



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594
POST MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 2022

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

A moment of silence was held for Post member Tom Klouda, who died suddenly at the age of 58. A floral arrangement was sent to the memorial service on behalf of the Post and a casket flag was presented to the family.

A moment of silence was held for Post member Robert Bolsinger, age 92, who died in February. He will be interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on July 25, 2022, at 0930.

Guests:

- Post 594 Boys State participant Daniel Wochnick, shared his experiences with members. Despite some initial reservations, Daniel indicated it was a fun and rewarding experience.
- Mary Jackson, Dakota County Planning, and Lisa Thompson, Director of Dakota County Veteran Services, provided a presentation about the Veterans Memorial Greenway project. The greenway will run 5 miles from Eagan to Inver Grove Heights and will eventually connect to the Mississippi River Greenway. There will be 10 memorials with different veteran themes along the route. The county is currently design engineering to build the route and planning the memorials. They would particularly like input and feedback from area veterans. Members can view the entire plan online at www.dakotacounty.us and search “veterans memorial greenway.” Mary Jackson can be contacted directly at 952-891-7039 or comments can be left at Planning@co.dakota.mn.us
- 3rd District Commander Gary Richardson and his wife, Joanne, 3rd District Treasurer, were present for the meeting. Commander Richardson was present to swear in Post officers for 2023.

Old Business:

- Wayne Beierman and Cindy Yanchury attended the recent **Eagle Scout Ceremony** at our chartered Boy Scout Troop, 594. Troop leadership thanked the Legion for attending and expressed hope for further Legion involvement.
- A motion to **donate \$250 to Tribute to the Troops** was passed at the last meeting, and a check was sent by Adjutant Rayman.
- A **resolution** was submitted by Post 594 to the state convention. The proposed resolution would increase the state prize level from \$3,700 to \$7500, and the District prize level from \$2,500 to \$5,000. The resolution was taken under advisement so the oratorical committee and finance committee could discuss details. It is anticipated the resolution will be approved prior to the next oratorical contest.
- Vice Commander Kirchenwitz reported membership renewal was at 100%
- **Post elections** were held at the May meeting. Each nomination was seconded and carried by unanimous vote. Results were as follows:
 - Commander: Wayne Beierman
 - Adjutant: John Rayman
 - Vice Commander: Pat Graham
 - Chaplain: Cindy Yanchury
 - Sergeant at Arms: Mike Peiffer
 - Historian: David Hammer

- **Boys State** was held June 12-18, 2022, at St. Johns University. Thanks to a generous donation by one of our post members, Post 594 was able to sponsor two young men from Eagan High School. Special thanks to Paul Kovach who coordinated that effort.
- A **blood drive** was held at the Eagan Civic Arena on May 20, 2022. The event was a great success with 54 units of blood collected – a 138% overage. Thanks to Mike Peiffer for coordinating this event and to all you assisted.
- The **3rd District Convention** was held in Forest Lake, Minnesota, on May 21, 2022. Wayne Beierman, Barrett Kirchenwitz, and Cindy Yanchury attended. Eagan firefighter Paul Burgett was awarded the 3rd District Firefighter of the Year and Minnesota Legion Firefighter of the Year awards for heroism. He will be recognized at the state convention in July. Gary Richardson was elected the 3rd District Commander. Wayne Beierman was appointed 3rd District Communications Director.
- The **Military Recruitment Ceremony** was held at Eagan High School on May 26, 2022. Three individuals from EHS were recognized for their commitment to military service.
- Memorial Day Ceremony was held on May 30, 2022, at the Eagan Community Center Memorial Plaza. There was a joint honor guard consisting of the Post 594 Color Guard, Eagan Police Department, and Eagan Fire Department. Cindy Yanchury gave the keynote address. The event was attended by over 80 people from the community.
- A **Flag Inspection event** was held on June 6, 2022, at Advent United Methodist Church. Members of Post 594 and members of Scout Troop 446 work jointly to inspect and prepare flags for the retirement ceremony.
- A **Flag Retirement Ceremony** was held on June 14, 2022, at Thomas Lake Park in Eagan. There was a potluck picnic preceding the ceremony. Members of Girl Scouts, Boys Scouts, and Women’s Auxiliary were present for the ceremony.
- **Eagan Funfest** was held July 3-4, 2022. The beer tent fundraiser returned and was a big success. Thank you to all the volunteers, particularly Frank and Joanne Caldwell who organized the event and worked both days; and to Dan and Cheryl Seanoa, who worked full days on both days. The fundraiser netted over \$5,000 for the Post. The Post 594 Color Guard led the parade on July 4th. The ETV coverage of the parade can be viewed on YouTube. Members were encouraged to submit improvement ideas for next year.
- The **Minnesota American Legion Convention** was held July 1-16, 2022, in Willmar, Minnesota. Wayne Beierman and Barret Kirchenwitz attended. The Post sponsored Eagan firefighter Paul Burgett was presented with the Minnesota Legion Firefighter of the Year award and is eligible to be nominated for the National Firefighter of the Year Award. Barrett Kirchenwitz was elected to a 5-year term with the 3rd District Finance Committee. Jennifer Havlicek was elected Minnesota Commander for 2023.

New Business:

- **Treasurer report:** There is currently \$4,270.97 in the Post account. Another \$5,000 is anticipated from the proceeds of Funfest, but that money as not yet been received.
- **Recruiting:** Outgoing Vice Commander and membership director, Barrett Kirchenwitz, indicated he will likely be transferring to another post in the next few months. Membership activities will be transferred to the new Vice Commander, Pat Graham. Barrett was thanked for his commitment and sacrifice to Post 594 over the last 6 years.
- **2023 Goals:** Commander Beierman indicated recruiting younger members will be a focus of the coming year. The core leadership team is also discussing remote access to Post meetings, communication improvements, and community outreach. Members are encouraged to submit other suggestions.
- **The Wall That Heals** arrived in Eagan today, July 16, 2022. The opening ceremony will be held at 1800 on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at Rahn Park. Post 594 Color Guard will present the colors. Wayne Beierman will be the MC. The wall will be on display through July 24.
- **Annual American Legion Legacy Scholarship Run** to support the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, will occur from August 21-25, arriving in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the National Convention. As in years past, Post 594 will collect donations. **A motion was made and seconded for Post 594 to provide up to \$500 in matching donations to support this endeavor. The motion was seconded and approved. Being no other discussion, the motion to provide up to \$500 in matching donations to the Legacy Scholarship was passed. Adjutant Rayman will solicit donations.**

- **City of Eagan Flag Donation** -Commander Beierman proposed the purchase of up to 10 5x8 flags for the city of Eagan. This has been an ongoing, collaborative effort with the city provide flags for city buildings. Cost of each flag is approximately \$62. **A motion was made and seconded to provide up to \$700 to purchase flags for the City of Eagan. Being no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**

Unfinished Business:

- **Upcoming Events:***
- Fisher House monthly breakfast is still on hold.
- Core Group Leadership Meeting, August 16, 2022, Cedarvale
- 9-11 Ceremony, Eagan Community Center Tribute Plaza, 1700.

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

Next Meeting: September 20, 2022, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes