

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Saturday May 7, 2022
Department Spring Meetings
Portage, 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 rd District Commander
Julie Muhle, Department Vice Commander	Linda Pfeiffer, 4 th District Commander
Keith Lovell, Department Vice Commander	Craig Ellis, 5 th District Commander
Harry Bauer, Department Vice Commander	David Steinert, 6 th District Vice Commander
John Gessner, Department Chaplain	Phil Green, 7 th District Vice Commander
David Latimer, Department Vice Commander	Adam Klapperich, 8 th District Vice Commander
Frank Kostka, Past Department Commander	Jeff Zwiers, 9 th District Commander
Robert L. Shappell, National Executive Committeeman	Rita Rindahl, 10 th District Vice Commander
Karl Stuvengen, 1 st District Commander	Victor Ambrose, 11 th District Vice Commander
Jim Johnson, 2 nd District Commander	Scott Markle, 12 th District Commander

Excused:

David Wischer, Past Department Commander

MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE 6TH DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER DAVE STEINERT TO SIT WITH VOICE AND VOTE TO REPRESENT THE 6TH DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE 7TH DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER PHIL GREEN TO SIT WITH VOICE AND VOTE TO REPRESENT THE 7TH DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY KARL STUVENGEN TO APPROVE 11TH DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER VICTOR AMBROSE TO SIT WITH VOICE AND VOTE TO REPRESENT THE 11TH DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2022 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

National Vice Commander Jerrold Wilson gave greetings to those in attendance. He was joined by his wife, Department of Ohio Commander Jean Wilson.

MOTION BY HARRY BAUER, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE 10TH DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER RITA RINDAHL TO SIT WITH VOICE AND VOTE TO REPRESENT THE 10TH DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED.

Due to vehicle issues, the Department Service Officer gave his report prior to the Committee Reports.

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 March 2022 data, the VA is currently tracking over 46 thousand Wisconsin American Legion clients at the Milwaukee VARO that received over 62 million dollars in federal benefits in the month of March and almost 370 million dollars since 10/01/2021.

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.

In March, the Service office completed national semi-annual training provided by Bergmann and Moore Veterans Law Group. The training focused on winning claims at the local level (State level versus appealing to the national board or higher).

In today's world, information security is vital. We are updating our capabilities and working to improve our service to veterans and their families. We are working to employ a platform to break down the distance barrier for many by being able to securely deliver and receive documents.

On April 18th, I provided headquarters with the Service Office portion of the WDVA State Grant request.

We are tracking work in the office differently since reopening the office.

Office Statistics	04/2021 - 03/2022
Walk in Clients	474
Appointments	342
Incoming Calls	2768
Outgoing Calls	4301
Emails	11949
Incoming Mail	21851
SEP and Transmittals	653
Direct Uploads	769
Hearings	83
Events Attended	3
Total Office Transactions	43193

Recap of VBA INFORMATION:

On August 5th, 2021, VBA added the new registry entry to the Title 38 CFR. § 3.320 Claims based on exposure to particulate matter for GWOT veteran that served in Southwest Asia – This entry provides **presumed service connection** for Asthma, Rhinitis, and Sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis).

On April 26, 2022, the VA has since **added nine rare respiratory cancers** to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter. The cancers are:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (“the Act” or “RECA”), establishes lump sum awards from 50 to 100 thousand dollars for individuals who contracted specified diseases for their roles in the atomic testing. By statute, the **RECA claims system terminates July 10, 2022**. 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!

For more information, call our office.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER’S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Denise Jamrozy

Chair Denise Jamrozy called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Denise Jamrozy, Chair
Matthew Montag, Vice Chair
Rich Ruland, Member
Dale Slowik, Member
Bill Crowe, Member
Denise Jamrozy, Member
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant
James Klement, Camp American Legion Director, Consultant
Clifford Stanisch, VA&R Chairman, Consultant
James Fialkowski, Department Service Officer, Consultant

Excused:

Roland Crandall, Member
Carl Sjolander, DEC Liaison
David Wischer, Immediate Past Department Commander

Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Bill Crowe to approve the May 6, 2022 Agenda, as amended to add “For the Good of Camp American Legion” at the end of the Agenda. Motion Carried.

Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Clifford Stanisch to approve the Midwinter Conference January 14, 2022 Minutes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Bill Crowe to approve the April 7, 2022 Zoom Minutes. Motion Carried.

Camp American Legion Director Klement provided the Camp activities and Capital Improvement Project update for Committee discussion. Finance Director Lee J. Roundy answered Committee questions regarding insurance.

Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Rich Ruland to approve the Camp American Legion Operations Manual. Motion Carried.

Motion by Dale Slowik, second by Rich Ruland to approve the Camp American Legion Columbia County Cabin 11 rebuild Capital Improvement Project, fully funded by sponsors, for fundraising purposes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rich Ruland, second by Bill Crowe to approve the Lake Tomahawk County Road D crosswalk Capital Improvement Project, fully funded by sponsor. Motion Carried.

Chair Denise Jamrozy recessed the Committee meeting to the Call of the Commander following Closing Ritual at 11:28 AM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CAMP AMERICAN LEGION COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE- Chair Jeff Zwiers

Chair Jeff Zwiers 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 Zwiers, Chair

Jeff Antczak, Member

Jerry Lauby, Member

Norm Bednarek, Member

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:

Mike Burt, Member

Karl Stuvengen, Member

Guests:

Ken Rynes, PDC

Bonnie Dorniak, Department Secretary/Treasurer

Motion by Jerry Lauby, second by Jeff Antczak to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2022 Meeting. Motion Carried.

Jim Klement, Camp Director went through his report. (see attached)

Lee Roundy gave a CIP Process update.

Committee reviewed the prints for Cabin 18. Ken Rynes asked for the existing septic plan for the Health and Wellness building to make plans for Cabin 18 septic.

Motion by Jerry Lauby, second by Jeff Antczak to have Jim Klement explore options on the septic system for Cabin 18. Motion Carried.

Ken asked Jim Klement to have the septic company do some test holes.

Crosswalk was discussed, included in Director's report.

Jerry Lauby announced that he will step down from the committee after the convention meeting.

Norm gave a headquarters update.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 1:44 PM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY HARRY BAUER, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

CONVENTION & ACTIVITIES COMMISSION REPORT- Chair Jim Schmidt

The commission did not have a quorum and therefor shared the following discussion.

Chair Jim Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM 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
Tom Carlson, Member
Victor Ambrose, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Phil Ingwell, Member
Jim Kell, Member
Mark Lesko, Member

Guests:

Roger Mathison, PDC
Bob Shappell, NECman
Ted DeMicchi, PDC
Bonnie Dorniak, Department Secretary/Treasurer

The committee did not have a quorum, therefore the committee received reports to file.

Ted DeMicchi gave an update on the 2022 National Convention. He gave a report to the National Commission this past week.

Tom Strey gave an update on Golf. The Foundation is going to do a Golf Outing this year on August 10th in Lodi, as the Golf Association does not have one this year. He also stated that Mukwonago will be hosting the Bowling Tournament next year.

Bob Shappell gave a report on Legion College. (see attached)

Commander Eirich addressed the commission.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 4:18 PM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

**MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY KEN MCCORMICK TO SAVE THE REPORT TO FILE.
MOTION CARRIED.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Jim Chapin

February 24, 2022

Vice Chair Robert Gammon 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
Jennifer Rumbold, Member

Wayne Jensen, 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 Donald Stone to approve the February 24, 2022 Agenda. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Ken Rynes to approve the January 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented the January 2022 Financial Services Office Activities and Statements, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, FY2022-2023 Budget Online Request Process, Timeline, Guidance, and Statements of Financial Position, Income and Expenses.

Finance Committee received draft, revised “*Compensation Plan*” for its January Midwinter Conference meeting. Committee took no action at this meeting.

With no further business, the Vice Chair adjourned the Finance Committee at 2:19 PM with Closing Ritual, subject to the call of the Commander.

