



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

**Anita Trotter  
Commander**

**2024 – 2025**

**Mandy Buckley  
Adjutant**

**MEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

**August 12, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Executive Committee (EC)	Present	Absent
Commander: Anita Trotter	X	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Paula Gill	X	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Kevin O'Neill	X	
Adjutant: Mandy Buckley	X	
Finance Officer: Ray Lewandowski	X	
Judge Advocate: Fred Mitchell (PPC)	X	
Sergeant at Arms: Scott Dallas	X	
Elected Member: Steve Monteiro (PPC)	X	
Elected Member: Cary Henry		X
Elected Member: Bill Raab (PPC)	X	
Elected Member: Mike Wright	X	
<b>Additional Attendees</b>		
24 members		

Commander began the meeting at 1930 hours. The meeting took place at Post 171. The Commander outlined their vision for more focused meetings. The minutes of the Executive Committee were presented and available.

**FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

- A high-level overview of the projected numbers for the 2025 Legion Year was presented.
  - Total profit: \$525,500, \$455,200 from bingo
  - Spent: \$510,800
  - Net revenue: \$2,700
- We'll continue contributing \$1,000 to the building fund each month.
- We'll consider adding a line for an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for the Post.
- The proposed budget was passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT**

- Paula is working on business cards with key Post information and a QR code to direct new and potential members to our website.
- She is also working on ways to better welcome and inform new members.

**ADJUTANT'S REPORT**

- Four awards were presented to the Post and Post members at the Convention in July.
  - Chaplin – Jim Serratella
  - Yearbook – Sam Lehane
  - Membership – Sam Baughman
  - Americanism – Fred Mitchell (accepted on behalf of the Baseball and Scout committees)

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- The director of Mission Believe sent a thank you note for the Post's donation. Their work helps local veterans and first responders.

### **JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT**

- Fred noted the role of Service Officer was renamed to Resource Officer. One large difference is that Resource Officers can't help with claims without a certain level of experience.
- Sergeant at Arms can now be elected or appointed.
- Audits will be a point of emphasis by the District Commander when conducting Post inspections.

### **COMMANDER'S REPORT**

- The new questionnaire was discussed and responses are starting to come in. The questionnaire will be resent in case anyone didn't get it. This questionnaire was put together so Anita makes sure we're doing things members want to do and enjoy.
- We need some help in the near future for coordinating SSL hours for the kids in the bingo snack bar and those interested in carpentry projects. Please reach out to Anita if you're interested.
- Thanks to Dave Clemmer for donating a picture of a Coast Guard ship adding to our representations of the services in the main room upstairs.
- We are working on getting more mannequins so we can represent more services.

### **MEMBERSHIP'S REPORT**

- James Midberry was voted in as a new member.
- This year's membership goal will be 298.
- We currently have 206 members (69%). This makes us 1<sup>st</sup> in the District and State.

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

- The safety committee will look at and consider more projects that could benefit the Post.
- Blood drives will be held at the Post on September 6 and November 1. Please consider donating if you are eligible!

### **RESOURCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

- Military honors and DD-214 availability go hand-in-hand. Make sure that if you want military honors to plan for that and ensure multiple family members have copies of your DD-214.
- The Post can keep a copy of your DD-214 on file if you would like that. Feel free to block out your social security number if you chose this.
- Need to file a claim? Check in with Keith Midberry for more information and the numbers to call for local help.

### **BASEBALL'S REPORT**

- A great baseball season just wrapped up!
- We are working to field a U18 fall ball team.
- Fred and Keith had a good meeting with the new DHS coach and are hopeful for a seamless partnership.

### **BINGO'S REPORT**

- The bingo committee met August 7. We agreed to change some payouts and the structure of the little and big jackpots.
- A big thanks to all the volunteers! If you want to help, come see us on Thursdays. We play September through June and the first bingo of the season is September 5.

### **BUILDING AND GROUND'S REPORT**

- Stop the bleed kits were installed. We may get a 2<sup>nd</sup> AED for the first floor and Mike is working to secure the Narcan.

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- The safety inspection went well.
  - A bit of water came in with the tropical storm as over 8 inches of rain fell. Mike is working to add another drain.
  - There are several proposals being worked, especially redoing the parking lot.
  - Mike noted the upstairs is pre-wired for more cameras, so we can add more and add more storage for videos.
  - Mike is also working to fix the damage in the party room from the ice maker.

### **RENTAL'S REPORT**

- Rentals are light for now but will pick up in the fall.
- Anita ordered new tables! Help will be needed to move the old ones out the day we get the new tables, likely the last week of August.
- Thanks to John Palmino for his work in getting the new tables!

### **SERGEANT AT ARM'S REPORT**

- Scott has implemented a schedule to check the flags we have for serviceability.
- We may put the KIA flag up, taking down the SAL flag.
- We have a color guard team for the Damascus Freedom 5K but we're always happy to have more members! Contact Scott if you're interested.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Anita will continue to keep following up with Home Depot about the floor upstairs.
- Mike can't find a second grease trap, but will keep looking and will get quotes from plumbers about them.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS, GOOD OF THE POST**

- Upcoming activities:
  - Post Blood Drive – September 6
  - Damascus Community Fair – September 6-8
  - Placemaking Festival – October 19-20
  - Eagle Scout Project Blood Drive – October 20

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 2050 hours.

Submitted by:  
Mandy Buckley  
Post 171 Adjutant