Post 38 Membership Minutes
8/3/2026

Meeting called to order @ 1830 hrs

Roll Call of Officers and Committee Members: Jonathan Reid (Commander), Wayne Senneke (1st Vice), Stephanie Zinser (2nd Vice), Vernon Noel (3rd Vice), Jarrod Coulter (PPC), Wade Van Ryzin (FO), Dave Baumann (Adj.), Michelle Madden (Chp), Frank Billings (SaA). Excused – Joe Jackson (HG), Open (SO).

Guests, new members, and dignitaries recognized – Guests, new members, and dignitaries recognized –Leigh Splitt (Unit 38 President), Rose Heinz (Unit 38 Secretary), Linda Breitzman (ALA Past Unit President), Chris VanRyzin, Robin Billings, Eric Stadler (Scarlet Guard).

New members/Guests – Andrew Schulman, John Burke.

Speakers - David White, for PRIMERICA, about the importance of providing veteran families with sound financial education. The company he represents provides such to veterans and their families including life insurance, mortgages and investment strategies. Dave is a member of Post 38 and is willing to assist any members who may have questions about products and services offered by him from PRIMERICA. Dave provided flyers on the back table for members to review or take.
Chris Van Ryzin, who is Department of Wisconsin Member of the Year – in part due to her work with veterans and Agent Orange.
Chris put together for Post 38 members a PowerPoint/Pamphlet regarding extensive research on the effects of Agent Orange not only on service members, but also their generational families (i.e., children, grandchildren). As Chris put it, "there are pages, upon pages, upon pages….of information regarding the effects of Agent Orange."
Chris encouraged members who may be suffering from certain ailments such as chronic headaches to mention Agent Orange as a potential cause for something that has been previously overlooked. Chris provided her examples on the back table for members to review or take.

Member Attendance: There were 49 members and 10 guests/dignitaries in attendance.
Presentation from Robert Jahnke about grants available for Veteran businesses.

Executive meeting Minutes/Report for the 7/27/2026 Executive meeting. Minutes held for general membership.
Post meeting Minutes for the 7/6/2026 Post meeting: The minutes will be filed with corrections as noted.

Service Officer's Reports:

Veteran referrals: Request from a disabled Vet for assistance in paying for a specialized bike and accessories. Motion made by Don Traynor, 2nd by Jan Hoffman to donate $200. Motion carries.

Funeral Honor Guard: July 2026 – 5 funerals, 49 personnel and 126 manhours. Need new members. See Rick Eisenach/Joe Jackson.

Camp American Legion: Go to https://www.campamericanlegion.org/how-to-apply or call camp to make a reservation. Need more involvement from the Post members.

1st Vice Commander's Report:

Membership: 544/538 – 101.12%. If you have sent in your renewal there is a lag time between renewal and processing. The new membership year starts July 1st. Cards will be at all Post meetings if you would like to renew before or after the meeting. Dues for 2027 are $60.

Buddy Checks: Buddy Check calls continued ad-hoc by volunteers
- Active Members list downloaded and placed in Google Sheets
- Will highlight grouping per volunteer names when volunteers are established.
- Call script is on the modified Members list to concentrate everything onto one document
- Buddy Checks are not membership or fundraising calls; they are check-ins
- 988 Crisis Line for urgent assistance (dial 988)

2nd Vice Commander's Report:

Policies and Procedures Committee: No Update

Fox Valley Veterans Council:

Next meeting August 19th @ 1800. (No July meeting). Applications available online for disaster relief funds.

Badger Boys: Inactive

Baseball: Xavier Baseball continues

a. Legion Baseball summer season is finished. Players received valuable experience which will help the in the future.
b. Planning on having 1 team for Fall Ball starting in August.

Scouts:

a. Boy Scouts (Nick Voight)
   i. No new events
b. Girl Scouts (Cynthia Powers)
   i. No new events

Wayne Senneke to assume Liaison. We currently have Troop 9 as our Post 38 Troop. We currently also have Pack 3077 out of Greenville, and Pack 3177 out of Greenville. They are looking to help out at the Post.

Oratorical: Inactive.

Scarlet Guard

a) Our mission is "To Honor the Colors" and to promote patriotism throughout the community. Missions we support include presenting the colors at local high school varsity football and basketball games, and other sporting events. We also march in parades, and post and retrieve the colors for meetings and conventions.
b) Our roster consists of members from Appleton, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, Mountain, Fremont, Wrightstown, Greenville, Freedom, Neenah, and Menasha. People of various abilities are welcome to join. You do not have to march in parades to be a member. Uniforms are provided, except for footwear and a jacket. Membership is open to members of any American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, or Sons of the American Legion Squadron. Contact Eric Stadler (920.450.6907 or eric.stadler1@gmail.com) for more information about joining.
c) Thank you to Fast Signs - Appleton for providing us with a new parade banner and vehicle magnet signs.
d) Patronize our sponsors: Boyle Auto Sales, Maritime Tavern, SDS Painting Company, Verkuilen-Van Deurzen/Valley Funeral Homes, and our honorary sponsor Hank & Karen's Pub & Grill.
e) Contact Eric Stadler (920.450.6907or eric.stadler1@gmail.com) for more information about joining.
f) Thank you to our sponsors: Boyle Auto Sales, Maritime Tavern, SDS Painting Company, Verkuilen-Van Deurzen/Valley Funeral Homes, and our honorary sponsor Hank & Karen's Pub & Grill.
g) Activities of the Scarlet Guard can be found at the Scarlet Guard Post 38 or Scarlet Guard Color Guard

Anyone interested in joining the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard to help with these and other events should contact Eric Stadler (920.450.6907 or eric.stadler1@gmail.com).

* Membership in the Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard is open to members of any American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit, or Sons of the American Legion Squadron. The uniform is provided.

New members are always welcome; contact Eric Stadler for information at 920.450.6907 or email eric.stadler1@gmail.com. Follow and Like the Scarlet Guard Color Guard page on Facebook.

3rd Vice Commander's Report: Club continues to host events. Many things are already planned for 2026. Flags arrived for sale.

Events Committee: Events committee is formed with members from the entire Legion family. Meetings will now be quarterly. Next meeting is on @ 5:30pm. Upcoming events: Brat Fry is started April 1st. Missions of Honor brat fry is August 19th, 11-7. Will need plenty of help. Scarlet Guard would like some help in planning a remembrance event on September 11th for the 25th Anniversary. Octoberfest is September 26th. Wrestling will be August 29th. Bus trip for Brewer game August 29th.

Adjutant's Report:

Bills: Assessment from 9th District.

Correspondence: Email from Appleton OctoberFest Committee for the training on September 9th.

Finance Officer's Report:

As of 6/30/2026-Starting balance $47,922.56, 21 withdrawals totaling $26,837.45, 4 deposits totaling $13,819.52. Ending balance of $34,974.63.

The membership deposit account had transfers in of $0.00. National withdrawals come to $0.00. National also added $0.00 for online renewals. The account started with $3,761.45 and the ending balance is $3,761.45. Interest added $2.97. Credit Card fees -$5.20.

Savings Account #1 has a starting balance of $135,762.35 A dividend of $101.48 was paid. Transfer Deposit of $0.00. Withdrawal of $8,000.00. Ending balance of $127,363.83.

10 month CD had a starting balance of $31,033.38. Interest of $100.08. Ending balance of $31,133.46. CD has been renewed.

This gives us a balance sheet value of $197,733.37.

Education Fund/Scholarship: Beginning account balance $11,531.54. Income distribution $289.66, Change in Securities value $1.57. Portfolio Net Change $291.23, ending balance $11,822.77. Investments-Fixed Income - Muni $8,625.87, Money Market Cash $3,196.90, Account total $11,822.77.
There is also $55,082.56 within the Fox Valley Community Foundation. Deductions of $76.72 have been subtracted. Investment gains of $-110.80. Unrealized gains of $-440.64 included in the report. $0.00 in Scholarship funds were deducted. Total Scholarship Account $.

Finance and Budgeting: Donation tracker set up to help track where donations are going. Motion made by Jarrod Coulter, 2nd by Ed Domek to approve the budget. Motion carries.

Audit: No Updates.

Long Range and Strategic Planning: Committee is formed. Mission Vision Statement made. Posted on the website and FB page. Vernon Noel volunteered to be chairman. Jarrod Coulter, Don Brandt, Eric Jones, & Reive Pullen volunteered. Next meeting will be * at 5:30pm. Will meet quarterly. The next meeting has not been set yet but will be next quarter (Jan-Mar). Will meet quarterly. Looking to set up some various activities over the next few quarters (Bourbon & Blues Event, Board gaming Night, Casino Night, etc…)

Post Chaplain's Report: Post has plots available at Riverside, St. Joes, and 1 cubby at Highland Memorial. Forms need to be completed and approved by Commander or Adjutant/Service Officer along with a $250.00 fee. Those interested, contact Deb Debruin for Riverside & Tina LeFebre for St. Joes, or Michelle Madden.

Visiting and Volunteer: Volunteers are needed and welcomed.

Deceased: –

Recuperating at home or a Nursing Care Facility/Hospital:
Please keep any our sick/ill members in your thoughts and notify Michelle Madden if anyone is recovering from surgery or any other illnesses so we can get them in the newsletter, thank you.
Michelle Madden-Post 38 Chaplain's Office E-mail: chaplain@appletonpost38.org Phone # 920-420-0665.

Quartermaster: Stand arrived for 250 Year flag.

Historian: Working on Post history for finishing up the History Display case.

Buildings and Grounds: - The parking lot has taken a beating this winter with potholes, received four quotes to repair the Northeast corner of the parking lot and some additional work with potholes and problem areas (ranging from $6,400-$24,925). Decided to use the quote from Fox Valley Asphalt ($6400).
- Working on new ASR (plowing) contract.
- Kitchen Project is finished. And documented with Grand Chute and the insurance company.
- Working through insurance company deficiencies, fire suppression system inspection (done), flammable materials near hot water heater (done), Co2 bottles secured from falling (done), tire stops need to be installed to protect the building, (waiting on quote). The insurance company has been updated on our progress.
- Waiting on two channel amplifiers as well. We may have to provide our own microphones, waiting to meet with Kurt on Friday.
- We received a $5000 donation to redo parts of the parking lot.

House Committee: **Staffing is an ongoing issue**. The next meeting will be August 18th @ 17300 hrs. New shirts for sale.
- The kitchen venting installation is complete and the Town of Grand Chute Notified.
- 1st quarterly grease interceptor complete in June. Targeting next quarter to be in September. Will contact Louis for support and documentation.
- The kitchen exhaust fan on the roof needs to be replaced with a larger motor, the fan is working at this time. Louie will complete in July at a cost of about $500.
- Convention the weekend of the 20th went extremely well for the Club.
- June's finances were presented; the Club is solvent.
- The Committee will review reporting from the new account as it is determined how to best report to membership.
- For the parking lot, the Exec Committee will recommend which of the four quotes to approve.
- Jill to provide an update on personnel to include the hall setup person. Staffing continues to be worked on by Jill. Cleaning still happening Tuesday and Friday with additional help on Thurs.
- August is a busy month for the club, every Saturday is full;
- Punk band Aug. 1st.
- August 22nd, Jimmy Buffet
- Jill is going to get the event calendar by her office up to date so know what is happening in the hall and know how to set it up.
- Jill will update.

- Eric is working with Willie on hosting a meat raffle December 5th.

Additional Standing Committees:

Communications: Catherine continues to do updates to the website and our Facebook pages. If you have a specific section on the website for which you are responsible (i.e. Boys Badger State, American Legion Baseball, Camp American Legion) please provide your updates to her for submission on the website. The information listed is only as good as the information provided. Catherine is looking for Veterans who may be interested in being highlighted in a veterans corner she would like to launch. You are the heart and soul of our Post, and she would like to highlight you! If you have any content you'd like to share, or an articles of interest, please contact Catherine Kutzleb at catherineusnr@live.com.

