



Hopewell Memorial Post 146, The American Legion
Summary of Previous Meetings
September 19, 2023 General Membership Meeting and
the October 3, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting
October 11, 2023

The following is a summary of the September 19, 2023 General Membership Meeting and the October 3, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

September 19, 2023 General Membership Meeting

1. Summaries of the August 15, 2023 General Membership Meeting and the September 5, 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):

- Presented nine (9) new member applications for approval: John Esposito (USMC), Richard Abkin (USA), Douglas Cantaral (USA), John Scott, Jr. (USAF), Kyle Kovelenco (USA), Edwin McDowell (Army), John Martin (Navy), Michael Early, Jr. (USA), Jason O'Conner (USA), Robert Campen and William Branch (USA).

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

- Regarding the 2024 Membership campaign, the Post received: 22 Online Renewals, 7 new members, 42 PUFL members, 166 regular renewals.
- Post stands at a bit more than 55% of the Department's renewal target.
- Post has earned the "Jefferson Award" for meeting the 50% target objective before Sep 6th.

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

c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): EOM July - Gross Income: \$48,256.75; Authorized Uses: \$5,168.62. Donation Target: \$4,825.68. Totals for the CY year: Gross Income: \$368,391.45; Authorized Uses: \$41,635.10; Donation Target: \$36,839.15; +/- Target: +\$4,795.95 [3% above target].

d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM July- Total Income: \$66,113.75. Total Expenses: \$64,997.42. Net Income: \$1,116.33.

e. House Committee:

- Purchased a new large screen TV to replace damaged TV.

- Damage Insurance: The Post's reimbursement claim for damages incurred as a result of a power outage caused by a truck hitting the power pole across the street from the Post was approved by the Cincinnati Insurance Co. (our carrier). The Post received \$4,138.54 after the required deductible was met.
 - Post Family Day: Planning continues with advertisements placed in the newsletter, Post website and Post Facebook page. An information flyer will be sent to all Post Family Members next week. Free food and drink, games, Chili Cook-Off, Dunk Tank and much more. Begins at noon and runs until 4:00 pm.
- f. Service Officer: No report
- g. Chaplain: No report
- h. Historian:
- September 3, 1783 - **The Treaty of Paris** was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, **formally ending the American Revolutionary War** between Britain and the United States.
 - September 7, 1994 - **The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin**, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.
 - September 9, 1776 - **The United States came into existence** as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies.
 - September 11, 2001 - **The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred** as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Two fully-fueled jumbo jets, American Airlines Flight 11 carrying 92 people and United Airlines Flight 175 carrying 65 people, had departed Boston for Los Angeles. Both jets were diverted by the hijackers to New York City where they were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The impact and subsequent fire caused both 110-story towers to collapse, killing 2,752 persons including hundreds of rescue workers and people employed in the towers. In addition, United Airlines Flight 93, which had departed Newark for San Francisco, and American Airlines Flight 77, which had departed Dulles (Virginia) for Los Angeles, were hijacked. Flight 77 with 64 people on board was diverted to Washington, D.C., then piloted into the Pentagon building, killing everyone on board and 125 military personnel inside the building. Flight 93 with 44 people on board was also diverted toward Washington but crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to overpower the terrorists on board.
- i. Sgt-at-Arms: No report
- j. Judge Advocate: No report



- k. Executive Committeemen: Chai Gallahun reminded members that a Chili Cook-Off was part of the Family Day festivities and to sign-up in the Club Room if they wish to participate.
 - 3. Correspondence: No correspondence received
 - 4. Old Business: (Cdr): None presented
 - 5. New Business (Cdr): None presented
 - 6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):
 - Commander Owens reported that at a recent 4th District Executive Meeting, the Post received the following Departmental Membership Awards
 - ★ 35% Cardinal Award
 - ★ 50% Jefferson Award
 - ★ 55% Jamestown Award
 - ★ 80% Yorktown Award
 - ★ 85% Foxhound Award
 - ★ 90% Legion Birthday Award
 - ★ 100% Old Dominion Award
- The Commander commended 1st Vice Commander Jonathan Singleton for his outstanding work in maintaining membership files and keeping the program on tract. He further presented Legionnaire Singleton with a special award from Department for his efforts.
- 50/50 Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): Bert Cole. won \$8.00 in the 50/50 drawing.
 - Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$20. The number drawn was 133 belonging to Legionnaire James Crockett. As Legionnaire Crockett was not present, the jackpot will be \$40 at the October 17, 2023 meeting.

