

Meeting Minutes of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Department of Michigan, March 22, 2026

Location: Zekelman Holocaust Center (ZHC)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by SrVC Glogower at 1101.

2. Opening Ceremonies

The group stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance**, led by SrVC Glogower.

The **opening prayer** was delivered by Chaplain Gross, including prayers for wisdom, service, democracy, Israel, and for the safety of Israeli civilians and military personnel.

3. Guest Speaker Introduction

Patron of Post 474, Mark Adler, was introduced as:

- An advertising writer, creative director, and storyteller from Detroit.
- Creator of award-winning and globally recognized campaigns for Chrysler, PlayStation, and Rocket Mortgage.
- A comic book collector with a special interest in the connection between comics and Jewish history, identity, and the outsider experience.
- Grandson of two U.S. Army World War II veterans.

4. Guest Presentation: “We’ve Got Issues”

Mark Adler delivered a presentation on the deep connections between **Jewish history, identity, and the development of superhero comics**.

Main themes of the presentation:

- Jewish roots of the superhero archetype
- Connections between Jewish history and comic book storytelling.
- The significance of creators such as:
 - Jerry Siegel
 - Joe Shuster
 - Bob Kane
 - Bill Finger
 - Joe Simon
 - Jack Kirby
 - Stan Lee

- Chris Claremont
- Jewish themes in characters including:
 - Superman
 - Batman
 - Captain America
 - Spider-Man
 - The X-Men
 - Magneto
 - Kitty Pryde
 - The Thing
- The relationship between:
 - assimilation and secret identity
 - outsider-hood and heroism
 - Jewish ethics and moral responsibility
 - survival, justice, and storytelling

Closing message of the presentation:

Mark concluded by reflecting on Jewish visibility, moral courage, inheritance, and legacy, especially in light of recent antisemitic violence. He framed superhero stories as part of a Jewish cultural inheritance and emphasized the duty to pass that legacy on to future generations.

5. Discussion Following Presentation

A question-and-answer discussion followed.

Topics raised:

- How superhero stories handle morality, consequences, and sacrifice.
- The tension between doing what is right and understanding risk.
- Whether comics promote action without reckoning with consequences.
- Jewish philosophical traditions of questioning and moral wrestling.
- Why Jewish creators and Jewish themes in comics have often been hidden or under-recognized.
- How Mark conducted his research and discovered the Jewish backgrounds of so many major comic creators. He thanked the members of the Jewish War Veterans of Michigan for their contributions.

The presentation was very well received, with several attendees praising its depth, thoughtfulness, and research.

6. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the prior meeting had been distributed in advance.

There were no additions, deletions, or questions raised.

7. Quartermaster Report

Because the Quartermaster had to leave early, the report was read on his behalf.

Report highlights:

- The department is approximately **three-quarters through its fiscal year**.
- Revenues are currently about **two-thirds of budget**.
- Upcoming **poppy sales** and additional donations are expected to help the department meet revenue goals.
- Expenses are expected to remain **below budget** for the remainder of the year.
- Current surplus: **\$1,555**
- Total cash on hand: **\$30,997**

8. Membership and Public Relations Committee Report

JrVC Schenk gave a report on behalf of the Membership and Public Relations Committee.

Key points:

- The committee met on **March 12**.
- Spring and early summer calendar items were reviewed with post commanders.
- Upcoming dates noted
 - **April 19:** Yom HaShoah event
 - **April 26:** Michigan Heritage event at the **Frankel Archives**
- Post commanders will be asked to provide volunteers for the April 26 event.
- The National Membership Committee met on **March 17** and will meet again on **April 16**.
- National-level budget challenges were noted.
- Members were urged to **pay dues**, even if they have not yet been invoiced.
- Members were encouraged to share ideas for supporting the department with SrVC Glogower or JrVC Schenk.

9. Nominating Committee Report

Judge Advocate Polk reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

Key points:

- A meeting was held on **March 3**
- There was **not full attendance**, so the committee could not proceed fully
- A memorandum summarizing the meeting was issued

- The committee will meet again and present a slate to the Executive Committee on 12 April 2026 and at the 26 April department meeting.

10. Jewish War Veterans / Kaye Foundation Scholarship Report

JrVC Schenk provided a report regarding the JWV-MI—Kaye Foundation.

Key points:

- The foundation currently has approximately **\$26,000 in corpus**.
- The intent is to award about **\$6,000 in scholarships this year**.
 - Two scholarships of **\$2,500**
 - One scholarship of **\$1,000**
- Eligible applicants include those who are:
 - Jewish
 - direct lineal descendants of Jewish veterans
 - pursuing post-secondary education
 - Preference is to Veterans, those on active duty (to include Reserve Component or contracted ROTC cadets)
 -
- Members were urged to encourage eligible students to apply.
- Additional outreach and evaluation activity will begin in earnest in April.
- A recent article in the **Jewish News** featured benefactor **Barbara Kaye**.

11. Reports from Posts

Post 135

Nothing significant to report.

Post 474

Discussion focused on finances and upcoming events.

Post 510

No new report beyond general discussion of current activities.

12. Old Business

Executive Committee Donation

The Executive Committee approved a **\$1,000 donation to KosherTroops.com for Passover**.

Insurance

- Posts have liability insurance.
- Fidelity insurance is still being pursued.

- The department is also looking into its own liability insurance.

Poppy Distribution

- Discussion was held regarding adding **Jewish War Veterans labels** to the poppies.
- Inquiry to be made with Jewish Vocational Services regarding possible labeling options and cost.

Reminder

Post commanders were reminded that **Financial Board reports are due by the end of March.**

13. New Business

Upcoming Events

The following upcoming events were discussed:

- **April 19:** Yom HaShoah
- **April 26:** Michigan Heritage event
- **May 4 at 11:00 AM:** Flagging of graves at **Machpelah Cemetery** in Ferndale and adjoining cemeteries
 - Rain date: **May 6**
 - Approximately 300 graves
- **May 7:** Flagging of graves at **Oakview Cemetery** in Royal Oak
 - Approximately 85 graves
- **May 24:** Memorial Day weekend observances at:
 - Machpelah Cemetery
 - Hebrew Memorial
 - Times to be announced
- **Memorial Day Parade:** Will be in **Farmington**, not Royal Oak.
- **July 3 (Friday):** Oak Park parade
- **June 22 to July 1:** JWV Mission to Israel
 - Status uncertain at present
- **July 9:** National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Detroit
 - Volunteers are being sought

Recognition Proposal

A proposal was discussed to create a **plaque or award** from the department for:

- Security guards at Temple Israel
- Possibly members of the police departments

This would be in appreciation for their recent actions. The matter will be developed further and brought to the next Executive Committee meeting.

Annual “Shoot, Schmooze and Barbecue”

Plans were announced to hold the annual event again this year.

- **Date:** June 14
- **Location:** Bald Mountain area near Lake Orion (different location from last year)
- Volunteers are being sought
- Last year’s event was described as a great success

Media/Publicity Update

A pre-recorded radio interview featuring **Mark Weiss and Barbara Kaye** aired earlier today on several radio network stations, including:

- WWJ
- WJR
- The Ticket

A link to the interview will be circulated for broader sharing.

14. Closing Prayer Chaplain Gross delivered the closing prayer, asking for strength, resolve, and dedication to the values and sacrifices of fallen comrades, and for continued protection of America and Jewish faith.

15. Adjournment

- **Salute to the Nation led by SVC Glogower.**
- **Meeting adjourned by SVC Glogower at 1216.**

FOR THE COMMANDER

Adler

Adjutant