



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

September 20, 2022 General Membership Meeting and
October 4, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

October 8, 2022

September 20, 2022 General Membership Meeting

1. Summaries of the August 16, 2022 General Membership and September 6, 2022 Executive Committee Meetings were provided for member review on the Post website and at the meeting. summaries were accepted as written.
2. Officer Reports:
 - a. Membership (1st Vice):
 - We had four new member candidates: **James Eckenrode** (US Army), **Randolph Letsinger** (US Army), **Jason Reedy** (US Army) and **Matt Oveska** (US Army)
ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the above named applicants as members in the American Legion and/or Post 146.
 - Renewals are at 55% of the 2023 goal of 377 members
 - b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice): No report
 - c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice):
 - The month saw another good month for Bingo revenue Bingo. Donations and qualifying expenditures kept the Post above the 10% donation goal for the year. For August, Gross Receipts: \$67,670.25; Total July Donations: \$4,940.00. As of the end of September, Total Bingo revenues were: \$457,507.25; Total Donations were: \$52,486.23 against a mandated target of \$45,750.73 putting the Post 14% over the mandated target.
 - d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM August - Total Income: \$78,966.35.10; Total Expenses: \$92,884.19; Net Income: (\$13,917.84). With the stock market performing so poorly, the Post investment account has lost nearly \$6,000 so far this year. Last reported balance was \$75,895.00.
 - A motion was made and seconded to divest all investment accounts and place the resulting funds in a money market or bank account. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.
 - A second motion to keep the investments as they are until after the mid-term election to better gauge where the market may be trending was made and

seconded. A lengthy discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of leaving the money in investments ensued. After the question was called, a voice vote was taken. As it was difficult to discern the 'yeas' from the 'nays', a second vote by show-of-hands was taken. The vote was tallied and the motion to keep the investments as they are until after the mid-term election was APPROVED.

e. House Committee:

- New Security Cameras: more than half are installed. Target date to complete is Oct 23/23
- Plenum Approach to Reduce Condensation at HVAC Supply Vents: Cold air return vents were moved more than two weeks ago. Even with the high temperatures last week, there was no evidence of condensation at HVAC vents. It appears this may be a good solution to the problem.
- Request for Office Furniture from State Government General Services: The Post has applied to receive surplus furniture from Commonwealth of Virginia surplus. The House Committee is awaiting a reply from the Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property.

f. Service Officer: No report

g. Chaplain: No report

h. Historian: No report

i. Judge Advocate: The planned trip to the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir was cancelled because there were not enough people signed up to meet the minimum transportation requirement. The bus company will waive the required cancellation fee if we re-book the trip in the next 60 days.

j. Executive Committeemen: John Whitehead reported that he attended the funeral for a CSM (Retired) Williamson on behalf of the American Legion and the Post.

3. Correspondence: Received a special plaque from the Paralyzed Veterans of America for the Post's support of their programs, especially the Fishing Flea Market held at the Post in February.

4. Old Business (Cdr): None presented

5. New Business (Cdr): None presented

6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):

- Commander announced that the 4th District Fall Conference will be held at Post 2 in Petersburg on Sunday, October 2nd. Lunch will be provided starting at 12:30 pm and the meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 pm.

- Commander announced that the Department will hold its Annual Fall Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Williamsburg from October 21st through the 23rd. Those wishing to attend should make hotel reservations as soon as possible because the hotel fills up very fast.

October 4, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

1. Summary of Previous Meeting (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the September 6, 2022 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): Post stands at 55% of the 2023 Goal (377).
 - Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): Contacting local high school counselors and teachers this coming week to speak with them about American Legion programs and scholarships.
 - Bingo (3rd Vice):

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – SEPTEMBER

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Donations	Available for Donation
Sep	\$55,837.50	\$5,583.75	\$3,725.00	\$4,010.80	\$7,735.80	\$9,500.00
As of 30 Sep	\$513,344.75	\$51,334.48	\$21,821.60	\$38,400.43	\$60,222.03	+/- Target +\$8,887.55

Donations and qualifying expenditures are keeping the Post above the 10% donation goal for the year. The committee had \$9,500 available for donations.

- Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM September Total Income: \$65,657.19; Total Expenses: \$68,008.75; Net Income: **(-\$2,351.56)**.
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Security System: Final pieces of the new system will be installed on or about Oct 23/24.
 - Trivia Night: Action on this initiative postponed until January. We are searching for a new vendor as the previously identified vendor went out of business.
 - Condensation at HVAC Supply Vents: The committee approved an initiative which moves cold air return vents to other parts of the ceiling to reduce the

- temperature of the space between the drop ceiling tiles and the roof. Over two weeks in September when we were experiencing high temperatures, the action appeared to stop the condensation around the air conditioning output vents.
- Staff Shortages: Still trying to identify and employ additional Bartender/Servers. Currently, the need is for three bartender/servers.
 - Meals for WestRock: The Post is providing special "To-Go" meals for WestRock employees while the company is installing new equipment and has limited power. WestRock employees have been coming to the Post to pick up meals and in a few instances, meals are delivered. A special, limited menu for WestRock is being used.
 - New Point of Sale (POS) System: The committee will evaluate a new POS system with a representative from Hartland Restaurant/Cutting Edge Systems. The committee is looking at this system as it appears to be less expensive than the current Clover system, easier to use, easier to train new people to use, and contains an employee 'clock-in/clock-out' feature that will simplify time keeping.
 - We will celebrate the U.S. Navy's 247th birthday at the General Membership Meeting on October 18th even though the actual birthday date is October 13th.
 - October 28th is National First Responders Day. We will host Hopewell City Public Works staff at a lunch beginning at 11:00 am.
 - Veterans Day: Planning underway to lead Veterans Day Ceremonies at City Point National Cemetery on Friday, November 11th. Ceremony begins at 11:00 am with lunch to follow at the Post afterwards.
 - A Thanksgiving Day Dinner is planned for Thursday, November 24th. The Post will open at 11 am with dinner served from noon until 2 pm. The Post will close at 2 pm.
- Service Officer:
 - Attended a Sept 14th meeting of all service officers in the Department of Virginia. Completed 40 hours of annual training. Will attend additional training and information presentations at the Fall Conference in Williamsburg.
 - Most important part of a VA Claim is the evaluation. Veteran often doesn't know what the evaluator is looking for or the information necessary to support a disability claim. Evaluation sheets (used by evaluators) are a useful tool to prepare for a VA evaluation. Reviewing the Evaluation Sheet helps the veteran know what to expect during the evaluation. The veteran can also take an evaluation sheet to a private physician and have them evaluate the problem(s)/disability and submit that to the VA for consideration.

- Chaplain: Dwight Lee had a stroke and is hospitalized at Johnston-Willis Hospital. There has been a scheduling issue with Bible Study, but we are on schedule now for the first and third Mondays of each month.
- Historian: Special dates/events:
 - October 3, 1990 - After 45 years of Cold War division, **East and West Germany were reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.**
 - October 8, 1918 - During World War I in the Argonne Forest in France, **Sergeant Alvin C. York** single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion, killing over a dozen and capturing 132. He was later awarded the Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre.
 - 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.
 - October 13, 1775 - **The United States Navy was born** after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.
 - October 14, 1947 - **U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier,** flying in a rocket-powered research aircraft, the Bell X-1.
 - October 16, 1859 - Fanatical **abolitionist John Brown seized the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry** with about 20 followers. Three days later, Brown was captured, and the insurrection was put down by U.S. Marines. Colonel Robert E. Lee was in overall command of the operation to retake the arsenal. Stonewall Jackson and Jeb Stuart were among the troops guarding the arrested Brown. Brown was convicted by the Commonwealth of Virginia of treason, murder, and inciting slaves to rebellion, and was hanged on December 2, 1859, with John Wilkes Booth a spectator at Brown's execution.
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Thanked all those who participated in the New Member Orientation conducted at September's General Membership Meeting. A Protocol Training Program is complete and will be presented at the October General Membership Meeting.
- Judge Advocate: Trip to National Museum of the U.S. Army at Ft. Belvoir has been rescheduled for Wednesday, November 2nd. See flyer for details. Cost remains \$15 for each participant.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Executives: Larry Nesbitt reported that Ronnie Bowman is home from treatment but is wheelchair bound. John Whitehead stated that he will attend the Hopewell Police Foundation Community Meeting on October 13th.

