



Hopewell Memorial Post 146, The American Legion  
**Summary of Previous Meetings**

**March 21, 2023 General Membership Meeting and  
April 4, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting**

April 12, 2023

The following is a summary of the March 21, 2023 General Membership Meeting and April 4, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting.

**March 21, 2023 General Membership Meeting**

1. Summaries of the March 21, 2023, General Membership and April 4, 2023, Executive Committee Meetings were provided for member review on the Post website and presented at the meeting. Summaries were accepted as written.

2. Officer Reports:

a. Membership (1st Vice):

1. Candidates for membership were Ben Owen, Jr. (Army), Brad Treadway (Navy), Onza Hyatt (Air Force), and David Mills (Army)

- Renewals were at 95% (358), 19 members short of the 2023 goal of 377.

b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice): Participated in the John Randolph Foundation Scholarship Adjudication. The Post has received three Boys State candidate applications and there may be more coming. We are still looking for interested candidates.

c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): EOM February - Gross Income: \$48,994.50; Donations/Restricted Uses: \$4,851.75. Donation Target: \$4,899.45. Totals for the CY year: Gross Income: \$95,334.00; Donations/Restricted Uses: \$13,254.01; Donation Target: \$9,533.40; +/- Target: \$3,714.61 [39% above target].

d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM February - Total Income: \$62,993.30; Total Expenses: \$59,625.08; Net Income: \$3,368.22.

e. House Committee:

- Weekend Operations: The Club Room is now open on weekends, but there is a critical need for volunteers to continue operations. We hired a new cook but remain short of bartenders/servers. We continue to ask for volunteers so we may remain open and servicing members. Currently, we are operating at a loss on weekends because so few people are coming to the Post.

- Kitchen Dishwasher: The new machine will be installed this week and staff will be trained on its use. The equipment will clean dishes and utensils faster, more completely and guarantee the highest level of cleanliness.
  - Equipment Replacement/Repairs: We are replacing equipment damaged by last month's power spike. We are also installing an exterior power outlet to service the patio. Roof repair is pending.
  - f. Service Officer: Commander reminded all present that a Service Officer from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services is at the Post each Wednesday and available to assist with all questions concerning veterans' benefits.
  - g. Chaplain: Reported that Charles Summers passed away on March 3rd. Bible Study is held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6:00 pm – all are welcome to attend.
  - h. Historian:
    - Hometown Heroes Program: The web site for ordering Hometown Heroes Banners is now active. Information about the banners will be advertised in the days and months ahead. Cost remains at \$95 per banner.
    - Special Dates:
      - March 19, 2003 - **The United States launched an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein from power.** The attack commenced with aerial strikes against military sites, followed the next day by an invasion of southern Iraq by U.S. and British ground troops. The troops made rapid progress northward and conquered the country's capital, Baghdad, just 21 days later, ending the rule of Saddam.
      - March 30, 1981 - Newly elected **President Ronald Reagan was shot** in the chest while walking from a hotel to his limousine in Washington, D.C. The president was rushed into surgery to remove a .22-caliber bullet from his left lung. Regan's comment about the attack: "I should have ducked."
  - i. Sgt-at-Arms: Reminded members that the quarterly New Member Orientation will be held during the April meeting. The orientation will begin with a new member dinner beginning at 6:00 pm.
  - j. Judge Advocate: Reported that planning ongoing for the Armed Forces Appreciation Golf Tournament, scheduled for May 19th.
  - k. Executive Committeemen: No report
3. Correspondence: The Post received two donations from VFW Post 637 - \$800 for Boys and Girls State, and \$500.00 to field a team and sponsor a hole at the Armed Forces Appreciation Golf Tournament.

4. Old Business: (Cdr): None presented

5. New Business (Cdr): None presented

Legionnaire Dennis Hubbes reported that his granddaughter, Lexi Schuh, had been selected to attend the Jr. National Young Leaders Conference, this summer in Washington, DC. The conference cost \$3,000 to attend and she has raised \$500. He asked that the Post donate \$500.00 to help her attend the conference.

ACTION: A motion was made and seconded for the Post to donate \$500 to support Ms. Lexi Schuh's attendance at the Jr. National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC. After discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion PASSED with a vote of 10 Yeas and 8 Nays.

6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):

- The commander reported that Gary Metry, an Independent Auditor, completed an audit of the Post's financial records earlier in March. Mr. Metry's report concluded that "the Post's financial processes (receiving, recording, and distributing) were all found to be accurate and efficiently maintained." He further stated that "Ms. Nesbitt, the Administrator, does an excellent job of tracking and recording all financial operations [and] all accounts were found to be in excellent order." The full report is available in the Administration Office.
- The commander reported that a Nominating Committee has been empaneled and nominations for officer positions for the 2023-2024 Legion Year will be received at the April meeting. He stated that if anyone wished to run for a position or nominate someone for a position, they should contact Frank Kencitzski or the Post Adjutant, or the Post Commander before the April meeting.

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**April 4, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting**

1. Summary of Previous Meeting (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the March 7, 2023, 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):
    - The Post currently stands at 96% of the mandated target. There are 15 people left to renew for the Post to reach 100%.
    - Still working to bring membership files up to date.
    - Invited 13 new members to the New Member Orientation (April 18th)
  - Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice):
    - The Post will sponsor three (3) young men at this year's Boys State in June. For the first time, we will interview prospective candidates
    - 2nd Vice Commander Owens has joined the John Randolph Foundation Scholarship Review Committee and will assist in the selection and processing of scholarship awards.
    - Bingo (3rd Vice): The five-week month saw good returns for Bingo. With authorized uses totaling \$17,431.61 for the year thus far, the Post stands at an 11.3% authorized use rate. (see Encl 1)
  - Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM March - Total Income: \$70,011.10. Total Expenses: \$67,604.07; Net Income: +\$2,407.03. (See Encl 1 for details)
  - House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
    - Staff Shortages: Still trying to recruit additional Bartender/Servers. Currently, the need is for three bartenders/servers.
    - Roof Leaks: We plan to encase the roof façade crown over the Legion Hall (one piece, no breaks). Cost estimate: \$900 (Norman Wall). Work completion is warm weather dependent.
    - Dishwashing Machine for Kitchen: New machine is installed and operating. It is fully automatic, easy to use, and has wash, rinse and sanitize cycles.
    - Kitchen Equipment Repairs: Repairs to the stove and cook top burners were completed by Appliance Repair Services.

- Service Officer:
  - Attended the latest Crater Community Veterans Engagement Board meeting. The board is composed of various veterans service organizations in the “Crater Area” [Richmond south to Dinwiddie] whose mission is to get help for and provide services to military veterans. The board’s focus is Awareness – Advocacy - Transition – End of Life Planning - Behavioral Health – Housing and Veteran Treatment Centers. Service officer will participate in a video conference on April 6th and attend a meeting at the Petersburg Freedom Center on May 17th.
  - Dinwiddie Post 149 is sponsoring a U. S. Military Veterans’ Disability Claims Clinic on April 29th from 10 am until 2 pm at the Eastside Enhancement Center, 7301 Boydton Plank Road, North Dinwiddie. Those interested in attending must RSVP to [VAALPost149@gmail.com](mailto:VAALPost149@gmail.com).
- Chaplain:
  - Easter Sunday coming up on April 9th. This is the first time in many years that the Jewish and Christian calendars coincide, exactly as the days occurred in Jesus’ time.
  - Jim Enochs is returning home after time spent in a nursing home. He will celebrate his 90th birthday in May.
- Historian: Special dates/events:
  - April 4, 1949 - **Twelve nations signed a treaty creating NATO**, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.
  - April 5, 1986 - **A bomb exploded at a popular discotheque frequented by American military personnel in West Berlin**, killing two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman. American intelligence analysts attributed the attack to Muammar Qaddafi of Libya. Nine days later, President Ronald Reagan ordered a retaliatory air strike against Libya.
  - April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, **the U.S. entered World War I in Europe**.
  - April 9, 1865 - After over 500,000 American deaths, **the Civil War effectively ended** as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House.
  - April 14, 1865 - **President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded** while watching a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theater in Washington. He was taken to a nearby house and died the following morning.



- April 18, 1775 - **Paul Revere** and **William Dawes** rode out of Boston at about 10 pm after receiving a signal from the steeple of Old North Church. Their mission was to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of approaching British forces intent on confiscating militia powder and, if possible, cannon and rifles. At Lexington, Revere and Dawes were joined by **Dr. Samuel Prescott** who was the only one to actually make it to Concord.
  - Sgt-at-Arms: The next New Member Orientation/Initiation is scheduled for the April 18th General Membership Meeting. Orientation includes a dinner at 6:00 pm for new members then begins at 7:00 pm at the start of the regular meeting.
  - Judge Advocate: **Armed Forces Recognition Golf Tournament** continues to move forward. Committee members were again asked to contact businesses which might sponsor the tournament or provide door prizes for raffles. Members were urged to contact the JA if information is needed or have an interested contact.
  - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year Executives: No reports
3. Correspondence:
- a. Letter received from the Virginia War Memorial Foundation thanking the Post for its recent donation.
  - b. Received a 'Thank You' card from the John Randolph Foundation Scholarship Committee thanking the Post, and particularly 2nd Vice Commander Johnnie Owens, for assisting with reviewing scholarship applications.
4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator): Request from Post 88 (Suffolk) to support their annual Golf Tournament. Cost for entering a team is \$260.00. Sponsor levels are Platinum: \$1,000; Gold: \$500; Silver: \$125 and Bronze: \$50 [for individuals]. Last year the Post fielded a team and was a silver sponsor with a donation totaling \$385. No other qualifying requests have been received. Historically, the Post made the following donations in April:
- a. Post 88 (Suffolk) for their annual Golf Tournament   \$ 385.00
  - b. Department of VA Veteran Service Officer Training   \$ 300.00
  - c. Hopewell HS Girls Softball Program (brought fwd)   \$ 350.00
  - d. ALR Pony Express Run for Hope                                 \$ 200.00
  - e. Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program (one seat)   \$ 200.00
- Total: \$1,435.00
- ACTION: After review and discussion about the 2023 Donation Plan, a motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to:
- a. purchase a \$500.00 Gold Sponsorship for Nansemond Post 88's 15th Annual Golf Tournament [includes a four-person team registration]

- b. defer action on supporting Service Officer Training until training information is received from Department
- c. defer a donation to the Hopewell High School Girls Softball Program until a donation request has been received.
- d. defer sponsoring a training seat for the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program until a candidate or candidates are identified.

It was reported that the ALR Pony Express Run for Hope was a one-time event and was not being conducted in 2023, so no action was taken on a donation.

5. Old Business:

- a. Proposed Recognition and Post Cap Program: [Action: Larry Gammon & Andy Pawlowski] – Larry Gammon presented alternative cap designs for the committee to consider.

ACTON: After reviewing the different types of caps and embroidered designs, the committee:

- 1. selected a cap type and color (full material, blue cap)
  - 2. selected a design (American Legion logo on the front and the words “Hopewell, VA” sewn on the back.
  - 3. A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to purchase 25 caps at a total price not to exceed \$500.00.
- b. New Door Mats for the Post: [Action: Andy Pawlowski] Interior door mats (3) were received and are in place. Two exterior door mats are on order and should arrive in about two weeks.
  - c. Employee and Volunteer of the Year Awards: [Action: Dave Harless and Andy Pawlowski] Now looking for nominations from all Post members. Commander also requested nominations for Post 146 Legionnaire of the Year.
  - d. Additional ATM Machine for the Club Room: [Action: Gary Easter] No report as the action officer is on vacation.

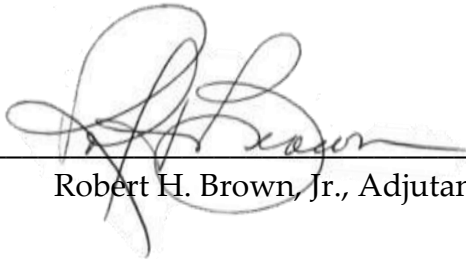
6. New Business: None presented

7. Good of the Legion:

- Lunch n’ Learn – This program, co-sponsored by Historic Hopewell and the Appomattox Regional Library, will begin on Wednesday, May 24th. The noontime presentations are an excellent source of revenue for the Post. Anywhere from 65 to 100 people attend each Wednesday. Providing the noon meal is a Post responsibility and volunteers are needed to assist with ordering, taking payments and serving the lunches.

- Need volunteers to assist with serving and cleaning tables in the Club Room, and with Bingo. Sale of instant pull-tabs at Bingo is the biggest money-maker for the Post and sellers are sorely needed. Sellers work from about 6:00 to 8:30 pm and receive a free meal.
- Commander recommended conducting a joint officer installation ceremony with the ALA and SAL as was done last year. The committee concurred with the recommendation. Planning will be done by the commander and adjutant.

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

March 2023

### Post Business and Administration

#### Income

Golf Tournament	\$ 2,300.00	
Boys State Donations	\$ 800.00	
Gaming	\$43,148.50	
Earnings	<u>\$23,762.60</u>	
Total Income		\$70,011.10

#### Expenses

Credit Card Fees	\$ 2,000.00	
Donations	\$ 1,100.00	
Personnel	\$21,688.02	
Club Supplies	\$10,113.60	
Electronic Game Fees	\$20,628.00	
Rental Refunds	\$ 250.00	
Printing	\$ 486.32	
Maintenance/Utilities	\$ 5,674.28	
Membership Dues	\$ 131.00	
Insurance	\$ 1,420.00	
Sales Taxes	\$ 1,398.91	
Other Taxes	\$ 1,613.94	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 1,100.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$67,604.07

Total Net Income \$ 2,407.03

### BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – MARCH

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Auth Uses	Available for Donation
Mar	\$58,525.45	\$5,852.55	\$700.00	\$3,483.60	<b>\$4,183.60</b>	<b>\$6,250.00</b>
As of Mar 31	\$153,859.45	\$15,385.95	\$1,350.00	\$16,081.61	\$17,431.61	<b>+/- Target</b> <b>+\$2,045.66</b>