

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Pre-Convention Meeting

Green Bay, 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	Gail Minks, 6 th District Commander
Harry Bauer, Department Vice Commander	Carl Sjolander, 7 th District Commander
John Gessner, Department Chaplain	Adam Klapperich, 8 th District Commander
Frank Kostka, Past Department Commander	Jeff Zwiers, 9 th District Commander
David Wischer, Past Department Commander	Larry Larson, 10 th District Commander
Robert L. Shappell, National Executive Committeeman	John Polzin, 11 th District Commander
Karl Stuvengen, 1 st District Commander	Scott Markle, 12 th District Commander
Jim Johnson, 2 nd District Commander	

Excused:

David Latimer, Sr, Department Vice Commander
Craig Ellis, 5th District Commander

MOTION BY KARL STUVENGEN, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2022 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS COMMITTEE- Chair Raymond Peterson

Chair Raymond Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 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
John Gessner, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Mark Melton, Vice Chair
Todd Fanta, Immediate Past Department Chaplain

The committee did not have a quorum, but the following discussion was held. Adding new members to the committee would require a resolution to change to the Constitution and Bylaws. Discussion on what chaplains

do, unity, assist members to be better citizens from Chaplain's handbook, Increased spirituality, chaplain selection, scripture and prayer.

Commander Eirich and Adjutant Gear addressed the committee. The 2021 resolution made the Department Chaplain an appointed position, and removed the Assistant Chaplain all together. Commander suggested the Chaplain attend Fall District Conference.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 8:55 AM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY CARL SJOLANDER TO APPROVE THE RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS COMMITTEE NOTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY COMMITTEE- Chair Bob Batty

Chair Bob Batty called the meeting to order at 9:00 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, PNC, Ex-Officio
Chuck Cooney, Member
Roy Helms, Member
Ted DeMicchi, Member
Nicholas Lange, Department Judge Advocate, Consultant
Robert Shappell, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Absent:
Dallas Loesel, Member

Guests:
PDC Roger Mathison
PDC Wayne Jensen
PNVC Russ Hanseter

Motion by Roy Helms, second by Denise Rohan to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Denise Rohan, second by Al Richards to approve the Leadership & Communications Guide. Motion Carried.

Motion by Denise Rohan, second by Al Richards recommend combining the Protocol and Planning Guide with the Leadership Guide. Motion Carried.

This will be reviewed with a zoom meeting.

Reviewed Bylaws of the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation Inc. There is nothing to vote on at this time. Denise will email Judge Advocate Nick Lange's recommendations.

Nick Lange stated that the Chaplain's resolutions still need to be cleaned up, and changes still need to be made in the Department Constitution and Bylaws.

Motion by Ted DeMicchi, second by Al Richards to recommend the Post-Convention DEC should give the new Commander permission to appoint an Assistant Chaplain if needed. Motion Carried.

The Committee was discussing Post 1925. The Constitution of Post 1925 is in conflict with the Department Constitution.

Motion by Denise Rohan, second by Roy Helms to recommend to the DEC to either merge Post 1925 with Post 2930 or appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to align the Post Constitution with the Department's Constitution. Motion Carried.

Committee recessed to the call of the Commander at 10:03 AM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JOHN POLZIN TO APPROVE THE POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT.

There was discussion regarding the motion on Post 1925.

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPOINT AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ALIGN POST 1925'S CONSTITUTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSTITUTION. MOTION CARRIED.

CALL FOR THE PREVIOUS MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE- Chair Bob Bohr

Chair Bob Bohr called the meeting to order at 9:00 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
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

Motion by Charlie Young, second by Steve Isensee to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Isensee, second by Charlie Young to raise the Troop and Family Support limit to \$1500. Motion Carried.

Troop and Family support has a revised application on the website, any Legion member qualifies, there has been \$3300 allocated so far, just under \$8000 remains. A portion of the proceeds from the Foundation's August 10th golf outing will go to T&FS.

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 NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION REPORT- Chair Clifford Stanisch (not present, written report presented to the DEC)

Chair Clifford Stanisch called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM 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
Steve Conto, Cremated Remains Task Force Chair
Gary Meyer, Employment Chair
Tim Baranzkyk, Homeless Veterans Task Force Chair
Joe Hodgson, Hospital Chair
James Fialkowski, Department Service Officer, Consultant
Denise Jamrozy, Camp American Legion Chair, Consultant
Harry Bauer, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Bill Crowley, Member

Guests:

Dr. Whittle, Medical College of Wisconsin

Motion by Charlie Coleman, second by Ron Kuta to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Charlie Coleman, second by Ken McCormick to approve the Employment Chair report. Motion Carried.

Motion by Joe Hodgson, second by Ken McCormick to move forward with the employment Chair's recommendation to create an "Employer Support of Veterans Award". Motion Carried.

Steve Krueger and Gary Meyer are to write a resolution before the Midwinter Meeting regarding the award.

Motion by Ron Kuta, second by Joe Hodgson to approve the Homeless Chair Report. Motion Carried.

There was discussion on Kimberly Clark items.

Motion by Charlie Coleman, second by Ken McCormick to approve the Hospital Chair Report. Motion Carried.

Motion by Charlie Coleman, second by Ken McCormick to approve the Cremated Remains Task Force Chair Report. Motion Carried.

Dr. Whittle spoke about the 'Reclaiming Your Path' program.

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

Motion by Joe Hodgson, second by Charlie Coleman to approve the Camp American Legion Chair report. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY HARRY BAUER TO APPROVE THE VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT AS WRITTEN. MOTION CARRIED.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair James Waltich

Chair James Waltich called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Jim Waltich, Chair
Steve Kohnke, Vice Chair
Julie Muhle, Department Vice Commander
Keith Lovell, 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
James Lee, Member
Rita Rindahl, Member
Tom Visintainer, Member
Jeff Zwiers, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

David Latimer, Department Vice Commander

Absent:

Justin Steiner, Member

Guests:

Karl Stuvengen, 1st District Commander

John Polzin, 11th District Commander

Bob Shappell, NECman

David Wischer, PDC

Ken McCormick, 3rd District Commander

Russell Hanseter, PNVC

Motion by Jim Johnson, second by Steve Kohnke to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Chet Faith presented on lessons learned from Road America. Looking at other events that we can use the truck from National for.

Larry Larson reported on planning and activities at the tractor pulls.

Adjutant Gear reported on Digital Media engagement.

Commander Eirich reported on a Rodeo in Manawa that he attended as a Commander's visit. Suggested looking into these types of events to attend.

Motion by Larry Larson, second by Jim Johnson to hand out information at the free event August 14, 2022, Budweiser Salute to the Troops or Veteran Appreciation Day. Motion Carried.

Motion by Julie Muhle, second by Jim Lee to forgo the inside booth at the State Fair. Motion Carried.

Motion by Jim Waltich, second by Gail Minks to pursue giving 1 year membership, just the \$18.50 for National, to non-member attendees at Camp American Legion on the condition that it does not violate any agreements. Motion Carried.

Motion by Jim Waltich, second by Harry Bauer to have the Adjutant research offering membership to attendees at Camp American Legion, working with Commander Zwiers. Motion Carried.

Commander Eirich recognized 12th District Commander Scott Markle for being the first 100% District Commander.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 6:27 PM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY GAIL MINKS TO APPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT- Vice Chair Mike Feirer

Chair Joan Sallee called the meeting to order at 9:00 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
Mike Feirer, Vice Chair
Jerrold Schultz, Member
Paul Ciarelli, 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:
Bill Robbins, Member

Motion by Jerrold Schultz, second by Mike Feirer to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Paul Ciarelli, second by Mike Feirer that the Marketing and Communications Committee have a web presence on wilegion.org in order to provide resources to WI Legion members and organizations. Motion Carried.

Paul Ciarelli has a mock website set up as an example.

Aimee Korger mentioned that at the Fundraising meeting, a list of subject matter experts was discussed to be available to Posts. Marketing, Communications, IT, Social Media experts should be on that list.

There was a discussion about how to make resources available; Advertise in the Badger Legionnaire, zoom classes, Midwinter Classes, YouTube videos and video production.

Becky stated that communicating with posts is vital, but we need to educate from the top down.

Linda and DuWayne cautioned that there is a need to keep the old paper lines of communications open to older people and those that are not internet active.

Janesville was visited as a pilot post by Chair Joan Sallee, the other posts declined. Signs were made. They are \$12.48; \$9.69 for the sign and \$2.79 for the wire stand. Plan is to sell them for \$20-\$25 each. Initial stock was donated by Chair Joan Sallee. The company waived the \$75 design fee which won't be a recurring cost for this design.

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

Past Communications Committee Chair Harold Rihn made a suggestion that we establish criteria for Social Media Awards.

