



Officer's Meeting  
February 11, 2026

- 5:00 PM Special Meeting – Essay Judges
  - Members Gruben, Roberts, Huerta and Korth met for Judge's instruction for the 2026 Essay Program. Information was handed out
- 6:00 Meeting brought to order by Commander Roberts
  - Pledge of Allegiance
  - MIA ceremony by Sr Vice Henson, Jr. Vice Huerta
  - Opening Prayer – Chaplain Bearrows
  - Preamble to the American Legion- Read by Sgt, At Arms Tarvestad
  - 13 Members present, 3 family members attended as guests.
- Program Presented – Commander Roberts
  - Topic -Tacom and Post 403 Weapons in inventory
- Minutes from 01/14/26 Meeting- Online, Copies to review
- Motion to Approve, Bearrows, 2<sup>nd</sup> Libberton
- Adjutant Report:
- Roster:
  - Department has 62 Listed
  - Had 49 Active for 2025
  - 56 Members Current- 114% Increase
  - 8 New members for 2026
  - 4 Expired, will drop for 2027
  - 2 in Grace Period, Two young Guys from 2025
  - Membership recruiter hat pins available for anyone signing a new member.
  - New Hats, for new members \$20.00 ea. Out of hats! Adjutant asked for 10 more (Min order this price) Approval for \$200.00. Motion Henson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gruben, Approved
- New Members
  - Luz Gilkey , Susan Poole, Gene Yocum- New Member, transfer from 2910
- Post Everlasting- Leon Bozek
  - Transfer to Post Everlasting read for attendees. It will be given along with a grave marker to next of kin.
  - No arrangements that I know of at this time. Asked for notification from family.
- Essay Program underway- our 10<sup>th</sup> year

- Schools: Eswood, 14, Kings, 18, St. Paul, 19, Middle School, 6, Steward 2, High School, Level II, 3 and III, 2 essays. No Creston last 4 years. 63 Essays
- Total Prize money approved to be around \$500.00. 10th Year. Adjutant ask for approval for additional \$60.00 to \$100. for Teachers and Principals supporting the program. Motion: Gruben, 2<sup>nd</sup> Huerta, Motion Carried
- Increased Security apparent at the schools except St. Paul where I and Jose met Mr. Hall, a great supporter of the program
- Held Judges Meeting Earlier- Completed by March 1
- Culvers on board with Ice Cream sundaes for participants
- Home Schooled contacted... no essays.
- Vac Delegate, Jose Alternate, Steve
  - Needs Open Meetings Act, OMA, training by Feb 28, next VACOC Meeting January
  - February meeting is Wednesday, February 18
  - Quorum- VAC needs more active participation for Posts. Important for the mission
  - Some things moving forward for move to Courthouse, IMRF still an issue
  - Growing pains for the Organization in HR issues, Will become part of the County Organization for HR and some Administrative Functions
  - A foundation is established for donated funds. \$6277.00. Private money, no tax dollars to be managed by the Foundation.
- District 13 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting
  - 14 out of 38 Posts attended
  - Jose and Korth attended.
  - Many District Posts attended, 35 Members attended
    - District 13 #1 in Membership, at 99.34% 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. 84%
    - Finance Balance \$13708. 11 Posts including Rochelle received the extra \$100.00 Veterans Day Cutoff. Post will receive a Flag Ribbon
    - Prairie State Legal Service available to help Veteran-free legal service-I have information
    - Changes proposed in District from 5 to 4 and re-districting Chicago area
    - Poppy Program available to Posts, no action taken
- Donations: Approved, but being reviewed
  - Boy/Girl Scouts, Boys State, Girls State
  - Little League may not get a team this year. Not enough kids for teams. Kids going to traveling teams.
  - Re-evaluating donations for all and Scholarship(s)
- Events: List for this year
  - Raffle
  - Railroad Days- Booth

- Memorial Day, Parade
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Will have Flags to give away.
- Heritage Days, Parade
- Summer Banquet, Election of Officers
- Christmas Banquet
- Scholarships:
  - Program under review – Commander Roberts comments
- Many Programs available Youth Programs, Boy Scout Scholarships, Eagle Scout Scholarships, Police Awards, Fireman Awards,
- Legion Meetings
  - Woman Veteran’s Appreciation Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 316 West Main, Lena, IL.
    - Free Brunch RSVP 815-369-4684
- Approval of Adjutant’s report, Motion: Bearrows, 2<sup>nd</sup> Henson, Motion Carried
- Raffle Report- Gruben
  - Permission to go forward -Voice vote to proceed
  - Weapons again as prize
  - Notation on tickets to say “Supports Local Scholarships” (Tarvestad)
  - Commander Roberts “appointed” Gruben and Hardcastle as committee.
  - Need full Member participation in ticket sales!!
- Jr. Vice Report- Huerta
  - Affirmed his support for the Post and its commitments
- Sr. Vice report- Henson
  - Nothing to report
- Commander’s Report
  - December Banquet venue secured
  - Memorial bricks still \$75,00 for 2026
  - Flag expense \$1500.00 due to high winds at the Memorial
  - Honor Guard needs members, see Joe Drought, Uniform provided
- Member’s \$.02
  - Gruben reported Members John Schinzer and Hardcastle feeling better and making progress.
- 50/50 Drawing held- Winner Huerta. Funds returned to Post
- Closing Prayer- Chaplain Bearrows, MIA Flag Retired
- 7:15 Meeting Adjourned.