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

Kevin O'Neill
Commander

2026 – 2027

Toby Zellers
Adjutant

MEMBER'S MEETING MINUTES

14 September 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Committee (EC)	Present	Absent
Commander: Kevin O'Neill	X	
1st Vice Commander: Chuck Nguyen	X	
2nd Vice Commander: Mike Wright	X	
Adjutant: Toby Zellers	X	
Finance Officer: Treena Wetsel	X	
Judge Advocate: Fred Mitchell (PPC)	X	
Sergeant at Arms: Jason Peterson	X	
Elected Member: Obed Pellegrino	X	
Elected Member: Dennis St. Jean	X	
Elected Member: Paula Gill	X	
Elected Member: Anita Trotter (PPC)	X	
Other Attendees		
Jim Serritella, Ray Lewandowski , Sam Baughman PPC, and others		

The Chaplain opened the meeting with prayer.

Commander Acknowledged Past Commanders: Fred Mitchell, Sam Baughman. Steve Montiero, Anita Trotter

There were 24 members, a quorum present. The Commander called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. The meeting took place at Post 171.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Report Provided and made available
- 2026-2027 Budget was accepted.

COMMANDER'S REPORT

- August minutes were posted to the website and provided in hard copy. The minutes were accepted.
- Other items covered in UNFINISHED BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS … section below.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

- Post Inspection by Region 2nd Vice Nicolas Middendorff who will attend October 12th Member meeting.
- Post to support a water/bio stop/card draw stop on the 3rd of October at 10am for the 5th Annual VA Canteen ride. Motion to gift American Legion Riders $100 for Martinsburg VA Canteen was passed.
- Marian Assisted living sent a Thank You letter for the Flag Ceremony hosted by Jim Serritella and Anita Trotter PPC
- Adjutant spoke at 9/11 5k.

1st VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

- MEMBERSHIP: 224 members, goal is 295. Post is 1st in District 8, 3rd in the state.

- New Members voted in
  - Althea Green, transfer
  - Eric Kretz, transfer
  - Jacob & Jessica Dowers

2ND VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

- Report Given.

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT

- A written report was provided.
- Changes to By-Laws for Department have changed and need to flow down to Posts.

SERVICE Officer

- Provided report. Veteran Service Office at DMVs
- Keith Midberry presented at Baker Middle School 9/11 Program. Approximately 8 members were present.

SERGEANT AT ARMS' REPORT

- No report. Color Guard Supported 9/11 5k Run with 3 members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BINGO

- Oral report received.

BASEBALL

- An oral report was provided. No Fall Team. Looking for Head Coach for next team.

BOYS STATE & GIRLS STATE

- No report will be made until the application process open in Spring 2027.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Report Provided. Driveway to be re-striped 27-28th of September.
- Foundation Forward Committee report provided. Committee recommends Project #1: Upper-Level Restroom Replacement during the summer of 2027 with remaining of money awarded to be used for contingencies. The motion to contract for Project #1 was passed.

ORATORICAL

- No report will be made until the next competition cycle starts.
- New lead needed for Oratorical Program.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

- No report.

SCHOLARSHIP

- No report will be made until the next competition cycle starts.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

- See Judge Advocates Report

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

- Red Cross Blood Drive, Friday, November 6th.
- Next Member Meeting October 12
- Dennis St. Jean is requesting $25 to unblock purchase of Bricks. Motion approved
- Adjutant requested that hours spent on Legion Activities, meetings, and volunteer work be emailed to Adjutant.
- $150 Check donated to post, motion to give Unit $50 for their costs in putting out flags, etc was passed.

- Historian provided cards soliciting photographs.
- Lorien Assisted Living monthly visits need greater participation. Contact Steve Monteiro to volunteer
- Opportunity to participate at schools on Veteran's Day, Nov 11

The Chaplain closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 2037 hours.

Submitted by: Toby Zellers, Adjutant, Post 171