



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

**April 18, 2023 General Membership Meeting and
May 2, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting**

May 8, 2023

The following is a summary of the April 18, 2023 General Membership Meeting and May 2, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting.

April 18, 2023 General Membership Meeting

1. The Post conducted its quarterly New Member Indoctrination/Orientation for the following new members: Ben Owen, Onza Hyatt, Orville Clarkson, Jerry LaOierre, Travis Roark, Tavorise Marks, and Tiffany Marks.
2. Summaries of the March 21, 2023, General Membership and April 4, 2023, Executive Committee Meetings were provided for member review on the Post website and presented at the meeting. Summaries were accepted as written.
3. Officer Reports:
 - a. Membership (1st Vice):
 - Candidates for membership were Joseph Cook (Army) and John Martin (Navy). Edwin McDowell (Army) applied as a transfer (Post 141).
 - Renewals were at 97% (366), 11 members short of the 2023 goal of 377 members.
 - b. Americanism/ Children & Youth Programs (2nd Vice):
 - The John Randolph Foundation is soon to announce scholarship award winners.
 - The Post is working on five (5) possible Boys State candidates. They will soon be interviewed.
 - c. Bingo/Gaming (3rd Vice): EOM March - Gross Income: \$58,525.45; Donations/Restricted Uses: \$4,183.60. Donation Target: \$5,852.55. Totals for the CY year: Gross Income: \$153,859.45; Donations/Restricted Uses: \$17,431.61; Donation Target: \$15,385.95; +/- Target: \$3,714.61 [13.2% above target]. See Attached Financial Report (Encl1)

- d. Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM March - Total Income: \$70,011.10; Total Expenses: \$67,604.07; Net Income: \$2,407.03. See Attached Financial Report (Encl1)
- e. House Committee:
 - Officer Furniture: The committee is in the process of cleaning and re-painting the administrative spaces. We have procured new office furniture to replace our mis-matched and well-used second-hand pieces.
 - Joint Officer Installation Ceremony: In coordination with the ALA and SAL, we are planning a Joint Officer Installation Ceremony for Saturday, June 10th. Newly elected officers for those organizations will be installed at that time.
 - Additional ATM: The committee is adding an additional ATM in the Club Room. The machine will be installed once it is received. No installation date has been set.
 - Kitchen Emergency Fire Suppression System: Recent Fire Safety Inspection revealed that some of the kitchen cooking equipment is not properly aligned with the emergency fire suppression equipment. The equipment will be modified to properly align with the cooking areas which must be covered as soon as possible.
- f. Service Officer: No report
- g. Chaplain: No report
- h. Historian: Special Dates:
 - April 18, 1775 - **The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes** occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m. to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British.
 - April 18, 1942 - **The first air raid on mainland Japan during World War II** occurred as General James Doolittle led a squadron of B-25 bombers taking off from the carrier Hornet to bomb Tokyo and three other cities. Damage was minimal, but the raid boosted Allied morale following years of unchecked Japanese military advances.
 - April 21, 1836 - **The Battle of San Jacinto** between Texans led by Sam Houston and Mexican forces led by Santa Anna took place near present day Houston. The Texans decisively defeated the Mexican forces thereby achieving independence. The Texans' battle cry was "Remember the Alamo!"
 - April 30, 1789 - **George Washington became the first U.S. President under the US Constitution ratified by the states in 1788** as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York City.
- i. Sgt-at-Arms: No report

- j. Judge Advocate: Reported that planning for the Armed Forces Appreciation Golf Tournament, scheduled for May 19th, is on-going. Asked members to contact any businesses they knew and request they sponsor the tournament or invite them to field a team.
 - k. Executive Committeemen: No report
 - l. Past Commander (Dennis Hubbes): No report
3. Correspondence: The Post received two donations from VFW Post 637 - \$800 for Boys and Girls State, and \$500.00 to field a team and sponsor a hole at the Armed Forces Appreciation Golf Tournament.
4. Old Business: (Cdr): None presented
5. New Business (Cdr): None presented
- a. Nominating Committee Report: The Nominating Committee Chair, Frank Kencitzski, presented the following slate of officers for the coming Legion Year:
 - Commander Gary Easter
 - 1st Vice Commander Jonathan Singleton 2nd Vice Commander Jack Dane
 - 3rd Vice Commander Johnnie Owens Finance Officer Rob Stepp
 - Service Officer* Larry Gammon Chaplain Fred Sisson
 - Historian Robert Brown, Jr. Sgt.-at-Arms Mike Bonneville
 - 3rd Year Committeeman* Chai Gallahun
 - b. Nominations from the Floor: Only one nomination was received from the floor:
 - Commander Johnnie Owens
 - c. Receiving no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to close nominations.
 - d. Elections will be held at the next General Membership Meeting, May 16, 2023
6. Good of the Legion (Cdr):
- Past Commander Dennis Hubbes asked about the status of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit in the Hall as he heard that it was out of order. Commander Harless reported that the House Committee had taken steps to update the unit and a new battery and pads had been ordered.
 - Tim Boswell reported that the Blood Drive held on April 15th was very successful. There was a total of 31 prospective donors from which 27 were accepted. The Red Cross has asked to conduct another drive.
 - Commander Harless reported that along with improvements to Veterans Memorial Circle, an effort was beginning to erect a monument to Robert Penn

(USN), a Hopewell resident, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for saving his ship, the USS Iowa, during the Spanish-American War.

- Commander Harless reported that there would be a Celebration of Life for Douglas Cleveland on Saturday, April 22nd beginning at noon.
- 50/50 Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): Doug Arrance won \$12.00 in the 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings to the Post.
- Progressive Attendance Drawing (Sgt-at-Arms): The jackpot stood at \$280. The number drawn was 115 belonging to Legionnaire John Small. As Legionnaire Small was not present, the jackpot will be \$300 at the May 16, 2023 meeting.

May 2, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

- 1. Membership (1st Vice):
 - The Post currently stands at 98.14% of the mandated target. There are seven (7) members left to renew for the Post to reach 100%
 - Received and processing two (2) new membership applications for:
 - Joseph Cook - Army (Vietnam)
 - John Martin - Navy
 - Membership file updates are approximately 90% complete.
 - Two members recently passed away:
 - Hipps, Arthur #141
 - Roberts, Earl #439
 - For 2023, there have been a total of:

Online Renewals – 53;	New Memberships – 28;
Transfers – 4;	Paid Up for Life (PUFL) - 43;
Renewals – 295;	Members left to renew - 7
 - Americanism and Children & Youth (2nd Vice): The Post received and submitted two (2) young men for this year's Boys State in June. There are three(3) additional possible candidates and we are awaiting their applications. We are working with Hopewell High School Coach Erby to bring in the last applications.

- Bingo (3rd Vice):

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – APRIL

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Auth Uses	Available for Donation
Apr	\$52,247.00	\$5,224.70	\$750.00	\$2,695.22	\$3,445.22	\$12,996.00
As of Apr 30	\$206, 106.45	\$20, 610.65	\$2,100.00	\$18,776.83	\$20,876.83	+/- Target +\$266.18

April saw average returns for Bingo. With authorized uses totaling \$20,876.83 for the year thus far, the Post stands at an 10.1% authorized use rate.

- Post Finances (Fin Off): For EOM April - Total Income: \$83,113.65. Total Expenses: \$63,103.41. Net Income: \$20,010.24. (See Encl 1 for details)
- House Committee: The committee has accomplished or is working on the following:
 - Staff Shortages: Still trying to recruit additional Bartender/Servers. Currently, the need is for three bartenders/servers.
 - Roof Leaks: We plan to encase the crown of the Legion Hall façade (one piece, no breaks). Cost estimate: \$900 (Norman Wall). Work completion is pending sustained warm weather.
 - Admin Office Changes: the committee is in the process of renovating the Post’s administrative spaces. First target is to provide the Post Administrator a secure and more comfortable space in which to work. She will move to the space formerly occupied by the SAL and ALA. The room will be located with access limited to those who have a specific reason to be there. Office furniture has been procured which will provide improved storage and more work space. Target date for this initial step is 01 June 2023. Other relocations will occur as rooms are cleaned and updated. A portion of the cost of these renovations may be paid with Bingo restricted funds. The SAL and ALA are purchasing their office equipment with their own funds.
 - Kitchen Fire Suppression System: The fire suppression system is being reconfigured to provide better coverage of the stove and grills. The work will be completed by Post members who are certified pipefitters.
 - Change to Club Room Hours of Operation: The committee proposed a change to Club Room hours of operation on Wednesdays from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm to 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. Justification: Because of Bingo, almost no one comes to the Club Room on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Sales do not justify staffing; Club Room operating at a loss.
 - ▶ Pros: (1) Affords more flexibility in staff scheduling
 - (2) Reduces operating costs

- ▶ Cons: (1) Limits hours available for service to members
(2) May cause negative feedback from members

ACTION: After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to change Club Room hours of operation on Wednesdays from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm to 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The change will become effective June 1, 2023.

- Service Officer:
 - Planning to attend the next Crater Community Veterans Engagement Board meeting at the Petersburg Freedom Center on May 17th. The board is still working on establishing a framework for how the organization will operate.
 - Also working a number of disability determination cases with one recently being decided favorably for the veteran.
- Chaplain:
 - Mentioned that members Arthur Hipps and Earl Roberts recently passed away.
 - Tim O'Brien's son (active duty Army) is returning to the States from Landstuhl Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany, and he is very happy to have him back in the States.
- Historian: Special dates/events:
 - May 1, 1960 – **An American U-2 spy plane flying at 60,000 feet was shot down over Sverdlovsk in central Russia** on the eve of a summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Russia's Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The sensational incident caused a cancellation of the meeting and heightened existing Cold War tensions. The pilot, CIA agent **Francis Gary Powers**, survived the crash, and was tried, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Russian court. Two years later he was released to America in exchange for an imprisoned Soviet spy.
 - May 2, 2011 – **U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden** during a raid on his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The raid marked the culmination of a decade-long manhunt for the elusive leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization based in the Middle East
 - May 5, 1961 – **Alan Shepard became the first American in space.** He piloted the spacecraft Freedom 7 during a 15-minute 28-second suborbital flight that reached an altitude of 116 miles (186 kilometers) above the earth. Shepard's success occurred 23 days after the Russians launched the first-ever human in space, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, during an era of intense technological competition between the Russians and Americans called the 'Space Race.'



- May 7, 1945 – In a small red brick schoolhouse in Reims, Germany, **General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of all German fighting forces thus ending World War II in Europe.** Russian, American, British and French ranking officers observed the signing of the document which became effective at one minute past midnight on May 9th.
- May 8, 1945 – **A second German surrender ceremony was held in Berlin.** Soviet Russia’s leader Josef Stalin had refused to recognize the German surrender document signed a day earlier at Reims. This time, German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signed the surrender document which declared, as did the first, that hostilities would end as of 12:01 a.m. on May 9th.



- Sgt-at-Arms: Two items for the General Membership Meeting – Must drape the charter for our lost comrades and conduct a Member ID check because the membership will be voting for new officers. Assistance will be needed during the election.
 - Judge Advocate: **Armed Forces Recognition Golf Tournament** continues to move forward. Currently there are 24 teams signed up to play. All military services were contacted and asked to field teams. Activity and interest have increased. Hole sponsor signs are scheduled to arrive tomorrow.
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year Executives: No reports
3. Correspondence: Letter received from John Ratliff Post 164 in Grundy, VA endorsing Leslie J. Clevinger for the office of Alternate National Executive Committee, Department of Virginia.
4. Donation Requests (Donation Coordinator): A request from the Children’s Hospital of Richmond was received. Historically, the Post made the following donations in May:
- a. Children’s Hospital of Richmond \$ 500.00
 - b. Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament \$ 650.00
- Note: The Post has not received an announcement of this tournament so far this year*
- Total: \$1,150.00
- c. Request from SAL Squadron 146 to assist with the cost of providing a special lunch for DuPont Elementary School’s dedication of new playground equipment and their year-end field day. No specific amount was requested however, the SAL will feed 650 students, 100 teachers and 20 school volunteers at the event.

NOTE: No requests have been received from Hopewell High School nor have any candidates for the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program been identified.

ACTION: After review and discussion about the 2023 Donation Plan, a motion was made, seconded, and APPROVED to:

- a. donate \$1,000 to the Children’s Hospital of Richmond
- b. donate \$1,000 to SAL Squadron 146 to help underwrite the cost of the meals for Dupont Elementary School’s playground equipment dedication ceremony and end-of-year field day.
- c. Transfer \$5,000 to the Post Restricted Fund

5. Old Business:

- a. Proposed Post Cap Program: [Status: Larry Gammon] Received the initial order of 25 caps and sold a bit more than half. Caps are comfortable and many have commented on the quality and appearance.
- b. New Door Mats for the Post: [Status: Andy Pawlowski] Three mats were received and are in place. We are waiting delivery of the remaining two rubber outdoor mats.
- c. Employee and Volunteer of the Year Awards: [Status: Dave Harless] No report
- d. New ATM Machine for the Club Room: [Status: Gary Easter] We requested that the juke box vendor remove the machine in the Club Room. As soon as that is done, the wall will be painted and the second ATM installed.

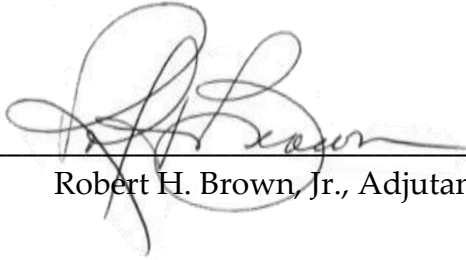
6. New Business: None presented

7. Good of the Legion:

- The Post will host the **4th District Spring Conference** on Sunday, June 4th. Lunch will be available beginning at 12:30 pm and the meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 pm. The Post is hosting and the Club Room will offer county-fried steak with mashed potatoes and green beans for lunch. Coffee, tea or water is included for a price of \$7.00. Soda is extra at \$1.50 per can.
- A **Joint Officer Installation Ceremony** is planned for Saturday, June 10th, beginning at 2:00 pm. The ceremony will be followed by a reception with light hors d'oeuvres and drinks.
- For **Mother’s Day** (May 14th), the Post will provide flowers to all those mothers coming to the Post for breakfast or lunch.
- The **Memorial Day Ceremony** is scheduled for Monday, May 29th, 10:00 am at City Point National Cemetery. VFW Post 637 has the lead and will provide lunch following the ceremony.
- Looking at July, the first Tuesday is July 4th, Independence Day. In past years, when conflicts occur, the committee holds its monthly meeting either on the first

Monday or Thursday of the month. After discussion, the committee decided to meet on Thursday, July 6th at 7:00 pm.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. H. Brown, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized.

Robert H. Brown, Jr., Adjutant

Post 146 Summary Financial Report

April 2023

Post Business and Administration

Income

Golf Tournament	\$ 8,250.00	
Gaming	\$46,731.00	
Earnings	<u>\$28,132.65</u>	
Total Income		\$83,113.65

Expenses

Daily Book Payout	\$ 1,000.00	
Donations	\$ 1,925.60	
Personnel	\$17,031.07	
Club Supplies	\$11,227.27	
Reimbursements	\$ 423.21	
Electronic Game Fees	\$22,791.92	
Rental Refunds	\$ 500.00	
Printing/Postage	\$ 302.00	
Maintenance/Utilities	\$ 3,648.42	
Membership Dues	\$ 116.00	
Insurance	\$ 759.00	
IT Services	\$ 179.00	
Sales Taxes	\$ 1,458.59	
Other Taxes	\$ 1,666.33	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 75.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$63,103.41

Total Net Income \$20,010.24

BINGO MONTHLY RECAP – MARCH

Month	Gross Income	10% Rqmt.	Donations	Other Uses	Total Auth Uses	Available for Donation
Mar	\$58,525.45	\$5,852.55	\$700.00	\$3,483.60	\$4,183.60	\$6,250.00
As of Mar 31	\$153,859.45	\$15,385.95	\$1,350.00	\$16,081.61	\$17,431.61	+/- Target +\$2,045.66