



## Hopewell Memorial Post 146, The American Legion

### Summary of Previous Meetings

#### February 20, 2024 General Membership Meeting and the March 5, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

March 8, 2024

The following is a summary of the February 20, 2024 General Membership Meeting and the March 5, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting.

#### February 20, 2024 General Membership Meeting

1. Summaries of the January 16, 2024 General Membership and February 6, 2024 Executive Committee Meetings were provided for member review on the Post website and presented at the meeting. Summaries were accepted with no corrections.

#### 2. Officer Reports:

##### a. Membership (1st Vice):

- Presented three new applications to consider for membership: Kathleen Snyder (USA), Roy Snyder (USA) Christin Newton (USA), and Michael Healy (USCG).
- Presented one transfer application from Terry Powers (Post 141)

**ACTION:** A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to accept the above name membership applicants as members of the Post.

- 2024 Membership Campaign: currently the Post has: 52 Online Renewals, 31 New Members, 43 PUFL Members, and 283 Post Renewals
- Post stands at 91.12% of the Department's 394 renewal target with 359 members in good standing and 10 renewals processing
- The Post was awarded the "Legion Birthday Award" for meeting the 90% target objective by March 6th.
- Members who have already renewed for 2024 but want to take advantage of the multi-year program to renew for 2025, 2026 and 2027, were encouraged to please do so now before the national dues increase of \$5.00, takes effect on July 1, 2024.
- National membership renewal notices went out the week of February 15th. Members are reminded that the mailing list is pulled about six weeks in advance so anyone who renewed in January or thus far in February, is likely to get a notice even though they have already renewed

##### b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice): No report

- c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): Gross Income for January 2024 was \$65,961.25; Total Authorized Uses were: \$4,503.42 against a requirement of \$\$6,569.13, a difference of \$2,065.71 below target. (See Enclosure 1)
- d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM January - Total Income: \$71,329.54. Total Expenses: \$69,158.79. Net Income: \$2,952.12. A detailed Financial Report is attached at Enclosure 1
- e. House Committee:
  - Annual rental for Liquor Lockers is now due. Cost is \$12 per year.
  - The Post will host the Paralyzed Veterans of America Fishing Flea Market on Saturday, February 24th. The flea market runs from 7:00 am until 2:00 pm.
  - The American Legion Birthday is on Friday March 15th and we will celebrate it with a special birthday ceremony at 5:00 pm
- f. Service Officer: No report
- g. Chaplain: Thanked everyone who participated in the Four Chaplains/Post Everlasting Ceremonies on February 17th.
- h. Historian:
  - February 8, 1910 - **The Boy Scouts of America was founded** by William Boyce in Washington, D.C., modeled after the British Boy Scouts.
  - February 15, 1898 - In Havana, **the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up** while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"
  - February 20, 1962 - Astronaut John Glenn became the first American launched into orbit. Traveling aboard the "Friendship 7" spacecraft, Glenn reached an altitude of 162 miles (260 kilometers) and completed three orbits in a flight lasting just under five hours.
  - February 27, 1991 - **In Desert Storm, the 100-hour ground war ended** as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.
- i. Sgt-at-Arms: A Flag Destruction Ceremony is planned for March 19th at 6:30 pm. Additional ceremonial guards are needed for the ceremony. A practice is planned for Friday, March 15th at 6:00 pm (directly after the American Legion Birthday celebration.)
- j. Judge Advocate: N/A
- k. Executive Committeemen: No report



3. Correspondence: None presented
4. Old Business: (Cdr): None presented
5. New Business (Cdr): None presented
6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):
  - 50/50 Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): Gary Easter won \$9.00 in the 50/50 drawing which he donated to the Club Room wait staff.
  - Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$120. The number drawn was 042 belonging to Legionnaire Jarold Langley. As Legionnaire Langley was not present, the jackpot will be \$140 at the March 19, 2024 meeting.

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### **March 5, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting**

1. Summary of Previous Meeting (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the February 6, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting was provided to all committee members prior to the meeting. The meeting summary was reviewed and approved.
2. Officer Reports:
  - Membership (1st Vice):
    - 367 members are current for the 2024 campaign
    - Seven (7) member renewals are currently in process. Once processed by Department, the Post will have 374 members renewed.
    - The Post currently stands at 93.15% of the 2024 target. After the processing the 7 renewals listed above, the Post will stand at a healthy 94.92%!
    - The Post will receive the "Legion Birthday Award" for reaching 90% by March 6th.
    - Two (2) new members will be presented for membership at the next general membership meeting: Ralph Collins (USA) and Charles Perkins (USN), and one transfer application, Horace Cooper (USAF) from Post 141.
    - The Multi-Year Membership Program is now "live." All members may now renew their membership for a three-year period on the National website ONLY at: <https://www.legion.org/renew>.

- Americanism/Children & Youth (2nd Vice): No report
- Bingo (3rd Vice): Gross Income for February 2024 was \$46,881.25; Total Authorized Uses were: \$7,642.81 against a requirement of \$12,146.23, a difference of \$4,503.42 below target. The Post has seen good participation at Bingo in the last couple of weeks. Pull-Tab sales have been very good because of some large jackpots. Although 'Other Uses' are below target, historically the Post does not begin to close on the target until the second quarter of the calendar year.
- Finances (Fin Off): Report for EOM February - Total Income: \$66,985.754. Total Expenses: \$68,338.11. Net Income: **-\$1,352.36**. The end of year report from the Post's Edward Jones Account indicated a balance of \$78,041.57 with a \$10,000 CD maturing on March 15th. A discussion ensued about how best to use the \$10,000. The resulting decision was to hold-off any decision until more information is available about roof repairs.
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
  - Electronic Pull-Tab Report: The House Committee recently met with representatives of Grover Gaming to receive their annual report on revenues from the electronic pull-tab machines. Highlights were:
    - Total Revenue 2023: \$4,288,720.20
    - Total Pay -Out: \$3,832,422.80
    - Total Net Profit: \$456,297.40
    - Post 146 Share of Total Profit: \$228,148.70
  - A special, invitational breakfast for Vietnam Era Veterans will be held on Saturday, March 30th from 9 to 11 am in the Legion Hall.
  - On Monday, April 15th, the Post will sponsor a Member Appreciation Night in conjunction with Grover Gaming. Details will be coming later.
- Service Officer:
  - a. The Commonwealth VSO organization has lost half of their staff so services are dramatically reduced. The Department of Veterans Services is currently advertising for new staff. However, it will take time to recruit and train new people.
  - b. Veterans Community Network of Central Virginia is now recognized as a non-profit organization and can receive donations.
    - The Network is currently working with the courts to provide community service projects for those veterans sentenced to serve community service and are looking for venues when these people can contribute and serve their hours. Request was made to see if the Post could provide work to fulfill this requirement.

- ★ **ACTION:** After discussion, it was determined that the Post cannot provide sufficient supervision to support offering to take on those who must complete community service hours.
  - The Network is also seeking volunteers to help homeless veterans transition into living in a house/apartment after a long period of homelessness. The Network is seeking volunteers to partner with the veterans to help them through the transition as there is much to 're-learn'.
- Chaplain: No report
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Will conduct a practice for the Flag Destruction Ceremony (planned for Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm) immediately following the celebration of the American Legion's 105th birthday on Friday, March 15th.
- Historian: Special dates and events:
  - March 4, 1789 - **The first meeting of the new Congress under the new U.S. Constitution** took place in New York City.
  - March 4, 1830 - **Former President John Quincy Adams returned to Congress as a representative from Massachusetts.** He was the first ex-president ever to return to the House and served eight consecutive terms.
  - March 17, 1776 - Early in the Revolutionary War **the British completed their evacuation of Boston** following a successful siege conducted by Patriots. The event is still commemorated in Boston as Evacuation Day.
  - March 18, 1974 - **The five-month-old Arab oil embargo against the U.S. was lifted.** The embargo was in retaliation for American support of Israel during the Yom Kipper War of 1973 in which Egypt and Syria suffered a crushing defeat. In the U.S., the resulting embargo caused long lines at gas stations as prices soared 300 percent amid shortages and a government ban on Sunday gas sales.
- Judge Advocate: N/A
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Executives: 2nd Year Executive John Whitehead reported that he has been nominated for the position as commander of VFW Post 10387.

3. Correspondence:

- a. Received a letter from the John Randolph Foundation which contained three items:

1. Fourth Quarter CY 2023 Fund Statement

	<u>Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Principal Fund Balance - Beginning	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Principal Fund Balance - Ending	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Available Fund Balance - Beginning	\$27,262.93	\$19,992.58
Gifts	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 8,320.00

Investment Results	<u>\$ 3,567.22</u>	<u>\$ 5,837.57</u>
Total Revenues	\$...4,887.22	\$14,157.57
Scholarship Awards	- 0 -	\$ 2,000.00
Administrative Fees	<u>\$ 899.83</u>	<u>\$ 899.83</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 899.83	\$ 2,899.83
Available Fund Balance - Ending	<u>\$31, 250.32</u>	<u>\$31, 250.32</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$51, 250.32	<b>\$51, 250.32</b>

The Fund Statement Report states in part: “We are extremely pleased to report that the Foundation’s investment portfolio gained 8.5% for the fourth quarter and finished the year with a 14.2% positive investment gain.” [*underlines added for emphasis*]

