



CHARLES E. MURRAY AMERICAN LEGION POST 186

12091 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville, Florida 34613-7350
(352) 597-9995 | MyAmericanLegion186@gmail.com | flpost186.org

Meeting of the General Membership – February 6, 2025

Meeting Called to Order: 1st Vice Commander Lester Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Members in attendance: 57 American Legion Family Members

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Joe LaRosa delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by 1st Vice Commander Lester Snyder.

POW/MIA Chair Ceremony: Acknowledged with a statement honoring POW/MIA and reaffirming the post's commitment to their memory.

American Legion Preamble: Recited by all attendees.

Roll Call of Officers

Commander	VACANT	N/A
1st Vice Commander	Lester Snyder	PRESENT
2nd Vice Commander	Jim Sales	PRESENT
Finance Officer	Geno Darcy	PRESENT
Post Adjutant	Jeff Rogers	PRESENT
PR/Historian	VACANT	N/A
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kent Hogeland	PRESENT
Chaplain	Joe LaRosa	PRESENT
Judge Advocate	Lester Snyder	PRESENT
Post Service Officer	Eric Hollinger	PRESENT
Office Manager	Debbie Wurtz	PRESENT
Canteen Manager	Kelly Acker	PRESENT

Roll Call of E-Board:

Jeff Conlan	PRESENT	Tom McCain	PRESENT
Dave Crofut	PRESENT	Pat Sharpe	PRESENT
Keith Hines	PRESENT	Howard Smith	PRESENT
Rich Juneau	PRESENT		

Quorum Verified? YES

Former Commander Addresses Membership:

Don St. Pierre stated that it was hard for him to say goodbye as commander. He explained that the reason for his resignation was that he has a condition in his brain, specifically TIAs (transient ischemic attacks), which have made it difficult for him to get his thoughts together at times.

Don mentioned that he has often relied on Lester Snyder to be his voice, such as when presenting the "Show Me the Money" and "Queen of Hearts" events, because he couldn't get his thoughts organized.

In closing, Don wished the post good luck and told them to vote well, before saying goodnight and resigning from his position as commander.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The *E-Board Meeting Minutes*, dated **January 32, 2025**, are brought before the General Membership for approval. **A motion** was made to accept the minutes, as written, by Kent Hogeland and seconded by Jeff Conlan. **Motion Passed.**

The E-Board approved the *General Membership Meeting Minutes*, dated **January 2, 2025**, and are brought to the General Membership for approval. **A motion** was made to accept the minutes, as written, by Kent Hogeland and seconded by Jeff Conlan. **Motion Passed.**

Officers' Reports:

Commander: N/A

1st Vice Commander: 1st Vice Commander Lester Snyder reported on the current membership status. He stated that the post's membership is at 79.27%, with a total of 830 paid members out of a goal of 1,047. Lester noted that the post is doing well with membership at this point.

2nd Vice Commander: 2nd Vice Commander Jim Sales provided an update on the riders. He stated that he currently has nine people in line to become new Riders, and he has an upcoming meeting to provide them with all the necessary information to get their Charter.

Finance Officer: Geno Darcy, the Finance Officer, provided the 2024 financial report. He highlighted the key figures:

Total Income: \$618,369

Total Expenses: \$595,976

Net Income for the Year: \$22,392.59

Geno also shared the current account balances:

General Fund: \$45,000

Lottery Fund: \$4,200

Queen of Hearts: \$5,953

The report covered the various income sources, like administrative, building funds, donations, gaming, membership, and sales. On the expense side, it detailed costs like the cost of goods sold, administration, gaming, insurance, and taxes.

Overall, the post had a strong financial year, ending with a healthy net income and solid balances in the key accounts. Geno's thorough report gave the membership a clear picture of the post's financial standing.

[Members are reminded that financial reports are posted on the Meeting Minutes board by the entrance to the Post]

After further discussion, a **motion** to approve the Finance Report, as discussed, was made by Don St. Pierre and seconded by Kent Hogeland. **Motion passed.**

PR/Historian: N/A

Post Adjutant: The Adjutant, Jeff Rogers, reported that there was nothing significant to report outside of the new website, which is still progressing well. He mentioned that the website has been updated with a few requests to update some information.

Jeff also noted that the post is still awaiting information for the grant request that was made for the GlenLakes Veterans Organization.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Nothing To Report

Judge Advocate: Nothing To Report

Post Service Officer: Service Officer Eric Hollinger reported on various service activities, including meetings with veterans and assisting with benefits. He also mentioned a project to provide free wills (not living wills) and power of attorney services to members and non-members.

Office Manager: Office Manager Debbie Wurtz reported that this is the time of year when the post finishes up all the yearly taxes for the Legion. She explained that it is a lot of work to ensure everything is turned in on a timely manner, especially given the post has two different tax years - the fiscal year from June 30 to July 1, as well as the calendar year.

Debbie emphasized the importance of properly handling the year-end tax process for the Legion. She noted that it is a significant undertaking to make sure all the necessary filings and payments are completed accurately and submitted on time.

Canteen Manager: Nothing To Report

House Committee: Nothing To Report

Old Business:

Election & Nomination Committee - Lester Snyder discussed the formation of the Election and Nomination Committee for the upcoming elections in June. He explained that this is the meeting where the committee is formed.

Lester noted that last year, **Donna Rojas** chaired the committee, and she has expressed interest in doing it again. Lester stated that the post needs three volunteers to serve on the committee. However, Lester added a caveat - if someone serves on the Election Committee, they cannot run for office themselves. **Keith Hines** and **Frank Ruggiero** both expressed interest in volunteering for the Election and Nomination Committee.

Lester mentioned that the post can have up to five members on the committee. He said he would provide the interested volunteers with more information before the meeting was over. The formation of the Election and Nomination Committee was the key old business item discussed, with Donna Rojas continuing as the chair and Keith Hines and Frank Ruggiero volunteering to serve on the committee

New Business:

Interim Commander - Lester Snyder announced that on January 31, 2025, Commander Don St. Pierre had submitted his resignation. According to the post's bylaws, a special E-Board meeting was held on February 3 to elect an interim commander to serve out the remainder of the term until the regular officer installation in June.

Lester explained that the E-Board had the responsibility to recommend the best qualified candidate to the general membership for approval. The names of current First Vice Commander Lester Snyder and current E-Board member Pat Sharpe were presented for consideration.

The E-Board voted 5-3 to recommend Pat Sharpe as the interim commander. Lester then gave Pat Sharpe two minutes to address the general membership about his qualifications.

After Pat Sharpe spoke, Lester Snyder also had the opportunity to address the membership about his own qualifications and experience.

The general membership then voted on approving Pat Sharpe as the interim commander. The vote was 27 in favor and 14 opposed. With the majority approving, Pat Sharpe was elected as the interim commander for the remainder of the term.

For the Good of the Legion:

The next E-Board meeting will be on February 27, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

The next General Meeting will be on March 6, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Hines and seconded by Geno Darcy. **Motion passed.**

Closing Prayer: Delivered by Chaplain Joe LaRosa.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.