



**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
September 18, 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	Finance Officer: Ray Lewandowski
At-large Member: Mandy Buckley	
Members	
Jim Serritella (Chaplain)	Keith Midberry (Service Office)
Bill Raab (PPC)	Will Trotter (PDC)
Larry Matthews	Sam LeHane (Historian)
Sam Baughman (PPC)	Dave Clemmer (PPC)
Mike Wright	Brownie Chichester
Ryan Arnett	Vivian Logan
Cary Henry	Phil Purcell
Charlie Appleby	Dean Elliott
Forrest Deal (visiting potential member)	

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 EC and Member meeting minutes; Approved.

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 30**. 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.
- Commander introduced the Ed Moore Veterans Fishing Adventures, for anyone that wants to attend. It’s free for Veterans and on **Saturday September 23**.
- There is a veteran Equine Therapy event at Foxie G Foundation, 14024 New Windsor Road, Union Bridge, MD. It was to be on September 23 but due to the rain was postponed to **Saturday September 30** from 1300 -1700. Interested persons can contact Service Officer Keith Midberry.
- Kris Bradsher is planning a no-host meet up at local brewery for **Sunday October 15**. 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.
- Member Sam LeHane presented and proposed a bus trip to the Army and USMC museum. The likely (but TBD) date for that is around Veteran's Day on **Saturday November 4**. Post leadership will discuss the costs and other details. But interested Members should contact Sam now to show your desire to attend.
- The Post will hold our annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on **Friday, November 10**. The school liaison is working to schedule school visits in the morning and then we will have a ceremony with lunch.

A BIG THANK YOU!

- Thanks to the Post 171 Honor Guard, led by Sergeant at Arms Bill Green. Bill and his team did a flag ceremony at the Damascus 5K event on September 9th. That organization is very supportive of Veterans and much of the proceeds from the annual run go to Veteran charity and services.
- Thanks to the volunteers that attended the 9/11 Flag Raising Ceremony on Monday September 11 at Baker Middle School, led by School Liaison Chair, Will Trotter. We had a great showing of 17 Post and 4 Unit members.
- Thanks to the volunteers that attended the Laytonsville Town Picnic on Saturday September 16, led by Public Affairs Chair Kris Bradsher. The volunteers, Kris, Charles, Steve, Anita, and new member Vivian, made several good contacts and met potential new Post and Unit members.
- Thanks to all the volunteers that made our first two bingo nights a success. The start of the 2023-2024 Bingo season had a rough start on September 7 but still managed to earn more profit than usual. Our players were certainly ready to return from the summer hiatus!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Our Know Your Legion display ends on September 27. Post Historian Sam LeHane would like packing and transportation volunteers to help bring all the materials from there back to the post. Packing work is needed on **Thursday September 28**, from approximately 10am to 2pm, and transportation on **Saturday September 30**.
- Commander asked for volunteers to be callers and visitors in the upcoming Buddy Check program. Discussed them not as just calls, but an opportunity to ask how can we help...and do it!
- 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 it to be determined but it may be the second Wednesday of every month, from 9-10 am.
- The Baseball Committee chairs are looking into a continuation of the season into Fall Ball. If you want to be involved in Baseball and, soon, Ladies Fastpitch Softball, we need you!
- Bingo stills needs volunteers to cook, set up, and serve at the snack bar, as well as various other help.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

- The Finance Officer offered the August monthly report for review.

MEMBERSHIP

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- Membership Chair, Sam Baughman, presented the membership stats. As of 9/15, we have 213 members, which is up 2 from last week, for 72.203% of our goal. Post 171 is in first place in the District, and fifth place in the State (up one from last week).

COMMANDER'S REPORT

- Commander discussed the upcoming Post inspection by the District 8 commander, Cliff Bergstresser. There was some belief that Post executive committee members needed to do the sexual harassment training session, but our Judge Advocate Fred Mitchell confirmed that we do not because the Post does not engage *employees*.
- Commander noted the appointment of Scott Dallas to do the annual financial audit. This was voted and approved by the membership.
- Commander noted that a managed deer hunt will occur on or near our Post property on dates in October through December. Be aware, if you are out on the property, especially in dusk or dark.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

- Adjutant has developed a building security plan. The plan will be in two phases: 1) secure locking interior doors with new locks and controlled access and 2) secure all exterior doors with new locks and controlled access. The plan revolves around keyless and programmable electronic locks; the office door has a new keyless lock that we've been trying out for a week. Adjutant requested to spend up to \$500 for phase 1. Voted and approved by membership.
- Phase 2 begins later in the week with discussion and receipt of cost quotes from two locksmith companies concerning the best fit for options for the exterior doors.
- In addition, member Mike Wright has been working to stand up exterior and interior security cameras. He has tested the electronics and installation begins soon.

RENTALS

- The Rental Agent noted that rentals are going well, with only minor issues. September was busy, October doesn't have many rentals, but they pick up again in November and December. Renters are starting to book into 2024. The Post Executive Committee is considering the topic of raising rental rates, to start on January 1, 2024.

OTHER

- The Baseball chair discussed the fall league – 3 games have been rained out so far, but they'll continue to try to get the games in. Also, they are working on the plans for 2024 ball.
- Member Dave Clemmer discussed the need to replace/repair the glass on the top of two of our new display cases. He proposed spending up to \$400 for that purpose. Voted and approved by membership.

Meeting Adjourned:

Chaplain closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 2030 hours.

Approved by the Executive Committee via email, September 24, 2023.

Submitted by:

Anita Trotter
Post 171 Adjutant