



SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting July 15, 2025

The meeting opened with a salute, the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer, the reading of the POW/MIA statement, and the reading of the Association's mission statement.

There were 23 attendees at this meeting. The meeting began at 4:00 PM at the American Legion Old Saratoga Post 278 in Schuylerville.

Roll Call

OFFICERS

Cmdr – Robert Sellar – Present
Adjutant – Mark Joly – Present
Quartermaster – Jim Rhoads – Present
Chaplain - Norm Schultheiss – Absent

Vice Cmdr – Gary Squires – Present
Finance Officer – Jay Ogden – Present
Ordnance – Ernie Dreimiller – Present
Sergeant-at-Arms – Art Knorr – Present

TRUSTEES

Gary Squires - Present
Ernie Dreimiller – Present
Joe Valerio – Present

SQUAD LEADERS

Mon – Glenn Duffy - Present
Tues - Frank Merrill – Present
Wed – Dick Noonan – Absent, Pat Festa representing
Thurs - Ted Mosher – Present
Fri - Gary Squires – Present

Approval of Minutes of the July General Membership Meeting

As all association members who have an email account were sent the May 2025 General Membership Committee Meeting minutes, the minutes were not read during this meeting.

It was brought to the Adjutant's attention that the heading for this section of the minutes incorrectly stated the month of the minutes as "September". It should have stated the month of the minutes as "May". As there were no additional corrections, the minutes are approved as corrected.

Introduction of New Members

Catherine Gaynair O'Hara, a new member of the Tuesday squad, was introduced.

Officer Reports

Vice Commander: Gary Squires wanted to thank everyone who helped organize and or participated in the July 9th Deceased Member Memorial.

Adjutant: No report.

Finance: Jay Ogden reported that at the end of June, there are \$51,290.77 available funds from all sources.

Chaplin: No report.

Quartermaster: The Quartermaster reported they have been keeping up with special requests within a three-day window. Therefore, there will no longer be a set day/time once a month that the uniform locker will be open. Call the quartermaster or the assistant, and one of them will be at the locker within 3 days of the request.

Trustees: The semi-annual audit will be completed on July 21st at 9 AM at the cemetery.

Ordinance: The Ordnance Officer, Ernie Dreimiller, provided his report of repairs. Currently, there are 12 rifles in service. Three rifles were taken to the gunsmith to begin the annual evaluations. The written report is with the Adjutant.

Color Guard: Jay reported that the Color Guard is in need of new members. Please contact Jay if you are interested.

Squad Leader Reports

Monday Squad: Nothing to report regarding the squad. Glen then went on to make a suggestion that a new safe be purchased that can hold the 15 rifles, as the current safe is too small.

Tuesday Squad: Nothing to report regarding the squad. Frank then went on to talk about the poorly trained Coast Guard members who are sent to perform MFH.

Wednesday Squad: Nothing to report regarding the squad. Pat Festa went on to say the headstones no longer have the lettering painted black. The Commander reported that at a recent Support Committee meeting, Scott, the cemetery director, shared that the VA has decided not to use black paint anymore, so all headstones will look the same (no color) once the paint wears off from the weather.

Thursday Squad: No report at this time.

Friday Squad: Nothing to report.

Agenda Discussion Items

1. Entity Update

Bob Sellar has been registering the association with the Federal government so we could access funds from an Army grant. The association is now officially registered. The grant pays \$50 for each service the Honor Guard performs for any Army veteran. Bob will continue to find out how to access the grant funding.

2. Privacy Policy

There were some inquiries based on the fact that we sent out the new association roster to everyone. The association does not have a Privacy Policy. The Commander spoke with Bill Leahy, who was one of the concerned members, and Bill has volunteered to chair a committee to look into this issue. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Bob Sellar.

3. VA Recognition Dinner

The VA would like to have a recognition dinner for the Honor Guard at the Stillwater American Legion. The VA has not put anything together yet for the dinner, which they would like to have in July

4. Squad Election Results

The squads have voted to retain the current squad leaders.

5. Trustee Installation

Dave Seymour was elected as a trustee to fill the vacancy created when Gary Squires took office as the association's Vice Commander. Gary administered the oath of office to Dave.

6. Website Links and Postings

The association website will no longer be re-posting information that comes from outside associations. Rather, our website will provide a link to the site where the information resides in full.

Anyone who has association-related photos that they would like to see posted on the website can forward them to Jay Ogden at cfdrescue10@gmail.com .

Open Agenda Discussion Items

A. Meeting Start Times – The Commander made the official starting time for all Executive Committee and General Membership meetings 4:00 PM.

B. August Executive Committee Meeting – is cancelled.

50/50 Drawing: There was \$83 collected. Barry Baker was the winner.

The meeting closed with a prayer and a salute.

The meeting ended at **4:51 PM**.

The next **Executive Committee Meeting** will be on **Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 4:00 PM**.

The next **General Membership Meeting** will be **Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 4:00 PM**.

Both meetings will be at the American Legion Old Saratoga Post 278 in Schuylerville.

Future dates to remember:

- Tuesday, October 14, 2025, Flag Disposal Ceremony 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, November 11, 2025, Veterans Day Ceremony 11:00 AM