2. Scholarship Selection Review Committee Schedule: The Post is requested to provide a person to act as a member of the Scholarship Selection Review Committee on Monday, March 25th at 8:30 am.
  3. Conflict of Interest Policy Statement: A Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy Agreement must be signed by the Post representative(s) to the Scholarship Selection Review Committee and presented to the Foundation before March 25th.
- b. Received a letter from the Tri-Cities Shrine Club thanking the Post for providing space for their organization to meet and the support provided for their special events. The letter included a donation of \$500.
4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator):
- a. Larry Gammon requested that the Post donate to the Veterans Community Network of Central Virginia now that they are a recognized non-profit and are working to support veterans in the local area.
    - ★ ACTION: A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to donate \$5,000 to the Veterans Community Network of Central Virginia. The committee stipulated that the entire amount would come from the Electronic Pull-Tab Machine account.
  - b. Larry Gammon presented a request from the Fort Gregg-Adams Holiday Helper Association. The association provides Christmas gifts for deserving children each year. An initial request was made for \$1,000 but was later raised to \$2,000.
    - ★ ACTION: A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to donate \$2,000 to the Ft. Gregg-Adams Holiday Helper Association. The committee stipulated that \$1,000 would come from the Bingo account and \$1,000 would come from the Electronic Pull-Tab Machine account.

- c. After a review of past years' donations, the committee chose to sponsor three (3) qualified young men at the 2024 Boys State.

★ ACTION: A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to set aside not more than \$1,500 for three (3) sponsorships at the 2024 Boys State Program. The amount to be paid from the Bingo account.

5. Old Business: The adjutant suggested that as National American Legion dues will be increased by \$5.00 beginning on July 1, 2024, the Post should also address a possible increase in dues. The 1st Vice Commander reported that Department of Virginia dues will increase by \$5.00 on July 1, 2025. Currently, of the \$40.00 collected in dues from each member, \$18.50 goes to National Headquarters, \$10.50 goes to the Department and \$11.00 stays at the Post.

Holding the dues at \$40.00 will decreasing the amount the Post receives to just \$6.00 in LY 2025 and \$1.00 in LY 2026.

Many suggested that this increase will be met with resistance from the membership. However, if it is explained well, presented ahead of time, and the membership is led to understand that the increases are driven by the National Headquarters and the Department, the 'bitter pill' might be made easier to take.

★ ACTION: After discussion of the impact of the planned dues increases, a motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to increase the Post dues to \$45.00 on July 1, 2024 and to \$50.00 on July 1, 2025 reflecting increases made at National Headquarters and the Department of Virginia.

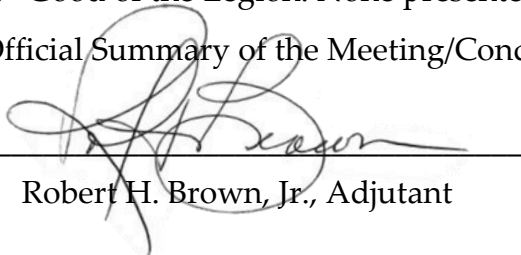
6. New Business:

Elliot Eliades presented a request for support for the Special Olympics Little Feet Meet which will be held on Friday, April 19th from 10 am until 2 pm at the Hopewell High School Athletic Field. He requested that the Post provide lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips) for the 100 'Olympians' their parents and support people for a total of about 200.

★ A motion was made seconded and APPROVED to provide lunch for the Special Olympics Little Feet Meet scheduled for April 19th. The task was referred to the House Committee for action.

7. Good of the Legion: None presented

Official Summary of the Meeting/Conduct of Business is attested by the undersigned.



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Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant

# Post 146 Summary Financial Report

FEBRUARY 2024

## Post Business and Administration

### Income

Contributions	\$ 150.00	
Gaming	\$41,825.20	
Earnings	<u>\$25,010.55</u>	
Total Income		\$66,985.75

### Expenses

Credit Card Payment	\$ 2,000.00	
Donations	\$ 1,750.00	
Personnel	\$15,501.81	
Club Supplies	\$12,510.44	
Reimbursements	\$ 2,631.43	
Electronic Game Fees	\$20,692.60	
Rental Refunds	\$ 2,000.00	
Printing/Postage	\$ 517.82	
Maintenance/Utilities	\$ 5,138.81	
Membership Dues	\$ 145.00	
Dues Refund	\$ 120.00	
Insurance	\$ 754.00	
Security	\$ 500.00	
It Services	\$ 593.87	
Sales Taxes	\$ 1,363.95	
Other Taxes	\$ 1,558.21	
Miscellaneous	\$ 560.16	
Total Expenses		\$68,338.11

Total Net Income **-\$1,352.36**

### BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – FEBRUARY

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Auth Uses	Available for Donation
February	\$46,881.25	\$4,688.13	\$1,750.00	\$5,892.81	\$7,642.81	<b>\$6,500.00</b>
As of 29 Feb	\$112,842.50	\$11,284.25	\$2,500.00	\$9,646.23	\$12,146.23	<b>+/- Target</b> <b style="color: red;">-\$4,503.42</b>