



WALTON F. HOFFMAN MEMORIAL POST 179
410 W. Coll Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130-5619

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** 1830 by Commander Gea Clausier.
2. **Roll Call verified for Quorum.** List of attendees attached. The Adjutant's absence was unexcused as it was not directly communicated to the Commander prior to the meeting.
3. **Review/Approval of Previous Minutes:** Approval of the March Executive Committee Meeting Minutes was deferred.

4. Officer and Committee Report Summaries:

Commander – Gea Clausier:

- Discussed National's \$5.00 increase in membership dues beginning July 1, 2024.
- Reviewed several issues with membership record keeping and renewals that were in the process of being corrected.
- Noted it was recently discovered the Adjutant was having membership related business mailed to his home address in violation of Article II, Section 2 of the Standing Rules. The Adjutant was not responsive to the Commander's phone calls and emails, so a certified letter was sent via U.S. postal mail instructing the Adjutant to cease this practice and return all membership and Post materials immediately. The Adjutant refused to sign for the letter and it was returned to the Post. At this time it is not know what additional materials remain in the Adjutant's possession.
- Distributed Standing Rules for review and approval. The need for several additional changes were discussed, including correction of the Post's zip code to 78130, addition of the Second Vice Commander to the first sentence of Article III, Section 1, and the addition of words to the effect of "as outlined in paragraph 1a" to Article III, Section 1, paragraph 1b. Additionally, requirements for signatures on the document will be reviewed and if permitted, revised to include the Commander only or the Commander and the Judge Advocate.

First Vice Commander/ALR Director – Jay Grady:

- Proposed a new game to help attract Post members to the bar. The game would allow members to drop \$1.00 in a jar and sign a logbook in the bar each day during business hours. A name would be randomly selected / drawn from the list of members in good standing. If the name drawn matches a signature in the logbook for the day, the selected member wins the pot. If the selected member did not sign the logbook that day, the pot will roll over to the next day's drawing. No purchase is necessary to participate. After discussion, it was agreed that this game could begin as a bar promotion and did not require an Executive Committee vote.
- Noted the ALR has several rides and events they are participating in this month; including the Schulenburg Black Bean Run and the Legacy Run, and they would be serving food at the Pop-up Market on April 27, 2024. The Grady's also donated funds to hire a band for the market event.

Second Vice Commander – James Hollon:

- Noted during recent HVAC repairs it was discovered the kitchen HVAC needed to be replaced at a cost of \$10,000.00. It was noted the kitchen is not regularly used.
- Noted the bar was doing well, and the bar manager, Amanda was doing an excellent job of organizing events and attracting new business to the bar. To reward her and help the Post retain her services, he recommended a \$1.00 per hour raise.
- Noted he was scheduling a fire extinguisher inspection.
- Noted the bar would begin holding Open Mic Nights first and third Fridays this month and he had identified a band to perform at the April 19 event; see Announcements for more information.

Finance Officer – Rick Smith:

- Provided an overview of Post finances.
- Noted the update of the signatories on the Post's Vanguard account would be completed following installation of new officers.
- Noted he is reviewing options for renewal of the Post's Workman's Comp insurance and property insurance.

Sergeant At Arms – Deborah Powers:

- Discussed transitioning from the paper calendar to an online app or calendar that may be shared and updated by the appropriate stakeholders. She will research and propose a product.
- Noted she is in the process of making changes to the website including the addition of a donation page with a PayPal option and a detailed Programs and Activities page which outlines all of things the Post does and how these programs align to the American Legion's four pillars.
- Noted Post communications are sent to those who subscribe to the mailing list and have opened a Post email in the last six months. Please notify the Hubmaster if there is someone who should be receiving communications, but is not, so we can continue to refine our mailing list.

Executive Committee Member / Scholarship Committee Chairman – Kwame Tawiah:

- Requested assistance reviewing 60 scholarship applications. Material will be emailed to volunteers from the Executive Committee so they may review and score applicants prior to a meeting which will be scheduled to review results on April 11, 2024.

