



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594

POST MEETING MINUTES

July 18, 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 2010.

Moment of silence in memory of Minnesota native Officer Jake Wallin of the Fargo Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on July 15, 2023

Old Business:

- **Post elections:** Officer elections were held at the last regular Post meeting on May 20, 2023. There were no changes to the current Post leadership.
- **Core Meeting:** Core leadership group met on June 20, 2023, to finalize Funfest plans.
- **Military Recognition:** The annual Military Recognition Ceremony was held at Eagan High School (EHS), to recognize and celebrate EHS students who have committed to military service after graduation. Ten EHS students were recognized along with their family members. Cindy Yanchury was the keynote speaker.
- **Wall That Heals:** Over Memorial Day weekend, St. Thomas Academy hosted The Wall That Heals. Wayne Olsen and Wayne Beierman participated in the motorcycle escort from Farmington to Mendota Heights.
- **Auxiliary:** Poppy sales were held May 19-21 at the Eagan Sam's Club. \$1,700 was raised to support Auxiliary activities.
- **Memorial Day:** The Post 594 color guard and other Post members were busy on Memorial Day. There were two graveside ceremonies at St. John's cemetery and Christ Lutheran Church, respectively, followed by a flag raising at New Perspective Assisted Living. Taps was provided by Eagan High School students at each of these events. At 12:45, a "Never Forget" music concert was held at the Eagan Central Park band shell. Music was provided by local musician, Luke Spehar, whose brother was killed in Afghanistan. John Rayman gave a brief presentation about Post 594 activities, and Wayne Beierman spoke about his service during the Vietnam War. Following the concert, Post 594 hosted the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the memorial plaza at Central Park. Guest speaker was Mike Lotzer, pastor and U.S. Army Chaplain who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Music was provided by Eagan High School students.
- **Flag Retirement:** A flag retirement ceremony was held on June 14, 2021, at Thomas Lake Park pavilion in Eagan. The ceremony was preceded by a potluck picnic organized by the Women's Auxiliary. Boy Scout Troop 449 was again active in the inspection and retirement of over 600 flags.
- **FunFest:** Post 594 again sponsored a beer tent at Eagan Funfest. The Post tent was upgraded from last year, including decorations, a credit card reader, ATM, games, and American Legion Merchandise. Volunteers worked hard to make this a success. Boy Scout Troop 449 assisted with clean up on the festival grounds. As a result of everyone's efforts, Post 594 earned \$6,040!

New Business:

- **Treasurer's report:** Adjutant Rayman reported there is \$8,729.82 in the Post account. This does not include the revenue from FunFest. Expenditures of \$630, as approved by Post membership, were used to purchase items (e.g. flutter flag, personalized table cloth, volunteer t-shirts, and merchandise) for FunFest and future public events/fundraisers. The new membership year has begun and renewals have started pouring in. Adjutant Rayman explained the dues structure with the Post receiving \$6.75, and the rest going to state and national to support American Legion goals abroad. Members were encouraged to renew their annual memberships online when possible.
- **Membership report:** Vice Commander Graham has begun the new membership year for 2024 which began 7/1/2023. So far, we have 58 renewals. Commander Beierman expressed a desire for 245 active members this year.
- **Fisher House:** Danny and Cheryl Seanoa, Stewart Fobes, and Joe Dolan took care of the monthly breakfast at Fisher House and received many positive comments from families and organizers. An article and pictures were submitted to the Sun Times for publication.

- **Boy Scouts:** Our sponsored Boy Scout Troop, Troop 449, will be disbanding due to dwindling numbers. They will be merging with another Boy Scout Troop. While we will no longer sponsor the troop, the new troop was expressed an interested in maintaining a relationship with Post 594.
- **Legacy Run:** The 2023 American Legion Legacy Run will be held Aug. 20-24, to raise money for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to children of the fallen and disabled. Donations are requested. Post 594 will again match the first \$500 in donations. **A motion was made and seconded to support post fund matching. A vote was taken. Being no objections, the motion was approved.**
- **Sutton Farms:** Mike Peiffer shared information about a military appreciate event at Sutton Ridge Farm in Jordan, Minnesota, on September 9, 2023. The event will run from 0930-1600. Cost is free to military members and veterans. There will be food and entertainment.

Unfinished Business:

- **Von Hanson's Fundraiser:** Duff Duffina presented more details for the Von Hanson's fundraiser scheduled for August 12-13, 2023. He provided a sign-up sheet for those present to volunteer for shifts. Adjutant Rayman will create a Signup Genius online volunteer signup and send it out to the Post at large. Those signed up on Duff's volunteer sheet will be incorporated into the Signup Genius version. Shifts will run from 0900-1300 and 1300-1700 each day. Discussion about needed contributions (tables, chairs, coolers, etc.) was had and seemed to be covered.
- **Communications/Media:** Constant Contact, the paid group email service approved by the Post is yet to be finalized. The Post email list has been provided to David Hammer and he is working to get all of the addressed added to the account. Likewise, the Post account for Signup Genius is yet to be finalized. We will work on getting this accomplished once the email program is finished.
- **Buddy Checks:** We need to make some progress on buddy checks. Wayne, John, Pat, and Cindy will meet to work on a script and strategy for executing this important program.
- **Veterans Honor Flight:** Still looking to identify WWII or Korean War vets to submit for this honor. Next flight is in September 2023.

Upcoming Events:*

- **9-11 Ceremony**
- **Blood Drive:** 10/20/23, 0830-1500, Eagan Community Center. POC is Mike Peiffer.
- **Core Leadership Meeting:** 8/15/23, 1800, Cedarvale Lanes

*All events are posted on our events calendar at www.post594.org

Next Regular Post Meeting: September 19, 2023, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes