



## General Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026, 2026

- 6:00 PM Meeting called to order by Commander Roberts
- 11 Members Present, 2 Guests
- Opening Ceremonies; Pledge, Prayer, MIA/POW
- Program: Commander Roberts
  - Topic 70<sup>th</sup> Tank BN landing on D-Day. Discussed equipment and event.
  - Discussion and Questions followed. Enjoyed by all!
- Adjutant Report
  - Asked for approval of Minutes from May 13 Meeting. Motion, Henson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Huerta
- Roster:
  - Department has 58 Listed
  - Had 49 Active for 2025
  - Post 403 has special recognition for our Membership activities. We have a special banner for our Flag. Also, as I understand, there will be additional recognition at the Convention in July.
  - District 13, which we are part of, is #1 in the State!
  - Have lost three members due to passing this year. We will have a tough mountain to climb next year to get to 100%
  - We need to review the policy of paying for first year new members. Cash outlay was about \$350. Retention from last year was two out of four recruited. New members this year, only one has attended a single meeting! No Discussion at this meeting.
  - Still don't have Grave Markers from Legion Sales. They are not shipping.
  - Membership recruiter hat pins available for anyone signing a new member.
  - Ordered 3 gross 4X6 Flags for parades (432 Flags) also from Legion Sales. Not yet arrived. I have since ordered from another source to have available for 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. They are here and will be ready to hand out!
  - Have yet to hear from Leon's family. I let them know we would provide a marker.
- Contacted by Unger-Horner Funeral Home about Flags for Cemetery
  - Post 403 made available in the past. Charles Millott?
  - Asked for 50 Flags. I ordered from a different source because of Legion Sales debacle. Cost \$78.92. Unger-Horner gave us a check for \$80.00 12" X 18" Flags.
- Essay Program
  - Prizes awarded at District 13 for Magdaline Good and Elijah Good. \$10.00 Each, I think.
- Vac Delegates are: Jose Huerta and Alternate, Steve Korth
  - Veterans in system 1179
  - Still working with County on support issues, Attorneys talking.
  - VACOC Board Meeting rescheduled. No more info currently.

- A foundation is established for donated funds. \$6277.00. Private money, not tax dollars, to be managed by the Foundation.
- Next meeting 06/17/2026, 10:00 AM RM 101 County Courthouse- All invited.
- The move to the Courthouse may happen next month, or not!
- Donations: Approved:
  - Donations cut to \$200.00 for Boy/Girl Scouts for scholarship consideration
    - Will issue checks at 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Checks cut.
- Scholarship Notes: Nice “Thank You” from Alayna Smardo and Hailey Bunger.
- Post Everlasting. A thank You from Ms. Schinzer for the Presentation at John’s Funeral. Much appreciated by family members.
- Events: List for this year
  - Raffle -Gruben
  - Railroad Days- Cancelled due to lack of committed help and Korth being out of town and unable to get the tent to anyone.
  - Memorial Day, Parade and Ceremony held. It was well attended. Senator LaHood Spoke.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Will have Flags to give away. Beed walker volunteers. May ask Scouts for help.
  - Heritage Days, No Parade this year due to Downtown Construction
  - Summer Banquet, Installation of Officers
  - Christmas Banquet
- Member Scholarship report. No discussion held, tabled for this year.
- Many Programs still go unclaimed - Youth Programs, Boy Scout Scholarships, Eagle Scout Scholarships, Police Awards, Fireman Awards,
  - Boys/Girls State
    - We are sending a Boy Pedro Reales leaves on Saturday
    - We potentially have a Girl for Girl’s State. District offered to pay the fees if she decides to go. Met with her Sunday, no response.
- Legion Meetings:
  - Officers Elected for 2026-27 at last meeting
    - Commander Russ Henson
    - Sr-Vice – Jose Huerta
    - Jr.-Vice – No Candidate
    - Treasurer- Eric Welles
  - Officers serve from Installation one year until the Installation the next year (technically from July 1 to June 30.)
  - All other officers are appointed.
  - Installation happens in August (08/12/2026 at Presbyterian Church, 6:00 PM RSVP! Planning session at July Meeting)
  - Next Meeting 07/09/2026. All invited to attend, not just officers!
  - Consolidation report submitted Thanks to those who gave me their hours
  - Officer Certification Report submitted.
- F4 Phantom Memorial Dedication, Lena American Legion Post, Saturday, May 23.

- I and Kathy went. It was a nice event. A pilot, now retired and who flew the plane on display, gave an entertaining speech. Worth stopping to see if driving by on Rt. 20.
- Finance Report: Welles (For amounts, come to the meeting.)
  - Motion to approve, Tarvestad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Henson
- Sr. Vice Report: Henson
  - No report
- Jr. Vice Report:
  - Jose witnessed the return of the steam engine “Big Boy” to Rochelle.
    - Lots of spectators but it didn’t stay long.
  - Also got the see the Freedom Truck
  - Jose is working on getting his food prep machines out any ready for possible use as fund raisers at The Heritage Days. He has a Popcorn, Cotton Candy and a Snowcone machine.
  - He will check into permits and license to sell.
- Fund Raiser Report: Raffle: Gruben
  - John says sales are slow, we need more participation from members
  - Member Gilkey turned in over \$500.00!
  - Commander Roberts and others said they will also turn in several hundreds.
  - John displayed a new poster for use at tent events.
- Commander Report: Roberts
  - Speaker at the August meeting will be Past District 13 Commander, Jerry Howard
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade will form at 2:30 pm AT THE Municipal Building, step off a three
  - The Museum will have vehicles in the Parade.
  - We will have flags to hand out, need walkers!
  - Cemetery Monument will have a Space Force Flag and stone added to the array.
  - The weapons Inventory is completed and sent off to District.
- Retirement of the MIA?POW Flag
- 50/50 drawing held:
  - Winner – Luz Gilkey \$22.00
- 7:35 Meeting adjourned