

Charles A. Woodford
American Legion Post 2007

July 28, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by the Senior Vice Commander.

Rollcall of Post officers was conducted. All officers and Executive Committee members were present with the exception of excused absences of the Commander (Jim Page), Adjutant (Dave Devine), one of our Sergeant-At-Arms (Gary Stacy), and one Executive Committee Member (Robert Thomas).

The Sergeant-At-Arms (Kenny Green) reported there were no guests in attendance.

Review and Acceptance of June 2025 Meeting Minutes. The June meeting minutes were emailed to all members who have provided us an email address, and the minutes have been posted to our website https://www.swanseapost2007.com/. The Senior Vice Commander did not ask members whether there were any changes to the June meeting minutes that needed to be made.

The **Membership Report** was given by the Junior Vice Commander (Bill Martin). Our Post has 46 of 158 members who have paid the 2026 membership fee. The 2026 American Legion membership renewal campaign started July 1, 2025.

Finance Report – The Finance Officer (Steve Duff) presented the financial report to members. The Poppy program conducted May 24th garnered $812 in donations, and the we received $100 in donations for our Visiting Veteran program. As of the end of June there was $7,048.23 available in checking with an additional $723.33 in savings. The CD of $3,043.31 acquired in June has earned $20.33 in interest so far. A motion was given by Todd Herzog to accept the report subject to audit, seconded by Joe Ocasio. Membership approved.

Poppies – The Senior Vice Commander announces that our next Poppy program event will be conduct on August 9th at the Belleville Lowes Home Improvement Store, 2501 Green Mount Commons Drive. We are seeking 8 volunteers from our membership so that we can a morning crew of 4 and an afternoon crew of 4. Contact our Commander, Jim Page, if you have interest in volunteering.

Veteran Affairs – The Senior Vice Commander announced the next Veteran Assistance Commission meeting will be held July 9th, 7 p.m. at the VAC office, 19 Public Square in Belleville.

Community Patriotic Observances – No report.

Honor Guard – No Report

Americanism – No Report

Boy Scouts – Steve Duff informed members that the Eagle Scout project to build two 10-foot x 10-foot concrete pads near the entrance at Messinger Cemetery is completed. He was not certain of the progress regarding the other Eagle Scout project to build picnic tables for Messinger Cemetery.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report.

Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets – Our Chaplain, Robin Latdrick, informed members that 18 veterans residing in our local care facilities, and the next event will be personalized cards to each veteran on Veteran's Day. The cards will be available for our members to sign during our upcoming general membership meetings.

Children and Youth – No Report

Oratorical – No Report

Boys State – No Report

Rehabilitation – No Report

Employment – No Report

Post Service Officer Report – No Report

Other Committees

1. Post Annual Dinner. A report was provided in May 2025. Next dinner will be held in 2026.
2. Buddy Check. A report was provided in March and April 2025. The next Buddy Check should be conducted in November 2025.
3. Fundraising. Barbara Page informed members that the next fundraising event will be August 20th from 5 to 8 p.m. at McAlister's Deli, 3240 Green Mount Crossing, Shilo, IL. Showtime for volunteers is 4:45 p.m. The fundraising event involves bussing the tables and sweeping the floor beneath the table after customers finish their meal. Our post receives a percentage of all sales conducted between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m., including carry-out orders. Contact Barbara Page if you would like to volunteer.
4. Messinger Cemetery Care.
    a. Steve Duff informed members that he contacted C&S Metal Werks, O'Fallon, IL. They met at Messinger Cemetery to look at the damaged iron gate that surrounds the Messinger family headstones. C&S Metal Werks will be providing a scope-of-work and cost proposal to repair the iron gate. Steve suggested several options to cover the cost for repair: conduct fundraiser, St. Clair County Historical Society funds, our post's general funds, or a combination thereof.
    b. Steve Duff informed members that he contacted Davies Tree Service to discuss a Messinger Cemetery tree pruning-trimming project. For several years Davies Tree Service has been donating their tree trimming service work that they perform in Messinger Cemetery.
    c. Steve Duff informed members that the damaged entrance door to the historical schoolhouse in Messinger Cemetery has been removed and is in the process of being restored.

Sick Call

1. Robert Thomas is in a rehab facility.
2. Jim Page is at home recovering from surgery.

Unfinished Business

1. Flag Storage at Messenger Cemetery. Our U.S. Flags are now stored in the historic schoolhouse at Messinger Cemetery. This item is now closed.
2. Reviewing and updating our 2020 Bylaws. No report on progress. This item remains open.
3. Uploading our Bylaws to our website. No report on progress. This item remains open.
4. Changing the link on the VAC website to our post's Facebook group page. No report on progress. This item remains open.
5. Recognition of Mr. Doyle E. Treece for his service and valor during WWII. Steve Duff informed members that the Wolf Branch School Veterans for Wolf Branch Committee are making arrangements to honor Mr. Treece in November during a Veterans Day Assembly event that they conduct every year. This item is now closed.
6. Meeting with High Mount School Superintendent. Steve Duff informed members that the meeting has not yet occurred. This item remains open.
7. Executive Council Special Meeting to plan 2025-2026 programs and events. A meeting date and location has not been established to map out the post's programs and activities for the 1 July 2025 through 30 June 2026 period. This item remains open.

Correspondence – No report.

New Business – No new business was brought to the attention of the Senior Vice Commander.

Memorial to Departed Members

The Senior Vice Commander informed members about the passing of Leslie "Les" O'Neal on July 17, 2025. Members of our post conducted a formal walk-through at 6 p.m. prior to this meeting. A Memorial Service will be held on July 29th, 10:00 a.m., at St. Matthew Church in Belleville, and internment will follow at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

For the Good of the Legion

Marvin Groothuis informed members that he has a stand-up walker for anyone who might need one. He asked that members contact Kenny Green to inquire about the stand-up walker. Kenny knows how to get in touch with Marvin.

The raffle drawing resulted in the total collection of $75. A raffle ticket was drawn and one third of the collected total went to Pat Robison.

The name drawn for the Pot of Gold monetary prize was Darrell Sanderson. He was not present during the meeting to claim the prize so the pot rolled over to the next meeting in August, with $158 in the pot for that drawing.

The next general membership meeting will be held August 25th at 7 p.m. The Executive Committee Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

The July 28, 2025 general membership meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.