



CHARLES E. MURRAY AMERICAN LEGION POST 186

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Meeting General Membership - MINUTES – August 7, 2025

Sergeant-At-Arms: Secured the Meeting Room

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

Members in attendance: 12

Guests in attendance: 1 – Joanne Holobinka, ALA President

Opening Prayer: The Chaplain delivered the Invocation

POW/MIA Empty Chair: Ceremony

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by 1st Vice Commander

Preamble: Recited by all members in attendance

Commander: Officially declares meeting convened

Roll Call of Officers

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Commander | Pat Sharpe | PRESENT |
| 1st Vice Commander | Tom Moriarty | ABSENT |
| 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 | PRESENT |
| Judge Advocate * | Keith Hines | PRESENT |
| Post Service Officer * | Jeff Conlan | PRESENT |
| Past Commander | Don St. Pierre | PRESENT |

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

Roll Call of E-Board (7 Members):

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------|
| Dave Crofut | ABSENT | Tom McCain | PRESENT |
| Gary Giambrone | PRESENT | Annie Mytnik | PRESENT |
| Skip Goodwin | PRESENT | Jim Sales | PRESENT |
| Rich Juneau | ABSENT | | |

Roll Call of Managers / Committee Chairs

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

Quorum Verified?

YES

Approval of Minutes

The E-Board-approved *General Membership Meeting Minutes* dated **July 3, 2025**, are brought before the General Membership for approval. **A Motion** to accept the minutes as written was made by Skip Goodwin and seconded by Keith Hines. **Motion Passed.**

The *E-Board Meeting Minutes* dated **July 24, 2025**, are brought to the General Membership for approval. **A Motion** to accept the minutes as written was made by Skip Goodwin and seconded by Keith Hines. **Motion Passed.**

Correspondence Review

- There was no major correspondence to report.
- There was a minor incident on social media this week. Members are reminded to ensure that anything posted on social media is accurate, as misinformation can cause confusion and upset. If there are any questions about what's happening, members are encouraged to ask rather than make assumptions.
- There will be a District 15 meeting on Saturday at 9am at post 111. Jeff Rogers will not be able to attend but can provide the necessary information and spreadsheets to those who need them.

Officers' Reports:

Commander: Pat Sharpe reported that Narcan training was held with 21 people in attendance, and it was considered a success. He provided an update on the air conditioning, stating that Craig Krueger is scheduled to service all AC systems on the 20th for a fee of \$675. Pat noted ongoing issues with the AC unit over the kitchen cooler, which is not cooling correctly, and mentioned that a vent in the liquor storage area has been blocked with plywood, possibly affecting airflow. He expressed concern that the kitchen and bar area are getting very hot, especially during busy times. He said the source of the vent blockage, whether it was caused by the AC technicians or someone else, would need to be investigated. Pat concluded by asking if there were any questions from the membership.

1st Vice Commander: In the absence of the 1st Vice Commander, Jeff Rogers reported that the post currently has 387 members, with a membership goal of 947 for the year. This represents 40.87% of the goal as of this week. No additional updates or membership initiatives were discussed during this meeting.

2nd Vice Commander: In the absence of the 2nd Vice Commander, Jeff Rogers reported that the 2nd Vice received a call from a disabled Afghanistan veteran who needed food assistance for himself and his family. Eric met with the family and delivered a care package containing meat, eggs, bread, and other essentials. Additionally, three veterans

were referred to the county Veterans Service Officer (VSO) and/or attorneys for further support.

Post Adjutant: Jeff Rogers reported that printed calendars are being used again because members prefer them, and they are now posted on the boards. He is also increasing the information shared on Facebook to keep members well-informed. Jeff noted that two more volunteers are needed for the House Committee to assist Terry. Additionally, he announced that next Wednesday, he and the auxiliary President, along with the SAL commander and the Commander (if available), plan to meet to work on the annual calendar.

Finance Officer: Mike Cray reported that the post was reimbursed \$2,677 by the insurance company for stove repairs. The 50/50 and Bucket of Cheer generated about \$3,500 last month, and the bingo machines brought in \$19,529. Along with other gaming activities, total gambling income was approximately \$32,000. Bar sales totaled \$23,201 and kitchen sales \$7,861, resulting in total income of about \$81,000 for July. The cost of goods sold in the bar was \$9,424, and in the kitchen, it was \$5,718, with total costs of \$15,142. Other expenses included \$10,000 for gambling costs, \$14,961 for an insurance policy, \$6,766 paid to the state from dues collection, and payroll expenses of \$12,238. The post had a net gain of about \$9,768 for the month. Current balances are \$15,221.84 in the general fund at Regions Bank, \$65,627.60 in the general fund at Truist, \$22,566.32 in the Queen of Hearts fund, and \$9,025 in the building fund.

