

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, JANUARY 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order was done was done by SVC Glowgower at 1102.

Opening of Altar done by OOD Garbeil.

Pledge of Allegiance led by SVC Glowgower.

Opening Prayer read by Chaplain Gross.

Guest Speaker Presentation

Speaker: Bethany Mindlin, Senior Constituent Services Representative, Office of Senator Gary Peters.

Background: Formerly worked with veterans and active-duty military since 2009.

- Daughter of Dr. Alan Mindlin (Post 510 member; Air Force and Michigan National Guard).
- Both grandfathers served in World War II.
- Dedicated to serving Michigan veterans.

Presentation Summary: Ms. Mindlin provided an overview of VA-related programs and benefits, including:

- **VA Casework Assistance**
 - Help obtaining DD-214s, personnel records, and medical records.
 - Access to National Personnel Records Center (noting record losses prior to 1973 fire in St. Louis record housing facility).
 - Congressional office assistance with stalled claims, appeals, and VA appointment issues.
- **AID IN ATTENDANCE - IMPORTANT VA PROGRAM!**
 - Available to wartime veterans without service-connected disability.
 - Helps offset assisted living, nursing home, or in-home care costs
 - Income-and asset-based eligibility.
 - Covers medical expenses such as caregivers, medications, Medicare premiums, mileage to medical appointments.
 - Approximate benefit: up to ~\$2,400/month depending on eligibility. There are income requirements.
 - Application via **VA.gov/pension**.
- **VA Caregiver Program**
 - Allows spouses or family members to be compensated as caregivers.
 - Expanded eligibility beyond WWII/Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.
- **Burial & End-of-Life Benefits**
 - **Pre-Need Burial Determination** recommended.

- Eligibility for burial at national cemeteries. Pre-need eligibility: www.va.gov/burials-memorials/elegibility. If the person has already died: www.va.gov/burials-memorials/schedule-a-burial.
- VA-provided headstones for unmarked graves or medallions for marked graves.
- Burial expense reimbursement (higher for service-connected death).
- Death Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving spouses of veterans who die from service-connected conditions.
 - Requires at least one year of marriage.
 - Michigan does not recognize common-law marriage.
 - Benefit may be up to ~\$2,400/month.
 - Education benefits may also apply.
- **VA Website & Access**
 - Encouraged use of **VA.gov**.
 - Recommended **ID.me** or **Login.gov** for identity verification.
 - Noted improved usability of VA online systems.
- **Community Care**
 - VA functions similarly to an HMO.
 - Outside care must be authorized and within VA networks.
 - University of Michigan noted as a VA partner facility.
 - Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) is a useful resource. Website is Michigan.gov/MVAA. Phone line 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838).

Ms. Mindlin can be reached at BETHANY_MINDLIN@PETERS.SENATE.GOV. Phone 313-226-6020. 477 Michigan Avenue, Suite 1837, Detroit, Mi. 48226. This was an EXCELLENT presentation. THANK YOU BETHANY!

Approval of Previous Minutes

No corrections were raised.

Quartermaster's Report

Presented by **Senior Vice Commander Bill Glogower** (Quartermaster absent).

- **Revenues (as of December 31):** \$1,627
- **Expenses:** \$2,946
- **Cash on Hand (12/31):** \$31,234
- **December Contributions:**
 - \$529
 - \$1,098

Report accepted as presented.

Announcements

- **No meeting in February.**
- **Next meeting:** March
- **March Speaker:** Elyssa Schmier, Director of the Michigan ADL.

Committee & Post Reports

Membership / Public Relations

- No formal report presented.
- Board membership meeting scheduled for January 20th.

Adopt-a-Veteran Program

- Post 135 member Al Agauas reported no recent activity.
- Efforts to resume outreach planned for March–April.

Post Reports

- **Post 135**
 - Membership recap completed.
 - Election and dues procedures reviewed.
 - Next meeting: March 22.
- **Post 474**
 - Insurance and financial matters discussed.
- **Post 510**
 - Financials, dues, and insurance reviewed.
 - Installation of Ethan Gross as Junior Vice Commander. Congratulations Ethan!

Old Business

- **Chanukah Party**
 - Successful and within budget.
- **Insurance**
 - Posts must now secure liability insurance.
- **Poppies**
 - 1,500 poppies ordered from the American Legion. The American Legion labels will need to be removed.
- **JWV Michigan Charles K. Scholarship Foundation**
 - On track.
 - Applications expected April, 2026
 - First scholarship anticipated May–June, 2026.

New Business

- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day:** January 27.
- **Tu B'Shevat:** February 1.
- **Four Chaplain's Day:** February 3.
- **Dues**
 - Anticipated increase.
 - Current rate: \$65/year.
 - Members encouraged to renew early.
- **JWV Birthday**
 - **March 15.**
 - Informal celebration proposed

Good and Welfare

No additional discussion.

Closing Prayer

Delivered by **Chaplain Gross**, honoring fallen comrades and reaffirming dedication to service and faith.

Adjournment

- Altar closed by Officer of the Day, **Sid Garbeil**.
- Salute to the Nation: SVC Glogower.
- Meeting adjourned by **Senior Vice Commander Bill Glogower 1152**.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Adler

Adjutant