



**General Membership Meeting - MINUTES – April 2, 2026**

**Sergeant-At-Arms:** Secured the Meeting Room

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

Number of Attendees: 24

**Opening Prayer:** Delivered by Tom Moriarity (standing in for the Chaplain).

**POW/MIA Ceremony:** The Commander requested that the POW/MIA Empty Chair ceremony be dispensed with in order to move the meeting along. No objection was raised.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by the membership in attendance.

**Preamble:** The Commander requested that the Preamble be dispensed with in order to move the meeting along. No objection was raised.

**Commander:** Officially declared the meeting convened.

**Roll Call of Officers**

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

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

**Roll Call of E-Board (7 Members + Past Commander):**

Dave Crofut	PRESENT		Rich Juneau	<b>ABSENT</b>
Kevin Dove	<b>ABSENT</b>		Annie Mytnik	PRESENT
Gary Giambrone	<b>ABSENT</b>		Jim Sales	PRESENT
Skip Goodwin	PRESENT	<b>Past Commander</b>	Don St. Pierre	PRESENT

**Roll Call of Managers / Committee Chairs**

<b>Office Manager</b>	Sue Moriarty	PRESENT
<b>Canteen Manager</b>	Kelly Acker	PRESENT
<b>House Committee Chair</b>	Frank Ruggiero	PRESENT

**Quorum Verified?** YES

### **Approval of Minutes**

The *General Membership Meeting Minutes* dated **March 5, 2026**, were brought before the General Membership for approval. A correction was noted at the request of Annie Mytnik to change a reference to her name from "Amy" to "Annie." **A Motion** to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Keith Hines and seconded by Don St. Pierre. **Motion Passed.**

The *E-Board Meeting Minutes* dated **March 26, 2026**, were brought before the General Membership for approval. A correction was noted to remove the reference to "Texas Hold'em," which is not played at the Post. **A Motion** to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Keith Hines and seconded by Skip Goodwin. **Motion Passed.**

### **Correspondence Review**

Post Adjutant Jeff Rogers reported that Vincent House, which the Post had previously supported with a letter of support for a state grant application, has been awarded the grant. Vincent House passed on their thanks for the Post's support. Jeff will meet with Vincent House on Tuesday to discuss how the Post may partner with them to support their mission.

### **Officers' Reports:**

**Commander:** Pat Sharpe reported that the status of the Post flag remains open. He has not received official guidance on whether and when the flag should be raised from half-staff following the recent lowering in honor of the refueling personnel killed, and he will follow up to obtain the proclamation. He further reported a newly identified problem with the beer cooler: the drain pan underneath is uneven from one end to the other, with the drain on the higher side, causing overflow. Approximately twelve to fifteen gallons of standing water were removed with a shop vacuum. He will contact the Post's refrigeration technician to have the drain repaired, the pan leveled, and, if necessary, a new pan installed, noting that the current pan is heavily rusted.

**1st Vice Commander:** Tom Moriarity reported Post membership at approximately 91.5%. He further reported that it has come to his attention that some members have been signing in spouses as guests in a manner inconsistent with the guest policy. Judge Advocate Keith Hines clarified that the three-visit guest rule applies to non-member guests other than spouses and that a member's spouse, when not eligible for membership in one of the three family organizations, must be signed into the guest book each time he or she accompanies the member to the Post.

**2nd Vice Commander:** Kevin Connor reported that entertainment and related activities are overall going well. He reported three recent cancellations over the past several months and expressed appreciation to Jim Lemay, his wife, and Steve Helser for stepping in to cover Saturday events when cancellations occurred on short notice. He noted that cancellations

are typically received only days in advance and that the Post has done its best to arrange coverage.

**Post Adjutant:** Nothing to report.

**Finance Officer:** Mike Cray reported total funds on hand of approximately \$293,943.00, consisting of \$65,002.29 in the General Fund, \$29,001.86 in the Bingo/Queen of Hearts account, and \$199,005.28 in the Building Fund, and noted that \$75,000.00 was transferred from the General Fund to the Building Fund during the month. For March, he reported total income of approximately \$102,945.00 — including approximately \$53,370.00 in gaming income, \$29,842.00 in bar sales, \$12,688.00 in kitchen sales, \$5,926.00 in donations (including \$2,700.00 from Glen Lakes for the AED and related training), and \$869.00 in membership — against total expenses of approximately \$40,501.00 (including \$18,213.00 cost of goods sold, \$15,418.00 payroll, \$15,437.00 instant bingo cost, and \$4,861.00 administrative expenses, which included approximately \$3,800.00 for the new POS system), resulting in net ordinary income of approximately \$38,230.00 for the month.

