

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

August 10, 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.		

b. Reading of minutes of previous meeting

- a. Minutes from previous meeting presented. Motion made by Joe Vaughn seconded by Chris Berlin.

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

New members

NAME	FROM	ERA	BRANCH
Brandt, Cyrus S.	Trf 0076	LEBANON_GRENADA	USMC
Erskine, Kevin L.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USN
French, Thomas L.	New	PERSIAN_GULF	USMC
Kowalczyk, Kevin A.	Trf 147	GW_TERRORISM	USN
Murphy, James E.	New	VIETNAM	USMC
Neild, Brandon D.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USA

d. Committee reports

Commander discussed committees.

- Membership & Recruitment: Our primary focus must be twofold: retaining our current members and actively welcoming younger veterans and their families. To support this, we are organizing community-oriented, family-friendly events—such as live music performance this Saturday and family movie nights in the backyard—to create an engaging environment where younger service members feel welcome and connected.

We are open to all ideas on how to better serve and attract younger members and their families. Please feel free to share any suggestions or feedback you may have.

- Honor Guard: We recently assisted with multiple funerals and are actively seeking additional volunteers to join the Honor Guard.

- Ceremonials & Membership Subcommittee: We need to improve how we welcome and initiate new members. Moving forward, we should make a point to meet new members at the door, properly greet them, and send them a welcoming packet detailing upcoming meeting dates so no one feels lost or left out.

- Graves Registration & Memorial Committee / Honor Guard: We are actively seeking new volunteers for the Honor Guard. Notice for funerals often comes on short notice, and we need to build up our roster with additional members to share the load and support our existing team. Please let me know if you are interested in joining.

- VAVS & Homebound Visits: David is continuing to do a great job checking in on our homebound and nursing home members. We will keep prioritizing these regular buddy checks to ensure our members are taken care of.

- Americanism Committee & Memorial Award

We are planning an upcoming dinner to discuss the work of our Americanism Committee, which focuses on patriotism and citizenship within our community. As part of this event, we will be honoring the memory of Mark Authier, who was deeply involved in our community and instrumental in the early work for Sanford. We are establishing an award in his name to recognize local community organizations doing great work for youth and patriotic causes.

- Legislative Updates & Veteran Benefits

There are currently two conflicting bills being considered that organizations like the American Legion and VFW strongly oppose. A proposal aims to combine them, which includes provisions to reduce disability ratings for conditions like tinnitus and sleep apnea to fund other changes—specifically related to concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability benefits. Veterans groups are actively fighting this to ensure veterans receive the full benefits they have earned without reductions.

- Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Availability

Our Veteran Service Officer is available on-site to assist with disability claims and inquiries. Her normal hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, though please note she may have limited availability over the next two weeks. Please reach out to schedule an appointment if you need assistance.

Meeting Schedules & Committee Structure

- Building Committee: Proposed meeting time is set for the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

- Committee Rosters: We are actively seeking additional volunteers for all committees.

- Proposed Resolution on Overlapping Membership: To address scheduling conflicts for members serving on multiple committees, I will draft a resolution introducing a "Primary/Alternate" structure. This will allow two representatives per committee to split duties while retaining one official vote per meeting. I will send this resolution over for review prior to next month's meeting.

If you are interested in joining a committee, volunteering for the Honor Guard, or have any ideas to support post growth, please let us know.

- a. Membership:

- i. Report Attached.

ii. .

b. Finance:

i. Finance report presented (see attached).

ii. Repairs needed:

1. Roof
2. Parking lot

c. Canteen Committee:

i. See attached report.

We are currently looking to fill three key part-time support/backup positions to ensure operational redundancy:

- Backup Cook: To cover food specials when the primary cook is unavailable.
- Backup Bartender: To assist during peak hours, events, or sick calls.
- Backup Custodial: To assist with ongoing maintenance.

Yard Signs & Visibility

To improve visibility beyond our digital sign, we ordered small, temporary road signs (similar to real estate signs) to highlight open hiring positions and "Open to the Public" events for passing traffic.

d. Building Committee:

i. .

e. Americanism:

i. See attached report.

f. Legislative:

i. Nothing to report

g. Security:

i. Nothing to report

i. Motion made by Chris Berlin and seconded by Fred Graugugh 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. Update on the progress of the display area out front and outline the next steps and long-term vision for the project.

Current Progress & Immediate Next Steps:

- Tank Setup: The tank is now in place out front. The posts have been set, aligned precise to an eighth of an inch using a laser level, and are ready for one final coat of paint.
- Groundwork: Next, installing landscape timbers at the base. Between the timbers and the cement, lay down a weed barrier and top it with matching gravel to seamlessly reflect the stone along the main building.
- Signage & Safety: To meet display requirements and address liability, working on informative signage details (tank model, service era, history, and photo). We will also add clear liability signage (e.g., "Do not cross barrier or climb on tank") to complement the safety chain.

Future Enhancements & Vision:

- Lighting & Flagpoles: Looking into running underground conduit and installing lights. Eventually, would like to set up flagpoles in a semi-circle behind the tank.
- Access & Benches: Long term, vision includes adding a packed gravel driveway (eventually paved) so visitors can pull up safely, along with memorial benches to provide a quiet, reflective space for visitors.

h. New business and correspondence

1. County Fair Volunteers: The fair is scheduled for August 16–22. Our booth has been secured, and the parking passes purchased. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon for those interested in volunteering.
2. Thank-you card: We recently received a lovely thank-you card in the mail along with a \$40 check for our post.

The note mentioned that a while back, a couple of our members helped someone out when they were experiencing car trouble. The person shared that they were quite frazzled at the time and deeply appreciated the kindness shown to them.

While they unfortunately didn't get the names of the members involved, they sent this enclosed donation in their honor.

3. Dow Library Lab: We are excited to announce an upcoming Veteran's Day event at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Lab, scheduled for October

24th.

The library lab features a wide variety of hands-on equipment—including 3D printers, laser engravers, and digital design tools—that allows you to create custom items like t-shirts, hoodies, cups, dog tags, and signs. Using the equipment is free with a Midland County library card (non-residents can purchase an annual membership). You just need to bring your own blank items, such as t-shirts or sweatshirts, to customize.

We are planning two 4-hour sessions: one for the Ladies Auxiliary and one for Post members. Volunteers at the lab will provide hands-on instruction to guide everyone through their projects. This is a great opportunity to learn new tools, express your creativity, and spend a day engaging with fellow members.

We encourage as many of you to participate as possible. A sign-up sheet will be available soon, so please let us know if you are interested.

4. Sponsorship for Service Officer Training: Following up on the item tabled from last week, the Department of Michigan is seeking sponsorships for Service Officer (VSO/PSO) training and funding.

The available sponsorship tiers are:

- Bronze Scholarship (\$500): Includes recognition on event signage, verbal acknowledgment as a sponsor, and sponsors one VSO/PSO participant.
- Silver Scholarship (\$1,000): Includes all Bronze-level benefits, recognition in digital media promotions, and sponsors two VSO/PSO participants.
- Gold Scholarship (\$1,500): Includes all Silver-level benefits plus optimal visibility and opportunities to meet participants.

I would like to entertain a motion regarding whether we will donate to sponsor a Bronze (\$500), Silver (\$1,000), or Gold (\$1,500) scholarship. Dennis (SAL Commander) stated the SAL will donate the \$500.

5. Blood Drive: Blood drive was set up for the post on
6. Teddy Bear Run Donation: A motion was made by Chris Berlin, seconded by Adam Lyons, and passed to approve a \$500 donation to the Legion Riders for the Teddy Bear Run. (Note: The SAL has also contributed \$500 toward this cause).
7. Scrap Metal Drive Fundraiser: We discussed holding a scrap metal drop-off event at the post as a fundraising initiative. Members and the community will be invited to drop off unwanted scrap metal in the back area. Once a finalized date for the scrap metal collection is set it will be advertised it to our members.

8. Calendars to hand out at bar Printed Calendars & Handouts
We are looking into creating a consolidated, double-sided calendar printout to keep at the bar and on tables. This single-sheet resource will combine all relevant information in one place—including weekly meetings, canteen food specials, upcoming monthly events, and game day schedules (Tigers, Lions, etc.). Having this available as a physical handout will make it easy for members and visitors to see everything happening at the Post at a glance.