March 24, 2022 Report

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 1:05 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
Jennifer Rumbold, Member
Wayne Jensen, Member
Ken Rynes, Member
Jim Johnson, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Special Guests:

Larry Larson, Tenth District Commander, for Membership Committee
Roger Mathison, Past Department Commander, Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Association Commissioner

Excused:
Donald Stone, Member
Barbara Belmont, Fundraising Committee Chair, Consultant

Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Ken Rynes to approve the March 24, 2022 Agenda. Motion Carried.

Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Ken Rynes to approve the February 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented the February 2022 Financial Activities and Statements, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, and Statements of Financial Position, Income and Expenses.

District Commander Larson provided FY2022-2023 Membership Committee outreach events plan. Baseball Commissioner Mathison provided FY2022-2023 softball pilot plan. Finance Director provided individual budget requests for Committee discussion.

Department Adjutant presented the FY2022-2023 labor allocation options for committee review.

Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Wayne Jensen to approve the revised “*Compensation Plan*” that incorporates Department Adjutant Performance Evaluation and Department Evaluation Process Timeline. Motion Carried.

Finance Chair Jim Chapin recessed the Finance Committee at 3:35 PM with Closing Ritual, until the call of the Commander.

April 28, 2022 Report

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 1:03 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
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:

Wayne Jensen, Member
Barbara Belmont, Fundraising Committee Chair, Consultant

Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Ken Rynes to approve the amended April 28, 2022 Agenda, to remove the review of the March 2022 Statements of Financial Position, Income and Expenses. Motion Carried.

Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Ken Rynes to approve the March 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented the March 2022 Financial Services Office Summary, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, and Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update for Committee discussion.

Department Adjutant presented the FY2022-2023 Department Priorities for Committee discussion. Committee discussed the FY2022-2023 Budget Draft requests from the March 2022 meeting.

The Finance Committee approved and recommended to the Department Executive Committee to adopt the FY2022-2023 Budget, incorporating the following motions into the Budget:

1. **Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Jennifer Rumbold to approve and incorporate the Proposed Wage Increase Option 3, merit-based increases based on 2022 Staff Performance Evaluations, cost of \$24,288 (wages, taxes, benefits) to be offset by Unrestricted Investments. Motion Carried.**
2. **Motion by Ken Rynes, second by Robert Gammon, to approve and incorporate the \$500 increase in the Baseball Scholarship, \$1,000 total, to be offset by Baseball Investment Account. Motion Carried.**
3. **Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Jennifer Rumbold to approve and incorporate the \$10,000 increase in the Camp insurance expense budget to cover Camp Lot 3 (Main Camp) cabins and to maintain proper controls to assure sufficient coverage is maintained if sponsor declines reimbursing Department for insurance premiums, to be offset by Camp Temp Restricted (general donations) Investments. Motion Carried.**

4. **Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Greg Eirich to approve and incorporate up to \$6,000 for the Marketing & Communications Committee planning, printing, and distribution of lawn signs following the Request For Proposal process, to be offset by Unrestricted Investments. Motion Carried.**

Finance Chair Jim Chapin recessed the Finance Committee at 3:04 PM with Closing Ritual, until the call of the Commander.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.

May 6, 2022 Report

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 3:33 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

Barbara Belmont, Fundraising Committee Chair, Consultant

Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Ken Rynes to approve the May 6, 2022 Agenda, as amended, to add “For the Good of the Finance Committee” to the bottom of the Agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Robert Gammon, second by Ken Rynes to approve the April 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented the March 2022 Statements of Financial Position and Income and Expenses, April 2022 Financial Services Office Summary, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, FY2020-2021 Audit Update, FY2022-2023 Year-End Wrap-Up, and FY2022-2023 Budget Highlights for Committee discussion.

Motion by Ken Rynes, second by Robert Gammon to increase the FY2022-2023 budget for Membership Program expense account 520-6207, Stipend for Travel, up to \$4,000 for the National Membership Workshop. This cost to be offset by unrestricted investments, if necessary. Motion carried.

Motion by Ken Rynes, second by Robert Gammon to increase the FY2022-2023 budget for Administrative expense account 300-6210, Other Professional Fees, up to \$5,000 to secure cleaning services at Headquarters. This cost to be offset by unrestricted investments, if necessary. Motion carried.

Finance Chair Jim Chapin recessed the Finance Committee to the Call of the Commander at 5:26 PM with Closing Ritual.

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be June 23, 2022 at 1 PM.

Meeting adjourned per ritual at 11:44 AM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE MAY 6, 2022 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT- Member Aimee Korger

Chair Barbara Belmont called the Meeting to order at 1:18 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in virtual attendance:

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

Motion by Aimee Korger, second by Rebecca Stankevitz to approve the May 6, 2022 Agenda. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rebecca Stankevitz, second by Tom Lay to approve the Midwinter Conference January 14, 2022 Minutes. Motion Carried.

Department Commander Greg Eirich distributed and presented his proposed Fundraising Committee repurpose statement for Committee discussion and consideration.

Motion by Aimee Korger, second by Rebecca Stankevitz to accept Commander Eirich's repurpose statement as the Fundraising Committee purpose. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tom Lay, second by Chris Chinander, to recess the Fundraising Committee to the Call of the Commander at 2:43 PM with Closing Ritual. Motion Carried.

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 5 PM via Zoom.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY KARL STUVENGEN TO APPROVE THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Paul Fisk

Chair Paul Fisk called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM 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
Nicholas P. Lange, Department Judge Advocate, Consultant
Keith Lovell, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Absent:

Mark Degner, Member

Excused:

Ed Cooper, Member

Motion by Nathan Bond, second by Cathy Gorst to approve the Legislative Committee Meeting previous meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Chairman Fisk gave is Legislative update/report.

6 people from Senate are retiring. 3 Republican, 2 Democratic
22 people from Assembly are retiring before the next session.

Motion by Nathan Bond second by Cathy Gorst to select Representative Ken Skowronski of the 82nd District of the Wisconsin Assembly and Senator Jerry Petrowski of the 8th Senate District to be co-recipients of the Wisconsin Legislator of the year. Motion Carried.

Motion by Cathy Gorst, second by Nathan Bond to send a letter to unselected nominees to thank them for their service to Wisconsin's veterans, spouses and children. Motion Carried.

Legislative Agenda for 2023-2024 requires review and will need updates before January. Will add necessary changes/edits to Legislative Agenda for Department Convention.

Chair Fisk would like to have a Legislative Summit at Department in Convention in Green Bay. Those invited would include CVSO, DVA, VFW, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Am Vets, MOA and many other Veterans Service Organizations. There is money in the budget for a light lunch during this summit as well.

Motion by Jerry Krofta to adjourn, second by Cathy Gorst to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

THE WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION, INC.- 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

Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Secretary/Treasurer

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Special Guest

Jim Chapin, Department Finance Chair, Special Guest

Motion by Director Cumicek, second by Director Kostka to approve the May 5, 2022 Foundation Board Meeting Agenda, as presented. Motion Carried.

President Fisk recognized Department Finance Chair Chapin during time of public comment.

Motion by Director Kostka, second by Director Rohan to approve the April 4, 2022 Foundation Board Meeting Minutes, as submitted. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented the March 2022 Financial Services Activities Summary and Foundation activity updates, Statements of Financial Position and Income and Expenses, Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects Update, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, and FY2021-2022 SMART Goal Update.

President Fisk presented upcoming events for Foundation Board discussion and provided opportunities for Foundation Board development including access to training. President requested the Foundation Board view a YouTube link before June 2022 meeting. Foundation Board will be choosing actionable items for August Golf Outing at the Lodi Golf Club.

Motion by Director Kostka, second by Vice President Krueger to adopt the FY2022-2023 Budget, as presented. Motion Carried.

Motion by Director Rohan, second by Vice President Krueger to approve Resolution 2022-2, Amending the Bylaws of The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation by Repealing, Rescinding, and Deleting Article II. Motion Carried.

