

American Legion Post 211 – General Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order on January 7, 2026 at 1900 hrs.

Posting of the Colors by the Sargent at Arms

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commander

Opening Prayer led by the Chaplain

Moment of Silence for POWs and MIAs

In-unison reading of the Preamble. A quorum was present and 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

2nd Vice – Mike Connole

3rd Vice – Chuck Williams

Chaplain – Gary Garner

Service Officer – Will Smith

Trustee – Ken Karpy

Trustee – Jim Votruba

Sargent at Arms – Tom Vinci

Excused:

Trustee – Steve Mainger

Reading of the Minutes:

Adjutant read the Minutes from the past meeting. No discussion or changes were noted. The minutes were accepted without change.

Finance Officer Report:

Bookkeeper Gabriel Kemble provided the Treasurer’s Report.

The Post is currently financially solid.

The report included financial balances and listed donations made by Post 211.

The Commander requested further financial discussion, there was none. The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

Sick Call:

The Chaplain led a discussion of existing names on sick call, and listed new names to be added.

Introduction of Guests and New Members:

The Commander recognized guest, Brian Safran. Mr. Safran discussed “Flight of the Flags” and “Operation Guitar” Organizations. Mr. Safran was excused. Discussion regarding a donation will be addressed in an Executive Meeting.

Membership Report and Communications:

1st Vice noted that membership in Post 211 stands at 525. The membership target for 2026 is 732, we’re at approx. 72% of quota.

1st Vice read the names of six membership requests:

- Hector Castro, Navy, E8, Retired
- Mary Castro, Navy, E7, Retired
- Mike Satonick, Army, Honorable Discharge
- Paul Kolenz, Navy, Honorable Discharge
- Pete Evanko, Army, Honorable Discharge
- Mathew McDermott, Air Force, Honorable Discharge

All requests for membership were voted on and accepted into membership.

1st Vice read thank you notes received from organizations and individuals regarding Post 211 donations.

Committee Reports:

Honor Guard Report (Chuck Williams)

The Honor Guard participated in Wreaths Across America

Honor Guard participated in a Graveside Burial ceremony at Resthaven Cemetery

Reminder that Four Chaplains Day is coming up on February 3rd

Chuck Williams can provide details regarding upcoming events and transportation options.

Scholarship Committee Report (Chuck Williams)

3rd Vice reported that potential changes are being reviewed regarding the college scholarship program. One noted change is that a Post Member must be a member for at least one year before a requested scholarship will be considered.

Scholarship forms are located behind the bar in the Canteen. Bar staff can provide the forms.

Building and Grounds Report (Trustee Jim Votruba):

The Grant for Electric Doors has been approved at all necessary levels. The installation contractor was advised to move forward with purchasing the doors and related hardware for a 2026 installation.

Legislative Report (Trustee Ken Karpy):

Meals for Vets is operational with about 20 people signed up and on the program.

Senate Bill 92 – Senate discussions (property taxes for 100% disabled Vets) will restart in February, 2026

House Bill 22 – House discussions (authorized homestead exemptions) will restart in February, 2026

Service Officer’s Report (Will Smith):

The VA is open for business. See Will Smith for support and information.

Old and Unfinished Business:

No old business was discussed

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Discussion for the Good of the Order:

The Commander thanked Joe Rada and Ken Lieber for organizing the New Year's Eve Party. The Commander presented Joe Rada with an award "Legionnaire of the Year" at the Party. The entire Executive Board voted in favor of awarding the Honor to Joe due in part for all he does to support Post 211.

The Commander provided a brief discussion outlining rules and regulations for upcoming elections including nominations in February and March, elections in April, swearing in of Officers in May. The Commander indicated we will potentially have four open positions to fill. More information will be discussed at the March General Membership meeting.

A brief Four Chaplain's Ceremony will take place at the beginning of the next General Membership mtg.

Spin Oldies Night is scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month in the Canteen.

The Commander has heard stories that some Post 211 members are disrespecting our Bar Tenders. He stated that we should all Support and Respect our Canteen Staff. Spread the word because there are disciplinary procedures in place for disrespecting staff.

Earlier in the meeting and following the Reading of the Minutes, The Commander reiterated Flag protocol when Post 211 members attend functions at other Posts, including when to salute the American Flag and rules for breaking the imaginary Plane between Flags, after the Colors are posted. When leaving a meeting **prior** to the end of the meeting: Veterans will honor the Flag by stopping and saluting, all others (Auxiliary and Sons) should stop and observe the Flag prior to leaving the meeting.

American Legion Dues are due.

The Avon Lake Mayor's Office and our Commander discussed participation regarding Memorial Day activities. Post 211 committed to participating in the Parade. Military Jets will perform a "fly over".

The Commander noted that Post 211 donated to the "5th District" of which we are a part of. The donation provided sweat shirts and sweat pants for Veterans living at the Ohio Veterans Home. They were given out at Christmas.

No report from the Commander of the SON's was presented.

The President of the Auxiliary provided a reminder that "Night at the Races" is scheduled for February 7, 2026. See Fliers in the Canteen.

The Chaplain provided the Closing Prayer.

The Sargent at Arms retired the Colors.

The Meeting was Adjourned by the Commander at 1947 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by the Adjutant