

American Legion Post 211 – General Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order on August 6, 2025 at 1907 hrs.

Posting of the Colors

Opening Prayer led by the Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commander

In-unison reading of the Preamble. The meeting was declared open by the Commander.

Roll Call of Officers:

Present:

Commander – Mike Schrull

Adjutant and Finance Officer – Chuck Vandevender

1st Vice and Membership Chairman – Joe Rada

3rd Vice Chuck Williams

Chaplain – Gary Garner

Service Officer – Will Smith

Sargent at Arms – Tom Vinci

Trustee – Steve Mainger

Trustee – Jim Votruba

Excused:

2nd Vice – Mike Connole

Trustee – Ken Karpy

Commander advised that there was a quorum

Reading of the Minutes:

- Adjutant read the Minutes from the past meeting. No discussion or changes were noted. The Minutes were accepted without change.
- The Commander recognized Past Commander Len Lieber is in attendance at the meeting.

Financial Report:

- The Commander introduced Gabe Kemble as our Bookkeeper
- Gabe provided a Treasurer's Report which included financial balances and listed donations made by Post 211.
- Commander requested discussion, there was none, he declared the Financial Report accepted as read.

Sick Call:

- The Chaplain led a discussion of existing names and new names to be added to Sick Call.
- Comments from the Floor included corrections and updates for existing names on Sick Call.

Introduction of Guests and New Members:

- No Guests or New Members present.
- Commander Note: Membership cards will be required for attendance at the General Membership meetings going forward.

Communications:

- The Board voted to donate \$1000 to a former Bar Tender to support her recovery from a serious burn accident. She was in the Metro Burn Unit at the time of this writing.
- 1st Vice noted a donation of \$500 to the American Red Cross, \$1000 to the Kiwanis Club of Avon Lake, \$1000 to UH Elyria Hospital for their Veterans visiting Veterans program, and \$5000 each directly to the families of the three fallen Elyria Police officers.
- 1st Vice read the names of three persons requesting membership and two Provisionals based on timely receipt of their DD 214's. A Motion was made to accept the new members. Membership voted to accept.
- 2025 membership stands at 731. Membership ended the year at 99% of quota.
- Membership data for 2026 include 146 already paid on line, and 181 already paid through mail.
- 1st Vice noted Post 211's donations to Kids in Flight. He invited Post 211 members to participate in a fund-raising event at Top Golf on September 27. See the 1st Vice for details.
- The 1st Vice read a number of Thank You letters from organizations Post 211 donated to over the past couple of months.
- Commander read a letter from the American Legion 1919 Society. Based on Post 211's accumulated donations, the Post is now listed as a Gold Medal Donor. The Commander stated that this is a high honor.

Committee Reports:

Honor Guard Report:

- The Commander and the Executive Board has appointed Chuck Williams as 3rd Vice for Post 211.
- The Honor Guard participated in the Coast Guard's Birthday festivities in the Canteen.
- See Chuck Williams for details of upcoming Honor Guard events that Post 211 will participate in.

Scholarship Report:

- 3rd Vice reported 9 scholarships were awarded at \$4000 each. A 10th scholarship has been approved and will be awarded. The total of new scholarships is \$40,000.
- Discussion from the floor included communication avenues for scholarship applications. The 3rd Vice is considering changes to our community communications beyond Email for next year.

VSO Report:

- VSO stated the VA office is open for business between 0830 and 1600 daily. Anybody with questions should contact him for assistance.
- The VA Office can help locate replacement DD-214's for older and deceased family members.

Legislative Report:

- No Legislative report

Buildings and Grounds Report:

- Trustee Votruba will call a plumber to address a ceiling pipe leak in the Ladies restroom.

- Estimates were received to clean and repair the building's gutter system. The Board voted to award the project to the low bidder.
- The Board voted to accept a contractor's bid for garbage and trash removal.

Old Business:

- Last month's old business report discussed Trivia winners receiving \$2.00 drink chips. The Commander noted at this August 6th membership meeting, that sometimes the chip recipient was asking for higher value drinks in exchange for their \$2.00 drink chip. The Commander discussed the issue at a recent Trivia Night event. The issue is resolved.

New Business:

- 1st Vice reported that last year a Veteran owned company power washed the Post 211 building as a donation to the Post, at no cost. That same Veteran owned company recently contacted the 1st Vice and offered to donate a power washing for the building, again at no cost. The 1st Vice agreed and will schedule the power washing in the near future. See the 1st Vice if you, or a Veteran you know, is in need of power washing services.
- The Adjutant reported the Canteen Manager is receiving quotes for weather curtains to possibly purchase and install on the north deck during the winter months.

Discussion for the Good of the Order:

- The Chaplain asked that anybody with excess jigsaw puzzles can give them to him. He will distribute them to a variety of Veteran organizations around the area. The Auxiliary may take the lead on a collection box?
- 1st Vice noted that a New Year's Eve Party is scheduled and is in the planning process.
- Trustee Votruba reminded about the Golf Outing on August 31st. Sign up in the Canteen.
- Auxiliary discussion regarding the October 25 Trunk or Treat event from 3:00-5:00pm, followed by the Pig Roast from 5:00-8:00, and live music from 8:00 on.
- Trustee Votruba and members of the Auxiliary discussed which fund the band is being paid out of. Trustee Votruba indicated the payment is coming out of an "entertainment fund" the Canteen Manager manages. The "entertainment fund" is financed through cash-based basket sales out of the Canteen. The Bookkeeper indicated he is not aware of an entertainment fund, and that cash-based funds should not be utilized as a source of payments. He further indicated band payments should come from the Canteen Account or the General Fund Account.
- The Commander and the Chaplain and their wives, and other Post members, will be traveling to Tampa Florida in support of the American Legion National Legacy Run.
- The contract between Post 211 and Big M is in process and close to being agreed on.
- The Auxiliary suggested a waiting period of three months for new and transfer members before they can participate in the Queen of Hearts drawing, if there is an on-going game at the time of joining Post 211. The 1st Vice indicated interest in the waiting period. The Executive Committee will discuss the issue at the next Board meeting.
- The Chaplain asked for prayers for his grandson, who is in process of being deployed.

Closing Prayer led by the Chaplain

Closing Ceremony – Retiring of the Colors by the Sargent of Arms

Meeting adjourned by the Commander at 1957 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by the Adjutant