317 renewals which brings us to approximately 97%. There are still a number of members who have not renewed, and Vice Commander Kirchenwitz suggested a group of Post members volunteer to divvy up the phone list and reach out to those remaining members. Adjutant Rayman will put out a call for volunteers. Vice Commander Kirchenwitz will be the point of contact (POC) and coordinate this effort.
- **FINANCE:** Adjutant Rayman provided a treasurer's report. There is currently \$4,928 in the Post account. Both expenditures and revenue have been very minimal over the last two months. Adjutant Rayman highlighted a \$500 donation provided the Post by the Eagan High School (EHS) Football Boosters. This donation was in appreciation for the Post color guard presentations at several football games in the fall of 2021. The Post tax return (Form 990N) has been filed. The Minnesota Secretary of State annual non-profit renewal has also been filed so the Post is in good standing until next year.
- **POST ELECTIONS:** Post members were reminded that Post officer elections will take place at the May meeting. Any members interested in a Post position should communicate their interest to Commander Beierman at beierman66@gmail.com. The Vice Commander position will be open as current Vice Commander Kirchenwitz has indicated he will be stepping down from this role at the end of the term.
- **ORATORICAL CONTEST:** On February 12, 2022, Post 594 sponsored Oratorical Contest participant Sam Schowalter placed 2nd in the District competition and was awarded \$800 for his efforts.
- **BOYS STATE:** Paul Kovach provided an update on Boys State nominations. The information packet and application forms have been provided to EHS counselors. To date, there have been no applicants. The deadline is March 30, 2022. **A motion was made to approve \$310 in Post funds (the cost to sponsor one candidate) in the event a last minute applicant presents himself. That way, the funds can be approved and the application process can move forward. The motion was seconded. Being no further discussion or comment, a vote was taken and was unanimous to approve \$310 to support a Boys State Candidate.**
- **THE 3RD DISTRICT CONVENTION:** is scheduled for May 21, 2022, in Forest Lake. Any Post members wanting to attend should contact Commander Beierman.

Unfinished Business:

- **Law enforcement and Firefighter of the year nomination** forms have been provided to each of the respective Chiefs, and receipt has been acknowledged. As of last week, there had been no nominations from either organization. Adjutant Rayman has followed up with the Chiefs of both organizations with no response at this point. The deadline for those applications is April 1, 2022.
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon continues to advocate for **Eagan Fund Fest** this year, and hopefully allow the Post to resume its fundraiser. More details will be forthcoming.

- A summary of **Post survey results** was shared with members. Areas of emphasis were youth, community outreach, veteran support, fundraising, and Post social activities. The survey results will be used to guide the goals of the Post as well as a foundation for a mission statement which will be drafted and presented before the next meeting.
- Post 594 is sponsoring a **blood drive** at the Eagan Civic Arena on May 20, 2022. The event will run from 0900-1500. Mike Peiffer is the point of contact for this event. Volunteers are needed. Adjutant Rayman will send out an invite and reminder. Any volunteers should contact Mike Peiffer at mdpeif@q.com or 651-452-4610. Blood donors can register through the American Red Cross.

- **Upcoming Events:***

- Fisher House monthly breakfast is still on hold.
- Core Group Leadership Meeting, April 19th, Cedarvale
- Spring street clean up: May 7th or 14th. Joe Dolan is the POC and will advise once date is confirmed.
- Blood Drive: May 20th, Eagan Civic Arena
- 3rd District Convention: May 21, Forest Lake
- EHS Recruitment Recognition Ceremony, May 26th, EHS
- Memorial Day Ceremony: May 30th, Eagan Community Center Memorial Plaza
- Flag Retirement Ceremony, June 14th, Thomas Lake Pavilion

*All of these events are posted on the event calendar on our website, www.post594.org

Next Meeting: May 17, 2022, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes