

Final
Delaware Veterans Post # 1
General Membership Meeting
November 5, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Commander Jerry Herman at 19:30 hours.
All cell phones were silent, and hats removed.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was rendered by all attendees.

The Commander stated that he was moving out of order from the normal meeting agenda and called on Election Chairman Chip Roop.

Chip stated that the following positions and nominees will be the slate for the December Post election:

Commander – Jerry Herman, Mark Schilling

Vice Commander – John Pastor

Secretary – Vince Knoll

Treasurer Elect – Kristy Chester

Sgt. At Arms – Bill Allison

E-Board – 4 positions open

Bob Onorato, Jim Hague, Jack McKelvey, John Squire, Bob Morris

Home Inc.

Bob Bostedo, Harvey Freville (PC)

State Board

Roger Lee, Rick Rambo

At this time Chip asked if there were any other nominations for any of the positions. Hearing none, Bill Frank made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Harvey Freville, passed by a voice vote.

Chip also noted that there will be early voting available on December 1st & 2nd from 2:30 to 5:00 in the hall. Early voting will also be available on December 3rd, from 2:30 until the start of the membership meeting.

- At this time the Commander stated that he will read the nominees for Delaware Veterans Member of the Year.

Bill Conaway, Florie Henry, John Pastor, Bob Onorato, Mark Parsons, Shirley Roberts

Nomination letters were read for each of the nominees, and they will be placed on the election ballot for voting.

The Commander moved back to the regular meeting agenda.

Previous General Membership Meeting Minutes – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting on October 1st, 2025.

A motion was made by Bob Morris to dispense with the reading of the minutes as they have been published to the membership, seconded by Gerry Stauffer, passed by a voice vote.

Previous E-Board Meeting Minutes 10/21/25 – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the October 21st, Regular E-Board meeting.

The Secretary read the minutes from the meeting.

The Commander opened the floor for questions:

Bob Onorato requested that the E-Board discussion and motion regarding the proposed dues increase be pulled from the E-Board minutes to be discussed under new business.

Ron Gower made a motion to accept the minutes as read minus the discussion on the proposed dues increase, seconded by Kristy Chester, and passed by a voice vote.

Treasurers Report – Bill Conaway reviewed the monthly financial report for September. Bill stated that the Post had a total income of \$51,801.04. Our total cost of goods was \$24,454.67 for a gross profit of \$27,346.37. Our total expenses were \$34,680.27. Our net income for the month was \$-7,147.65. Year to date we are at a negative -\$8,338.95.

Bill wanted to address a few of the high-ticket expenses incurred this month. He noted that Trash was paid twice this month due to the billing cycle. The pool management expense is the contract payment due to AMS pool company. They have been allowing us to

make partial payments due to our financial situation. Our cleaning expenses are high, but we have adjusted the schedule, and we should see that number come down in the coming months.

Harvey Freville asked why our pool operating expense was high and Bill stated that this was due to the purchase of chemicals for the pool.

Bill Redhefer made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Roger Lee, passed by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

- **Vice Commander** – John Pastor – The Vice Commander stated that the new pour nozzles have been purchased, and we are working to get them implemented to control our drink pours.
- **Executive Board** – Ed Brinkman - No report.
- **Finance Committee** – Bob Morris – Bob stated that all our accounts are balanced for the month of October.
- **Home Inc.** – Bob Onorato – Bob touched on the lawsuit issue as it was previously covered by the Vice Commander.
- **By Laws Committee** – Mark Schilling – No report
- **Bar Committee** – Brian Thomas/Jay Henry – No report
- **Chaplain** – Sam Waltz – No report – Jim Hague stated that Veteran Member Leo Long passed away on November 1st.
- **Veteran Affairs** – Rick Rambo – Rick stated that he attended the commission meeting in Dover, and they are in the process of forming the new committee that will report to the new State Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Rick stated that the Department of Labor is looking to hire Veterans, Rick will have more information on the Board.

Rick stated that he is always available to assist when needed.

- **Entertainment** – Vince Vandenbrak – Vince stated that we are winding down the year regarding entertainment. Vince stated that the Halloween party was a great success with 140 people in attendance, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.
 - 11/7 – Country Line Dancing
 - 11/8 – Two of US in the lounge
 - 11/9 – Blues Show in the hall
 - 12/12 – entertainment in the lounge

Vince stated to keep an eye on the schedule for future events. Vince also stated that we will be having a New Years Eve party and is looking for someone or a group of people to host it.

- **Rentals** – John Descioli - John reported that there are 23 events in the hall this month.
- **WACS** – Lauren Cullumber –Our hygiene goods drive has concluded and thanked everyone who provided the requested items. All the items went to Gauger-Cobb middle school and were delivered by Chrissy Chester. The total of the goods delivered was \$890.00. Chrissy provided a letter of thanks from the school.

Lauren stated that the WAC's supported the Halloween party and thanked those involved.

The WAC's coat drive is still ongoing with two weeks left.

The WAC's Christmas auction is coming up and the date for the drop off of items is 12/1.

- **Kitchen** – Andie Chernekoff – Andie that the WAC's for their support of the Halloween party. Andie stated that the French Dip night was a great success and that there will be a Deli night upcoming. Andie stated that the kitchen can always use volunteers.
- **Pool** – Bill Conaway – No report.
- **Sports** - Dave Acosta – Florie reported for Dave that the Toys for Tots was a great success. The Post donation is going to be \$12,000.00.

- **Grounds** – Bill Carpenter – No report
- **In-House Committee** – Chip Roop – Chip wanted to thank Justin Lake and Bill Frank for their help repairing the flagpole.
- **Membership** – Jim Biddle reported:

1st READS PRESENT

Associates

None

Veterans

Robert G. Taggart – USAF

Kevin M Brackney – USA

Youssef M. Moussa – USMC

James J. Diamond - USMC

NOT PRESENT –

Veterans

Robert F. Oswald

Rebecca L. Gargan – USAF

Associates

2nd READS PRESENT

Associate

Veterans

Thomas J. King – USA

Laurie T. Fragier – USN

Daniel Grover II – USN

Ronald E. Schmidt - USN

NOT PRESENT

- **Progressive Raffle** – Art Chernekoff – Art stated that the raffle books continue to be short by large amounts. Art stated that the Post should investigate increasing the penalties for those that are identified not placing their money in the box.

This began a discussion on the floor with various points of view. The Commander referred the discussion to new business.

- **Honor Guard** – Vince Knoll – Vince noted the upcoming Bandstand night; the cost will be \$25.00 per person and only half of the tickets have been sold. Vince stated that since their monthly meeting falls on Veterans Day, they will move it to Wednesday, the 12th.

Scholarship – Mike Phillips – Bill Allison reported for Mike that the scholarship season is open for applications. All applications are due by February 1st, 2026. Bill stated that there are two new members on the committee, Mike Baldi and Chrissy Chester.

- **Baseball** – Mike Buono – Not present, no report.
- **Swim Team** – Stephanie Coho – Not present, no report.
- **Public Relations** – Florie Henry – No report.
- **Welcoming Committee** – Bill Redefor - asked all first reads to please meet in the far corner of the hall after the meeting.
- **Facilities Management** – Harvey Freville – No report.

Old Business – None

New Business –

- Mark Schilling wanted to address the motion on the proposed dues increase. Mark stated that he is not in agreement with this proposal for several reasons. First, he believes that it will only penalize the members who patronize the Post on a regular basis. Mark is concerned that since we just raised dues by \$15.00 dollars to the current \$85.00, those members that don't patronize the Post that much will simply drop their memberships once they receive an additional dues increase.

Second, one of the reasons for the motion was the need for cash. That need is an immediate one and even if this motion passes the money will not be available until February. Mark feels that the increase is not necessary currently.

Mark then requested that the motion be placed in the election ballot to ensure that only voting members can vote on it.

Jim Hague stated that he also does not agree with the proposed increase.

Bob Morris stated that he appreciated Mark's position but wanted to explain why he made the initial motion. Bob stated that he belongs to the Elks and the membership dues there are \$140.00 per year and feels that we should remain competitive while increasing our cash flow. Bob stated that this would better position the Post financially in the future.

There was some spirited debate on the floor and the Commander stated that he would like the motion placed on the ballot to be voted on in December. He would also like to have it advertised in the Eblast.

- **Joe Rodriguez made a motion to increase the penalties as recommended by the Raffle Chair. This led to some discussion on the floor. Sam Minutola stated that he does not agree with the motion. Sam's concern is that what if someone simply makes a mistake, how do you separate the two issues?**
 - **A suggestion was made to direct this issue to the EBoard for a follow-up. Joe Rodriguez agreed to table the motion until the December membership meeting to see whether the Board can find some solutions to the matter.**
 - **EBoard President Ed Brinkman suggested a special EBoard meeting on Monday, November 10th, at 7:00 to discuss the matter. He invited Past Commanders as well as the current Board.**
- **Good of the Order –**
 - **Andie Chernekoff stated that the Veterans Day breakfast will be on Saturday, November 8th at 10:00.**
 - **The Children's Christmas party will be on Saturday, December 6th.**

- **The adult Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 13th. Tickets will go on sale next week.**
 - **Bill Carpenter wanted to let everyone know that he recently did a day trip to Annapolis and has information if anyone is interested. He will post the info. on the Board.**
 - **Kristy Chester thanked everyone for their support for her father's membership and wanted everyone to know that he had been visited by members of the Post.**
 - **Ed Brinkman stated that all members with a concern are welcome to attend an EBoard Mtg. Please let Ed know in advance so he can place you on the agenda.**
 - **The Commander stated that Mission BBQ is offering a free sandwich to all Veterans-on-Veterans Day.**
- **50/50 – Lee Mitchell won \$145.00; Post received \$145.00 from ticket purchases. Lee donated his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund.**

The Commander asked the Chaplain to recite the DelVets prayer.

Taps were sounded.

Motion was made by Bob Morris to adjourn the meeting, Bill Redhefer seconded the motion, passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:30.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary Mark Schilling