Motion by Vice President Krueger, second by Secretary/Treasurer Gear, to establish, “Creating a Prosperous Veteran and Youth Community” as the Vision Statement of The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation. Motion Failed.

Motion by Director Rohan, second by Vice President Krueger, to establish, “Veterans Bettering Tomorrow” as the Vision Statement of The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation. Motion Carried.

Motion by Vice President Krueger, second by Director Rohan to adjourn The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation Board of Directors at 7:17 PM. 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.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE- Chair Joan Sallee

Chair Joan Sallee called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Joan Sallee, Chair
Jerrold Schultz, Member
Paul Ciarelli, Member
Bill Robbins, Member
Allen Nohl, Member
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:

Mike Feirer, Vice Chair

Commander Eirich addressed the committee and thanked them for their work.

Motion by Jerrold Schultz, second by Paul Ciarelli to accept the January 14, 2022 Marketing and Communications Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried.

Joan Sallee has contacted Districts 9 & 10 regarding spring meetings and hasn't received good feedback or invitations to the meetings. Marketing and Communications Committee would like to do workshops to support the 6 pilot posts to share public relations/ marketing and communications ideas to increase membership.

Discussion on cost of signage has spiked in the last two months and the proposals may not be cost effective. Commander Eirich referred to an email from Jim Johnson regarding costs of signage from a provider in Ozaukee County.

Recap on the plan for the 6 pilot posts include contacting district commanders to communicate during the remaining Spring Meetings the branding plan in place and the plan for the 6 pilot posts. Communication should also be made with the County Commanders for these 6 pilot posts. Russ Hanseter also spoke on tailoring a tool kit to each of the 6 pilot posts. He shared a list of suggested items for a tool kit. He suggested that we send 10-yard sign samples to the 6 pilot posts.

Linda Pfeiffer suggested contacting the County and District regarding the 6 pilot posts and doing a small group meeting with just the post and county and district commanders to go over pilot post plan.

Jerrold Schultz suggested inviting the 6 pilot posts, their District Commanders and County Commanders come to one meeting/workshop to discuss the pilot post plan and share ideas for bolstering communications. Allen Nohl would like at least two members from the Marketing and Communications

Motion by Jerrold Schultz, second by Paul Ciarelli to contact District and County Commanders to invite them to an upcoming meeting for each of the 6 pilot posts where Marketing and Communications Committee will share information on the pilot program and help develop a tailored plan for the post. Motion Carried.

Pilot posts

- Janesville Post 205
- Plover Post 543
- Florence Post 211
- Poplar Post 409
- Menomonie 32

Motion by Allen Nohl, second by Jerrold Schultz to remove the date of death from The Last Bugle. Motion Carried.

Nominations for Public Relations Appreciation Award

Brian Roebke
Brad Hanson

Public Relations Appreciation Award for the Press Category was awarded to Brian Roebke, editor of The Heart of the Valley Times Villager and his staff.

Public Relations Appreciation Award for the Television Category was awarded to Brad Hanson, Evening Anchor at WAOW TV.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 12:00 p.m.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY KEN MCCORMICK TO APPROVE THE MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT.

The above minutes are missing Manitowoc Post 88 in the list. Jim Johnson stated that the provider he recommended is in Neenah, not Ozaukee County.

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY HARRY BAUER TO APPROVE THE MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT- Member Rita Rindahl

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
Steve Kohnke, Vice Chair
James Lee, Member
Justin Steiner, Member
Rita Rindahl, Member
Tom Visintainer, Member
Julie Muhle, Department Vice Commander
Keith Lovell, Department Vice Commander
David Latimer, Department Vice Commander
Harry Bauer, Department Vice Commander
Jim Johnson, 2nd District Commander
Linda Pfeiffer, 4th District Commander
Gail Minks, 6th District Commander
Adam Klapperich, 8th District Commander
Larry Larson, 10th District Commander
Scott Markle, 12th District Commander
Jeff Zwiers, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Absent:

Justin Steiner, Member

Guests:

Karl Stuvengen, 1st District Commander
Roger Mathison, PDC
Bud Mautz, PDC
Russ Hanseter, PNVC
Denise Rohan, PNC
Jerry Wilson, NVC
Jean Wilson, Commander, Dept of Ohio

Motion by Harry Bauer, second by Steve Kohnke to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

Post Closures:

- Discussed post closures and transferring of Legionnaires.

Motion by Harry Bauer, second by Steve Kohnke to transfer the remaining Legionnaires in posts, 0338, 0235, 0323, and 0424 to Post 2930. Motion Carried.

Discussed schedule of events:

- Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day: Table with Jim Waltich and Dave Wischer.
- Road America Indy Car: Volunteers have been identified, can koozies are on hand, shirts with patches are on hand.
- Road America NASCAR: Volunteers have been identified, waiting on final contract.
- Wisconsin Tractor Pulls: Districts need to supply volunteers.
- Wisconsin State Fair: Sub-committee will report to the Membership Committee. Need Baseball Tickets made to hand out at the fair for the All-Star Game.
- Celebration of Freedom: Discussed all of the events happening

March Membership Madness:

- Discussed the benefits of conducting the membership drive per the numbers

2023 membership Year:

- Discussed and agreed with using Fair Share Goals for the 2023 membership year.

- Discussed a new 100% goal incentive to encourage posts to get to 100% rapidly.
- Discussed American Legion Championship Game participation from local posts to help promote the American Legion. Chet will forward the dates to the District Commanders.
- Discussed Northwoods Baseball League. Some posts are already participating in events with the teams, but not all.
- Discussed getting involved with the 67 National Guard units to help promote the American Legion
- Discussed posts hosting “New Enlistment Banquets” for recent high school graduates who have entered the service along with contacting school guidance counsellors for a list.
- Discussed moving Post 1925 from District 11 to District 99.

Motion by Jim Johnson, second by Steve Kohnke to move Post 1925 from District 11 to District 99. Motion carried.

Goals and assignments:

- Discussed Districts getting dates set for membership events before Department Convention so each post can start the new membership year off with some direction.
- Discussed sending Jim Waltich and/or Chet Faith a list of membership mentors.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY KARL STUVENGEN TO APPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT.

There was discussion regarding District 99. It was stated that this is an administrative district that every Department has, it is where 2930 sits. The Judge Advocate will look into the matter.

MOTION CARRIED.

NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Bob Bohr

Chair Bob Bohr 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:

Bob Bohr, Chair
 Charlie Young, Vice Chair, POW/MIA 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

Excused:

Steve Isensee, Member, Blood Donor Chair

Reading and approval of minutes:

Motion by Charlie Young, second by Leo Endres to approve the minutes from Department Midwinter. Motion Carried.

Introduction of guests:

PDC Frank Kostka

Chair reports:

Blood drive report:

Steve Isensee was not in attendance. Chair Bohr reported that there will be a blood drive at Department Convention. Please monitor communications from Department HQ concerning sign up for donation.

POW/MIA report:

Charlie Young reported that since his last report, that 21 more POW/MIAs have been recovered – 13 soldiers, 6 Air Corp, and 2 sailors. 14 were from WWII and 7 from Korean War. 81,600 Americans are still missing.

Old business:

The Group discussed the new Troop and Family Support application changes. The changes made now include all veterans. The application was updated by Department Veteran Service Officer James Fialkowski.

Chair Bohr spoke to Department HQ Finance Office - \$8800 are available for Troop and Family Support.

Chair Bohr is going to have information added to the year book to solicit help for Troop and Family Support.

New business:**Awards:**

Motion by Bob Bohr, second by Charlie Young to award the National Guard Reservist of the Year award to Gerald Gerber. Motion Carried.

Motion by Charlie Young, second by Michelle Adams to award the Firefighter of the Year award to Scott Thimm. Motion Carried.

Motion by Charlie Young, second by Leo Endres to award the EMT of the Year award to Vanessa Marratt. Motion Carried.

