

Richmond County American Legion Minutes of January 23rd 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Commander Mark Kelly. The roll call was taken and recorded. A motion to accept the minutes of the December meeting as distributed was seconded and passed. Membership: Paul Dietrich reports the membership now stands at 93.9% of goal. Americanism: Jamie Gonzales reported the Gulf War Memorial dedication will be held October 24th, 2026 and that Gulf War veterans are now eligible for the Honor Flight. Boys State: Second District chairman, David Martin reports he attended the Mid-Winter conference Boys State meeting and that last year 584 boys signed up and 567 actually attended indicating a slow decline in attendance. In addition Dave reported a financial loss and that this year a \$25 increase will be imposed making the cost per boy \$425 without transportation. Boys State will be held from June 27th to July 2nd and that all paperwork must be in by May 1st. Dave has contacted several JROTC organizations and will continue to follow-up. Four Chaplains Interfaith Lunch: Jamie Gonzalez reports the certificates are completed and Pablo Hidalgo stated so far 80 confirmed attendees with one post not responding, Pablo reminded the members that the cost for the lunch is \$75 per person and will be held on February 7th 12:00. NEC Frank Peters reported on the National Commander's dinner cost of \$100 per person and will be held on April 17th at 7:00. 2nd District Oratorical Contest chairman Al Klingele reports the District contest had one contestant and the zone contest will be held on February 7th in Long Island. Commander Mark Kelly reported there was a good showing at the Pearl Harbor memorial service and thanked Frank Saladis for the sound system and music. Commander Mark Kelly presented certificates of appreciation to Gold Star Post, Granito Smith Post and Cespino Russo Post. NEC Frank Peters reported on the per capita funding and the posts are responsible for paying the county per capita to their county. Frank also reported that if a post has brought charges against a member that member cannot transfer to another post while the charges are pending. Frank also reported that the Department NEC voted to support the placement of the US Flag on the Verrazano Bridge. Joe Liss, NYCDVS reported they are available to assist in VA paperwork. The Vietnam veterans' welcome home breakfast will be held on March 18th, 9:00 at the Hilton ballroom. Frank LaMarsh reported the National SAL Commander wishes to visit Staten Island. A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11

Respectfully Submitted,
Frank LaMarsh, PDC
County Adjutant.