



**The American Legion
Department of Maryland
Damascus Post 171
PO Box 171
Damascus, Maryland 20872**

**Steve Monteiro
Commander**

2023 – 2024

**Anita Trotter
Adjutant**

**POST MEMBER MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2024**

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee	
1 st Vice Commander: Charles Bradsher	At-large Member: Keith Martin
Finance Officer: Ray Lewandowski	At-large Member: Mandy Buckley
Sgt At Arm: Bill Green	At-large Member: Paula Gill
Members	
Other Members Present: 13	

1st Vice Commander Bradsher began the meeting at 1930 hours.

- Member Paula Gill began the meeting with a prayer.
- A quorum was determined to be present. The minutes from the April Membership meeting were approved by membership and the May Executive Committee meeting was provided.

WELCOME

- Membership voted in 2 new members: Marie Priester and Jeffrey Feldman.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- National Oratorical Speech Contest is May 18-19, 2024.
- Friday, May 17 - No Host Social: Waredaca Brewing Company, 4017 Damascus Rd, Laytonsville, MD 20882, at 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 26 - Memorial Day Program: The band begins at 1, the program begins at 1:30.
- Monday, June 10 - Membership Meeting and Voting. The slate can be found in the Appendix.
- Week of June 8: School Award Presentations: Will Trotter will present at a number of schools. On June 12, other presenters include Anita Trotter for Damascus ES, Steve Monteiro for Cedar Grove ES, Fred Mitchell for Gibbs ES, and Keith Martin for Snowden Farms ES.
- Friday, June 14 - Flag Retirement Ceremony: At the Post at 6 p.m.
- Saturday, June 29, Post Installation Dinner.
- Friday, July 12 – Blood Drive.
- Saturday, July 13 – Recruiting at Celebrate Damascus, 12-2pm, at the DUMC Pavilion.
- Week of July 15-19 – Department of MD Convention. Post 171 has (and pays for) 8 delegates, plus Will Trotter PDC. We have four going: Steve, Anita, Fred, and Scott. You can still go if you want to!

A BIG THANK YOU!

- Thanks to our new Bingo volunteers: John Palomino, Mary Dowd-Martinez, and Barbara Van Den Berg.
- Thanks to Keith Martin and LTC(MD) Alexis Nusbaum of the Maryland Defense Force for the “Be The One” presentation to prevent suicide. This included Buddy Check training and we had 13 attendees.
- Thanks to Bill Raab who donated his Navy uniform, and to Sam LeHane who purchased and set up a new mannequin for it. We have decided to keep our 4 quiet service members in the Club Room!
- Thanks to Charles Bradsher who presented our donation to the Legion Riders during their Poker Run on May 12. We presented a \$500 check for their fundraising target Warrior Canine Connection.
- Thanks to Mike Wright and Bill Raab who carted a pile of Post closet junk to the dump.
- Thanks to Americorps and Lockheed Martin who painted the Main Hall.
- Thanks to Kris Bradsher and her sister Jane who re-designed our wall hanging placement in the Main Hall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- There’s additional rehab work in the Main Hall. If you have a couple of hours to give, we need:
 - Window trim painting, support post trim construction and painting, and crossbeam painting.
 - Construction of a wood valence over the bingo screens.
 - Creation of fabric accents around the bingo screens. This is a sewing project.
- We’ll need Post members on July 13 for a recruitment and community building opportunity. Someone needs to consider and order inexpensive things we can hand out to create interest.
- The Post Baseball season starts soon and we need help to prepare the field prior to each game.
- We need a High School Constitutional Speech (Oratorical) program lead. This is a good job for Post members with high schoolers, as you know how they think and operate!

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE OFFICER

- The Finance Officer provided the financial report. The report was accepted subject to auditing.
- We had a net revenue of \$8,098. Bingo had a net revenue of \$14,000. Major expenses were \$958 for HVAC services and \$5000 support to baseball program.
- FO noted that the Posts CDs came due in April. He let them automatically reinvest into new CDs.
- FO noted that he is developing a draft budget for the 2024-2025 year. Input from committees and all other members is requested.

FIRST VICE

- First Vice reported the Flag Retirement Ceremony is moving along under Scott Dallas’ lead and is June 14 at 6 p.m.

SECOND VICE

- The 2nd Vice Commander (via the 1st Vice Commander) briefed on the Memorial Day program.
- The event will take place May 26. The Browningsville Band plays at 1 and the program begins at 1:30.
- We are planning for about 125 people and the Boy Scouts will help with setup.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

- Judge Advocate Fred Mitchell (absent) sent notes regarding the election slate and rules. Mike Wright presented.
- Elections will be held during the June membership meeting. Members must be present to vote; no proxies or absentee ballots are allowed.

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- Nominations will be accepted on the floor but a valid DD-214 is needed for inclusion.

ADJUTANT

- Adjutant Anita Trotter (absent) sent notes regarding the Celebrate Damascus activity. Ray Lewandowski presented. We wanted to have the Market Street Big Band play *at the Post*. But we've learned from our DVFD neighbors that since the free shuttle doesn't come down our road, no one will attend events there. Adjutant is looking for an alternate location. UPDATE: the band will play in the DUMC Pavilion from 12-2. We'll have Post members there for a recruitment opportunity.

MEMBERSHIP

- Currently at 289 members (97.97%) with 6 more members needed to meet our goal.
- The Membership Chair reminded members that dues are increasing in July to \$40, but current members can renew for 3 years online through the end of June at the current rate of \$30 per year/\$90 total.

BINGO

- Lead Bill Green reported that bingo is going great, averaging \$5,000 per Thursday.
- The Bingo Chair notes that volunteers are key to success and more help is always welcome.

RENTALS

- Both rooms are rented every Saturday, and a few other times, for the next two months.
- The Post Main Hall painting went great! Americorps Montgomery County and Lockheed Martin had 30-36 volunteers cleaning and painting. They started around 8:30 am and were cleaned up and gone by around 1:30 pm. Many of the volunteers are themselves Veterans, so they really enjoyed doing this for us.

SERVICE OFFICER

- SO Keith Midberry noted the Camp Lejeune claim window closes in August.
- Ernie Screen, a member of Post 171 for 36 years, passed in April at the age of 94 years. SO thanked all the members who attended his services.

SCHOLARSHIP

- The committee finished scoring the applicants and has identified the 6 awardees. The recipients will be recognized in their schools in the coming weeks.

BASEBALL

- There has been a great increase in interest, with 27-30 young men interested in playing.
- Two teams will be fielded this season, a 19U team and a 17U team.
- The opening game will be June 8 and is a doubleheader against Sykesville.

HOUSE AND GROUNDS

- Mike, the House and Grounds Chair, reported that he has installed the new Stop the Bleed kits and signs for them and the AEDs.
- All A/C units have been repaired and are now in working order.
- Mike will investigate getting a bigger dumpster or more frequent pickups.

COMMUNICATIONS

- The Communications team has been promoting Post events online. They are considering adding Instagram and Twitter to widen the Post's reach on social media.
- If you are organizing a Post-sponsored event and need it promoted, please email Kris and Mandy.
- Kris Bradsher noted there is a powerlifting contest open to the public through CrossFit Enforce in Gaithersburg to benefit Fisher House on Sunday, May 19. The entrance fee is \$25, and the events will include a bench press, a back squat, and a deadlift.

OTHER

- Boy's State: We have made our 3 selections to sponsor and look forward to hearing of their success this summer.
- Warrior Canine Connection: Keith brought SGT Rusty, a 10-month-old yellow lab, to show membership what the working dogs in training can do and explain the different ways they can serve vets after their training is complete.
- Recognizing New Members: We can do more as a Post to recognize and welcome new members. New members will have a better opportunity to introduce themselves at meetings going forward.
- Lorien: Wednesday, June 12, is the last Lorien visit before the summer break. Keith Midberry will lead the June presentation, beginning at 9:30 a.m. All are encouraged and welcome to support and visit.
- For the record: Adjutant worked with a Damascus United Methodist Church group and worked on a veteran's transitional home in Laytonsville. We'll look into helping this site and residents more.

Meeting Adjourned:

Paula Gill closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 2028 hours.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Member Mandy Buckley. Approved by the Executive Committee via email, May 20, 2024.

Submitted by:

Anita Trotter
Post 171 Adjutant

Appendix: Election Slate 2024

Post Position	Incumbent	Nominee(s)
Commander	Steve Monteiro	Charles Bradsher Anita Trotter
1 st Vice Commander	Charles Bradsher	Paula Gill
2 nd Vice Commander	Kevin O'Neill	Kevin O'Neill
Finance Officer	Ray Lewandowski	Ray Lewandowski
Adjutant	Anita Trotter	Mandy Buckley
Judge Advocate	Fred Mitchell (PPC)	Fred Mitchell (PPC)
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bill Green	Scott Dallas
Executive Committee		
At Large Member #1	Paula Gill	Cary Henry
At Large Member #2	Will Cole (PPC)	Steve Monteiro (PPC)
At Large Member #3	Keith Martin	Mike Wright
At Large Member #4	Mandy Buckley	Bill Raab (PPC)