Motion by Bob Bohr, second by Charlie Young, to award the Law and Order Award to Matthew Spence. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. per ritual.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JIM JOHNSON, SECOND BY KEN MCCORMICK TO APPROVE THE NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Bob Batty

Chair Bob Batty 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:

Bob Batty, Chair

Al Richards, Vice Chair

Denise Rohan, Past National Commander, Ex-Officio

Chuck Cooney, Member

Roy Helms, Member

Ted DeMicchi, Member

Nicholas Lange, Department Judge Advocate, Consultant

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio

Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Dallas Loesel, Member

Robert Shappell, DEC Liaison

Guests:
Roger Mathison, PDC

Motion by Al Richards, second by Chuck Cooney to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2022 meeting. Motion Carried.

Bob Batty referred the 2019 Fall Minutes of the committee, and the actions taken by the Policy Committee. These motions change the Index of Manuals, so this document will need to be looked at in the future.

The Leadership & Communications guide was reviewed, and recommendations made. The Headquarters Team will update the Manual and return it via email to the Policy Committee.

Commander addressed the committee regarding the Fundraising Committee. Commander has consulted with the Chair of the committee and as a result, passed out a draft resolution regarding their purpose. He is not asking for action on it, just would like input from Policy.

Motion by Denise Rohan, second by Ted DeMicchi to approve the recommended changes to the Leadership & Communications guide. Motion Carried.

The committee briefly reviewed the Protocol & Planning Guide. PDC Richards does not see the need for it, as it is repetitive of other manuals.

Motion by Al Richards, second by Ted DeMicchi to review the Protocol and Planning guide and discuss at the Department Convention Meeting. Motion Carried.

The Resolution review meeting will be June 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Department Headquarters.

Roger Mathison asked committee to add the WALBA to Fall Meeting for bylaw changes they are working on.

Ted DeMicchi spoke of a monument and shooting range museum being added to his area.

Roy Helms stated that the Riders Bylaws are being re-written, and will be brought to the Policy Committee when completed.

Ted asked for updated bylaws from the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc., the Chair will request a copy.

Meeting recessed to the call of the Commander at 11:51 AM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT.

Jeff Zwiers asked the Policy Chair to add the District 99 discussion to their Convention agenda.

MOTION CARRIED.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Clifford Stanisch

Chair Clifford Stanisch called the meeting to order at 3:30 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

Ron Kuta, Member
Gary Meyer, Employment Chair
Joe Hodgson, Hospital 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:

Bill Crowley, Member
Tim Baranzyk, Homeless Vets TF Chair
Steve Conto, Cremated Remains TF Chair

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Steve Krueger, second by Charlie Coleman to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

CHAIR REPORTS:

Hospital Report – Joe Hodgson reviewed his written report.

Motion by Joe Hodgson, second by Ken McCormick to approve the hospital report. Motion Carried.

Employment Report – Gary Meyer reviewed his written report.

Motion by Steve Krueger, second by Ken McCormick for Gary to establish a presentation to recognize employers of veterans at the state level. Motion Carried.

Homeless Vet Taskforce Report – the group reviewed Tim Baranzyk's report.

Motion by Steve Krueger, second by Charlie Coleman to approve Tim's report. Motion Carried.

Department Service Office – James Fialkowski reviewed his written report. He stated that there is \$8800 in Troop and Family Support. 3 Veterans have been helped from these funds since Midwinter. James also asked the group to support Tim Baranzyk especially at the county level.

Commander Eirich – He enjoys his visits to the VA facilities and meeting with their staff. He reminded the group to take advantage of Suicide Prevention training. The Commander is impressed with the tiny homes for veterans in Racine County. The SAL has raised over \$50,000 for the homeless veteran community. SAL Detachment Commander Fuller wants to expand this initiative. The Commander praised the work of Steve Conto, Tim Baranzyk and James Fialkowski.

Adjutant Gear – spoke to the group about the Kimberly Clark SALUTE program.

Motion by Steve Krueger, second by Ken McCormick to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm per ritual.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE VETERAN'S AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

RULES CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Convention Rules Committee met on May 6, 2022 and respectfully submits the following report and recommendations:

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER SHALL GOVERN, except for the following restrictions and additions:

Only individuals displaying to the Sergeant at Arms the official paid delegates or alternate stamp on their name badge shall be admitted to the Convention floor. Two exceptions to this rule shall be:

- (1) Any interested party shall be admitted to the Convention floor during a special or joint session as determined by the presiding officer;
- (2) Any Legionnaire who is neither a delegate nor alternate shall be admitted and seated in a guest section upon showing a current membership card. All delegates from each Post, County and District shall be seated on the floor of the Convention with their respective District sign.

All Past Department Commanders shall be seated with their own District.

When it is desired to address the Convention, the delegate shall be announced by their District floor leader. The floor leader will request the floor for the delegate by addressing the chair with the appropriate title, i.e., "Mr./Madam Commander," "Mr./Madam Adjutant," etc., announcing the delegates name, Post number and location.

All Convention Committees shall consist of one delegate from each District unless otherwise specified in the Department Constitution.

In accordance with Article V Section 7 (c) of the Department Constitution, no resolution shall be considered at any annual Department Convention unless such resolution shall have been submitted to the Department Headquarters on a date not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the first day of such Convention. No exception from this rule shall be permitted unless such resolution shall be presented to such Convention by or with the consent of the Department Executive Committee or unless unanimous consent is obtained from a Convention Committee or unless unanimous consent of all delegates present is obtained from the floor of the convention.

No delegate shall speak on a resolution or subject more than twice; debate shall be limited to five minutes on the first appearance and two minutes on the second appearance; debate on any one resolution or subject shall be limited to one-half hour unless the consent of the Convention is secured for a longer period.

No non-debatable motion or any motion to cut off debate shall be entertained until in the judgment of the Chair, both sides of the question all have been adequately presented. If an opponent is the first to speak on any resolution, the Chair will recognize the Chair of the Committee to have the last rebuttal on said subject.

All District Caucus shall be held at the designated time or at meetings determined upon at regular caucuses held at appointed times. Caucuses may be held during the period of Convention sessions.

There shall be no suspension of the rules of this convention without the majority consent of all delegates present.

Voting shall be by acclamation, except for the election of officers, unless a roll call of the Districts is demanded by at least two Districts, or unless requested by the Commander. On a roll call vote, the District floor leader will announce the vote of their delegation. Only the number of delegates actually seated on the floor of the Convention may vote at any time. A unit rule shall not be enforced at this Convention.

The Department shall police all outside vendors so that a policy will be enforced whereby no political items or items non-related to programs of The American Legion may be sold.

Each Committee report shall be made as a whole and (unless there is objection) shall be voted upon as a whole. After the committee Chair states the committee recommendation on each item, the presiding officer shall ask, "Does anyone wish separate action on any items of this report?"

Upon the request of any single delegate, any item shall be passed over for separate action. The question shall then be put as to acceptance of the report, excluding those items on which separate action has been requested. Immediately thereafter, such items shall be brought one by one for separate action.

Each committee secretary shall enter in their minutes, the names of the maker and second of each motion in committee, and whether the vote was unanimous, and the names of those voting each way if the vote was not unanimous.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 2 of the Department Bylaws; Nominating speeches for the office of Department Commander shall be limited to four minutes, nominating speeches for National Executive Committee Member and Alternate National Executive Committee Member shall be limited to three minutes. Nominating speeches for all other officers shall be limited to two minutes and the seconding for all offices shall come from the District floor leader of the candidates District, which will be a one sentence seconding as follows: The (number of) District seconds the nomination of (name of candidate) for the office of (name of office candidate is nominated for).

The following officers shall be nominated in the following order and shall be elected at this Convention:

- a. One Department Sergeant at Arms
- b. Four Department Vice Commanders
- c. One Department Commander
- d. One Alternate National Executive Committee member
- e. One National Executive Committee member

Election Procedures:

- a. Nominations for all elective offices shall be made a special order of business as the last item of business on Friday's agenda. Nominations shall proceed until all nominations for all elective offices shall have been made. No nominations shall be made or entertained after the adjournment of the first day's business session.
- b. The elections are conducted under the provisions as set forth in the Department Constitution and Bylaws.
- c. Election officials shall expeditiously upon the closing of the polls, tally and count the votes and make return thereof, so that announcement of the results of such election shall be made promptly and/or at the request of the Department Commander.

