



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594

POST MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2024

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.

A moment of silence was provided in memory of Post member and WWII veteran William York Critchley, who passed away on January 13, 2024.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- Lisa Thomas, Karly Tiegs, and Duane Pike from Dakota County Veteran Services. Lisa addressed the important relationship between the Post and the veteran services office for any type of veteran support services. She also discussed the latest plans and progress on the Veterans Greenway which should be started sometime this fall. Karly addressed the PACT ACT and its impact on area veterans. Information was provided at the meeting, and a detailed message with relevant links had previously been sent to post membership from post leadership. Duane addressed the veterans court and the continued need for volunteers.
- Tom McKenna, Executive Director at Every Third Saturday. Tom talked about the history and development of ETS from humble beginnings in the VA Medical Center parking lot, to their current facility which includes a fitness center, clothing store, community space, and veteran advocates. They currently serve approximately 300 men and women veterans per month and are always looking for donations of clothing, food, or money.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Post Dues:** As discussed at the January meeting, Post leadership has proposed a membership dues increase for 2024 and beyond. National, State and District dues will increase by a total of \$10. This increase will force the Post to increase our dues to maintain a comparable membership revenue to the Post. The Post currently receives \$6.75 per membership renewal based on the current rate. The new rate would provide \$7 per membership and would help ensure no additional increase for the next few years. Until June 30, 2024, members can renew at the current rate for three years. In addition, the Paid Up For Life (PUFL) option is also available. Members were encouraged to take advantage of the multi-year savings currently available. There were no questions, further discussion, or objections to the proposed increase.
- **Buddy Checks:** Wayne, Cindy, and Jim Peterson sent out postcards to Post members. Phone calls will be made to current members. Volunteers are needed and encouraged.
- **Legionville:** This issue was table at the next meeting re: donation of Post funds to Legionville (District Commander's Project). There was still a general disconnect as far as the money's direct benefit to veterans or their families. The focus on bus safety, water safety, etc. and partnership with the state patrol, while laudable, seems diluted from any direct benefit to veterans. This goes to our discussion re: use of Post funds which will be presented at the next meeting. Agreed that a donation should be provided, simply to support the Commander's Project, but should be in the neighborhood of \$150-\$200.
- **Boys State/Girls State:** Paul Kovach indicated there have been no applications for 2024 Boys State or Girls State. Deadline for application is April 1, 2024.
- **Post Elections:** Members were reminded that elections for Post officers will take place at the May 2024 meeting. Anyone interested in running for any leadership position should notify the Commander or Adjutant no later than April 15, 2024.
- **Communications:** No significant changes in this area. Efforts remain ongoing to improve and enhance Post communications. Work on text communications, Post Sign Up Genius account and remote access to Post meetings is still needed/ongoing.
- **Fundraising:** Our two main fundraisers, Fun Fest beer tent and Von Hanson's are on the calendar. Fun Fest will take place at the Eagan Central Park parade ground over the 4th of July weekend. Von Hanson's will take place on August 17 & 18. Planning input and volunteer support will be needed. More to come soon.

- **School Outreach:** Plans to go into District 196 elementary schools to present F is for Flag and The White Table are still in place with the goal to execute this in or around November of 2024.
- **Legion Baseball/Softball:** Efforts are underway to strengthen our relationship with Legion Baseball in Eagan. Post member Mark Franscone is working on coordination with the Legion coach, Soren Agar, to work out the details. The post will also be reaching out to Eagan High School girls' softball about forming a Legion softball team. Given the logistics needed and timing, that goal will probably not be realized until 2025.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
- **Treasurer's report:** Adjutant Rayman reported there is \$17,287.26 in the Post account. Total revenue since the last regular post meeting in September was \$627.43. This included donations and net membership dues. Expenses totaled \$454 for administrative expenses (buddy check post cards and stamps), and conference registration for the mid-winter conference (x4). Revenue totaled \$1,082. This included \$500 donations from Home Federal and Eagan High School Football Boosters, respectively, an online donation from our website, and net membership revenue. Being no questions or objections, the treasurer's report was approved.
- **Membership:** 2023 membership progress is at 93%. The new membership year begins July 1. Members were encouraged to renew if they have not and take advantage of multi-year option currently available.
- **Legion College:** Commander Beierman will attend Legion College from April 25-28, 2024.
- **Quilts of Valor:** QOV volunteers have provided, and will continue to provide, high quality quilts to honor our veterans. They have asked to remain anonymous and have asked for nothing in return. However, Commander Beierman suggested the Post provide a gift card from a local fabric/craft store in the amount of \$500 to support their efforts. **A motion was made to donate a \$500 gift card to QOV volunteers. This motion was seconded. There being no discussion or objections, the motion carried.**
- **Eagan Market Fest:** Several times per summer, the Eagan outdoor marketfest has a community night, when community organizations can set up stands to promote their businesses/activities in the city. Post 594 would like to set up an information tent to increase our visibility in the community. Wayne has submitted an application to have a stand on July 10 and August 14, 2024. More information will be provided at the next meeting.
- **Poppy Sales:** The Legion Auxiliary will be conducting poppy sales at the Eagan Sams Club May 17-19. Volunteers will be needed. Members should be looking for a Sign Up Genius volunteer sign up in the near future.
- **Department Happenings:** Barret Kirchenwitz encouraged members to participate in a rally at the State Office Building on March 21, 2024 at 0830, to support HF 2000, which addresses tax cuts for charitable gambling. Barrett also advised the Department will be conducting a strategic planning session and encouraged members to provide input/feedback to the Department to assist in that effort.
- **District Nominations:** Post Chaplain Cindy Yanchury has been approached to be the Third District Chaplain for 2024. **After presentation and discussion, a motion was made to nominate Cindy Yanchury as the Third District Chaplain. The motion was seconded. Being no objections, the motion passed and will be forwarded to District for consideration.**

Upcoming Events:*

- **Vietnam War Veterans Ceremony:** March 29, 2024, 0900, Fort Snelling National Cemetery.
- **Core Leadership Meeting:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 1800, Cedarvale Lanes
- **Street Cleanup:** Saturday, April 20, 2024, 0830. South parking lot of Walmart in Eagan. POC is Joe Dolan
- **Third District Convention:** Saturday, May 18, 2024, 0800, New Prague Post 45
- **Next Regular Post Meeting:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes
- **Blood Drive:** The next blood drive will take place on Tuesday June 18, 2024 from 0900-1500 at the Eagan Community Center. POC is Mike Peiffer.
- **State Legion Convention:** July 11-13, Willmar, MN

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