



**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
CARLON WALTERS POST 0018, HENRIETTA  
CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER  
216 N. HANCOCK ST.  
PO BOX 371  
HENRIETTA, TX. 76365**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
18 March 2025**

**DATE: 18 March 2025**

**OPENING:**

Chaplain Daniel Stearns offered an opening prayer.

Commander Don Morris conducted the POW/ MIA ceremony and a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance and reading the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion. Commander Don Morris called the meeting to order at 1929 hours.

**ROLL CALL:**

John McClure performed a roll call for Post Officers and Executive Board Members.

*Officers present:* Commander Don Morris, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Steve Wentworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Austin Forsythe, Adjutant John McClure, Chaplain Daniel Stearns, Historian Bonnie Philips, Service Officer Roger Palmateer, Sargent-at-Arms Elijah Nelson, and Executive Board Members Ron Paul and Weldon Sullivan.

*Officers Absent:* Finance Officer Beth Williams, and Asst. Chaplain Eddie Kelton

*Members present:* Andrew Koopmans.

A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS and NEW MEMBERS:**

*Guests at this meeting:* Don Morris welcomed Chaplain Jim Richardson from Post 169, 13<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain Chuck Barret, and 13<sup>th</sup> District Adjutant and Post 120 Commander Gidget Pettibon.

*New members at this meeting:* None

**SPECIAL EVENT – OFFICER INSTALLATION:** Gidget Pettibon led the officer installation ceremony and swore in the newly elected officers.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** John McClure presented Past Commander Don Morris with a plaque to thank him for his time as the Commander to this Post.

**MINUTES:** Minutes for the 18 February meeting were sent to all members and available prior to the meeting. John McClure made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and seconded by Daniel Stearns. Motion carried.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Finance Officer Ron Paul presented the finance officers report that included our current account funds. Having just taken over the finances, Ron stated he will assess the status of bills and report back at the next meeting. A motion to accept finance officers report was made by Weldon Sullivan and seconded by Bonnie Phillips. Motion carried.

There was a discussion on the funding to be placed in the building account. Ron Paul made a motion we change the wording to "50% of net profit." Motion seconded by Bonnie Phillips. Motion carried.

Ron Paul mentioned the post does not have a budget and would like to work on one. John McClure made a motion we start a finance committee with the Finance Officer as the chair. Motion seconded by Eli Nelson. Motion carried. Daniel Stearns, Don Morris, and Steve Wentworth volunteered to be on the committee and Ron will work with them to set a date for their first meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### *UNIFORM COMMITTEE: Eli Nelson, Chair*

Eli Nelson thanked those who helped with the American Legion Birthday Celebration and Officer Installation Ceremony.

Eli discussed plans for the Memorial Day Ceremony. It will be held at 1100hrs on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Clay County Texas War Memorial. He discussed the need to start advertising the event now. John McClure made a motion to start advertising in the Clay County Leader now. Motion seconded by Eli Nelson. Motion Carried.

Due to the preparation of the American Legion Birthday Celebration and Officer Installation Ceremony, no cost was researched for the wreaths suggested at the last meeting. The uniformed committee with work on that for next month.

#### *SOCIAL/FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Bonnie Phillips, Chair:*

The highway cleanup was conducted on 1 March with 9 volunteers who collected 13 bags of trash. Austin Forsythe mentioned the next clean-up would be the first Saturday in June.

Turkey Fest will be 12 April from 10-1500. Set up will begin at 0800. John McClure will make vouchers for the Second Sunday Raffle and have the 50/50 raffle. Don Morris found a blue 12x12 pop-up tent with a shade side for \$200. John McClure made a motion to upgrade our tent from a 10x10 to a 12x12 and have Don purchase it before Turkey Fest. The motion was seconded by Ron Paul. Motion Carried.

#### *EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Roger Palmateer, Chair:*

There was no information to be shared.

#### *POST MEMERSHIP: John McClure, Adjutant:*

John McClure shared there were no updates to our membership roster and that we currently have 40 members. 29 members have renewed their dues for 2025 including 1 new membership. There are 5 members who expired in 2024, 4 members expired in 2023, 1 duplicate membership to be remove and one member who moved out of state.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### *COMMUNITY CENTER FLAGS*

Ron Paul discovered it would cost \$1000 to get the same pole and base. He will continue searching for more affordable options.

#### *BOYS STATE*

Roger Palmateer informed the members that George Slagle was unable to attend the meeting for an interview due to being on the golf team. Roger will communicate with him to interview at the next meeting and proposed that if he is unable to make it, we go forward with the nomination

based on the number of Post members who know him and can vouch for his character. Eli Nelson reported that he has not heard back from Bellevue who had stated last year they would have names for us this year. He will visit the school on Monday and if he can get names they will be at the April meeting for interviews.

#### *BRASS BAND*

Eli Nelson has not contacted the band director yet and will report back next month.

#### *POPUK CANNOPY*

Per earlier discussion: Don Morris found a blue 12x12 pop-up tent with a shade side for \$200. John McClure made a motion to upgrade our tent from a 10x10 to a 12x12 and have Don purchase it before Turkey Fest. The motion was seconded by Ron Paul. Motion Carried.

#### *OFFICER ELECTIONS*

Officers installed and assumed their new post this meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### *WEBSITE/CALENDAR*

John McClure reported that he is working on Post rebranding according to American Legion Family Branding Guidelines of 2022. He encouraged everyone to visit and share our website which is connected to our Google calendar so the public can see our events. The website has a page for Wreaths Across America where visitors can begin sponsoring wreaths. He has started a new Facebook page though it does not have content yet.

#### *MILITARY AND VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR*

John McClure presented information shared with him by Bonnie Phillips and Chuck Barrett about the Military and Veteran Resource Fair at the Wichita Falls Public Library on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-6pm. Bonnie Phillips suggested we have a table at the fair and Steve Wentworth volunteered to go with her. During a discussion it was suggested we purchase two American Legion tablecloths, a sign with the new branding, and a sign similar to our chicken fried steak sign to be displayed on the day of our meeting to increase awareness. John McClure made a motion we purchase the tablecloths and signs. Ron Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John McClure made a motion to adjourn, Bonnie Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

### **CLOSING**

Chaplain Steve Wentworth offered a closing prayer.

Sergeant-at-Arms Eli Nelson retired the Colors.

Commander Roger Palmateer declared the meeting adjourned at 2026 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved at the 18 March 2025 General Meeting

  
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**JOHN MCCLURE**  
**ADJUTANT**

  
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**ROGER PALMATEER**  
**POST COMMANDER**

**Upcoming events:** Please visit our website: [americanlegionpost0018.com/calendar](http://americanlegionpost0018.com/calendar)  
**March:**

9<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Lunch, preparation 0800, lunch 1130 - 1300  
11<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Committee Meeting, 1830  
18<sup>th</sup> – General meeting, 1900 – American Legion Birthday Celebration, Post Officer  
Initiation, Boys State Final Preparations

***April:***

8<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Committee Meeting, 1830  
12<sup>th</sup> – Turkey Fest, 1000 - 1500  
13<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Lunch, preparation 0800, lunch 1130 - 1300  
15<sup>th</sup> – General meeting, 1900  
26<sup>th</sup> – District 13 Convention

***May:***

11<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Lunch, preparation 0800, lunch 1130 - 1300  
13<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Committee Meeting, 1830  
17<sup>th</sup> – Armed Forces Day  
20<sup>th</sup> – General meeting, 1900  
26<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day

***June:***

8<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Lunch, preparation 0800, lunch 1130 - 1300  
8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> – Texas Boys State  
10<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Committee Meeting, 1830  
14<sup>th</sup> – Flag Day  
17<sup>th</sup> – General meeting, 1900

***July:***

4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day  
8<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Committee Meeting, 1830  
13<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Lunch, preparation 0800, lunch 1130 - 1300  
15<sup>th</sup> – General meeting, 1900

***August:***

10<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Lunch, preparation 0800, lunch 1130 - 1300  
12<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Committee Meeting, 1830  
19<sup>th</sup> – General meeting, 1900

***September:***

19<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Committee Meeting, 1830  
11<sup>th</sup> – September 11<sup>th</sup>  
14<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Lunch, preparation 0800, lunch 1130 - 1300  
16<sup>th</sup> – General meeting, 1900  
18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Reunion

***October:***

12<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Lunch, preparation 0800, lunch 1130 - 1300  
14<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Committee Meeting, 1830  
16<sup>th</sup> – General meeting, 1900