



CHARLES E. MURRAY AMERICAN LEGION POST 186

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Meeting of the General Membership - MINUTES – October 2, 2025

Sergeant-At-Arms (substitute): Secured the Meeting Room

Meeting Called to Order: The Commander called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Total attendance: 21

Guests in attendance: 3 – including Joanne Holobinka, ALA President

Opening Prayer: The 1st Vice delivered the Invocation

POW/MIA Empty Chair: Ceremony was conducted

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by 1st Vice Commander

Preamble: Recited by all members in attendance

Commander: Officially declared the meeting convened

Roll Call of Officers

Commander	Pat Sharpe	PRESENT
1st Vice Commander	Tom Moriarty	PRESENT
2nd Vice Commander	Eric Hollinger	ABSENT
Finance Officer	Mike Cray	PRESENT
Post Adjutant *	Jeff Rogers	PRESENT
PR/Historian	VACANT	N/A
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kevin Conner	ABSENT
Chaplain *	Gary Giambrone	ABSENT
Judge Advocate *	Keith Hines	PRESENT
Post Service Officer *	Jeff Conlan	PRESENT

* Non-Voting Officer/Member of the E-Board

Roll Call of E-Board (7 Members):

Dave Crofut	PRESENT		Tom McCain	ABSENT
Gary Giambrone	ABSENT		Annie Mytnik	PRESENT
Skip Goodwin	PRESENT		Jim Sales	PRESENT
Rich Juneau	PRESENT	Past Commander	Don St. Pierre	PRESENT

Roll Call of Managers / Committee Chairs

Office Manager	Sue Moriarty	PRESENT
Canteen Manager	Kelly Acker	PRESENT
House Committee Chair	Terry O'Brien	ABSENT

Quorum Verified?

YES

Approval of Minutes

The E-Board-approved *General Membership Meeting Minutes* dated **September 4, 2025**, are brought before the General Membership for approval. **A Motion** to accept the minutes as written was made by Tom Moriarty and seconded by Rich Juneau. **Motion Passed.**

The *E-Board Meeting Minutes* dated **September 25, 2025**, are brought to the General Membership for approval. **A Motion** to accept the minutes as written was made by Tom Moriarty and seconded by Dave Crofut. **Motion Passed.**

Correspondence Review

- There was no major correspondence to report.

Officers' Reports:

Commander: Pat Sharpe discussed the upcoming Veterans Day activities and potential fundraising opportunities. He highlighted a unique raffle item - a baseball signed by Darcy Knowles from the 1973 World Series, which could potentially raise funds for the Auxiliary's Christmas program. Pat shared updates on the Early Bird Dinner scheduled for November 8th and the Halloween party planned for October 25th. He also provided health updates on Legion members, noting the serious conditions of Jim Estrada, who is in hospice, and Tom McCain, who is experiencing significant mobility challenges. Pat emphasized the importance of supporting members during difficult times and maintaining the Legion's community engagement.

1st Vice Commander Tom Moriarty reported on membership progress, noting they have achieved 51.08% of their transfer goal with 33 new members added. He discussed ongoing efforts to recruit and retain members, emphasizing the importance of reaching 100% membership. Tom also shared details about an upcoming fundraiser for a young Air Force member, explaining the urgent need to help the member's parents travel to the UK to see their son. He highlighted the Legion's commitment to supporting military families and exploring all possible ways to assist them, including contacting various organizations and potential donors.

2nd Vice Commander: ABSENT

Post Adjutant: Jeff Rogers reported on the progress of the constitution and bylaws. He has completed drafting the documents, including a section on officer duties that was previously overlooked. Jeff plans to distribute the drafts to the committee for final review. At the next board meeting, the documents will be approved for presentation to the general membership, where a vote will be taken. He also committed to posting the draft minutes on the Legion's website to ensure transparency and allow members easy

access to review the documents. Jeff emphasized the importance of keeping the Legion's governing documents current and comprehensive.

Finance Officer: Mike Cray provided a comprehensive financial report. He detailed the current bank account balances, noting the general fund at \$90,567.11 and the Regions account at \$16,375.94, bringing the total general funds to over \$106,000. Mike broke down income sources including bar sales at \$20,004.54, kitchen sales at \$8,801, and gaming income of \$33,009.43. Total income for the period was \$75,086.67, with total costs of goods at \$13,886. The gross profit was approximately \$61,900. After accounting for various expenses including payroll, taxes, and operational costs, the net income for the period was \$22,038.43. Mike highlighted a recent purchase of a new printer for the office and noted the financial stability of the post, emphasizing that they have not needed to file for a tax extension this year.

