

American Legion Post 477
St Nazianz Village Hall
24 March 2026 – Minutes

Call to Order at 6:30

- Face the flag - Hand Salute
- Uncover- Chaplain prayer
- POW/MIA
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Preamble

Introduction of Guests: Nicole and HB Wooton, Deb and Maddy (Rodeo Princess)

Presentation of Check – Nicole explained that in 2026, she decided to support one non-profit each month with the creation of a professional video followed up with a cash donation based on the number of likes and shares the video received on Facebook. Donation given to the Commander.

Presentation by Maddy – Maddy made a presentation on her 2025 activities and shared that she'll be running for Teen Rodeo Princess in 2026.

Motion by Bernie and 2d by Mike to sponsor Maddy with \$250. Vote. Passed.

Roll Call – Commander (P), 1st Vice Commander (P), 2d Vice Commander (P), Adjutant (P), Treasurer (P), Chaplain (P), Sergeant at Arms (P), Service Officer (P) plus additional 18 members. Quorum (7) met. ALA Rep – Tim SAL Rep - Kenny

Introduction of new members or first meeting members: Jeff E & Rich W

Approval of minutes from September 2025 meeting: Motion by Gary & 2d Dean. Vote. Passed.

Post Reports

- **Treasurer**
 - Provided copies of proposed budget.
 - Bernie & Chuck conducted annual audit – minor discrepancies noted and repaired

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○ **Adjutant**

- Membership – currently at 160 members for 2026 membership year. One non-renewal (Schreve), 13 new members, two post-to-post transfers, one 2930 transfer.
- Public Relations – Radio ads, Stories of Service podcast, newspaper stories. Continue to tell our story.

○ **Service Officers**

- Continue to assist with VA claims – local success stories with appeals
- Able to assist in setting up for Comp & Pen appointments
- Arranging rides to take Veterans to their appointments

○ **SAL**

- Flights for a Flight Dart Tourney – raised about \$1400
- Tractor Days – the SAL will manage Friday night
- Emphasis on sale of Celebration of Freedom raffle tickets

○ **ALA**

- St Patrick's Day raffle & bake sale was successful
- Voted to donate toward the secondary pole at the Meeme Liberty Pole site

Commander's Report

- Post 477 will host Be The One & Veteran suicide awareness training – signup sheet passed around – April date TBD
- Finalized the Americanism Banquet roster – 21 members & guests attending
- Read Across America at Cleveland Elementary School – in conjunction with America250. Read books about US & military history. All students were given America250 hand-held flags. Books donated to the school library.
- Worked with Nicole and Cam on the Post video. Great opportunity. Very nice promo.
- Thank you for your support!

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Old Business

- Post 477 Coin – coins are \$5 each from Gary B.
- Buddy Checks – it's crucial that we reach out to Veterans in the community. As a post, averaging 250 a month. Continue the great work.

- Veteran Street Banners
 - Unprecedented 50 Veteran banners for Memorial Day – all spots full
 - Have space for Veterans Day
 - Purchased/purchasing – 20 sets of brackets
 - Need approval from WPS to place on the utility poles
 - All requests are due on the 1st of April

New Business

- Old Glory Honor Flight – April 7th Mission 79 – Veterans David and Darwin, Tom K. and Randy T are flying. Dan (SAL) and Nancy flying as Guardians. Anticipate welcome home at 9:15 into ATW.
- Celebration of Freedom - Meeme Liberty Pole – currently running raffle to help pay for the secondary flag pole at the Liberty Pole site (\$12500 if all tickets are sold). Drawing is at noon on the 4th of July. Celebration of Freedom on the 4th of July begins at the Liberty Pole at 10, followed by a social at Shadows.
- Youth Government Day – 21 April – let the Commander know if interested in participating. Business casual. Report to Manitowoc Eagles by 7:30.
- St Nazianz Rummage Sales - 23-25 April – setup outside the Family Pantry gas station selling Celebration of Freedom raffle tickets. Will require volunteers.
District Spring Conference – 26 April at the Neighborhood Bar & Grill – authorized four delegates. Will finalize the list and name the delegates at PEC meeting.
- TUFT – 13 & 14 May @ Autumn Ridge. Currently have 216 golfers. Shortcomings at this point are raffle baskets, hole prizes and volunteers.

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- Manitowoc County Fair Update – Manitowoc County American Legion was not awarded the food trailer partnership with the Ant Hill Mob. Anticipate having both the information booth and the Veterans Oasis.

- Nominations for April Elections
 - Commander – Kevin Nett
 - 1st Vice – Jeff Bronson
 - 2d Vice – Gary Bonnett
 - Finance Officer – Chris Bestul
 - Chaplain – Tim Wippermann
 - Sergeant at Arms – Robin Culbertson
 - Motion by Chuck, second by Gary to accept and close nominations until the April 23d Post meeting.
 - Appointed – Adjutant, Historian and Service Officers

Dates to Remember

- 28 March – Americanism Banquet – LaSure’s Oshkosh
- 1 April – CPR due – DONE - YAY!!
- 6 April – Manitowoc County Council Meeting hosted by Post 477
- 21 April – Manitowoc County Youth Government Day
- 4 May – Manitowoc County Council Meeting hosted by Post 199
- 13 & 14 May – TUFT Golf Outing
- 25 May - Memorial Day Activities
- 17 June – Factory & Farm Feed
- 19 & 20 June – Tractor Days – Shadows
- 4 July – Celebration of Freedom – Meeme Liberty Pole & Shadows
- 17 & 18 July – Department Convention – Appleton
- 19 July – Christmas in July - Shadows
- 2 August – Cleveland Dairyland Parade
- 26-30 August – Manitowoc County Fair
- 27 August – 3 September – TAL Convention - Louisville
- 12 September – Meats Fest Parade

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For the good of the Order

- Commander Nett presented recognized the Post's 2025 Legionnaire of the Year, Gary B.
- Post 477 Scholarship – updated – opened to all students to include Veterans continuing their education - copies emailed to Kiel HS, Valders HS, and Lakeshore College and to all Post 477 members
- The Sheriff's Department does an annual 'in house' fundraiser and chose the Manitowoc County American Legion as this year's recipient. Will talk about use of funds during the April 6th MCC meeting.
- Mike K was approached by the High Ground to potentially host a Veteran retreat at his lake property. May ask Post 477 for assistance. Will know more in the next month or two.

Motion by Gary & 2d by Chuck to Adjourn

Closing prayer

Face the flag - Hand Salute

Meeting convened at 7:48 p.m.