A Motion to approve the Finance Report as reported was made by Keith Hines and **seconded** by Terry O'Brien. **Motion Passed.**

Judge Advocate: Keith Hines reported that a bylaw meeting is scheduled for the Saturday after next at 3:00 PM, where issues raised at the last E-Board meeting will be addressed. He emphasized that while some concerns can be discussed, specific rules, such as not holding the E-Board and general membership meetings on the same day, are mandated by the bylaws and cannot be changed. The focus will be on updating the bylaws first, followed by the house rules, as the bylaws have not yet been finalized or returned from the last submission. Keith also took a moment to publicly recognize Jeff Rogers for his outstanding work and leadership in organizing and drafting the rules, constitution, and bylaws, stating that Jeff is "better than I am at it" and "really good on how to put it together." He stressed the importance of transparency in the process, noting that copies of the bylaws will be made available for review. The updated bylaws will be presented to the E-Board and then to the general membership for approval before being forwarded to the department. He concluded by noting that there have been no significant complaints or issues requiring further action at this time.

Post Service Officer Jeff Conlan reported that he recently experienced hospitalization and numerous medical procedures. He expressed his gratitude to everyone at the post for their support during his recovery. He clarified that, although he completed the

required class, he has not yet received certification as a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), meaning he must coordinate with someone higher up to ensure that benefit paperwork is correctly filed for those seeking assistance. Jeff mentioned he has a list of four individuals he will contact for support. He concluded by thanking the membership for their help and understanding during his absence.

Chaplain: NTR

Sergeant-at-Arms: NTR - Absent

House Committee Chair Terry O'Brien mentioned that several tasks and improvements had been completed, and overall progress was described as "pretty good." The committee did not raise any specific issues or new business at this time.

Office Manager: NTR - Absent

Canteen Manager: Kelly Acker reported that a deep cleaning of both the bar and kitchen was completed two weeks ago, with everyone stepping up to ensure all necessary tasks were accomplished. She announced that the kitchen will be open for football on Sunday, September 7, and she plans to run beer and wing specials for the occasion.

Old Business:

Keith Hines reminded members about the upcoming Labor Day pig roast and inquired about the progress of electrical work needed for the band, with Mike Cray reporting that the work should be completed by next week. Keith also encouraged officers to help sell tickets early for the event, rather than waiting until the last minute.

Gary Giambrone asked for an update on the defibrillator grant application. **Annie Mytnik** reported that she met with Sue, who is applying for a grant through Firehouse Subs to obtain a defibrillator for the post. Annie also mentioned she is following up with a contact who may be able to donate a defibrillator or other life-saving equipment.

Don St. Pierre noted that he assisted with the Steak Shoot order, and **Pat Sharpe** offered to pick up the order if needed.

Don St. Pierre also suggested that, for the Queen of Hearts drawing, the person who signs in a guest should verify the guest's card. **Pat Sharpe** and others agreed that this recommendation should be added to the house rules, but clarified that rules can't be changed in the middle of a game; the update will be made after the current game ends.

New Business:

Auxiliary President Joanne Holobinka addressed the group regarding recent changes to membership procedures. She announced that, to help alleviate confusion and ensure smooth processing, she would be available on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 PM, Wednesdays from 4 to 7 PM,

and Saturdays from 4 to 7 PM to handle auxiliary membership and renewals. Joanne also expressed willingness to expand coverage to other days if additional volunteers could assist.

Pat Sharpe and others discussed their own availability to help with membership processing on various nights, aiming to provide consistent support for members.

Keith Hines provided a brief update for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), noting that the group is generally able to handle its own membership needs and expressing appreciation for the Legion's support. He also announced that the SAL would be providing a \$500 check by the end of the month to support administrative and kitchen supplies.

For the Good of the Legion:

The next E-Board meeting will be on August 28, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

The next General Meeting will be on September 4, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Closing Ceremony:

Closing Prayer Chaplain Gary Giambrone provided the closing prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.