October 3, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

- 1. Summary of Previous Meeting (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the September 5, 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):
 - a. (22) Online Renewals; (15) New Members; (42) PUFL Members; (184) Post Renewals
 - b. Mailed out (175) 2024 membership cards

- c. The Post now stands at 55% of the 2024 target (394 members) with 223 members renewed
 - d. The Post will earn the “Jefferson Award” for meeting the 50% target goal before 10/11
 - e. Received one new member application: Melba Buster (US Army)
 - f. 2024 Membership cards are currently being distributed and membership files are being updated to include the current addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. Updates will continue as members renew and we welcome new members to the Post.
- Americanism/Children & Youth (2nd Vice): No report
 - Bingo (3rd Vice):

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – SEPTEMBER

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Auth Uses	Available for Donation
September	\$43,748.25	\$4,374.83	\$8,550.00	\$2,701.39	\$11,251.39	\$5,500.00
As of Sep 30	\$472,967.95	\$47,296.80	\$23,250.00	\$33,790.11	\$57,040.11	+/- Target \$9,743.31

- Participation at Bingo has been low – something other organizations are seeing. This could be a seasonal trend and/or a result of less disposable income because of inflation and the rising cost of living. At the end of September, the Post was 10.6% above the state-mandated 10% target.
- Post Finances (Fin Off):): For EOM September - Total Income: \$52,576.02. Total Expenses: \$58,038.70. Net Income: **-\$5,462.68**. A detailed Financial Report is attached at Enclosure 1.
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Post Family Day: The event, the first the Post has attempted, was full of surprises and some disappointments.


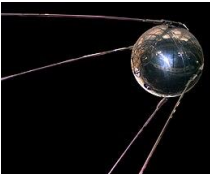

Surprises: A large number of parents and grandparents attended with many children. All enjoyed the games, especially the Dunk Tank and the Bouncy House, others were little used. The Chili Cook-Off went well with eight entries. The 50/50 Drawing and Grand Prize Drawings were well supported, and many stayed to play One-Shot BINGO. We were very pleased that the Hopewell Fire Department sent an engine and three firefighters to the event. The children (and some adults) were thrilled to have pictures taken with Sparky the Fire Dog.

Disappointments: So very few Legion, SAL and ALA members participated. Many games were not played precisely because there were no volunteers to supervise and run them.

Costs: Food and Drinks - \$588.61; Printing - \$157.50; Postage - \$165.94; Game Prizes and Contest Awards - \$82.93; and Amusement Rental - \$1,000.00. Total Cost: \$1994.98. From ticket and drawing sales, the Post realized \$1,342.00. Total cost to the Post: \$1994.98 - \$1,342.00 = \$652.98.

Overall: The House Committee feels that the event was a success as many more attended (especially children) than expected and quite a few people stayed until the event ended at 4:00 pm. Without the hard work of Jinx Traina, Tonya Payne, Jo Nowland, Beau Tucker and a number of others, this event could not have happened. ALA members composed the bulk of the volunteers supporting Family Day. Without their support, the day would not, could not have happened. The Post owes them a tremendous “Thank You” for all the time they gave and effort they made to ensure the day was a success.

- Queen of Hearts: The House Committee feels the Post must explore additional opportunities to increase the number of revenue streams supporting Post operations. The House Committee proposed that a Queen of Hearts Game be conducted one night each week (possibly Thursday or Friday). If feasible, the game would not begin until November, perhaps not until January.
 - ★ ACTION: After discussion, it was decided to table further discussion on the proposal to a special strategic planning session set for the November meeting.
- Service Officer:
 - In response to the Family Day Report, Legionnaire Gammon suggested that the next issue of the newsletter focus on “Volunteerism”. He further suggested that each article take as a topic: “What Volunteering Means to Me” and have the entire issue focus on the personal aspects of volunteering.
 - Golf Tournaments: The Post fielded teams for 1) VFW Post 637 Annual Jerry Ellis Memorial Golf Tournament (9/15); District 4 Royal Arch Masons Alzheimer’s Golf Outing (9/18), where the team tied for 1st place and lost in the play-off; and the Crater Community Hospice 19th Hole Celebrating Life Every Day Golf Tournament (9/28). The team played fairly well and gained a lot of recognition.
- Chaplain: No report
- Sergeant-at-Arms:
 - Next month, New Member Initiation is scheduled for the General Membership Meeting. We begin with dinner at 6:00 pm for the new members followed by the initiation beginning at 7:00 pm.

