

Backus American Legion Auxiliary  
November 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Before our meeting started, The Pine River Backus High School Robotics Team made a presentation to show us where our money goes if we choose to donate to them. Present were members from the Legion Post, SAL and Auxiliary. They stated that the Robotics Team is considered a sport and is not funded by the school. It is all funded by sponsors. We learned that they are in a program called First Robotics Competition, where they build a robot to perform specific tasks and compete with other schools in a competition. Teamwork, problem solving and development of valuable skills is obtained by each student in this program, and some even go on to college with these skills in hand. The Team Coach will provide us with a letter asking for a donation. We will table this and address it when we obtain the letter.

Meeting called to order at 7:42 p.m. by Lori Bartholomay

Advance Colors: Karen Flier

Prayer: Sue Kostka

Pledge of Allegiance

Preamble to the Constitution

11 members were present

1 guest was present

The October 27, 2025 minutes were reviewed. Mel Taylor stated that there is one correction. She will be asking the Legion for \$4,000 instead of \$2,000 for Christmas presents for the Kid's Christmas Party. Patti Schmiesing made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Kostka to approve the minutes with that correction. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Mel stated that she deposited the Sunshine Fund into the General Fund. She also stated that the Dawson Family donated \$800 to the Auxiliary. She has already received the poppies for next year and has distributed the money we made this year evenly to the same charities we have donated to in the past. Karen Flier made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynne Gagnon to approve the report. Motion carried.

#### Membership Report

There are presently 81 paid members. We have already met our March, 2026 goal, which is 77 members.

### Correspondence/Donation Requests

Thank you from Barb Fredericks for paying her membership dues.

Thank you from Vae Kaiser's family for the gift of money.

Thank you from Bev Keller's family for her Celebration of Life and the wonderful food.

Letter from Pine River Backus Schools to consider scholarship donations for 2026.

### Department News

None

### Unfinished Business

#### Bake Sale Update:

Patti Schmiesing reported that we made \$1,312 and thanked all volunteers for their hard work.

#### Deer Hunter's Dinner Update:

164 dinners were served. \$1,363.79 was made.

Judy Deibel would like to help next year with the dinner but does not want to be co-chair.

#### Poinsettia Plants for Homebound Members Update:

Lynne Gagnon reported that 5 members will be sent flowers.

#### Packages for Troops Update:

Judy Johnston reported that she has 11 names so far. The deadline for any new names is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Gambling will be paying for postage.

#### Packages for Veterans in Nursing Homes Update:

Sue Kostka is working on getting names.

### New Business

The Kid's Christmas Party will be held on December 13, 2025 from 11:00 to 12:30. Mel has a Mrs. Santa but needs a Santa and an Elf. Deb has not done the shopping for gifts but will start now. If you can help with the party, please be here on that day by 10:00 a.m. We are planning for 60 kids.

### Cotton Candy Costs

Lori made a motion to pay for the product. Patti Schmiesing made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Kostka to pay for the product. Motion carried.

#### Funeral Committee

We need a small committee to order the food and gather the volunteers. We would like Sue Kostka to deal with the families. Patty Smith volunteered to help in any way she can. If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Lori.

#### Mats for kitchen area

Lori received a request for mats in the kitchen. She contacted the Legion and Katie will be ordering commercial rugs.

#### Cleanup after functions

Katie has been having to clean up the kitchen better than we leave it after functions. For now on she will be calling whoever put the function on if a good job hasn't been done, and that party will be responsible for going back to clean it up.

An Undraping Ceremony was held for Jean Dawson and Bev Keller.

A Draping Ceremony was held for Pat Meisner.

#### Other Business

Pam Kichler stated that she would like someone else to be responsible for the Memorial Garden. She will be happy to help. If you would like to take care of the garden, please contact Lori.

Prayer: Sue Kostka

Silent Prayer

Retire Colors: Karen Flier

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Secretary: Dianna Johnson