



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

November 15, 2022 General Membership Meeting and
December 6, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting
December 11, 2022

November 15, 2022 General Membership Meeting

1. Summaries of the October 18, 2022 General Membership and the November 1, 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 three new member candidates:
New: **Tavorise Marks** (US Army), and **Tiffany Marks** (US Army).
Transfer **Venoy Todd**
 - 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 62.8% (237), 140 members shy of the 2023 goal of 377 members
 - b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice):
 - Appointment scheduled with Ms. Amy Evens at Carter G. Woodson Middle School to speak about the Patriotic Essay Program
 - Veterans Day Ceremony went very well despite having to be held indoors at the Legion Hall because of inclement weather. The Hall was nearly filled and there were more than 130 people at the lunch with immediately followed.
 - c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): Bingo revenue remained strong in October. Donations and qualifying expenditures kept the Post above the 10% donation goal for the year. For October, Gross Receipts: \$\$57,891.25; Total October Donations: \$10,034.48. As of the end of October, total Bingo revenues were: \$571,236.00; Total Donations were: \$70,256.51 against a mandated target of \$57,123.62 putting the Post at 22% or 12% over the mandated 10% target.
 - d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM October - Total Income: \$69,816.69; Total Expenses: \$69,606.17; Net Income: **+\$210.52**. The investment account as of October 28th was \$74, 664.04; an improvement from September's report of \$69,976.63 (a 6.7% gain) in a very volatile stock market.

e. House Committee:

- Purchase of New Water Heater: A new 75 gallon unit was purchased and we are awaiting receipt of the new equipment. In the interim, emergency repairs were completed allowing us to continue to operate.
- Staff Shortages: Still trying to recruit additional Bartender/Servers. Currently, the need is for three bartenders/servers.
- New Point of Sale (POS) System: The committee decided to contract with Hartland Restaurant/Cutting Edge Systems for a new POS system. The Post Finance Officer is completing negotiations with Cutting Edge Systems.
- 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. We are encouraging people to bring covered dishes of their choice.

f. Service Officer: No report

g. Chaplain: No report

h. Historian: Special Dates:

- November 15, 1864 - During the American Civil War, **Union troops under General William T. Sherman burned Atlanta.**
- November 17, 1800 - **The U.S. Congress met for the first time in the new capital at Washington, D.C.** President John Adams then became the first occupant of the Executive Mansion, later renamed the White House.
- November 18, 1916 - During World War I, Allied General Douglas Haig **called off the First Battle of the Somme after five months.** The Allies had advanced 125 square miles at a cost of 420,000 British and 195,000 French soldiers. German losses were over 650,000 men.
- November 19, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln delivered **the Gettysburg Address during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery.** The speaker preceding him had spoken for two hours. Lincoln delivered his address in less than two minutes. Although many in attendance were at first unimpressed, Lincoln's words have come to symbolize the definition of democracy itself.
- November 19-20, 1990 - **The Cold War came to an end** during a summit in Paris as leaders of NATO and the Warsaw Pact signed a Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe
- November 22, 1718 - **Blackbeard the pirate (Edward Teach) was killed off the coast of North Carolina** after a long and prosperous career. Attacked by two British sloops, the Queen Ann's Revenge was boarded and Lt. Robert Maynard killed him in the fight that followed.

- November 26, 1789 - **The first American holiday occurred**, proclaimed by President George Washington to be **Thanksgiving Day**, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic.
 - i. Sgt-at-Arms: No report
 - j. Judge Advocate: No report
 - k. Executive Committeemen: No report
3. Correspondence: The Post received a "Thank You" card from Crater Community Hospice acknowledging the Post's recent donation.
 4. Old Business (Cdr): None presented
 5. New Business (Cdr): None presented
 6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):
 - 50/50 Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): Donald Tipton won \$12.00 in the 50/50 drawing.
 - Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$180. The number drawn was 229 belonging to Legionnaire Ronald Mansfield. As Legionnaire Mansfield was not present, the jackpot will be \$200 at the December 20, 2022 meeting.
- ⇒ NEXT MEETING: December 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM

December 6, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

1. Summary of Previous Meeting (Adj): A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the November 1, 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): [Adjutant Reporting] Post stands at 69% of the 2023 Goal (377). Reviewed renewals. Processed 19 new actions and mailed 48 membership cards. Jinx Traina (SAL Commander) assisted with the processing.
 - Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): Boys State – Have possible candidate for Boys State. Student is at the Governor's School in Richmond but

lives in Enon. Plan to meet with the candidate sometime in the coming week. Working with Hopewell High School to identify additional candidates.

- Bingo (3rd Vice): Bingo is way down (the big jackpot was won last month so attendance is down because the jackpot is not high enough to entice additional players. Traditionally, after the holidays Bingo participation drops. Still looking for volunteers to help sell pull tabs during the games.

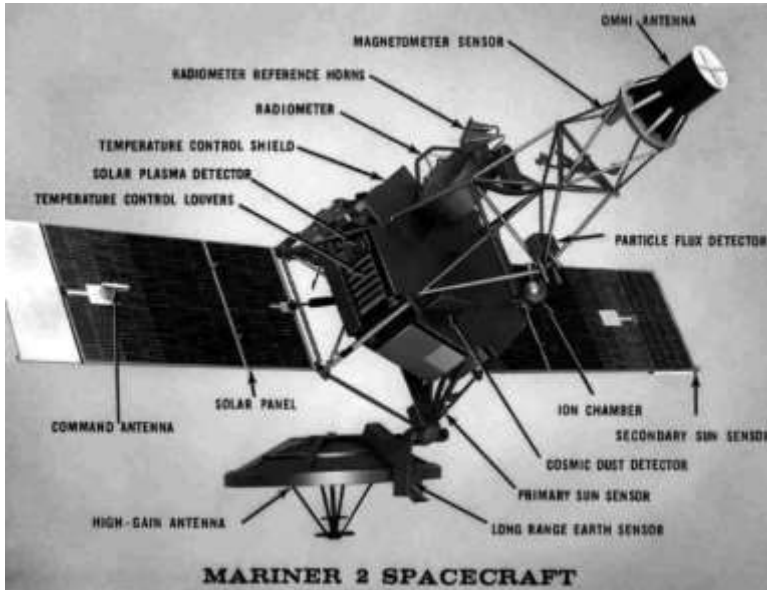
BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – NOVEMBER

| Month | Gross Income | 10% Rqmt. | Donations | Other Uses | Total Donations | Available for Donation |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Nov | \$43,200.25 | \$4,320.03 | \$2,700.00 | \$2,976.51 | \$29,976.51 | \$5,007.00 |
| As of 30 Nov | \$614,436.25 | \$61,443.65 | \$27,021.60 | \$48,911.42 | \$75,933.02 | +/- Target +23% |

Donations and qualifying expenditures are keeping the Post above the 10% donation goal for the year. The committee had approximately \$5,000 available for donations.

- Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM November - Total Income: \$60,140.25; Total Expenses: \$57,759.30; Net Income: **+\$2,380.95**.
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Changes to Menus: New menus are being developed for the Club Room, special lunch events, Bingo and catering for Legion Hall events. The new menus reflect increasing costs with which all restaurants must contend, but the House Committee has worked to keep increases to a minimum. The catering menu plan gives those renting the Hall choices from ‘finger food’ to a full dinner menu all of which are at a set, per-person price. We are also working to provide more variety in the monthly menu calendar and present additional specials each day, if possible.
 - Weekend Operations: The Club Room is now open on weekends, but there is a critical need for volunteers to make this work. We remain short of cooks and servers, especially servers, so are asking folks to volunteer a couple of hours to help us remain open and servicing members.
 - Staff Shortages: Still trying to recruit additional Bartender/Servers. Currently, the need is for three bartenders/servers.
 - New Point of Sale (POS) System: A new system will be installed on Wednesday, Dec 7th. This will necessitate the Club Room closing for business from 1:00 to 4:00 pm (usually the slowest part of the business day) so the vendor can install new equipment and associated software. We will concurrently be conducting an employee meeting to make best use of the downtime.

- Microsoft Business Prices Increases: Microsoft announced that the support we now receive (Microsoft 365) by contract, will increase this month. Our Office account will increase from \$15 to \$18 per month and our general basic account rental will go from \$5 to \$6/month.
- Proposed Member Appreciation Day: The committee is considering holding a member appreciation day in February. There are three Saturday's open for the event as Feb 11th the Paralyzed Veterans of America will be holding a Fishing Flea Market in the Legion Hall.
- We will celebrate the National Guard's 386th birthday at the General Membership Meeting on December 20th even though the actual birthday date is December 13th.
- Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Fishing Flea Market: Event is scheduled for Saturday, February 11th from 7 am until 2 pm. The PVA people will set up for the event on Friday, February 10th, in the afternoon.
- Four Chaplains/Post Everlasting: Scheduled for Saturday, February 18th. [Suggestion was made that we combine that observation with a Member Appreciation Day by holding the ceremony then a dinner afterward.]
- Service Officer: Information sheet (Encl1)
- Chaplain: No report
- Historian:
 - a. Committee members joined in a special toast to the fallen of Pearl Harbor and WWII.
 - b. Special dates/events:
 - December 2, 1823 - **President James Monroe introduced his "Monroe Doctrine" during his annual message to the Congress**, prohibiting any further colonization of the American continents by European powers, stating, "we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety..."
 - December 5, 1933 - **The 18th Amendment (Prohibition Amendment) to the Constitution was repealed.** For nearly 14 years, since January 29, 1920, it was illegal to manufacture, transport, and sell alcoholic beverages in the U.S.
 - December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at **Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft** in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead. The next day (December 8th) **the United States and Britain declared war on Japan.**



- December 11, 1901 - The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland.
- December 14, 1962 - The Mariner II space probe sent back information from the planet Venus; the first information ever received from another planet.
- December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonials disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in

Boston Harbor and dumped 342 cases of expensive tea into the water.

- Sergeant-at-Arms: New Member Orientation scheduled for the January 17th General Membership Meeting. New members joining in October, November and December should be invited to attend.
- Judge Advocate: The first Sunday breakfast was very good; many people bussed their own tables and tried to help out.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Executives: [John Whitehead] previously worked with EcoLab. The company offers customers a free site analysis to determine possible dishwashing alternatives for their operation. Suggested the House Committee contact them for possible analysis.
ACTION: House Committee

3. Correspondence:

- a. Notice from Department - 2023 Bowling Tournament: The Department has issued the following notice concerning a 2023 Department Bowling Tournament:
 1. The tournament will be sponsored by American Legion Tidewater Post 327, Norfolk, VA at a bowling facility to be announced later
 2. The tournament will take place in February 2023
- a. Letter from Tech For Troops in which they thank the Post for its recent donation to their program.

4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator):

- a. Hopewell/Prince George Healthy Families Program. No amount is specified. The Hopewell-Prince George Healthy Families Program (HPGHF) is a community-based, public-private program. The City of Hopewell serves as the fiscal agent.

This program has been serving families in Hopewell and Prince George County since 1999. Families deemed 'at risk' for child abuse and neglect receive services prenatally and children 5 to 7 months are enrolled in the program. These families receive intensive, weekly, in-home case management services for a child or children up to 5 years of age. Their goal is to help the family build a strong foundation on which they can build for the rest of the child's life.

The stated mission of Hopewell/Prince George Health Families is to ensure that all children are born healthy, reach school age healthy and are ready to learn, and grow up to be healthy, contributing members of their communities. To that end, assessment and referral services are offered to all families in Hopewell-Prince George. Intensive home-based visitations and family support services are voluntary, free of charge to participants, and are available for up to five years after the birth of a child.

★ Recommend a \$500.00 donation

ACTION: The committee deferred any action until more information can be provided by the organization.

- b. End of Year Donation - Crater Community Hospice: Although we made a donation to Crater Community Hospice in June (for which we received a nice Thank You card), the organization, which does so much for area residents, is always in need of funds, especially this time of year.

★ Recommend a donation of \$250.00

★ Recommendation: that the Post make the following additional donations:

1. Hopewell High School JROTC Program : \$250
2. Post Restricted Fund: \$2,500 [if funds are available]

Total of Recommended Donations without Restricted Fund: \$1,000

Total of Recommended Donations with Restricted Fund: \$3,500

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to donate:

1. to the Hopewell High School JROTC Program : \$250
2. to Crater Community Hospice: \$250.00

5. Old Business: None presented

6. New Business: None presented

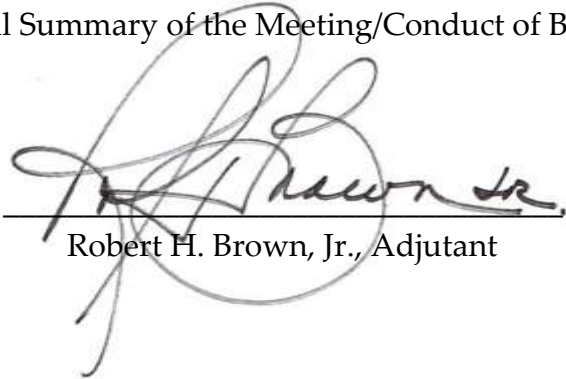
7. Good of the Legion:

- a. The commander recommended that the Post Constitution, By-Laws, and House Rules be reviewed to ensure they are up-to-date and address the committee's intent of how the Post should function. Action: Andy Pawlowski

- b. It was recommended that the Post investigate the possibility of recognizing members who consistently make significant contributions to the Post with the award of a baseball cap with the Legion emblem, and Post name and location; and/or an official Legion cap. Action: Larry Gammon and Andy Pawlowski
- c. Looking to April 2023, the Post should review and update the Post Property Book. Action: Bob Brown and Johnnie Owens

⇒NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 – 7:00 pm

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



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant

Post 146 Service Officer's Input – 06 Dec 2022

Raising Your VA Compensation Rates

As the cost of living goes up, VA ensures that your benefit rates do too! Starting Jan 1, 2023, all compensation benefit rates have increased by **8.7%** to match adjustments made to Social Security benefits. This increase impacts disability benefits, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), as well as other VA assistance programs.

Website for more info: <https://www.va.gov/disability>

PACT Claims will become effective as of the date the law was signed (Aug 2021). Indications are that the VA's original phased-in plan was scrapped as it was too difficult to implement.

Track Your VA Claim

Since the PACT Act was signed into law, Veterans have set an all-time record for filing on-line disability compensation claims. VA will begin to process all PACR-related claims on 01 Jan 2023. If you have a pending claim or appeal, use the VA's on-line tool to stay up-to-date on your action's status.

Website for more info: <https://www.va.gov/resources/how-to-check-your-va-claim-appeal-or-decision-review-status-online>

Supplement Your Pension with Aid and Attendance

The VA's Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits Program may increase your pension payments to support the additional care you may need. If you as a Veteran need help with daily activities or if you are housebound, you may qualify for an increased VA pension to help pay for in-home care, assisted living, or nursing home costs.

Website for more info: <https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound>

New Improved Insurance Coming Soon

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) is launching on 01 Jan 2023, as a new guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance program for Veterans with service-connected disability. Those currently enrolled in Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI) may keep their coverage or switch to VALife. To get details, go to the VA website.

Website for more info: <https://news.va.gov/109922/difference-va-life-insurance-sdvi>

Shop Military Discounts This Holiday Season

Save money this holiday season with a variety of discounts. Take advantage of deals on clothing, electronics, fitness, food and more – all available to Veterans, service members, their families and caregivers. Go to the website below to check on year-round discounts before your next purchase.

Website for more info: <https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round>