



7:00 PM
 THE AMERICAN LEGION
 CARTER BURDELL HAGLER POST 178, INC.
 3219 RICHMOND HILL ROAD
 AUGUSTA, GA 30906
 (706) 793-1724

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 October 10th, 2023

POSITION	NAME	OTHER
*COMMANDER	GRANT WHITELEY	<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u>
*ADJUTANT	THERESA A BRISKER	
*SR. VICE CMDR.	BRUCE A. EARLY	*1. PAUL ANDERSON, Sr.
*1 st VICE CMDR. (Kitchen)	MICHAEL DWYER	*2. HENRY KING
*2 nd VICE CMDR. (Lounge)	ROBERT CARUSO	*3. RAYMOND JOHNSON
*3 rd VICE CMDR. (Hall)	JAMES BRENDLE	*4. OSCAR SIMS
*FINANCE OFFICER	DAVID MYER	*5. LEE WHITLOCK
*SGT-AT-ARMS	SCOTT PERRY	
*JUDGE ADVOCATE	HENRY WALTERS	
SERVICE OFFICER	TBA	
CHAPLAIN	WILLIAM CRAIN	(*) Members of Executive Committee
HISTORIAN	VACANT	(8) Members constitute E.C. quorum
I.T. OFFICER	TBA	(9) Members constitute G.M. quorum
PAST/CMDR	GRANT B. WHITELEY	

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. READING OF MINUTES
4. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, PROSPECTIVE & NEW MEMBERS
5. OFFICER REPORTS
6. COMMITTEE REPORTS
7. BALLOTING ON APPLICATIONS & INITIATION OF CANDIDATES
8. SICK CALL, RELIEF & EMPLOYMENT
9. MEMORIAL TO A DEPARTED POST MEMBER
10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
11. NEW BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE
12. THE GOOD OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
13. ADJOURNMENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER

TIME: 19:00

2. ROLL CALL – SIGN IN SHEET

OFFICERS: Grant B. Whiteley. Cmdr. (P); Sr. Vice Cmdr. Bruce Early (E); Michael Dwyer 1st Jr. Vice/Cmdr. (A); Robert Caruso 2nd Jr. Vice/Cmdr.(P); Jim Brendle 3rd Jr. Vice/Cmdr. (P); David Myer Finance Officer (P); Theresa Brisker Adjutant (P); Henry Walters, Judge Advocate(P); Scott Perry Sgt-At-Arms (P); **William Crain Chaplain (P).**

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Paul Anderson Sr. (P); Raymond Johnson (P); Henry King (P); Lee Whitlock (P); Past Cdr Oscar Sims (P).

PAST COMMANDERS: Grant Whiteley (P); Oscar Sims (); Bruce A. Early ()

MEMBERS: See Sign-In Sheet

(P) Present. (E) Excused, (A) Absent.

OFFICERS: 13 **MEMBERS:** 2 **GUESTS:** 0 **TOTAL:** 15
Nine (9) members of the Post shall constitute a quorum.

YES (X) NO () **COMMANDER YOU HAVE A QUORUM.**

3. MINUTES

READING OF MINUTES:

Motion: To approve General Membership Meeting minutes for September 12th, 2023 as distributed.
Made by Judge Advocate Henry Walters Seconded by: E-Board Carol Whitlock.
(14) FOR: (0) AGAINST. Motion Carried.

Motion: To approve Executive Board Meeting minutes for October 3rd, 2023 as distributed;
Made by Past Commander Oscar Sims Seconded by: Vice Commander James Brendle.
(14) FOR: (0) AGAINST. Motion Carried.

4. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, PROSPECTIVE & NEW MEMBERS & TRANSFERS

Fort Gordon, GA:

Department of GA:

11th District:

Post:

Prospective New Members:

New Members: 4

Transfers:

Other Guests:

5. OFFICER REPORTS

Commander: (Grant B. Whiteley) – SEE BELOW

Adjutant: (Theresa A. Brisker) – Breast Cancer Education

Sr. Vice Cmdr.: Bruce A. Early (E) – Membership is being processed now. At present we have 229 renewed and 16 awaiting to be processed. This puts the post membership at 69.0%.

1st Jr. Vice Cmdr. – Mike Dwyer – (A)

2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr. Robert Caruso – (P) Continue your support we have collected over 2600. We are selling caps to raise money for Breast Cancer Walk. October 21, 2023 the day of Breast Cancer walk will be Ms. Gudy day, we will be selling Schnitzel Dinners starting at .1 PM. The proceeds will go to Lounge improvements, SAL had Fish Fry still awaiting donations from them for Breast Cancer walk. The gutter and facia repair will start this week. October is Now Agent Orange Month.

Finance: (Dave Myer) – Finance Officer reported the finance reported for the month of August 2023

Motion Made: To approve the Finance Report for the month of August 2023 subject to audit.

Made by Past Commander Oscar Sims Seconded by EB Raymond Johnson

(14) For: Against (0). Motion Carried.

Sgt-at-Arms: (Scott Perry) – No Rpt.

Judge Advocate: (Henry Walters) – Bill HR 5641

Service Officer: (Cdr Whiteley) – No Rpt.

IT Officer: (TBA) – No Rpt.

6. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS:

A.L.R. Chairman: (Lee Galloway) – (A)

Americanism – Cdr Grant Whitley – Vietnam Veteran Commemorations Continues

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration continues to conduct sizable Welcome Home events across the country celebrating and honoring Vietnam War veterans and their families. Still to come in 2023: a partnership with the Navy Office of Community Outreach for Philadelphia Navy Week (Oct. 9-15), in conjunction with the Navy's birthday; and events around Fleet Week in San Diego Nov. 6-12, in conjunction with Veterans Day.

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the war was launched in 2012. Congress penned five objectives for the campaign; the first is "To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, and to thank and honor the families of these veterans." Vietnam Veteran lapel pins are among the markers distributed. Planning is underway for 2024 events, and the final official commemoration event will be held on National Vietnam War Veterans Day 2025, March 29.

Over the last 10 years, "thousands upon thousands" of commemorative-partner organizations across the country have conducted such events on their own, including American Legion posts. Posts that have not yet done so but wish to can learn about the process and find resources on the commemoration's website. Partners are encouraged to report their event for inclusion on the website, and posts are encouraged to share recaps of their events on Legion town.

American Legion Baseball – Sgt At Arms Scott Perry -

Shooting Sports – Cdr. Grant B. Whiteley – No compliance from Cross Creek or Hephzibah High Schools. The post will be getting with Cross Creek and Hephzibah High Schools at Post 63 on October 21st, 2023 for encouraging both high schools for Oratorical, Shooting Sports, Boys State and Girls State student involvement.

Oratorical Contest – Cdr Whiteley – Oratorical Contest Assigned Topics – Have been assigned.

School Awards – Cdr Whiteley – Work in Progress – No Rpt.

Blood Donors –No Rpt.

Military Suicides - Senators plead for improved response to veterans' suicides after report reveals hotline failure -

The Department of Veterans Affairs must improve mental health care access for veterans with suicide risks, senators told VA officials on Wednesday in the wake of an inspector general report that found problems with the agency's crisis hotline for suicide prevention. "We've had so damn many hearings on mental health, and it doesn't seem like anything has changed," Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., told VA officials during a hearing of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "There's no doubt in my mind that you want to do your best for veterans, and you're trying to do the best for your veterans. "But this is really frustrating for me to say, but we've got to do better. We just have got to do better." Wait times to see mental health specialists are too long, and too few veterans at risk for suicide are actively in the VA's health care system, multiple senators said. New authorities for expanded mental health care access via telehealth have been implemented too slowly, Tester told Matthew Miller, the executive director for suicide prevention at the VA's Veterans Health Administration. The

committee would “probably give you anything you asked for when it comes to mental health,” Tester, who is the chairman of the Senate panel, told Miller. “We just need to make sure that what you’re asking for is something that can actually make a difference.”

Patriotic Observance – October 2023

Breast Cancer Awareness Month - October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and like many such observances, military bases at home and overseas play host to a variety of events, activities, and awareness campaigns to fight breast cancer. From the installation hospital to The Pentagon Channel, there are many programs, messages, and fundraisers to help fund a cure and support those affected by this disease.

October is also World Mental Health month.

Columbus Day - Columbus Day is observed in the United States on the second Monday in October. It commemorates Christopher Columbus and his journey to what was then known as the New World. Columbus Day will be observed on Oct. 9, 2023.

U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday Oct. 13 - Some might be surprised to learn that the official birthday of the United States Navy is Oct. 13, 1775. Back then, it was known as the Continental Navy and consisted of a small fleet of ships patrolling to intercept ships sent to resupply British Army troops at or near the colonies. The U.S. Navy will next celebrate its birthday on Friday, Oct. 13th, 2023.

Navy Day Oct. 27 - What is the difference between Navy Day and the Navy Birthday? Both occur in the month of October, and both celebrate the men and women of the United States Navy, past and present. The Navy celebrates its birthday officially on Oct. 13, and Navy Day was established to be observed on Oct. 27.

