



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594
POST MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2023

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, and concluding at 2030.

Representatives from Post 594 were present seeking support for their pancake breakfast fundraiser to be held on Sunday, March 5, 2023, at Advent United Methodist Church (UMC). Tickets are \$5 per person and can also be purchased at the door.

Old Business:

- **New Post Mailing Address:** Adjutant Rayman advised the Post mailing address has been changed to a P.O. Box as approved at the last core leadership meeting. The website has been updated and State and National have been advised of the change.
- **New Sign-In Roster:** There is a new sign in roster format that allows for better tracking of information changes (e.g. email, phone number), and volunteer hours. HyVee has agreed to provide \$125 per month to help support our efforts at Fisher House.
- **The Core Leadership Group** met on 10/18/22. Two measures were discussed, voted on, and approved at the meeting. 1) Any post expenditures that exceed \$250 need to be presented to, and approved by, the Post membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting unless the nature and timing of the expenditure prevent it i.e. emergency); 2) The group approved an expenditure of \$212 to set up a post office box as the Post's permanent mailing address.

New Business:

- **Treasurer's report:** Adjutant Rayman reported there is \$9,486.20 in the Post account. Since the last regular meeting, net deposits were \$2,013.75 which consisted of \$663.75 in membership renewal dues, \$1,245 in donations, and \$105 in State Department reimbursement for membership renewals. Total withdrawals included \$138.47 in administrative expenses which included stamps, envelopes, and a gift card. Total revenue for this time period was \$1,875.28.
- **Membership report:** Vice Commander Graham reported we have processed 221 membership renewals for 2023 (67%). We are currently behind the stated goal of 80% renewals. One of the issues holding back our renewal rate is approximately 44 memberships at the Hastings Veterans Home that have not been paid. Historically, the Post has paid for these memberships but the cost to do so, approximately \$2,200, is not desirable or sustainable, particularly when there is an American Legion Post in Hastings that has gambling operations that could pay these memberships, if desired. Core leadership group will have discussion about how to approach this issue going forward.
- **Fun Fest 2023:** Fun Fest will be held July 3-4, 2023. While this was a big success last year, there were a number of suggested improvements, and planning should begin soon. Members were urged to consider helping with this planning, and encouraged to contact Commander Beierman or Adjutant Rayman if interested.
- **Flag Inspection/Retirement:** We continue to receive hundreds of retired flags from the community. **A flag inspection event is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2023** at Advent UMC. This will be conducted in conjunction with Scout Troop 449. **A flag retirement ceremony will be held Wednesday, June 14, 2023**, at Thomas Lake Pavilion. A proposal to have a pot luck gathering prior to the ceremony was discussed and supported. Post 594 Auxiliary will help coordinate this event.
- **Boys State:** Paul Kovach reported there have been no inquiries about Boys State to date.

- **Oratorical Contest:** Paul Kovach indicated there may be 2-3 student interested in participating in the Oratorical Contest. Urgency is needed as the **District competition is being held on 2/11/23**. If more than one student wishes to participate, we will have to conduct a Post contest to determine who will compete at the District contest. Paul will prioritize this event and get back to Post leadership in the next day or two.
- **Post 449 Report:** Cindy Yanchury reported that Troop 449 is looking for assistance to work with scouts toward earning citizenship merit badges (community, nation, world, society). Anyone interested should contact Cindy and she will provide information regarding the process and time commitment.
- **Youth Outreach:** Cindy Yanchury shared the book “America’s White Table.” This is a children’s book that seeks to help children understand and appreciate the sacrifices of armed forces members and their families. Cindy is proposing the Post reach out to the school district to see about sharing this impactful book with age-appropriate children. The Post could presumably purchase a number of these books to provide to the schools. This would address our youth education goals for the Post. This proposal will be discussed in more detail at the next Core Leadership meeting so more details and a proposed course of action can be presented to the membership at large.
- **Post 594 2022 Accomplishments:** Commander Beierman presented a summary of Post 594 accomplishments in 2022, which was quite extensive. A proposed calendar for 2023 was discussed and approved.
- **Post 594 Goals for 2023:** At the last meeting of the Core Leadership Group in December, there was discussion about prioritizing goals for 2023. The identified goals included 1) emphasis on youth education/activities (e.g. scouts, elementary age students, high school and Legion Baseball); 2) Post social events (identified in the 2022 Post survey); 3) Veteran’s support (e.g. buddy checks, veterans home); and 4) Post mentorship (succession planning for Post leadership). These goals were presented to members present. There were no objections or additions to the proposed goals so these will provide general guidance and focus for 2023 Post activities.
- **Auxiliary:** Post 594 Auxiliary was present with the goal of ongoing collaboration to support the goals of Post 594 and the Auxiliary. Adjutant Rayman asked the Auxiliary members to discuss and clarify what they believed their role to be with respect to its relationship with the Post so as to create a mutually beneficial relationship. One of the areas proposed by Post Leadership is to fill the role of Second Vice-Commander which is to coordinate social activities for the Post. This serves two purposes: 1) to facilitate comradeship amongst members; and 2) to create a family environment that may appeal to younger veterans with children and other activities. Ways in which the Post can support the Auxiliary include donations and activities related to Every Third Saturday, and Poppy sales. Auxiliary President, Paulette Stark, advised they are planning the annual **poppy sale fundraiser on May 19-21, 2023 at Sam’s Club**. They will be asking for assistance to fill some of those volunteer shifts.
- Barrett Kirchenwitz reported that St. Thomas Academy will be hosting The Wall That Heals May 26-29, 2023, and suggested Post membership should be made aware.
- Kevin Rasumussen reported that Twin Cities Honor Flight will be planning a flight to Washington, D.C. in the Fall of 2023. Dates are yet to be determined.

Unfinished Business:

- **Communications/Media:** Discussions are ongoing regarding possible areas of improvement in the communications area, including a post Gmail account, text communication for Post reminders and updates, a Post Sign Up Genius account to assist in volunteer sign up, and remote access to Post meetings. On January 12, 2023 Commander Beierman and Adjutant Rayman met with David Hammer and Kevin Gutknecht on these issues. Priority will be given to developing a Post email account to disseminate Post activities and updates, and a separate Post email account tied to a Post Sign Up Genius account to facilitate organizing events and volunteer opportunities. These are priority items as look toward a number of Post events coming up this spring and summer.
- **Fundraising:** Wayne, Pat, and John R., have made efforts to reach out to local business in an effort to solicit donations to Post 594 community efforts. Companies on that list include Sam’s Club, Costco, Target, Cub Foods, and HyVee. To date, HyVee has agreed to contribute \$125 per month to support Fisher House, and Costco has provided a \$50 gift card. Those efforts are ongoing.

Upcoming Events:*

- Fisher House monthly breakfast on 2/11/23 and 3/11/23
- Core Leadership Meeting 2/21/23, 1800, Cedarvale Lanes

*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 Meeting: March 21, 2023, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes