

DELAWARE VETERANS POST #1

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 4 Mar 2026

The meeting was called to order by Cmdr. Schilling at 1930 hours this date. All covers were removed and cellphones placed on silent. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited by all and honors rendered.

CEREMONIES: None

SECRETARY: Cmdr. Schilling asked for a reading of the previous meeting's minutes. A 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. Cmdr. Schilling asked the Secretary for a reading of the Executive board minutes. The reading commenced. The Commander asked for any questions of the Executive board minutes. Hearing none a motion was made by Jim Brannon to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Gerry Stauffer; passed by voice vote.

TREASURERS REPORT: Sean MacLaren. The Profit/Loss was reported to the body. For the month of January total income was \$80,226.23; total cost of goods was \$16,506.72; gross profit of \$63,719.51; total expenses were \$37,536.67 resulting in a net gain for the month of \$26,182.84. Total net income year to date is \$26,331.59. It should be noted total net income for Jan 2025 was \$15,418.73 (showing a net gain of \$10,912.86 from 2025 to 2026). Cmdr. Schilling asked for questions. Hearing none a motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Bob Morris; seconded by Gerry Stauffer. Passed by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vice Commander: John Pastor. No report.

Executive board: Ed Brinkman. President Brinkman began by clarifying a price range for the sound system contained in the Executive board minutes. The price for the chosen sound system (Sirius XM) was not \$251.00 dollars per month but \$26.95 dollars per month. The Secretary regrets the error.

Brinkman said he personally checked to ensure our sound system was compatible with the required Sirius equipment. The technician from Sound of Tri-State assured him it is compatible. Excess equipment was removed from behind the bar (amplifier and

unnecessary wiring). Per the technician the Post will need one transmitter for the lounge and one for the hall. The startup cost will be a one-time fee of \$583.86. President Brinkman stated the music will be installed next week. (UPDATE: The music has been installed and is up and running as of 10 March).

Mark Parsons asked if the zones of the sound system will reach into the pool room? Ed said the technician assured him that it would indeed be plugged into the pool room. There were no further questions.

Finance: Bob Morris. Bob stated as of this date all accounts are balanced. He did not have any additional information to pass on.

Home Inc.: Harvey Freville. No report.

By-laws: Joe Rodriguez. No report.

Bar: Brian Thomas/Jay Henry. No report.

Chaplain: Sam Waltz. Cmdr. Schilling gave the report in Sam's absence.

Barb Mitchell's service is 5 March between 10:30 and 11:30. A reception will commence at Delvets hall following Mass.

Jack Faulkner passed away In February. While he dropped his membership in 2024 his spouse would like Delvets to consider a celebration of life in April.

Charlie Wright passed away Saturday evening, March 1st. He dropped his membership in 2024. His service will commence in three weeks. The family will advise.

Max Heckler also passed away February 18th. He was a veteran of the Army and a Life member of Delvets. Cmdr. Schilling is in contact with the family and is awaiting a decision on services.

Anna Lee is struggling with her health and remains in the hospital. The Commander would like to ensure Post members keep up the spirits of Roger, Anna, and the entire Lee family during this trying time.

Veterans affairs: Rick Rambo. Rick advised membership the Fed stated they had begun reevaluating all health claims. Due to increased pressure from nationwide veterans organizations the Fed has rescinded their claim evaluations for the time being.

Entertainment: Vince Vandenbrak. Vince stated the Valentines day event was sold out and was an enormous success. He also mentioned there are two country line dancing events this month. March 24th is a Tito's and tacos event. Sunday the 15th is the Blues show and noted the kitchen will be open to the Post in its entirety while the event is ongoing. The Phillies home opener will be 26 March at 1615 hrs. Come out and root for your Phils! Lastly, Vince said the committee is looking into the month of June for a Phillies bus trip. Fliers forthcoming.

Rentals: John Descioli. John noted there are 25 events for the month of March. He also mentioned April 18th is the intended day for the next bowling trip.

WACS: Lauren Cullumber. Lauren advised membership the WACs purchased two 8 foot tables for the Post. She also said Martha and Bill Demko donated two additional 8 foot tables and one 6 foot table to the Post! Thank you Martha and Bill!

The mac and cheese cookoff was a success earning \$271.00 profit for the Post. 1st place-Patty Rosbrow, 2nd place-Nancy Talley, 3rd place-Laura Wyatt. Leftover hot dogs and rolls were donated to Sojourner's place.

