



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594

POST MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 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.

Old Business:

- Per our standing agreement and partnership with the City of Eagan, 11 new flags were provided to the city to fly at city buildings, including City Hall, several fire departments, and Eagan Community Center/Memorial Plaza. The flags were presented to City Maintenance Manager Mike Sipper by Wayne Beierman, John Rayman, and Joe Dolan.
- Scout Troop 449 has disbanded due to low attendance. Remaining members will be incorporated into another troop. Post 594 will discontinue our sponsorship agreement with the Boy Scouts, but will support the new troop as needed and include them in Post activities (e.g. flag inspection/retirement).
- The Von Hanson's fundraiser was held August 12-13 and raised \$2,475 for Post 594. Duff Duffina was recognized for his part in planning this event.
- The Minnesota American Legion Convention was held July 12-13 in Redwood Falls, MN. Wayne Beierman and Barrett Kirchenwitz attended.
- The National American Legion Convention was held August 26-31 in Charlotte, NC. Wayne Beierman attended. Post 594 received a certificate of appreciation award for our efforts in the community. A check for \$1,150 was provided to the Legacy Scholarship drive. Thank you to all in Post 594 who donated! Minnesota raised a total of \$176,000; and National raised a total of \$1.5 million.
- This year's 9/11 ceremony was a big success. The event was highlighted by a joint color guard featuring Post 594, the Eagan Police Department, and the Eagan Fire Department, as well as a keynote address by Minnesota American Legion Firefighter of the Year, Paul Burgett. Post 594 Adjutant John Rayman was the MC, Post Chaplain Cindy Yanchury provided the invocation and read the names of deceased police officers. Post Historian David Hammer read the names of deceased firefighters. A special thanks to Paul Kovach for arranging the students from Eagan High School that sang the National Anthem and played Taps. Tom Mullen commented on the event and stated in his opinion, it was the best one yet.

New Business:

- **Treasurer's report:** Adjutant Rayman reported there is \$16,030.79 in the Post account. Total revenue since the last regular post meeting in July was \$3,650. This included legacy scholarship donations, net membership dues, HyVee donations, and the Von Hanson's fundraiser. Expenses totaled \$544 for two new color guard uniforms, gift cards for the EHS students who volunteered for the 9/11 ceremony, and \$500 in Post matching funds for the Legacy Fund. Being no questions or objections, the treasurer's report was approved.
- **Membership report:** Vice Commander Graham reported we have completed 175 renewals (56%) which is slightly above membership goals established by state headquarters. By early October, the membership goal is 60%. All members who have not yet renewed, are encouraged to do so. A reminder will be going out to any members who have not yet renewed.
- **Color Guard:** Post 594 Color Guard has been busy presenting the colors at EHS home football games. The next appearances are on September 29, and October 13. Additionally, the Color Guard will be doing multiple appearances on or around Veteran's Day, including Thomson Reuters on 11/8; Eagan Rotary luncheon on 11/8; Eagan HyVee on 11/10; and the EHS Veterans Day Program on 11/10. All of these events will be posted to the Post 594 website events calendar.
- **VA Volunteers:** Tom Mullen spoke on several VA related topics. Flu Shots are currently available at no cost to veterans. The updated Covid 19 booster will be available in the near future. The VA has numerous volunteer opportunities and Post members are encouraged to check them out. Interested members can visit the Center for Development and Civic Engagement or check out possibilities at www.va.gov

- **Fundraiser?** Tom Mullon brought up another possibility for a fundraiser through Applebee's. According to their national website, we may be able to organize an evening where a portion of meals sold is donated to Post 594.
- **EHS Flags:** EHS has requested donation of a 5x8 national flag and a POW/MIA flag for their main entrance. This was approved and flags will be presented to EHS in the near future.
- **Fall Conference:** The Minnesota American Legion Fall Conference will be held October 27-28 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Anyone interested in attending should contact Commander Beierman or Adjutant Rayman.
- **Auxiliary:** Auxiliary President Paulette Stark reported they will be hosting a clothing donation box at the Eagan Community Center starting on September 20. Any donated items will be provided to Every Third Saturday.
- **Street Cleanup:** Joe Dolan advised the fall street cleanup will take place on Saturday, 10/21/23. Volunteers clean up trash on Duckwood Drive between Denmark Ave and Pilot Knob Ave. Anyone interested in participating should report to the south end of the Eagan Walmart parking lot that morning at 0830.
- **Veteran Day Luncheon:** Each year, Eagan Rotary has an annual Veterans Day luncheon to honor area veterans. For several years now, the Post 594 Color Guard has presented the colors at this event. This year, the Rotary has graciously offered to open up attendance to Post 594 members and provide lunch at no cost. However, **if you are interested in attending, you must contact Commander Beierman by October 15, 2023. RSVP is mandatory** to help the Rotary plan this event. The luncheon is schedule for Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 1200.

Unfinished Business:

- **Communications/Media:** Constant Contact, the paid group email service approved by the Post is up and running. Recent messages to the Post have been sent via Constant Contact. The service will also allow us to target emails to specific groups (e.g. by service, war, membership status, etc.) so will be useful in more effectively managing our communications. Once Constant Contact is a little more established, the next conversation will likely be around text messaging. Additionally, further work needs to be don't on creating a Signup Genius account to our post email for use by project and event managers to organize volunteer activities.
- **Fisher House:** Danny and Cheryl Seanoa, Stewart Fobes, and Joe Dolan continue to take care of the monthly breakfast at Fisher House and received many positive comments from families and organizers.
- **Buddy Checks:** This continues to be a point of emphasis and will be the topic of conversation for the core leadership group. We will be asking as many post members as possible to assist in making phone calls to our many post members who do not attend our meetings. A script and resource referral guide will be developed to assist callers and make the prospect less intimidating.
- **Veterans Honor Flight:** Still looking to identify WWII or Korean War vets to submit for this honor. Next flight is in September 2023.
- **Blood Drive:** Post 594 will be sponsoring a blood drive in conjunction with the Red Cross on October 20 at the Eagan Community Center. Two shifts requiring 3 people per shift, will be required to support this event. Anyone who is interested should contact Mike Peiffer, mdpeif@q.com or 612-998-0450

Quilts of Valor Presentation:

- Joe Dolan was presented with a Quilt of Valor for his service in Vietnam and his outstanding and active support of Post 594.

Upcoming Events:*

- **Blood Drive:** 10/20/23, 0900-1500, Eagan Community Center. POC is Mike Peiffer.
- **Street Cleanup:** 10/21/23, 0830, Walmart Parking Lot
- **Core Leadership Meeting:** 10/17/23, 1800, Cedarvale Lanes
- **EHS Color Guard:** EHS football games 9/29/23 1900; 10/13/23 1900
- **EHS Color Guard/Rotary Veterans Luncheon:** 11/8/23, 1200, The Lost Spur golf club, Eagan
- **EHS Color Guard:** Veterans Day Activities 11/10/23. HyVee 0700; EHS 0900; *All events are posted on our events calendar at www.post594.org

Next Regular Post Meeting: November 21, 2023, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes