



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

July 18, 2023 General Membership Meeting and
August 1, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting
August 7, 2023

The following is a summary of the July 18, 2023 General Membership Meeting and August 1, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

July 18, 2023 General Membership Meeting

1. Summaries of the June 20, 2023 General Membership Meeting and July 6, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting 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):

- The 2024 Membership Cards were received and renewal processing will begin soon.
- Three candidates for membership were presented Tisha D. Sawyer (USN), Jackson Pack (USA) and Stephanie Pack (USAF).

Discussion: The Sgt-at-Arms reported that there were issues with two of the candidates – Jackson and Stephanie Pack. In the weeks leading up to the July meeting, the Packs had been the subjects of at least three written complaints, one from a Post member, one from a Sheriff's Deputy (teaching a Concealed Carry Class) and one from staff. All three complaints dealt with inappropriate behavior.

Actions:

- 1) After discussion the membership voted unanimously NOT to accept Jackson and Stephanie Pack's applications for membership.
 - 2) The membership voted to ACCEPT Tisha D. Sawyer for membership
- b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice):
- c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): EOM June - Gross Income: \$50,215.25; Authorized Uses: \$4,608.68. Donation Target: \$5,021.53. Totals for the CY year: Gross Income: \$320,134.70; Authorized Uses: \$36,466.48; Donation Target: \$32,013.47; +/- Target: \$4,453.01 [14% above target]. See Attached Financial Report (Encl1)

- d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM June- Total Income: \$65,753.09. Total Expenses: \$64,838.40. Net Income: \$914.69. (See Encl 1 for details)
- e. House Committee:
 - Effective July 23rd, the Club Room will be closed on Sundays. The Post doesn't do enough business to justify operations and with the current staff shortage, operating places increased stress on limited resources.
 - Administrative Office relocations and improvements continue.
- f. Service Officer: No report
- g. Chaplain: No report
- h. Historian:
 - July 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as **Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon.** As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning. 
 - July 20, 1975 - **The American Legion granted a Post Charter to Hopewell Memorial Post 146 in Hopewell, VA.** The 'new' post took the place of Post 80 which lost its charter sometime in the late 1950s because the membership 'aged out'.
 - July 27, 1953 - **The Korean War ended** with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea. The war had lasted just over three years.
- i. Sgt-at-Arms: No report
- j. Judge Advocate: No report
- k. Executive Committeemen: No report

3. Correspondence: No correspondence received

4. Old Business: (Cdr): None presented

5. New Business (Cdr): It was reported that one of the heating/air-condition units which services the Club Room has failed. Cost to repair is approximately \$6,000. The unit is 18 years old, well beyond the service life of such units. Replacing the unit will cost an estimated \$15,000.

Discussion: Member comments focused on the choice between repairing old equipment or purchasing new. It was mentioned that the current unit is 18 years old and at least six years beyond its anticipated life cycle. Additionally, a new unit is more efficient and carries a warranty.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to purchase a new HVAC unit to replace the failing unit at a cost of \$15,000.

6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):

- Commander Owens presented the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Legion of Honor Award to Post Chaplain, Fred Sissan for his "...lifetime service to all people regardless of race or faith. This award symbolizes for all Americans and for all time the unity of this Nation founded upon the Fatherhood of One God."
- 50/50 Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): Lee Dixon won \$10.00 in the 50/50 drawing and donated the winnings to the Post.
- Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$40. The number drawn was 236 belonging to Legionnaire David Ward. As Legionnaire Ward was not present, the jackpot will be \$60 at the August 15, 2023 meeting.

August 1, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

1. Summary of Previous Meeting (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the July 6, 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 2024 Membership campaign kicked off on July 1st and so far, the Post has received (17) Online Renewals and (90) Post
 - New member applications were processed for the following: Maurice Bowman (USMC), George Hughbanks (US Army- Active Duty), Tamas Judson (US Army), and George Elder (USCG)
 - Transfer applications were received from: Ian Mahara (Army)[Post 141] and Peter Thibodeau (Air Force) [Post 284, Colonial Heights]
 - Invitation letters were sent to (7) new members for the initiation ceremony on August 15th
 - 2024 Membership Cards have been received and will be distributed starting in mid-August, beginning with the next General Membership Meeting
 - 2023 Membership Cards are still valid until the end of the calendar year (runs January through December)
- Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): No report

- Bingo (3rd Vice): Bingo participation remained about average in July, with a weekly average of a bit more than \$12,000.00. Monthly Authorized Uses totaled \$5,168.62; with a year-to-date total of \$41,635.10 or about three (3) percent ABOVE the state mandated 10 percent target. (See Encl 1 for details)
- Post Finances (Fin Off):): For EOM July - Total Income: \$66,113.75. Total Expenses: \$64,997.42. Net Income: +\$1,116.33. (See Encl 1 for details)
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - New HVAC Unit: A new HVAC unit is planned for installation on Friday, July 28th. Disruption to Club Room operations should be minimal. Purchase was approved by the general membership on July 18th.
 - Staff Shortages: Still trying to recruit additional Bartender/Servers. Currently, the need is for at least one cook and three bartenders/servers. Possible cook applicant will be interviewed in the coming week.
 - New Soft Drink Cooler: The Pepsi-Cola distributor replaced the old, inoperable drink cooler with a new one and installed a hasp so the machine may be secured.
 - Committee is planning a Post Family Day for Saturday, September 30th, noon to 4:00 pm. Plan is to have food, drinks, games and events to make the event a destination. Also considering asking the fire department to have an engine on display. Table is needed for Legion, SAL, ALA, and Riders members to renew.
 - Critically short of Bartender/Servers.
- Service Officer:
 - Presented a briefing about the Veteran Community Network of Central Virginia
 - Numerous organizations provide veteran support, but all operate independently (stovepipe) and sometimes overlap
 - Purpose of this organization is to strategically address issues impacting the veteran community in the Greater Richmond (Tri-Cities) area
 - Currently developing long-term plan to set up the organization
 - Five Working Groups established to address veteran issues: Housing, Behavioral Health, Transition Vet Dockets, and End of Life Issues

Service Officer requested committee members to join him at the upcoming (August 16th) meeting.

 - Still working to establish a “Work-Study Program” with the Culinary School students/cadre at Ft. Greg-Adams. Former SGM visited the Post and looked through the kitchen. He made some recommendations for improvements but

those people directly involved with the school have been away on assignment. Continuing to follow up.

- More Post 146 hats are available. Working with people who may be able to provide shirts with the American Legion and Post name.
- Chaplain: No report
- Judge Advocate: N/A
- Historian:
 - The 2023 Virginia American Legion Family Leadership College will be held, August 4-6, 2023 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Richmond-Midlothian. The Registration Fee is \$100.00. It is long-standing Post policy that the Post will reimburse the cost of registration for all Post Officers attending Legion College.

Unfortunately, at this writing no agenda has been released. Committee members agreed to meet at the hotel at 7:30 am on Saturday, August 6th.

- Special dates/events:
 - August 2, 1990 - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait amid claims that Kuwait threatened Iraq's economic existence by overproducing oil and driving prices down on the world market. An Iraqi military government was then installed in Kuwait which was annexed by Iraq on the claim that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq. This resulted in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military buildup, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.
 - August 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay. The bomb detonated about 1,800 ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.
 - August 7, 1964 - Following an attack on two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam, the U.S. Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson authority "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."
 - August 9, 1945 - The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb detonated killing an estimated 70,000 persons and destroying about half the city.
 - August 9, 1974 - Effective at noon, Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency as a result of the Watergate scandal. Nixon had appeared on

television the night before and announced his decision to the American people. Facing possible impeachment by Congress, he became the only U.S. President ever to resign.

- August 13, 1961 - The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between the east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was later replaced with a 12 foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles around the perimeter of West Berlin. The wall included electrified fences, fortifications, and guard posts. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall and gave speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.
 - Sgt-at-Arms: Quarterly New Member Initiation will be held at the August 15th General Membership Meeting. Scripts for those officers taking part in the initiation were provided. Dinner for new members begins at 6:00 pm with the initiation ceremony and regular meeting beginning at 7:00 pm.
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year Executives: Chai Gallahun reported that Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkus was at the Hopewell Library addressing the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Association. The gist of his remarks was that the Federal government wishes to increase their partnership with and influence on local law enforcement (police and sheriff) so these organizations become “more federalized”. The secretary went on to say that the number one threat to the country is “domestic terrorism and hate groups.”
3. Correspondence:
- Letter from Crater Community Hospice thanking the Post for its recent donation.
 - Letter from Jaden Robbins thanking the Post for the scholarship to Boys State.
4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator):):
- a. VFW Post 637 Annual Jerry Ellis Memorial Golf Tournament scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2023 at Cardinal Golf Course at Ft. Gregg-Adams. Entry fee: \$100/individual and \$400/team plus \$100 hole sponsorship- \$500. [Brought fwd from July]
 - b. Crater Community Hospice 19th Hole Celebrating Life Every Day Golf Tournament (Thursday, Sept 28th) - \$400 for a four-person team and \$100 hole sponsorship. [Brought fwd from July] Cost for team and hole sponsorship: \$500.
 - c. Hopewell Sheriff’s Office Bike Rodeo (annual event) The Sheriff’s Office is looking for riding gear in addition to bicycles. Donation would provide 5 bicycles, helmet and sets of protective pads. Cost: \$500

- d. Historic Hopewell Foundation requests support for their “All Manor of Things” fundraiser Cost: \$1,000
- e. Special Olympics of Virginia requests an unspecified donation to support Special Olympics events in the Tr-Cities area. Cost: \$500
- f. District 4 Royal Arch Masons Alzheimer’s Golf Outing scheduled for September 18th at Brickshire Golf Club in Providence Forge, VA. We supported this event last year despite the catchment area falling outside the approval zone. Cost for team and hole sponsorship: \$500.

Estimated Total: \$3,500.00

DISCUSSION: The committee discussed each request in turn. Jinx Traina provided background information about the Sheriff’s Office Bike Rodeo and how the Post’s donation would be spent. Finance Office Rob Stepp requested the committee consider transferring \$5,000.00 to the Bingo Restricted Account to cover future equipment repairs or necessary major purchases.

ACTIONS: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to fund the following

1. *VFW Post 637 Golf Tournament (9/15/23), Crater Community Hospice 19th Hole Celebrating Life Every Day Golf Tournament (9/28/23), and District 4 Royal Arch Masons Alzheimer’s Golf Outing (9/28/23)* with a four person team and hole sponsorship for each for a total of \$1,500.00
2. *Hopewell Sheriff’s Office Bike Rodeo* - \$500.00
3. *Historic Hopewell Foundation* - \$1,000.00
4. *Special Olympics of Virginia* - \$500.00
5. *Bingo Restricted Account* - \$5,000.00

Total Approved: \$8,500.00

5. Old Business: None presented

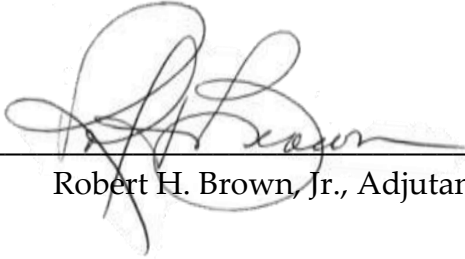
6. New Business: None presented

7. Good of the Legion:

- Commander stated that his focus was to try to raise the Post’s visibility in the community. He met with a group with is supporting an effort by Advan Six to gain a federal grant for de-carbonization/hydrogen production which could provide a massive influx of jobs and money into the Hopewell community. Part of the grant requirement is the involvement of a number of community businesses and nonprofits in a panel to help guide businesses in their community investments.
- Comments was made that all donations are funded by Bingo proceeds. As the Post is totally dependent on this revenue source, there needs to be more

volunteer involvement in support this operation. There is a pressing need for additional set-up people, callers, material sellers, pull-tab sellers, etc.. The Post cannot continue to rely on the same small number of dedicated people to oversee and conduct these important events.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. H. Brown, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant

Post 146 Summary Financial Report

JULY 2023

Post Business and Administration

Income

Gaming	\$38,815.00	
Earnings	<u>\$27,298.75</u>	
Total Income		\$66,113.75

Expenses

Donations	\$ 2,300.00	
Personnel	\$16,656.58	
Club Supplies	\$13,477.94	
Reimbursements	\$ 686.37	
Electronic Game Fees	\$17,999.95	
Book Pay Out	\$ 1,000.00	
Rental Refunds	\$ 400.00	
Printing/Postage	\$ 583.82	
Maintenance/Utilities	\$ 5,020.55	
Membership Dues	\$ 2,291.00	
Insurance	\$ 754.00	
It Services	\$ 632.11	
Sales Taxes	\$ 1,465.68	
Other Taxes	\$ 1,674.42	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 55.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$64,997.42

Total Net Income \$ 1,116.33

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – JULY

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Auth Uses	Available for Donation
July	\$48,256.75	\$4,825.68	\$2,300.00	\$2,868.62	\$5,168.62	\$6,000.00
As of July 31	\$368,391.45	\$36,839.15	\$14,700.00	\$26,935.10	\$41,635.10	+/- Target +\$4,795.95