American Legion Post 193 – Meeting Minutes

Date: 8 September **Location:** Becker American Legion Hall

Call to Order: Meeting commenced with prayer and salute.

Opening & Ceremonial

- **Sergeant-at-Arms** confirmed doors secured.
- **Opening Prayer** delivered.
- **POW/MIA Ceremony** conducted; banner placed on the empty chair as symbolic remembrance.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** recited.
- **American Legion Purpose** read.

Guests & Recognitions

- Guests introduced, including:
  - District Chaplain Walter Heaves
  - Mr. Peterson
  - Scott Darlene
  - "Granny," attending for Yellow Ribbon recognition
- Appreciation expressed for donation supporting a member's vehicle repair.

Approval of Minutes

- Previous meeting minutes distributed.
- Motion to approve **carried**.

Financial Report

- **Gaming Account Balance (18 Aug):** $20,187.94
- **Disbursements:**
  - $100 donation for member assistance (medical hardship)
- **Committed Funds:**
  - $500 older scholarship
  - $1,500 in current scholarships
- **Estimated request:** Boy Scouts – approx. $1,000 (pending)
- **Reserve Fund:** $2,000
- **Available for donations:** $15,587.94
- Goal to donate approx. $10,000 before Dec 31.
- Gaming report approved.

Membership Report

- Issues receiving mail and electronic updates.
- Post not yet meeting annual membership goals.
- Coordination needed with Mark for outreach.

SAL Report

Highlights include:

- Donation of ink for the burner.
- Annual "guns & cupcakes" gathering held successfully.
- Saturday luncheons start in October.
- Request for Legion gaming representative to attend **Oct 15 recipients' meeting**.
- Updates on **Toys for Tots** coordination (Becker/Monticello area).
- Craft sale scheduled **Nov 21–22**; majority of tables filled.
- Discussion on new **ruck march** date (Dec 7), SAL offering support.
- Discussion on school civic-program partnership.
- SAL meeting time proposed change: from 1st Monday → **4th Tuesday** (motion approved).
- New SAL Google account created for communication management.
- Football honor guard update; SAL members expressed support and interest in more events.

Honor Guard & Football Game

- 9 members participated; community feedback positive.
- Next game: **Oct 18**.
- Seeking **active duty** flag bearer; fallback to Legionnaire if none available.
- Request for large/XL gloves and additional uniform pants.

Old Business

Pig Roast (Oct 26)

- DJ hired; pig purchased; cooking plan confirmed.
- Need volunteers for:
  - Serving line
  - Table/chair setup
  - Scouts contacted for bus tables & trash duty
- Pop & water to be donated by Bernick's/Pepsi.
- Lions to run beer sales.

Members Dinner (Oct 10)

- Auxiliary assisting; proposed **pork chop dinner** approved.

Fall Conference

- Dates: **Oct 22–24**
- Location: St. Cloud River Centre
- Registration: $20 advance / $30 door
- Meals available for purchase.

Football Game Expansion

- Discussion of expanding honor guard participation to other sports; pending membership approval.

Spotlight Program

- Encouraging members to submit personal profiles for website/newsletter.

New Business

County Council Meeting

- Scheduled **Oct 21 at 7:30 PM in Foley**.
- Attendance encouraged; post noted Foley's potential removal if attendance continues to lag.

Funeral Honors

- Notification received of Richard Wells' passing.
- Family may not know they can request honors; pursuit of outreach approved.

Events & Community Engagement

- Suggestion to create Event Committee (cribbage league, cornhole league, puzzle competitions, bingo nights).
- Volunteers identified.
- Need for official Post 193 public Facebook page discussed; possible assistance from younger member.

Becker Fall Festival (Oct 24)

- Chili Cookoff; Legion will set up canopy & recruitment table.

Discretionary Fund

Motion approved:

- Up to **$100 per event** for Commander, Chaplain, and Service Officer to use for funeral flowers, cards, or urgent veteran assistance.
- Approved purchase of sympathy/get-well cards for office supply.

Announcements

- **Stand Down Open House – Sept 19**, St. Cloud: veterans may receive boots, clothing, supplies.
- **Free haircuts** first & third Thursdays.
- **9/11 remembrance** on County Road 15 bridge: dawn–noon flag holding.
- Chaplain requesting feedback regarding continued District Chaplain role.
- Upcoming ruck march at Camp Ripley (Chaplain participating).

Closing

- Benediction delivered.
- Meeting adjourned.