

Apex American Legion Post 124

Department of North Carolina

Membership Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2026

Call to Order

The regular membership meeting of Apex American Legion Post 124 was called to order by **Dennis Schmidt**, Commander. The meeting opened with the posting of colors, an opening prayer by **Leshonda Harris**, the POW/MIA ceremony, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution.

Roll Call

Officers present included Commander, First Vice, Second Vice, Finance Officer, Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Sergeants-at-Arms, Chaplain, Service Officer, and Americanism Chair. A quorum was established. The Historian was excused.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by **Leshonda Harris** to approve the February meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by **Jim O'Malley** and approved by voice vote.

Attendance

Nineteen (19) members and three (3) guests were present. Guests included District 11 representatives **Vickie Woodard** (District Commander) and **Lee Johnson** (District Vice Commander) and Beth Bookout from Veteran's Bridge Home.

Guest Presentations

District 11 Awards

District Commander **Vickie Woodard** presented:

- **Cardinal Award (2026)** for achieving over 50% membership by September 11.
- **Certificate of Meritorious Service** recognizing Post 124 for exceeding its previous all-time high membership by December 31.

Veterans Bridge Home

Beth Bookout, Network Director for Veterans Bridge Home (Triangle), presented an overview of the organization's mission to connect veterans and their families with community resources. Key points included:

- Serving veterans regardless of discharge status.
 - Focus areas: housing, employment, income support, and mental health.
 - Emphasis on collaboration among local nonprofits. Members discussed partnerships, legal assistance resources, and information-sharing opportunities.
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Committee Reports

Americanism

- The post is still seeking a **Girls State candidate**. Interested high school students may be sponsored at \$500.

Finance

- Beginning balance: \$39,882.50
 - Ending balance: \$26,810.99
 - Transfers included \$10,000 to the building fund, Shelton Leadership Challenge expenses, and oratorical competition costs.
 - Overflow account: \$5,494.78
 - Building fund balance: \$42,080.16
- A motion to accept the finance report **pending audit** was made, seconded, and approved.

Membership

- Membership goal: 186
- Current membership: 155 (83%) Discussion included:
- District raffle fundraiser tied to new member recruitment (tickets \$10 each; drawing at Fall Conference).
- Strategies for improving renewals, including mailed renewal letters with stamped return envelopes.

Color Guard

- Upcoming presentation at the Invincible Gala on March 21 at Prestonwood Country Club.
- Volunteers requested.
- Post has conducted 17 color guard events since Memorial Day.

Service Officer / Legislative

- VA benefits COLA increase of 2.8%.
- No approved reductions to disability benefits at this time.
- Members encouraged to file claims promptly to be grandfathered if changes occur.

Chaplain

- Sympathy and get-well cards to be sent for bereavements and illnesses reported, including hospitalized member **Duane Vaughn**.
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Old Business

No additional old business was discussed.

New Business

Vehicles for Veterans / Golf Tournament

- Golf tournament scheduled for **April 6**.
- Need for sponsors, teams, volunteers, and auction items emphasized.
- Coordination with the Masonic Lodge for reciprocal team and sponsorship support.

Oktoberfest

- Planning discussed; **Mark Schwegel** volunteered to lead the event.
- Scheduling to be finalized, with Mondays identified as the most likely option.

Elections

- Officer elections scheduled for May.
- Vacancies expected for First Vice, Adjutant, and Finance Officer. Members encouraged to consider candidacy.

Patriot Day

- September 11, 2026 will mark the 25th anniversary.
- **Barry Boch** volunteered to coordinate the event.

Legionnaire of the Quarter

- **David Royal** recognized for outstanding service managing the Post website and awarded a Certificate of Appreciation.
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Good of the Legion

- Volunteer opportunity shared for food bank delivery teams assisting homebound seniors.
 - 50/50 drawing conducted.
 - Division leadership candidacies announced by **Vickie Woodard** and **Lee Johnson**.
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Closing

The meeting concluded with a closing prayer by the Chaplain, retrieval of the POW/MIA flag, and formal adjournment by the Commander.