

# Meeting Minutes



## American Legion Post #124 Meeting

Date: 04 AUG 2025

Time: 1900 HRS

Meeting called to order by: Commander Lee Haris

### GUEST SPEAKER

- Ryan Johansen, Apex Chief of Police
- Johansen has 25 years of experience in policing and used to work for the San Diego Police Department and then the San Francisco Bay area. He said, "I'm a police chief because "I love police officers, plain and simple. Not a "stopover" job.
- How we can help:
  - The number one thing people can do is support the cops with a simple handshake or thank you for your service.
  - The second thing is to help with recruitment, especially from the military. APD is starting a program called Adopt a Unit in conjunction with the American Legion to support the military and recruit from it.
  - Apex PD has a reserve program, looking for retirees with time to commit regularly (couple times a month).
- Apex is considering a Senior Volunteer Patrol program:
  - Observe and report in neighborhoods.
  - Participants receive training through a citizen police academy, learning radio use and community vehicle driving.
- APD staffing:
  - 114 sworn officers, about 160 employees total.
  - Growing professional staff.
  - Technically short about 14 vacancies, but hiring is in progress.
  - Promotions are occurring, creating new vacancies at lower levels

### Order of business

- Roll Call to determine if quorum is present (quorum is 9). Roll call was performed, and a quorum was established. Judge Advocate and 2nd SAR excused. Others were present.
- Per sign-in log: 29 people were present, and 537 hours logged.
- Reading of minutes of the previous meeting waived. Minutes to previous months' meeting have been distributed via email distribution. A hard copy is made available at each meeting at the sign-in desk for review if needed. A motion to accept meeting minutes as presented was made and seconded. All present voted yes.
- Introduction of guests and prospective new members. Introduction of guests and prospective new members –
  - Joe Pompeo
  - District Commander Vicki Woodard
  - District Vice Commander Lee Johnson
  - Mary Louise Matthis
  - Brenda Schwegel

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance (Tim)

Period: 1 JUN 2025 to 30 JUN 2025					
Post Checking Account		Money Market		Building Fund	
Starting Balance	\$22,942.51	Starting Balance	\$5,462.38	Starting Balance	\$27,805.94
Ending Balance	\$19,818.21	Ending Balance	\$5,468.27	Ending Balance	\$28,709.36
<p>Notes: The checking account balance is expected to decrease due to Oktoberfest expenses</p> <p>A motion was entered into and seconded to accept the financial report pending an audit. All present voted yes.</p>					

- Americanism (Mike D) – No report.
- Vehicle Donation Program (Carl)
  - Carl introduced a summer challenge to get 25 vehicles donated.
  - We have received 11 vehicles in the last two months.
  - Mary Louise donated a boat, trailer, and motorcycle, resulting in a \$1,000 donation. Mary Louise chose to donate locally to the members because her husband served in the Air Force
  - Carl presented the post \$400 for two more vehicles this week, along with Mary Louise's \$1,000 donation.
  - The program offers free vehicle pickup and a tax-deductible letter.
- Membership (Dennis) –
  - Currently 86 renewed members.
  - Renew membership: send a check, renew online at website or mylegion.com.
  - Goal is expected to be 185, and last year's goal was 181.
  - .
- Public Affairs (Lee.) –
  - Reach out to members and see if they know a business that would be interested in sponsoring the Oktoberfest.
  - Solicitation through Department
    - This is if we have a solicitation license and want to go through the charities for the department.
    - PEC voted it down because it was too much money going to the department.
- Website (Phil)
  - Introduced a new comprehensive recruiting video (4-minute video)
  - Video will be on landing page and various social media sites
- Legislative (Sandra) –

