

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1, Wheeling
Meeting Date/Time: 06/04/2025 @ 6:58 PM

June 2025 Meeting Notes

Meeting called to order by President Michelle Powell

Prayer led by Melissa Stegman

Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble and Mission statement recited by all members.

Roll Call of Officers:	PRESENT	NOT PRESENT
President- Michelle Powell	X	
1 st Vice- Melissa Stegman	X	
2 nd Vice- Denise Wycherley		X
Secretary- Courtney Clark	X	
Treasurer-		
Chaplain Martha Bloomfield		X
Sgt at Arms- Marcia Bolner	X	
Historian Sandy Koontz	X	

Other Members Present: Denise Abell, Marie Farnsworth, Lois Sine-Hoffman, Diana Mey

Total Present: 9

Total Voting Members: 8

SECRETARY:

Minutes from the May 2025 meeting were read by Secretary Courtney Clark.

Motion made by Sandy Koontz to accept minutes. Motion seconded by Lois Sine-Hoffman. Discussion: None. In favor 8, Against 0, Motion carried.

TREASURER:

President Michelle Powell provided report.

General Fund

April 2025→ starting balance \$2,340.10, ending balance \$3170.10

May 2025→ starting balance \$3,170.10, ending balance \$2,990.03

Poppy Fund

April 2025→ starting balance \$503.55; ending balance \$532.00

May 2025→ starting balance \$532.00; ending balance \$542.00

Finance report and bank statements will be on file for audit.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Legion Post 1

- An individual has been in contact with Commander John Powell and the Legion will receive \$60,000 donation. The Legion plans to use that money for new uniforms for the Color Guard, paying for the yearly liquor license/insurance, and

purchasing a gaming unit (not slot machines) to attract younger members (similar to Bethany College).

Department

- President Powell read through several emails from the Department and advised members that the Department of WV and Rhododendron Girls State bank accounts were compromised. More than 95% of all accounts available cash funds have been compromised. None of the CD (certificate of deposits) were adversely impacted.
 - o A portion of Girls State funds were recovered, leaving that account's sustained loss at over 30% of their total cash balance from March financial report.
- Susan Brown, Department Treasurer, resigned immediately. Her term was to expire July 2026. Department President Laura Clark appointed Paulette Anderson as the Treasurer who will complete Brown's term until July 2026. This was ratified on 05/21/25.
- Membership dues are to be held until a later date. Units will be notified when to mail to Paulette Anderson. The new mailing address is
American Legion Auxiliary Department of WV
ATTN: Membership (or whatever entity the mail is being sent to)
1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville, WV 26155
- An investigation is pending, and reports have been made with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

2025-2026 Unit officers

- President Michelle Powell, First Vice Melissa Stegman, Second Vice Sandy Koontz, Secretary Courtney Clark, Treasurer Diana Mey, Historian Lois Sine-Hoffman, Chaplain- Denise Abell, Sgt-At-Arms Marcia Bolner
- Office responsibilities begin July 1, 2025 and duties of each office were passed out to the respective individual. Per ALA Guide Book (April 2024), unit officers can be installed immediately following election or as soon as possible. An installation ceremony is not mandatory for officers to assume their duties.
- Treasurer Diana Mey shall complete paperwork at United Bank to have her name added to Unit 1's general and poppy fund accounts.
 - o Unit 1 executive board and members request United Bank accept these notes verifying Diana Mey as the 2025-2026 ALA Unit 1 Treasurer and that she be added to the accounts.

ALA Department Means & Ways

- Kelly Miller won \$25 in April.

Sick Call & Relief

- Unit member Marilyn Collins hasn't been feeling well.
- Melissa Stegman provided a prayer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Memorial Day

- It was held 05/26/25 @ 11 AM at Waterfront. Tom Abell was the speaker.
- \$10 donation was received for Poppy Fund.

Washington Wild Things Baseball Night

- It was held 05/31/25 @ 5:30 PM.
- It was a chilly night, but members had a good time.

NEW BUSINESS

Unit Business License

- President Powell was notified by Mr. Gompers that the unit needed to file for the business license. The license was \$25 and to update officers (Powell, Clark) was \$15.
- Courtney Clark made a motion to reimburse Michelle Powell \$40 for the fees associated with the business license. Motion seconded by Melissa Stegman. Discussion: None. In favor 8, Against 0, Motion carried.
- The business license will be placed in the Unit's filing cabinet.
 - o Email:
 - o Username:
 - o Password:

Legion Copier

- President Powell was contacted by Richardson Copy Concepts Inc on 06/03/25 and was notified by Amy and Robin that Chef Adam's former marketing/assistant, Crystal Martin, secured a copier for Chef Adam. The copier was originally \$6,000 but the sale price to Chef Adam was \$1400 as the copier was in good/used condition. Chef Adam was to pay \$106-\$107/month but has not paid the bill monthly. His last payment was \$200 in February 2025. His balance is \$1191.
- Richardson is willing to let Legion purchase the copier by paying off Chef Adam's bill plus maintenance to ensure the unit is in working order. That total would be \$1392.12. They will give a 10% discount making the final total \$1375.00
- President Powell asked for a motion from unit members to pay half bill or \$687.50. The other half would be paid by the Legion Post 1 who would then pay the maintenance fee.
- After lengthy discussion, a motion was not made to pay half of the bill. Lois Sine-Hoffman made a motion to table the decision until questions could be answered. Motion seconded by Diana Mey. Members also requested a meeting with Legionnaires about the copier.
 - o This was held after the separate Legion and Auxiliary meetings were adjourned on 06/03/25.

First Friday

- Scheduled June 6, 2025 @ 6 PM. Members are asked to bring a covered dish.

Post 1 Picnic

- Scheduled July 5, 2025 @ 6 PM. Members are asked to bring a covered dish.
- Fireworks by Elm Grove Civics.
- Smiley Van (picture opportunity) 6-8 PM
 - o President Powell advised the cost is \$400 with a \$50 discount. Final total is \$350.
 - o President Powell asked for a motion for a donation to pay for the Smiley Van.
 - Motion made by Denise Abell to pay \$100 toward the \$350. Motion seconded by Sandy Koontz. Discussion: None. In favor 8, Against 0, Motion carried.

First District Picnic

- Scheduled July 27, 2025 @ Benwood City Park located at 4th Street, Benwood, WV. Members are asked to bring a covered dish.

103rd Department of WV Convention

- Scheduled July 10-12, 2025, in Huntington, WV
- Check 1219 given to President Powell to send with her registration to Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership

- Per May 2025 ALA Spirit (newsletter), Unit 1 has 32 members.
- Unit 1 is at 123.8% of goal (26 members).

Girls State

- President Powell notified members she emailed Dr. Rosemary Thomas, Girls State director, and received no response over week. She then contacted Girls State Registrar Ann Buchanon about attendance.
- One girl from Linsly backed out and another girl from Wheeling Park backed out as she needs to complete gym class over the summer for graduation requirements.
- Unit 1 will be represented by three girls from Wheeling Park.
- Unit 1 paid for 4 girls and received a scholarship from Girls State for the 5th girl.
 - o Department will keep the month from the scholarship. Unit 1 will not receive a refund for the second girl not attending.
- President Powell suggested Girls State information be provided to the three local school's guidance counselors and allow them to disperse the information for those students interested in attending. It would be their responsibility to register and pay their own fee. Members agreed.

Standing Rule

- President Powell made the changes of spelling out what officers can make supply purchases without a vote under \$100 and returned document to Department.
- In May, President Powell received additional changes that need to be made. Department wanted information moved from one spot to another in the document. President Powell made those changes and returned to Department. Powell is aware the document has been received (emailed 05/28/25) but has not response/feedback/approval.

Fundraising

- Miklas Raffle
 - o Tickets need sold. See Melissa Stegman.
- Flea Market @ Post 1
 - o October 11, 2025
- Night at the Races @ Post
 - o November 1, 2025

Correspondence:

None

For the Good of the Unit:

None

Next Meeting:

Fun Night- June 17, 2025 @ 7 PM.

Monthly Meeting- July 1, 2025 @ 7 PM.

Closing Prayer/Benediction: Melissa Stegman

Adjourned by President Michelle Powell at 8:11 PM

Quarter Drill for Education

Total \$137.87

Notes Taken: 06/03/25

Typed: 06/04/2025

Courtney L Clark
Auxiliary Unit 1, Wheeling
Secretary

Michelle Powell
Auxiliary Unit 1, Wheeling
President