Post 38 Membership Minutes
7/6/2026

Meeting called to order @ 1830 hrs

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

Guests, new members, and dignitaries recognized – Guests, new members, and dignitaries recognized – Mark Toll (Past Dept. SaA), Leigh Splitt (Unit 38 President), Rose Heinz (Unit 38 Secretary), Lori Bishop (ALA Chaplain), Linda Breitzman (ALA Past Unit President), Marian Brown (ALA Membership), Chris VanRyzin, Deb Regan, Robin Billings, Bob Seide (SAL Commander 9th District SAL).

New members/Guests – Robert Jahnke, Josh Swanton.

Member Attendance: There were 45 members and 11 guests/dignitaries in attendance.
Presentation from Robert Jahnke about grants available for Veteran businesses.

Executive meeting Minutes/Report for the 6/29/2026 Executive meeting. Minutes held for general membership.
Post meeting Minutes for the 6/1/2026 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. Assisted a Veteran with supplies for his family ($275+). Passed the hat and raised another $375 + $100 gift card.
Funeral Honor Guard: June 2026 – 5 funerals, 35 personnel and 68 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:

a. May 2026
   i. 36 Cases Paid = $18,615.22
   ii. 16 Veterans Receiving Other Assistance
b. Mission of Honor
   i. For War on Terror veterans
c. Old Glory Honor
   i. Veterans with service dates prior to 1975

Badger Boys: Inactive
Baseball: Xavier Baseball continues

a. Legion Baseball started in June
b. 2 Junior teams this year. Planning on having 1 team for Fall Ball starting in August. Regionals are July 17th, hoping to have a game here during the Department Convention. Planning on having a Legion Family night at the ballpark on July 7th.

Scouts:

a. Boy Scouts
   i. Participated in Memorial Day parade
   ii. No new events
b. Girl Scouts –
   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.

b. Contact Eric Stadler (920.450.6907or eric.stadler1@gmail.com) for more information about joining.
c. 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.
d. 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. Come and enjoy.
July 7th is Family Night at the ballgame. There will be games at 5:30 & 7:30. Free food for any member of the Post (TAL, ALA, and SAL). Bring your card to get your free food.
July 18th is the 9th Annual Oldsmobile Car Show from 0900-1400.

Adjutant's Report:

Bills: No Bills.

Correspondence: Thank you cards for scholarship, Boys State, and packet from Department for the convention.

Finance Officer's Report:

As of 5/31/2026-Starting balance $46,113.79, 24 withdrawals totaling $12,062.45, 6 deposits totaling $13,871.22. Ending balance of $47,922.56.
The membership deposit account had transfers in of $0.00. National withdrawals come to $234.00. National also added $0.00 for online renewals. The account started with $3,995.45 and the ending balance is $3,761.45. Interest added $0.00.
Savings Account #1 has a starting balance of $135,762.35 A dividend of $0.00 was paid. Transfer Deposit of $0.00. Ending balance of $135,762.35.

10 month CD had a starting balance of $30,926.40. Interest of $106.98. Ending balance of $31,033.38. This gives us a balance sheet value of $218,479.74.

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 $55,270.08 within the Fox Valley Community Foundation. Deductions of $62.94 have been subtracted. Investment gains of $1683.18. Unrealized gains of $1,412.15 included in the report. $0.00 in Scholarship funds were deducted. Total Scholarship Account $67,092.85.

Finance and Budgeting: Donation tracker set up to help track where donations are going. Reviewed the Budget.

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. 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 Chaplain Bob Johnson.

Visiting and Volunteer: Volunteers are needed and welcomed.

Deceased: Kennth Fritsch – 6-26-26

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: mm@versatilemgmt.com Phone # 920-420-0665.