Executive Committee Member / Boys State Director – Bill Morrison:

- Noted 12 primary Boys State scholarship recipients had been selected (2 from each of the 6 participating schools). Eleven alternates are seeking their own funding to attend. Following a discussion of available financing for scholarships and Boys State, the Committee approved tuition (\$330.00) and T-shirts (\$50.00) for the 12 primary and the top 7 alternate candidates. The unsponsored candidates may still seek their own funding.

SAL Commander – Eddy Seegers:

- Noted the Sons were donating funds for 2 Boys State scholarships and would like to be involved in the process this year.
- Noted he had been notified by National that SAL Squadron 179's Constitution and Bylaws needed to be updated / submitted.
- Noted the Sons voted to approve a dues increase for the coming year.
- Noted he is reaching out to members to participate in upcoming elections and run for various offices.

Public Affairs Officer – Pamela Grady:

- Discussed proposed branding for the Post 179 bar. Branding will help build awareness that the bar is open to the public.
- Distributed several logos for the group to consider. The group selected the attached logo, which will be added to the website and future marketing materials and campaigns.

5. Unfinished Business:

- Post Bar Enhancements - Lighting for the outdoor seating area and bar flooring is being priced / evaluated: Not discussed.
- Volunteers Needed for Various Events - Volunteers are needed for planned events, including the Golf Tournament, Wurstfest, and the Renaissance Faire: Not discussed.

6. New Business:

- MOTION by James Hollon to raise Post dues to \$50.00 — an increase of \$5.00 — effective July 1, 2024; SECONDED by Rick Smith. Motion PASSED.
- MOTION by Dale Bennett to hold the Adjutant's monthly stipend until it is confirmed all outstanding membership and Post materials are returned to the Commander; SECONDED by James Hollon. Motion PASSED.
- MOTION by Dale Bennett to approve a \$200.00 monthly stipend for the Second Vice Commander; SECONDED by Charlie Clopper. Motion PASSED.
- MOTION by Jay Grady to approve the standing rules pending corrections noted under the Commander's comments above; SECONDED by Rick Smith. Motion PASSED.
- MOTION by Jay Grady to table approval of replacement of the kitchen HVAC unit until needed; SECONDED by Dale Bennett. Motion TABLED.
- MOTION by Jay Grady to approve a \$1.00 per hour pay raise for the bar manager; SECONDED by Charlie Clopper. Motion PASSED.
- MOTION by Jay Grady to approve up to \$400.00 to hire a band for a bar event on April 19, 2024; SECONDED by Rick Smith. Motion PASSED.
- MOTION by Jay Grady to approve a lower one-time payment instead of four quarterly payments for workers comp insurance; SECONDED by Bill Morrison. Motion PASSED.
- MOTION by Spike Valencia for the Post to sponsor up to 5 boys, in addition to the 14 sponsored by the ALR (4), Sons (2) and the Garden Ridge (4) and NB Noon (4) Lions Clubs) to attend Boys State; SECONDED by Jay Grady. Motion PASSED.

7. Announcements:

- Louis Conter, the last living survivor of the sinking USS Arizona following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, passed away on April 1, 2024.
- Saturday, Apr 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Big State Blues Band will be playing in the Post bar. The Sons will be grilling food.
- Saturday, Apr 20, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - Monthly Post Kitchen and Hall Cleanup; The Sons are leading this month's event.
- Saturday, Apr 27, 2024, 3:00 p.m. - Pop-up Market at the Post bar. Local vendors, food (ALR will be grilling burgers), and free music from Low Dog Blues (playing from 3-6 p.m.).

8. Closing: Meeting was adjourned at 2052.

Submitted by:

Deb Powers
Sergeant At Arms

Approved by:

Gea Clausier
Post Commander

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Apr 4, 2024

List of Attendees

Commander	Gea Clausier
First Vice Commander / ALR Director	Jay Grady
Second Vice Commander / Executive Committee Member	James Hollon
Finance Officer	Rick Smith
Chaplain	Charlie Clopper
Judge Advocate	Spike Valencia
Sergeant At Arms	Deb Powers
Service Officer	Dale Bennett
Executive Committee Member / Boys State Committee Director	Bill Morrison
Executive Committee Member / Scholarship Committee Director	Kwame Tawiah
Security Officer	Tim Powers
Public Affairs Officer	Pamela Grady
SAL Commander	Eddy Seegers

