



THE AMERICAN LEGION
JEFFERY S. HOLMES POST 84

November 7, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

The meeting convened at 1800 hours by Commander Dennis Brown.

At the beginning of our meeting, guest speaker Dylan Spencer, Post 84 baseball coach, informed us that our team will be hosting the Vermont American Legion Playoff Tournament in July 2025. Most of the arrangements will be completed by him, anyone interested in volunteering to assist during the tournament, please contact Adjutant Scott Holmes at: thordog.holmes@gmail.com

Meeting reconvened at 1813 hours.

Roll call by Sergeant-at-Arms Sam Zucker. Present were: Commander and Judge Advocate Dennis Brown, First Vice Commander and Historian Howard Bixby, Second Vice Commander Penny Johnson, Adjutant and Finance Officer Scott Holmes and Chaplain Luther Johnson. Also present were past Commander Charles Patch and guests Patti Holmes and Dylan Spencer.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the October 3, 2024 meeting was read by guest Patti Holmes. Motion to accept by Sam Zucker and seconded by Scott Holmes. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Finance Report:

1. Finance Officer Scott Holmes reported that year end budgeted items will be paid by Christmas.
2. The proposed budget for 2025 will be presented at the December meeting for acceptance.
3. The report was accepted and filed for audit.

Service Report: None

Membership:

1. The Post has 26 paid members and 13 pending. The 13 have been notified that their dues are due by the end of the year.
2. There is ongoing membership recruitment.

Americanism:

1. One of the Flags along Route 5 is in disrepair and will be retired when the other Flags are removed on November 16th.
2. Scott Holmes has inspected the 60 Flags given to Post 84 by the Vet Council and has determined that all but 2 Flags can be used for the Route 5 display.

3. Adjutant Scott Holmes will be submitting to the State the new application for our Flag display which will be for 2026-29.
4. Extra band supports will have to be ordered to reinforce existing supports. Due to age and weather the older band supports have weakened. Scott Holmes will notify us at the December meeting of the cost and add it to the proposed budget for 2025.
5. The Banner Committee and the Town have an agreement stating that the Town will be the Committee's fiscal agent. Fund raising will now commence.
6. Commander Brown asked if Post 84 would be interested in donating to the Banner Project. No motion was made or discussed at this time.
7. Commander Brown noted that a new committee has been formed to plan for the Nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.
8. Ceremonies for November 11: begin at Maple Street Cemetery at 10:30am and will conclude at the bridge.

Children and Youth:

1. As previously stated, Coach Dylan Spencer has accepted that Post 84 will sponsor the 2025 playoffs slated to be July 23-27. Besides using the Maxfield Sports Complex, the Dresden Fields in Norwich will also be used.
2. Patti Holmes has contacted the Haven to inquire about our annual Christmas Party for the children residents. See Appendix A for their response. The Post has tabled further discussion until the December meeting.

Old Business:

1. Blue Star Memorial work permit application has been submitted. Still no response as of this meeting.
2. The Post's web site is up and running. Members may access the site at: <https://www.post84vtlegion.org/index.cfm>
3. Members are requested to send comments about the site to Adjutant Scott Holmes at: thordog.holmes@gmail.com
4. Commander Brown, as usual, has continued thanking all who contribute to Post 84.
 - a. Patti Holmes for transcribing our October meeting minutes.
 - b. Scott Holmes for maintaining and providing our finance report, keeping our web site current and acting as our baseball liaison.
 - c. To Charles Patch and his volunteer assistants in their efforts for a successful golf tournament and the ad in the Valley News thanking our supporters.
5. The Family Day picnic is on hold until 2025. Commander Brown will keep Post 26 and VFW 2571 apprised of further news when it will be scheduled.
6. Golf news: As of now, September 20, 2025 is our next date for the tournament. Charlie Patch will verify in June.
7. We are still in need of volunteers for a Color Guard. Contact Adjutant Scott Holmes for details:
thordog.holmes@gmail.com

New Business:

- 1. Attention women veterans.** Nichole Jordan has started a non-profit retreat for women veterans. Refer to Appendix B for more info.
2. Commander Brown told members about the Hello Girls Project which recognizes our WWI women veterans. He also passed around some literature which explained the project in more detail.
- 3. Post 84 goals for the 2025 are:**
 - a.** Golf – September 20
 - b.** Family Day in August?
 - c.** Haven Christmas Party in December?
 - d.** Flag display along Route 5
 - e.** Blue Star Memorial maintenance ongoing
 - f.** Hartford Heroes Banner from September thru November 11th.

Comrades in distress – Joyce Perkins

The meeting adjourned at 1932 hours.

Sam Zucker, Sergeant-at-Arms for Scott Holmes, Adjutant

Next meeting, Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM, at WRJ VA, Freedom Building (formally Building 44), Room 103a.

Appendix A

shz45@comcast.net

From: Patti Holmes <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 6:44 PM
To: shz45@comcast.net
Subject: Fwd: Christmas party by Post 84

Patti

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: McKenna Wilkinson <mwilkinson@uppervalleyhaven.org>
Date: November 7, 2024 at 12:37:15 PM EST
To: Patti Holmes <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Christmas party by Post 84

Hi Patti,

Thank you for following up. The Children's Program and Family Shelter teams have decided to do a joint celebration this year with additional community members. I understand this is a change from the past but there was feedback from parents that they wanted to be included in the celebrations for the holidays. Since this would significantly increase the number of attendees, with children and adults, I think it would be best to find another way for us to engage with Post 84, if you are open to it. I would be happy to have a call with you to discuss more.

Thank you,

McKenna Wilkinson (she/her)
Children's Program Supervisor
Upper Valley Haven
713 Hartford Avenue
White River Junction, VT 05001
(802) 478-1860 (direct)
(802) 299-7797 (program cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Patti Holmes <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 11:31 AM
To: McKenna Wilkinson <mwilkinson@uppervalleyhaven.org>
Cc: Holmes Patti <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Christmas party by Post 84

Hi,

Any update that I can present at the Legion meeting tonight?

Patti

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 30, 2024, at 12:32 PM, Patti Holmes <hbird.holmes@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi McKenna,

Jeffery S Holmes American Legion Post 84 is hoping we can do a party for the children again this year. It would be the same as last year. We are hoping Will is still there to bring out the games!

Is it possible to do it on a day when there is not the puppy parade? It always seems a little rushed.

Can you provide the venue? Things have changed up there so I don't know what would work.

We would like to start at 3:45pm and end at 5:00pm. The dates we CANNOT do are: any Mondays, December 5th, December 13th, or December 17th.

If you can figure out these details, we can then get the lists of gifts and work out the itinerary.

Hope to hear from you.

Best,
Patti Holmes

Sent from my iPad

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Appendix B

Women Veteran's Glamping

126 Western Ave. #197, Augusta, Maine 04330

Info@WomenVeteransGlamping.org

EIN: #87-2520494

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Women Veteran's Glamping (WVG). We are a 501c3 non-profit based in Maine and serve to improve the lives of Women Veteran's that served our great nation. We bring groups of Women Veterans from all eras and branches of service, together for a retreat, that helps heal the soul and provides new bonds that run strong. These Women Veterans come from all over the US.

We offer 20-24 women Veterans retreats/events scheduled throughout the year. We cover the cost of the lodging, food and activities. We have several retreats & events scheduled this coming year and we would greatly appreciate your support in covering this cost. We stay in off and on grid yurts; kayak, swim, hike, arts and crafts as well as s'mores around a campfire with the beautiful night sky twinkling above. We see women on Active Duty as they are in uniform, yet invisible out of uniform. They are often forgotten and not thanked for their service. Many women Veterans do not know of other women Veterans in their area therefore, feel alone and unappreciated as many people do not recognize the women that have served our Great Nation.