- National Colors Flag Disposal: Legionnaire Bonneville suggested that the Post conduct an Unserviceable Flag Destruction Ceremony in conjunction with a regular General Membership Meeting and suggested the ceremony be held at the November 21st General Membership Meeting. It was also recommended that destruction of the many unserviceable flags the Post has be accomplished at Legionnaire Bonneville's residence in Prince George where they may be safely and completely destroyed. The committee concurred with this recommendation. (Date to be announced)
 - Historian: Special dates and events:
 - October 3, 1990 - After 45 years of Cold War division, **East and West Germany were reunited** as the Federal Republic of Germany. 
 - October 4, 1957 - The Space Age began as **the Russians launched the first satellite, Sputnik I, into orbit**. It weighed just 184 lbs. and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days. The remarkable accomplishment by Soviet Russia sent a shockwave through the American political leadership resulting in U.S. efforts to be the first on the moon. 
 - October 5, 1986 - Former U.S. Marine Eugene Hasenfus was captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after a plane carrying arms for the Nicaraguan rebels (Contras) was shot down over Nicaragua. This marked **the beginning of the "Iran-Contra" controversy** resulting in Congressional hearings and a major scandal for the Reagan White House after it was revealed that money from the sale of arms to Iran was used to fund covert operations in Nicaragua.
 - October 7, 1765 - **The Stamp Act Congress** convened in New York City with representatives from nine colonies meeting in protest to the British Stamp Act which imposed the first direct tax by the British Crown upon the American colonies. 
 - October 12, 1492 - After a 33-day voyage, **Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas**. He named the first land sighted as El Salvador, claiming it in the name of the Spanish Crown. Columbus was seeking a western sea route from Europe to Asia and believed he had found an island of the Indies. He thus called the first island natives he met, 'Indians.'
 - Judge Advocate: N/A
 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Executives: No reports
3. Correspondence: : Letter from the John Randolph Foundation acknowledging the Post's recent \$7,000 donation and reporting that it will be applied to the Post 146 Scholarship Fund in Memory of Daniel Barbee.

4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator): The Post received the following requests:
 - a. The Memorial Day Foundation: Each year, this organizations asks for donations to enable them to place holiday wreaths on graves of servicemembers buried overseas (something akin to Wreaths Across America). This charity has not been rated by any rating organization and, as it is headquartered in Brooklyn, NY, it falls outside the acceptable boundaries established in the Post’s Donation Policy. The Post has not donated to this organization in the past.
 - ★ Recommend that the Post not donate to The Memorial Day Foundation for reasons listed above.
 - b. Jacob J. Pearson VFW Post 637 invites the Post to support their Annual Vet Fest scheduled for November 11th from 3:00 to 11:00 pm at the VFW Hall. The event features karaoke by Star Maker Karaoke and live music by “Double Down”. There are three sponsorship levels: Bronze (\$250); Silver (\$500), and Gold (\$1,000). Last year the Post provided sponsorship at the Bronze (\$250) Level.
 - ★ Recommend that the Post support VFW Post 637’s Vet Fest at the Bronze Level (\$250).
 - c. Prince George Public Safety Foundation requests a sponsor donation of \$50, \$75 or \$100 for their 3rd Annual Banquet and Fundraiser which will be held on November 11, 2023. Proceeds from the event will support local first responders by helping to purchase equipment, support training programs, and police and fire department community outreach efforts. Last year, the Post supported the Foundation with a \$100 donation
 - ★ Recommend that the Post again support the PG Public Safety Foundation with a donation of \$100.
 - d. U.S. Army Women’s Museum: Each year, the Post supports the operation of the U.S. Army Women’s Museum. Located at Ft. Gregg-Adams, the museum commemorates and showcases the service and contributions women have made to the U.S. Army.
 - ★ Recommend that the Post again support the museum with a donation of \$250.
 - e. Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation: This foundation honors and memorializes the sacrifice of the four U.S. Army Chaplains who quieted and assisted young soldiers and sailors when the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine on February 3, 1943. The chaplains voluntarily gave up their life jackets and sacrificed their lives so that others might have the chance to live. The Foundation’s mission is to 1) assist military veterans who are seeking a chaplain, honor guard, Tri-Care or VA benefits or are struggling with service-related injuries that result in substance abuse, PTSD, homelessness, joblessness, and/or

suicide ideation; provide emergency or first responder chaplains to respond to natural disasters and emergencies as these occur throughout the nation; and conduct the Legion of Honor Award Program which publicly recognizes and honors outstanding members of society whose lives model the giving spirit and unconditional service to community, nation, and humanity without regard to race, religion, or creed exemplified by the Four Chaplains..

★ Recommend that the Post again support the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation with a donation of \$550.

- f. John Randolph Foundation: The Foundation invites the Post to participate in their 24th Annual Golf Tournament. Sponsor Levels are set at: Hole (\$150), Team (\$600), Bronze (\$1,000); Silver (\$1,500), Gold (\$2,500), and Platinum (\$5,000). In past years the Post has elected to sponsor at the Bronze Level which guarantees \$560 of the sponsorship is donated to a selected scholarship. Any money earned above costs is equally divided among the scholarships selected by entrants. Last year the Post's scholarship fund received a total of \$770 as a result of participating in the golf tournament.

★ Recommend that the Post again sponsor the John Randolph Foundation Annual Golf Tournament at the Bronze Level (\$1,000).

- g. Hopewell Sheriff's Office requests the Post again sponsor the Annual Sheriff's Calendar fundraiser. The money generated from calendar sponsorship and sales goes to funding various programs such as homeless outreach, extra training and special equipment. Requested sponsorship is for \$200.00

Total for Recommended Donations: \$2,350.00

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to accept all donation recommendations for a total of \$2,350.00.

5. Old Business: None presented

6. New Business:

- a. SAL Commander 'Jinx' Trana reported (by note) that a Flag Disposal Box, something like a large mail box, would be delivered to the Post on Friday, Oct 6th. Placed outside the Post, this will allow anyone to drop off unserviceable flags at any time. The box will be emptied regularly and the unserviceable flags respectfully destroyed.
- b. Legionnaire Rob Stepp, Finance Officer, recommended that revenue received from Club Room operations be directly used to cover employee costs. For too long, personnel costs have been covered by profits realized from the Post's electronic pull-tab machines. It is believed that, given recent actions taken by the Commonwealth's Charitable Gaming Commission, the Commonwealth will soon

confiscate all profit from these machines and the Post will no longer be able to rely on revenue generated by the electronic machines.

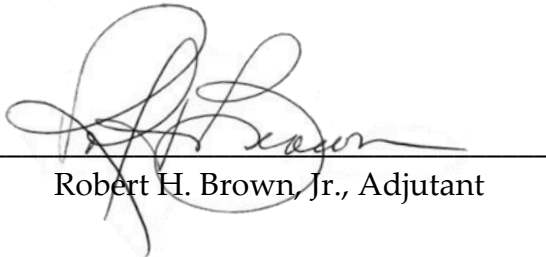
★ ACTION: The committee agreed with the recommendation and directed the Finance Officer to begin transitioning away from using revenue generated by the electronic pull-tab machines to cover employee payroll costs.

- c. Money for the ALA: As was mentioned in the House Committee Report, the recent Family Day could not have succeeded without strong support from the Post's ALA members. The Post's ALA Unit provides willing support for any number of activities and events and are one of the Post's greatest assets. As ALA members had done so much to make Family Day a success, the House Committee recommended that half of the proceeds from Family Day, \$650.00, be transferred to Unit 146, ALA for their use.

★ ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to transfer \$650.00 to the ALA from the proceeds of Family Day.

7. Good of the Legion: None presented

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant

Post 146 Summary Financial Report

AUGUST 2023

Post Business and Administration

Income

Purchase Refund	\$ 29.96	
Gaming	\$25,487.16	
Earnings	<u>\$27,058.90</u>	
Total Income		\$52,576.02

Expenses

Donations	\$ 8,550.00	
Personnel	\$14,531.44	
Club Supplies	\$11,318.15	
Reimbursements	\$ - 0 -	
Electronic Game Fees	\$12,646.08	
Rental Refunds	\$ - 0 -	
Printing/Postage	\$ 1,058.64	
Maintenance/Utilities	\$ 4,943.45	
Membership Dues	\$ 203.00	
Insurance	\$ 754.00	
It Services	\$ 906.83	
Sales Taxes	\$ 1,456.11	
Other Taxes	\$ 1,663.00	
Bank Svc Charges	<u>\$ 8.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$58,038.70

Total Net Income (\$5,462.68)

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As of Sep 30	\$472,967.95	\$47,296.80	\$23,250.00	\$33,790.11	\$57,040.11	+/- Target \$9,743.31

Encl 1