

American Legion Post 211 – General Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order on March 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

1st Vice and Membership Chairman – Joe Rada

2nd Vice – Mike Connole

3rd Vice – Chuck Williams

Chaplain – Gary Garner

Sargent at Arms – Tom Vinci

Trustee – Steve Mainger

Excused:

Service Officer – Will Smith

Trustee – Ken Karpy

Trustee – Jim Votruba

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 Gabe Kemble provided the Treasurer's Report.

The Post is currently cash positive and financially solid.

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

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.

Introduction of Guests and New Members:

Barb Smith led a discussion regarding "Project Drew".

March 8 - Veteran's Concert on March 8 at 1:30 in Barnegee Hall. See Commander for the address.

May 7 and 8 - The 12th Annual Holocaust Remembrance will be held at the Lorain Palace Theater.

Sign up for a free Veteran's quarterly magazine at website VeteransBreakfastClub.org.

Motion by the Chaplain to Suspend the Regular Order of Business to discuss upcoming Board elections and receive nominations from the Floor. The motion was seconded by the Adjutant, voted on and passed.

Nominations were opened for Board positions at the February General Membership Meeting. Based on American Legion Rules and Regulations, No nominations can be accepted after this meeting tonight.

Currently known Volunteer Veterans Running for Office

Commander – Len Lieber

1st Vice – Joe Rada

2nd Vice – Mike Connoles

3rd Vice –

Adjutant –

Chaplain –

Post Historian –

Finance Officer (Treasurer) – Chuck Williams

Service Officer – Will Smith

Trustee – Ken Karpy

Trustee – Steve Mainger

Trustee – Jim Votruba

Sargent at Arms –

Nominations from the Floor

Roger Schlott nominated for Commander – Roger is present and accepted the nomination

Tom Vinci self-nominated for 3rd Vice

Chuck Vandevender self-nominated for Sargent at Arms

Final List of Nominations for Board Positions

Commander – **Contested** – Len Lieber and Roger Schlott

1st Vice – Uncontested – Joe Rada

2nd Vice – Uncontested – Mike Connoles

3rd Vice – Uncontested – Tom Vinci

Adjutant –

Chaplain –

Post Historian –

Finance Officer (Treasurer) – Uncontested – Chuck Williams

Service Officer – Uncontested – Will Smith

Trustee – Uncontested – Ken Karpy

Trustee – Uncontested – Steve Mainger

Trustee – Uncontested – Jim Votruba

Sargent at Arms – Uncontested – Chuck Vandevender

The Only contested position is for Commander.

Elections will take place on April 1, 2026 from 1400 hrs. (2:00PM) to 1900 hrs. (7:00PM) in the Main Hall at this Post. Only paid Veteran members are allowed to vote. Bring your 2026 membership card or a legal form of picture ID, such as a driver's license. Your name will be checked against a list of paid Veteran members.

The Check-In table will be staffed and operated by Volunteer Veterans Scarlet Fleck and Ed Soto.

The Commander asked for any questions or clarifications. Specifically, from the two Veterans running for the Commander position. Both candidates said they had no questions. There were no questions from the Floor.

The Commander stated that ballot counting will take place immediately after voting has ended at 1900. The New Commander will be announced as soon as ballots are counted.

Election ballots will be secured and retained for two months, after which, if no questions or concerns have been made known to the Board, the ballots will be destroyed.

Trustee Mainger made a motion to Return to the Regular Order of Business, seconded by the Chaplain, voted on and passed.

Membership Report and Communications:

Seven New Member Applications were received:

1. James Forshey – Army
2. Nick Demos – Marines
3. David Duirbin – Army
4. Earl Jungerman – Army
5. Frank Ogle – Navy
6. Richard Davis – Army
7. Thomas Sawyer – Air Force

Motion by the 1st Vice to accept all applicants into membership, and seconded by the Chaplain. All were voted into membership.

Current membership stands at 642. The 2026 target is 732. We're at 88% of quota.

Motion from the Floor to accept the new members as read, seconded by Trustee Mainger, no discussion followed, the motion was voted on and passed.

Committee Reports:

Honor Guard Report (Chuck Williams)

Honor Guard will be at LCC this Saturday to support their 250th Anniversary celebration.

April 14 – Color Guard at Avon Lake High School fund raiser for their sports programs.

May 9 – Honor Guard at Avon Lake High School Veteran Appreciation Day

May 23 – Need volunteers at ALHS Bus Garage to decorate the Memorial Day Float

May 23 – Need volunteers to help place flags on the graves of Veterans

May 25 – Memorial Day Parade and Honor Guard

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)

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

Building and Grounds Report (Trustee Jim Votruba):

The Commander received a check for the Grant we applied for, for new electronic entrance doors.

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):

The Senate Bill and the House Bill that Ken Karpy reported on have stalled in committee.

Service Officer's Report (Will Smith):

No report.

Old and Unfinished Business:

No old business was discussed

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Discussion for the Good of the Order:

From the Floor, Roger Schlott asked if a picture of the people listed on the Sick Call White Board can be displayed. The Commander suggested if you know people listed, ask them if they'd be willing to allow their picture to be posted, and if yes, get a pic and post it.

The Auxiliary President had no report.

The SAL President noted a Four Lads concert next month, \$25 each, everybody invited, bring your own food. Look for flyers throughout the Post.

The Commander reminded the membership of the Rider ROMP to be hosted by Post 211 June 11-14. A wheelbarrow full of booze will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to the American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation. If you want to donate a full bottle, put Mike Schroll's name on it and give it to one of the Bar Tenders in the Canteen.

A plan is being developed to Dedicate the new Pavilion sometime during the ROMP. The Commander suggested dedicating the Pavilion in the name of a local, Michael Metters, Army Captain, killed in Afghanistan. A motion was made by 2nd Vice Connole to dedicate the Pavilion as stated, seconded by Ed Soto, no discussion followed, motion was voted on, and passed.

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