WACy bingo was a larger success than last year's record breaker. Jimmy Hague and his crew feverishly sold their highest number yet amassing \$2,197.00 in orders! The 50/50 yielded \$525.00! The five dollar gift card winners have been posted on the bulletin board. This event has been the highest grossing fundraiser to date; topping last year's WACy bingo by \$1,053.25. Lauren thanked Diane Onorato for chairing the event.

Lastly the St. Patrick's Day event is up next on Tuesday the 17th, from 1700-2000 hrs. There will be Irish dancers performing at 7pm just after dinner. Tickets are 12 dollars per person however they will rise to 15 dollars after the 10th.

Kitchen: Andi Chernehoff. On a serious note, Andi would like to reiterate a point she made at the last meeting after an incident with the mess hall staff. If anyone has an issue with kitchen staff, servers, or order takers **DO NOT** berate those individuals...EVER. **All who work the mess hall are volunteering their time to the Post, and do not deserve any harsh treatment from a dissatisfied member!** Our mess hall is **not a restaurant!** If you have an issue with the manner in which your order was taken, fulfilled, or unfulfilled then take that issue up with either Andi or John Ratkovic.

Pool: Bill Conaway. Bill advised membership the Pool budget has been approved by the Executive board. He also noted that the couple that was courted to work the snack stand has

accepted the job. He also notes there are several events scheduled for the pool this season, to wit: 3 movie nights, float nights, two steel drums events, bingo nights, and trivia nights.

Sports: Sam Minetola. Not present-no report.

Grounds: Bill Carpenter. Bill notes the time for spring cleanup is scheduled for 9 May. He would like to see as many folks as possible come up and help us spruce up both the pool and the Post for the coming summer season.

In-house Committee: Chip Roop. No report.

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

1st reads present-

ASSOCIATES-None

VETERANS-Rebecca Gargan (Air Force), James Elliott (Army), Daniel Vink (Army).

ABSENT-Charles McKee (Navy/Army), Nolan Lewis (Army).

2nd reads present-

ASSOCIATES-None

VETERANS-Robert Maher (Marines), Jeffrey Linn (Army)

ABSENT-None

Progressive raffle: Art Chernekoff. Art stated all raffles are good to go. He did mention some raffles (both dollar and five dollar) have experienced a few missing money entries, however, not to the amounts we had lost before the implementation of the new accountability method.

Art also notes that \$1,450.00 that has been raised was placed into the Post emergency fund.

Honor Guard: Bill Redhefer. Bill would like to invite new membership to any Honor Guard meeting and possibly join to represent the Post. He also stated the lack of participation from some of our older members is hampering the Honor Guard's ability to function properly.

Scholarship: Mike Phillips. Mike Baldi advised the Texas Roadhouse event was a success and raised \$350.00 for the scholarship fund.

Baseball: Mike Buono. Not present. No report.

Swim team: Stephanie Coho was not present however the Commander stated he is setting a meeting with Stephanie at a later date.

Public Relations: Florie Henry. No report.

Welcoming Committee: Bill Redhefer. All first reads to meet Bill in the Northwest corner of the hall for information dissemination.

Facilities management: Harvey Freville. No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Dennis Hammond questioned why the hours of the pool could not be adjusted? Cmdr. Schilling addressed the question by stating both the Executive and Home Inc. boards must approve of changes in pool hours. Moreover, this was attempted in the past without success and altering the pool hours did not generate any additional revenue than what is presently procured.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Jim Biddle advised membership cards have been printed and are available in the lounge. He strenuously advised members to claim their membership card only, and not one for family or friends.

Florie Henry stated the Post golf outing is moving along well. She notes there are only 9 foursomes left available. Sponsorships remain available at this time.

Cmdr. Schilling has been on the phone with the blood bank attempting to set up life screening for this year. John Descioli is the point of contact.

The Commander would also like to address the discussion of politics in the Post. Politics is generally a taboo subject in a drinking establishment as it can incite heated arguing. All of our members hold differing political views and should **never** attempt to impose their views upon someone with whom they disagree. Henceforth this type of behavior will not be tolerated.

50/50: 153 dollars went to winner Ed Brinkman. 152 dollars went back to the Post.

Closing: The Commander ordered Sean MacLaren to recite the DelVets prayer in Chaplain Waltz's stead. Taps were not sounded as difficulty with the bugle arose.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Harvey Freville @ 2030 hrs., seconded by Ron Gower. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vince Knoll

Recording Secretary

Delaware Veterans Post #1.

