

**Camp Liberty Inc.  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tuj-joay-axr>

Or dial: (US) +1 786-886-2424 PIN: 397 711 695#

- I. Call to Order and Welcome to new Guests - 6:08 p.m. Guests attending were Kathy Sutherland, Terri Madden, Ed Madden, Craig Peterson, Jeff Oswalt, Bob Longloi, and Mary Smetana.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Roll Call and Certification of Proper Notice and Quorum to conduct business- All board members were in attendance except Jay Truchan. Melinda Schwyn, CLI Executive Director, also participated. Proper notice was provided and a quorum was present as required by the bylaws.
- IV. Reading and approval of the March 2025 board meeting minutes - Suzanne made a motion to accept the March 2025 minutes as presented with the correction of the spelling of Terri's name. Allan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- V. President's Report: Jeremy Briggs  
Jeremy covered his fundraising update during the New Business portion of the meeting.
- VI. Treasurers Report: Allan Lutes  
Allan informed the board that we are on budget and we do not have any outstanding payables. Our CPA is working on the tax return and it will be filed by the 5/15 deadline. Allan also reported that he has trained both Melinda and Terri on Facebook administration, Instagram administration, and Mail Chimp. Financial reports will be presented at the May Meeting.
- VII. Director Report – Melinda Schwyn  
Melinda updated the board on her upcoming meeting with the Jackson Chamber President to be held on 4/11. Jay and Larry will also attend. She also reported that all plans for the April 23-27 Turkey Hunt are set. Melinda suggested that CLI make a donation to the Brooklyn Sportsmen Club for their upcoming fundraiser to support CLI. Allan made a motion to donate \$100.00. Larry seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Plans for Conservation Day are on track. The Conservation Committee will hold a meeting to finalize the details.
- VIII. Committee Reports
  - A. Community Relations – Kathy Sutherland  
No report.
  - B. Maintenance and Repair – Ed Madden  
Ed reported that he has been busy with maintenance on several pieces of equipment and organizing the barn. The Blackstone grill is operational and just needs a thorough cleaning.
- IX. Old Business
  - A. Track Chairs Update – Rick updated the board on the state of the track chairs and the

offer that was made to purchase one of the chairs. The board is asked to come to the May meeting with suggestions on possible organizations for donation of the chair.

X. New Business

- A. Donation boxes – Chaplain Bob let the board know that he has made a CLI donation box. Larry will approach the Brooklyn Big Boy to request permission to place the box at their restaurant. Chaplain Bob is willing to create additional boxes if we identify other locations for placement.
- B. AI and Grant writing – Chaplain Bob updated the board on the possibility of using AI to assist with grant writing for CLI. He will pursue this idea further and report back to the board.
- C. St. Joseph Shrine Church – Mary Smetana provided an overview of the Stuff the Stocking Program and several other outreach programs that she oversees. Allan stated that he could see some possibilities of CLI partnering with St. Joseph Shrine to help local veterans. Rick offered to work with Mary on a joint effort for Christmas.

XI. Next Meeting Dates

- A. Board of Directors Meeting – May 6 at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Board of Directors Meeting – June 9 at 6:00 p.m.

XII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

## 2025 Strategic Plan

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- 1. Camp Liberty will continue to offer programs to serve our veterans, those with mobility challenges, and members of our surrounding communities. We will consider targeting programming to support additional target groups, such as local first responders, who may have interests and needs similar to those we currently serve.
- 2. Camp Liberty will improve our communications programs to connect with more veterans, community members, and others we can serve.
- 3. Camp Liberty will launch new efforts to recruit and recognize the volunteers and donors who support Camp Liberty.
- 4. Camp Liberty will seek out and engage additional volunteer leaders. This includes electing two to four additional members for our board of directors and two to four additional volunteers to actively engage in leading committees or events.
- 5. Camp Liberty will improve its fundraising efforts by implementing new programs resulting in at least \$150% of the amount raised in 2024. Efforts to find significant grants and funding for the purchase of the property by CLI will also be explored.

### SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

- 6. Camp Liberty will complete the family fishing pond to include accessible fishing docks, aeration, water level control, structure for habitat, and stocking with fish.
- 7. Camp Liberty will work collaboratively with the River Raisin Watershed Council on a program, such as a river cleanup on the section of the river on the banks of Camp Liberty
- 8. Camp Liberty will Investigate opportunities to work with other agencies and groups that will allow Camp Liberty's Trackchairs to be better utilized by those with mobility challenges.

## Camp Liberty Inc. 2025 Calendar

February 22 – 2025 Kick Off and Volunteer Appreciation Event – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

March 15 – Veterans Pheasant Hunt - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

April 23-27 – Veterans Turkey Hunt - begins at 1:00 p.m. on April 23 and runs through 1:00 p.m. on April 27. Located at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

May 17 - Spring Conservation Day – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty

June 28 – Summer Picnic - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty

August 9 – Fall Conservation Day – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty

Sept 12 – 14 – Liberty Disabled Veterans and Youth Deer Hunt - -1:00 p.m. on Sept. 12 through 1:00 p.m.

on Sept. 14 at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

October 16 to 19 – Independence Disabled Veteran Hunt - begins at 1:00 p.m. on Oct 16 and runs through 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 19. Located at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

November 19 to 23 – Veterans Firearm Deer Season Hunt - - 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 19 and runs through 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 23. Located at Camp Liberty, 7044 Kappler Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

December 6 – Veterans Pheasant Hunt - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Camp Liberty