

Meeting Minutes



American Legion Post #124 Meeting

Date: 06 Oct 2025

Time: 1900 HRS

Meeting called to order by: Commander Lee Haris

GUEST SPEAKER

- Jason Amenitep, a consultant for WellCare, is introduced.
 - WellCare is a Medicare plan company.
 - WellCare and American Legion are working on the "Be the One" project.
 - The project focuses on mental health support for veterans and reducing veteran suicide.
 - It also aims to supplement health benefits.
 - Those 64 and a half or older are eligible for Medicare.
 - Medicare includes Part A (hospital) and Part B (medical).
 - Medicare Advantage plan is Part C.
 - Part C covers A and B.
 - It also covers dental, vision, and hearing.
 - Tricare for Life has gaps in coverage.
 - WellCare provides dental, vision, and hearing coverage without separate policies when combined with Tricare or VA.
 - Those on Medicare are responsible for Part B deductible.
 - It was about \$184, but is going up to \$206 next year.
 - WellCare provides \$150 to pay toward the Part B deductible.
 - It is paid directly to Social Security.
 - Partnering with Medicare Advantage plan with existing Tricare VA coverage can be advantageous.
 - Annual enrollment is coming up October 15th, allowing addition of benefits without health questions.
 - A representative from WellCare is available for questions and information.
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- Frank Stancil Department Commander from 1997-98 spoke on Oratorical Contest.
 - The High School Oratorical Contest started in 1938 to instill knowledge and appreciation of the US Constitution.
 - The contest helps participants grow in leadership ability and understanding of citizens' rights and responsibilities.
 - The contest starts at the post level and progresses to district, division, state, and national levels.
 - National prizes include scholarships, with the top prize being \$25,000.

- "The High School Oratorical Conscience program was developed primarily to instill deeper knowledge and appreciation of the US Constitution in high school students."
- A brochure for a \$5,000 accidental death benefit for American Legion members was provided.
- A commander attended the Oratorical event last year and was impressed and distressed by the knowledge and lack thereof of the Constitution.
- It was rewarding to listen to young people talk about it.

Order of business

- Roll Call to determine if quorum is present (quorum is 9). Roll call was performed, and a quorum was established. All Officers were present.
- Per sign-in log: 32 people were present, and 704 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 –
 - Brandon Wright, Air Force.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance (Tim)

Period: 1 JUN 2025 to 30 JUN 2025					
Post Checking Account		Money Market		Building Fund	
Starting Balance	\$20,191.86	Starting Balance	\$5,474.17	Starting Balance	\$30,547.59
Ending Balance	\$19,139.22	Ending Balance	\$5,479.35	Ending Balance	\$30,843.50
Notes: The checking account balance is expected to decrease due to Oktoberfest expenses					
A motion was entered into and seconded to accept the financial report pending an audit. All present voted yes.					

- Americanism (Mike D) – has a lot of information about schools they're going to talk to in the next month or so.
- Vehicle Donation Program (Carl)- Josh acquired their 16th car for donation, a 2007 Nissan.
- They are expecting another motorcycle next week.
- It's easy to acquire vehicles by simply asking people if they want their old cars hauled away for donation.
 - Donors receive a tax letter for the donation.
- One lady donated a boat, trailer, and motorcycle, valued at \$10,000.

- Membership (Dennis) –
- As of today, there are 108 members.
- The goal is 186 for the year.
- An email was sent to all the 2025 people who have not renewed for 2026.
- There will be a drawing at the Winter Midwinter Conference for all people who have renewed for 2026 by Veterans Day.
- If your name is drawn, you will become a paid up for life member or if already PUFL get \$1,000 cash.
- New members can see Dennis after the meeting for a baseball cap.
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- Public Affairs (Lee.) –
 - Reach out to members and see if they know a business that would be interested in sponsoring the Oktoberfest.
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- Website (Phil –Refer people to the website for questions about the event, such as whether it is rain or shine and whether dogs are allowed.
- "There are no dogs on town property. That's an official town policy."
- Phil mentions a "blitz of different gum videos" will be released this week.
- Members are asked to watch and share the videos to improve Google ratings.
- The Legion's Instagram account should be followed for easy reposting of content.
- The website needs to be kept current with fresh content to maintain viewership.
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- Legislative (Sandra) - Sandra notes that many people are concerned about a potential government shutdown.
 - Find Legislative actions:
 - <https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/AmericanLegion/home>
 - Action: Visit website, click button to communicate with elected representatives.

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- Oktoberfest (JD) – JD is in charge.
- Tomorrow evening, they are meeting at Carl's garage at 6:30 PM.
- Carl has offered his garage so they can have longer meetings for the rest of this year.
- Carl's garage is at 5:05 East Chattel.
- Need adult members to be there and pick up some slack at the Oktoberfest.
- There are 67 volunteers.
- Sign-up sheets are available.
- People need to sign up for more than one shift or all day.
- If there are more volunteers, they can get done quicker on Saturday night and not have to come back on Sunday.
- Encourage spouses and children to sign up.
- Multiple sheets for multiple shifts; tear down is on the last page.
- Friday begins around noon with supplies and port potties arriving.
- Fencing will start around 3 PM.
- Jim to pick up the fencing from the storage area.
- Fencing is needed to delineate the area where alcohol is allowed.
- People will be there as early as 7 AM, with most arriving between 8 and 9 AM.
- Setting up tents and other equipment is a big task.
- Members need to wear hats or something to identify them as volunteers and ensure kids are volunteering and not on their phones.
- Volunteers should ask Devin or someone else if they don't know what to do.
- Members will wear white vests, and Sandra, JD, and Lee will wear blue vests.
- Volunteers should go to a white vest with questions; if they can't answer it, they will go to one of the blue vests.
- The area in front of Town Hall is reserved for the band and people hauling instruments.
- Two buses for young people will come and go by 1 PM.
- Before 3 PM, park across the street behind the Mason Street Municipal building.
- After 3 PM, park across over at the food line parking lot.
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- Service (Brandon) – Veterans Benefit Program at Herbert C. Young Community Center, Cary, NC Brandon reports that approximately 3,000 veterans were served on Veterans Day in Cary.
- Cary event is a good resource for veterans having trouble with VA claims.
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- Adjutant Time (Jim) –
- Jim discusses the Legion's involvement in the community and schools.
- The Legion has instructed 400 fifth and second graders in the Apex community in the past two years.
- Activities include flag presentations and demonstrations at local schools.
- Upcoming events include:

- November 7th: Invitation to Apex Middle School at 8:30 AM.
- Penny Road Elementary School: Presenting colors and leading their program at 9:45 AM and 10:30 AM.
- Veterans Day event downtown, likely at 9:30 AM.
- Spring Arbor Nursing Home: Presentation of colors between 1:00 and 1:30 PM, followed by coffee.
- Cambridge Apartments: Presentation of colors at 3:00 PM, display of 24 flags.
- Hurricanes Game: The Post was invited to present colors at a game, and January 16th was selected. Four individuals are needed at 6:00 PM, and they will receive a ticket to the game.
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- Historian (Gary)
- Barry reads a resolution from The Continental Congress, October 13, 1775, regarding the fitting of swift sailing vessels for intercepting enemy supplies.
- October 13, 1775, was recognized in 1972 as the birthday of the United States Navy.
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- Chaplain (Lashonda) – Lashonda mentions that a packet of information about "Be the One" was received.

BALLOTING ON APPLICATIONS:

A motion was made to accept Brandon Wrigh's application. Motion had a second. Membership present approved all applications.

SICK CALL

No Report

POST EVERLASTING

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Adopt a Highway

- Time TBD.
- Covers one section at a time, takes about an hour.
- Location: Evans Road Park. 2500 Seymour Fields.

Brews and Banter

- Next week at HighCraft at 1830

- 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.

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

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- October 30th: A member is turning 100, and Mike is organizing a group to sing Happy Birthday. Meeting at Food Lion parking lot 1330.
- Holiday Party: Still planned to be held at the current location.
- Brews and Banners: Next week on Tuesday at High Craft Brewery.
- Apex Night Out: Tomorrow night, setup at 3:30 PM, event starts at 4:30 PM. The Post will have a tent, flags, and banners to increase visibility.
- The next Lowe's Beer Den event will be on a Thursday. (at 1 pm)
- The next meeting is November 3rd^h.
- JD commented on the importance of power of attorneys and medical power of attorney for children over 18.
- Meeting schedules:

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

- Ankit did a great job making the sign.
- The sign will be kept covered when not in use.
- The Eagle Scout advisor asked if the Post had any other projects in mind.
 - Bulletin board
 - Redoing the bed in the Oktoberfest trailer
 - New flag boxes or repairs to existing ones

POST 124 UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

See the Website

NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting will be held on November 3rd. @ 1900.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 2010 hrs.