



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594

POST MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 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.

Special Guest: Post 594 was joined by 3rd District Vice Commander, and Scott County Veteran Services Officer Marissa Lacourt. Marissa addressed overall State Department Legion goals as well as the decision by National to increase membership dues. Next year, membership dues will increase \$5 for national, and \$3 for state, for a total increase of \$8. Marissa encouraged posts to consider their own dues increases for next year to make up for lost revenue. The Legion recognizes the challenges this will cause for membership, but was necessary given the increased costs of doing business.

Completed Business:

- **Blood Drive:** The blood drive, organized by Mike Peiffer, was completed on 10/20/23 at the Eagan Community Center. 41 pints of blood were collected.
- **Street Cleanup:** Fall street cleanup, organized by Joe Dolan, was completed on 10/21/23.
- **Color Guard:** Post 594 Color Guard participated in a number of community events, including presenting the colors at four Eagan High School (EHS) home football games; 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; EHS Veterans Day Program on 11/10, and Good Samaritan Assisted Living in Inver Grove Heights on 11/13.
- **EHS Flags:** John Rayman and Danny Seanoa presented new National and POW/MIA flags to EHS on 11/7/23. The flags were presented to EHS Principal Polly Reikowski.
- **Fall Conference:** Wayne Beierman and Barrett Kirchenwitz attended The Minnesota American Legion Fall Conference held October 27-28 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.
- **Scout Chartering:** Wayne Beierman and Cincy Yanchury met with Troop 449 to discuss possible chartering of their organization through Post 594. Ultimately, the Scouts have decided to have Eagan Rotary charter their troop. However, they are still interested in partnering with Post 594 on relevant post activities (e.g. flag inspection/retirement), merit badges, and community events.

New Business:

- **Treasurer's report:** Adjutant Rayman reported there is \$16,493.06 in the Post account. Total revenue since the last regular post meeting in September was \$601.50. This included legacy scholarship donations, net membership dues, HyVee donations, and the Von Hanson's fundraiser. Expenses totaled \$503 for administrative expenses, flags for EHS and scouts, reimbursements for Fisher House. Revenue totaled \$1,104 through memberships, monthly HyVee donations, other Post donations, and revenue generated by Color Guard appearances. Being no questions or objections, the treasurer's report was approved.
- **Membership report:** Vice Commander Graham reported we have completed 169 renewals (68%) which is slightly above membership goals established by state headquarters. A reminder was sent out to any members who have not yet renewed.

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 done on creating a Signup Genius account to our post email for use by project and event managers to organize volunteer activities. There will be ongoing efforts to improve and modernize communication efforts.

- **Post Goals for 2024:** Points of emphasis and the topic of conversation for the core leadership group next month will include:
 - **Buddy Checks:** Suicide and mental health have been a priority for the American Legion. We will be asking as many post members as possible to assist in making phone calls to check on 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.
 - **Youth Education:** Also a priority for 2024, Post 594 will be placing emphasis on youth education. We hope to work with the school district to present “The White Table,” a book for youth regarding the honoring of POW/MIA’s; offer flag education and patriotism presentations, be more proactive in our involvement with Legion Baseball, and continue our partnership with Eagan High School.
 - **Post Outreach:** Now that we have established a more healthy back account, discussions will center on how we can best use that money to support veteran initiatives at the post, state, and national levels.

While the core leadership team is committed to establishing meaningful goals for the post to keep us moving forward, they value input and feedback from post members. All members are encouraged to provide feedback regarding post goals for 2024 or any feedback regarding the efficient operation of the post to assist the leadership team.

Quilts of Valor Presentation:

- Mike Peiffer, Cheryl Seanoa, Paulette Stark, and Cindy Yanchury were all presented a Quilt of Valor (QOV) for their dedication to the Post and local veterans, as well as honoring their military service. Maureen Winchester and Marilyn Bremmer from QOV presented the quilts.

Upcoming Events:*

- **Core Leadership Meeting:** December 19, 2023, 1800, Cedarvale Lanes
- **Next Regular Post Meeting:** January 16, 2024, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes
- **3rd District Mid-Winter Conference:** January 27, 2024, 0900

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