

Sanford American Legion Post 443
THOMAS-DANIELS-HAND
Monthly Meeting

September 14, 2026

a. Roll call to determine if quorum is present

	Present	Absent
a. Post Commander: Mark Kloha	☒	☐
b. First Vice Commander: Bud Tucker	☒	☐
c. Post Second Vice: Chris Berlin	☒	☐
d. Post Adjutant: David Yahr	☒	☐
e. Post Judge Advocate: Adam Lyons	☒	☐
f. Post Finance Officer: Doreen Reel.....	☒	☐
g. Post Chaplain: Teal Saylor.....	☒	☐
h. Post Service Officer: Tom Talbot	☒	☐
i. Post Historian: Lynn Valentine	☒	☐
j. Post Sergeant---At---Arm: Dan Talbot.....	☒	☐
k. Member at Large:	☒	☐
l. Member at Large: Fred Grubaugh.....	☐	☒
m. Member at Large: Vacant	☐	☐
n. Members:		
i. Dennis Murray (SAL Commander)		
ii. Kris Carr (Auxiliary)		

b. Reading of minutes of previous meeting

- a. Minutes from previous meeting presented. Motion made by Adam Lyons seconded by Chris Berlin.

c. Introduction of guests and prospective and new members. New members for the month of September 2026. Motion to accept new members made by Bud Tucker, seconded by Fred Graugaugh, motion passed.

New members

NAME	FROM	ERA	BRANCH
Dargie, Michael W.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USN
Keefer, Robin L.	New	PERSIAN_GULF	USAF
Marko, Westran R.	New	LEBANON_GRENADA	USN
Mrugalski, Harold	New	GW_TERRORISM	USN
Sanders, Krystal L.	New	PERSIAN_GULF	USAF
Sawyer, Jeremy J.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USA
Stone, Steven M.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USA
Weck, Thomas L.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USAF
Sanborn, Zachary	New	GW_TERRORISM	USMC

d. Committee reports

- a. Membership:
 i. Report Attached.
- b. Finance:

- i. Finance report presented (see attached).
- ii. Repairs needed:
 - 1. Roof
 - 2. Parking lot
- iii. Finance Officer is currently working on finalizing next year's budget along with an annualized income statement based on the last three years, and it is almost finished.

As part of this process, Finance Officer is looking into better options for our insurance coverage. We currently pay three different providers for our coverage—including one for liability and others for remaining needs—which is spread out and likely costing us more than necessary. She has identified several specialized insurance providers online that focus specifically on hospitality, American Legion, and VFW organizations. She plans to reach out to them to gather quotes and see if we can reduce our total insurance costs.

Additionally, she will be calling a Finance Committee meeting in the next two weeks to discuss this with the other groups. Commander has decided that the insurance bill will no longer be carried exclusively by the General Fund and will instead be split among the groups, as was done in previous years.

- c. Canteen Committee:
 - i. See attached report.
- d. Building Committee:
 - i. Current Work & Grounds Projects:

- Stage: We have been focusing work on the stage.
- ii.
 - Tank: Landscaping around the tank has started.
 - Grounds & Exterior: Progress is being made on the grounds. The canteen wood and stones projects are moving forward, and the cleanup along the fence line is now complete.
 - Main Building: We haven't done much work on the 20x20 building itself recently. Commander just acquired another truck and currently catching up on work, but once things settle down, we will resume progress on the building itself.

Bar Area Updates:

- The SAL is currently looking into pricing for carpet in the bar area.
- Because of the potential carpet installation, Commander has held off on installing the trim around the front of the bar (where the linoleum flooring was put in) so we don't have to tear it back out later. We are waiting to see what pricing details come back before proceeding.

- e. Americanism:
 - i. Nothing to report.

- f. Legislative:
i. Nothing to report

- g. Security:
i. Nothing to report

- i. Motion made by Chris Berlin and seconded by Lynn Valentine to accept committee reports. Motion carried.

e. Sick call, relief and employment:

a. Following sick call:

None	

- b. Number of Veterans referred to LVER or DVOP:
c. Number of Veterans placed in employment:
d. Number of Veterans placed in job training program:

f. Post service officer's report

- a. No. of cases handled by Post Service Officer: 2
b. No. of Volunteer hours recorded at VA Hosp: 0
c. Contributions to VA Voluntary Service Program:
d. Emergency aid given to vets from Post funds: 0.00

g. Unfinished business

- i. Stage mostly complete.

h. New business and correspondence

1. Donation Received:

- We received a \$40 donation check from Meridian Senior High School.
- The donation is earmarked specifically for the Toys for Kids program and was made in memory of Larry Ferrison.

2. Army-Navy Game Membership Contest:

- Overview: National is running a membership incentive called "Ignite the Rivalry by Cheering on Your Team" centered around the Army-Navy game.
- Prizes: A total of 16 tickets are available (8 winners will receive 2 tickets each).
- Top Recruiters: The top three individual recruiters—or top posts based on accumulated new members—between July 1st and November 11th will each receive 2 tickets.
- Qualifications: A minimum of 10 new members recruited is required to qualify. SAL members do not count toward this incentive.
- Top Departments: The top department in each of the five regions

based on the November target date will also earn 2 tickets.

- Submission Details:

- Submissions require a certification form accompanied by a list of new members (including full name, ID, and Department/Post).

- The submission deadline for the State of Michigan is November 13th so entries can be rolled up to the national level.

- Winners will be announced on November 16th.

3. Nomination to endorse David Yahr for Department 1st Vice Commander. Adam Lyons made motion, Teal Saylor seconded, motion passed.

4. Every year, our organization presents a Paid Up For Life membership to an individual who goes above and beyond in their service and dedication.

This year, Commander is proud to announce that the recipient of the Paid Up For Life membership is Chris Berlin.

Chris is here every single Tuesday helping out (and keeping us all on our toes, especially when someone blocks the lawn mower). We truly appreciate everything he does for our post and community.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating Chris on this well-deserved recognition!

5. Absence & Event Lead: Commander will be attending grandson's boot camp graduation at Fort Benning this Friday. Dan Talbot has graciously volunteered to step in and handle things in my absence.
- Street Sign Dedication: At 6:00 PM, we will be dedicating the incoming drive as "Mark Authier Boulevard". Leadership approved this via vote, and the family was consulted and is very supportive.
 - Riders: The riders will go up to Coleman and return by 6:00 PM to join the ceremony.
 - Community Service Awards: We will be recognizing key organizations and the family with the Mark Authier Community Service Award for their outstanding support and contributions to our post and community programs. Recipients include:
 - The Authier Family
 - Jerome Township Fire Department
 - Sanford Strong
 - Corporate Supporters: Bierlein, McNally, Nimmer Good Crane, and Fisher Contracting.

6. **SAL**: Shed Raffle Tickets; Gun Raffle Tickets

7. **Legion Riders**: Nothing to report

j. Memorial to a departed post member.

Deceased

Sizemore, Gary L.	December 6, 1957 - August 30, 2026
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k. The good of The American Legion: Nothing to report

- a. Number of donated pints of blood: 0
- b. Number of blood donors: 0
- c. Number of annual community events Post participates in: 0
- d. Number of times Post was mentioned on radio: 0
- e. Number of times Post was mentioned on TV: 0
- f. Number of times Post was mentioned on cable access TV: 0
- g. Number of times Post was mentioned in newspaper stories: 0
- h. Number of times Post was mentioned in Letters to the Editor: 0
- i. Number of Children & Youth activities held: 0
- j. Cash aid given to benefit children: 0
- k. Value of goods given to children (estimate): 0
- l. Total number of children given aid (cash or goods): 0
- m. # of volunteer hours for C&Y programs and activities: 0

Meeting adjourned 19:39

David Yahr

David Yahr
Post Adjutant

Detail Receipts and Disbursements

Finance Report can be obtained at the post
by seeing the Adjutant or Finance Office

[illegible]

Post 443 August 2026 Financial Report

Detail Receipts and Disbursements

For the period of: August 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026 for the meeting of September 14, 2026

[illegible]

Membership Meeting
September 11, 2026

Present:

- Max Tucker (1st Vice Commander)
- David Yahr (Adjutant)
- Greg Chambers (SAL Adjutant)
- Jackie Pnacek (Auxiliary Membership)
- Mark Kloha (Commander representing Riders)

Absent:

- Teal Saylor (Chaplin)
- Tom Talbot (Service Officer)
- Dan Talbot (Sgt-At-Arms)
- Chris Berlin (2nd Vice Commander)

1. Meeting Roles: David volunteered to take meeting minutes.

2. Legion Status:

- Date September 11, 2026
- Goal 620
- PUFL 41
- New 11
- Total Traditional Renewals 259
- Post Trans In 2
- Total Members 313
- Percentage to Goal (08/10/2026) 50.48%
- To Goal 28
- 80 and above to verify 104

New members

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Sawyer, Jeremy J.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USA
Stone, Steven M.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USA
Weck, Thomas L.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USAF

Sick Call

None	

Deceased

Sizemore, Gary L.	December 6, 1957 - August 30, 2026
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3. Event Details:

- The annual Membership Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for next month.
- Catering:
 - The group agreed to cater the event again this year so members can enjoy the dinner as an appreciation event rather than working in the kitchen.
 - Olive Garden is being considered again given last year's successful turnout (around 100+ meals, total cost approximately \$1,890). Further coordination with Olive Garden will be handled to set this up, though other options like food trucks were briefly discussed.
- Cost Sharing & Funding:
 - Last year, the Legion covered the entire expense.
 - It was agreed that the overall cost will be divided equally among the three main entities with membership accounts.
 - Legion Riders will not be charged separately, as riders are already members of one of the main entities and charging them would result in double-charging.
- Event Scope & RSVP:
 - There was a proposal to expand the dinner into a family-themed event with activities for children.
 - A flyer and RSVP reservation process will be required in advance to ensure an accurate head count for catering.
 - Event Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
 - Food: The dinner will be catered.
- Activities & Highlights:
 - Family-friendly setup, including coloring pages for kids in the backyard area.
 - Membership drawings for 2028.
 - Table manned to check current membership rosters and manage drawing entry buckets.

4. Member of the Year award:

- Commander will be meeting with Bud to pull the voting buckets (located on the second shelf in the bingo closet) and tally the tickets by.
 - Awards & Certificates: Each entity winner will receive a certificate and a free brunch certificate (donated by SAL). I am working on getting the certificate templates off the thumb drive so we can type in the names and print them out.
 - Event & Logistics: Winners will be recognized at the upcoming dinner. We are also looking into potential post-dinner music/entertainment and finalizing the details for food preparation.
 - Each entity (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Riders) will participate in honoring a Member of the Year. Entities are contributing towards gifts/awards for the four total winners (e.g., SAL contributing a brunch; Riders providing four

tickets/bucks). Further specific details for the Legion and Auxiliary contributions will be finalized by Monday.

5. Social Media & Communication Controls

- Posting Process: To streamline post communications and ensure accuracy, all social media postings will now be routed through designated points of contact for each entity. Points of contact for entities will be finalized soon.

- Updates: Recent technical adjustments fixed our Facebook page location parameters (now correctly set to Sanford, Michigan), resulting in a significant increase in local reach and engagement. Calendars and flyers will continue to be updated across our platforms.

5. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- Friday, September 25th at 6:00 PM
- Friday, October 9th at 6:00 PM (Help will be needed to set up auction items and tables)

Respectfully submitted,

David Yahr
Post Adjutant