



## Officer's Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026

- 6:00 PM Meeting called to order by Sr. Vice Commander Henson
- Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by all present
- Members Present: Henson, Korth, Welles, Bearrows, Huerta, Gruben, and Tarvestads
  - Commander Roberts was absent due to prior commitment. An agenda was prepared and a Commander's report submitted.
- Guests: Manny Lopex, President, Rochelle Little League, Wayne Argetsinger, Vice President and Josu Kulwicki, Treasurer
  - First order of business was to present a \$400.00 check to these members of the 2026 Rochelle Little League Management team. The Arnold Heltness Post 403 will sponsor a team for 2026.
  - President Lopex promised to send the Post a schedule for the season.
  - Chaplain Bearrows suggested Post 403 provides the Honor Guard for opening ceremonies. The offer was accepted and the Post members supported the idea.
- Adjutant Report:
- Little League check presented- Josh Kulwicki and other members of the League Team Received the check- Picture taken.
- Roster:
  - Department has 62 Listed
  - Had 49 Active for 2025
  - 56 Members Current- 114% Increase
  - Membership recruiter hat pins available for anyone signing a new member.
  - Ordered 10 new hats for new members-6-week lead-time
  - Ordered 3 Grave Markers
  - Ordered 3 gross 4X6 Flags for parades (432 Flags)
  - Used Eric's Debit Card.....
  - Placed marker at Hugh McDermitt's grave. Will see if we get the one we gave back
  - Gave last Marker and Post Everlasting Certificate to Ralph Papke's family- Gruben and Huerta there as well.
  - Helped with Honor Guard at funeral
- Essay Program Done - our 10<sup>th</sup> year 63 essays,
  - Prizes awarded, Gruben, Huerta and Roberts present at awards Presentation.

- Total Prize money approved was \$575.00.
  - Gave \$5.00 (\$50.00 ) for Teachers and Principals supporting the program.
  - Increased Security apparent at the schools except St. Paul where I and Jose met Mr. Hall again and he personally accompanied us to the presentation.
  - Culvers provided Ice Cream sundaes for participants,
  - Thanks to Judges: Roberts, Gruiben, Huerta and Sheets.
  - Eswood posted the Contest results on the Lindenwood Community Facebook page,,called it the VFW Essay Contest!
- Vac Report
    - Delegates are: Jose Huerta and Alternate, Steve Korth
    - Nothing more to report- Missed 3/11/2026 meeting due to Prior Appt.
    - Still working with County on support issues, Attorneys talking.
    - A foundation is established for donated funds. \$6277.00. Private money, not tax dollars, to be managed by the Foundation.
    - Next meeting 03/18/2026, 10:00 AM RM 101 County Courthouse- All invited.
      - Prairie State Legal Service available to help Veteran-free legal service-I have information
- Donations: Approved:
    - Boy/Girl Scouts, Boys State, Girls State
    - We have a Little League Team-\$400.00
    - Donations cut to \$200.00 for Boy/Girl Scouts for scholarship consideration
      - Will try to make contact and issue checks.
- 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:
    - Info to School, no more information to offer, Amount not set
- 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

- Post Data Report due: Dues for next Year? \$40.00 to Dept. \$50.00 to post.
  - Members present discussed dues for next year.
  - Motion to keep dues at \$50.00 by Welles, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Huerta, Motion Carried. Dues for 2027 will remain at \$50.00
  - Bearrows abstained from voting being a Life Member.
  - Korth presented the schedule for members who may want to be a “Life Member”. Available on request or on the American Legion Website.
- Sr. Vice Report:
  - No report given but remarked he was happy to serve in Commander Robert’s absence.
- Jr, Vice Report:
  - Reported that he attended 13<sup>th</sup> District meetings with Adjutant Korth and found them interesting.
  - He will try to attend the next VAC Meeting on March 18 at 10:00 AM.
- Raffle Report- John Gruben:
  - 200 tickets are printed and Gruben has them available on request.
  - The guns this year are A CaniK Mete MC 9MM Pistol and a CZ 720 G3 Youth Semi-Automatic 20 GA. Shotgun.
  - Tickets were printed free for the Legion, and the Owner of the print shop bought a ticket. Gruben offered one for free.
  - 5 of the members present took 10 tickets each and Commander Roberts left word he also wanted 10. Only 140 tickets left to sell. Drawing will be held on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2026 at a venue to be announced.
  - All members are needed in this effort! If you don’t want to sell tickets, at least buy one. This is for our Scholarship Program! You don’t need to accept the guns if won or the winning ticket can be presented by someone of your choice who is over 18 and eligible to possess and gun in Illinois.
  - Korth asked about posters and Gruben asked for computer help in recovering a file from his computer. No one offered assistance.
- Gruben said he was the winner of last year’s rifle and elected to upgrade his rifle to the special “LEGION Engraved Rifle” offered by Henry Arms for an additional premium Price.
  - He will make the rifle available for viewing by members at a later date when received, possibly at the Roberts Arsenal Museum.
- Commanders Report:
  - 1. Luz Gilkey will speak in April and Susan Poole is lined up for June.
  - 2. The website is updated with the essay winners.
  - 3. Bricks at the memorial are still \$75 each.
  - 4. The Eastern Lee-Ogle honor guard needs members.

- 5. First Presbyterian church is lined up for the August and installation banquet.
  - 6. I will take 10 raffle tickets.
  - 7. Steve has my proxy vote
  - No Proxy was required.
- Sr, Vice Commander: Your \$02 Agenda item.
  - None offered
- 6:35 Motion to adjourn: Bearrows, Huerta 2<sup>nd</sup>.