Quartermaster: Stand ordered 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).
- Working on new ASR (plowing) contract.
- Kitchen Project; Louie is working with Coenen Mechanical and the Vorpahl PM to make sure the filter brackets are correct & filters are properly installed (ordered should be here by end of week)
- Vorpahl is scheduled for Monday 6 July to finish work on the fire suppression system.
- The kitchen exhaust fan on the roof needs to be replaced with a larger motor, the fan is working at this time but a 1/4hp fan, was used instead of a 1/2hp fan to save money (3 yrs ago), the kitchen gets smokey at times.
- A compressor fan in the walk-in beer cooler in the basement needs to be replaced, one of the two is not working. Jill is getting a quote from Commercial Appliance.
- Kurt (A/V guy) has vehicle issues an at some point will install west wall projector Roku stick and two channel amplifier with two microphones.
- 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 July 21st @ 1800 hrs. New shirts for sale.
- The kitchen venting installation is in progress. Electrical is complete, sheet metal is complete. Vents to be installed and testing needs to be complete by Vorpahl. The total quote has been approved ($7,326.40) by the Executive Committee and the membership to have the work completed. Louie is speaking with the Coenen project manager to get started ASAP.
- The City of Grand Chute sent us a letter requesting quarterly evidence of grease interceptor cleaning. Louie will take care of this, it's been cleaned in the last 3 weeks and has photos to submit. Jill and Louie will need to coordinate activity going forward and report to the house committee as this is complete.
- 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.
- The American Legion convention is in Appleton in July 2026; we will rent a van for Friday (7/17) to shuttle people to and from the Paper Valley Hotel and the Post starting at 11 am. Club will pay for the bus.
- Jill mentioned that an ATM would be present at the July 3rd event. Jarrod to validate with Jill.
- May's finances were presented; the Club is solvent.

- The Committee will need bank account statement to support decisions around how to report to Post membership additional details about profits and losses. There have been questions about transparency that should be addressed given the Post's history.
- Recommendation to have audits twice annually to support the transparency and goodwill as part of the Club's performance. Could we leverage the Post Audit committee for one of the audits.
- 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.
- Question about cleanup in general, especially related to cleaning bathrooms and garbage.
- Legion Baseball has published http://appletonlegionbaseball.org/schedule.html.
- 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.
- Eric is working with Willie on hosting a meat raffle November 7th. Jill to validate that date is available.
- We received great compliments related to the food at the Rocky Blier event!

Additional Standing Committees:

Communications: 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 15-19, 2026, in Appleton. **We will need plenty of help.** Delegates include-Migeal Babino, Mark Toll, Jarrod Coulter, Catherine Kutzleb, Wayne Senneke, Jonathan Reid, Don Brandt, and Carl Abendroth - Alt.

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 Volunteer.

The American Legion Riders: Schedule online.

Unfinished Business: ****** will be served before the meeting, prepared by the Club.

New Business: Discussed budget. Motion made by Don Traynor, 2nd by Ray Gass to approve the budget. Motions carries.

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

Good of The American Legion:

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 $50.00 (winner so $100.00 for the August meeting)
5 – John Almquist
43 – Thomas Bowlby
485 – Fred Steenis

$25 Drawing – Bob Johnson

Meeting adjourned @ 1922 hrs
Next Executive meeting is July 27th @ 1830 hrs.
Next Post meeting is August 3rd @ 1830 hrs.
Respectfully Submitted by: Dave Baumann

SAL addendum submitted by Al Watry:
Membership

- 2026
  - Goal of 124
  - Currently at 139 (all fully processed)
    - 121 renewals (of 124)
    - 18 new
- 2027
  - Have not been informed of Membership Card arriving at State Headquarters yet.
  - If new members want to join will hold/process for 2027
  - Will be kicking off the Membership year once cards have arrived and I have data to share from State and National Conventions, use to help keep members to know the great work being done to drive them to renew their membership.

Squadron Activities:

- Continuing to have many members engaged with:
  - Funeral Honors
  - Scarlet Guard
  - Building and Grounds
  - Legion Baseball
  - Legion Riders
  - Badger Boys
  - Post/Club events.

Allen J Watry
Sons of The American Legion
SAL Department Commander
Wi Squadron 38 Adjutant
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