AMERICAN LEGION POST 193

Regular Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 13 Oct 2026
Location: American Legion Post 193, Becker, Minnesota
Presiding Officer: Post Commander
Meeting Type: Regular Meeting

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1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of American Legion Post 193 was called to order by the Commander at 7pm.
The doors were secured, and the opening prayer was offered.

2. POW/MIA Recognition

The POW/MIA banner was placed on the empty chair.

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble

Conducted.

4. Guest Recognition

No Guest.

5. Finance Report

The following financial balances were reported:

- Checking Account: $7,422.15
- Savings Account: $4,724.44
- Certificates of Deposit: Approximately $110,757.86

Recent transactions included:

- Pig Roast expenses: $400.00
- City of Becker utilities: $113.97
- Pig Roast deposit/refund: $554.00
- Township rent: $200.00
- Xcel Energy: $188.89

Bills presented for approval:

Printer ink: $34.09
Becker True Value: $158.00
Patriot newspaper advertisement: $192.00
Doctor Home Remedies LLC, lighting and ceiling work: $322.93
Embroidered Legion patches and cords: $161.98

Additional deposits included:

- Baby shower rental: $150.00
- DAV clothing donation/deposit: $710.00

A motion was made and seconded to approve payment of the bills. The motion carried.

6. Gaming Committee Report

The Gaming Account balance was reported at **$20,057.94**.
There was no gaming account activity during the past month.

Current and anticipated allocations:

- Previous scholarship reserve: $500
- Two upcoming scholarships: $1,000
- Boy Scouts: Potential $1,500
- Junior Baseball: Potential $1,500
- Senior Baseball: Potential $1,500
- St. Cloud Food Shelf/Stand Down: Potential $250
- St. Cloud VA Fisher House program: Potential $250

The committee reported approximately $11,000 available for donations after anticipated commitments and reserves.

Donation requests brought forward:

1. Memorial Day Foundation – $50 to support remembrance activities at American military graves in France.
2. St. Cloud VA Fisher House Program – $250.
3. Holiday food assistance – Set aside up to $500 for turkeys or other holiday food donations to the local food shelf.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the three recommended donations and allocations. The motion carried.

Other donation requests reviewed:

- Hanover organization requesting feminine hygiene products for homeless individuals: Request denied.
- Soccer Booster Club: Tabled until representatives attend next month's meeting.
- Becker Dance Team Boosters: Request for summer coaching expenses was not approved.
- Stearns Historical Society: Request declined because the organization is outside the Post's service area.
- Just for Vets, Rochester: Request declined because the organization is outside the Post's service area.
- Kevin's vehicle repair assistance: Further investigation will be completed before additional assistance is considered.

Randy and Dennis will investigate available State Fund 85 assistance for Kevin's vehicle repairs. The Post previously contributed $750 from the General Fund toward vehicle repairs. The committee hopes additional assistance can be obtained through the state program.

The group discussed the Minnesota Department Commander's initiative to raise $100,000 for veterans' programs, including Fund 85.

7. Membership Report

The membership report was presented in the absence of the membership chairman.

Prior to the membership dinner, the Post was approximately eight members short of reaching its 65% October membership goal. Several memberships were received during the membership dinner. An updated membership count will be provided at the next meeting.

8. Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Report

The SAL reported that meetings have officially transitioned from the first Monday of the month to the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be October 27.

Toys for Tots:

- Collection boxes are expected to be placed beginning November 6.
- Collection will continue through December 10.
- The SAL represents the Becker-area locations, including Becker, Big Lake, Monticello, and Clearwater.
- Additional collection locations being pursued include the Food Shelf, City Hall, and the History Center.
- The Toys for Tots program will also have a table at the Post's craft sale.
- More than 600 families received assistance last year.

Upcoming Luncheon:

The SAL will host a luncheon during the Clayton Thud Archery Tournament this Saturday from approximately 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Menu options will include:

- Pulled pork sandwich or hot dog, baked potato, and coleslaw.
- Loaded baked potato with assorted toppings and coleslaw.

Potatoes are being donated by Edling Farms, and additional toppings are being provided by the archery group.

Craft Sale:

The annual craft sale is scheduled for November 22. Current registration includes approximately 18 tables and 13 vendors. Registration is nearly full.

Highway Cleanup Project:

Denny Brew and Ken Gates will lead efforts to establish an Adopt-a-Highway or highway cleanup program.

The SAL would like to make this a joint American Legion Family project involving the Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL.

The program would involve spring and fall cleanup activities. Details regarding the highway location and schedule will be determined.

A motion was made and seconded to support moving forward with the highway cleanup project. The motion carried.

Membership:

SAL membership is more than halfway to its goal. Several renewals and one new eight-year-old member were reported.

The group also discussed recruiting DJ Freeman and his family, potentially bringing six memberships into the Legion Family.

Two additional Legion members joined following the recent Honor Guard activity.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the SAL report. The motion carried.

9. Old Business

Membership Dinner and Membership Incentives

The recent membership dinner was completed.

The following membership incentives were discussed:

- A $100 drawing for members who attended the membership dinner.
- A $50 drawing for members whose dues are paid by the end of October.
- A $50 drawing for members who recruit new members.

The Commander will complete the drawings once all names have been collected.

A separate Department Commander's membership incentive is also available for members recruiting two or more new members.

March Against Hunger

The Post is coordinating with the local food shelf for a March Against Hunger event.

- Date: Saturday, November 7
- Start time: 9:00 a.m.
- Starting location: American Legion Post 193
- Destination: Local Food Shelf

Volunteers are needed to help transport donated food. The event will be advertised on Facebook.

Fall Conference

The Fall Conference is scheduled for the following weekend.

Several members indicated plans to attend Friday and Saturday. Information and updates will be brought back to the Post.

Honor Guard Activities

The Honor Guard continues to participate in Becker football games.

Four active-duty military members participated in the most recent event. The original Minnesota state flag was also displayed alongside the traditional flag. The regular football season has concluded. The Honor Guard expects to participate in at least one playoff game and potentially a state game. Additional opportunities are being explored with the school district, including:

- Baseball, Basketball, Lacrosse, Track and field, Softball, Veterans Day activities, Graduation

The athletic director will provide additional information.

Keys for Progress

The Keys for Progress event is scheduled for November 10 in Roseville. Members discussed participating again this year. Dennis will coordinate with Andrew to determine participation.

Exterior Post Signage

The Commander has contacted a city planner to determine what signage is permitted outside the Post.

The proposed idea is a two-sided digital sign between the two buildings. The possibility of sharing the sign with the township for community announcements will also be explored.

Recent Post Fundraising Event

The recent fundraising event generated approximately $500 for the General Fund. Approximately $75 in unused funds was returned to the General Fund, and the SAL received $60 back from its contribution toward the pig roast. The SAL also secured a donation of 26 cases of pop from Bernick's. Appreciation was expressed to everyone who helped with cooking, serving, setup, cleanup, and event organization, including the Boy Scouts. Members emphasized the importance of teamwork and recognizing volunteers and donors. The need to send thank-you letters promptly to donors and volunteers was discussed. The Commander will work with Mark to improve the process and share responsibilities. The event served approximately 31 paying customers in addition to complimentary meals. Members discussed improving advertising and signage to increase attendance at future events.

Mobile PA System Donation

A member offered to donate an older portable PA system, including a six-channel mixer and speakers, to the Post.

The equipment could be useful for cemetery ceremonies and other Post activities. The offer was discussed and appreciated.

10. New Business

St. Cloud Army Aviation Facility Tour and Memorial

A guest provided information about the Army Aviation facility at the St. Cloud Airport.

The facility supports Army aviation operations and includes:

- Approximately 59 full-time employees.
- An 86,000-square-foot hangar.
- Approximately 53,000 square feet of office space.
- Maintenance and support operations for Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters.

A proposed memorial project will recognize aviation soldiers and their deployments. Plans include granite benches, engraved memorial information, landscaping, sidewalks, and a helicopter displayed outside the facility. The estimated project cost is approximately $300,000, with nearly $30,000 raised to date.

Members were invited to tour the facility.

Tour Details:

- Date: Tuesday, November 17 Time: 6:00 p.m. Estimated attendance: Approximately 20 members.

The tour will need to be coordinated in advance because the facility is secure. Members will confirm attendance at the next meeting. The guest also offered to provide dinner for members attending the November 10 meeting. Walking tacos will be served at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Dinner

A member confirmed plans to host the annual Christmas Eve dinner at the Post for approximately the fifth year.

Food preparation and supplies are already being arranged. Additional volunteers are welcome to help with cleanup and attend the meal.

DAV/Pop-Up Sales

A proposal was discussed to use the Post's garage/bay area for occasional or recurring garage sales and pop-up sales when the space is not otherwise in use. The proposal would provide an opportunity to sell donated items and generate additional revenue for the Post. Members expressed support for trying the idea, with the understanding that the space must remain available for scheduled Post activities. The program could begin sometime in December, following the November craft sale.

Becker Basketball Team Meals

Dennis reported that Mary Langley, chairperson of Becker Freedom Days, would like to offer the Post as a location for parents to prepare and serve meals for the Becker varsity basketball team. The parents would handle setup, food preparation, and cleanup. No work would be required from the Post. Mary will attend next month's meeting to formally present the request.

Honor Guard Uniform Coordination

A request was made that members participating in Honor Guard activities coordinate uniform expectations. If other members will be wearing Class A uniforms, Amy would appreciate advance notice so she can wear her service dress uniform as well.

Veterans Day Speaker

The school is looking for a speaker for its Veterans Day program. Members discussed possible candidates and the possibility of contacting the military Engagement Working Group to locate a volunteer speaker. Additional information about the Veterans Day schedule will be obtained from Mark.

Newsletter and Communications

The Post discussed the transition to electronic newsletters through the Post website. Currently, newsletters are being mailed to three members, with Harold to be added to the mailing list. Members were reminded that they can sign up for email notifications on the website to receive alerts when new information is posted. The group discussed ensuring that members continue receiving important announcements and that no one is overlooked.

Boys State, Oratorical, and Legionville Programs

Members discussed increasing youth participation in American Legion-sponsored programs.

The group reviewed opportunities for:

- Boys State, Boys Nation, American Legion Oratorical Contest, Legionville

Boys State is intended for high school juniors, while the Oratorical Contest is open to high school students. Legionville generally serves fifth-grade students. The cost of Boys State is approximately $400 per student. Members discussed approaching local businesses and community organizations to sponsor scholarships. Tim and Dennis will pursue potential donations and sponsorships for Boys State. A separate account may be established to ensure donated funds are used for that purpose. The Post will also work with the Becker school district, superintendent, principals, counselors, and community leaders to promote these programs and recruit students. Members expressed support for moving forward with fundraising and outreach efforts.

11. Announcements and Upcoming Dates

Date	Event
October 27	SAL Meeting
November 6	Toys for Tots collection boxes expected to be placed
November 7	March Against Hunger, 9:00 a.m.
November 10	Regular Post Meeting and walking taco dinner, approximately 6:00 p.m.
November 10	Keys for Progress event in Roseville
November 17	St. Cloud Army Aviation Facility Tour, 6:00 p.m.
November 22	Annual Craft Sale
December 10	Toys for Tots collection concludes

12. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The closing prayer was offered, asking for continued guidance and protection for members as they returned home to their families.

The POW/MIA banner was removed, and the meeting was formally closed at 8:14pm.