Respectfully submitted with recommendation for approval and acceptance this 6th day of May 2022 at Portage, Wisconsin.

APPROVED:

Keith Lovell, Department Vice Commander

Gail Minks, 6th District Commander

Ken McCormick, 3rd District Commander

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE RULES CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

CREDENTIALS CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Credentials Committee met on May 6, 2022 and respectfully submits this report and these recommendations:

The following American Legionnaires in good standing shall constitute the delegates and/or alternates to the Department Convention; all Past Department Commanders, all voting members of the Department Executive Committee and all County Commanders. Alternates may replace none of the aforementioned. In addition, each Post which meets the additional requirements as hereinafter set forth in this report shall have a minimum of two delegates, and two alternates, one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each one hundred memberships on which the Post shall have paid its dues to the Department at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Department Convention. However, those with less than fifteen (15) paid up members shall be allowed one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate.

Article V, Section 6 of the Department Constitution provides no delegates shall be entitled to a seat or a vote in the annual Department Convention unless the Post from which he is elected has paid all financial obligations owing to the Department.

Article II, Section 3, Sub-paragraph (b) of the Bylaws also directs the Department Adjutant to notify all Posts of financial obligations owing to the Department at least thirty (30) days prior to any Department Convention. If at Convention time, these obligations shall remain unpaid, then it shall be the duty of the Department Adjutant to notify the Convention

Credentials Committee, which committee shall challenge the right of delegates and alternates to sit in such Convention, until all financial obligations due to the Department are paid.

The Credentials Committee has learned it is becoming increasingly difficult for Department Headquarters to properly record the names of the delegates and the alternates to a Department Convention because of extreme laxity on the part of some Posts in not complying with Article V, Section 3 of the Department Constitution which is quoted as follows: "At least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the annual Department Convention, the Department shall issue to each Post a certificate showing the number of delegates and alternates to which the Post is entitled under this Constitution. The Post Adjutant of each Post shall certify the names of the delegates and alternates elected by the Post endorsement thereon, and **shall mail the same to the Department at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the annual Department Convention.**"

It has been reported to the Credentials Committee some Post Adjutants fail to comply with the above quoted Department Constitution Article V, Section 3 and the Credentials Committee recommends Certification forms be given out to delegates who have not been pre-certified by their Post Adjutant only if their names and Post number shown on their current American Legion membership card coincides with the name and Post number which they are representing.

It has also been reported to the Credentials Committee that many individual Legionnaires report to Department Headquarters or at the Credentials desk that they have been sent to replace a delegate or alternate originally listed on the certificate submitted by the Post Adjutant. The Credentials Committee recommends that in no case should credentials issued to a delegate or alternate be changed unless written instructions and verifications are received from their District Commander or his designated representative.

District Commanders should submit a listing to the Credentials Committee prior to the start of the Convention of those District Officers other than the District Commander who are authorized to sign the certification forms for delegate replacements.

It is recommended credential stamps be given out on an individual basis and only to the individual whose name appears on a current American Legion membership card coinciding with the name on the credential badge to be stamped, giving authorization to vote at the Department Convention elections.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED BY THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE NO ONE BE CERTIFIED AS A DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE DURING THE PERIOD OF ONE HALF HOUR PRIOR TO THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS DURING ANY ELECTION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

Respectfully submitted with recommendation for approval and acceptance this 6th day of May 2022 at Portage, Wisconsin.

APPROVED:

Harry Bauer, Department Vice Commander
Jim Johnson, 2nd District Commander
Linda Pfeiffer, 4th District Commander

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY HARRY BAUER, SECOND BY KARL STUVENGEN TO APPROVE THE CREDENTIALS CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Permanent Organization Committee met on May 6, 2022 and respectfully submits the following report and recommendations:

There shall be the following Convention Committees; each committee to consider such subjects as may come within limits hereinafter set forth and in addition thereto, any questions, which may be specifically referred to them by the Convention. Each Committee shall perform their duties as outlined and report their recommendations to the Convention.

The composition of a Convention Committee shall be those delegates, or delegate's alternates who have been certified by their respective District Commander or District Commander's designee. All Convention Committees shall have the power

to request the presence and the counsel of any Department Officer or Department Committee Chair, if in their opinion it is deemed necessary.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution none of the following Convention Committees will initiate resolutions (except with the unanimous consent of a Convention Committee, or unless unanimous consent of all delegates present is obtained from the convention floor), but will generally act to consider resolutions referred to them, consolidate and restate those covering identical subjects and amend resolutions provided that all amendments must be germane.

Americanism – This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

Children and Youth – This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

Constitutional Amendments – This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

Finance – This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

Legislative - This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

Membership - This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

National Security - This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

Resolutions – This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - This committee should consider resolutions as are assigned to it, and shall submit to the Convention its recommendations to the delegates in Convention assembled.

Respectfully submitted with recommendations for approval and acceptance this 6th day of May 2022 at Portage, Wisconsin.

Approved:

David Latimer, Department Vice Commander
Scott Markle, 12th District Commander
Larry Larson, 10th District Commander

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE PERMANENT ORGANIZATION CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

OFFICER REPORTS

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Department Chaplain- John Gessner

1. Activities 1st quarter CY 2021:
 - a. Conducted a 12-week Reboot PTSD Recovery program to veterans and 1st responders.
 - b. Conducted training to chaplains and interested parties on The Role of an American Legion Chaplain at the Mid-Winter conference.
 - c. 12 Feb, participated in the State oratory Competition, Ripon, WI.

- d. Established a chaplain's retreat at Camp American Legion for 21-22 May, the first in 4 years. Subjects will include the role of a chaplain, conducting various religious ceremonies, and a working group for developing religious emphasis action items for 2022-23. This retreat will serve as a baseline for future chaplain retreats.
 - e. Made considerable headway in developing a chaplain's contact list for resources and update information.
2. Upcoming activities 2022.
- a. 21-22 May: Execute the Chaplain's Retreat, Camp American Legion.
 - b. 30 May: Speaker at Waterloo American Legion Post Memorial Day event.
 - c. 23 June: Speaker at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, La Crosse.
 - d. 14-17 July: Participate in the State Convention, Green Bay.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY KEN MCCORMICK TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Department Historian- DuWayne Wieck

My journey as Department Historian for Commander Eirich has been an experience that I would not have had if Commander Eirich had not asked me to document his many travels throughout the state and beyond. I'd like to thank Department Commander Eirich for allowing me to many times work from home from pictures he has sent me through Facebook. Commander Eirich is on the road every week, many times multiple travels each week.

My last report left off just before Christmas so I will continue from there. After a short break for Christmas, Commander Eirich was invited to a Christmas dinner January 10th at Village Limits Restaurant in Little Chute. I met Commander Eirich there for the dinner and after the dinner we attended their Post meeting. January 13th-16th we attended Midwinter in Wisconsin Dells making appearances at many of the training classes held throughout the conference. Saturday night we attended the sweepstakes drawings and the entertainment who was an Elvis impersonator.

February 5th, 4 Chaplains remembrance ceremonies were held at 2 locations. Commander Eirich traveled to Post 385 in Verona for an early ceremony and then I met him in Saukville Post 470 for the 2nd District 4-Chaplains event. Both were well attended and very moving.

February 11th Commander Eirich submitted photos to me from his Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield Illinois. Some of the Legion dignitaries that attended with him were National Commander Paul Dillard, Wisconsin Auxiliary President Diane Weggen, and Wisconsin Adjutant Nathan Gear. The following day the Commander traveled to Oshkosh for the 6th District Americanism Banquet to help present awards. Photos were submitted via facebook.

Commander Eirich and Adjutant Gear met with members of the Department of Ohio American Legion February 17th for lunch in Milwaukee. On February 19th Commander Eirich attended the Arts & Rhythm Fundraiser in Grafton. Proceeds from the event went to veterans projects.

March 12th District 11 Executive Council held a meeting at Post 182 in Park Falls which Commander Eirich attended and the 13th he went to the Awards night at Post 494 in Caledonia. I received photos through facebook to document the events. March 18th I traveled with Commander Eirich to Orfordville where the SAL Squadron 209 held "Freezin' For A Reason" to raise money for Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative.

April 9th we were on the road again together for a full day of District Spring Conferences. We first went to Kaukauna for the 9th District Spring Conference and then to Minocqua for the 11th District. April 16th Commander Eirich sent me photos from his day trip to Neillsville for their 7th District Spring Conference. Commander Eirich has given out thumbs up awards and Commander Coins to someone at almost all of the events he has attended including this one. April 23 Commander Eirich went to the Vans Ells-Schanen Post 82 in Port Washington for an event called Team Celebration. Money was raised for Dogs2Dogs Tags, an organization that trains comfort dogs, and 2 Veterans were there that received comfort dogs from D2DTags. Photos submitted. April 26th Commander Eirich and I went to the 68th Post Commanders Dinner in Plymouth, Post 243. He handed out awards for continuous years in the Legion and recognized the Past Commanders.

April 27th we were on the road to Twin Lakes for their Kenosha County Council meeting. Commander Eirich recognized Kenosha County for reaching 100% membership. April 29th we left for Boscobel to stay overnight to get an early start for Wauzeka's 3rd Distinct Spring Conference the next morning. The Commander encouraged them to attend both the upcoming state and National Conferences. From there we headed to his own 2nd District Spring Conference in Lake Mills 2 hours away. There, he presented awards and reminded the membership to keep working for 100% and to attend the Celebration of Freedom in Portage.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

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

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT

Department Judge Advocate- Nicholas Lange

Activities since the 2022 Midwinter Conference:

CONTRACT REVIEWS

- Review Overflow Room Contract with Tundra Lodge, Green Bay, for 2022 Department Convention
- Review Contract With Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Green Bay, for 2026 Midwinter Conference
- Review Memorandum of Understanding between Badger Boys State and UW-Eau Claire for 2022, 2023, and 2024 Badger Boys State event.
- Review Contracts for Radisson Hotel & LaCrosse Center for 2024 Midwinter Conference.

POST/COUNTY/DISTRICT ISSUES

- **Manitowoc County Council – NOT IN GOOD STANDING**
Continuing to address the problem at Manitowoc County Council. They lost their tax-exempt status for the past several months have refused to get it reinstated. I explained to the previous Commander that it must be reinstated in 2021. My understanding is that other officers and County Council members have objected to that, because it will cost money. There has apparently been a recent change in leadership. The current Adjutant contacted me on April 18, 2022, to inform me that they were no longer going to be tax-exempt, they were closing their bank account, and returning the funds to the Posts within the county. As I had done previously, I advised him that tax-exempt status must be reinstated. I also requested that he notify me by April 30, 2022, whether the necessary actions would be undertaken by April 30, 2022. As of May 4, 2022, I have received no communication from him. However, on May 4, 2022, Department Vice Commander Julie Muhle informed me that they are now seeking reinstatement.
For more information about the tax issue, please read the attached Memorandum I have prepared.
- **Marshall Post 279, Dane County**
Post 279 has two members who have been brought up on charges of misconduct. An expulsion trial is scheduled for May 17, 2022. I am attempting to find a Legionnaire who is an attorney to act as the trial judge, which is required by Article 12, Section 11 of the Department By-Laws. If I'm unable to find someone to accept the appointment, my plan is to appoint myself.
- **La Crosse Post 52.** Post 52 was audited by the State and found to be conducting unlicensed bingo games. There were other problematic behaviors that lead to nearly every officer resigning and transferring their membership to different Posts. After initially refusing to provide financial records and having their Post Charter potentially subject to suspension or revocation, things seemed to have resolved favorably. Commander Eirich and Adjutant Gear were able to steer them back onto the correct path.

DEPARTMENT ISSUES

- **Tax Exempt Status.** The tax-exempt status issue faced by the Manitowoc County Council may be a growing problem in Wisconsin for The American Legion. I have obtained a database of all tax-exempt organizations that have lost their tax-exempt status for failing to file their 990 return with the IRS. For Wisconsin alone, the database contains nearly 17,000 organizations. My initial review shows that many of them are American Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL organizations in Wisconsin. I am trying to compile a select list focused solely on the Legion Family organizations and will try to coordinate an outreach program to assist these organizations, if they are still active,

to regain their tax-exempt status. It may be worth considering a grant program to provide financial assistance where they do not have sufficient funds. The cost for reinstatement is \$600 if none of the “quick” exceptions apply.

CONTINUITY

I have communicated to Julie Muhle, who I anticipate will be the next Department Commander, that I want to step away from being the Department Judge Advocate at the end of my appointment at the conclusion of the 2022 Department Convention. In addition to serving as Department Judge Advocate, I am currently a Post Commander, District 10 Judge Advocate, ALRA District 10 Chaplain, and State ALRA Judge Advocate. My job is also keeping me busy. I am the Dunn County Corporation Counsel, but since early March I have been also the Acting County Administrator while the position is vacant. It’s possible that I may be working in both jobs for the next few months.

When I was first appointed in January 2017, almost nobody knew me, but I’ve always felt welcomed have enjoy being the Department Judge Advocate immensely.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE’S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN’S REPORT

National Executive Committeeman- Robert Shappell

1. February 12, 2022 – Attended Department Oratorical contest at Ripon College, serving as a judge for the regional contests.
2. February 25, 2022 – Reviewed and voted in favor of Resolution #1, Statement on Ukraine.
3. March 1, 2022 – Attended a virtual Washington Conference visit with Senator Tammy Baldwin.
4. March 1, 2022 – Attended a virtual Washington Conference visit with Senator Ron Johnson.
5. March 3, 2022 – Attended a virtual Washington Conference visit with Congressman Glenn Grothman.
6. March 5, 2022 - Attended Badger Boys State meeting at Portage.
7. April 30, 2022 - Second District Conference – Lake Mills
8. May 1-3, 2022 – National Spring meetings, Indianapolis
 - Participated in the reception line for National Commander candidate Dan Seehafer on May 1, 2, and 3
 - Attended Convention Commission meetings as NEC Liaison – May 2-3
9. May 4-5 – NEC Meeting items of interest
 - An ad hoc committee on membership processing reviewed possible changes in the renewal process, including due dates, multiple year memberships, auto renewal by credit card, cyberpost for active military, and changes to PUFL. Some items will continue in study; several will be discussed below under resolutions.
 - Chip Ganassi Racing and the Legion unveiled a new initiative to combat veteran suicide called **Be the One**.
 - New DMS members as of May 1 total 95,512. The current national renewal rate is 89.2%.
 - Wisconsin will be recognized at the National Convention for Blood Donor awards in both post participation and individual participation
 - Scouting Square Knot Award winners from Wisconsin were Leonardo Campos-Moya and Robert Haglund
 - Mission Blue Post Assistance grants in 2021 totaled \$624,666 to 429 posts in 44 departments. For 2022, there have been 184 grants totaling \$273,384 to 116 posts in 33 departments. Posts have received over \$1 million since the program’s inception in October 2020
 - DVOP (Disabled Veterans Outreach Program) of the Year Award – Geraldine Perry of Milwaukee
 - 2022 Legacy Scholarship awards – 71 recipients from 37 Departments (\$705,937)
 - One from Wisconsin – Noelle Marie Destaubin
10. NEC Meeting resolutions
 - The NEC considered 31 resolutions. 29 were approved, and two returned for further study. Following are several of significant note.
 - Resolution 1 – Amend American Legion Constitution and By-Laws to Allow Multi-year and Rolling Memberships. This would allow the ad hoc committee mentioned above to proceed with creating procedures for viable changes to improve membership processing.
 - Resolution 2 – The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Provides for making more money available each year by allocating 100% of the prior year’s donations and 50% of the prior year’s net income. Priority still remains with children

of the fallen, who receive \$10,000 per year. 50% disabled eligible children receive up to \$5000 per year. An additional change is the addition to trade schools for scholarship eligibility.

- Resolution 4 – Statement of Policy for the Temporary Financial Assistance Program. Clarifies the requirement for local investigation/verification of need, clarifies what TFA can cover, and defines eligible children. The revised statement of policy and procedures will be published soon.
- Resolution 28 – Creation of a Digital Membership Card supplementary to the traditional card. The digital card will be offered annually to all members in good standing in conjunction with the paper card.
- Resolution 29 – Bronze Brigade Membership Incentive Award. A new membership recognition for those who recruit 12-24 members

11. National Convention future locations and dates

2023 – Charlotte NC, Aug 25-31

2024 – New Orleans LA, Aug 23-29

2025 – Tampa Bay FL, Aug 22-28

2026 – Louisville KY, Aug 28-Sep 3

2027 – Kansas City MO, Aug 27-Sep 2

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO ACCEPT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN’S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT’S REPORT

Department Adjutant- National Gear

We had a great third quarter at Department. Legion Programs commenced with this year’s 2022 Oratorical Contest winner, Divyasree Chintamani. Congratulations to the 9th District and those that supported the program. Americanism and Government Testing and Junior Shooting Sports have completed successfully with the help of dedicated Legionnaires. The SALUTE Program partnership continues to grow and impact veterans in need throughout WI. The HQ’s Team continues to build stronger relations with our Legion Programs. I recently assigned a Program Coordinator to support the WI American Legion Riders (ALR). By working together, Department is helping provide more ALR outreach and marketing support. Check out the ALR new webpage on wilegion.org, under Our Family drop down.

The opportunity of serving veterans throughout WI’s four seasons has opened up some new opportunities at Camp American Legion (CAL). CAL had a successful February event sponsored by veteran organization, WI Heroes Outdoors (WHO) ice fishing event. WHOs’ mission focuses on connecting veterans and their families to the outdoors which aligns well with CAL’s mission. Another new adventure, CAL is making its own Maple Syrup for the first time thanks to a generous donation from WI American Legion Auxiliary Unit 449. This new spring season Maple Syrup event has already generated new volunteers at camp and future possibility of selling these products to generate new fundraising income opportunities.

We had some unfortunate news this spring with cabin sponsors from District 6 Riders and Price County withdrawing their cabin sponsorship. This withdraw was primarily due to financial and volunteer hardships. We thank them both for their continuous years of service supporting veterans. These recent resignations initiated me to have concerns regarding CAL operations and verifying the well-being of all our cabin sponsors. To help address these concerns we updated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreements for Lot 3, 4, and 5 sponsorships. These MOUs have helped identify the strength of our cabin sponsors and identify current needs at camp to include future Capital Improvement Projects. We also began identifying new sponsorships interested in taking over those cabins minimizing operational impact on current camp schedules.

The Department Commander and I had to address some difficult issues presented to department. These issues range from not having proper licenses, to disciplinary issues from our Legion Posts. Please ensure your Posts have updated Constitution and Bylaws and properly filing annual taxes. We have several Posts who failed to file taxes annually, losing their nonprofit status meaning they can no longer operate under 501c19 Department of WI. The 2022 National Convention is quickly approaching. Make sure to invite non-delegates to visit and attend the Departments Legion Family event on Sunday at the MKE War Memorial Center.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY HARRY BAUER, SECOND BY KEN MCCORMICK TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S REPORT

Department Commander- Greg Eirich

My attached report reflects most of what I have done since my last report at Mid-Winter. Some of the items missing are the daily phone calls with the Adjutant that can last up to 1 hour discussing issues within our department. Also, the numerous emails, phone calls that I had to address daily regarding problems with Posts, communications with Department Vice Commander's and the general business of running this Department. Also, not all trips to department have been noted.

To define some of the highlights since my last report.

A highly successful Midwinter conference at Ho Chunk Casino and Conference Report. Still on the tails of a Covid outbreak. The turnout was great considering the circumstances of this recovery period and the daily news blasting out this pandemic. Our department is now looking at a new Mid-Winter venue at Green Bay which is exciting. And my expectations are high for Mid-Winter 2023!

The Lincoln Pilgrimage was an outstanding event put on by the Illinois Department of American Legion. Going to Lincoln Tomb is always a humbling experience because it was my 3rd time visiting this site. Also, the touch of the nose with Department Auxiliary President Diane Weggen is always a fun and memorable time. The program put on in the tomb is outstanding and a pleasure to be part of.

The communication with our Congresspersons and Senators via Zoom was educational, informational, current, respectful, and cordial. It was a delight to interact with our Legislators and talk with them regarding the National American Legion Legislative efforts with support. Many of the legislators had the Legislative Updates that were sent out to them which was so good to see. If the legislators were not available, they had staff there who had a good ear and were genuinely concerned about veteran's issues. One of the notable comments made is their offices receive thousands of request each year. So, you can note that competition for Federal dollars will always be tough.

Monthly updates via Commander's Huddle with Department Vice Commander's and membership Chair Jim Waltich continues. This is a wonderful way to update our leadership on what is current and what is happening at Department. The exchanging of ideas, comments are beneficial to open communication with leadership. I keep the Zoom meeting to an hour.

March madness was a successful event! Despite some negative feedback from some District Commander's this event is worthwhile to put on every year. This is ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT, always. Bickering over the value of this was not helpful and some districts did not feel the full potential of this event due to lack of belief. The numbers provided by Membership Coordinator indicate that Membership Chair Waltich's work putting this event together was worth it. My recommendation for future March Madness events is rock solid. Continue them or some other similar format.

I have attended most of all District Conferences. Missing the 12th District Conference due to a conflict with my Testimonial. I notified Commander Markle of this. Distance was the factor in not attending.

Throughout this year, as your Department Commander I have completed several Commander's videos to help with communication throughout our department. I do hope as the next Department Commander takes over that Commander will do the same. That individualized touch from the Department Commander has meaning to the audience of our Legion members and the public if sent on the public spectrum. I want to thank Jen Swenson and Angie Chappell, as well as the Department Adjutant Gear for their assistance in making these videos happen.

As you can see from the weekly delivery of Commander's activity sheet, I have been busy. Though not all my time is not on the road. I continue to communicate Department wide that Commander Visit requests can be submitted.

I ask and I continue to emphasize that effective communication comes from talking to people personally about issues that come out. Sending out emails to several people is distracting for some and a negative to others. Most problems or questions can be dealt with directly via a Phone call to the Department Commander of Department Adjutant. There should be a communications forum via Zoom set up twice a year with PDCs to address concerns, issues, problems, solutions, etc. One in fall and one in spring.

You do have a voice and I and any future Commander would like to hear it.

I want to thank our Department Team for all their challenging work, especially, as we enter spring and many of our programs start hitting the ground. We have a very dedicated TEAM. They are professional, courteous, detailed and determined to bring the best product to our department.

It has been a pleasure to be your Department Commander. It has been exciting, challenging, educational, and fun. Not all in that order. I have 2 ½ months to go as your Department Commander and I am determined to do the absolute best for this organization. Some of our District Commanders are moving on and up. Others, moving on to other endeavors. Always, remember that mentoring is a big part of your future now. We need excellence in our department. Find that excellence! Train, mentor, educate via WALC, and put them in a position that they can make a Positive Impact within our organization. PDC's, I ask the same of you. If you are already doing that, thank you! We need your help on a continual basis. Your guidance and wisdom are wanted and needed.

Finally, our organization can grow! Let us turn around this membership drop and let us start getting some positive numbers. Remember, ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT. We are all in it together. And that it is VETERANS!

Thank you for being here, thank you for all that you have done and will do. Continue to make a POSITIVE IMPACT with your Post, Community, State and Nation. LEGION WISCONSIN!

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY LINDA PFEIFFER, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Association Report- Commissioner Roger Mathison

Commissioner Roger Mathison called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Roger Mathison, Commissioner
Mark Faanes, Region 1 Director
Wayne Sankey, Region 2 Director
Craig Sankey, Region 2 Assistant
Dan Lukes, Region 3 Assistant
Tom Carney, Region 4 Director
Rick Pankow, Region 4 Assistant
Eric Bloohm, Region 5 Director
Derrick Standke, Region 5 Assistant
Scott Huffman, Region 6 Assistant
Sean Gavaghan, Region 7 Director
Phil DeRosa, Region 7 Assistant
Peder Swanson, Region 8 Director
Gary Gilbertson, Public Relations Director

Excused:

Greg Eirich, Department Commander
Kevin Stangel, President Region 3 Director

David Wischer, Past Department Commander
Nathan Gear, Adjutant/Secretary
Jeff Puddy, Americanism Chair
Michael Arendt, Region 6 Director

Absent:

Dennis Semph, Umpire Coordinator
Adam Stenner, Region 8 Assistant

Registration Update

A total of 141 teams have begun the registration process, 13 teams are ready for approval, 80 teams have paid insurance. We will reach out to Rosendale, Mequon and East Troy to be sure there are no registration issues. Jen will send team email this week highlighting the registration process, including an explanation of draft, submitted, approved status, and reinforcing upcoming deadline and late fee as well as All Star information.

Regional Tournament Hosts

Class AAA (State at Sheboygan)

- 1 - Chippewa Falls
- 2 - Wausau
- 3 - Marinette
- 4 - Manitowoc (if field available)
- 5 - Oshkosh
- 6 - Watertown

Class AA (State at Fort Atkinson)

- 4 - Ashwaubenon
- 5 - New London
- 7 - Onalaska

Class A (State at Viroqua)

- 1 - Baldwin
- 3 - Freedom
- 6 - G-E-T
- 7 - Westby
- 17-Under (State at Plover)
- 3 - Marinette
- 4 - Ashwaubenon
- 6 - Fond du Lac
- 16-Under (State at Brownsville/Lomira-Theresa)
- 2 - Wisconsin Rapids
- 4 - Seymour

All-Star Weekend

- A. Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield
- B. No ump updates
- C. Jen will send a formal letter to Terry Ryan for guest speaker possibility, Damien Miller looks unlikely for this year due to scheduling. Matt Thums is a possibility if Terry Ryan opts out. Guest speakers receive tickets and hotel and \$300.
- D. Online nomination process this year. Due Date is June 25.

Motion by Sean Gavaghan to purchase 700 brewers' tickets instead of 649, second by Tom Carney. Motion Carried.

Tournament host updates

All host areas look to have preparations are coming along as planned, has been communication with Sheboygan to be sure they're ready as well.

Hall of Fame

Jeff Chew and Dan Barry. Letters have been sent, but contact info for John Barry and Jeff Chew will be sent to Jen for planning and confirmation. Scott Huffman will reach out to John.

Softball Discussion

Softball promotion has been going strong through the WI spring district meetings. The program has been well received and it's been great to get correct information out and some face time. Roger feels there is potential that we could eventually see more Legion Softball teams than baseball teams. Regarding gender and inclusivity it was decided there should be a vague statement clarifying that it is for high school softball players and that the ultimate decision falls on the local level.

Should include fastpitch in the softball literature

Regarding the formation of the softball subcommittee-

- A. Term will be through the end of 2023.
- B. Adding three committee members. Roger's nominations are
 - Melissa Hildebrandt- River Falls Commander
 - Jim Wickert- Sun Prairie MacFarland Legionnaire member
 - Josh Navis- Waupun, Softball coach

Motion by Tom Carney, second by Dan Lukes to add Melissa Hildebrandt, Jim Wickert, Josh Navis to the Softball Sub-Committee. Motion Carried.

Motion by Dan Lukes, Second by Tom Carney to make Wisconsin Legion Softball Scholarship even with Baseball and adjust to \$1000. Motion Carried.

Trophies

- Would like to remove Varsity and Junior Varsity from trophies and use class instead the outdated wording.
- Regional plaque should have regional on it to differentiate from state
- Have proof sent to Roger, Kevin and Dan before trophies go to production

Discussed numbers for possible split of JR teams into 2 divisions. 56-60 is the general consensus

Motion to adjourn by Dan Lukes, second by Tom Carney at 7:18 p.m. Motion Carried.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO ACCEPT THE WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ASSOCIATION REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Julie Muhle, Daniel Seehafer's Campaign Manager, expressed Daniel's gratitude to all for their support. There will be a Golf Outing on July 23, 2022 at Horicon Hills Golf Course with Raffle Baskets. His goal is \$10,000 for this year. She also stated that he is now considered the leading candidate.

She also reminded the DEC that they just approved \$4,000 for the National Membership Workshop and she is recommending incoming District Commanders, Vice Commanders, Department Commander, Department Adjutant, Department Membership Chair and Membership Coordinator all attend.

Craig Ellis, 5th District Commander stated that the largest Legion Emblem is in Milwaukee, and due to meetings with the city, has secured a \$100,000 grant for the \$134,000 project to restore the monument prior to National Convention. There is a GoFund Me account set up for the shortfall. There will be no cost to The American Legion for the project. David Latimer stated that the Emblem will be seen by visitors landing at Mitchel Field.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**- All of the following forms were supplied to you in your District Commander/District Adjutant packets that were mailed to all District Commander and Adjutants at the end of March. They are due to the Department by **June 1, 2022** with the District Commander's signature (thank you to those who have already submitted).
 - a. **Convention Committee Appointments**
 - b. **Ballot Clerk Certification**
 - c. **Department Assistant Sergeant at Arms**

2. **CONVENTION YEARBOOK**- All Department Officers and Committee Chairs are to have their pictures and their reports (150 words or less) for the Convention Yearbook to Angie at angela@wilegion.org no later June 1, 2022.

Please send sooner if possible

Please do not mail in pictures and reports, they need to be emailed. **Department Officers**, if you wish this to also be your report to the DEC on Thursday July 14th, please indicate that when submitting your report.

PLEASE NOTE: THE YEARBOOK REPORT AND THE REPORT TO THE DEC ARE 2 SEPARATE REPORTS, WITH DIFFERENT DUE DATES.

3. **AWARDS**- All Americanism award nominations are due to Headquarters by June 1, 2022.
4. **DEPARTMENT STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**- District Commanders need to submit recommendations for Department Standing Committees for the next Department Commander. Forms were sent in your District Commander/District Adjutant packet for Department Convention, and can be found on the website under the Get Connected tab-Committees and Commissions. Forms can be submitted at any time that they are completed.
5. **REPORTS DUE**- CPR, VA&R and C&Y reports are due to Headquarters by June 1, 2022.
6. **CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM**- Please help promote the event state wide. Share all social media posts, and if you have any corporate or foundation connections, please let Department know so we can reach out to them. There will be an American Legion Family Battle of the Bowls Chili cookoff. Winners will receive a trophy and 50% of their votes in cash. There will be winners in the following categories: Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Riders, 1st Responders.
7. **NATIONAL CONVENTION**- All of the following forms were supplied to you in your District Commander/District Adjutant packets that were mailed to all District Commanders and Adjutants at the end of March. They are due to the Department by **June 1, 2022** (thank you to those who have already submitted).
 - a. **National Delegates Assignment Form**
 - b. **National Assistant Sergeant at Arms**NOTE: All attending the National Convention, including guests, have to register through Department per National rules. The registration form is on wilegion.org.

***All National & Department Convention Forms are on wilegion.org.**

8. **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP**- July 28-30, 2022
9. **PAYMENT VOUCHERS**- All vouchers for reimbursement must be submitted by the end of the Spring Meetings to the Department Adjutant for those that receive reimbursement. Please make sure all vouchers have been signed by the Committee Chairman.

Adjourned per ritual at 12:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted;

Nathan Gear
Department Adjutant