Halloween Oct. 31 - Halloween will be celebrated on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023.

The holiday season is often a tough time for military members, families, veterans, and friends. Most associate this struggle with Thanksgiving and Christmas, but Halloween is really the start of the fall/winter holiday season, and military communities know that for some-especially military parents separated from their children at this time of year-there should be some form of military community activity and outreach.

Halloween Safety Tips posted in the vestibule.

SAL Advisor – Finance Officer David Myer – (P)

Community Service – Sr. Vice Bruce A. Early – (E)

Religious Emphasis – Chaplain Bill Crain – (P)

Children & Youth – Cdr Whiteley – Halloween Safety Tips posted in the vestibule.

Employment – Rebecca Shores – (E) - No Rpt.

National Security – Cdr Whiteley – No Report

Public Relations – Rebecca Shores – (E) - No Rpt.

Alcohol & Drug Abuse – Jr. Vice Robert Caruso – Don't Drink & Drive!

POW/MIA – Lee Galloway – (A)

Special Olympics – Sr. Vice Bruce A. Early – (E)

VA/REHAB – Sr. Vice Bruce A. Early (E) -

Boys State – Cdr. Whiteley – Meeting with the high schools on Oct 21st at Post 63.

Inventory Chairman – Cdr Whiteley – Work in progress. New Steel Table in Pit Area, 3 Insulated Bags for District Meetings, and 3 New Beverage Dispensers.

Legislative – Judge Advocate Henry Walters – During the previous government shutdown, Congress passed emergency measures to pay the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines – but the Coast Guard was excluded from these protections. As a response, The American Legion provided more than \$1 million in Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) grants to Coast Guard families in need. This year, Congress needs to act again – and include all service branches. To address this need, H.R. 5641 - the Pay Our Troops Act of 2023 will ensure all members of the military services are protected. This legislation would use unappropriated Treasury funds and pay all of our uniformed military, as well as civilian support staff, in the event of a government shutdown on October 1st. Contact your members of Congress and urge them to join us in supporting H.R. 5461 and pass the Pay Our Troops Act!

1. [Resolution No. 16: Coast Guard Pay Discrimination](#)
2. [Resolution No. 11: Department of Defense Budget](#)
3. [Resolution No. 98: Continuation of Military Death Benefits During Government Shutdown](#)

7. BALLOTING ON APPLICATIONS & INITIATION OF CANDIDATES:

1. **Transfer #400: Walter Barnes**
2. **Transfer Regular:**
3. **New Members: Samuel Green, USA, Panama (Thomasena); Cornelius Tyler, USA, GW Terrorism (Brisker); Bernice Thomas, USA, Panama, (Sheri Bennett); Morris Turner, USA, GW Terrorism, (Thomasena); Willie Washington, USA, GW Terrorism, (Melvin Weaver).**

Motion: Motion made to accept all transfers and new members into Post 178.

Made by Chaplain William Crain Seconded by Past Commander Oscar Sims .

(14) FOR; (0) AGAINST) Motion Carried!

8. SICK CALL, RELIEF & EMPLOYMENT:

A. **SICK CALL** - Please keep the following people in your prayers: Chaplain Bill Crain who is continually on dialysis; Laurie Ross who is in Rehabilitation at Pruitt Health Care - North Augusta; Earnst (Gordy) Gordon who's in Hospice at home, Plus Miriam Stein who is again recovery from a fall at her home. Please keep them in your prayers as well the people on our Buddy Check Watch List below:

B. **BUDDY CHECK/WATCH LIST – PERFORMED – October 2023**

NO	NAME	PERFORMED YES/NO	REMARKS
1	Oscar Sims	YES	(706)840-4856) (gsims16990@att.net)
2	Chuck Hafey	YES	(Dave Myer/Oscar Sims) (706)793-2337
3	William Crain	YES	(706)592-6744) (wmcrule62@aol.com)
4	Malcom Kelly	YES	(Lounge Manager Frances Bowman)
5	Russell/Lisa Collins	YES	(Aux Pres Miriam Stein) (706)650-8838) (jomt1@bellsouth.net)
6	Ron Ness	YES	EB Henry King
7	Lee Whitlock	YES	(Vice Cdr Caruso)
8	William Hackley	YES	(706)863-8699) (williamhackley@bellsouth.net)
9	James Brendle	YES	(Lounge Manager Frances Bowman)

9. MEMORIAL TO A DEPARTED POST MEMBER:

A. **Commander:** “It is my sad duty to report that Comrade Ennis Dudley has been called from our midst. He has gone to the Commander of us all in Post everlasting.

B. **Sgt-At-Arms – You may remove the cover from the Charter.**

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **Air Curtain -Vice Cdr Robert Caruso** - Under Suspension VOCO

B. **Lounge Info Center/Bulletin Board** - Under Suspension VOCO

C. **Office Reorganization** – Phase 2 on hold. (Work in Progress)

D. **Turkey Shoot Area** – The Range Opened Saturday, October 7th, 2023 and we only did three rounds. This always happens in the beginning when we open.

- E. **Post Business Owner's Insurance** – Have (2) quotes but still have inquiries out not to mention added other coverage onto existing bid. Have bids from Travelers \$3,268 annually for General Liability Occurrence Limit \$1,000,000; General Liability Aggregate \$2,000,000; and property deductible of \$500.00. The same for CAN at a cost of \$3,802.00 annually for the same coverage.
- F. **Worker's Compensation** – Have (3) quotes – The Hanover for \$1,407.00 annually for Bodily Injury by Accident \$1,000,000; Bodily Injury Disease, Policy Limit, Bodily Injury Disease, Each Employee for \$1,000,000. The Harford for the same coverage for a cost annually of \$2,295.00; Travelers for the same coverage for a cost annually of \$1,371.00.
- G. **Umbrella Insurance** - Commercial umbrella insurance, also called umbrella liability insurance or excess liability insurance, is a type of coverage that helps to pay for liability claims that go beyond the limits or exclusions of other policies, such as general liability, commercial auto, or property insurance. It can cover costs such as legal fees, medical bills, damage to someone else's property, and court judgments and settlements. It gives businesses and commercial properties added protection from potentially ruinous lawsuits and accidents. At this point, I recommend continuing research for additional umbrella insurance to cover any situation.

11. NEW BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

- A. **Piedmont Augusta Foundation** - Received a thank you letter for the first donation of \$1,350.00 on 9/26/2023 for the 2023 Miracle Mile Walk.
- B. **American Red Cross** – Received a thank you letter from the Red Cross for our donation of \$1,000 on June 20th, 2023.

12. THE GOOD OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

- A. **Children's Halloween Party** – Sunday, October 22nd, 2023
- B. **Adults Halloween Party** – Friday, October 27th, 2023, 8 PM
- C. **Department of GA. Fall Conference** – October 26th – 29th, 2023
- D. **Auxiliary Fundraiser** – The Auxiliary has a fundraiser in the Lounge which is a Eagle Wooden Presentation, a garden cart, a throw quilt, 2 throw pillows and a American Flag. Tickets are 6 for \$5, or 15 tickets for \$10. Tickets behind the bar.

- E. Miracle Mile Walk** – Starts Saturday, Oct 21st, 2023 from 8 – 11 AM. The walk starts at 9 AM. If you want to go down with the Legion, please be here Saturday morning at 7:30 AM to convoy downtown to Reynolds Street.
- F. Think Pink Boutique & Community Breast Cancer Education-** Fundraiser and Breast Cancer Education on Friday’s month of October.
- G. Schnitzel Dinner** – Saturday Oct 21st, 2023, from 1 – 4 PM or until sold out. The Menu consist of German Schnitzel (Pork), Mushroom Gravy, German Potato Salad, Rolls & Butter plus Apple Streusel for dessert. \$12.00 per plate to eat in, or \$12.50 to go plate.
- H. Veterans Day Parade** – Saturday, November 11th, 2023
- I. Thanksgiving Day - November 23rd, 2023** – Sign Up Sheets for food donations are available in the lounge. Sample Menu is Turkey, Ham, Cranberry Sauce, Green Bean Casserole, Giblet Gravy, Devil Eggs, Mac & Cheese, Pumpkin Pie, Rolls & Butter, and Dessert. Menu still has to be approved by the Post and depends on food donations received.
- J. XMAS Boxes** – Boxes in the back of the hall are for the children at Fort Eisenhower Christmas House Program for Active Duty children.

13. ADJOURNMENT	TIME: <u>19:55 hrs</u>
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Motion: Motion made to adjourned Made by E-Board Paul Anderson Sr.
 Seconded by E-Board Raymond Johnson
 (14) FOR; (0) AGAINST). **Motion Carried!**

Next Month House Committee & Executive Meeting will be on November 7th, 2023.
 Next Month General Membership meeting will be on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023.

Theresa A. Brisken

 Adjutant

Grant B. Whiteley

 Commander