A Motion to approve the Finance Report as reported was made by Skip Goodwin and **seconded** by Keith Hines. **Motion Passed.**

Judge Advocate: Keith Hines reported that no legal issues were currently pending for the post. He noted that no members were in trouble, which he considered a positive sign. Keith shared information about a donation received through the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), specifically a high-quality vehicle hitch accessory designed to transport mobility equipment. The item, valued at approximately \$4,000-\$5,000, will be raffled off on Veterans Day to support veterans. He emphasized the importance of supporting veterans and community members through such donations and fundraising efforts.

Post Service Officer Jeff Conlan reported on his recent efforts to assist veterans with benefit inquiries. Since the last E-board meeting, he has helped three individuals navigate their veteran benefits. One specific case involved assisting a veteran in locating a DD-214 form, which is crucial for accessing benefits. Jeff also shared that he will be attending professional classes in November to enhance his ability to support veterans and their families. His report underscored the Legion's commitment to providing comprehensive support and guidance to veterans in need.

Chaplain: ABSENT

Sergeant-at-Arms: ABSENT

House Committee Chair Terry O'Brien was absent. Frank Ruggiero reported on his recent inspection of the Legion's facilities. He noted several maintenance concerns, including the need for insulation around the freezer in the shed to prevent potential equipment failure. Frank observed that the building's mortar joints are opening up, which may indicate ongoing settling. He suggested a short-term solution to seal these joints and prevent insect intrusion. Additionally, he identified a hole in the men's room wall where an old flushometer was located and offered to replace matching tiles if they

are available. Frank also inquired about the status of the roof leaks, recommending a follow-up after the next storm to assess any potential damage.

Office Manager: NTR - Sue Moriarty reported on several administrative matters. She confirmed that the accountant has been provided with all necessary documentation and will complete the taxes on time, avoiding the need for an extension. Sue highlighted a recent \$1 minimum wage increase, effective October 30th, which will impact payroll. She shared the accountant's recommendation to transition to a volunteer-based staffing model for bartenders and servers, noting that the current payroll structure is unusual for a non-profit organization. Sue is also exploring options for a new Point of Sale (POS) system, with the Clover system being a potential replacement. The current system is four years old and experiences difficulties during internet or power outages, particularly with credit card transactions. She emphasized the need to modernize the Legion's technological infrastructure to improve operational efficiency.

Canteen Manager Kelly Acker reported on several key issues. She discussed challenges with current distributors, noting that her primary distributor cannot provide all necessary items, which complicates inventory management. Kelly explained that meeting minimum order requirements from different suppliers like Sysco is difficult and may be costly. She also raised a new issue involving a pigeon causing problems outside the facility, suggesting the need for intervention. Additionally, Kelly mentioned ongoing discussions with distributors about pricing and supply, showing her commitment to finding the most cost-effective solutions for the canteen's operations.

Old Business: The post discussed several ongoing matters.

Tom Moriarty provided an update on a fundraiser for a young Air Force member, explaining the critical need to help the member's parents travel to the UK to see their son.

The group reviewed the status of various ongoing projects, including the potential raffle of a baseball signed by Darcy Knowles from the 1973 World Series, with proceeds intended for the Auxiliary's Christmas program.

Discussion continued about the Early Bird Dinner scheduled for November 8th and the Halloween party planned for October 25th.

The post also addressed potential improvements to the facility, including facility maintenance and the possibility of moving a container from a member's property.

Members shared updates on ongoing efforts to support veterans and maintain the Legion's community engagement.

New Business: The post addressed several emerging matters.

Pat Sharpe proposed approving his appointment of Frank Ruggiero and Mike Demar to the House Committee, which was approved.

Mike Cray reported the purchase of a new TV for the cocktail area that cost less than \$250. Keith Hines noted that items under \$250 do not require board approval. However, the group discussed potentially increasing the purchase limit with the commander's approval. Tom Moriarty **made a motion** to increase the purchase limit to \$500, which was seconded by Annie Mytnik and approved by the members. This means that the commander can now approve purchases up to \$500 without requiring additional board review.

Discussion centered on upcoming events, including the **Halloween party** on October 25th and the **Early Bird Dinner** on November 8th.

Sue Moriarty presented a proposal to upgrade the POS system, highlighting the current system's limitations with credit card transactions. The group discussed potential new systems, with the Clover system emerging as a promising option.

Joanne Holobinka raised concerns about potential additional raffles on Veterans Day and inquired about a fundraiser for a bartender who experienced medical issues during a recent trip to Italy.

The post also discussed the health of several members, including Jim Estrada and Tom McCain.

For the Good of the Legion:

The next E-Board meeting will be on October 22, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

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

Closing Ceremony:

Closing Prayer 1st Vice Moriarty provided the closing prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm.