American Legion Post 543
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Meeting Minutes

1. **The meeting was called to Order at 7:00 PM –Commander Carton**
2. **The Commander ordered the advancement of the Colors and a hand salute.**
3. **The Commander ordered Opening Prayer –Past Chaplain Bruce 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 was None
9. **The Commander asked if there were any Veterans visiting the Post for the first time.** The Commander welcomed the Guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Kim Holmes USA was welcomed to our Post.
10. **The Commander called Post Member Steve Muir to the podium** to introduce Chris DeHart, Veterans Memorial Representative, to receive Post 543's $1,000 Donation. Chris DeHart then provided a description of the 3-Day Ceremony in which Veterans were laid to rest at the Veterans Memorial Reef off Carolina Beach.

11. **The Commander took a Roll Call of Officers.**

    Officers Absent were:

    Post Adjutant- Kathy Roth

12. **The Commander announced that there was a Quorum in Attendance.**

13. **The Commander requested the Past Chaplain Templeman to brief the Membership regarding any sick call Members:**

    - The Past Chaplain Templeman advised that there were no Post Members on the Sick Call List.

14. **The Commander requested a motion be made to approve July 22, 2026, General Membership Meeting Minutes*. A motion by Post Member Steve Muir and Post Member Dan Bennet, was made to approve July 22, 2026, General Membership Meeting Minutes* No discussion was required.**

    The motion carried, and the voice vote was unanimous.

15. **The Commander invited Finance Officer Rick Haley Post 543 Finance Officer to provide the Post Membership with the August 26, 2026, Finance Report –**

    - The Finance Officer provided the Membership with the current view of accounts by type and use of each of the various line items. (Attachment "A"). The Finance Officer report reflects we are at ~36% of our income targets and we are $22,992.00 (16% of the budgeted amount). The Finance Officer informed the Post Membership that the St. James Military Appreciation Day Financials (SJMAD) are not firm however it is expected that the firm SJMAD Financials will be provided at the Post 543 September General Membership Meeting.

    The Commander requested a motion be made to approve August 26, 2026, Finance Report. *A motion by Post Member, Aaron Largent and Seconded by Post*

Member, Rob McKinley, was made to approve August 26, 2026, Finance Report. **No discussion was required.** ***The motion carried, and the voice vote was unanimous.***

16. **The Commander invited Teresa Brookover, (Membership Team Chair) to the podium to provide the Membership with an update on the current Membership 2026-2027 Membership Goal.**

    - Teresa Brookover reported that the number of total paid members to date is 160 or ~ 57.3% of our goal. She advised Post Membership of the many ways in which the yearly dues can be submitted to the Post. She advised Membership that 50% of the Post Membership Goal (Cardinal Award) is by September 10, 2026, and that we have already achieved that goal.
    - The Membership Team Chair then introduced the Post 543's "Membership Outreach Program". A description of the Program was provided with the emphasis of the program being to Ensure that every member (previous and new) feel Welcomed and Valued.

17. **The Commander invited the Active-Duty Support Officer David Vickers to Report on the status of the A-D Committee.**
    - The Active-Duty Support Chair provided an update on the purchase of (2) Bose S1 Pro+ Multi-position PA System with Battery.
      The primary reason is that the current system is dated, cumbersome, complicated and substandard.

18. **The Commander asked the Deputy Vice Commander Americanism, Chuck Blackburn, to give his update.**
    - The Vice Commander responded with nothing significant to report.

19. **The Commander invited Jim Williams (Post 543 Resource Officer) to give an update on the current active cases being worked.**
    - The Resource Officer Provided an update of current Veteran Cases being worked on. The Resource Officer described the efforts involved in

providing help for a Veteran who needs his roof repaired after a recent thunderstorm hit a nearby tree which hit his home.

- Another Veteran needs his A/C unit repaired as his family struggles during the recent heat wave.
- The final report regarded the TSA allowing Veterans to have easy access to their Airport Gates.

20. The Commander Called on Gina Richards-McCloskey, Post 543 Parliamentarian Report

- The Parliamentarian responded that there was nothing significant to report on.

21. The Commander Called Post 543 Past Chaplain Bruce Templeman to provide the Chaplain's Report.

- The Past Chaplain responded that there was nothing significant to report on.

22. The Commander Called on Jim McCriskin, Post 543 Public Relations Report

- The Public Relations Officer responded that there was nothing significant to report on.

23. The Commander Called on Chuck Francka, Post 543 Historian Report

- The Historian responded that there was nothing significant to report on.

24. The Commander Called Tom Picinick to provide the SJ Memorial & Brick Sales Committee Report

- Tom Picinich provided Membership with an update on Brick Sales to take place during the months of August and September. Tom also assured those members that orders received by October will be installed by Veteran's Day.

25. The Commander Called on Bill Morgan to provide an update on the Honors and Ceremonies Committee

- The Committee Chair provided an update to the Membership of the activities that the Honor Guard were called on in the month of July and August. Bill Morgan then discussed the Upcoming Events specifically on September 11th Remembrance Ceremony being made up of both the American Legion Post 543 Honor Guard and the St. James Fire Department.

26. The Commander called on Past Post 543 Adjutant to the Podium to provide a report.

- Doug Pratt discussed the American Legion Department of North Carolina Rifle Raffle. The Department Raffle is a "D-Day Commemorative Thompson .45 ACP Rifle" with an estimated value of $3,000. The Adjutant advised the membership that Raffle Tickets for the Rifle will be available to members after the General Membership Meeting.

27. The Commander Provided and updated to Post 543 Upcoming Events

Those events included:

- September 11th 911 Ceremony
- September 23rd Post 543 General Membership Meeting
- September 23rd Recognition of Oratorical Contest Judges
- September 24th Vet Expo, Independence Mall (11:00-3:00 pm)

28. The Commander asked for Membership Comments

- The Commander advised the Membership that the motorized wheelchair that has been stored in the Post Conditioned Storage unit has been provided to a Navy Veteran. The Veteran was thrilled to take possession of this item.

29. The Commander requested the Past Chaplain to provide the General Membership Meeting Closing Prayer –

- Chaplain Templeman provided the Closing Prayer

30. **The Commander requested the Colors be retired -Michael R. Carton**
    The Post 543 Color Guard Retired the Colors.

31. **The General Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM. – Commander Carton**

Dr. Kathleen K. Roth

Dr. Katheen Roth
Adjutant

Michael R Carton

Michael R. Carton
Commander