



**The American Legion
Department of Maryland
Damascus Post 171
P.O. Box 171
Damascus, Maryland 20872**

**Anita Trotter
Commander**

2025 – 2026

**Kevin O'Neill
Adjutant**

**MEMBER'S MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2025**

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee (EC)	Present	Absent
Commander: Anita Trotter	X	
1 st Vice Commander: Scott Dallas	X	
2 nd Vice Commander: Mike Wright	X	
Adjutant: Kevin O'Neill	X	
Finance Officer: Ray Lewandowski	X	
Judge Advocate: Fred Mitchell (PPC)	X	
Sergeant at Arms: Sabrina Murray		X
Elected Member: Steve Monteiro (PPC)		X
Elected Member/Chaplain: James Serritella	X	
Elected Member: Paula Gill	X	
Elected Member: Keith Martin		X
Additional Attendees		
Paul Fowler, District 8 Commander		

There was a quorum present. The Commander called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. The meeting took place at Post 171.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Income for August was \$3,300, Expenses were \$19,708. Cash in bank is \$207,000. Paid \$7,500 to scholarship recipients.

COMMANDER'S REPORT

- Commander introduced District 8 Commander, Paul Fowler and he spoke for a few minutes about the benefits of being a Legion member and recruiting.
- Foundation Forward: Committee identified and recommended a firm to analyze and help us develop a Post building master plan for the 1-to-10 year timeframe. Immediate plans include using the State Capital Funds Grant (grant from the MD taxpayers) to perform some of the items. Motion was made to spend the money that is in the building fund plus an additional of \$9,000 from the general fund to pay for a feasibility study. Motion was APPROVED. Study will be conducted by Proffitt & Associates Architects from Frederick, MD.
- Flag raising ceremony at John T. Baker Middle School at 25400 Oak Dr., Damascus on Thursday, 11 September.
- Other items covered in MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS, GOOD OF THE POST section below.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

- Completed the annual Post Inspection with District 8 Commander immediately prior to the meeting. Remark was "Outstanding, Post well organized!!!"

1st VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

- Nothing to report

2ND VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

- Planning continuing for Veteran's Day Event at the Post on 11 November. The 2 speakers are grandchildren of "WWI "Hello Girls" See additional information at end of minutes.

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT

- Working on guidelines for selecting honorary members.

SERGEANT AT ARMS' REPORT

- No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP:

- Two veterans were presented for membership: Frank Ross (Army) and Richard "Rick" Nickell (Army). Both were APPROVED.
- As of 9/8/25: 221 members, goal is 288, which is 76%, 1st in District (same as last week), 3rd in State (same as last week).

POST 171 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

- Committee members continue to work on dinner and entertainment planning. Flyer attached.
- As of today, they have 95 respondents plus band members attending.
- No cost for Post and Unit Members plus one guest.
- Bus trip to Army Museum and Marine Corps Museum:
 - As part of the celebration, a trip to both the National Museum of the United States Army and National Museum of the Marine Corps is being planned 18 October. Bus transportation is being arranged, the cost per participant is \$30, that includes lunch. 19 people signed up, have room for 36 more (55 total). Information will be distributed to Post Members, Auxiliary members, and other veterans.

BASEBALL

- There is a challenge scheduling some games since some of the players are signed up for American Legion ball as well as a travel team. The committee is working through the problems as they arise.
- Fall 2025 Season started 2 September. Information and schedules can be found at: <https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=mcba> The team is called Damascus Post 171 Patriots.

BINGO

- Bingo re-started after a summer hiatus on 4 September with 93 players.
- NOTE: COME AND VOLUNTEER.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Working with HVAC company for a remote thermostat control plan.

SCHOLARSHIP

- Finance reported all winners have been paid.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

- Printer is dead, need a new one. Leasing is too expensive so we will investigate and purchase a new one.
- Veteran's Day 11 November we will visit schools for flag raising. Contact mdchaplain@comcast.net to let Will Trotter know where you can participate.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS, GOOD OF THE POST

- CPR and AED Training: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Will be conducted at the Post on 19 September. 1 slot is still available. Contact Keith Martin for information.
- A "STOP THE BLEED" training session is scheduled for 14 September at the Damascus Izaak Walton League. Contact Dean Elliott for information.
- A Post cleanup was completed on 17 August. Thanks to Mike, Scott, Jason, John, Paul, Kevin, and Keith. Also, Steve Mueller, John Howe and Steve Monteiro who carted junk away.
- Blood Drive held on 5 September. Goal was 40 Units, collected 57 UNITS!!
- Pancake Breakfast scheduled for 13 September (usually the 2nd Saturday of the month) in the downstairs Party room 0730-0930.
- Memorial Brick Program: Discussion with no decision to rename. We're going to restart the program Cary Henry will provide information. The brick patio can be seen near the flagpoles in front of the Post.
- Visit to Lorien Assisted Living on Wednesday, 17 September. (it is usually the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

The meeting adjourned at 2035 hours.

Submitted by:
Kevin O'Neill
Adjutant, Post 171

WORLD WAR 1 "HELLO GIRLS" IINFORMATION:

"Hello Girls" refers to the ~223 women who served as telephone operators for the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War I, known for their vital role in military communications on the Western Front. Despite being sworn into the military and working under dangerous conditions, they were denied veteran status upon returning to the U.S., a classification they fought for over 60 years, eventually achieving recognition in 1977 and later receiving the Congressional Gold Medal in 2024.



It's Our Anniversary!

You are cordially invited to attend the

American Legion Post 171

80th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Post 171, 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus

Cocktails at 5:30, followed by

- **Dinner by High Point Catering**
- **Entertainment by The Market Street Big Band**

No cost for Post and Unit Members plus one guest

RSVP (positive responses only, please)

by September 13 to:

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- **Call or text Paula Gill at 661-618-7638**
 - **Email info@legionpost171.org**