

# The American Legion Minutes

## Second District

Compiled by: Larry Thronson    Date: August 13, 2024    Time Convened: 7:04 PM  
Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_    Post No: 735    Department of Iowa  
Attendance: 8    Officers: 3    Members: 5    Adjourning: 7:54 PM

## The American Legion

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Meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Helle. Chaplain Joel Kessler led the post in opening prayer. Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution was said by all. Commander Joe Helle read a statement that we learned from the Linn County meeting: A POW and MIA empty chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion. As a physical symbol of the many American POW and MIA still on account from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity and the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicated ourselves to this vital endeavor.

### **GUESTS:**

Dick Hogan (Linn County District vice Commander) to install the officers. The officers were installed.

Minutes of the meeting dated August 13, 2024 was distributed to the members. Motion by Kenny Jones to accept the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joel Kessler and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote. .

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Report:** Tim Cunningham read and explained the financial report. Motion by Mike Coleman to accept the financial report as read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Pierce and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote.

**Flag Essay:** No Report

**Avenue of Flags:** Joe Helle stated that September 2<sup>nd</sup> Labor Day we put the flags up on Friday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM and take the flags down on Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**Building:** No Report

**Weapons:** No Report

**Website:** Mike Coleman stated that the website is up to date. Mike Coleman stated that the most popular pages are (1) Bingo (2) Flag Disposal (3) Avenue of Flags (4) Contact us (5) Building Rental.

**Membership:** Larry Thronson stated that Gerry Kaiser ask him to print off an online membership report and then I send it to him. Gerry Kaiser stated that we have 37 renewals to date. Joe Helle stated that we have 3 more renewals in the office now. Joe Helle asked Gerry Kaiser to look at our membership to see if we have any deceased members on the state list. Gerry Kaiser stated that he checks for this.

**Scholarship Program:** No Report

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Post Service Officer** (No Post Service Officer)

**Sick Call:** Joe Helle will have knee replacement on October 16, 2024.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Linn County meeting at Center Point:

Larry Thronson stated that they gave the renewal count for each city. Hiawatha had 84 renewals and the goal was 87. We had 97% renewed. They discussed the Linn County amendments for the bylaws. They stated that each post should do their own flag disposal. Joe Helle stated that the County at the fair did one flag for each post in the county. Larry Thronson stated that the Linn County meeting will be September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in Central City. Joe Helle stated that they brought up the Quilt Valor project. They are located in the lower level of Lindale Mall.

Kenny Jones brought up that we have to discuss the Christmas party for the legion. Joe Helle stated that Troy Andersen will setup the RSVP. Mike Coleman stated that the Christmas party on September 27, 2024. Social will be at 5:30 PM and dinner at 6:00 PM.

Joe Helle asked about the Eagle Scout project. Rick stated that he thought that the scout would be working on in last week, but he didn't.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Joel Kessler stated that we have to get a ramp for the shed.

Randi Blair stated that if we knew about the Hero project. It is located in Washington, Iowa.

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Kenny Jones stated that it is hard to get young veterans to sign up for the American Legion now. Dick Hogan stated the dues have gone up because we have less Veterans signing up. Dick Hogan stated that we could go to music in the park on Friday and sign up veterans. Joe Helle stated that if we sponsor on Friday night we could setup a table and do some recruiting. Dick Hogan got an update on new numbers for Hiawatha is 86.

Dick Hogan stated the Fall Conference is October 10<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Cedar Rapids (first avenue side). This is for any legionnaire that wants to come. Post 727 is hosting it. No reservation cost. Dick Hogan also stated that on August 14<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Council meeting at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Cedar Rapids at 6:00 PM (third avenue side). Dick Hogan stated that on Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a Legion soft ball game at 1:00 PM at Prospect Meows.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

We receive a thank you note from Megan Graves. She thanked us for the post 735 scholarship money. She will be going to Iowa State University in the fall.

## **CLOSING:**

**Drawing:** Gift Card from Scott's Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_  
Winner was: None

**Motion to adjourn:** Motion by Mike Coleman to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Pierce and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote.

Chaplain Joel Kessler led the post in a closing prayer.

Commander Joe Helle read the closing statement: Till we meet again lets us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let serves the community, State and Nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves that nothing small swerve us away from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM by Commander Joe Helle.