



**The American Legion
Department of Maryland
Damascus Post 171**

PO Box 171
Damascus, Maryland 20872

**Anita Trotter
Commander**

2025 – 2026

**Kevin O'Neill
Adjutant**

MEMBER'S MEETING MINUTES

9 February 2026

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:		

Acknowledged Past Commanders: Sam Baughman, Bill Raab, and Fred Mitchell.

There was a quorum present. The Commander called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. The meeting took place at Post 171. January 2026 Member Meeting Minutes APPROVED.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

- January POST Income was \$46,255, Expenses were \$53,247, for a Net Revenue of about (\$6,992). Details are available in the January Finance report provided at the Meetings.
- January BINGO Income was \$43,500, Expenses were \$39,024, for Net Revenue of about \$4,476.
- Details are available in the Monthly Financial Report provided at the Meetings.
- Finance Officer is stepping down at the end of the Legion year. A replacement is needed.

COMMANDER'S REPORT

- Other items covered in MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS, GOOD OF THE POST section below.
- Commander encouraged members present to consider if now is the time for them to run for a Post office or EC position. All positions (including appointed ones) are open to competition.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

- The following awards were presented at the Member's Dinner in 24 January 2026
 - Legionnaire of the Year (LOY): Rodger Keith Martin
 - Distinguished Member: Anita Trotter
 - Honorary Life Member: Anita Trotter

1st VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

- The 1st Vice is moving in a few months and will transfer to a new Post so a replacement is needed. Interested members who want to run can contact the Election Committee chaired by Fred Mitchell.

- An honor guard rifle inventory required by the US Army was completed. All guns were accounted for but one gun had a single digit error on the serial number. Will contact the US Army provide the proper serial number.
- MEMBERSHIP: 281 members, toward our goal of 288. We are 1st in District 8, 14th in the state.
 - Presented 5 new member candidates – membership motion ADOPTED.
 - Robert Miller – Army
 - Seth Linde – Army
 - Donald Burdette – Army
 - Gabriel Palomo - Air Force
 - Ron Nicodemus - Army

2ND VICE COMMANDER’S REPORT

- Nothing to report

JUDGE ADVOCATE’S REPORT

- Presented the building rental SOP for membership vote. SOP was ACCEPTED.

SERGEANT AT ARMS’ REPORT

- No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BASEBALL

- Baseball Committee (in the name of the Post) made two \$500 donations to sponsor a Damascus Sports Association (DSA) 13U youth softball team and a 13U youth baseball team as part of our community outreach. The \$500 is the HOME RUN SPONSOR level that: 1) puts the Post name on the back of the team jerseys; 2) provides the Post a thank you plaque with the team photo; 3) places the American Legion logo on the DSA website that links to the Post 171 website.

BINGO

- Financial Results are in the financial report. We can always use volunteers.
- Bingo license is up for renewal in March. Notarized paper application required.

BOYS STATE

- No Report

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Investigating the foul smell in the downstairs area. Poured hot water down a few of the drains. Improved the smell but investigation still underway.

FOUNDATION FORWARD

- Still working on paperwork to finalize the grant. Currently in legal review at the MD state level.

ORATORICAL

- We had 5 contestants for this event. In past years we have had 1 – 3, so this is great!

SCHOLARSHIP

- Committee is in early planning stage. Deadline for submission is 1 April 2026.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, and FOR THE GOOD OF THE POST

- Department Convention in Ocean City, MD is scheduled for 14 – 17 July 2026. The post has 8 slots available, Contact the Adjutant if interested.
- Post donated \$100 for the first Annual Department Golf Scramble on April 24. Anyone that wants to play, let the Commander know.

- Passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteer needs. Many opportunities to support the Post. Some require some time other require a little time. Contact the Commander or Adjutant for more information.
- The bus trip to the USMC and Army Museums, taking place on March 7, still has open seats. Contact Sean Egan if interested.
- Stop the Bleed course 15 February 2026, 9AM – 1PM at Izaak Walton League in Mount Airy, Wildlife Achievement Chapter. Cost is \$30, register by email: wac.stopthebleed@gmail.com.
- Keith Midberry will present a "Til Death Do Us Part" End of Life Planning Seminar, Saturday, February 14, 0900-1000.
- No-Host Social on Saturday, 21 February, 2026, from 1500 to 1800 at the Stone Silo Brewery located at 28800 Kemptown Rd. Damascus, MD.
- Dennis St Jean reported on work on the new website. He needs volunteer reviewers; 4-5 raised their hand.
- Warrior Canine Connection visit scheduled for Wednesday, 25 February from 10AM – 12PM. Meet at the facility.

The meeting adjourned at 2035 hours.

Submitted by:

Kevin O'Neill

Adjutant, Post 171