

Delaware Veterans Post # 1

General Membership Meeting

7 January 2026

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

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

Ceremonies-Commander Herman called upon the 2024 awardees of the Delvet of the year: John Descioli and Vince Vandenbraak. Both men then presented the award for Delvet of the year 2025 to awardee Mark Parsons. The Commander then presented a certificate of appreciation to each of the nominees to thank them for their involvement with post operations. The Commander then presented the Commander's Service Award to Andi Chernekoff.

Commander Herman then called upon Chaplain Waltz to administer the oath of office to newly elected officials for 2026. Upon completion the new staff took positions whereas Commander Schilling continued the proceedings.

Previous General Membership Meeting Minutes – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting on December 3rd, 2025. A motion was made by Ron Gower to suspend a reading of the minutes as they have already been posted upon the bulletin board. Seconded by Bob Morris; passed by a voice vote.

Previous E-Board Meeting Minutes – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the December 23rd, 2025, Regular E-Board meeting.

The Secretary read the minutes from the meeting.

The Commander opened the floor for questions or corrections. A question was raised about the cost of decorations on the treasurer report. A quick review of the report by the Commander clarified the member had misconstrued the line item as special events when in fact it is depreciation. Hearing no further questions a motion was made by Bob Morris to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Gerry Stauffer, passed by a voice vote.

Treasurers Report – Sean McLaren reviewed the monthly financial report for November 2025. Sean stated that the Post had a total income of \$51,550.49. Our total cost of goods was \$18,467.65 for a gross profit of \$33,082.84. Our total expenses were \$31,990.11. Our net income for the month was \$1,262.73. Year to date we are at a negative \$19,175.57.

Sean pointed out four expenses that required explanation:

- 1) Repairs and Maintenance was double payment for the month to clear the bill.
- 2) Pool management expense was also double payment.
- 3) Scholarship donations indicating two donations.
- 4) Sewage indicating the quarterly payment.

The Commander then asked for questions from the floor. Hearing none a motion was made by Harvey Freville to accept the report as read. Seconded by Roger Lee, passed by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

- **Vice Commander** – John Pastor: No report
- **Executive Board** – Ed Brinkman: Ed informed the Commander the Executive board has all contact information with newly elected members up to date. He also stated the original date for the March E board meeting was March 17th. That has been changed to Monday March 16th. Ed informed the Commander he had nothing else to add.
- **Finance Committee** – Bob Morris: Bob stated that all our accounts are balanced for the month of December save for one outstanding check that has since been tracked down, and he awaits confirmation from MT bank. Bob also noted he has not yet heard from the State regarding unclaimed property.
- **Home Inc.** – Harvey Freville: Harvey informed the Commander that Home inc. had their first meeting of 2026 prior to this evening's general meeting. Officers and their positions were established, and Home inc. is prepared to remain engaged with the continuing Post operations.
- **By Laws Committee** – Mark Schilling: Schilling stated he did not have a report. He informed membership a new Committee head will be in place by next month.
- **Bar Committee** – Brian Thomas/Jay Henry: No report

- **Chaplain** – Sam Waltz: Sam advised Jim Derbrow is in the hospital with an undisclosed ailment. He would appreciate visits.
- **Veteran Affairs** – Rick Rambo: Rick passed out an information flier concerning Legislative Committee recommendations for 2026 (see attached). Rick thanks the Post membership for the \$2,500.00 raised for the Veterans Trust fund. He also noted the WACs added a \$500.00 donation for a total of \$3000.00. Rick has been appointed as Chairman of the State Committee for Veterans affairs. He said he is working with the appropriations committee to increase funding to the Delaware Veterans Home.
- **Entertainment** – Vince Vandenbraak: Vince reminded everyone of the Eagles playoff game this Sunday at 1630 hours. He also advised the Post will have a viewing of the Super Bowl this year (and he hopes the Eagles will again be participants) on February 8th. Country line dancing is every Friday night at the Post. Come out and have some fun! Vince also noted the Old News Band will be entertaining for the Valentines Day event.
- **Rentals** – John Descioli: John advised members there are 19 scheduled events for this month. He also advised the membership there was a problem initially in obtaining the delivery of tablecloths authorized by the Executive board. John states prior to said delivery issue having been resolved Jen Avery purchased linen tablecloths making them available for two recent events. Jen also had the linen laundered between those events at cost to her.
- **WACS** – Lauren Cullumber: Lauren states that to date (September 2025-January 2026) over 50 percent of the WACs donations have gone to Veteran related causes. She expects this trend to continue throughout this year.

Lauren also noted the Christmas auction was one of the best ever raising over \$1700.00! Also, of note a Gift Card raffle with a minimum value or \$500.00 is forthcoming. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available for purchase from February 9th through March 3rd.

A cook off will be held on Saturday, February 21st in the lounge which is open to all Post members. More details to follow.

Finally, on a sad note WACs member Sue Beeson passed away recently. The WACs were asked to provide desserts for her memorial. Lauren, and the entirety of the WAC committee, would like to thank Sue's husband Jon for the honor of serving the Beeson family.

- **Kitchen** – Andie Chernekoff/John Ratkovic: Andi wished to remind membership of their responsibility regarding the cleanliness of the Post mess hall after any use or event. That includes replacing paper products and flatware from where you obtained it not simply left in the kitchen itself for someone else to put away. Also, if any utensils are utilized (such as a cake knife) to clean said utensil and put it away not to leave it dirty and in the sink.
Andi advised the Commander the Kitchen donated \$896.00 dollars in tips received back to the Post. She noted the kitchen staff does not keep a dime of tip money and donates it back to the Post semiannually. John Ratklovic discussed some forthcoming events at the Post such as Soup and Sandwich, Cheesesteak nights, and the long awaited return of Pizza night. John Descioli added that Pizza night will be twice this month on the 15th and the 29th.
- **Pool** –Sue Gorman: No report. The Commander has advised membership of the Pool Committee is presently being revamped and should be up and running ASAP.
- **Sports** – Sam Minutola: No report.
- **Grounds** – Bill Carpenter: No report.
- **In-House Committee** – Chip Roop: No report.
- **Membership** – Jim Biddle reported:

1st READS PRESENT

Veterans

Jeffery Linn (A), Raheem West (MC).

Associates

None

NOT PRESENT –

Veterans

Charles McKee (N), Nolan Lewis (A), Rebecca Gargan (AF), Robert Maher (MC).

Associates

None

2nd READS PRESENT

Veterans

Kevin Brackney (A), Robert Oswald (A).

Associate

None

NOT PRESENT

Veterans

Robert Taggart (AF)

- **Progressive Raffle** – Art Chernekoff: No report.
- **Honor Guard** – Vince Knoll: No report.

Scholarship – Mike Phillips: Mike advised membership the deadline is fast approaching for applications. He thanked everyone who attended the pancake breakfast.

- **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: Bill 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 – None.

- **Good of the Order** –Jim Biddle wished to address the efforts put forth by Past Commander Jerry Herman and past Treasurer Bill Conaway and thank them for stepping up to take positions that would have remained vacant last year. Commander Schilling asked membership to be patient with the board while adjustments are made after this change of command.
- **50/50** –Brendan Mitchell won \$148.00; Post received \$147.00 from ticket purchases.

The Commander asked the Chaplain to recite the DelVets prayer.

Taps were sounded.

Motion was made by Ron Gower to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Harvey Freville, passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hrs.

**Respectfully submitted,
Vince Knoll
Recording Secretary,
Delaware Veterans post #1**