



**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  
October 10, 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>		
15 members		

Commander began the meeting at 1930 hours. The meeting took place at Post 171. The minutes of the Executive Committee were presented and available.

**FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

- A good month overall.
  - Total profit: almost \$40,000, about \$8,000 from bingo
  - A \$2,000 scholarship was paid out

**ADJUTANT'S REPORT**

- We received 2 thank you notes.
  - We sent a fruit basket to a member celebrating a birthday. They appreciated the treat and being remembered.
  - One of our scholarship recipients sent their thanks for the help the award gives them in pursuing their degree.
  - Both cards are on display on the bulletin board downstairs.

**JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT**

- Fred is working on revisions to several items, including the Post standing orders, contracts, and MOUs.

**COMMANDER'S REPORT**

- School visits for Veteran's Day are coming up. Please attend if you can.
- We have received several donations to the baseball program and the Post in remembrance/honor of Bill Bellison.

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## **MEMBERSHIP'S REPORT**

- Frank Maghelli was voted in as a new member.
- We have held steady at 76.5% for the last few weeks.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT (via Commander)**

- Kevin is planning for the Post's Veteran's Day event on November 11.

## **RESOURCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

- Keith gave an end-of-life planning presentation on Saturday, October 12. If you missed it and have question, reach out to Keith.

## **BUILDING AND GROUND'S REPORT (via Commander)**

- The parking lot will be resurfaced and striped October 28-30. The building and the parking lot will be closed during that time.
- Home Depot would like to install a new, vinyl floor upstairs for us at no cost. This 1-day project will happen November 19.
- The members approved a budget to rekey the doors and install electronic locks on most of the exterior doors. After getting quotes, the Executive Committee is recommending a \$1,500 increase so the 3 main doors—party room, hallway to the member meeting room, and the main door to the vestibule—can all get electronic locks. Members voted and approved the increase.

## **RENTAL'S REPORT (via Commander)**

- John Palmino is the new rental agent as of October 1.
- John has some great ideas to get more rental and speaks Spanish fluently, which can help us better communicate with our renters.

## **HISTORIAN'S REPORT**

- The Post and Unit have a display in the Damascus Museum that will be there through January 2025. The museum is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 to 4 pm.
- Thanks to Sean Eagan and his mom! They donated a lot of materials for this display and saved the Post money.

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

- Thank you to the color guard—Willie Ruffin, Cary Henry, Mike Wright, and Scott Dallas—for performing at the Damascus 5K.
- The next event is the Veterans Day event at the Post on November 11.
- Scott will continue to rotate the flags in front of the Post based on the branch's birthdays.
- Scott didn't get any responses about the law enforcement award from the local police.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Placemaking Festival: October 19-20
  - The street from the Safeway gas station to the library will be blocked from 6 am Saturday, October 19 until 6 pm Sunday, October 20.
  - The Post will be sharing a tent with Platoon 22 and we'll have things to give away for kids and adults to get word out about our Post and what we do.
  - The Post will also be a shuttle stop, so our parking lot and building will be open.
- Laytonsville Town Picnic
  - Thanks to Charles and Kris Bradsher for representing the Post at this event.
  - There was a good turn out.
- Hurricane Relief Efforts
  - Thanks to Fred, Steve, and Jim for their hands-on help.

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- There was a fantastic outpouring of support; we filled 3 SUVs with items!

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- First Responder Appreciation Event
  - Steve is preparing for no-charge, informal event for first responders.
  - The event was originally going to be planned for November but is being moved to April.
  - Steve is planning appropriate entertainment for a wide range of children during the event.
- Members turning 90+ will receive a fruit basket from the Post to celebrate. The price of the gift will vary based on shipping distance.
- The Post will have a blood drive November 1.
- We'll have a no-host social at Stone Silo Brewery on November 1 at 6 pm. Food trucks and non-alcoholic drinks will be available.
- The Montgomery County Election Board is looking for volunteers. Help needed includes early voting, regular voting, and handling mail-in ballots.

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

- Upcoming activities:
  - Placemaking Festival – October 19-20
  - Post Blood Drive – November 1
  - Baseball Banquet – November 10
  - Veteran's Day School Visits – November 8-12
  - Post's Veteran's Day Event – November 11 at 10:30 am
  - Post Annual Inspection and Membership Meeting – November 11
  - December Potluck – December 10

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 2031 hours.

Submitted by:  
Mandy Buckley  
Post 171 Adjutant