

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 88  
GENERAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
21 AUGUST 2023**

|               |                   |                    |                 |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Ernie Martin  | Cheryl Cooper     | Tyronne Richard II | Tammie Richard  |
| Joe Gil       | Wayne Brock       | Danny Thomas       | Jennifer Lester |
| Harley McPeek | Jeffrey Taylor    | Carl Ellison       | Linda Johnston  |
| Thomas Woolam | Gregory Feuerborn | Matthew Beatty     | Joseph Link     |
| Matt Watson   | George Ermeling   | Dennis Wishon      | Mark Summers    |

**Call to Order:** 1900

**Recognition of New Members:** None

**Post Deaths:** David Voyles

**Sick Call:** Don Hunter, Greg Dearborn

**Commander's Construction Report:**

1. Commander Martin detailed the progress of construction and the remaining work ahead. Phase 2 of the construction continues. Wednesday-Friday this week we will be working on the kitchen cabinets, counter tops and doors, including doors to the meeting room, office and doors to the a/c space which will be lockable from inside & outside.
2. A Re-Grand Opening will be held when work is completed. Local musicians have volunteered to entertain us during future events. Music under the stars in our parking lot can be a fund raiser.

**Service Officer's Report:**

1. Carl Ellison stressed that Veterans Service Officers (VSO) exist to care for our Veterans and their families.
1. Post 88 Veterans Service Officers have obtained \$3.2 million in VA Benefits for our Vets this year.
2. The PACT Act extended the dates for filing Intent to File forms for claims by Veterans of Viet Nam and the Gulf War and expanded the coverage of additional disabilities.
3. Carl, who is receiving proton therapy for prostate cancer, asks that we pray for cancer victims and their families.
4. Carl stated that VA's Community Care program will pay for some civilian medical care.

5. Carl was recently erroneously charged for misconduct at the VA Hospital. The charges were widely distributed among American Legion and VA leaders.
6. Subsequently, a letter of apology from the Department of Oklahoma was sent by the state adjutant. After much discussion, the members at the meeting unanimously approved a motion by Tyronne Richard to support Carl in demanding a more appropriate resolution which can prevent this from happening again. Carl must take his case to the Department Commander for resolution. Post 88 will submit a letter stating our support for Carl.

### **Finance Officer's Report:**

1. Joe Gil presented the Finance Report for last month.
2. Our Yard Sale brought in \$1,153.40. The donated goods provided products for our neighbors at very low cost. We also provided a venue for a local HUMANA representative to offer services to our customers. We also received a lovely surprise from the manager of the nearby IHOP Restaurant. On Saturday IHOP provided a delicious brunch to those of us working the Sale. She stated that she intends to support future events.
3. Joe suggested that Eric Grubbs, our adjutant, should be added as a signer to our checking account to cover for the absence of either the Commander or the Finance Officer. Harley McPeek moved and Tyronne Richard seconded the motion. The approval was unanimous.

### **General Discussion**

1. Jeff Taylor proposed that Post 88 provide support for the Tri-City Youth Glock Gun Club. This program teaches young persons, under18, to handle firearms. The cost to participate is \$75 per youth. The Tri-City Club will participate in a shooting competition on October 21-22. Post 88 Member at the meeting voted to provide "POST 88" tee shirts for participating youth.

### **Commander's Discussion:**

1. Membership renewals continues to be a problem, but there is a bright side. We have 65 PUFL's. This year, we will drop 35 members who have not paid their dues. Next year we will drop 53. This will help balance our membership numbers.
2. An Eagle Scout project is building benches between the trees on our lot. This will provide resting spots for our neighborhood homeless population.
3. We now have tickets for the annual Gun Raffle. We keep \$5 from each \$10 ticket we sell. The drawing will be at the Convention in January, 2024.
4. The Veterans Day Parade is now scheduled for Sunday November 12 due to conflict with the OU football game on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

5. Congressman Tom Cole will visit on September 6. All VSO's and the Finance Officer are requested to be present to show off what we have accomplished with funds from The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
6. The clothing donated to the Lexington Baptist Church, including lots of men's clothes, were quickly distributed to needy folks in the Lexington-Purcell area.
7. The Special Olympics is coming up soon at a cost of \$200 per child. The Post will match donations to support participating kids.
8. The Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots have provided a donation box for this year's Christmas giving. Post 88 donated 6 boxes of toys last year.
9. Veterans with college bound children should be aware of fraudulent schemes which charge more for Veteran's kids than others.

### **Good for the Order**

**Adjourned: 2040 hours**

WEBPAGE: <https://legionpost88ok.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/American-Legion-Post-88-161945187156461>

Email address: [KochAbbott88@att.net](mailto:KochAbbott88@att.net)      [alpost88norman@gmail.com](mailto:alpost88norman@gmail.com) **New email!!**

**Next meeting will be Monday, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 at 1900 hours**