



**American Legion Post 543
General Membership Meeting & Recognition Dinner Minutes
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

Meeting Minutes

- 1) Call to Order 6:00 PM – Commander.
- 2) Opening Ceremony with Presentation of Colors – Post Honor Guard.
- 3) Opening Prayer – Chaplain.
- 4) Welcome Guests & recognition of first time Veteran Visitors – Commander.
- 5) Roll Call of Officers – Commander.
- 6) POW/MIA Recognition – Commander.
- 7) Pledge of Allegiance – Members & Guests. 8) Draping of the Charter – Sergeant at Arms.
- 9) Preamble to American Legion Constitution – Members 10) Recognition of those Members who have passed – Chaplain.
- 11) TOYS FOR TOTS Volunteer Recognition – Rosie Greer.
- 12) Paused the General Membership Meeting to serve dinner – Commander.
- 13) Blessing of the food - Chaplain
- 14) Served dinner to Members and Guests – Gourmet to Go.
- 15) Looped video of Post activities played while eating dinner.
- 16) Welcome to new Members – Commander.
- 17) Explanation of the elements of the Legion Seal – Commander
- 18) Swearing in of new Members – 2nd Vice Commander, Membership.

a. New Members for 2024:

- i. Teresa Brookover-USAF
- ii. Mark Ferris-USAF
- iii. Donna Folding-USAF iv. Philip Kinlaw-USN
- v. Karen Yap-USAF



- 19) Recognition of continuous American Legion Membership
 - a. 5 Year Anniversary American Legion Membership Pin Award
 - i. Bruce Blomgren
 - ii. Charles Franka
 - iii. Wayne Kruger iv. Aaron Largent
 - v. Alan Lebednik
 - b. 10 Years Continuous Membership:
 - i. Thomas Bednarczyk
 - c. 55 Years Continuous Membership:
 - i. Richard Sessa
- 20) Guests were invited to depart if so desired – Commander.
- 21) Call the General Membership Meeting back to order – Commander.
- 22) Motion made to approve November 29, 2023, General Membership Meeting Minutes – Motion carried, and vote was unanimous. – Commander.
- 23) Motion made to open the floor for nominations of Adjutant – Commander.
- 24) Motion carried and passed unanimously.
- 25) One nomination was made to nominate Aaron Largent who is currently in the Acting Adjutant role. – Rick Sessa.
- 26) No other nominations were made, and the nomination period closed – Commander.
- 27) Announcement made that a vote would be taken at the February General Membership Meeting to approve/disapprove the nominee as the Adjutant – Commander.
- 28) The upcoming events for February were reviewed (see Attachment 1) – Commander.



29) Request for any input or comments from the Membership – Commander.

a. Three inputs from Members received:

i. The display case in the Saint James Town Hall is now available to accept Marine Corps memorabilia. Please contact Rick Sessa directly to coordinate your submittals for display. – Rick Sessa.

ii. The Johnny/June Carter “Cashback Tribute as part of the Annual

Odell Willaimson BCC Nurse’s Training Benefit concert tickets are \$50 each and are currently available. The concert will be on March 14th. Please contact Rick Sessa at 973-714-5253 or email at

Pastcmdrsessa@gmail.com to purchase your tickets. – Rick Sessa

iii. Memorial bricks for the Veteran Memorial are still for sale. Order is on hold until more applications are received. Please pick up your application at the front door of the Saint James Community Center or contact Tom Picinich at 201-218-8753 or tapicinich@ATMC.NET. – Tom Picinich

30) General Membership Meeting Closing Remarks – Commander

a. A special thank you to Bob Davis for his outstanding coordination of the dinner.

b. Thank you to the new Members for joining Post 543.

c. The Post’s next General Membership Meeting is February 28, 2024, at 19:00 hours.

d. Another special thank you to those Post Members who participated in the TOYS FOR TOTS program. The event was a huge undertaking and with the help of our Post Members, the event was a great success.

31) General Membership Meeting Closing Prayer – Chaplain

32) No retrieval of colors was done to accommodate the schedule. – Commander



33) The General Membership Meeting closed at 19:30 hours. – Commander

Approved for Distribution:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. M. S.", written over a horizontal line.

Commander

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron L. Largent", written over a horizontal line.

Adjutant



ATTACHMENT #1

Upcoming Events in February

- Honor Guard Maintenance of Flags at Cape Fear Memorial Park
- Department Mid-Winter Conference (February 15, 2024 to February 18, 2024), Raleigh, NC
- EXCOMM (2-19-2024).
- Division Oratorical Contest (2-24-2024) St. James Community Center
- General Membership Meeting (2-28-2024).
- Special Election for Post Adjutant position (2-28-24).