

Charles A. Woodford

American Legion Post 2007

July 27, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 1905 hours by the Commander, Jim Page.

Roll call of Post Officers was taken. All officers and executive committee members were present with the exception of the Sergeant-At-Arms Kenny Green and Gary Stacy.

Guests in Attendance. The Commander announced that we had a special guest in attendance, Mr. Delmar Buske, past Department of Illinois commander who would be conducting the installation ceremony of our 2026-2027 post officers. The Commander also announced the presence of Jim Nickles' wife, Theo Hughes' wife, Tom Mueller from the American Legion Post 69, Avon Park, FL, and a couple of our members who we have not seen for some time.

The commander was happy to see a larger than normal attendance for this meeting.

Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes. The Commander asked if there were any proposed changes to the draft copy of the June 22nd meeting minutes that were emailed to 108 members on June 22nd and mailed to 28 members on June 26th. No recommended changes were received, so minutes stand as written.

Installation of our 2026-2027 Post Officers. A motion was made by Jim Nickles to suspend the meeting agenda for the purpose of conducting the Officer Installation proceedings, seconded by Andrew Dunham, and carried/accepted by the members in attendance.

The commander relieved himself as chairperson of the meeting and passed the gavel to Delmar Buske, past Department of Illinois commander, who then proceeded to conduct the officer installation proceedings for our elected positions of Commander, Sr. Vice-Commander, Jr. Vice-Commander, Finance Officer, and the three members of the Executive Committee. Delmar Buske, on behalf of the post 2007 members, the presented The American Legion miniature 2026 & 2027 year bars for the Commander's miniature Officer Badge.

Upon completion of the proceedings, a motion was made by Steve Duff to resume the regular meeting agenda, seconded by Chip Barbour, and carried/accepted by the members in attendance.

The Commander resumed his role as chairperson of the meeting and then presented a $50 stipend to Delmar Buske for his time and distance traveled to conduct the installation ceremony. Delmar Buske was thankful for the thoughtfulness, but in turn requested that the $50 be placed in a fund to be used for the Illinois Premier Boys State program. The request was honored.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Report. The Commander informed members that Bill Martin and Chip Barbour are working together on the transfer of membership duties. Bill Martin informed the Commander that he has several mailed-in 2027 membership fee payments that have not yet been processed because the 2027 membership cards had just recently arrived. Todd Herzog informed the Commander that we have 25 Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) members, and 8 non-PUFL members who have paid the 2027 membership fee using the online payment method. The Commander informed members that the membership report from the Department of Illinois traditionally isn't released until mid-August.

Finance Report – The Finance Officer, Steve Duff, provided the finance report for the month of June, which included the available checking balance of $7,406.19 and savings account balance of $723.46, 3 checks outstanding, the interest earned but not yet paid for the short-term Certificate of Deposit, and a breakdown of deposits and withdrawals of funds for the various post programs. Chip Barbour made a motion to accept the report, subject to audit, and the motion was seconded by John Boothe. The motion was carried/accepted by the members in attendance. The report is retained by the Post Adjutant for our records.

Poppies – The Commander informed members that dates to distribute poppies have been established and placed on our post's 2026-2027 calendar of events. The first poppy event will take place September 12th, but the locations for distribution have not yet been coordinated with local businesses/establishments.

Veteran Affairs – The Commander informed members that the next St Clair County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) meeting will be held July 28th, 6 p.m., at 19 Public Square in Belleville.

Community Patriotic Observances – No report. The Commander informed members that he is hoping for a member to step forward to chair the program.

Honor Guard – Rich Gaebel presented a $200 donation from the Fairview Heights Rotary Club for our Honor Guard program.

Americanism – No Report.

Todd Herzog informed the Commander that he conducted some research and noted that the online registration is now open to High School Juniors for the 90th Session of the Illinois Premier Boys State, which is scheduled to be conducted June 12th - 18th, 2027 at Eastern Illinois University. Todd then made a **motion for the post's Boy's State chairperson to distribute the Illinois Premier Boys State information to the educators at Belleville East, Belleville West, and Althoff High Schools as soon as possible. In addition, the post's Membership Communications chairperson should distribute the information to all post members in good standing, requesting that they share the information with friends and family members.** The motion was seconded by Andrew Dunham, and carried/accepted by the members in attendance. A written copy of the motion was provided to the Post Adjutant before the meeting started for filing in the post's records.

Boy Scouts – Dave Devine informed the Commander that our Scout Troop 8053 had a successful summer camp, and that the older-age scouts had returned from their High Adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch.

There were no updates on the Eagle Scout project planned for building new picnic-style tables and placing them on the concrete slabs at Messinger Cemetery.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report.

Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets – Our Chaplain, Robin Latdrick, informed the Commander that we provided an audio Bible to Ken Augustine, one of our 13 veterans in the two nursing homes, who is legally blind. She also informed the Commander that we are not yet on steady ground with the new management of the Ever Vella Nursing Home to continue our regular visitations. The Commander responded, "continue to press forward."

Children and Youth – No Report

Oratorical – No Report. **FYI -** The next Oratorical Scholarship Program should kickoff in the Dec 2026 time period with contestant judging in the March 2027 time period.

National Security – No Report.

Other Committee (Non-Standing Committee) Reports

1. **Annual Dinner** – No Report.
2. **Buddy Check** – Todd Herzog informed the Commander that keeping with The American Legion tradition, our post will conduct its Buddy Check campaign during the week of Veterans Day (November 8 – 14, 2026).
3. **Member Communications** – Todd Herzog provided a written report to the Post Adjutant for the record, and asked the Commander if he wanted a verbal summary. The Commander said, "no" and asked Todd if there were any major issues to report. Todd's reply was. "no."
4. **Blood Drive** – No Report.
5. **Community Service (Messinger Cemetery)** – Steve Duff informed the Commander that three trees which were obstructing repairs to the dilapidated iron fence surrounding the John Messinger family headstones were removed by Davey Tree Service. Steve is now working with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the St Clair County Historical Society, and local iron fence fabricators/installers on plans to reconfigure the fence, being cautious of the seen and unseen burial grounds.

   Steve also informed the Commander that he has made contact with Terri Bryant, Illinois senator representing the 58th Senate District, regarding assistance in making repairs to the historic Messinger School House, noting that the school house may in fact be the first-built school house in the state of Illinois.

Sick Call

1. The Commander informed members that Darrel Sanderson's wife is feeling much better having had some health issues.

2. The Commander asked members in the assembly if there were any updates on Benjamin Brown, Lewis Evans, Don Parrone or Jerry Cowart. None were provided.
3. The Commander informed members that he spoke to Howard Bateman at the July 21 DAV meeting. Between Howard's daughter and a DAV driver, Howard has transportation to accommodate his needs, and the Commander will be seeing Howard again in the near future.
4. Jim Nickles informed the Commander that Martin Buneta will be having knee surgery on July 28th.

Unfinished Business

1. **Messinger Cemetery Clean Up.** The Commander informed members that the next Messinger Cemetery cleanup day will be conducted from 9AM to approximately 10:30AM, August 15th. On the same day, the Flag Collection activity will be conducted from 9AM to 11AM at 107 Service Street. Any member interested in volunteering for Flag Collection activity should contact Andrew Dunham.

2. **Time Limits for Assembly Speakers**. Todd Herzog made a motion to adopt six special rules of order during official post meetings using Article XIII in our Bylaws. A written copy of the motion was provided to the Post Adjutant before the start of the meeting for filing in the post's records. Todd verbally presented each of the six special rules to the Commander. The motion was seconded by Joe Ocasio. There was discussion about "not expecting someone to use a stop watch to keep time of a speaker having the floor." There were no amendments to the motion, and the vote from members in attendance resulted in the motion being approved/carried.

   This unfinished business topic is CLOSED.

3. **Post T-Shirts for Volunteer Members**. Todd Herzog made a motion to acquire the T-shirts. A written copy of the motion was provided to the Post Adjutant before the start of the meeting for filing in the post's records. Todd verbally presented the motion to the Commander. The motion was seconded by Chip Barbour. There were no discussions or amendments to the motion from the assembly, and the vote from members in attendance resulted in the motion being approved/carried.

   This unfinished business topic is CLOSED.

4. **Purchase of Pop-Up Tent for Post Events and an Advertisement Aid**. Todd Herzog provided the Commander information about the American Legion pop-up tent that is sold through The American Legion's Flag & Emblem store.
   - The cost is approximately $1,507 including shipping and taxes. ($1,384 + 8.92% taxes).
     – The material is fire, water, and mold resistant.
     – Full color sublimated & decorated canopy. (blue top canopy with white/blue American Legion brand mark on all 4 sides).
     – White canopy valance panel with blue lettering: Swansea, IL Post 2007.
     – Blue back wall, single-sided print. American Legion brand mark at top section, and "Swansea American Legion Post 2007" in white lettering beneath it.
     – 1/2 wall w/frame-single-sided print. Color and text TBD.
     – Aluminum hex frame, stake kit, rolling bag
   - Lead time is 4-6 weeks after the artwork design proof is approved by us.

One member in the assembly asked “during what events will the tent be used?”

One member in the assembly said we should acquire a tent from elsewhere and hang American Legion and Post signs from the tent rather than paying the cost for the American Legion tent.

The Post Finance Officer recommended conducting a fundraising effort to pay for the tent.

There were no motions from the assembly to proceed forward with next steps in acquiring the tent, and no further direction from the Commander.

This unfinished business topic is CLOSED.

5. **Honor/Color Guard Situation.** The Commander informed members that there has been no update in progress to join forces with VFW Post 1739 to form an Honor/Color Guard team.
6. **New Post Website and Host.** Todd Herzog provided the Commander the following information:
   - Chip Barbour secured a domain name for the post.
   - Over 520 American Legion posts, etc. are using Legionsites.com as their website host.
   - Setup of the website and first year subscription with Legionsites.com is $249. After first year the annual subscription fee is $199.
   - Dave Devine said he can probably manage the website content without any issues. Chip Barbour said he could be an alternate webmaster.

   Jim Nickles made a motion to establish our new website with Legionsites.com. The motion was seconded by Chip Barbour.

   Chip Barbour asked Todd Herzog if he would work with Legionsites.com to setup the website. Todd declined the offer. Chip said he would take-on the duty. No other comments or debates occurred. A vote was taken from members in attendance that resulted in the motion being approved/carried.

   This unfinished business topic is CLOSED.
7. **Establishing a Fundraising Committee.** The Commander asked members if a fundraising committee is needed to acquire items that either haven’t been acquired in the past, or for items that members paid using their personal funds.

   There were no comments, recommendations, or motions from the members.

   The Commander informed members that if fundraising is needed in the future an ad hoc assembly of members will need to be formed to plan and raise funds.

   This unfinished business topic is CLOSED.
8. **Establishing a Public Relations/Media Committee.** The Commander asked members if a Public Relations/Media Committee is needed to build a strong, respected presence in our community — strengthen awareness of who we are, what we do, and why our mission matters — our reputation grows when we actively share our mission by telling the Legion story, highlighting our service to veterans, military families, and our neighborhoods.

There were no comments, recommendations, or motions from the members.

This unfinished business topic is CLOSED.

Incoming Correspondence.

The Adjutant informed the commander that we had only received the annual membership package which has been turned over to Bill Martin and the annual Legion Guide books.

New Business

1. **Distribution of the Post's 2026-2027 Calendar.** Todd Herzog made a motion for the post's Membership Communications committee to distribute the 12-month (Aug 2026-July 2027) Post 2007 calendar to all members in good standing via email, and via postal mail to our 28 members who do not have an email address on file, and that the calendar be sent via email no later than Aug. 3, 2026, followed by postal mail to 28 members. A copy of the motion was provided to the Post Adjutant before the start of the meeting.

   The motion was seconded by Chip Barbour.

   The Commander requested a copy of the calendar that was updated on July 8th. Todd said he would email it to the Commander in the morning.

   There were no other comments, debates, or amendments to the motion, and the vote from members in attendance resulted in the motion being approved/carried.

Memorial to Departed Members

There were no members identified as having passed-away.

NOTE: All members of our post should inform their loved ones to contact us when the Lord has taken them to His place of rest. ILLEGIONPOST2007@gmail.com. Commander Jim Page, (618) 973-3004.

Post Recognition Awards

The Commander presented American Legion apparel decorations to:
Joe Ocasio – Membership Pin.
Andrew Dunham – Past Sr. Vice-Commander Insignia.
Bill Martin – Past Jr. Vice-Commander Insignia
Chip Barbour – Sr. Vice-Commander Pin.
Pat Robison – Jr. Vice-Commander Pin
Jim Nickles – Executive Committee Insignia

For the Good of the Legion

There were no topics presented.

33/33/33 Raffle. $82 was collected and the ticket drawn for $27 cash went to Barbara Page. Barbara donated the $27 to the Gifts to the Yanks and Visting Veterans Program.

Pot of Gold. The name drawn for the Pot of Gold cash prize of $187 was Chris Colt. Chris was not present at the meeting to collect the prize. The Pot of Gold cash prize for the next meeting on August 24th will be $215.

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular membership meeting will be held August 24th at 1900 hours, 216 Service Street, Swansea, IL.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held August 24th at 1815 hours, 216 Service Street, Swansea, IL.

Meeting adjourned at 2040 hours.