



**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
October 9, 2023**

ATTENDANCE:

| Executive Committee | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Commander: Steve Monteiro | Sergeant at Arms: Bill Green |
| 1 st Vice Commander: Charles Bradsher | Judge Advocate: Fred Mitchell (PPC) |
| Adjutant: Anita Trotter | |
| At-large Member: Mandy Buckley | |
| Members | |
| Jim Serritella (Chaplain) | Keith Midberry (Service Office) |
| Bill Raab (PPC) | Keith Martin |
| Larry Matthews | Sam LeHane (Historian) |
| Sam Baughman (PPC) | Dean Elliott |
| Mike Wright | Brownie Chichester |
| Ryan Arnett | Bryan Munoz |
| Cary Henry | Phil Purcell |
| Scott Dallas | |
| | |

Commander Steve Monteiro began the meeting at 1930 hours.

- The meeting took place at Post 171.
- Chaplain began the meeting with a prayer.
- The Commander presented the previous Member meeting minutes; Approved.

The meeting was suspended, briefly, in order to accept a presentation of a plaque from Jay Henley and Linda McIlfresh of the *Golden Gears*, the car club of Frederick. Post 171 has been supportive of the clubs efforts to raise money for veterans, including Golden Gears bingo events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The District 8 Legion Riders group is hosting a fundraising Poker Run. It was to be on September 23 but due to the rain was postponed to **Saturday October 28**. The ride starts with coffee and donuts at our Post 171 parking lot at 0900. Cars/drivers are invited to attend and play “poker” also. A quarter of the funds raised will go to the winner, but most go to support the Martinsburg VA Canteen.
- Kris Bradsher is planning a no-host meet up at local brewery for **Thursday October 12**. This is a good place to socialize with other post members, but also to wear a Legion shirt and talk to other visitors at the venue.
- Adjutant Anita Trotter has planned a Post members and Unit social for **Saturday October 21**. This is a Welcome new members and Welcome Back to everyone else. We’ll supply beer and soda, chips, and

such. Attendees are welcome to bring wine and other spirits and mixers, as well as any specific food you want to share.

- The Commander has District 8 raffle tickets for sale, with payouts up to \$400. Funds raised will support District 8 activities and charities. The winner will be drawn at the District 8 meeting at our Post on **Sunday October 29th**. Lunch will likely be purchased from Mission BBQ.
- The Post is hosting a Blood Drive with the Red Cross, on **Friday, November 3**, from 10am-3pm. Please make an appointment online to give blood that day, and volunteer onsite if you can. See our website or contact Keith Martin for more information.
- The Post will hold our annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on **Friday, November 10 and Monday November 13**. Please attend the school ceremonies that you can – the kids enjoy seeing the veterans! Contact school liaison Will Trotter for more information. This year we are supporting events at:
 - Rockwell Elementary School at 0830 then Damascus ES at 0945 on Friday November 10.
 - And then the **Post event on Friday**. The choir/band starts at 1030 and the ceremony at 1055.
 - Clearspring ES 0930 then Gibbs ES 1015 on Monday November 13.
- There will be a Veterans services fair at Post 41 in Silver Spring. This is **Saturday, November 18** from 1-4pm. Contact our Service Officer Keith Midberry for more information.

A BIG THANK YOU!

- A big thank you for a job well done to Sam LeHane. Sam's *Know Your Legion* display at the Damascus Historical Society site was a big success. Thanks also to all the other volunteers that made this happen, including Sandy Seipp who presented a display for the Legion Auxiliary in conjunction with the Post display.
- Thanks to Dave Clemmer, who ordered and obtained tempered glass tops for two of the display cases. One was broken in transit and the other did not fit the case correctly. NOTE: we have some extra glass shelves and a couple of large glass panes without a purpose. If you want any glass, please see the Adjutant. Dave also completed and installed the repainted valance in the Club Room.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Member Larry Matthews is spear-heading the Post return to supporting Lorien senior and veteran living. Our Post was quite active with this service pre-COVID, and we want to get back to this important community support. The timing of the visits is to be determined but it may be the second Wednesday of every month, from 9-10 am. The first visit occurred on October 11...Larry gave a great presentation to eight Lorien residents and Post attendees got to talk to them about their service and experiences.
- Member Ryan Arnett proposed an idea to increase membership engagement, communications, and cohesion in the Post membership by implementing Platoon and Squadron structure for Post support. Each Squadron would contain 5-10 members and would target Post needs, as a group, when called upon. Volunteers for the Platoon leader and Squadron leaders are needed.
- Bingo stills **needs volunteers** to cook, set up, and serve at the snack bar, as well as various other help. The bingo on 10/12 was extremely short handed as some of our regulars who give time weekly were out for the day. Please consider working just 2 days a month, from about 4pm to 6pm setup or 6pm to 8:30pm serving patrons, to fill this need. If cooking or prep is your thing, you can make a big pot of soup or some other delectable. You can drop it off at the Post or maybe someone will come pick it up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

- The Finance Officer was not in attendance. In his stead the Adjutant reported that the FO has submitted the Maryland tax exemption application. We should hear back from them shortly.

FIRST VICE

- The First Vice noted that work on the membership strategic plan is in progress.

SECOND VICE

- The Second Vice was not in attendance; he is on business travel. In his stead the Commander reported on the preparations for the District 8 meeting and the Veteran's Day event at the Post.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

- The JA noted a local effort to present Veterans with help in expunging their records, if needed. Please contact the JA if this help is appropriate for you or someone you know.

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership Chair, Sam Baughman, presented the membership stats. As of 10/7, we have 219 members, which is up 2 from last week, for 74.23% of our goal. Post 171 is in first place in the District.

COMMANDER'S REPORT

- Commander discussed the upcoming Post inspection by the District 8 commander, Cliff Bergstresser.
- Commander noted the auditor Scott Dallas is beginning the annual financial audit.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

- The Adjutant distributed a calendar covering October and November. The Adjutant and others are keeping the online calendar up to date, so be sure to go there to see upcoming events. See <https://legionpost171.org/site/eventscalendar.php>
- Adjutant noted that the four glass display cases are now in place and filled with materials returned from the museum display. Our Club Room wall hangings are going back up also.
- Adjutant noted that installation of the interior digital door locks is complete. Anyone that needs regular access to a locked door and does not have an access code, see the Adjutant. Anyone that needs 1-time access will be given a 1-use code...just call the Adjutant or Commander.
- Adjutant reported on the effort to get quotes for new locks on the exterior doors. Initial cost quotes from two locksmith companies shows that this is going to cost around \$5,000 or more, due to the panic hardware required by fire code. Expect a vote on this next month.

CHAPLAIN

- The Chaplain reported on a new effort to engage the network of churches in the Damascus area. By going through their church leadership and membership, we can reach more veterans that need our help or comradeship.

HOUSE AND GROUNDS

- Commander notes that Mike Wright has agreed to lead this committee, working with Bill Raab.
- Mike reported that installation of the exterior security cameras begins within the next couple of weeks.
- This week Mike replaced the in-sink garbage disposal machine and fixed the plumbing in the Party Room kitchen.

OTHER

- There was a *Stop the Bleed*, Saturday October 14, from 9am-12pm. Though this first-aid training is past, these free local trainings occur regularly. Contact Keith Martin.
- Our communications lead, Mandy Buckley, noted that input for the next newsletter is due October 20th. If you have input for this or upcoming editions, send email to newsletter@legionpost171.org.

Meeting Adjourned:

Chaplain closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours.

Approved by the Executive Committee via email, October 16, 2023.

Submitted by:

Anita Trotter

Post 171 Adjutant