



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

Chairman
Christian Sauer

Vice-Chairman
John Takach

Secretary
Rhonda Villanova

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187



Members
Joe Boucher
Jacob Cawthorn
Christian Cuthbert
Paul Fiasconaro
Sara Landon
John O'Shaughnessy
Cheryl Samborski
Student Representative
Kashish Koul
Aarush Kumar
Logan Takach

January 27, 2026

Present: Chris Sauer, John Takach, Joseph Boucher, Rhonda Villanova, and Paul Fiasconaro; via
ZOOM: Aarush Kumar

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve December 9, 2025 meeting minutes: Boucher 1st; Fiasconaro 2nd ; all in favor,
motion passed unanimously.

Elections:

Motion to maintain the current slate of officers: Boucher 1st, Fiasconaro 2nd; after a brief discussion all
in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Chris Sauer reported that the WAA cut-off for early wreath orders was December 31st, not January
31st. The funds from the committee were not sent out to make the December date.

John Takach had received the recommendation for the Flag pole to be 25 feet instead of 20. There has
been no progress since the last meeting. Chris and Joe noted that a tree or planting of some sort needed
to be part of the future plan.

Rhonda Villanova noted that Sheldon's Horse was officially invited to the America 250 event, but not
as speakers for Memorial Day.

New Business:

The committee had a discussion regarding a speaker for Memorial Day including past speakers and
content. It was decided that Paul Fiasconaro would be the special speaker for this year's high school
program.

Chris Sauer and John Takach have conflicts with the committee's February 24th meeting. It was
recommended that we cancel that meeting.

** Motion to cancel the February 24th meeting due to conflicts and lack of quorum; Boucher 1st, Fiasconaro 2nd, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Villanova asked when the Banner Program would start advertising for applicants. The committee had determined at the start of the program to enter a couple names from our Memorial Day Roll Call list of (17) each year until all of them were displayed. Chris Sauer had received three applications so far for this year. There are carry-overs from last year. Rebecca Stack from Human Services will be contacted for the status on any new applications and other details.

Joseph Boucher had a question regarding the Fly-over schedule and whether the request needed to be sent in February. John Takach said the request process is easier since we have been in the queue for several years.

Chris Sauer stated he was going to order (10) gross flags for Memorial Day. There were (2) gross remaining from previous years.

Rhonda Villanova asked about costumed marchers that were discussed at a previous meeting for Memorial Day. It was suggested to contact the Historical Society for reenactor contacts.

Motion to adjourn: Boucher 1st, Fiasconaro 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Next Meeting: **March 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary

