



Hopewell Memorial Post 146, The American Legion
Summary of Previous Meetings

December 20, 2022 General Membership Meeting and
January 3, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting
January 9, 2023

The following is a summary of the December 20, 2022 General Membership Meeting and January 3, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting.

December 20, 2022 General Membership Meeting

1. Summaries of the November 15, 2022 General Membership and the December 6, 2022 Executive Committee Meetings were provided for member review on the Post website and at the meeting. Summaries were accepted as written.

2. Officer Reports:

a. Membership (1st Vice):

- Three transfer candidates came before the membership for approval:

Jonathan Singleton (Post 141), **Jessie Stacey** (Post 284, Colonial Heights, VA), and **David Watts** (Post 22, Cocoa, FL)

ACTION: A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the above named transfer applicants as member in Post 146.

- Renewals are at 70% (264), 113 members shy of the 2023 goal of 377 members. Processed 19 new actions and mailed 48 membership cards. Jinx Traina (SAL Commander) assisted with the processing.

b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice): Working with local schools and families to identify candidates for Boys State.

c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): Bingo participating is down (the big jackpot was won last month so attendance is low because the small jackpot does not entice additional players. Also, traditionally after the holidays, Bingo participation drops. Still looking for volunteers to help sell pull tabs during the games. Donations and qualifying expenditures kept the Post above the 10% donation goal for the year. For November, Gross Receipts: \$43,200.25; Total November Donations: \$5,676.51. As of the end of November, total Bingo revenues were: \$614,436.25; Total Donations were: \$75,933.02 against a mandated target of \$61,443.65 putting the Post at 23% or 13% above the mandated 10% target.

- d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM November - Total Income: \$60,140.25; Total Expenses: \$57,759.30; Net Income: +\$2,380.95.
- e. House Committee:
- Changes to Menus: New menus are being developed for the Club Room, special lunch events, Bingo and catering for Legion Hall events. The new menus reflect increasing costs with which all restaurants must contend, but the House Committee has worked to keep increases to a minimum. The catering menu plan gives those renting the Hall choices from 'finger food' to a full dinner menu all of which are at a set, per-person price. We are also working to provide more variety in the monthly menu calendar and present additional specials each day, if possible.
 - Weekend Operations: The Club Room is now open on weekends, but there is a critical need for volunteers to make this work. We remain short of cooks and servers, especially servers, so are asking folks to volunteer a couple of hours to help us remain open and servicing members.
 - Staff Shortages: Still trying to recruit additional Bartender/Servers. Currently, the need is for three bartenders/servers.
 - New Point of Sale (POS) System: A new system will be installed on Wednesday, Dec 7th. This will necessitate the Club Room closing for business from 1:00 to 4:00 pm (usually the slowest part of the business day) so the vendor can install new equipment and associated software. We will concurrently be conducting an employee meeting to make best use of the downtime.
 - Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Fishing Flea Market: Event is scheduled for Saturday, February 11th from 7 am until 2 pm. The PVA people will set up for the event on Friday, February 10th, in the afternoon.
 - Four Chaplains/Post Everlasting: Scheduled for Saturday, February 18th. We plan to combine that observation with a Member Appreciation Day by holding the ceremony then a dinner afterward.
- f. Service Officer: No report
- g. Chaplain: No report
- h. Historian: Special Dates:
- December 2, 1823 - **President James Monroe introduced his "Monroe Doctrine"** during his annual message to the Congress, **prohibiting any further colonization of the American continents by European powers**, stating, "we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety..."

- December 5, 1933 - **The 18th Amendment (Prohibition Amendment) to the Constitution was repealed.** For nearly 14 years, since January 29, 1920, it was illegal to manufacture, transport, and sell alcoholic beverages in the U.S.
 - December 7, 1941 - **The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft** in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead. The next day (December 8th) the United States and Britain declared war on Japan.
 - December 14, 1962 - The **Mariner II space probe** sent back information from the planet Venus; the first information ever received from another planet.
 - December 16, 1773 - **The Boston Tea Party** occurred as colonials disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 cases of expensive tea into the water.
- i. Sgt-at-Arms: No report
 - j. Judge Advocate: No report
 - k. Executive Committeemen: No report
3. Correspondence:
- a. The Post received a "Thank You" letter from ReachCycles acknowledging the Post's recent donation.
 - b. The Post received a "Thank You" letter from the Historic Hopewell Foundation acknowledging the Post's recent donation.
 - c. The Post received a "Thank You" letter from the U.S. Army Women's Museum Foundation acknowledging the Post's recent donation.
 - d. The Post received a Christmas Card from Department of Virginia Commander Rick Ortel wishing Post members a wonderful Christmas and a safe, healthy and happy New Year.
4. Old Business: (Cdr): None presented
5. New Business (Cdr): None presented
6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):
- Commander Harless reported that the Post had received a new American Legion Banner (draped on the lectern) as a gift from Daniella Kyriakides, President ALA Unit 146.
 - Commander Harless reported that more than 300 people attended the Wreaths Across America Ceremony on December 17th at City Point National Cemetery. Those present laid 1,250 wreaths on graves at the cemetery.

- SAL is planning a Blood Drive for Saturday, Jan 28th. They wish to hold it in conjunction with a Pancake Breakfast. Free breakfast if you donate blood.
- 50/50 Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): Tony Zevgolis won \$7.00 in the 50/50 drawing.
- Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$200. The number drawn was 191 belonging to Legionnaire Dennis Kennedy. As Legionnaire Kennedy was not present, the jackpot will be \$220 at the January 17, 2023 meeting.

January 3, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

1. **Summary of Previous Meeting (Adj):** A Read-Ahead Packet which included a summary of the December 6, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting was provided to all committee members prior to the meeting. The meeting summary was reviewed and approved.
2. **Officer Reports -**
 - Membership (1st Vice): [Adjutant Reporting] Post stands at 79.8% of the 2023 Goal (377).
 - Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): Receiving names for possible candidates for Boys State. Will contact Carter G. Woodson Middle School to see if we can hold a Patriotic Essay Contest this year.
 - Bingo (3rd Vice):

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – DECEMBER

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Donations	Available for Donation
Dec	\$44,731.25	\$4,473.13	\$700.00	\$2,601.41	\$3,301.41	\$5,500.00
As of 31 Dec	\$659,167.50	\$65,916.77	\$27,721.60	\$51,512.83	\$79,234.43	+/- Target \$13,317.66

December is a traditionally slow month for Bingo because of the holidays, but on Dec 28th we did exceptionally well with a gross of \$12,549.75. The Post exceeded the required 10% donation target reaching just a bit above a 20% donation rate for the year.

- Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM Dec - Total Income: \$63,827.00; Total Expenses: \$62,508.37; Net Income: **+\$1,318.96**. Edward Jones Investments: \$76,011.13.

- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Changes to Menus: New menus are now in place for the Club Room, special lunch events, Bingo and catering for Legion Hall events. The new menus reflect increasing costs with which all restaurants must contend, but the House Committee has worked to keep increases to a minimum. Kitchen Manager Amy Hall is also working to add variety to the monthly menu calendar.
 - Weekend Operations: The Club Room is now open on weekends, but there is a critical need for volunteers to make this work. We remain short of cooks and servers, especially servers, so are asking folks to volunteer a couple of hours to help us remain open and servicing members. Members can sign-up for specific duties and times with the Bar Manager, Tonya Payne.
 - Operating Hours: To eliminate confusion over operating hours among, leaders, members and staff, the committee has established operating hours as:

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI 8 AM to 9 PM
WED ... 8 AM to 8 PM
SAT & SUN ...8 AM to 2 PM

The kitchen will be open 8 am to 8 pm weekdays and 8 am to 2 pm weekends
 - Staff Shortages: Still trying to recruit additional Bartender/Servers. Currently, the need is for three bartenders/servers.
 - New Point of Sale (POS) System: Is operating, but not without some systemic and staff training issues. We are addressing those as they occur.
 - Roof Leaks: We continue experience leaks in the Legion Hall and the storage area. Recent inspections suggest that the origin may be in the seams of the metal flashing covering the crown of the building façade. The committee is researching the cost of affixing a single, seamless metal cover over the crown to address the problem.
 - Proposed Member Appreciation Day: A Member Appreciation Day will be held on Saturday, Feb 18th in conjunction with a Four Chaplains/Post Everlasting Ceremony. The ceremonies will begin at 11:00 am with a dinner to follow.
- Service Officer: No report
- Chaplain: No report
- Historian:
 - a. Hometown Heroes Program: The web site for ordering Hometown Heroes Banners is now active. Information about the banners will be advertised in the days and months ahead. Cost remains at \$95 per banner.

b. Special dates/events:

- January 3, 1777 - During the American Revolution, **General George Washington defeated the British at Princeton and drove them back toward New Brunswick.** Washington then established winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. During the long harsh winter, Washington's army shrank to about a thousand men as enlistments expired and deserters fled.
 - January 3, 1959 - **Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state** with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together.
 - January 8, 1815 - **The Battle of New Orleans** occurred as General Andrew Jackson and American troops defended themselves against a British attack, inflicting over 2,000 casualties. Both sides in this battle were unaware that peace had been declared two weeks earlier with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812.
 - January 16, 1991 - **The war against Iraq began** as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN correspondents as operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.
 - January 21, 1954 - The **USS Nautilus**, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, was launched at Groton, Connecticut.
 - Sgt-at-Arms: New Member Orientation is scheduled for the 17 January General Membership Meeting.
 - Judge Advocate: No report on research into providing/offering a Post baseball cap and/or official American Legion cap.
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year Executives: Investigating the possibility of hosting a Boater Safety Course as the closest courses are in Richmond and Newport News. [Larry Nesbitt]

3. Correspondence:

- a. Notice from Department - 2023 Bowling Tournament: The Department has issued the following notice concerning a 2023 Department Bowling Tournament:
 1. The tournament will be sponsored by American Legion Tidewater Post 327, Norfolk, VA at the Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek Gator Bowl.
 2. The tournament will take place on February 25 and 26, 2023.
 3. Team applications must be received by February 6th.
- b. Letter from Tech For Troops in which they thank the Post for its recent donation to their program.
- c. John Randolph Foundation 3rd Qtr Financial Report: Investment losses through Sept 2022 are **-19.8%**. However, portfolio experienced a slight rebound in October and November which reduced the loss to **- 11.4%** by the end of November.

4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator): Historically, the Post does not make donations in January except for the \$275 provided for the Middle School Essay Contest, if held. A request from the Hopewell/Prince George Healthy Families Program is carried forward from last month.

ACTION:

- a. After discussion, the committee decided to table action on awards for a Middle School Essay Contest and a donation for the Hopewell/Prince George Healthy Families Program until more information could be provided.
- b. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to transfer \$4,000.00 to the Bingo Restricted Fund.

5. Old Business:

- a. Review of Post Constitution, By-Laws, and House Rules [Action: Andy Pawlowski]: the Post's Constitution, By-Laws and House Rules were reviewed and deemed up-to-date (notwithstanding the proposed change to the House Rules presented as New Business).
- b. Proposed Post Cap Program [Action Larry Gammon & Andy Pawlowski]: Larry Gammon was absent and so the report was tabled until the February meeting.

6. New Business:

- a. As mentioned in the House Committee report, Club Room operating hours have been clarified and the committee has put in place a requirement that the kitchen remain open during operating hours. This 'new policy' conflicts with House Rule #5 which states:

All forms of entertainment and food or beverage service shall stop 30 minutes prior to posted closing times, and will be announced by the ABC Manager-on-Duty.

The committee recommends that the paragraph be deleted and replaced with:

The ABC Manager-on-Duty will announce a "Last Call" for alcoholic beverages not later than 30 minutes before closing.

ACTION: After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to change paragraph 5 of the House Rules as recommended by the House Committee.

- b. It was recommended that the Donation Policy (approved in 2018) be reviewed to ensure applicability.

ACTION: Adjutant will provide copies of the policy in the February Read-Ahead and committee members will review at the February meeting.

- c. It was recommended that the Post consider identifying and recognizing an employee and volunteer of the year. Recommendations would come from Post members, plus SAL and ALA members.

ACTION: ALA and SAL will be contacted for coordination. Criteria must be established and the type of award(s) identified. [Dave Harless]

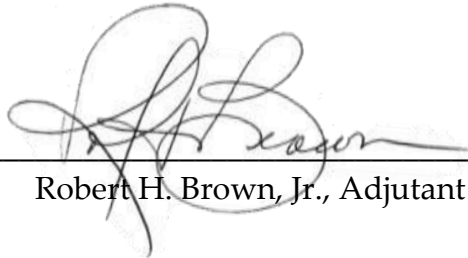
- d. Comments were made concerning the poor condition of the door mat outside of the Club Room entrance; and it was recommended that it be replaced.

ACTION: Andy Pawlowski will research and report possible options at the February meeting.

7. Good of the Legion: None presented

⇒NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Official Summary of the Meeting/Conduct of Business is attested by the undersigned.



Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant