American Legion Essman-Schroeder Post #20
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2026

Attendees:

Bruce Hodge	Ken Smars	Mike D'Acquisto	Conrad Moreno
Rachel Ladewig	B. Shane Morris	James Zuehlke	Sonya Janicki
Chet Anderson	Jeff Marks		

Meeting Called to Order at: 06:30 PM by Commander Marks

Post the Colors: Sgt at Arms Moreno

POW/MIA Chair: Sgt at Arms (Hand Salute)

The POW/MIA cover has been placed over an empty chair, to remind all present that some of their comrades in arms, are still being held prisoner or have been presumed, missing in action. Let this cover and empty chair, serve to remind all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor. These service members must be accounted for and never forgotten. Please join me in a moment of silent prayer.

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Ken Smars (Stand & Remove Covers)

Pledge of Allegiance: All

Preamble to Constitution: All

Recognize any Guests: None

Introduction of New Members: None

Meeting Minutes: Commander Marks stated the August meeting minutes were sent out via email to all members and requested a motion to accept the August minutes as distributed.

Motioned By: Conrad Moreno
Second By: Sonya Janicki
Discussion: None
Motion – Approved

Treasurer's Report: Bruce provided the August financial report. Detailed financial figures are available to members on request and are omitted from the public copy of these minutes.

Commander Marks asked for a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented:

Motioned By: James Zuehlke
Second By: Chet Anderson
Discussion: None
Motion – Approved

Correspondence:

- Norway J7 School District (Steven Williams) sent a thank you letter for our participation (Fred Chart and Jeff Marks) in their September 11th Remembrance Lunch. They will post photos to their school's Facebook page. He will continue to coordinate with us for future events. Members are encouraged to look up the school's Facebook page to see the photos.
- Waterford Lions Club – Annual Chicken Dinner:
    - Waterford Lions Club has their annual chicken dinner on Sunday, Oct 4th at Whitford Park.
    - They are looking for help at this year's dinner. Members, spouses, kids are all welcome. They are primarily looking for support in the drive-thru area at Whitford Park to distribute packages of sour cream, cupped coleslaw, butter packets, bagged cookies, and plasticware.
    - If you can support it, please contact Teddy Cain (Lions Club Treasurer) at 262-751-3275.
- Wind Lake & Waterford Lions Clubs – Golf Outing:
    - They are holding a golf outing on Sep 26th, 2026, at Rivermoor Golf Club.
    - They also have Sponsorship opportunities for the event.

Old Business:

- Cemetery Flag Removal:
    - All cemeteries are complete except for Norway. We need to schedule a date / time to remove flags.
    - We need to ensure weather has been dry so flags will come out of holders.
    - Jeff Marks will set up and lead the event.
- WUHS Salute to Service (August 21st):
    - Members who attended: B. Shane, Fred, Rachel, Chet, Conrad, Jim, Paulie, and Gary.

- WUHS Invitation (Friday, September 11th):
    - No members attended; no report.
- Indy Car "Be the One" booth (August 28th – 30th): no members attended; no report.
- Memorial Site Flag Poles:
    - We have quotes for 3 flag poles – they are approx. $3,000 each (approx. $9,000 total). We also need to fix the lighting.
    - The flag pole and lighting project (poles, installation, and new lights with photo sensors) is assigned to B. Shane, Bruce, and Jim.
- WUHS Band/Choral Pearl Harbor trip $500 approved donation was sent.
- Honor Guard Spring / Rain Jackets:
    - Commander Marks found a site that has the jackets for $68.98 each. This does not include the cost of patches & having them sewn on. He passed around a sheet with info / pictures.
    - Feedback from membership was to find a jacket with a removable or roll-up hood. Commander Marks will look into this.
- 2027 Membership:
    - Adjutant B. Shane presented a report on members who have not yet renewed for 2027 and will reach out to each of the members that still need to pay to let them know.
- State American Legion Annual Raffle Tickets:
    - Our Post has been tasked with selling 50 tickets.
    - Tickets cost $20 each.
    - The drawing will be held on July 24th, 2027.
    - B. Shane will bring the AL Department of Wisconsin raffle tickets to the meetings and remind members to sell them.
- 1st District POW/MIA Silent March (Sunday, September 20th)
    - Meet at Vets Center Foxhole Lounge in Racine (820 Main St., Racine)
    - Breakfast served from 08:00 AM – 11:00 AM
    - Registration at 09:00 AM
    - March starts at 12:00 PM
    - Looking for Color Guards, vehicles, and marchers.
    - Volunteers so far: Chet A., B. Shane, and Conrad M.-
    - Need to confirm participation with County Commander Capriotti
    - The uniform will be our Polo Shirt and ball cap. Everyone meet at the shed at 08:30 AM

New Business:

- B. Shane will order more polo shirts for the Post.
- B. Shane will also work on a synthetic, breathable t-shirt and design, and will bring it to the Post in October.
- A motion was made to sponsor a hole at the Wind Lake & Waterford Lions Clubs Golf Outing (Sep 26th, 2026) for $500:

    - Motioned By: Bruce Hodge
    - Second By: Conrad Moreno
    - Discussion: None
    - Motion – Approved
- Commander Marks will send the check to Waterford Lions Club.

Committee Reports:

- Budget Committee (Bruce):
    - No Report
- Southern Center (B. Shane):
    - Recreation Committee meeting was September 2nd.
    - They are planning a 2nd Fishing Event for September 25th and looking for volunteers.
    - B. Shane will send out the Recreation Committee meeting minutes along with the AL Post 20 meeting minutes.
- Honor Guard (Mike):
    - One funeral on Monday, September 21st. We have a team set.
- Service Officer (James):
    - No Report
- Meat Raffles (Kim):
    - Kick-off meat raffle was held September 13th, from 01:00 PM – 03:00 PM @ River City Lanes; the event netted $350. Thank you to B. Shane, Ken, Kim, Stacy, and Bruce for working the event.
    - Need posters made up and distributed.
    - Remaining Meat Raffles (2nd Sunday of the month from 01:00 PM – 03:00 PM):
        - October 11th – Run N Erins
        - November 8th – River City Lanes
        - December 13th – Run N Erins
        - January 10th – River City Lanes
        - February 14th – Run N Erins
        - March 14th – River City Lanes
        - April 11th – Run N Erins
    - Kim has requested that each post member come once a year and bring two people to the event.
    - It was suggested that we investigate buying some yard signs; Jeff and B. Shane will look into it. B. Shane will also check with Kim on a sign for the raffles.
- Gun Raffle:
    - We have the following prizes sourced for the raffle (total $1,365):
        - Zero Delta RS15 223 Wylde Rifle – $425
        - Monza 308 Win Bolt Action Rifle – $420

        - Heritage Rough Rider 22 Revolver (Red/White/Blue grip) – $120
        - Center Point Sniper G40 Crossbow Package – $400
    - The drawing will be held at 03:30 PM on Sunday, March 14th, 2027, after our meat raffle. We will print 600 tickets, priced at one for $10 or three for $25.
    - Need posters made up and distributed.
- Pancake Breakfast:
    - Will be held Sunday, January 24th, 2027, from 08:00 AM – 12:00 PM at River City Lanes. The date approved in August (January 23rd) was a Saturday in error; the Post confirmed with Laverne at River City Lanes that Sunday, January 24th, is available.
- Golf Outing:
    - First – Thank you to all the members that helped support the event!
    - We had a successful first annual event (held Friday, August 21st) with over 30 vendors providing items to raffle off & a dozen businesses that sponsored Holes for anywhere from $100 to $300 each.
    - We raised $10,190 with a cost of $3,901 for a net profit of $6,289.
- Post Dinner: The American Legion Post 20 Birthday Dinner will be held Saturday, April 10th, 2027. Cocktail hour begins at 05:00 PM.
- Fourth of July Parade: Nothing new to report.

For the Good of the Legion:

- Conrad suggested that we have Post members sign the 250th Anniversary banner, which will be hung in the shed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 20th @ 06:30 PM.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Ken Smars (Stand & Remove Covers)

Retire POW/MIA: Sgt at Arms

Retire the Colors: Sgt at Arms

Meeting adjourned at: 07:26 PM