**A motion** to approve the Finance Report as reported was made by Keith Hines and **seconded** by Frank Ruggiero. **Motion Passed.**

**Judge Advocate:** Keith Hines reported that he has been away from the Post more than usual due to personal matters and thanked the membership for their patience. He stated that he intends to be at the Post more regularly in the coming weeks and had nothing formal to report, as no matters had been brought to his attention.

**Post Service Officer:** Jeff Conlan reported continued work assisting veterans and families, including driving members to hospitals and medical appointments. He reported attending a Home Owners Association meeting that day at High Point with the veterans group residing in that community, at which he briefed attendees on the Post's services and activities, distributed calendars and service cards with contact information, and invited them to visit the Post. As a result of that meeting, he expects two transfers into Post 186, two prospective new Legion members, two prospective Auxiliary members, and two prospective Sons of The American Legion members. He noted that many of these year-round residents were previously unaware of the Post's entertainment and activities, including dancing, karaoke, and Show Me the Money. He further reported that the Veterans Pantry is seeking furniture donations (coffee tables, end tables, TV stands, and similar items) for veterans being placed into homes. He noted that a separate shelter program is no longer accepting food donations due to contamination issues but continues to need toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razor blades, and toilet paper. He added that he will begin taking Jim Schultz to a regional treatment center next week and will follow up with Tom regarding the Color Guard leadership transition.

**Chaplain:** ABSENT

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Jeff Conlan reported that he is reviewing his Sergeant-at-Arms duties in greater detail, including the proper posting and retiring of the Colors, and has requested the Officer's Guide and related ceremonial references so that he may perform the duties of the office in accordance with published procedures. He confirmed his intention to accept nomination for the position again. He reported that the Steak Shoot scheduled for Good Friday weekend has been cancelled and that, given declining participation with snowbirds returning north, he is evaluating a move to an every-other-week schedule for the Steak Shoot, which he believes would be more beneficial to the Post and more manageable for volunteers.

**House Committee Chair:** Frank Ruggiero reported continued progress on the exterior siding project, with approximately \$100.00 in additional material costs due to unforeseen conditions discovered during the work. Work will resume on Monday. He thanked Pat Sharpe, Charlie, Jimmy, and Juan for their help relocating the refrigerator. He further reported that, following installation of the new siding, the cable technician will reconnect the Post's cable and internet service at no cost, and that the service package is expected to include the sports tier at no additional charge.

**Office Manager:** Sue Moriarty reported that the new point-of-sale (POS) system is performing well. Kitchen operations have adopted the system and processed approximately \$1,300.00 in charges during March, a capability the Post did not previously have. The prior POS system was sold back to the vendor for \$250.00. She requested approval to add a handheld POS device for use at outdoor functions, noting that the Clover representative recommended a monthly lease of approximately \$35.00 per month rather than an outright purchase of approximately \$749.00, because the lease includes a warranty and free replacement coverage.

**A motion** to authorize the handheld POS device on a monthly lease at approximately \$35.00 per month was made by Tom Moriarity and **seconded** by Dave Crofut. **Motion Passed.**

**Canteen Manager:** Kelly Acker announced that she will be retiring in approximately two months and introduced Chris Lemay, present at the meeting, as her replacement. Training will begin the following week. She reported that the Canteen will close early on April 19 to accommodate a bowling team tournament associated with Show Me the Money. She added that, based on low Sunday participation, the Post will run Show Me the Money on Sundays for one additional session and, if participation does not improve, discontinue the Sunday session. The Post will also shut down Sunday operations on June 1 and remain closed on Sundays until the start of football season.

#### **Old Business:**

#### **2026–2027 Officer Nominations (Round 2):**

Judge Advocate Keith Hines, on behalf of the Nominating and Elections Committee (Keith Hines, Jeff Rogers, and Donna Rojas), conducted the second round of nominations. Per the Post

Constitution and Bylaws, members of the Nominating and Elections Committee are not eligible to run for office during their term on the committee.

