

Hubbard County All Veterans Memorial

April 10, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

The All Veterans Memorial Committee met at the AVM Building on Thursday April 10, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President Everette DeCramer at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance followed with a prayer from Chaplain Sarah Lester.

The meeting had 12 members present and 3 guests:

President: Everette DeCramer	Gary Holk	Phyllis DeCramer	Mac Grews
Sec/Treas: Frank Burrow	Charlis Carroll	Dori Becker	Wendy Deneffe
Chaplain: Sarah Lester	Al Deneffe	Judy Strange	Bruce Wignall

Bryan Hammitt – Hammer Fit Gym

Tanner Hammitt – Hammer Fit Gym

Kevin Burns – American Legion

Presentation by Bryan and Tanner Hammitt, Hammer Fit Gym re: 1st Memorial Day 5K Race/Run

Presentation by Hammer Fit Gym regarding the upcoming Memorial Day 5 K Race/Run/Walk. Bryan and Tanner Hammitt, owners of the Hammer Fit Gym, presented their upcoming Saturday May 24, 2025, Event. The 5K will start at 9 AM along the route taking them from Hammer Fit Gym past the AVM Memorial then down past Chrystal Brook then north and parallel 34 through Park Rapids eventually heading south and back to Hammer Fit Gym and the finish line. The event should be concluded by 11:00 – 11:30 AM. Participants will be arriving around 7:30 AM parking by the Gym, Chamber of Commerce, AVM, Faithbridge and other areas/business in the vicinity. Volunteers will be needed to direct traffic. They have also offered a suggestion that we have a tent at the beginning of the race and offer the Memorial Day Flags available to the participants, spectators, etc., before, during and after the race. We can also have flags lining the start of the race for the participants. Bryan and Tanner also informed us that the proceeds of the race will be donated to the AVM Memorial and DAV. AVM will have a tent at the beginning of the race, manned with AVM members able to immediately install a banner with the name & branch of the person(s) they are honoring or remembering. AVM Museum Building will also be open for participants, spectators, etc., to walk through, get a brief snack, water or use our facilities. Additional volunteers are needed to direct participants at race route corners, crossings, water stations, etc. Please let AVM officers know if you would like to volunteer and we will submit your name, phone number and email address to Bryan and Tanner at Hammer Fit Gym.

Presentation by Kevin Burns, American Legion re: Park Rapids Open Market 2025

Presentation by Kevin Burns of the American Legion regarding the 2025 Park Rapids Open Market. The American Legion has been given a space at the PR Open Market for the entire 2025 season at no charge. The American Legion is looking to man the Tent (provided by the American Legion) one Saturday each month beginning Saturday, May 24th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Legion is looking for other Organizations to pick dates to use the Tent for promoting their organization and/or raising donations for their group. AVM has decided to accept their offer and will use the Tent on the second Saturday of each month beginning June 14th and ending Saturday August 9th. AVM will promote our organization, facilities, tours, speaking activities as well as our clothing, hats, ornaments, coasters, and memorial pavers. We will post a sign-up sheet on our website for volunteers to sign up. Everette and Frank volunteered for the first event on June 14th.

Secretary's Report: Frank Burrow presented the minutes from the last meeting, November 21, 2024.

Motion to accept: Gary Holk
Seconded motion: Sarah Lester
Motion: Passed

Communications:

1. A letter was received from Akeley Township with a donation check for \$200.00.
2. A notice was received from Minnesota Energy advising of a rate increase. Also included was a notice of a proposed acquisition of ALLETE, Minnesota Power's parent company, by CPP investments and GIP.

Treasurer's Report: Frank Burrow presented the reports from December through March.

Motion to accept: Gary Holk
Seconded motion: Phyllis DeCramer
Motion: Passed

Old Business:

- **MNDOT Sign Report:** Status on directional sign to AVM Memorial and Museum as well as where the placement will be. – No Report
- **AVM Museum Sign:** Everette reported on the building of an aluminum sign bracket/frame that will be used to install the sign on the west side of the monument facing highway 71. The frame will be made/welded with aluminum channel to prevent rusting and be easier to handle/set up. The cost will be \$350.00. A motion was made to approve the acquisition cost of the frame, \$350.00.
Motion to accept: Dori Becker
Seconded motion: Al Deneffe
Motion: Passed
- **AVM Building Repair:** Maintenance to the need to prep and paint the exterior trim of the building was discussed. It was decided that this would be addressed during the spring clean up event. Maintenance to the interior of the building concerning cracks in the ceiling and walls would be discussed and examined at the spring-cleaning event.
- **AVM Memorial Maintenance/Repairs/Engraving**
Maintenance: Some of the brick pavers around the memorial are heaving up and need to be reset to prevent someone tripping on them. This will be examined and discussed at the spring clean-up.
Repairs: The memorial pillars will need to have the caulking replaced because of our extreme seasonal weather conditions. The old caulking will need to be removed, backer caulk joint filler, red granite colored caulk to seal all joints. This will be discussed at the spring clean-up.
Engraving: Verbiage needs to be decided upon for the addition of adding conflicts to bring us up to date. Frank will present verbiage of the additional conflicts to be voted on and then sent out for quote to do the work.
- **AVM Presentations/Talks/Meet our Veterans:** We have been approached by the PR Lions Club to give a presentation, no date set. Other suggestions were Headwater County Lifelong Learning (HCLL). Need to

contact Rod Norenberg. (Need to get contact information). PR Library, Menahga VFW, (Open to Suggestions)

New Business:

- **Spring Cleaning:** Spring Cleaning will be May 2nd and 3rd from 10 AM to 1 PM each day. The exterior of the building, memorials, walkways and benches will be pressure washed. The building interior will be dusted, windows washed, and floors cleaned/mopped. The grounds will be mowed, edged, weeds sprayed as well as insecticide put down.
- **2025 Fundraising Events:**
 - Memorial 5K Run:** Scheduled Saturday May 24th 7:30 AM to 12:00PM. AVM will sell Memorial Day Flags.
 - Memorial Day Flags in Remembrance/Honor:** Started selling at the Legion Fish Fry April 11th beginning at 4:00 PM.
 - July 4th Parade:** Potential float and selling silicone bracelets.
 - Coborn's Brat Stand:** Cancelled – Coborn's closing store May 15th.
 - AVM Christmas Ornaments:** We will offer these and other items beginning at the Open Market Legion Tent – May 24th (5K Event) and June 14th (Open Market)
 - Wreaths across America:** \$5.00 rebate program for each wreath sold.
 - Open for suggestions.....**
- **Return of artifacts to Alan Withers:** Request from Alan Withers to have artifacts loaned to AVM for display be returned to him. Specifically, a German officer's sword and a Nazi flag. Documentation has been completed for signatures and put into our records. A motion was made to return the loaned artifacts to Alan Withers.
 - Motion to accept: Charlis Carroll
 - Seconded motion: Phyliss DeCramer
 - Motion: Passed

Next Meeting will be held at the AVM Building Thursday, May 15th, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Motion made to adjourn by Gary Holk
Motion was seconded by Wendy Deneffe
Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Frank Burrow, Secretary/Treasurer 2025