5. Correspondence:

- a. Resolution from Culpepper American Legion Post 330 endorsing Sondra "Sonnie" Dickerson for the office of Commander, the American Legion Department of Virginia.
- b. Letter from The Hopewell Police Department in which the Chief of Police, A.J. Starke, invites a Post representative to attend a special civic community meeting. The objective of the meeting is to establish a committee of civic organizations which will work closely with the Hopewell Police Foundation to strengthen relations between police and the community. The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm, Thursday, October 13th at Woodlawn Baptist Church in Hopewell.
- c. Letter from American Legion National Headquarters thanking the Post for its recent donation to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

6. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator):

- a. At present, we have received only one donation request. That request is from the Richmond Chapter of the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation. No amount is specified. Although this is a national charity, money donated stays in the Richmond area to provide support for those with breast cancer in our geographical area. This request meets the requirements of the Post's Donation Policy.
- b. Based on past history, we expect to receive requests from the U.S. Army Woman's Museum, Historic Hopewell Foundation, and the Four Chaplain's Memorial Foundation this month. Depending on availability, we also previously donated \$1,000 to ALA Unit 146 and placed \$1,000 or more in the Restricted Fund.

★ Recommendation: that the Post make the following donations:

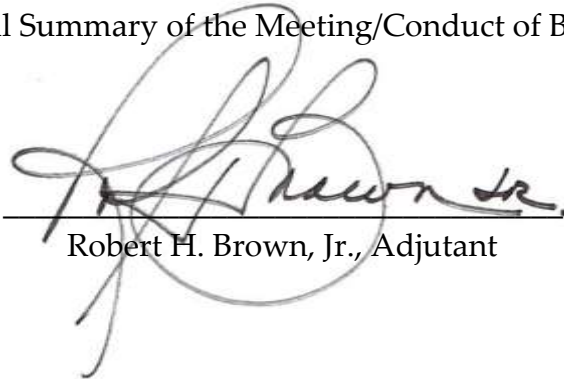
1. Richmond Chapter of the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation: \$500
2. U.S. Army Woman's Museum: \$250
3. Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation: \$550
4. Unit 146, American Legion Auxiliary: \$1,000
5. Historic Hopewell Foundation: \$1,000
6. Bingo Restricted Account: \$3,000

Total of Recommended Donations: \$6,300

★ ACTION: A motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to accept the recommendation and make donations in the amounts listed.

7. Old Business: None presented
8. New Business: The commander reported that he negotiated a new five-year contract with Grover Gaming (an extension of the current contract) which included an agreement for \$10,000 credit for each year of the contract. That means that rather than paying the monthly percentage earned in the electronic pull-tab machines, the amount will be deducted from the credit line and the Post will keep the earnings until the \$10,000 level is reached. Grover Gaming has also agreed to help support the Post 146 Golf Tournament planned for the spring of 2023.
9. Good of the Legion: The commander reported that Ms. Barbara Wallace successfully completed training and is now a certified concealed carry permit instructor. Sheriff's Deputy Keith Miller is the current instructor and has scheduled training courses through November. As there is a shortage of deputies, Ms. Wallace will begin instructing when Deputy Miller cannot lead the class, allowing the Post to continue offering the course at no charge.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant