



**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
November 11, 2024**

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee (EC)	Present	Absent
Commander: Anita Trotter	X	
1 st Vice Commander: Paula Gill	X	
2 nd 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	
Additional Attendees		
9 members	Cliff Bergstresser (Dept. Commander)	

The Commander began the meeting at 1930 hours. The meeting took place at Post 171. The minutes of the Executive Committee were presented and available. The Chaplain offered a prayer. The Commander welcomed Department Commander Cliff Bergstresser to the meeting.

COMMANDER'S REPORT

- The Post participated in several great Veteran's Day visits to schools.
 - The members that attended the school's events had the chance to talk to a lot of kids.
 - We received some fantastic art and notes from the kids.
 - There are two more visits tomorrow, November 12.
- The Post hosted a successful Veteran's Day event today and appreciated the excellent speaker, Col. Rob Carter III.
- Anita gave the Post's \$500 donation to the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department on November 9.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

- In October, we brought in about \$54,400 and spent about \$54,800.
- The large outflow was partly because we paid some large expenses in the past month.
 - Resurfacing and restriping the parking lot (\$13,000)
 - Bingo supplies (\$2,112)
 - Community outreach (\$2,204)
 - Oil (\$1,100)
- Bingo netted \$17,000.
- The bill for the new locks will be in November's report, which will be available in December.
- Ray will look into the possibility of putting some of our funds in short-term CDs.

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- Ray is also continuing to work on the dumpster.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

- We received 3 thank you notes.
 - We sent a fruit basket to a member celebrating a birthday. They appreciated the treat.
 - Mission BBQ provided a great meal last month. They sent a note saying it was great to meet us and thanked us for our service.
 - Ruby and the Bellison family sent a note thanking the Post for conducting a Post Everlasting service for Bob. Ruby sends special thanks to Anita, Jim, and Keith for their roles in the service.
 - All cards are on display on the bulletin board downstairs.

MEMBERSHIP'S REPORT

- As of November 8 we have 243 members, which is 81.54% of our goal. This makes us first in the district and seventh in the state.
- Two members were voted in—Nehall and Paul Gutierrez—and Rob Carter, the speaker from the Post's Veteran's Day event, transferred in.

2ND VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

- Kevin notes the Veteran's Day event was a success with 75 people attending.

SERGEANT AT ARM'S REPORT

- Scott notes that people are leaving flags that are still serviceable in the flag retirement box while seeing flags that need to be retired in his neighborhood. If any members see neighbors or friends in need of a newer flag, please talk to Scott.
- The current color guard uniform is a white polo and khaki pants. Do we want to change the uniform?
- The SAL flag is down and is now the KIA flag.

BASEBALL'S REPORT

- Fall ball is over and the banquet was held.
- Both the 17U and 19U teams did well!
- Next year is already in the works and more help is always needed. Please let Keith Martin or Fred know if you're interested.

BUILDING AND GROUND'S REPORT

- The parking lot is almost done, just a few final touches to go.
- The new locks are in. This will be great for giving temporary access to renters while keeping the building secure.
- Sewer gases were problematic last week. Mike can't find the cause, so he'd like AB Luck to come and inspect/investigate.
- Mike is going to work on better lighting in the meeting room and will work on the mold issue he found in the party room. Mike thinks it may be prudent to stop renting the party room until it is mitigated/remediated.
- Home Depot is scheduled to come by Tuesday, November 19, to put in a new vinyl floor in the main hall area.
 - They may need to delay to December if the corporate office doesn't finish their part of the paperwork in time.
 - Whenever Home Depot puts in the new floor, they would love to meet us. They will also be presenting the Post with a surprise around 3 to 4 pm when they visit, so if you can only come for a little bit, that would be the best time.

RENTAL'S REPORT

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- The Executive Committee voted to raise rental rates and compensation for the rental agent and hosts as of January 1, 2025.
 - The rate for upstairs will be raised from \$180 per hour to \$220 per hour with a 5-hour minimum rental.
 - The rate for the party room will be raised from \$90 per hour to \$110 per hour with a 5-hour minimum.
 - Host pay will be raised from \$10 per hour to \$15 per hour.
 - Rental agent pay will be raised from \$35 per executed contract to \$40 per executed contract.
 - The rental rate increases will cover cleaning costs and increased compensation for hosts and rental agents while keeping our offerings competitive.

BINGO'S REPORT

- Bingo is doing fine; the number of people coming is down, but the revenue is about the same.
- Bill is open to ideas to bring more people in.

SCHOLARSHIP'S REPORT

- Ray is looking for more committee members.
- Outreach to schools will start soon and the questions on the application need to be reviewed and finalized before that.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 80th Anniversary Event
 - A target date needs to be selected.
 - More people are needed for the committee.
- Ramps for Vets
 - Getting the ramp built for a veteran who needs it is proving challenging.
 - Anita proposed \$1,500 as a budget.
 - Keith Midberry proposed just providing a check for a metal ramp that meets the veteran's needs.
- JROTC
 - Research was done, but we still need more information.
 - The JROTC programs in the area seem to all have sponsors already.
 - We will consider sponsoring one if we get someone to lead the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- State Grant
 - Anita provided a list of ideas to consider.
 - Members added further ideas, including an elevated solar fan, renovating the party room, getting new flag poles, and renovating the kitchens.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS, GOOD OF THE POST

- Thanks and Successes
 - The blood drive on November 1 was a great success!
 - The goal was met.
 - Keith Martin thanks to Steve Monteiro for hosting.
 - Thanks to Kris for setting up the no-host social at Stone Silo Brewery on November 1 and to those who attended.
 - No-host socials are not only a good opportunity to meet potential members but a great way to engage with members who don't like meetings.
- Upcoming activities:
 - Stop the Bleed – December 1
 - December Potluck – December 9 at 6 pm

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- Post 171 at the Damascus Museum – open Wednesdays and Saturdays through January
 - Department Gala – April 2025

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

- Cliff visited to conduct our annual inspection, which we passed.
- He encouraged all to keep up the good work as we do a lot of outreach and support in line with the pillars of the Legion.
- Cliff thanks us for our service to the nation and the community.

The Chaplain offered a prayer.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 2048 hours.

Submitted by:
Mandy Buckley
Post 171 Adjutant