Website & Social Media Sharing

This unified calendar will also be posted on our website and shared on our official Facebook page. I encourage everyone to share these social media posts on their personal pages and to local community groups. Re-sharing our posts helps significantly expand our reach across the community.

Communication & Updates

To make sure our online and printed calendars stay accurate, we are streamlining how event details are submitted. We are establishing a standardized form for all entities and event organizers to use so that all necessary details are passed along promptly for updates.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to assist with managing and updating our promotions and graphics using user-friendly tools like Canva. Having additional team members trained to assist with these updates will ensure our information stays current and consistent.

9. Trees: Tom McGloughphlin cleaned up trees that were taken down. Motion was made to donate \$125.00 for fuel by Adam Lyons and Seconded by Lynn Valentine. Motion passed.

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

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

j. Memorial to a departed post member.

Deceased

k. The good of The American Legion: Nothing to report

- a. Number of donated pints of blood: 2
- b. Number of blood donors: 2
- 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 20:03

David Yahr

David Yahr
Post Adjutant

THOMAS – DANIELS – HAND
POST 443
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

DATE: July 2026

Date.....	July 13, 2026
Goal.....	620
PUFL.....	41
New.....	4
Total Traditional Renewals.....	215
Post Trans In.....	0
Total Members.....	260
Percentage to Goal (08/10/2026).....	.41.94%
To Goal.....	360
80 and above to verify.....	119

Finance Report can be obtained from the Finance Officer

Financial Reports will not be available on this report
online

Debits:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Submitted,

David Yahr

David Yahr, Membership Chairman

New members

NAME	FROM	ERA	BRANCH
Brandt, Cyrus S.	Trf 0076	LEBANON GRENADA	USMC
Erskine, Kevin L.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USN
French, Thomas L.	New	PERSIAN_GULF	USMC
Kowalczyk, Kevin A.	Trf 147	GW_TERRORISM	USN
Murphy, James E.	New	VIETNAM	USMC
Neild, Brandon D.	New	GW_TERRORISM	USA

Sick Call

Deceased

Gary Lee Case	September 25, 1941 - February 28, 2026
John Michael Kahl	December 19, 1934 - June 5, 2026
Paula Pitt	February 3, 1954 – June 21, 2026
Richard Ray Smith	March 17, 1944 — July 12, 2026
William David Alderson Jr.	November 12, 1945 - July 15, 2026
Theodore W. Hummel	September 7, 1934 - July 16, 2026

Canteen Committee Meeting Minutes 7-27-2026

Back up Cook positions to be filled. Wednesdays as needed 4-8pm

Backup Bartender position to be filled to cover vacations and events.

Adam Lyon to update Postings for all events

Custodians position for a backup person, 2 Vets are suppose to call David Yahr back.

Canteen Financials were covered By Freda Smith

New Business:

New position for Bar Manager Posted for assistance. /Co Manager

Evaluation process for Employees.

New employees will be asked to job shadow for 3 days before actual start date on the job, to make sure they can handle the position.

New Welcome Signage to be posted at the road for Open to the Public.

New signage also posted at the road for Hiring All positions inquire within.

HOUSE AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

7/1/26

Present: Tony VanWert, Bud Tucker, Gina Grassmick, Brenda Murray, Dennis Murray, Tom Talbot, Freda Smith, Chris Berlin Meeting minutes from 5/6/26

Meat Cards 6/20 – 21 people, \$30 donated in prizes. 377 from players. Next meat card is 7/15 – Bud volunteered to deal. We will need more prizes for July.

Dolphin Coin – No report

List of 2026 events was provided.

Auction – Barn clean out was set for August 1st with tentative auction date of 9/12 or 10/10. Kris Carr to check with Trudy to be auctioneer, Freda to check with Mark Kloha re: special license.

Buck Pole – Discussion held that we had most of the supplies to build a buck pole, will need scoring system and prizes. Discussed having pre registration and will need fliers. Tom T to contact DNR. Youth hunt is 9/12-13 and Regular season 11/15-30. Potential date for prizes – 11/18.

New Business: NA

Meeting concluded at 6:45 pm

Next meeting : 8/5/26 at 6 pm