Did you know our Facebook page and website are being talked about? That's right we are getting noticed on many levels including at the District and State level. Our content is setting the bar for others to emulate, and that is because of your sharing and liking our content. Keep it up! Check out our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/appletonpost38) and our website (Johnston-Blessman Post 38 (appleton38.org) for information about happenings at Post 38 and Post 38 Bar & Grill. As always, thank you for your support.

Fundraising: Sweatshirts are for sale again this year.

Constitution and Bylaws: Inactive.

Nomination Committee: Inactive.

Ballot Committee: Inactive.

Activities and Announcements:

Bowling: No Updates.

Blood Donor Program: Red Cross Blood Drive dates – . Book is at all meetings, please update your information. If you are a member and donate, please add to the donor book. Visit the Red Cross website to sign up. 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767).

Conferences:

9th District Fall Conference: Wabeno Post 44, October 3rd, 2026.

Mid-Winter Conference: January 21-24, 2027 – Madison.

9th District Spring Conference:

County Council: Next meeting is on August 12th, 2026, 6:30 pm.

Golf:

Department Convention: July 21-25, 2027, in Madison. (We had 18 volunteers/Delegates, total 227 hours)

The American Legion Family:

SAL: See addendum below. Flying Flags for Heroes project. Placing flags at gravesites. National SAL Campaign. https://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com/ .

The American Legion Auxiliary: Chris VanRyzin will be presented with an award for Department member of the year. Eligible for National award.

The American Legion Riders: Schedule online.

Unfinished Business: Hot Dogs, beans, and chips will be served before the meeting, prepared by the Club.

New Business: Discussed purchasing statues that were on display at the Department Convention. Veteran Soldier Statues – Cast Aluminum Life-Sized Statues for Veteran Memorials.

Catherine Kutzleb brought up new sign-in options for the VA. ID.me and Login.gov.

Department is shipping a load of KC products for us to distribute. Being done the weekend of August 8th. Elks Club has supplies for Disaster Relief. Club is raising money for free meals for affected people.

Good of The American Legion:

For the July 3rd extravaganza we had 99 volunteers for a total of 777 hours.

Post 38 Family is being presented an award at the next city council meeting on August 19th for our float in the Flag Day parade.

FVTC has started a Innovation Accelerator Program for Veterans. Click this link for more info. Innovation Accelerator for Veterans | Training & Services | Fox Valley Technical College – FVTC.TrainingWeb.WA

The new Veterans Memorial Park committee is looking for ideas from local veteran organizations for memorials.

Looking for Companies in the Valley that have special programs for Veteran's. The American Legion College is online. Go online to register at https://wilegion.org/legion-college/ See Dave Baumann for schedule.

Member drawing $100.00 (winner so $150.00 for the September meeting)

505 – Mark Toll

227 – Ricky Jacquart

191 – Alan Harkabus

$25 Drawing – John Breitzman

Meeting adjourned @ 1950 hrs
Next Executive meeting is August 31st @ 1830 hrs.
Next Post meeting is September 2nd @ 1830 hrs.
Respectfully Submitted by: Dave Baumann

SAL addendum submitted by Al Watry:
Notes/report from the squadron:

Membership

- Goal of 124
- Currently at 139 (all fully processed)
    - 121 renewals (of 124)
    - 18 new

Squadron Activities:

- Continuing to have many members engaged with:
    - Funeral Honors
    - Scarlet Guard
    - Building and Grounds
    - Legion Baseball
    - Legion Riders
    - Post/Club events.
- Other:
    - CSR has been submitted, recorded $10,325 of donations and 7810 of volunteer hours. Can provide break-down up on request
    - Will be engaging SAL State Leadership regarding Convention and how the Squadron can support

Allen J Watry
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