

American Legion Post 211 – General Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order on February 4, 2026 at 1903 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

2nd Vice – Mike Connole

3rd Vice – Chuck Williams

Chaplain – Gary Garner

Service Officer – Will Smith

Trustee – Steve Mainger

Trustee – Jim Votruba

Excused:

1st Vice and Membership Chairman – Joe Rada

Trustee – Ken Karpy

Sargent at Arms – Tom Vinci

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.

Tax documents and filings are current.

Gabe and Chris Kulik are working on how to best separate the financial and physical connections between the Canteen and Holbury Hall. It won’t happen overnight. The good news is it’s being addressed.

The Commander requested further financial discussion, there was none. The Finance 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. The Chaplain requested contact information be included on the White Board located in the Canteen if any of us add names to it.

Introduction of Guests and New Members:

No guests were present at the meeting.

Membership Report and Communications:

Current membership stands at 623. The target for 2026 is 732. We're at 85% of quota.

The Commander received an Email from John Robinson, American Legion State Adjutant Department of Ohio. The Department Executive Committee passed a resolution proposing an increase in dues at the Department level. The resolution stated the Department has operated at a deficit since 2017. Over the past six years approximately \$300,000 - \$500,000 has been withdrawn annually from the unrestricted investment funds to cover operating expenses. The resolution proposes \$5.00 per capita dues increase.

Committee Reports:

Honor Guard Report (Chuck Williams)

Color Guard performed Grave Side/Mausoleum Services for Ralph Rocco at Holy Cross Cemetery. Ralph was 94 years old and a Korean War Veteran.

LCC requested Color Guard participation in the 250th Anniversary celebration.

Four Chaplains Day was celebrated at the beginning of the February 4 General Membership meeting.

Chuck Williams can provide details regarding upcoming Honor Guard events and transportation options. Chuck can also provide details regarding your interest in M1 Gerand rifle maintenance and Flag Folding.

Scholarship Committee Report (Chuck Williams)

Discussion regarding expanding scholarship requirements concerning non-members of Post 211. The Board decided to keep the scholarship program as is, internal to Post 211, without change. Scholarship forms are located behind the bar in the Canteen. Bar staff can provide the forms.

Building and Grounds Report (Trustee Jim Votruba):

A Health Department inspection was performed for the Post 211. The Kitchen was dinged for a couple of minor issues. The inspection was overall positive and passed.

The roof still leaks and temporary repairs are getting to the point where they don't work. A project to address the leaks is necessary in the near future.

The Annual alarm tests and inspections are coming due and will be performed shortly.

Controls for the new electric entrance doors have been installed and are being fine-tuned for proper operation.

The faulty freezer in the Banquet Hall was converted to a cooler. It is operational and in use. The Building Inspector reviewed and supported the conversion.

An Application for a Grant was issued to Lorain County to support expenses for a new garage/storage building to be built on Post 211 property.

Legislative Report (Trustee Ken Karpy):

Senate and House committees resumed in February.

Service Officer's Report (Will Smith):

The VA is open for business. The Service Officer indicated that rules and regulations have and continue to change. Veterans might get different responses from the VA today, by reapplying, if denials for benefits were made in the past. 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 received a letter from Len Lieber indicating his intent to run for Executive Commander for Post 211 for 2026.

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 next General Membership meeting.

No SAL report was presented.

The Auxiliary President asked the Commander if the Board would support paying for liquid refreshments at the February 7 Night at the Races. The Board voted in favor of supporting the request.

A Celebration of Life for Jim Bailey was held in Holbury Hall Saturday 2/7. Jim was a Rider and a member of Post 211. All were invited to attend.

The Riders are auctioning off a "Wheelbarrow Full of Booze" at the Riders Romp later this year. Proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children's Fund.

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