

Core Team Minutes
Thomas Lake Park
08.21.26
1700 – 1900

Picnic @ 1700 – We had a lovely picnic and like every potluck so much great food! And then it was cupcakes and a candle lit to celebrate Chaplain Jim Staloch's birthday. It was a big one ending in a 0!

Meeting Called to Order by the Commander at 1800

Commanders Call – Commander Doble outlined his agenda and expectations for the post leadership. We are all asked to uphold the highest standards of professionalism in writing and in conversation.

Continuing Business

1. New website update – The new website is nearly completed – we were able to take a look at it at this meeting. Without a doubt it is very well done. A question was asked regarding training on how to use the website and its many features. The plan is provide this at our September meeting.
2. Update on Bus Trip to Minnesota Military Museum **09.18.26 2VC Beltran** is the POC for this event. Bri shared that the trip is now free thanks to a generous donation, but signup is required. Contact Bri if interested.
3. Discussion regarding 09.11.26 **ACTION ITEM – POC needed if we are going to move forward with this. It is noted that this the date for the annual police golf tournament so they won't be available. Fire has said they'll provide whatever we need.** It is possible that it will be First Responders Night at the EHS football game and our Color Guard may be asked to be part of it. Maybe Bri & Jo could do a reading at the game as part of ceremony. We will wait until we hear from Paul K. about details.
4. Cedarvale Connection – Honorary Membership to Tony/Manager This was approved at the Post meeting, commander and adjutant will speak with Tony. We will also discuss installation of large screen TV for our Zoom connection as well as being able to project the agenda at meetings.
5. September Meeting 09.15.26 – At the July Post meeting we discussed having an open house at Cedarvale or another site. This is an ambitious undertaking! Discussion on is this the best time for it? We will need approval from Cedarvale. Rob will lead the chaplain's prayer since Jim will be out of town. Tabled until late Spring/early Summer. Suggestion to have it at the Tribute Plaza. Stewart suggests that a team of post members make calls to those whom we don't see at meetings and making a personal invitation. **MSC to postpone. Mark will check with Bri/Jo about being POC. Rob will check on commercial tents.**

6. Hosting Third District Mid-Winter – Approved by Third District. **Date 01.16.27** A committee for this will be put together at our August Core Team Meeting. POC needed. Security deposit has been paid. 0900 – 1500 at the ECC. When the website goes live there will be a link to register and pay.

Other:

- EKSAR (Eagan Kick Start Rotary) Clays for a Cause - Monday, 24 August. Reach out to Cindy if interested.
- **Action Item:** Food Shelf Collection for the VAMC – Stewart and Rob will help with transport – September notice needed. Rob will cover the collection in September. Suggestion to put the collection box at the top of the stairs. **Check with Cedarvale**
- Senior Housing Support Connections – Suggest that we change the goal for this from 15 to 4 until we have enough equipped group facilitators
- Senior Expo – October 6 Synergy once again offered to share a table with us. Thank you! Cindy will staff some of the time, other volunteers needed.
- Rotary Veterans Celebration – November 4 is the date. Location Lost Spur Country Club. More info to follow.

Wayne reported on what he learned at a membership expo in Indianapolis:

- A reminder that every member matters.
- Meet people at the door
- Intro them to other members.
- Call them as a follow up.
- Initiation ceremony for new members.
- Put together a new member kit.

American Legion Magazine is changing format which will result in significant cost savings

Growing the team – suggestions on inviting members to volunteer

Communication – Instagram & Tic Toc are what's in use now. Instagram is a Meta platform so until we are able to switch ownership of the Facebook page we cannot make best use of Instagram.

Is it time to conduct a new membership survey to see what the will of the people is now. The last survey was done in **????**

Take Care of American Veterans Act – Legion is backing it. 52 things in that legislation that will help veterans. Strongest and best way to move forward.

BPOTS – Be Part of the Solution will be new national commander's theme.

Membership Goal for Post 594 is 203 members (which is our current membership number) and we're at 60% renewals.

Stewart reports that more volunteers are needed at the VAMC. Four hours per week is all that is needed. Escorting patients is one of the many things volunteers do. He will provide more info for the Fall newsletter.

- Update info from Stewart - added on 08.19.26:

MINNEAPOLIS VA NEEDS YOUR HELP – PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A VOLUNTEER

The Minneapolis VA Hospital (VA) is looking for volunteers to help service veterans.

Volunteer opportunities include the following:

- 1) Veteran patient services within the VA: entrance information desk assistance (referred to as “first impressions” volunteer), transporting veterans, Coffee Service, etc.,
- 2) Clinical services within the VA: assistance at medical departments,
- 3) Veteran transportation outside of the VA and
- 4) Summer student program to work along with regular volunteers

There is a training program and volunteers are expected to work at least 4 hours a week (Monday – Friday) for a minimum of 6 months. Occasional absences for sudden personal reasons are understood & acceptable. One meal at the canteen is provided for each 4+ hours volunteered. A more detailed description of the VA volunteer program is available.

Individuals interested in volunteering should contact the VA volunteer office at 612-467-2050 to make an appointment at the VA to sign up for volunteer duty. Stewart Fobes is a Post 594 member and First Impressions Volunteer at the VA’s information desk; he can also be contacted for further information at stewartfobes@gmail.com or 651-706-0835.

VOLUNTEERS HAVE FOUND THIS TO BECOME THE MOST REWARDING AND SATISFYING ACTIVITY OF THEIR WEEK.

- Danny discussed needs at Fischer House – This past week they were able to assist a resident who needed some clothing items and offered prayer.