

DELAWARE VETERANS POST #1
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 4 February 2026

The meeting was called to order by Commander Mark Schilling at 1930 hours. All cellphones were made silent and hats removed.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all members and honors to the Flag rendered.

CEREMONIES: None.

SECRETARY: Reading of the previous meeting's minutes. Motion made by Bob Morris to waive a reading of the previous minutes as they have already been posted. Seconded by Mike Baldi passed by voice vote. The Commander asked the Secretary for a reading of the Executive board minutes. The minutes were read. Commander Schilling then opened the floor for questions.

Karen Freville asked if everyone could see the liquor audit? Cmdr. Schilling stated it was not a necessity as the audit simply accounts for purchases, and stock on hand with which to aid Jen Avery in up to date purchasing.

Harvey Freville asked about the payment of dues for the pool memberships when paying for annual Post dues, and is there a base rate? Cmdr. Schilling stated the Executive board has taken the suggestion under advisement and wishes to ensure all dues are accounted for as last year a problem arose with a split between payments through either the Post or Member splash.

TREASURERS REPORT: Sean MacLaren

Sean presented the Profit/Loss report to the board. For the month of December total income was \$30,077.63; total cost of goods was \$13,207.25; gross profit of \$16,870.38; total expenses were \$31,063.86 resulting in a net loss for the month as -\$14,415.98. Total net income for the year 2025 was -\$32,050.55. He also noted a meeting with M & T bank concerning Post loan consolidation. Moreover, Sean added the Post line of credit taken out for the parking lot has not been used.

Cmdr. Schilling opened the floor for questions. Hearing none a motion was made by Harvey Freville to accept the report; Seconded by Gerry Stauffer. Motion passed by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vice Commander: John Pastor

Vice Cmdr. Pastor addressed Karen Freville's question about liquor inventory. He stated Jen Avery is purchasing only what is needed to maintain Post operations. There is no longer any over purchasing. VCmdr. Pastor also noted the quarterly inventory will continue as conducted by himself and Vince Knoll. He wished to express thanks to the volunteer cooks who have made the pizza, and the cheesesteak event nights extraordinarily successful. Pastor also noted the efforts of Diane Onorato, Shirley Roberts, Lauren Cullumber, and Andi Chernenkoff for their tireless efforts delivering food to everyone as well as keeping all the orders straight.

Finally, the VCmdr. reminds members the Post financial condition is poor however efforts within the Executive board are being made to keep it (the Post) viable.

Executive board: Ed Brinkman

President Brinkman was unavailable for the meeting and no report was made.

Finance: Bob Morris

Bob reports that as of this date all accounts are balanced. He provided an update on the unclaimed funds. Bob said the State has informed him they need more information in order to follow through with the investigation. He said he intends to comply with the State's request.

Home Inc: Harvey Freville

Harvey announced Home Inc. has elected their officials for the year 2026. They are as follows: Harvey Freville-President, Frank Dobson-Vice President, Gerry Stauffer-secretary. Harvey had nothing further to report.

By-laws: Mark Schilling

Cmdr. Schilling advised membership he has appointed Joe Rodriguez as head of the by-laws committee. Joe will be setting up meetings and the agenda very soon. Cmdr. Schilling also notes there is a good amount of language in the by-laws that requires updating.

Bar: Brian Thomas/Jay Henry

No report.

Chaplain: Sam Waltz

Sam advised two members have passed: Bill Chester and Gene Taddei. He also noted Roger Lee's wife Anna is in the hospital. He requests prayers for the families during this trying time.

Veterans affairs: Rick Rambo

Rick made membership aware the commission is targeting, and attempting to whip up support for, Senate bill 219 (military pension exception). He also noted House bill 31 (claim sharks bill) is also on the committee's radar for passage.

Rick would like to thank all who participated in the pool tourney recently. He encouraged veteran members to use VA healthcare as the more it is utilized the more money the State receives.

Entertainment: Vince Vandenbraak

Vince advised the Commander Country Line dancing has two scheduled events in February and the kitchen will be open for both. He also reminded members that the Super Bowl party will have the kitchen open as well as assorted giveaways and raffles.

The Valentine's day event is sold out. Vince also noted as a reminder there is a separate telephone line for scheduling that both he and John Descioli utilize for Post business.

Rentals: John Descioli

John was unavailable. In his stead Vince Vandenbraak informed membership there are 17 events scheduled for February.

WACS: Lauren Cullumber

Lauren informed the Commander WAC's membership has grown to 64! The WACs were able to donate to Fisher House as well as sponsoring a hole for the upcoming Post golf tourney. Donations to veteran/military causes are at 59 %.

The mac and cheese cook off will commence Saturday, 21 February in the lounge between 1500-1700 hours. Sign-up sheets for entries and judges have been hung on the bulletin board.

WAC'y bingo is scheduled for 3 March. Jim Hague and his crew will cook for another cheesesteak night before the event from 1530-1830 hours. Come for cheesesteaks-stay for WAC's bingo! Gift card raffles are back, and tickets will be available from the bartenders this week. A large crowd is expected so be prepared for parking issues.

Final note: Tuesday, March 17th the Post will conduct it's St. Patrick's day dinner. The Irish dancers from McAleer school of dance will be performing! Fliers will be out soon.

Kitchen: Andi Chernekoff

Andi wished to take a moment to thank everyone for supporting the events at the Post. Membership involvement is making a difference!

Pool: Bill Conaway

Bill was unavailable for the meeting. Cmdr. Schilling introduced to the membership the new Pool Committee: Bill Conaway (chair), Bill Frank jr., Steve Ivans, Melissa Fritz.

Sports: Sam Minetola

Sam was unavailable for the meeting. The Commander asked Florie Henry to update membership on the upcoming golf outing. Florie said the date is May 14th at Rock Manor golf course; 0800 hours first tee off. She added that all food is being donated, Dicks sporting goods is the number one sponsor, and she noted this event should not cost the Post a dime.

Grounds: Bill Carpenter

No report.

In-house Committee: Chip Roop

No report.

Membership: Chair Jim Biddle presented the following names for application:

1st reads present-

ASSOCIATES-None

VETERANS-Robert Maher (USMC)

ABSENT-None

2nd reads present-

ASSOCIATES-None

VETERANS-Raheem West (USMC)

ABSENT-None

Progressive raffle: Art Chernekoff

No report.

Honor Guard: Bill Redhefer

Bill wanted to thank Vince Knoll for all his efforts leading the Honor Guard the past three years.

He also noted the HG is working with Air Force reps for the Bill Chester funeral service on Friday (6 Feb). Also, the dates for the pig roast (Aug 1st) and Bandstand (Nov 21st) have been set.

Scholarship: Mike Phillips

Mike Baldi reports the committee is processing 6 applicants for scholarship this year. He also reminds members of the dine out at Texas roadhouse next Tuesday. Show the flier for donations.

Baseball: Mike Buono

Not present. No report.

Swim team: Stephanie Coho

Not present. No report.

Public Relations: Florie Henry

No report.

Welcoming Committee: Bill Redhefer

No report.

Facilities management: Harvey Freville

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dave Acosta advised members there are some toys for tots shirts remaining for sale. They cost 20 dollars and proceeds will be given to the scholarship fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vince Vandenbraak asked Jim Biddle what the results have been for the survey sent out with dues notification? Jim replied he has counted over 100 responses with varying suggestions, both helpful and absurd.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Florie Henry suggested the Post create fliers advertising the changes with the pool committee then posting them throughout the surrounding neighborhood. She also suggests advertising on the Post Facebook page.

Vince Vandenbraak noted the 80th anniversary of the Post is upcoming, and membership should be on the lookout for fliers.

Cmdr. Schilling advised March 21st is the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans luncheon which will commence at noon. Also, the Charitable donation report is due. He is working with Sean MacLaren to get the Post into compliance.

50/50: Vince Vandenbraak won \$108.00! He immediately donated \$60.00 to the scholarship fund.

Closing: The Commander ordered the Chaplain to recite the DelVets prayer. Taps were sounded and honors rendered.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Mike Baldi to adjourn the meeting @2035 hrs., seconded by Bob Morris; passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vince Knoll

Recording Secretary

Delaware Veterans Post #1.