



**American Legion Post 543
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

Meeting Minutes

- 1. The meeting was called to Order at 6:00 PM –Commander Carton**
- 2. The Commander ordered the Colors in Place- Hand Salute.**
- 3. The Commander ordered Opening Prayer – Chaplain Templeman.**
- 4. The Commander recognized the POWs and those Missing in Action, as well as honored them by referring to the Empty Chair.**
- 5. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commander with audience participation.**
- 6. The Commander led the Members in reciting the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution.**
- 7. The Commander reviewed the four pillars and how the Post supports over 70 programs.**
- 8. The Commander inquired of the meeting attendees if there were any other Vietnam era Veterans in the audience who had not received their 50th Anniversary commemorative pin and certificate for their service. There were three Veterans that received their Vietnam Pin and Certificate.**
- 9. The Commander asked if there were any Veterans visiting the Post for the first time.** The Commander welcomed the Member's and Their Guests and asked them to introduce themselves. The Post welcomed 7 Veterans. The Veterans were: Rodney Faughn USA, Anna Larue USAF, Stephen Berris Marine Corp, Ralph Seaman USMC, Bruce Bennard USA, Rick Somenelli USA, Bob Biggert USA.

10. The Commander took a Roll Call of Officers.

- Officers Absent were:
- Doc Liberty, (Judge Advocate)

11. The Commander announced that there was a Quorum in Attendance.

12. The Commander requested the Chaplain brief the Membership regarding any sick call Members:

- The Chaplain requested the Membership to remember Mark Lieberman in their prayers.

13. The Commander requested a motion be made to approve November 19, 2025, General Membership Meeting Minutes. *A motion by Post Member Steve Muir and Seconded by Aaron Largent was made to approve November 19, 2025, General Membership Meeting Minutes* No discussion was required. *The motion carried, and the voice vote was unanimous.* –Commander.

14. The Commander requested a motion be made to recess January 28, 2026, General Membership Meeting. *A motion by Post Member Steve Muir and Seconded by Aaron Largent was made.* No discussion was required. *The motion carried, and the voice vote was unanimous.* –Commander

15. The Commander Called Chaplain Bruce Templeman to the podium to Commence the 14th Charter Anniversary Dinner.

- Chaplain Templeman read the names of the passed Members and instructed the Sergeant at Arms to provide Condolences to the Families of the Fallen in the form of Roses. Those that had passes are Thomas Balbert, Ronald Burdoo, Larry Cleary, Michael Fegan, Kim Freeman, Johnnie Holmes, Willeam Jankowski, Don Kling, Nicholas Leno, Michael Morrison, John Muuss, Michael O'Reilly, William Wells, and Homer Wright. This was followed by the Draping of the Post Charter in Black.
- Chaplain Templeman then provided a Prayer and a Blessing of the dinner to follow.

- 16. The Commander requested a motion be made to reconvene January 28, 2026, General Membership Meeting. *A motion by Post Member Rick Sessa and Seconded by Aaron Largent was made. No discussion was required. The motion carried, and the voice vote was unanimous.* –Commander**
- 17. The Commander called 2nd Vice Commander Membership Gary Purcell to the podium to recognize the current Post 543 Founding Post Members and distribute the Post 543 Yearly Pins, (at 5-year increments).**
- 18. The Commander then provided the following American Legion and Post Awards:**
- Presentation of the “For God and Country” Trophy- Past Commander Phillip McGhee.
 - Presentation of the “Certificate of Recognition Plaque”- 2nd Vice Commander Gary Purcell.
 - Presentation of the “2025 Honor Guard Golf Tournament Team Trophy”- Post Member Kirk Davis.
- 19. The Commander then announced that the Post received one nomination to fill the open Finance Officer Position in accordance with the Post 543 By-Laws regarding a Special Election. The Election of Rick Haley to the Finance Officer Position will take place on February 25, 2026, General Membership Meeting.**
- 20. The Commander provided the Membership with a list of upcoming Post Events for the Months of February and March.**
- 21. The Commander requested the Chaplain to provide the General Membership Meeting Closing Prayer – Chaplain Templeman**
- 22. The Commander requested the Colors be retired -Michael R. Carton**
The Membership provided a “Salute to the Colors”

23. The General Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM. – Commander
Carton

Douglas Pratt

Douglas Pratt

Adjutant

Michael R. Carton

Michael R. Carton

Commander