The women Veterans get a chance to come relax, meet other women Veterans, network, make new friends and share their experiences without judgment. Their service is recognized, valued and honored. "She served her country, now let's Honor her!" One woman veteran told us after her retreat,

"We made a difference in her life and she no longer thought she was alone and worthless. She had met 20 new sisters of service, a connection and family she had lost when she left service. She no longer felt like giving up and becoming just another "22" in the books. She has made new friends and can now talk with others like her. Thank you Women Veteran's Glamping for coming into my life at the right time." -Kat P.- US Army Veteran

Women Veteran's Glamping is changing the way we celebrate and honor Women Veterans. No longer do we only honor them once a year - we honor and celebrate them all year long. We work closely with our local "Quilt of Valor" program in Maine. We honor women Veterans at each of our WVG Events with a Quilt of Valor.

August 2023 Women Veteran's Glamping purchased 14 acres of land to build our own facility. Now the fundraising for the building begins. We are in need of raising \$1million for the building fund. All donations are tax deductible. We are building a lasting legacy for our Women Veterans nationally to relax and remain strong themselves and families.

*****Our finances are transparent to show our truth and to honor our veterans, donors and sponsors. Ninety percent of our funding goes to covering the Women Veterans Glamping events and ten percent goes to office supplies and cleaning of equipment. Our board is 100% volunteer and Proud Veterans themselves.*****

"PLEASE JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING AND HONORING WOMEN VETERANS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR."

Please make donations to: Women Veteran's Glamping by mailing your donation or visiting our website:

www.WomenVeteransGlamping.org

Mail to: Women Veteran's Glamping, 126 Western Ave #197, Augusta, Maine 04330

Thank you for supporting Women Veteran's Glamping as we work to improve the lives of our Women Veterans across our communities and our country. If you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring an event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Nichole Jordan

Nichole Jordan, U.S. Army Veteran

Women Veteran's Glamping President

Nichole@WomenVeteransGlamping.org

Mobile: (207) 456-6114

Our Mission is to "Offer Women Veterans opportunity to recreate and comradery of shared experiences in a safe, judgment free supportive environment."

Attention News Release

Chesterville, Maine - Women Veteran's Glamping, a dedicated non-profit organization focused on honoring and supporting women veterans, is excited to announce a significant milestone in its mission. The organization has successfully secured land for its very own retreat facility in the beautiful state of Maine.

Women veterans have made immense sacrifices and contributions to our country, and this new retreat facility will serve as a sanctuary for them, providing a space to heal, bond, and thrive. Women Veteran's Glamping believes that this retreat will be a source of empowerment and rejuvenation for women who have served our nation. We have been successful for the last 4 years in working toward this goal.

The land acquisition marks the beginning of an exciting journey, and the organization is committed to making this facility a reality in the near future. The retreat facility will be tailored to meet the unique needs of women veterans, offering a wide range of programs and resources to support their physical and emotional well-being.

The facility's features will include:

- Accommodations and meeting spaces designed for comfort and tranquility.
- Specialized programs to address the unique challenges faced by women veterans.
- Outdoor recreational spaces to foster a sense of community and camaraderie.
- Information referrals to mental health services, counseling, and therapeutic activities.

Women Veteran's Glamping would like to extend its gratitude to all the supporters, donors, and volunteers who have made this exciting endeavor possible. The organization believes that the retreat facility in Chesterville, Maine will serve as a beacon of hope and healing for women veterans from all walks of life.

The Women Veteran's Glamping team is actively working on the architectural design and planning phase, and is committed to making this facility a reality as soon as possible. The organization encourages the community to join in this mission to support and uplift the women who have served our nation with honor and courage.

For more information about Women Veteran's Glamping, its mission, or how you can get involved, please visit www.WomenVeteransGlamping.org or contact Nichole Jordan at Nichole@womenveteransglamping.org

About Women Veteran's Glamping: is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and supporting women veterans. The organization's mission is to provide a safe and empowering space for women who have served in the military, fostering their well-being, personal growth, and community connections.

Thank you for supporting Women Veteran's Glamping as we work to improve the lives of our Women Veterans across our communities and our country. If you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring an event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our Mission is to "Offer Women Veterans opportunity to recreate and comradery of shared experiences in a safe, judgment free supportive environment."