

# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

## DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Midwinter Conference

Baraboo, Wisconsin

Department Commander Greg Eirich called the meeting to order with a salute to the National Colors, Invocation by Department Chaplain John Gessner and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Greg Eirich, Department Commander	Ken McCormick, 3 <sup>rd</sup> District Commander
Julie Muhle, Department Vice Commander	Linda Pfeiffer, 4 <sup>th</sup> District Commander
Keith Lovell, Department Vice Commander	Craig Ellis, 5 <sup>th</sup> District Commander
Harry Bauer, Department Vice Commander	David Steinert, 6 <sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander
John Gessner, Department Chaplain	Carl Sjolander, 7 <sup>th</sup> District Commander
Frank Kostka, Past Department Commander	Adam Klapperich, 8 <sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander
Robert L. Shappell, National Executive Committeeman	Jeff Zwiars, 9 <sup>th</sup> District Commander
Karl Stuvengen, 1 <sup>st</sup> District Commander	Rita Rindahl, 10 <sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander
Jim Johnson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Commander	John Polzin, 11 <sup>th</sup> District Commander
	Scott Markle, 12 <sup>th</sup> District Commander

Excused:

David Latimer, Department Vice Commander  
David Wischer, Past Department Commander

**MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY HARRY BAUER TO APPROVE 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER DAVE STEINERT TO SIT WITH VOICE AND VOTE TO REPRESENT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JOHN POLZIN TO APPROVE 8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER ADAM KLAPPERICH TO SIT WITH VOICE AND VOTE TO REPRESENT THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY ROBERT SHAPPELL, SECOND BY HARRY BAUER TO APPROVE 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER RITA RINDAHL TO SIT WITH VOICE AND VOTE TO REPRESENT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2021 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin's candidate for National Commander gave his final greeting to the Department for the weekend.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION REPORT- Chair Clifford Stanisch

Vice-Chair Steve Krueger called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Clifford Stanisch, Chair  
Steve Krueger, Vice Chair  
Ken McCormick, Member  
Charlie Coleman, Member  
Bill Crowley, Member  
Gary Meyer, Employment Chair  
Joe Hodgson, Hospital Chair  
Steve Conto, Cremated Remains TF Chair  
James Fialkowski, Department Service Office, Consultant  
Denise Jamrozy, Camp AL Committee Chair, Consultant  
Harry Bauer, DEC Liaison  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Ron Kuta, Member  
Tim Baranzyk, Homeless Vets TF Chair

**Motion by Ken McCormick, second by Gary Meyer to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

Gary Meyer gave Employment Report.

**Motion to approve by Joe Hodgson, second Steve Conto to approve Employment Report. Motion Carried.**

Tim Baranzyk submitted written Homeless Veterans Task Force report.

**Motion by Joe Hodgson, second by Ken McCormick to approve Homeless Veterans Task Force. Motion Carried.**

Joe Hodgson read the Hospital Report.

**Motion by Charlie Coleman, second by Bill Crowley to approve Hospital Report. Motion Carried.**

Steve Conto read Unclaimed Cremains Task Force report.

**Motion by Ken McCormick, second by Gary Meyer to approve Unclaimed Cremains Task Force Report. Motion Carried.**

Denise Jamrozy read Camp Report.

**Motion by Bill Crowley, second by Joe Hodgson to approve Camp Report. Motion Carried.**

James Fialkowski read Department Service Office Report.

**Motion by Bill Crowley, second Joe Hodgson to approve Department Service Office Report. Motion Carried.**

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 2:35.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JIM JOHNSON, SECOND BY KARL STUVENGEN TO APPROVE THE VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Raymond Peterson**

Chair Raymond Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Raymond Peterson, Chair  
Mark Melton, Vice Chair  
John Gessner, DEC Liaison

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Todd Fanta, Immediate Past Department Chaplain

Guests:

Past Department Chaplain Art Biesek  
Past 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander Julia Atkinson

**Motion by Mark Melton, second by Raymond Peterson to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Mark Melton, second by Raymond Peterson to add 3 or 4 more members to the Religious Emphasis Committee which would be able to vote on points. Motion Carried.**

Chair Peterson presented a slide show on how the Chaplains should perform their duties. Possibly put together a SOP for Chaplains so they understand their position and duties.

Commander Eirich spoke on the importance of the Religious Emphasis Committee.

Chaplain Retreat at Camp American Legion May 21-22, 2022.

Department Chaplain reported working with Ft. McCoy with PTSD issues.

Meeting adjourned per ritual at 12:00 PM.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JOHN POLZIN, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO APPROVE THE RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS COMMITTEE REPORT.**

The DEC members discussed the fact that a committee cannot change the structure of the committee. This needs to go through a resolution at Department Convention.

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO POSTPONE THE RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS COMMITTEE MOTION ON COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN THEIR REPORT, TO THE DEPARTMENT SPRING MEETINGS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CALL FOR THE PREVIOUS MOTION AS AMENDED TO POSTPONE THE MOTION ON COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO SPRING MEETINGS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Bob Batty**

Chair Bob Batty called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Bob Batty, Chair  
Al Richards, Vice Chair  
Denise Rohan, Past National Commander, Ex-Officio-Zoom  
Chuck Cooney, Member  
Roy Helms, Member  
Ted DeMicchi, Member  
Dallas Loesel, Member-Zoom

Nicholas Lange, Department Judge Advocate, Consultant  
Robert Shappell, DEC Liaison  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Guests:  
PDC Dan Seehafer  
PDC Wayne Jensen

**Motion by Al Richards, second by Chuck Cooney to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Al Richards, second by Ted DeMicchi to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of WI and WAL Foundation with the Department Commander's Signature added. Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Chuck Cooney, second by Al Richards to study the Protocol and Planning Guide and bring it back as part of the agenda at the next Policy Meeting. Motion Carried.**

The committee discussed the balance of District representation on Department Committees. Ted stated that the C&A Commission and the Finance Committee are two of the big ones. Commander Eirich and Adjutant Gear stated that there are few members applying, leaving a limited choice for putting the best people on each of the committees.

NEC Shappell stated that long term, this needs to be part of the training.

Meeting adjourned per ritual.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO APPROVE THE POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

The Department presented PDC Ted DeMicchi a plaque thanking him for his eight years of service as the Policy Committee Chair.

**NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Bob Bohr**

Chair Bob Bohr called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Bob Bohr, Chair  
Charlie Young, Vice Chair, POW/MIA Chair  
Steve Isensee, Member, Blood Donor Chair  
Leo Endres, Member  
Michelle Adams, Member  
Thomas Lachance, Member  
Julie Muhle, DEC Liaison  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Guests:  
Assistant Department Chaplain Raymond Peterson

**Motion by Bob Bohr, second by Steve Isensee to approve the minutes of the Department Fall Meeting. Motion carried.**

Blood Drive Report:

Red Cross is having staffing problems. Questionable about blood drive at summer convention. Julie asked about alternate sources. Mandates causing shortage of staff. May have one at CAL.

POW/MIA Report:

13, 7 NYY, 5 Army, 1 Army air corps, 80 Annn Pearl Harbor ends ID of unknown remains as of 12/7/21. Last two were Trapp Brothers.

Award nominations (police, fire)- Districts need to get info to counties and posts. Forms online only. First responders are reluctant to single out specific employees. Enlisted only awards. Forms are simplified.

Troop and Family Support Fund- Berres Brothers Coffee 15% of profits go to Troop & Family Support Fund. Applications go to James at the Service Office and the committee emails for review. \$500/veteran/entry. \$12,000 in account. Julie suggested adjustments to form. Guest Mark P does not recommend this, stating all are denied. Those most in need aren't able to be Legion Members. Bohr-verbiage was strict due to starting our and unknowns of funds, needs and ability to pay. They suggested to remove "service organization" phrase, and also remove small printing. Vote on the changes at spring meetings. What are the projected commitments from Berres Brothers Coffee. That affects how much we open the fund up to all veterans and families. Changing scope, maybe divide funds. Look to other big corporations to support fund. Pay direct to overdue bill, expense. Tom L. budgeting for next year starting now. Bob, James, Nathan, Julie will submit changes. Lee should provide regular financial statements. Cost for sending a delegate to D.C.

Post 38 does Red Cross ask re: Vaccination, but doesn't refuse non-vax. Experimental vaccination doesn't require delay to donate. Whole blood tested for antibodies.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO APPROVE THE NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT.**

Many, including the Department Service Officer spoke on how the fund is not serving veterans. The current requirements cause most to not qualify. It was strongly recommended that it be opened up to all veterans.

**MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY JEFF ZWIERS TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR THE TROOP AND FAMILY SUPPORT FUND TO INCLUDE ANY VETERAN THAT WOULD QUALIFY FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CALL FOR THE PREVIOUS MOTION AS AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY FOR THE TROOP AND FAMILY SUPPORT FUND. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair James Waltich**

Chair James Waltich called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

James Waltich, Chair  
James Lee, Member  
Rita Rindahl, Member  
Tom Visintainer, Member  
Julie Muhle, Department Vice Commander  
Keith Lovell, Department Vice Commander  
Harry Bauer, Department Vice Commander  
Jim Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander  
Linda Pfeiffer, 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
Dave Steinert, 6<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander  
Scott Markle, 12<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
Jeff Zwiers, DEC Liaison

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant  
Excused:

David Latimer, Department Vice Commander  
Gail Minks, 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
Larry Larson, 10<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
Justin Steiner, Member  
Steve Kohnke, Vice Chair

Guests:

**Motion by Linda Pfeiffer, second by Julie Muhle to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

Adjutant Gear addressed the committee and stated they need to focus on ROI and events. Chet Faith was introduced to group.

**Motion by Jim Johnson, second by Julie Muhle that as an incentive, the winning Post, County and District will receive \$300 Post, \$200 County and \$100 District and each will receive Battle Streamers to hang from the flag. Motion Carried.**

The Committee Chair James Waltich asked for volunteers to reach out to the 100% posts in their districts and provide 3 bullet points as to what they have done to get to 100%. The following volunteers are:

- Tom Visintainer, 1<sup>st</sup>
- Jim Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Keith Lovell 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Linda Pfeiffer 4<sup>th</sup>
- James Waltich 5<sup>th</sup>
- Dave Steinert 6<sup>th</sup>
- Steve Krueger 7<sup>th</sup>
- Julie Muhle 8<sup>th</sup>
- Jeff Zwiers 9<sup>th</sup>
- Larry Larson 10<sup>th</sup>
- Harry Bauer 11<sup>th</sup>
- Scott Markle 12<sup>th</sup>

These members will report back to the committee chair by January 30, 2022.

The committee discussed upcoming events such as the State Fair, Road America, Tractor Pulls and incentives for membership.

Commander Eirich discussed the future of membership and his personal incentives for District Commanders. Now is the time to act.

The Auxiliary President spoke and invited everyone to their meeting on 1/15/22 from 9-10:30 AM.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY RITA RINDAHL TO APPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT.**

The question was posed about the motion regarding incentives, the Chair stated that these were the March Madness incentives.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Commander Eirich stated that there will be \$1250.00 to the first District Commander to make it to 100% 30 days prior to convention.

## **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Joan Sallee**

Chair Joan Sallee called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Joan Sallee, Chair  
Mike Feirer, Vice Chair  
Jerrold Schultz, Member  
Paul Ciarelli, Member  
Bill Robbins, Member  
Russ Hanseter, Advisor  
Linda Pfeiffer, DEC Liaison  
DuWayne Wieck, Department Historian  
Bonnie Dorniak, American Legion Auxiliary Liaison  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Allen Nohl, Member  
Mike Rohan, Advisor

Guests:

PDC Frank Kostka,  
PDC Jim Chapin,  
DVC Keith Lovell

**Motion by Mike Feirer, second by Paul Ciarelli to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

Old Business:

Committee discussed timeline and calendar, Wisconsin's message, yard signs, and Post Marketing tool kit.

New Business:

Bill Robbins encouraged posts to partner with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H groups for technical support and social media for the post as well as to assist youth with completing community service activities.

Marketing & Communications Committee Plan of Action Workbook: Russ Hanseter reviewed the workbook distributed to committee members. He addressed the demographics of veterans in Wisconsin and the need to consider how to best target the various groups based on age, gender, race, etc. He distributed an analysis of Market Penetration by County (see attachment). He reviewed information from national regarding a consistent message: Our Motto, Our Vision, Our Mission, and Our Value Principles (see page 23 of workbook). National is developing promotion materials around these concepts. Russ Hanseter discussed the use of the new Legion Brand Mark and The American Legion emblem (see pages 20-21 of workbook). The Department Adjutant stated that Department Headquarters needs to approve use of the Legion Brand Mark.

**Motion by Jerrold Schultz, second by Mike Feirer, to adopt the national motto as listed on page 23 of the Plan of Action workbook as Department of Wisconsin's message. Motion carried.**

Russ Hanseter reviewed the research data on how to grow membership (see page 9 of workbook). He referenced six sample posts whose membership goals total 664 members, while the veteran population in their counties totals 28,174 veterans. He proposed creating a Post Tool Kit to grow membership in these "Lucky Six Posts." The contents of the sample Post Tool Kit are listed on page 22 of the workbook. The first step would be to contact the six posts to see if they

are receptive to being part of a pilot program and encourage them to take advantage of the resources that would be provided to them to grow membership.

**Motion by Mike Feirer, second by Paul Ciarelli, to move forward with this study with the six pilot posts identified on page 9 and adopt the tool kit as defined on page 22 of the workbook. Motion carried.**

Commander Eirich addressed the committee and thanked them for their work. He reminded them to complete the tasks defined at the last meeting, present a budget proposal to Finance Committee, work together with Membership and Fundraising Committees, and develop a theme poster for the March Madness Membership program.

Joan Sallee presented the Marketing & Communications Committee budget proposal for \$73,040.00.

**Motion by Jerrold Schultz, second by Mike Feirer to adopt the budget as presented. Motion carried.**

Russ Hanseter encouraged the committee to look at the calendar of activities in the Marketing & Communications Plan of Action Workbook on pages 16-19 to determine actions that the Committee needs to complete prior to each quarter.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 3:15 pm.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Paul Fisk**

Chair Paul Fisk called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Paul Fisk, Chair

Nathan Bond, Vice Chair

Cathy Gorst, Member

Jerry Krofta, Member

Mark Degner, Member

Nicholas P. Lange, Department Judge Advocate, Consultant

Keith Lovell, DEC Liaison

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio

Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Absent:

Ed Cooper, Member

Guests:

**Motion by Nathan Bond, second by Cathy Gorst to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Nathan Bond, second by Cathy Gorst to recommend to DEC adoption of resolution federal funding for County/Tribal veterans service office. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Nathan Bond, second by Cathy Gorst to recommend to DEC adoption of a resolution rescinding convention resolutions on membership. Amended motion adopted.**

**Motion to by Cathy Gorst, second by Nathan Bond to amend by adding after the indicating “approved to be archived.” Motion carried.**

**Motion by Nathan Bond, second by Jerry Krofta to recommend to DEC adoption of a resolution providing for rescinding obsolete and accomplished resolutions. Motion Carried.**



**Motion by Nathan Bond, second by Jerry Krofta to postpone until spring meeting. Motion Carried.**

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 11:45.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO APPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION, INC. REPORT- President Paul Fisk**

President Fisk called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM with a Salute to the Colors, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was taken with the following in attendance:

Paul Fisk, President

Steve Krueger, Vice President

Denise Rohan, Director

John Cumicek, Director

Frank Kostka, Director

Greg Eirich, Department Commander

Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Secretary/Treasurer

**Motion by Director Kostka, second by Director Cumicek to approve the January 13, 2022 Foundation Board Meeting Agenda, as Amended\*. Motion carried.**

\* Ted DeMicchi, National Convention Corporation Chair, presented background and request of a \$30,000.00 grant for the National Convention bussing in Milwaukee in August 2022 for Board discussion.

**Motion by Director Cumicek, second by Director Kostka to approve the December 17, 2021 Foundation Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented the December 2021 program activity updates, Finance Office Activities Summary, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects Update, Q3 Asset Management Investment Report, FY2021-2022 SMART Goal Update, Q3 Asset Management Investment Report, and December 2021 Holiday Raffle for Board discussion. Finance Director recommended other fundraising options to grow net assets, i.e. corporate telemarketing.

Jon Wojciechowski, Q3 Asset Management presented the multiple investment account portfolio overview and answered Board of Director questions.

**Motion by Director Kostka, second by Vice President Krueger to adjourn the Board of Directors at 6:30PM with Closing Ritual. Motion carried.**

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION, INC. REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**HOSPITAL COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Joe Hodgson**

Chair Joe Hodgson called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Joe Hodgson, Chair, Middleton Representative

Dan Jakubczyk, Vice Chair, Zablocki Representative

Susan Knudson Member  
James Young, King Representative  
Ken Schoolcraft, Tomah Representative  
Ken McCormick, DEC Liaison  
James Fialkowski, Department Service Officer, Consultant  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Jerry Gibbons, Member  
Roger Sass, Union Grove Representative  
Ross Auna, Chippewa Falls Representative

Guests:

Absent:

Donna Swenson, Minneapolis Representative  
Carl Krenn, Iron Mountain

**Motion by Susan Knudson, second by Dan Jakubczyk to approve the minutes of the Department Convention. Motion Carried.**

King report (attached)

**Motion by Dan Jakubczyk, second by Susan Knudson to accept the King Report. Motion Carried.**

Zablocki Report (attached)

**Motion by Jim Young, second by Susan Knudson to approve the Zablocki Report. Motion Carried.**

Tomah Report (attached)

**Motion by Susan Knudson, second by Joe Hodgson to approve the Tomah report. Motion Carried.**

Union Grove Report (attached)

**Motion by Joe Hodgson, second by James Young to approve the Union Grove Report. Motion Carried.**

Madison Report (attached)

**Motion by Dan Jakubczyk, second by Ken Schoolcraft to approve the Madison Report. Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Susan Knudson, second by Jim Young to adjourn. Motion Carried.**

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 4:15 PM.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO APPROVE THE HOSPITAL COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT- Member Becky Laumann**

Chair Barbara Belmont called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Barbara Belmont, Chair  
Chuck Roessler, Vice Chair  
Aimee Korger, Member  
Chris Chinander, Member  
Becky Laumann, Member  
Tom Lay, Member  
Karl Stuvengen, DEC Liaison  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

**Motion by Becky Laumann, second by Chuck Roessler to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

Chair Belmont presented V360 Fundraising Report, signed 2022-2023 V360 Fundraising Contract, and possible fundraising events for Committee discussion. The Committee raised questions regarding the signed V360 contract review process and request review before any and all future contracts with any vendor regarding fundraising. Committee discussed various campaigns, Chair Belmont distributed campaign return on investment (ROI).

**Motion by Chuck Roessler, second by Aimee Korger to adjourn the meeting per ritual at 12:07 PM. Motion carried.**

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO APPROVE THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Jim Chapin**

October 21, 2021

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 1 PM with a Salute to the Colors, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was taken with the following in attendance:

Jim Chapin, Chair  
Robert Gammon, Vice Chair  
Wayne Jensen, Member  
Jennifer Rumbold, Member  
Ken Rynes, Member  
Donald Stone, Member  
Jim Johnson, DEC Liaison  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Barbara Belmont, Fundraising Committee Chair, Consultant

**Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Ken Rynes to approve the October 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes, previously approved by the Department Executive Committee. Motion carried.**

Finance Director updated the Committee regarding the FY2019-2020 audit by KerberRose S.C. KerberRose will provide a qualified letter and will be available for questions via Zoom at the November 2021 Finance Committee Meeting.

Finance Director presented the September 2021 program activity updates, Finance Office Activities Summary, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, and the Human Resources Update. Finance Director notified the Committee that the monthly deferrals beginning July 2017 through current month had been calculated and methodology recently approved by KerberRose. The calculation had not been applied to the FY2020-2021

year-end processing or subsequent September 2021 revenue recognition and financial reporting.

**Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Ken Rynes to temporarily suspend the hiring freeze to affirm the part-time (up to 30 hours per week) HDQ Administrative Assistant position, as adopted through the FY2021-2022 Budget by the Department Executive Committee, and direct the Department Adjutant to amend the Job Description as needed and fill the vacant Administrative Assistant position. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Robert Gammon to table review of the draft 2021 Camp American Legion Census to the Midwinter Conference, January 14, 2022. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Ken Rynes, second by Wayne Jensen to recess the Finance Committee at 2:37 PM with Closing Ritual, subject to the call of the Commander. Motion carried.**

The next scheduled in-person meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 1 PM.

November 18, 2021

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 1 PM with a Salute to the Colors, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was taken with the following in attendance:

Jim Chapin, Chair

Robert Gammon, Vice Chair

Wayne Jensen, Member

Donald Stone, Member

Jim Johnson, DEC Liaison

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex Officio

Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Jennifer Rumbold, Member

Ken Rynes, Member

Barbara Belmont, Fundraising Committee Chair, Consultant

**Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Donald Stone to approve the October 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented draft audit statements for Committee review of the FY2019-2020 audit by KerberRose S.C.

Finance Director presented the October 2021 program activity updates, Finance Office Activities Summary, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, Statements of Financial Position, Income and Expenses, and the Human Resources Update for Committee discussion.

Committee received the draft FY 2021-2022 Department Contract Summary for further review.

Committee discussed the one (1) remaining vehicle to be purchased for the Department Adjutant. \$45,437 available in budgeted use of investments, along with projected \$2,000 in trade-in value of 2010 Ford Escape. Additional funds will be needed as the used market value is approximately 85% of new market value.

Finance Director provided the labor allocation by Department locale. Department Adjutant referred questions of Camp American Legion job duties to the Job Descriptions for Camp American Legion employees.

Finance Director briefly discussed the possible cost savings of a self-funded orthodontia benefit instead of operating it through Delta Dental – similar to the self-funded short-term disability program.

Committee discussed the current hiring and wage freezes, as all positions and wages are established through the annual fiscal-year budget process.

**Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Robert Gammon to recess the Finance Committee at 3:43 PM with Closing Ritual, subject to the call of the Commander. Motion carried.**

The next scheduled in-person and Zoom meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 1 PM.

December 16, 2021

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 1 PM with a Salute to the Colors, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was taken with the following in attendance:

Jim Chapin, Chair

Robert Gammon, Vice Chair

Wayne Jensen, Member

Donald Stone, Member

Jim Johnson, DEC Liaison

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex Officio

Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Jennifer Rumbold, Member

Ken Rynes, Member

Barbara Belmont, Fundraising Committee Chair, Consultant

**Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Wayne Jensen to approve the December 15, 2021 Amended Agenda.**

**Motion carried.**

**Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Wayne Jensen to approve the November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

Jamie Rosin, CPA, KerberRose S.C., presented successful FY2019-2020 audit and answered committee questions. FY2019-2020 qualified audit due to WIPFLI data transfer from Intacct back to QuickBooks offset each transaction directly to Net Assets. KerberRose maintained PPE schedule January 2017 through June 2020; Department Finance Office beginning July 2020.

Finance Director presented the November 2021 program activity updates, Finance Office Activities Summary, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, Statements of Financial Position, Income and Expenses, and the (1) one remaining vehicle purchased for Department Adjutant (Adopted FY2021-2022 Budget) for Committee discussion.

Department Adjutant presented the human resources updates, including the Performance Evaluation review status with employees, and initiated Time Reporting for FY2022-2023 Budget (one of four Time Reporting scheduled).

Finance Chair presented the National Convention Corporation Advancement of \$30,000.00 for busing, outside the FY2021-2022 Budget process, the National Membership 103% Incentive, possible mirroring incentive at Department of Wisconsin Post level, the revised "*Internal Control Manual for Financial Procedures*," and the forthcoming revised "*Compensation Plan*" to incorporate the Performance Evaluation timeline and Department Adjutant performance evaluation process for Committee discussion.

**Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Robert Gammon to recess the Finance Committee at 2:13 PM with Closing Ritual, subject to the call of the Commander. Motion carried.**

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be at Midwinter Conference, Friday, January 14, 2022 at 3 PM.

January 14, 2022

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 3 PM with a Salute to the Colors, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was taken with the following in attendance:

Jim Chapin, Chair

Robert Gammon, Vice Chair  
Wayne Jensen, Member  
Donald Stone, Member  
Jim Johnson, DEC Liaison  
Jennifer Rumbold, Member  
Ken Rynes, Member  
Barbara Belmont, Fundraising Committee Chair, Consultant  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant  
Excused: Donald Stone, Department could not connect to Zoom Meeting

**Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Wayne Jensen to approve the January 14, 2022 Agenda, as Amended\*.  
Motion carried.**

**Motion by Ken Rynes, second by Robert Gammon to approve the December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Motion carried.**

Finance Director presented the December 2021 program activity updates, Finance Office Activities Summary, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, FY2022-2023 Budget Guidance/Timeline, Statements of Financial Position, Income and Expenses for Committee discussion.

**Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Ken Rynes to approve the loan of \$30,000.00 to the National Convention Corporation for the National Convention bussing outside the FY2021-2022 Budget process, to be taken out of the Q3 Asset Management Unrestricted Donation Account 721361, with the \$30,000.00 repayment from the National Convention Corporation to be made no later than May 10, 2023. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Ken Rynes to approve mirroring the National Membership 103% Incentive at the Department of Wisconsin Post-Level, outside of the FY2021-2022 Budget process, estimated \$800 incentive. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Jennifer Rumbold to approve the revised “Internal Control Manual for Financial Procedures.” Motion carried.**

Finance Director presented revisions to the 2020 “Compensation Plan,” which incorporates the Performance Evaluation timeline and Department Adjutant performance evaluation process for Committee discussion.

**\* Motion by Ken Rynes, second by Wayne Jensen to approve the Camp American Legion Main Lodge Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment (POWT) septic system replacement pending Camp American Legion Committee approval. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Jennifer Rumbold to recess the Finance Committee at 4:41 PM to the Call of the Commander. Motion carried.**

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 3 PM.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JOHN POLZIN TO APPROVE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CONVENTION & ACTIVITIES COMMISSION REPORT- Chair Jim Schmidt**

Chair Jim Schmidt called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Jim Schmidt, Chair  
Tom Strey, Vice Chair  
Phil Ingwell, Member  
Jim Kell, Member  
Tom Carlson, Member  
Mark Lesko, Member  
John Polzin, DEC Liaison  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant  
Guests:

PDC Roger Mathison  
NECman Bob Shappell  
Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak  
Department Vice Commander Harry Bauer  
PDC Ted DeMicchi

**Motion by Jim Kell, second by Mark Lesko to approve the minutes of the Department Fall Meeting. Motion carried.**

Bob Shappell gave a report on the WI American Legion College and the upcoming virtual training.

Tom Strey gave an update on Golf and Bowling. Golf may go away due to lack of interest. The Chair asked if they had considered making it part of Celebration of Freedom. Watertown backed out of the bowling tournament, and they feel it will be going away also.

Ted DeMicchi gave a 2022 National Convention Update.

The commission reviewed Midwinter RFPs.

**Motion by Tom Strey, second by Mark Lesko to drop Oshkosh and Chula Vista from consideration. Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Jim Kell, second by Mark Lesko to approve LaCrosse for 2024; Appleton for 2025; Green Bay for 2026. Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Mark Lesko, second by Jim Kell to adjourn. Motion Carried.**

Meeting was adjourned per ritual.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CONVENTION AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Jeff Zwiers**

Chair Jeff Zwiers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Jeff Antczak, Member  
Karl Stuvengen, Member  
Jerry Lauby, Member  
Jeff Zwiers, Chair  
Jim Klement, Camp American Legion Director, Consultant  
Jim Chapin, Finance Committee Chair, Consultant

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:  
Norm Bednarek, Member

Absent:  
Mike Burt, Member

Guests:  
PNVC Russ Hansetter  
11<sup>th</sup> District Commander John Polzin  
Denise Jamrozy

**Motion by Jerry Lauby, second by Karl Stuvengen to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

Old Business:  
Main cabin septic system

**Motion by Jerry Lauby, second by Karl Stuvengen to approve the installation of two 2500 gallon holding tanks and line from main lodge. Monitored for the next camp season for load and quality. After determination of waste, at the point, type of drain field and need for kitchen interceptor pit will be determined. Cost not to exceed \$80,000 (Two phase, two-year project) Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Jeff Antczak, second by Karl Stuvengen to allow Cabin 18 to start fundraising for new cabin with CIP presented. Motion Carried.**

Discussion Points:  
Cabins 1, 2, 3- Cabins 2 and 3 will be used for this camp season, with demo to be in Spring 2023.

Century Wall- Plan presented by Jim Klement to be installed in Main Lodge.

Highway D crosswalk- research still under design.

HDQ project- Presence of mold found in front closet. Adjutant Gear to have tester to come in and determine cause.

Jeff Zwiers and Karl Stuvengen to define and submit proper CIP protocol.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 8:40.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JOHN POLZIN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Nellie DeBaker**

Chair Nellie P. DeBaker called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Nellie P. DeBaker, Chair  
Nick Berg, Member  
Scott Markle, DEC Liason  
Lisa Fauster, Member  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio



Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

John Roberts, Member

Absent:

David Hubatch, Member

Angela Russell, Member

Guests:

Tony Montag

Anastasia Wischki

Julie Atkinson

**Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

Judging on C/Y Awards on June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Portage. Will discuss meeting on that date with Angie.

Need approved C/Y Award form included into Officers Manual. Currently the old form is still in manual.

**Motion made and seconded to approve inclusion of C/Y Award into Officers Manual. Motion Carried.**

Discussed the new C/Y Award from Department to District with highest % of reported C/Y forms with qualifying activities. Found that Department denied that request. Nick Berg will follow up with Department.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 1:50 PM.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JOHN POLZIN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CAMP AMERICAN LEGION COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Denise Jamrozy**

December 18, 2021

Chair Denise Jamrozy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with a salute to Colors, Dale Slowik did the Invocation and Denise Jamrozy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance: Denise Jamrozy, Chair Matthew Montag, Vice Chair, Dale Slowik, Member, Carl Sjolander, DEC Liaison, Jim Klement, Camp Director & Consultant, Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio, Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant & Consultant, David Wischer, Immediate Past Department Commander & Consultant Excused: Bill Crowe, Member, James Fialkowski, Department Service Officer & Consultant

Absent: Rich Roland, Member, Clifford Stanisch, VA & R Chair & Consultant Guests: Julie Muhle, Vice Department Commander, Terry Christen from Tricor Insurance, Inc.

New Business: (Reason for zoom meeting before Midwinter 2022) The issue to be addressed and discussed is: To keep camp open all year round. Jim Klement to present why we would like to keep the camp open all year round.

1. Ice fishing events, winter sport events, maple collecting in late Feb/March and the usage age of the Family cabin opens continuously, etc.

We discussed the liability the camp would be responsible for. Terry Christen, our insurance man from Tricor Insurance, enlightened us of our insurance coverage and answered everyone's questions.

**A motion by Dale Slowik to try 2 years to keep the camp open all year round. Second by Roland Crandall. A virtual vote was done with a unanimous all in favor vote.**

This will be presented to the DEC at Midwinter.

2. We discussed the Revised and updated Camp Operational Manual. Everyone had received by e-mail a copy of the camp manual. The 6 camp committee members are to read it, add comments so we can have a completed manual with all information needed to run the camp efficiently and everyone with know what is expected of them when: example lease agreements for renters on Bird and Thrush Road, all forms being used at camp, rules and regulations expected from the Veterans who come to camp, etc. The comments need to be sent back to Jim by January 7, 2022 so he can correct and add them into the manual. This new manual will be left open to add or subtract if need with additional information or updates. When the time comes we will give the DEC a copy for their files.

Old Business: Which will be discussed at Mid-Winter.

1. Open CIP's.

\* New construction project of Cabin 1, 2 & 3.

\* Cabin 4

\* Cabin 8

\* Cabin 18

\* Cabin 21

\* Camp Store

\* Main Lodge Roof

\* Lodge Septic System

\* Maintenance Building

\* Cabin 15 well

\* Hwy D Crosswalk

2. Camp Staff: Open position when camp is open for a paid recreational director.

3. Century Wall.

4. Marshfield Post 54, To build new cabin ( at brush pile site ) just below cabins 17 & 18.

5. Camp Operations Manual.

6. Camp Directors Report.

7. Camp Committee Chair Report.

Motion for adjournment.

Benediction by Dale Slowik.

Salute to Colors.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM

January 14, 2022

Chair Denise Jamrozy called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Denise Jamrozy, Chair

Rich Ruland, Member

Roland Crandall, Member

Dale Slowik, Member

Bill Crowe, Member

Carl Sjolander, DEC Liaison

Jim Klement, Camp Director

James Fialkowski, Department Service Officer, Consultant

Clifford Stanisch, VA&R Chair, Consultant

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio

Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

David Wischer, Immediate Past Department Commander, Consultant

Matthew Montag, Vice Chair

Guests:

PDC Chuck Cooney  
PDC Ken Rynes  
PDC Wayne Jensen  
Alt. NECman Frank Kostka  
PNSAA Roy Helms

**Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Roland Crandall to approve the minutes from the Department Fall meeting. Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Roland Crandall to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021 zoom meeting. Motion Carried.**

Director gave a report on the open CIP Updates.

**Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Bill Crowe to have the Main Lodge septic system sent to Construction Oversight committee to pass on to Finance Committee with recommendations of Ken Rynes to move forward on the project. Motion Carried.**

Commander Eirich thanked the committee for their work.

Adjutant Gear thanked all in attendance for their work.

Jeff Zwiers suggested that the Camp Committee members divide up the cabins and be liaisons to the sponsors.

Camp Chair Denise stated there are over 500 Legion posts in WI and that Jessica, Jim and Denise will work together to notify them and educate on Camp and how to donate.

**Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Bill Crowe to let the two canoes on McGrath lake be given to the Rainbow Flowage. Motion Carried.**

The Director stated that there is a lease on the Rainbow Flowage property. He would like to make some changes to it moving forward.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 11:47 AM.

The committee was called back into session at 5:30 PM per the Finance Committee regarding the septic system.

**Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Rich Ruland to go forward with option A, doing a 2-phase project in the amount of \$80,000.00. Motion Carried.**

Meeting adjourned per ritual.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JOHN POLZIN, SECOND BY HARRY BAUER TO APPROVE THE CAMP COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY HARRY BAUER TO REQUEST SEPARATE ACTION ON THE WINTER OPERATIONS FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2021 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PREVIOUS MOTION APPROVED WITH SEPARATE ACTION.**

There was much discussion regarding the Costs and liabilities to keep Camp open year-round. The Camp Director, Department Adjutant and the Camp Chair all explained discussions that have happened and assured the DEC that the liability is no different than in the summer, cost don't change as they already do snow clearance and maintenance. The Camp Director stated that the events are sponsored and there is little or no cost to the Department.

**MOTION BY JOHN POLZIN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE WINTER OPERATIONS AT CAMP AMERICAN LEGION. MOTION CARRIED WITH 1 OPPOSED AND 1 ABSTAINED.**

**AMERICANISM COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Jeff Puddy**

Chair Jeff Puddy called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Jeff Puddy, Chair, Department SAL Chair  
Roger Mathison, Vice Chair, Baseball Commissioner  
Carl Bogar, Member  
Allen Morris, Member  
Jim Foster, A&G Scholarship Chair  
Bill Cosh, BBS Representative  
Harold Rihn, County Youth Government Day Chair  
Robert Stone, Oratorical Chair  
DuWayne Wieck, Shooting Sports Chair  
Ray Pasbrig, AL Riders President  
Robert Stone, Oratorical Chair  
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio  
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

John Edelblute, IV, Scouting Chair  
Norm Bednarek, Education & Scholarship Chair  
John Wolfe, WALLECA Chair  
Larry Larson, DEC Liaison

Absent:

John Walloch, Member

Guests:

**Motion by Jim Foster, second by Roger Mathison to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.**

Discussion on SB-611

**Motion by Roger Mathison, second by Robert Stone to not support SB-611. Motion Carried.**

DuWayne Weick read the Shooting Sport Chair Report  
Americanism and Government Report given by Jim Foster  
Badger Boys Report given by Bill Cosh  
Baseball Report given by Roger Mathison  
County Youth Government Day report given by Harold Rihn  
Oratorical Program Report given by Robert Stone  
Scouting Report read by Jeff Puddy  
Legion Riders verbal report given by Ray Pasbrig  
Law Enforcement Report Item read by Jeff Puddy  
SAL Report by Jeff Puddy. Alf Dog replaced Josh Dog.

**Motion by Carl Boger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger Mathison to accept all reports. Motion Carried.**

Old Business

You tube channel is active. Alan Morris is working on updating. Use # to promote events.

New Business

## Upcoming Events

Grade essays April 7, 2022 10 am in Portage.

Spring Meetings May 6&7 in Portage. Americanism meeting July 14 at Department Convention  
1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June for Americanism Awards. Coordinate and move to Badger Boys.

National Contest Sept 1, 2022

Sept 9&10 2022 Celebration of Freedom. WWII Memorial

Americanism Convention last weekend of Sept. 2022

Americanism Committee term is 1 year. Submit Standing Committee request.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 2:25.

## **DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO APPROVE THE AMERICANISM COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT**

#### **Department Chaplain- John Gessner**

1. Activities 4<sup>th</sup> quarter CY 2021:
  - a. Reached out to the 88<sup>th</sup> Readiness Division and the Post Chaplain's office at Fort McCoy concerning possible Reboot PTSD Recovery programs. Open action.
  - b. Provided briefing slides to the District chaplains from the 9/18 National Chaplains virtual conference concerning "What is the Role of an American Legion Chaplain. Recommended passing on to the post chaplains. This training will be the basis for chaplain training at the Mid-Winter conference.
  - c. Contacted Camp American Legion for possible dates for a Chaplain's retreat in the May timeframe. Developing program at this time. Developing program. Details will be discussed at the Religious Education Committee (REC) meeting at the Midwinter Conference.
2. Upcoming activities 2022.
  - a. January: Mid-Winter conference includes REC, church services, chaplain training and the 4-Chaplain's service.
  - b. May: Chaplain's Retreat, Camp American Legion, dates TBD.

## **DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN'S REPORT**

#### **Department Historian- DuWayne Wieck**

I'd like to thank Department Commander Eirich for allowing me to do my job as Department Historian many times from home from pictures he has sent me through Facebook. When possible, I do travel with him and it has been very enjoyable since we have known each other for many years and gives us time to catch up.

This report starts with Commander Eirich sending me photos of his visit, December 4<sup>th</sup> to Post 77 in Chippewa Falls. Commander Eirich was invited to Post 77 to help honor one of their members for his many years of dedicated service to the Legion.

December 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Day Commander Eirich was invited to 2 ceremonies. One was Post 21 Kenosha, for a sign dedication for a member of the Post that died at Pearl Harbor December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941 on the Arizona. The other was in Sheboygan at the Elks Lodge for a Pearl Harbor ceremony.

December 13<sup>th</sup> Commander Eirich was invited to Madison and met with Governor Tony Evers and other Veterans to discuss veteran's issues and a bill signing. I did not attend these visits with Commander Eirich, but was able to do my Historian work from photos that Commander Eirich sent me on Facebook. It is amazing how good the quality of the photos is.

December 18<sup>th</sup> I did travel with Commander Eirich to Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove for the Wreaths Across America wreath laying Ceremony. Commander Eirich was asked to lay a wreath, during the ceremony, in honor of the Air Force veterans laid to rest there. Later we laid wreaths in the cemetery. I had the honor to lay a wreath and document our Commander throughout the day as he honored some of the close to 20,000 veterans who are entombed there.

The next day, December 19<sup>th</sup> Commander Eirich was on the road again, by himself, to a fundraiser at Post 288 Cedarburg, for Candidate for National Commander, Dan Seehafer.

December 22<sup>nd</sup> Commander Eirich was invited to a luncheon with the American Legion Service Office staff in Greendale Wisconsin. Commander Eirich sent me photos for both events. By the time this report is published I'm sure our Commander will have been on the road again fulfilling his duties.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT**

**Department Judge Advocate- Nicholas Lange**

**Contract Reviews**

Review Contract with Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, for 2026 Convention

**Post/County/District Issues**

Review revisions to Constitution & By-Laws for Post 69

Correspondence with Post 165 Vice Commander regarding purchase of building

**Department Issues**

Memorandum to Kenosha County Commander re Tax Exempt Status of TAL Organizations

Correspondence with PDC Al Richards regarding possible use of TAL emblem by entity donating funds to a Post (still pending resolution)

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Department Service Officer- James Fialkowski**

Your Service Office is honored to represent The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. Your office is proud, knowing that veterans, war widows(ers) and orphans will receive their due benefits and possibly one day a college education because we were able to help.

According to the VBA October 2021 data, the VA is currently tracking over 47 thousand American Legion clients at the Milwaukee VARO that received over \$59 million of VA benefits in October.

Monthly, we continue to represent veterans in video BVA Judge Hearings and video/in-person hearings for the local VA Regional Office. The Service office continues training for all employees. We Attended VA Regional Office Service Officer and VA Hospital Meetings.

We are tracking work in the office differently since reopening the office. Below are the numbers from **10/1/2021 to 12/31/2021**:

Calls	Emails	Appointments	Walk-ins	Hearings	Submittals	Flat Mail
2380	4909	115	179	32	380	3925

**Recap of VBA INFORMATION:** The Blue Water Navy act signed in June 2019 and the VBA started adjudicating claims January 1, 2020. Until this summer these claims were developed and held under a special code waiting for VA Central Office to provide further guidance. The VBA has since started to complete these Blue Water Claims. If you or someone you know were previously denied a claim related to Vietnam in country service contact a service representative to see if you or they deserve VBA benefits.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, VBA added the new registry entry to the Title 38 CFR. § 3.320 Claims based on exposure to particulate matter – This entry provides presumed service connection for certain chronic diseases associated with exposure to particulate matter based on presumed exposure for qualifying Veterans. A disease that becomes manifest to any degree (including non-compensable) within 10 years from the date of separation from qualifying military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations from 8/2/1990 or Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, or Uzbekistan on or after September 19, 2001 during the Persian Gulf War. The chronic diseases associated with exposure to particulate matter are Asthma, Rhinitis, and Sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis). Note: The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (“the Act” or “RECA”), established an administrative program for claims relating to atmospheric nuclear testing and uranium industry employment. The Act delegated authority to the Attorney General to establish procedures and make determinations regarding whether claims satisfy statutory eligibility criteria.

RECA establishes lump sum compensation awards for individuals who contracted specified diseases in three defined populations:

- Uranium Miners, Millers, and Ore Transporters may be eligible for one-time, lump sum compensation of \$100,000.
- “Onsite Participants” at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests may be eligible for one-time, lump sum compensation of up to \$75,000.
- Individuals who lived downwind of the Nevada Test Site (“Downwinders”) may be eligible for one-time, lump sum compensation of \$50,000.

PLEASE NOTE: By statute, the RECA Trust Fund terminates 22 years after July 10, 2000. Claims filed bearing a date of July 11, 2022, on the postmark or stamp by another commercial carrier shall be deemed timely filed when received by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program. Claims after this date shall be barred. Get those claims in!

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER’S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN’S REPORT**

#### **National Executive Committeeman- Robert Shappell**

National Vice Commander Jerry Wilson visited Wisconsin from November 3-6, 2021. His itinerary included:  
Meet and greet at Cedarburg Post 288  
Participated in a Witness Tree Ceremony for veteran suicide at Hartford  
Buddy Check calls at Juneau Post 15

Visit and Facebook interview held at Department HQ, Portage  
Ozaukee County meeting at Mequon Thiensville Post 456  
Buddy check calls at Greendale Post 416  
Buddy check calls at Oak Creek Post 434, followed by fish fry dinner  
Participated in the Milwaukee Veterans Day parade  
Dinner and special presentation at Hubertus Post 522

Approximately 400 buddy-check calls were made during the visit

Thank you to the Commanders and members of the participating posts for their gracious hospitality and leadership during the visit. Special thanks to Department Vice Commander Julie Muhle and District Commanders Linda Pfeiffer and Jim Johnson for helping to organize the schedule.

Nov 10 - Attended a Veterans Day Luncheon at Concordia University hosted by Concordia Post 1881

Nov 11 - Attended a veterans Day dinner at Saukville Post 470

Dec 10 - Attended a meeting of the 128<sup>th</sup> Aur Refueling Wing Community Council

Dec 19 – Attended a Packer party fundraiser for National Commander Candidate Dan Seehafer at Cedarburg Post 288

## **DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO ACCEPT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT'S REPORT**

### **Department Adjutant- Nathan Gear**

We had a busy second quarter at Department. Your HQ's Team continues to expand in areas that improve our daily operations. Department Commander Eirich has been keeping us busy as well. He is engaged and asking a lot of questions to help improve Legion WI's overall impact.

The WILegion.org website continues to grow in popularity as more Legionnaires are getting educated on Departments resources. Our Team continues to learn new innovative ways to automate legacy operations. Some recent automated processes include the online Request Commanders Visit Form. This is now automated digitally to allow Post through DVC's to fill out requests. Paper copies are still accepted for those without internet services. The newly created Public Relations Kit page was added to allow Posts to download or modify our Departments templates and forms. We linked the National Emblem Requests to maximize more marketing options.

I am excited about the future at Camp American Legion (CAL). The opportunity of serving veterans throughout WI's four seasons will open up a new generation of experiences and memories as CAL nears 100 years of serving veterans in the Northwoods. I would like to thank The Wisconsin American Legion College- Advanced Course instructors and students for providing feedback on seasonal opportunities at CAL. This will benefit our capabilities as we enter the next century at CAL.

VSO Team continues to provide outreach and remains flexible with scheduling veteran and family appointments. Some of the recent data provided by Legion National POA displays the MKE VSO total financial impact to WI's economy with over \$59 million in benefits in Nov 21.

Personify (PGO) and MyLegion continue to make enhancements. Our Membership Coordinator is working diligently to ensure timely accuracy and weekly reports distributed throughout Departments Leadership. We continue to take calls on issues at Post levels. During National Fall Meetings, I collaborated with other Department Adjutants to ensure known problems and the frustrations were being heard by Nationals Personify Team and Finance Director. The IT Director stated he would be requesting additional financial support to help improve the issues. These issues activated Nationals Internal Affairs and Membership team to provide Department employees additional training. WI's PGO training will be January 25<sup>th</sup>. Overall, Departments are pleased to see improved timely responses from National. This past quarter some Department Committees were actively engaged in planning and preparation prior to Mid-Winter. Some committee meetings can be confusing as some are by agenda and others are more informational without motions based on the overall mission objectives. Both options are encouraged depending on the goals of the committee. Some committee chairs and members must meet more often than quarterly to accomplish greater results throughout the year like Finance, Membership, Fundraising, Camp, Marketing and Communications and even the DEC when called upon. These



higher results improve our overall mission impact and provides a Return of Investment (ROI). This ROI will need to be measured for all committees if objectives are meaningful for the upcoming FY 2023 budget.

Legislation was in full force. I made several trips to the capital with the Commander and Legislation Chair to meet with our Representatives. We worked jointly with our other VSO's, VFW and DAV, on supporting several AB's and SB's. We continue to strengthen our voice by working together on benefits for WI Veterans.

With the 2022 National Convention on the horizon, we are working closely with National Convention Team, the Convention Commission, the Convention Corporation and the MKE War Memorial Team to ensure a successful Department event in lieu of the parade on Sunday.

## **DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

### **MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JULIE MUHLE TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

Karl Stuvengen thanked the Headquarters Team for a successful Midwinter.

## **DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S REPORT**

### **Department Commander- Greg Eirich**

- 10-1-2021 Telephone conversation with Assistant Chaplain Ray Peterson regarding Religious Emphasis Issues impacting our Legionnaires.
- 10-2-2021 Badger Boys State BOD Meeting, Department Headquarters, Portage, WI
- 10-3-2021 American Legion Baseball Directors Meeting, Department Headquarters, Portage, WI
- 10-3-2021 Attended and spoke at 1<sup>st</sup> District Conference, Ordfoville, WI. Commander Pins handed out to attendees.
- 10-3-2021 Traveled to Indianapolis for the National Fall Conference
- 10-3-2021 to 10-7-2021 Attended National Fall Conference, Indianapolis, In.
- 10-7-2021 Traveled to Department Hq's, Portage, WI
- 10-7-2021 Attended Foundation Meeting chaired by President Paul Fisk
- 10-8-2021 to 10-9-2021 Department of Wisconsin, American Legion, Fall Conference
- 10-12-2021 State Capitol for AB 245 Hearing. Meeting with Legislative Committee (Chair Macco), DAV, VFW, American Legion. All three VSO's support passage of this bill which impacts our disabled vets with a rating of 70-100 per cent rating.
- 10-13-2021 Meeting in Milwaukee with PDC Wayne Jensen, PDC Robert Batty, Adjutant Gear, Administrative Manger Angie Chappell, Department Commander Eirich. Luncheon meeting on update by Wayne Jensen updating party on Convention Corporation activities regarding the 2022 Milwaukee Convention. Site tour with Commander's Car downtown Milwaukee.
- 10-13-2021 Triple Nickel Post 555 Meeting, Lakeshore Lanes, Sheboygan. Spoke to membership about AB Bill 245.
- 10-16-2021 Attended 8<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference
- 10-20-2021 Attended 4<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference, West Allis
- 10-22-2021 Toured Fischer House and Hoptel, Zablocki VA Grounds as well as a stop at Legion Veterans Service Office, VA Regional Building.
- 10-23-2021 Attended SAL Conference. Traveled to 3<sup>rd</sup> District Conference, Barneveld, WI., Traveled to 40 & 8 Testimonial at Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI for Grand Chef de Carr Larry Winger
- 10-27-2021 Attended Farewell Luncheon for Assistant Administrator Carol Weiss. Pre-Eval and Goals meeting with Department Adjutant Gear.
- 10-30-2021 2<sup>nd</sup> District conference, Laack's Hall, Johnsonville, WI. Past Commander's Club Dinner, swearing in ceremony, Mauston, WI
- 10-31-2021 6<sup>TH</sup> District Conference, St. Nazianz, WI. Spoke and stayed for the entire conference. Handed out a Thumbs Up award to 6<sup>th</sup> District Adjutant.
- 11-1-2021 Department Team Huddle via Zoom  
Commander's Huddle via Zoom
- 11-3-2021 Veterans Day Video Message at Department HQ's. Jen Swenson Assisting

11-4-2021 National Vice Commander Jerry Wilson meet and greet and Cedarburg Post 288 (Evening) National Vice Commander Membership and Buddy Checks at Juneau Post 15. Attending NECman Robert Shappell, Department Vice Commander Julie Muhle. NVC Wilson visit to Department HQ's. Met HQ's TEAM. Did interview with Commander Eirich for Wisconsin American Legion Facebook Page.

11-5-2021 Conducted Legion business with Adjutant after NVC Visit at Dept. HQ's  
Breakfast with NVC Wilson and NECman Robert Shappell.  
Veterans Day Parade, Milwaukee, with NVC Wilson and NECman Shappell  
Attended Hubertus Post 522 for dinner and program with NVC Wilson and NECman Shappell.

11-9-2021 Zoom meeting with Iron Mountain VA Hospital Representatives

11-10-2021 Zoom meeting with Dr. Whittle, Medical College of Wisconsin, Peer Mentor Recruitment

11-11-2021 Attended Radio Interview WKLH at Ewald Chrysler Dealership, Milwaukee, 7am with 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander Linda Phieffer and Steve Khonke.  
Attend Portage High School Veterans Day Program-Keynote speaker for program. 1:30 p.m.  
Attended Saukville Post 470 Veterans Day Program and Dinner. Keynote speaker. 6:00 p.m.

11-12-2021 Attended Department HQ's for meeting with WDVA Secretary Kolar, Adjutant and Legislative Chairperson Paul Fisk.

11-13-2021 Attended Grafton Veterans Day Dinner and Dance at Grafton American Legion Post. 6 p.m.

11-15-2021 Completed Adjutants Evaluation with DVC Wischer and Finance Chair Chapin at Department HQ's. Meeting and discussion of Legion business after evaluation was completed.

11-16-2021 Foundation meeting via Zoom with Chair Paul Fisk.

11-17-2021 Finance Meeting at Department Hq's, 1pm. Lasted appx. 3 hours. Membership Zoom meeting with Membership Committee chaired by Chairperson Jim Waltich. 6pm

11-22-2021 Thanksgiving Video Message at Department HQ's produced by Jen Swenson. Meeting with Finance Director Lee Round and meeting with Administrative Manager Angie Chappell. Stopped by each employee stations and wished them a Happy Thanksgiving.

11-23-2021 Appleton Christmas Parade.

11-30-2021 Meeting at Chancery, Mequon with Legion Riders Corey Doehrmann and Randy Timm. Subject: Legion Ride 2022.

12/3/2021 Department HQ's Christmas Party with Auxiliary HQ's and President Weggen. Departed for Chippewa Falls to meet with DVC Bauer for dinner.

12/4/2021 Attended and spoke at Chippewa Falls Post 77 Christmas function.

12/6/2021 Virtual Meeting with DVC Lovell, Adjutant, and Department Commander regarding issues at Marshall Post 279.  
Virtual Huddle Meeting with Department Vice Commander's. DVC Latimer excused. This is a monthly meeting to update Vice Commander's on Department issues, updates, etc.

12/7/2021 Pearl Harbor Ceremony, Sheboygan Elks Club. MC'd by Sheboygan County Adjutant Mike Liebelt.  
Pearl Harbor Lunch and Program at Generations, Plymouth, WI. MC'd by Konrad Kaczowski.  
Pearl Harbor Recognition event (honorary Street sign), program, and light snacks at Kenosha Post 21.

12/11/2021 Wisconsin Tractor Pull Association Event at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Presented Plaques and jackets to Legion Sponsored teams. Adjutant Gear present as well.

12/13/2021 Visit with Governor Evers and Governors Conference Room, State Capitol, Madison, WI. Introductions, issues, discussion. Various veterans' organizations present.

12/14/2021 Meeting at Department HQ's with Membership Chair Jim Waltich, Adjutant, Membership Coordinator and Adjutant. Discuss membership issues, i.e., renewals, etc. Met with Administrative Manager for updates on Midwinter, and other issues.  
Camp American Legion Zoom Meeting, 6pm.

12/18/2021 Attended Wreaths across America Event, Union Grove VA Cemetery.

12/19/2021 Attended Endorsed Candidate Dan Seehafer fundraising event at Cedarburg Post 288

12/22/2021 Took the Department Veteran Service Office TEAM with spouses/significant others for Christmas luncheon at Emporium Brewpub, Greendale. Also, in attendance was Department Adjutant Gear. Handed out gift cards along with a Christmas message and a Thank you for their hard work.

- 12/23/2021 Took the Department HQ's TEAM out for Christmas dinner at Suzi's. Handed out gift cards along with a Christmas message and a Thank You for their hard work.
- 12/28/2021 Virtual Zoom meeting with Chippewa Falls VA Center. Briefed on their programs and needs.
- 12/29-30/2021 Took the CAL TEAM with spouse out for Christmas dinner at Northfolk Restaurant. Handed out gift cards, a short Christmas message and a Thank you for their hard work. Department Adjutant attended this event.
- 1/3/2021 Commander's Zoom Huddle with Department Vice Commander's. Excused: David Latimer

In addition to the written report, the Commander gave the following verbal report:

He stated it is a privilege and honor to be their Department Commander. He asked that all keep Department Vice Commander Latimer in their thoughts and prayers as he goes through some medical issues. He stated that he has been on the road to either Posts, and going to Department Headquarters at least once a week. He stated that is more than a significant amount of time due to today's communication outlets. He thanked the Department Adjutant and the Headquarters Team for the outstanding work that they do. He stated they are positive, driven, trouble shooters, motivated, problem solvers and they are top notch communicators. He thanked Angie for her knowledge and keeping him on track. He stated that as they stop by Department Headquarters, visit the Program Coordinators, get to know them and thank them for their work. They are very dedicated to our Legionnaires.

He stated that he works weekly with Jim Waltich on Membership. We are behind from last year, and challenged the District Commanders to figure out how to get there. The Membership Committee is ready to assist Districts with their membership. Membership Rallies and other events all strengthen Membership. He asked them to get to work between now and March Madness. He stated that many of our veterans are Vietnam Era and are in their 70s. All need to reach outside that group, as they age and pass on. All need to recruit new members and he encouraged all to think outside the box and brainstorm.

He stated that he was able to visit some of the state and federal VA Facilities, some were via zoom. They are managed by very capable people with programs in place to deal with veterans' suicide, sexual assault and the basic well-being of our veterans. He has learned that it can be as high as \$100,000.00 per year for a veteran in one of the facilities.

Department programs will be in full operation in 2022. He asked all to promote the programs as they are out visiting their posts. The Baseball Commissioner is looking to add some type of tailgate party for the Legionnaires at the All-Star Game.

He stated that they are the motivators and leaders of their District. Their enthusiasm, through Positive Impact, drives their success.

There are PR events coming this Spring, Tractor Pulls and Gnassi Racing. These are relaxing and fun events, with the benefit of Public Relations. People attend these from all over, so he encouraged all to get people from their Districts to the events.

He stated that it has been difficult to get qualified people into positions, and asked all to keep that in mind in their districts. Mentorship and leadership are important. We need good people.

He reminded the Districts that they need to be led by strong leaders. Electronic devices are a must, and he found on his travels that it is lacking. He asked all to continue to push electronics. All need to communicate and respond in a timely matter. Rely on past leadership for guidance.

Posts are struggling with issues, personalities, finances and more. These are not good for The American Legion and need to be dealt with.

National Convention is coming to Milwaukee, promote it and get a good contingency. Good opportunity for those that can't normally attend.

His testimonial is on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Sheboygan Yacht Club. More information to follow.

**DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;**

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

The following have been appointed to the Convention Committees:

- Rules Committee- Keith Lovell, Gail Minks and Ken McCormick
- Credentials Committee- Harry Bauer, Jim Johnson and Linda Pfeiffer
- Permanent Organization Committee- David Latimer, Sr., Larry Larson and Scott Markle

**MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY KARL STUVENGEN TO APPROVE THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**- Will be virtual this year, and similar to last year's set up.
2. **DISTRICT SPRING MEETINGS**- All District Commanders need to submit, to the Department, the date(s), time and location of your District Spring Conferences. Even if you feel we have them, please confirm with us.
3. **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION- PRE-CONVENTION PACKETS**-  
District Commanders and District Adjutants will receive a Department Pre-Convention packet, and a National Pre-Convention packet, the first week of April. It will be included in your Department Convention Call-in. These forms are to assist you at your District Spring meeting when covering Department and National Convention topics.
4. **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**- District Commanders; please note the following individuals will be assigned to the Convention Committees listed below as the organizers:
  - Americanism – Jeff Puddy (6<sup>th</sup>)
  - Children & Youth – Nellie DeBaker (9<sup>th</sup>)
  - Constitutional Amendments – Al Richards (2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Finance- Jim Chapin (12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Legislative- Paul Fisk (2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Membership- James Waltich (2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - National/Homeland Security- Bob Bohr (8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Resolutions- Bob Batty (2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation- Clifford Stanisch (1<sup>st</sup>)District Commanders; please assign these individuals to the appropriate Convention Committees when you make delegate assignments at your Spring Conference.
5. **DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**- District Commanders need to submit recommendations for Department Committees for the next Department Commander. Forms are provided to you today, and can be duplicated as needed. Please submit names, with their applications, to your Department Vice Commander. Department Vice Commanders, you are responsible for collecting these forms from all of your Districts and providing copies to the Department Adjutant. Forms can be submitted at any time that they are completed, but prior to July 1st.
6. **2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION**- The 2022 National Convention will be August 25- September 1, 2022 in Milwaukee, WI. The registration fee is \$25.00. We will be housed in the Drury Plaza Hotel, price is \$139.00 per night + tax. District Commanders, and District Adjutants will receive your estimated Delegate Strength, National SAA information and applicable forms in the packet that you will receive around the first week of April. Accommodation Request forms will be sent to individual delegates when delegate forms are returned by the District Commanders to HDQ, immediately following your District Spring Meeting, but no later than **June 1, 2022**. To the maximum extent possible, try to assure that your delegates will attend. Please identify alternates for your district also; you are allotted one (1) Alternate for each delegate.
7. **NATIONAL SPRING MEETINGS**- National Spring Meetings will be held on May 2-5, 2022 in Indianapolis, IN.

8. **DEPARTMENT SPRING MEETINGS**- Department Spring Meetings will be held May 6-7, 2022 at the Department Headquarters.
9. **CONVENTION YEARBOOK**- All **Department Officers, Committee Chairs and Program Chairs** are to have their pictures and their reports for the Convention Yearbook into Angie at Headquarters by June 1, 2022. Your article may not be more than 150 words in length, and must be emailed to Angie at [angela@wilegion.org](mailto:angela@wilegion.org) in a word document. Please note in your email if she has your photo on file already. **Department Officers- this is in addition to your report to the DEC and has an earlier deadline than that report.**
10. **VOUCHERS**- All vouchers for reimbursement must be submitted by the end of the Midwinter Conference to the Department Adjutant for those wishing to receive reimbursement. Ensure the proper signatures are on the forms.
11. **CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM**- Mark your calendars for The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Freedom event featuring the Traveling WWII Replica taking place September 8-10, 2022 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. More information to come.
12. **AWARDS**- It is Award time. Please review all awards at <https://wilegion.org/awards/> and submit deserving individuals for the various awards available.

Meeting adjourned per ritual at 11:44 AM.

Respectfully Submitted;

Nathan Gear  
Department Adjutant