



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594
POST MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2022

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

Old Business:

- Eagan Funfest was held July 3-4
- **Recruiting:** Outgoing Vice Commander and membership director Barrett Kirchenwitz indicated he will likely be transferring to a new post. Membership activities will be transferred to the new Vice Commander, Pat Graham.
- **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 meetings, communication improvements, and community outreach. Members are encouraged to submit other suggestions.
- **The Wall That Heals** arrived in Eagan on July 16, 2022, and was on display through July 24, 2022. The opening ceremony was held at 1800 on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at Rahn Park. Commander Beierman was the MC, VC Graham led the invocation, and Post 594 Color Guard presented the colors.
- **The annual American Legion Legacy Scholarship Run** was completed August 21-25, arriving in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the National Convention. Commander Beierman presented a check in the amount of \$1,225 to the National Commander as part of the Legion Legacy Scholarship Ride from Mobile, Alabama, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- **Flags for City of Eagan:** As approved at the last meeting, 11 flags were purchased for the City of Eagan and will be presented for use on city buildings.
- **The 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony** was held at the Eagan Community Center Memorial Plaza. Post 594 was well represented. Vice Commander Graham was the MC, Commander Beierman was the keynote speaker, Kevin Gutknecht read the names of deceased firefighters and police officers, Chaplain Yanchury offered the invocations, and the Post Color Guard (jointly with police and fire) presented the colors. In addition, Paul Kovach recruited Maria Peterson and Elle Peterson to sing the National Anthem and God Bless America, respectively.

New Business:

- **Treasurer report:** There is currently \$3,975 in the Post account. Another \$5,000 is anticipated from the proceeds of Funfest, but that money has not yet been received.
- **Membership update:** VC Graham provided a membership update. There have been 168/225 renewals (50%). We are on track with the state department goal of 50% by 9/14/22. The next goal is 55% by 10/15/22. A 2nd renewal notice will be sent to members on 10/7/22.
- Commander Beierman attended the **National Conference** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola was installed as the new National Commander. His theme is Veterans, Education, Teamwork, and Sponsorship (V.E.T.S.). A particular focus on veteran suicide and mental health was promoted. To that end a Post goal for the coming year is to institute buddy checks to address this issue.
- **Fisher House** meals resumed on Saturday, September 3, 2022. Dan and Cheryl Seanoa, Joe Dolan, and Steward Fobes participated. Fisher House meals will continue the first Saturday of each month. Prior to COVID, Hy-Vee generously sponsored this activity by providing monthly \$100 gift cards to help purchase the groceries necessary to prepare the meals. Commander Beierman will be reaching out to Hy-Vee to see if they are willing to continue this sponsorship.

- **Communications Committee** consisting of Commander Beierman, Adjutant Rayman, David Hammer and Kevin Gutknecht, met on Thursday, September 8, to discuss improvements in website, social media, and other communications platforms. Possible areas of improvement include a post Gmail account, text communication for Post reminders and updates, a Post Evite account to assist in volunteer sign up, and remote access to Post meetings.
- **Local Newspaper Coverage:** Commander Beierman and Adjutant Rayman met with the area report for the Eagan Sun Times to discuss coverage of Post events. The result has been several substantive articles regarding the Post and our activities in the community. These articles were shared with members present and can also be viewed on our website.
- **Fall street clean-up** will occur on Saturday, October 15, 2022. Volunteers should meet in the south end of the Eagan Walmart parking lot at 0830. Safety vests and garbage bags will be provided. POC is Joe Dolan, jtdolan@gmail.com.
- **Flag inspection** will occur at Advent United Methodist Church at 2000. Our sponsored Scout Troop 449 will assist in the flag inspection. If you are interested in participating, you are invited to arrive by 1930 to interact with the scouts.
- **Flag retirement ceremony** will be held on October 4, 2022, 1700, at Thomas Lake Park upper pavilion.
- **Veterans Day** will be a busy time for Post color guard with appearances at Rotary, Hy-Vee, Thomson Reuters, and local senior living.
- **Color guard** will be making two appearances at Eagan High School football games on 9/23/22 and 10/7/22.
- **Armed Forces Services Center:** Member Kevin Rasmussen shared that the Armed Forces Services Center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is looking for volunteers. To learn more about the center and to explore volunteer opportunities, go to <https://www.mnafsc.org>.
- **CPR:** Barrett Kirchenwitz suggested adding volunteer hours to the Post meeting sign-up sheet to assist in completing the Consolidated Post Report at the end of the year.
- **Chaplain's Minute:** Chaplain Yanchury shared information about Road ID. Road ID is a company that makes custom IDs that provide emergency contact information and access to health care information should you be in an accident or incapacitated for any reason. Informational pamphlets were provided to members present. You can learn more at: roadid.com or call toll free, 1 (800) 345-6336.

Unfinished Business:

- **Blood Drive** is scheduled for October 21, 2022, 0900-1500, at the Eagan Community Center. Volunteers should arrive by 0830. POC is Mike Peiffer, mdpeif@q.com.

Upcoming Events:*

- Flag inspection, 9/26/22, 2000, Advent United Methodist Church, Eagan.
- Flag Retirement Ceremony, 10/4/22, 1700, Thomas Lake Park Pavilion, Eagan
- Post Color Guard presentation at Eagan High School football games, 9/23/22 and 10/7/22
- Fisher House monthly breakfast – first Saturday of every month. Next: 10/1/22.
- Core Group Leadership Meeting, 10/18/22, 1800, Cedarvale
- Blood Drive, 10/21/22, 0900-1500, Eagan Community Center.

*All of these events are posted on the event calendar on our website, www.post594.org and on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/EaganPost594.

Next Post Meeting: November 16, 2022, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes