American Legion Post 477
General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2026 6:30 p.m. St Nazianz Village Hall
(Final)

Opening Ceremonies

Call to Order at 6:30 pm
Face the Flag – Hand Salute
Uncover – Chaplain Prayer
POW/MIA Ceremony
Pledge of Allegiance
Preamble to the American Legion

Roll Call & Establish Quorum
(Minimum of 7 Members Required for Quorum)

Role	Present (Y/N)
Commander	Y
First Vice Commander	Y
Second Vice Commander	Y
Adjutant	Y
Finance Officer / Treasurer	Y
Chaplain	Y
Service Officer 1	Y
Service Officer 2	Excused
Sergeant-at-Arms	Y
# of Additional Post Members	15
Quorum (minimum of 7) Met?	Y

Representatives Present:

- Auxiliary Representative (ALA) – Tim & Carol
- Sons Representative (SAL) - Ken
- Riders Representative (ALR) – Excused (Input provided)

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Introductions of Guests and New Members

- Carol (wife of Gordon) – 50-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary and 6th District ALA PR Chair.
- Member Gloria Reis – joined the Women's Army Corps in 1965; served at Fort McClellan, Fort Sam Houston and Fort Bragg.
- Member John Reis – retired military – mentioned flying with Old Glory Honor Flight

Motion & 2d to accept September Post meeting minutes. Passed.

Reports

- **Adjutant Report**
  - Veterans Coffee – about a dozen Veterans attended the October coffee - consensus was to continue the coffees - Nov 6 – Village Bakery in Valders – 8:30
  - Howard Havlichek from Post 165 – 85th Anniversary Mission to Pearl Harbor – will let everyone know about the welcome home. Cards passed around for signature. Dates of mission December 3 and returns December 10; will be at Pearl Harbor on December 7. One of seven Wisconsinites on the trip; his granddaughter from Door County will go as his guardian. Welcome home may be small rather than a large event at Appleton.
  - December newsletter input requested no later than noon on Monday November 30th – 200 words or less

- **Public Relations**
  - Stories of Service Podcast – partnership between WOMT and Post 477 - prerecorded – airs on WCUB 7:45 Fridays and 9:45 on WOMT Saturdays – contact Nancy if you'd like to share your story – takes 10-12 minutes – podcast and radio spots are 5-6 minutes. Guests are not limited to Honor Flight veterans (recent interviews include two Freedom to Liberty Veterans and the founder of Manitowoc County Veterans).
  - Legion Magazine – new look beginning February 2027 – saves $2 million annually
  - Diesel Media – Invited to come to Wisconsin in June 2027 – hope to include a stop at Tractor Days, the Meeme Liberty Pole, and potentially Veteran owned working farms in the area. Will also do short testimonials regarding "why I joined the Legion,' and 'why I belong to the Legion.' Seeking veterans who still actively work their farms for interviews; contact Nancy. Nancy is involved through the National Marketing Committee.

- **Membership Report**
  - 2027 Membership Year Status: 169 members (105%)
  - Renewals: 8 non-renewals remaining (90.5% renewal rate)
  - Recruit new members. Eligibility
    - One day of active duty (basic training counts) & Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions Discharge or currently serving
    - Dues for Veterans are $38 All military members (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve) are paid by the post

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- **Finance Officer Report**
  - Checking account: approximately $6,900 (reconciled).
  - Meeme Liberty Pole account approximately $4,400.
  - Two CDs – one restricted, one comes due in February.
  - Tee It Up Fore Troops Golf outing has a separate account

- **Service Officers Report**
  - Assisting veterans with community care, financial needs, VA navigation, and help with the VA app and online tools.
  - The Post PEC voted to donate $200 to a Veteran and single father to offset financial hardship; Service Officers continue to work with him on additional help.
  - Donated to another veteran facing major surgery (out four to six months). VA is supposed to cover the surgery but Aurora billed him; Service Officer is working through the billing issue.

- **Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Report**
  - Membership is growing slowly; no new members in the last month and a few renewals still outstanding.
  - Held flag raising/lowering training last Sunday for the new flagpole. Seeking a few additional people so one person is not solely responsible.
  - Looking into EpiPen training, possibly open to the community; no cost, donations welcome. More information to come.

- **American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Report**
  - Thanked everyone who helped with Trunk or Treat.
  - Christmas at Camp Sinawa December 5–6 (Camp's biggest fundraiser); theme is the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Seeking memorabilia and souvenirs. Set-up December 1–4; teardown Monday December 7. Planning meeting November 18 at 10 am at the community center to organize memorabilia and artifacts.
  - Carol and Lindsay attended the District Conference last Saturday and met new Department President Amy Luff.
  - Two Veterans Day baskets going out in a couple of weeks.
  - Renewals ongoing.

- **American Legion Riders (ALR) Report**
  - Next meeting November 14 at 11 am in Fond Du Lac.
  - Convention voted to create a Junior Riders program; rules and regulations still being developed.
  - November 25 – American Legion Riders will participate in the Manitowoc Christmas parade.

- **Commander's Report**
  - Thanked everyone for their help this year, including at the Meeme Liberty Pole. SAL requests additional Legion members to serve as reserves for flag duty; contact the Commander.

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- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Manitowoc – support for suicide awareness and mental health. Seeking veterans, family members or others affected by mental illness for training, then peer support groups for veterans. Commander volunteered as first participant; will email information to members and other county posts.

Old Business

- **Camp Sinawa Trunk or Treat Update**
  - Very good turnout with six Legion family vehicles plus Jeeps; candy ran out within 30 minutes and more was brought in.
  - Toured the renovated boathouse that the Post donated toward; Camp offered the Post use of it for a meeting or event in the future.
  - Motion & 2d to renew the Post's associate membership with Camp Sinawa (annual, due in December, $100) – passed.

- **District Fall Meeting**
  - Sunday 25 October 2026 at Fond du lac Post 75
  - Attendees Bernie, Chuck, Chris, Gordon, Kevin, Nancy, Robin
  - If interested, contact Kevin
  - Registration 8 am, meeting 9 am. Carpool leaves 7:15 am from the St Nazianz Village Hall
  - Late registration is $25; the Post will reimburse $20.

- **Buddy Checks Update**
  - Each member will be contacted quarterly instead of monthly. Monthly buddy check reports are still required (each month, contact at least one-third of the list so every member is reached at least once per quarter minimally. More often is fine.

- **Old Glory Honor Flight Mission 84 – Welcome Home Celebration**
  - October 27, 2026 8 pm @ Appleton International Airport (ATW)
  - Chuck, Kevin, Gordon & Pete will attend. Kevin will also contact Melvin who may also be interested. Carpooling. Wear the orange polo and Legion cap; bring the Welcome Home signs.
  - Post member Ken Knauf on the flight. Total of 18 Manitowoc County veterans.

- **Ruck March November 7 Plymouth**
  - As of 22 October, 17 walkers (up from 15), one runner, Al will be on his scooter
  - Post 477 "Family" Be the One hoodies distributed. We have very few extras, but will handout what we have.
  - All participants must sign the waiver at registration which opens at 7. Do NOT pay registration fee.
  - Join us at the start 8 am – this is about bringing awareness to Veteran Suicide and camaraderie. The actual distance you walk doesn't matter.
  - Held at the Snow Rangers clubhouse off the Old Plank Trail, Plymouth. Registration at 7 am, program at 8 am; out-and-back course – walk any distance.
  - Wear a Legion/Sons ballcap rather than the Legion hat.

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- **Veterans Day Programs – Support/Participation**
  - 10 November - Manitowoc Lutheran Breakfast 8:30 – Nancy, Chuck and Mike Hartman signed up; plan to leave by 9:30 for Valders ES program; attire at members' discretion. Gordon and Carol will sign up, Jeff possibly.
  - 10 November - Valders Elementary School Program 10:15 – Walk in with flags as a group; three-round volley and Taps (Valders High School student). Six members staying for lunch. Bring Post Flag. Attire: white shirt, gray vest, black slacks, cap, and dark jacket.
  - 11 November – Mishicot Elementary School – 9:30 – attend on your own; attire at members' discretion
  - 11 November – Kiel High School – 10:30 – guest speaker General Tim Zadeas; wear Legion attire with hat or business attire. Headcount for lunch 13 (Legion & SAL)
  - 11 November - Cleveland Elementary – 2 pm – 13-fold flag ceremony narrated by Nancy with student helpers (practice session beforehand); white shirt, gray vest
  - 12 November – St Mary's/St Michael's – 8:45 (after Mass) – flags only, no weapons. White shirt, black slacks, gray vest, Legion hat.
  - ***Please note these are start times, please arrive at least 15 minutes early***

- **Army-Navy Game Watch Party - Dec 12 – Shadows**
  - Doors open at 1:30 for the 2 pm game kickoff
  - Complimentary appetizers
  - Door prize opportunities for those in Army-Navy or Service specific gear
  - 50/50 raffles, raffles, 50 squares
  - Kids' Activities (bracelet making, card making, football toss challenge, trivia)
  - Army-Navy game apparel – available at Ranger Up!
  - Legion family event – kids welcome, bring family and friends.

- **Building/land Search Update**
  - Chuck is trying to reach Mike Wagner about available lots, has arranged to speak with the fire department about its parking lot, and is trying to reach Mary Floyd.

New Business

- **Christmas at Sinawa – 5 & 6 December**
  - Set-up December 1–4; event December 5–6. Theme: America 250. Members with military memorabilia from any war or place visited should contact the Auxiliary.

- **Veterans Shoot – Kiel Fish & Game** – Fish & Game near Kiel very excited about having a Veterans Shoot – April 2027 Saturday TBD – minimal cost at $7 per 25 birdie round. Invite Veterans and Military from the area.

Dates to Remember (Upcoming Events)

- **October 25:** District Fall Conference (Fond du Lac Post 75)
- **October 27:** OGHF Mission 84 – Welcome Home Celebration
- **November 6:** Veterans Coffee (Village Bakery, Valders)
- **November 7:** Boots on the Ground Ruck March (Plymouth)

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- **November 10:** Veterans Day – Manitowoc Lutheran Breakfast, Valders Elementary
- **November 11:** Veterans Day – Mass at St Greg's, Kiel HS, Cleveland Elementary
- **November 12:** Veterans Day – St. Mary's/St. Michael's
- **November 14:** Veterans Banquet (Seven Lakes Golf & Dining)
- **November 14:** ALR Meeting (Fond du lac Post 75 - 11 am)
- **November 18:** ALA Christmas at Sinawa Planning Meeting (10 am, community center)
- **November 21:** Elks Hoop Shoot (Manitowoc)
- **November 25:** Manitowoc Christmas Parade (ALR)
- **December 4:** Veterans Coffee (On A Whim Sweet Treats, Francis Creek)
- **December 5-6:** Christmas at Sinawa (Camp Sinawa)
- **December 12:** Army-Navy Game Watch Party (Shadows)
- **December 13:** Elks Breakfast with Santa (Manitowoc)
- **January 8:** Veterans Coffee (Marsh Inn, Collins)
- **January 22-23d:** Mid-Winter Conference (Madison West)
- **March 19:** Americanism Banquet (LaSure's Oshkosh)
- **March 20:** Department Oratorical
- **March 25:** Post & SAL Meetings (Village Hall)
- **April 20:** Youth Government Day (County Courthouse)

For the Good Of the Order

- **National & Department Fall Meeting Updates**
  - Emblem Sales – inventory systems normally updated 3-5 years, the Legion waited 20. Unknown # of orders lots during the switch over. Call Emblem Sales (T-FR) with order #, and method of payment (888) 453-4466. Currently working three shifts. Items in stock are being mailed 7-8 business days after order processed. Will be adding embroidery and nametags machines on site. Refund system is broken.
  - Veterans Day banners (30) going up Friday 23 October). WPS may replace poles from Highway C to Highway A, possibly in spring. Prior costs: $210 (fall 2025 for lift rental and fuel - paid by the Lions) and $340 (spring, paid by the Post). Have funds remaining from banner renewals to pay the fall costs (Post's checking account)
  - Elks Lodge of Manitowoc: Hoop Shoot November 21 (free throw contest, ages 8–13; registration 8–9, shooting 9–1) and Breakfast with Santa December 13 (Rapids Road).
  - Department Midwinter January 22 & 23. Excellent Training. The Post pays registration if submitted in advance.
- **Next County Meeting:** March 1, 2027 6 pm - hosted by Post 165–Manitowoc Rod & Gun
- **Next PEC:** December 9, 2026 – 5 pm at Shadows
- **Next Regular Post Meeting:** March 25, 2027

Closing Ceremonies

- **Motion to Adjourn**
- **Closing Prayer**
- **Face the Flag – Hand Salute**
- **Meeting Adjourned at 7:33**