



Convention Meeting
July 12, 2024
Appleton, WI



President Frank Mathison called the meeting to order at 1:05 with the usual ceremony.

Roll Call of officers: President Frank Mathison, VP Nellie DeBaker, Historian Michelle Adams and Secretary/Treasurer Denise Rohan Present.

The following signed up as new life members: Christina Baurichter, Michelle Leick Leurquin and Jim Skelton. Douglas Cahow signed up as a one-year Regular Member. A total of \$57.00 was turned over to Department HQ for deposit into the WHA account.

Other members present and signing the sheet included: Tim Baranzyk and Morris Sadicario
Guests included: Gordon Kelley and Theresa Bailen

Motion by Tim Baranzyk and 2nd by Doug Cahow to approve the minutes of the Midwinter January 19, 2024 meeting. Motion Carried.

Denise gave a finance report showing a bank account balance of \$5,607.62. With the help of Department Staff and Nellie DeBaker, these funds have been transferred from CoVantage Credit Union into Forward Bank under the control of Department Headquarters. (WHA has a separate account at HQ, they are managing the funds.)

The Department has also been receiving revenue from a stock certificate in the WHA's name which has a Liabilities and Equity balance of \$23,629.58. (Denise is working with Lisa at Department Headquarters to find more information about this account.)

Denise presented a \$91.17 receipt for the purchase of the 2024 Martha Marlow award. Michelle Leurquin made a motion to reimburse Denise for this expense, Historian Michelle Adams seconded, and the motion passed. Denise will submit the receipt to Department HQ.

Old Business: Denise and Morris (with some help from 3rd District Commander Jerry Hook) have spent time at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum reviewing documents that were archived with them since the HQ moved from Milwaukee to Portage. We have been looking for information about the Martha Marlowe Award. Russell Horton the museum's Reference & Outreach Archivist assisted us in getting access to the files. Attached is a copy of Martha Marlowe from the archives. You can see what's available in the Museum's archives at: <https://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?c=wiarchives;view=reslist;subview=standard;didno=wvm-mss00016>

Denise is still trying to find the names of all Martha Marlow Historian awards recipients (we are missing 2013/14 and have a gap from 2015/16 – 22/23). John Kovatch emailed her and said he received the award in 2008, but there was an engraving error and he's still waiting for the corrected award. (Denise will check on it next time she's at HQ.)

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New Business: Nominations for the 2025 Martha Marlowe award are taken at convention with a final vote taken during our midwinter meeting. Denise Rohan nominated Tim Yauck, from Post 522 in Hubertus, he did a presentation during the convention session on his work researching “Wisconsin’s Forgotten Heroes”. Michelle Leurquin second the nomination and the nomination was accepted. There were a few questions about the process of nominating someone for the award, President Frank explained that the nominations are taken during the Convention meeting.

An open discussion then took place which included questions about:

How Artificial Intelligence might affect our on-line photos and History Books.

Do we need to get a signed photo release from everyone in photos? The National Judge Advocate has ruled that a person should not expect privacy when they attend American Legion functions. However, if you are taking pictures at a school event, then the historian should be cautious regarding student’s identity.

The 2024 edition of the Officer’s Guide does not include instructions for the National History contest. Attached to these minutes is the 2023 Guide with instructions for Historians starting on Page 125.

At this point Denise and a few others needed to leave to attend Convention Committee meetings.

I am told a good discussion followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rohan
Secretary/Treasurer