- Richard Starr Act: Addresses offset of retirement by VA payment for retirees less than 50%.
- Aims to ensure combat-injured retirees receive both payments without offset.
- Action: Visit website, click button to communicate with elected representatives.
- Oktoberfest (JD) –.
  - Meeting moved to Wednesday at this location.
  - Scheduled to meet every two weeks
- Service (Brandon) – No Report
- Historian (Gary)
  - Question: What was the year of the first Apex America Legion post?
  - Answer: 1920
  - Received 511 pounds for the food bank, more than 2 times our USA 250 Legion Goal
- Chaplain (Lashonda)
  - Buddy check calls are being made to members.
  - A request was submitted to the PEC team to sponsor the Raleigh Apex Post 1 banquet on November 15th, honoring women veterans.
  - Past department commander Patricia Harris is being honored at the banquet.
  - Donations can be made to the banquet via a QR code on the website, or ads can be purchased in the online booklet.

### **BALLOTING ON APPLICATIONS:**

No Report

### **SICK CALL**

No Report

### **POST EVERLASTING**

No Report

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Adopt a Highway**

- August 16, at 9 am.
- Covers one section at a time, takes about an hour.
- Location: Evans Road Park. 2500 Seymour Fields.

#### **Brews and Banter**

- Next week at HighCraft
- Phil will put out a video ad.

#### **New Cards**

- New cards with the new address and QR code have been printed. QR codes link to more information about the Legion and sign-up options.

- General cards with Post information are available at the sign-in desk.
- Apex Mayor Initiative to help West Haven
  - Nothing back from Mayor
  - Concern for any liability if we were to help

## **USA 250 Challenge**

- National Commander put out a USA 250 challenge for physical wellness and community service.
- Physical wellness: Complete 250 miles of walking, bike riding, pickleball, strength training, or kayaking between now and next July 4th.
- Wellness: 250 hours of yoga, meditation, mindfulness, or buddy checks.
- Community service: 250 hours of volunteering, teaching flag etiquette, or creating care packages.

## **NEW BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Post achieves 5 years of exceeding membership goals**

- District Commander Vickie presented the post with a flag streamer recognizing the post for exceeding membership goals.
- Pins were presented to the past commander and past adjutant for their leadership in achieving this goal.

### **Proclamation and Recognition**

- There is a plan to present a proclamation at the next town council meeting.
- The proclamation is to celebrate the post, ideally to be presented at the September 11th meeting.
- The post is considered the "spearhead for facing memories" and reminding people about September 11th.

### **District Meeting Presentation**

- A request was made for someone to attend a district meeting on Saturday to present what the post is doing.
- The aim is to communicate better within the state and inspire smaller posts with ideas.
- Phil will attend and show websites and videos.

### **Upcoming Events and Announcements**

- The drawing for the raffle of the wooden flag will be held on Labor Day, September 1st. Tickets on sale now via Zeffy
- The next Lowe's Beer Den event will be on a Thursday. (7<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm)
- The next meeting is September 1st, Labor Day.

- Regarding flag retirement, the property ownership has changed, preventing dumping.
- JD commented on the importance of power of attorney and medical power of attorney for children over 18.
- Meeting schedules:
  - Executive meetings are on the third Monday of each month.
  - Brews and Banner meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month.
  - Oktoberfest meetings will be on Wednesdays for the next two months.
- The town council is honoring J.C. Knowles
- Name tags should be returned at the end of meeting. They help people get to know each other.
- Cards will be laminated at future meetings
- Pins were presented to the past commander and past adjutant for their leadership in achieving 100% membership.
- Apex Night Out is on 10-7, featuring a Touch a Truck event.
  - The event aims to show the American Legion's presence in the community.
  - We will give away popcorn and advertise Oktoberfest.
  - Law enforcement brings vehicles for kids to interact with.

### **Important Information**

- Sandra is a notary and will notarize documents for members free of charge.
- The Post has two licensed attorneys willing to help with basic estate planning issues.
- The Post collects can tabs, which are donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

## **THE GOOD OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Nothing Noted

### **POST 124 UPCOMING EVENTS 2024**

See the Website

### **NEXT MEETING**

- Next meeting will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup> (Labor Day) @ 1900.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 2010 hrs.