For **Historian**, Gerald ("Jerry") Chernicoff remains the sole nominee. No additional nominations were received in this round.

For **Chaplain**, no nominations were received in this round. The position will carry to the next round.

For **Sergeant-at-Arms**, Jeff Conlan remains the sole nominee. No additional nominations were received in this round.

For **Finance Officer**, Mike Cray remains the sole nominee. No additional nominations were received in this round.

For **2nd Vice Commander**, Kevin Connor remains the sole nominee. No additional nominations were received in this round.

For **1st Vice Commander**, Tom Moriarity remains the sole nominee. No additional nominations were received in this round.

For **Commander**, Pat Sharpe remains the sole nominee. No additional nominations were received in this round.

For **Executive Board (E-Board) — 7 seats**: Annie Mytnik, Dave Crofut, Kevin Dove, Rich Juneau, and Jim Sales remain accepted nominees from Round 1. During this round, Terry O'Brien was nominated; however, under the Post Constitution and Bylaws adopted in 2026, a member who previously stepped down from an elected position without providing appropriate advance notice is ineligible to run for elected office for two years. Judge Advocate Keith Hines accordingly ruled Mr. O'Brien ineligible for this election. **Skip Goodwin** was nominated and accepted, and **Kent Hogeland** was nominated and accepted, bringing the total accepted nominees to seven. Additional nominations will remain open in Round 3.

For the **House Committee** (Legion seats, minimum three): Frank Ruggiero remains an accepted nominee from Round 1. The question was raised whether Skip Goodwin may simultaneously hold an elected E-Board seat and a House Committee seat under the updated Constitution and Bylaws. **A Motion** to table the House Committee nominations pending research was made by Jeff Rogers and seconded by Tom Moriarty **Motion Passed**. House Committee nominations will continue in the next round.

**Announcement — Condolences:** Judge Advocate Keith Hines thanked the membership for the expressions of support following the recent passing of his wife, Mary. He announced that the service will be held at Memorial Park Cemetery in Pinellas Park on Saturday, with viewing at 9:00 a.m. and the graveside service at 10:00 a.m. Members are invited to attend.

## **New Business:**

**American Legion Day (April 25):** ALA President Joanne Holobinka proposed that the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary plan a joint activity in recognition of American Legion Day, which falls on Saturday, April 25. Auxiliary members have indicated interest in participating on the planning committee.

**Post Everlasting Memorial:** The annual Post Everlasting memorial for the Legion and Auxiliary will be coordinated for May 3. Girls State orientation is scheduled in the meeting room at 1:00 p.m. on that date, so the memorial is proposed for later in the afternoon.

**Donation Receipts — Tax ID Requirement:** Annie Mytnik reported that, based on advice from her tax preparer, the receipts currently issued by the Post's bar for donations do not contain sufficient information to be used for a charitable deduction. She requested a policy change so that donation receipts include the Post's tax identification number (EIN) and clearly identify the receiving organization as the American Legion. Jeff Conlan, who prepares tax returns at local senior communities through the United Way program, confirmed that bar-style receipts without a tax-exempt number cannot be used for a charitable deduction.

**Bearded Brothers Event (May 24):** Jim Lemay reported that for the May 24 Bearded Brothers event, the vendor's standard price has increased to \$2,200.00, although the Post will be charged the previously agreed rate of \$1,700.00. Sales of vendor "swag" generated approximately \$300.00 for the Post at the prior event. Following discussion, a cover charge structure was adopted of \$5.00 for veterans, active military, and Post members and \$10.00 for the general public, with colored wristbands used at the door to distinguish patrons of legal drinking age from those underage. Three food trucks have committed (Pizza, Dessert, and Mexican) each of which will donate a minimum of 10% of proceeds to the Post. Jim is working to confirm a fourth truck, with options including Mission Barbecue (veteran-owned) and the egg roll vendor previously seen at Lowe's. **A Motion** to approve the event plan as presented was made by Keith Hines and seconded by Frank Ruggiero. **Motion Passed.**

## **For the Good of the Legion:**

The next E-Board meeting will be on April 23, 2026, at 4:00 pm.

The next General Meeting will be on May 7, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

**Closing Ceremonies:** Closing prayer delivered by Tom Moriarity. Hand salute rendered.

**The meeting was adjourned** at approximately 6:54 pm.