



DANIEL R. OLSEN
American Legion Post 594
Eagan, MN

Core Leadership Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2024

Members Present: John Rayman, Cindy Yanchury (via Zoom), Wayne Beierman (via Zoom), Pat Graham, Colleen Vaubel, Mike Peiffer, David Hammer, Jim Staloch, Paulette Stark, Danny Seanoa

Meeting called to order at 1700

1. Post Constitution and Bylaws

The group reviewed the latest draft of the constitution and bylaws. Suggested revisions will be made to the document for review at the next meeting with a goal of presenting the final draft to Post membership at the January meeting.

2. Post Priorities and Capacity

Members were asked for priority suggestions for the coming year. There appeared to be agreement on focusing on buddy checks. There is available training and resources through the State Department, and this will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming Fall Conference. Further discussion will then be required to determine the scope and purpose of our contact with Post members. As an adjunct, it was also agreed that a short survey (sample provided by Commander Rayman), to assist us in developing a resource guide would be helpful. The Post Services Officer will be a key component of this effort. There is also a need to proactively reach out to our Post members to plan and support the standard events we have on the calendar (e.g., Memorial Day, Flag Retirement, Market Fest Community Day, Fun Fest, VonHanson's, and 9-11) Cindy has begun to put together a framework.

3. Financial Considerations

Finance Officer Paul Kovach could not be present for the meeting, but he and Commander Rayman met to discuss financial considerations. Among those are formulating a budget, developing an Eagan Foundation Scholarship, and developing guidelines for financial requests (e.g., donations, requests for assistance). Core members were asked to begin thinking about how we might prioritize and vet requests for money from the Post as well as what criteria should be used to define a potential scholarship.

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4. Flag Collection and Retirement Update

Commander Rayman Provided an Update on our flag collection and retirement issues. The flag box at Sam's Club is back online. We are still working on getting the lines of communication figured out to ensure timely collection of the flags from that box, including establishing a point of contact for the Post who will be responsible for collection. The new flag box at the Eagan Community Center (ECC) has been popular. Commander Rayman will continue to be the point of contact at ECC and be responsible to collect those flags. The collection of flags from these two locations presents problems around storage and disposal.

Storage: Expecting post members to store the flags at the personal residences is not sustainable. Commander Rayman would like to explore the possibility of a small rental storage unit for that purpose as well as other post assets. A central storage location would help streamline our processes for flags and events. This possibility has already been discussed with our finance officer, and could be part of a more structured budget. Core group members approved of exploring this option.

Disposal: As discussed at previous meetings, the disposal of hundreds of nylon and polyester flags at our current location (Thomas Lake Pavilion) is not sustainable, both from an environmental and public relations standpoint. Commander Rayman has explored other options in the community with no success. However, a recent discussion with the owner of Sutton Ridge Farms (hosts of the annual military appreciation day), are interested in partnering with the Post on disposal. They may support disposal of flags at their location and have floated the idea of incorporating a flag education and retirement display at the military appreciation event. Discussions are ongoing. In addition, former commander and post member Tom Mullons has offered to take our flags to Fort Snelling for disposal. As a member of the rifle squad, this may be an option in the short term, but it is unclear if we can partner with Fort Snelling for a longer-term commitment. We would continue to hold flag education with local scouts twice per year, and a flag retirement event on or around Flag Day each year, but using cotton flags gleaned from the inspection process.

5. 3rd District Update

Past Commander Wayne Bierman (now 3rd District Vice Commander) indicated a continued push for membership. While this is important, the value of membership is a critical part of retaining current members and attracting new members.

6. Officer or Chair-Specific Reports

- a. Chaplain Jim Staloch is looking for more guidance to help clarify his role within the Post. Prior Chaplain Cindy Yanchury will assist in having this discussion with him
- b. Paulette Stark indicated there has been no further effort to add structure of membership to the Auxiliary at this point. They will maintain their charter and work with the Post to support Auxiliary and Post events.
- c. Post member Neil Hetherington, asked to communicate the continued need for peer mentors in the Veterans Drug Court. This information, along with contact and enrollment information, has been sent to the Post via email and will be included in the next 3rd District Newsletter.

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7. Events (Follow-Up and Looking Ahead)
 - a. 9-11 Memorial and Tribute Event concluded. Great event with lots of community representation.
 - b. Veteran's Day events including color guard appearances and Eagan High School veterans' day event.
 - c. Quilts of Valor. Five quilts of valor will be presented at the next Post meeting.
 - d. Veteran's Greenway Project. Ribbon cutting event concluded.
 - e. Next Post Meeting: November 19, 2024, 1900

8. With no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1830.

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