

Charles A. Woodford

American Legion Post 2007

June 22, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 1906 hours by the Commander, Jim Page.

Roll call of Post officers was taken. The Sr. Vice Commander, Andrew Dunham; Jr. Vice Commander, Bill Martin; and Adjutant, Dave Device were excused from attendance. Executive Committee member Robert Thomas was absent. All other officers and Executive Committee members were present. The newly elected Sr. Vice, Chip Barbour; Jr. Vice, Pat Robison; and Executive Committee member Jim Nickles were also present.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced that we had a guest in attendance, Mrs. Erlene Hughes, accompanying her husband Theo.

The Commander asked if there were any changes to the May 18th meeting minutes that were sent to members on June 9th. No changes were noted, so minutes stand as written.

Program Committee Reports

The **Membership Report** was given by the Commander, announcing that 136 of 151 members (90.7%) paid the 2026 membership fee. Statewide, membership is at 93.7%. The Commander informed members that the decline in our membership moved us from having two to only one delegate at the American Legion Department of Illinois convention.

Finance Report – The Finance Officer, Steve Duff, reported we had a checking account balance of $7,768.17 available with and an additional $723.45 in savings. We also have $3,123.10 in a short-term Certificate of Deposit, with $34.63 in interest earned not yet paid. A breakdown of funds held for the various programs was also provided. Chip Barbour made a motion to accept the report, subject to audit. The motion was seconded by Mary Monett. Membership approved.

Poppies – The Commander stated that the dates for our Poppie distributions will be established during our upcoming July 7th Organizational Meeting with the newly elected officers and all members who desire to attend.

Veteran Affairs – The next meeting will be held June 30th, 7 p.m., at the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC), 19 Public Square in Belleville. The VAC will be focusing on Legislative affairs.

Community Patriotic Observances – The Commander announced that the Memorial Day event in Swansea was well attended. The Village of Swansea Park Board is looking to continue the event.

There may be some changes for next year, such as beginning the event earlier during the day and dialogue about the protocol for a POW-MIA table. Two of our members recommended the need to provide shade for our Color Guard.

Honor Guard – No Report. See page 4, New Business, item 7.

Americanism – No Report

Boy Scouts – The Commander informed members that there was great participation from Scout Troop 8053 during our Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 13th. Scout leaders Jim Maule and Chris Gumm did a fantastic job at gathering the scouts together to help us retire more than 300 flags the day before the Scouts were getting ready to depart for camp.

Constitution and By Laws – No Report. FYI – Our revised post Constitution and Bylaws were adopted by our membership on March 23, 2026 and have been forwarded to the Department of Illinois.

Gifts to the Yanks/Visiting Vets – Robin Latdrick informed members that we currently have 13 veterans in the two nursing homes, but recent new arrivals may increase that number. She is waiting for information from the nursing home directors.

Children and Youth – No Report

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

Boys State – The Commander informed members that we sponsored Jordan Adams for Boys State.

Illinois American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State (ALA IGS) – The Commander informed members that he reached out to Gabriel Ortega about sponsoring for the ALA IGS but did not receive a reply from her.

Other Committees

1. Annual Dinner – The Commander asked members if April 2027 was a good month for our next Annual Dinner. There were no objections or alternative months suggested by members.
2. Buddy Checks – The Commander suggested that we conduct a Buddy Check in November 2026. There were no objections or alternative months suggested by members.
3. Member Communications – Todd Herzog provided a report.
    - We have the ability to send email to 111 of our 136 Active (2026 dues paid) Members, but 2 members want postal mail in lieu of email.
    - We have 62 vetted individuals in our Facebook Group (not all are members of Post 2007).
    - We have 10 members with no phone number & 9 of those are Active Members (paid 2026 membership).
    - We have 10 members with bad phone numbers & 9 of those are Active Members.
    - We have 1 Active Member with no contact information (no mailing address, no phone number, no email address).
    - We have 29 Active Members who need postal mail when we send correspondence. Approximately $1.45 x 29 mailings = $42.05 per month.

- The 9 people who did not renew their membership for 2026 will no longer be receiving correspondence from our post.

4. Blood Drive – Mary Monett announced that she will be scheduling Blood Drives when we meet July 7th for the Organizational Meeting.
5. Community Service – No Report. Community Service activities will be scheduled when we meet July 7th for the Organizational Meeting.

Sick Call – Darrel Sanderson's wife is having some health issues. There was no update on Lewis Evans, Howard Bateman, Don Parrone or Ben Brown.

Unfinished Business

1. The Commander has 3 Post 2007 Polo Shirts are that have not yet been picked-up by the members who ordered them
2. Steve Duff is still investigating the process to apply to the Illinois Department of Revenue for a sales tax exemption (E-number), and the process to apply for federal tax-exempt status.

Incoming Correspondence

1. We received the American Legion Department of Illinois monthly newsletter and an information packet about the Department of Illinois Convention.

New Business

1. Website for our post 2007 – Our website was terminated in June due to the high cost of maintaining the website host's annual subscription. Our Commander asked members if we should continue to have a world wide web (www) website not only to provide information to our members, but to also advertise our Swansea IL Post 2007 to the general public that might be seeking membership to an American Legion post.

   Todd Herzog mentioned that we currently have a Facebook Group Page where we post information regularly, but there are a lot of people who do not want to sign-up to Facebook. Todd also mentioned that there are over 500 American Legion entities (posts, districts, SOLs) using the Legionsites.com website host. The first-year cost is $249 for a new website setup and getting the website on line and functioning. Every year thereafter the annual cost (subscription fee) is $199 (subject to inflation increases).

   Chip Barbour asked if we knew whether or not our members utilized the website that was terminated in June. No one could provide an answer. Todd Herzog mentioned that the website was an aged architecture and did not have the easy functions that are in today's website architecture to provide website usage data, regular updates, announcements, event planning/scheduling, and mass email distribution.

   To ensure that we don't lose our domain name to someone who would grab it and then later sell it, Chip Barbour secured a .org domain name for our post at an annual fee of $9.99 until our members decide whether they want a www website or not.

   The Commander asked Todd to build an updated information paper on Legionsites.com; what it offers and the cost. Todd accepted.

2. Annual Organizational Meeting – The Executive Committee decided to conduct the post's Annual Organizational Meeting on July 7th at 6 p.m. All members of the post are welcome to attend. Steve Duff is securing the location where it will be held. FYI – Information on the Organizational Meeting is in our Bylaws, Article VI, Section 3.
3. 2025-2026 Consolidated Post Report – The CPR was submitted to the American Legion Department of Illinois in May. Todd Herzog asked if our members could be provided a copy. The Commander stated that our CPR is not available until it has been accepted by the American Legion Department of Illinois.
4. Time Limit for Speakers During Post Meeting. A proposal was made during the Executive Committee Meeting to limit the time that a member has the floor, such as 5 minutes during debates, and 1 to 2 minutes for routine comments, clarifications, or Good of the Legion topics. The time limit is to maintain orderly and efficient meeting proceedings. The Commander asked that an amendment to the Bylaws be drawn-up for member ratification.
5. Post 2007 Tee-Shirts. A proposal was made during the Executive Committee Meeting to acquire high-visibility tee-shirts worn by our members during clean-up/community service events to publicly advertise our Post's dedicated service to our community. The Commander asked members if they were supportive of the idea. There were no objections. The committee will look into a good design and cost, and then present it to members during a follow-up regular membership meeting for approval.
6. Post 2007 Pop-Up Tent. A proposal was made during the Executive Committee Meeting to acquire a 10' x 10' American Legion Pop-Up Tent. Examples of the tent can be found on page 158 in the Falg & Emblem 2026 Catalog. The tents are used by many posts at public gathering events, along a roadway, or in a park lawn area for special events and fundraisers. Our post could currently use a tent for the Wolf Branch Veterans Day event, flag collection events, Poppy Day distribution events, Memorial Day events, brat and burger sales events, and flag retirement events. The Commander asked members if they were supportive of the idea. There were no objections. There was a lot of feedback on the design, colors, logo, emblem, and lettering. Based on the feedback, the Commander asked Todd Herzog to build a concept of design and cost estimate, and bring it back to the members for vote or further discussion. Todd accepted.
7. Continuation of the post Honor Guard. We currently have 4 members who have The American Legion ceremonial uniform, but we do not have enough members to support an Honor Guard detail for recurring funeral honors. There was discussion about teaming with the Belleville VFW Post 1739 to form a combined Honor Guard, and the cost of the Honor Guard uniform and availability. Rich Gaebel suggested that our post provide a line item in our budget and provide a one-time uniform subsidy for any of our members who join our Honor Guard. The Commander asked Rich to research the suggestion, provide greater details, and bring it forward as a motion during our July 27th general membership meeting. Rich accepted. The Commander informed members that he will be changing the name of our committee from "Honor Guard" to "Color Guard" until such time when we can support the duties and requests for an Honor Guard detail.

Memorial to Departed Members

1. Thomas Kaiser passed away March 7, 2026. He was buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery with full military honors.

2. It was reported last month that Jim Wilson passed. That was an error. Jim Wilson is alive and well!

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.

For the Good of the Legion

1. Messinger Cemetery Cleanup – A cleanup is scheduled for July 3rd in preparation for July 4th celebration. Our post members should meet at 0900 hours. We will also be replacing flags at headstones and placing the larger flags along the roadside.
2. Our 2026-2027 post officers will be installed at the July 27th regular membership meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

33/33/33 Raffle. $45 was collected and the ticket drawn for $15 cash went to Steve Duff.

Pot of Gold. The name drawn for the Pot of Gold cash prize of $172 was Sam Hahn. Sam was not present at the meeting to collect the prize. The Pot of Gold cash prize for the next meeting on July 27th will be $187.

Upcoming Meetings

The Annual Organizational Meeting will be held July 7th at 1800 hours. Location will be sent via email when Steve Duff secures the location.

The next regular membership meeting will be held July 27th at 1900 hours, 216 Service Street, Swansea, IL.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held July 27th at 1815 hours, 216 Service Street, Swansea, IL.

Meeting adjourned at 2032 hours.