



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

**October 17, 2023 General Membership Meeting and
the November 7, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting**

November 15, 2023

The following is a summary of the October 17, 2023 General Membership Meeting and the November 7, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

October 17, 2023 General Membership Meeting

1. New Member Initiation: The quarterly New Member Initiation was conducted for Kyle Kovelenco. After the ceremony was completed, the meeting was suspended while the members enjoyed a special birthday cake in honor of the U.S. Navy's 248th birthday.

2. Summaries of the September 19, 2023 General Membership and October 3, 2023 Executive Committee Meetings were provided for member review on the Post website and presented at the meeting. Summaries were accepted with no corrections.

3. Officer Reports:

a. Membership (1st Vice):

b. Membership (1st Vice):

- Presented (3) new applications to consider for membership: Melba Buster (US Army); Carl Brown (US Army); and Michael Buyalos, Jr. (US Army)

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: (22) Online Renewals; (15) New Members; (42) PUFL Members; (1) Honorary Life Member, Roger LaPierre (unpaid); (176) Post Renewals + 4 new renewals as of 10/17
- (233) members are in good standing for 2024 membership
- Post stands at a bit more than 59.14% of the Department's renewal target.
- Post has earned the "Jamestown Award" for meeting the 55% target objective before Oct 11th.

b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice): Planning for the Veterans Day Ceremony is underway.

c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): EOM September - Gross Income: \$43,748.25; Authorized Uses: \$11,251.39. Donation Target: \$4,373.83. Totals for the CY year: Gross Income: \$472,967.95; Authorized Uses: \$57,040.11; Donation Target:

\$47,296.80; +/- Target: +\$9,743.31 [10% above target]. See Attached Financial Report (Encl1)

d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM September - Total Income: \$52,576.02. Total Expenses: \$58,038.70. Net Income: **-\$5,462.68**. (See Encl 1 for details)

e. House Committee:

- 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 the 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. That said, the ALA provided significant assistance to the Post for Family Day. Overall, the Post realized about \$1,300 from the events.
- Executive Committee has directed the House Committee to develop a plan where operational costs (wages, utilities, consumable supplies, and equipment) are funded by Club Room revenue. As the state takes an increasing percentage of electronic pull-tab revenue, the Post will no longer be able to use those proceeds to cover costs. Although this requirement is not immediate, the House Committee is developing a staged plan by which an increasing percentage of operating costs are covered by Club Room revenue.
- Change to Employee Policy: Current earned Paid Time Off (PTO) policy is being changed to an industry standard "Vacation with Pay" system. This standardization will allow more flexibility for employees while streamlining and simplifying the administrative process for tracking vacation time used. The new policy will become effective on January 1st, giving employees the opportunity to use or redeem earned PTO.
- Thanksgiving Dinner: Our traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner will be held at the Post beginning at noon on November 23rd. Roast turkey and ham will be the main courses. Members are invited to bring pot luck dishes, salads or desserts to share. A sign-up sheet is available in the Club Room if members wish to bring a pot luck item.

f. Service Officer: No report

g. Chaplain: No report

h. Historian:

- 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.
- October 17, 1777 - **British General John Burgoyne and his entire army of 5,700 men surrendered to American General Horatio Gates after the Battle of Saratoga**, the first big American victory in the American Revolutionary War.
- October 19, 1781 - As their band played 'The World Turned Upside Down', the British Army surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown. **More than 7,000 British and Hessian troops, led by British General Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington.** The war between Britain and its American colonies was effectively ended.
- October 25-30, 1983 - **The Caribbean island of Grenada was invaded by the U.S. to restore "order and democracy."** Over 2,000 Marines and Army Rangers seized control of the island after a political coup the previous week had made the island a "Soviet-Cuban colony," according to President Ronald Reagan.



i. Sgt-at-Arms: No report

j. Judge Advocate: N/A

k. Executive Committeemen: No report

4. Correspondence: No correspondence received

5. Old Business: (Cdr): None presented

6. New Business (Cdr): Michael Bonneville announced that a Ceremony for the Destruction of Unserviceable U.S. Flags will be conducted at the next regular meeting (November 21st). Members were encouraged to bring all faded, torn, or worn U.S. flags to the Post. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm.

7. Good of the Legion (Cdr):

- Commander Owens presented a special Certificate of Appreciation to Beau Tucker for his work as cook at the September 30th Family Day Event.

- 50/50 Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): Fred Sissan won \$8.00 in the 50/50 drawing which he graciously donated to the Club Room staff.
- Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$40. The number drawn was 143 belonging to Legionnaire Darrell Milam. As Legionnaire Milam was not present, the jackpot will be \$60 at the November 21, 2023 meeting.

November 7, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

1. Summary of Previous Meeting (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the October 3, 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): As of the last District Membership Report, 10/26/2023 currently the Post has:
 - (25) Online Renewals, (19) New Members, (42) PUFL Members, (184) Post Renewals which equals (245) members in good standing for 2024
 - The Post is now at 62.18% of the 2024 target goal, which is 394 members
 - The next award is the "Veterans Day Award", which requires meeting a 65% target goal before 11/08
 - The Department is currently processing 13 membership renewals (as of 11/01), so the Post is scheduled to meet the target goal with 65.48% by 11/08.
 - Two new member applications have been received for consideration at the next general membership meeting: Victor Musandu, (US Army-Active Duty); Chuck Brown, (US Army)
 - Americanism/Children & Youth (2nd Vice):
 - Plans for the upcoming Veterans Day Ceremony are progressing well. A keynote speaker has been identified, the Prince George High School JROTC will provide the color guard, and the music is set. A master of ceremonies is still needed.
 - Creating a continuity binder for 2nd Vice Cdr tasks to help with future events.

- Bingo (3rd Vice): Report for EOM October 2023: Gross Income: \$48,988.00; Donations: \$2,350.00; Other Uses: \$5,038.26; Total Authorized Uses: \$7,388.26. Year-to-Date: Cumulative Gross Income: \$521,965.20; Year-to-Date 10% Requirement: \$52,196.52; Total Authorized Uses: \$64,428.37.
The Post is well ahead of the required 10 percent Authorized Uses objective. At the end of October, the Post has 'donated' 23.5 percent, well above the required 10 percent target. This places the Post in the position to be able to 'roll-over' some December proceeds and begin CY 2024 with sufficient funds to cover winnings and make donations in January, if the committee wishes.
- Post Finances (Fin Off):): For EOM October - Total Income: \$59,858.69. Total Expenses: \$61,208.17. Net Income: **-\$1,349.48**. A detailed Financial Report is attached at Enclosure 1.
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Ms. Amy Hall resigned as Kitchen Manager effective November 2nd. The House Committee is searching for a replacement. Cook scheduling is set through the end of November. The committee is accepting any recommendations or leads.
 - Preparations for Veterans Day: The kitchen is prepared to provide a hot lunch on Saturday, Nov 11th. The menu is country-fried steak, mashed potatoes and green beans with iced tea, water, and coffee. Lunch begins at noon and will be served until 2:00 pm.
 - Thanksgiving Day: As is our tradition, the Post will offer a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov 23rd. The Post will open at 11:00 am and dinner will be served from noon until 2:00 pm. The Post will close at 4:00 pm.
 - Christmas Schedule: Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year and the Post will be closed. We will serve our traditional Christmas Eve dinner on Friday Dec 22nd from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. The Post will be closed Saturday (12/23) through Monday (12/25) and open at the regular time (8:00 am) on Tuesday, Dec 26th.
- Service Officer: No report
- Chaplain: No report
- Sergeant-at-Arms: : A special Flag Retirement Ceremony is planned for 6:30 pm, Tuesday, Nov 21st (before the General Membership Meeting). The Post Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, ALA President and SAL Commander all have roles in the ceremony. All members are invited to attend. Please bring all unserviceable flags to the Post before Nov 21st.

- Historian: Special dates and events:
 - November 4, 1979 - About 500 young **Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran**, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.
 - November 9, 1989 - **The Berlin Wall was dismantled** after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9 mile wall had been constructed in 1961.
 - November 10, 1775 - **The U.S. Marine Corps was established** as part of the U.S. Navy. It became a separate service on July 11, 1789.
 - November 11th - Celebrated in the U.S. as **Veterans Day** (formerly called Armistice Day) with parades and military memorial ceremonies.
 - November 19, 1863 - **President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address** during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery. Famed orator Edward Everett of Massachusetts preceded Lincoln and spoke for two hours. Lincoln then delivered his address in less than two minutes.
- Judge Advocate: N/A
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Executives: No reports



3. Correspondence: :

- Letter from Montgomery County Post 59, Christiansburg, VA which contains a resolution supporting Eugene 'Gene' Malinowski as a candidate for the office of Department of Virginia Commander for the 2025 Legion Year.
- Thank You letter from the Army Women's Museum Association thanking the Post for its recent donation.

4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator): The Post received the following requests:

- a. City of Refuge Hopewell: City of Refuge is a faith-based drug recovery center that desires to bring opportunity and hope to individuals and families of Hopewell and the Tri-Cities area by offering supportive services, recovery, job placement assistance and connection to high quality early childhood education. Objective is to help people to meet their potential and support the community's families so they may find success and hope for the future. The organization is a recognized 501c(3) with EIN: 83-1045335.

City of Refuge provides a peer-led, 9-month recovery program open to anyone earnestly seeking recovery. They use a best practice model of recovery support to lead participants through cognitive-behaviorally based activities of self-discovery and skill building while holding them accountable and providing community supports to help them find a pathway to recovery. Additionally, they

are a Court diversion program using a sanctioned system, which means they work with local court systems to provide an alternative sentencing model for those caught in the cycle and behaviors often associated with addiction. No information about servicing veterans was available.

★ ACTION: The committee tabled action on this request until more information about the center’s veteran participants could be presented.

- b. Two Rivers Chapter, American Legion Riders: Our ALR Chapter requests a donation to support their Wreaths Across America program for decorating graves in City Point National Cemetery in December. The Post has donated to this program for many years. It was recommended that the Post donate \$595.00 to the Two Rivers Chapter’s Wreaths Across America program to purchase 35 wreaths at \$17.00 each.

★ ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$595.00 to the Two Rivers Chapter’s Wreaths Across America program.

- c. Veterans Memorial Circle Improvement Committee (Hopewell, VA): The committee requests a donation to construct a permanent monument to honor Robert Penn (Fireman 2nd Class, USN) who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for “conspicuous gallantry on July 20, 1898 while serving aboard the USS Iowa (BB-4)”. It was recommended that the Post donate \$1,000.00 to the Veterans Memorial Circle Improvement Committee to support the Robert Penn Monument Project.

★ ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate \$1,000.00 to the Veterans Memorial Circle Improvement Committee to support the Robert Penn Monument Project.

- d. Virginia Veterans Services Foundation: The Foundation requested an unspecified amount to help them reach their goal of \$100,000 to help the Virginia Department of Veterans Services address unbudgeted support requirements. It was recommended that the Post donate \$1,000.00 to the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation to help them meet their \$100,000 goal.

★ ACTION: The committee tabled action on this request until more information about the foundation and its relationship to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services could be presented.

- e. Downtown Partnership: The newly established Downtown Partnership requests a donation of \$2,000.00 to join the partnership and help support Hopewell downtown re-vitalization efforts.

The Downtown Partnership is not a recognized 501c(3) nonprofit entity. As such, however well-intentioned, the Post cannot donate Bingo-generated funds to this organization. Secondly, although a worthy endeavor, the partnership cannot

show a direct benefit to veterans other than to offer a discounted partnership entry fee for those veteran-owned business who may wish to join the partnership. For the reasons stated, it was recommended that the Post not donate to the Downtown Partnership.

★ ACTION: The committee decline to take action on the Downtown Partnership's donation request

Total Donations Approved: \$2,004.50

5. Old Business: None presented

6. New Business:

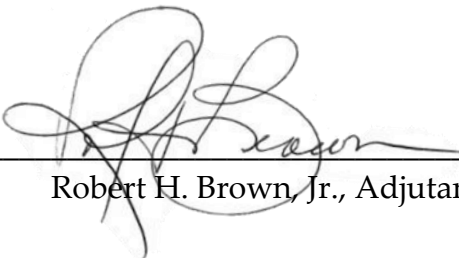
The House Committee proposed the Executive Committee approve Christmas Bonuses for the Post staff. The Executive Committee has annually granted bonuses for many years. The House Committee reported that the total cost would be \$1,409.50 (\$1,350.00 for bonuses plus \$59.50 [for gift card activation fees]).

★ ACTION: After discussion, the Executive Committee APPROVED a total of \$1,409.50 for the purchase of gift cards which will be used as Christmas bonuses for the Post staff.

7. Good of the Legion: None presented

NOTE: The official meeting was suspended and a strategic planning session was conducted. The committee scheduled a follow-on planning session for Thursday, November 16th, starting at 6:00 pm.

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant

Post 146 Summary Financial Report

OCTOBER 2023

Post Business and Administration

Income

Gaming	\$36,508.00	
Earnings	<u>\$23,350.69</u>	
Total Income		\$59,858.69

Expenses

Donations	\$ 2,350.00	
Personnel	\$15,500.53	
Club Supplies	\$12,659.43	
Reimbursements	\$ 1,694.83	
Electronic Game Fees	\$17,623.15	
Rental Refunds	\$ 500.00	
Printing/Postage	\$ 390.44	
Maintenance/Utilities	\$ 5,659.39	
Membership Dues	\$ 725.00	
Insurance	\$ 754.00	
It Services	\$ 674.78	
Sales Taxes	\$ 1,249.34	
Other Taxes	\$ 1,427.28	
Total Expenses		\$61,208.17

Total Net Income (\$1,349.48)

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – OCTOBER

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Auth Uses	Available for Donation
October	\$48,988.00	\$4,899.80	\$2,350.00	\$5,038.26	\$7,388.26	\$5,500.00
As of Oct 31	\$521,965.20	\$52,196.52	\$25,600.00	\$38,828.37	\$64,428.37	+/- Target +\$12,231.85

Encl 1