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 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Joe Hodgson

Chair Joe Hodgson called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM 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 Rep.
Dan Jakubczyk, Vice Chair, Zablocki Rep.
Jerry Gibbons, Member
Susan Knudson, Member
James Young, King Rep.
Donna Swenson, Minneapolis Rep.
Carl Krenn, Iron Mountain Rep.
James Fialkowski, Department Service Officer, Consultant
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Ken Schoolcraft, Tomah Rep.
Ross Auna, Chippewa Falls Rep.
Ken McCormick, DEC Liaison

Absent:

Roger Sass, Union Grove Rep.

Guest:

Marilyn Galoff, 10th District Chaplain, Chippewa Home

Motion by Jerry Gibbons, second by James Young to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Reports were given by reps from King, Minneapolis, Zablocki, Middleton and Iron Mountain.

Motion by Susan Knudson, second by James Young to approve the reports. Motion Carried.

Motion by James Young, second by Donna Swenson that Department send all hospital reps the name, address and amount donated of any thank you letters sent out by the Department, so that the Hospital Representative can also send a personal thank you. 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 HOSPITAL COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORTS- Chair Barb Belmont

June 7, 2022 Meeting:

Chair Barbara Belmont called the Meeting to order at 5:03 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
Aimee Korger, Member
Rebecca Stankevitz, Member
Chris Chinander, Member
Karl Stuvengen, 1st District Commander
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio

Excused:

Chuck Roessler, Vice Chair
Tom Lay, Member

Motion by Aimee Korger, second by Rebecca Stankevitz to approve the Resolution, “Fundraising Committee Purpose Change.” Motion Carried.

Chair Belmont recessed the Fundraising Committee to the Call of the Commander at 5:14 PM with Closing Ritual.

July 14, 2022 Meeting:

Chair Barbara Belmont called the Meeting to order at 7:00 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
Rebecca Stankevitz, Member
Chris Chinander, Member
Karl Stuvengen, 1st District Commanders
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio

Motion by Rebecca Stankevitz, second by Aimee Korger to approve the July 14, 2022 Agenda. Motion Carried.

Motion by Chris Chinander, second by Rebecca Stankevitz to approve the May 6, 2022 Spring Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rebecca Stankevitz, second by Chuck Roessler to approve the June 7, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rebecca Stankevitz, second by Aimee Korger to recommend the elimination of the V360 Fundraising “At Risk” and “Veteran’s Day” campaigns for FY2022-2023. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy provided the FY2022-2023 Department Financial Outlook and The Wisconsin American Legion Foundation V360 non-Legionnaire fundraising strategy for Committee discussion.

Motion by Aimee Korger, second by Rebecca Stankevitz to adopt the FY2022-2023 Fundraising Committee Goals. Motion Carried.

1. Cash Raffle at September 2022 Celebration of Freedom for Legion Programs, unrestricted
2. Gun Raffle at January 2023 Midwinter Conference for Jr. Shooting Sports

3. Multiple-platform fundraising for WALLECA, \$5,000

Motion by Rebecca Stankevitz, second by Chris Chinander, to accept the resignation of Tom Lay. Motion Carried.

Motion by Aimee Korger, second by Chuck Roessler, to accept the resignation of Rebecca Stankevitz. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rebecca Stankevitz, second by Chris Chinander, to recess the Fundraising Committee to the Call of the Commander at 8:57 AM 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 FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS- Chair Jim Chapin

June 8, 2022 Meeting:

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 1:08 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 discuss the responses to the Department's Request For Proposal for audit services for the Fiscal Year 2021, 2022 and 2023, with the primary emphasis on reviewing the detailed response provide by SVA as well as a review of the course of events which has caused the Department to pursue alternatives to its current audit services provider, KerberRose. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Robert Gammon to approve the audit and tax proposal for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2023, submitted by SVA Certified Public Accountants. Motion carried.

Motion by Wayne Jensen, second by Robert Gammon to approve the additional audit cost up to \$27,000, outside the FY2022-2023 Budget process, to be offset by the FY2021-2022 Legionnaires Insurance Trust profit share proceeds, if needed. Motion Carried.

Finance Chair Jim Chapin recessed the Finance Committee to the Call of the Commander at 2:13 PM with Closing Ritual.

June 23, 2022 Meeting:

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

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 Member Jensen, second by Vice Chair Gammon to approve the June 23, 2022 Agenda, as corrected and amended, to correct date of Spring Meeting Finance Committee from May 5, 2022 to May 6, 2022 and add “For the Good of the Finance Committee” to the bottom of the Agenda. Motion Carried.

Motion by Vice Chair Gammon, second by Department Commander Eirich to approve the May 6, 2022 Spring Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Member Jensen, second by Vice Chair Gammon to approve the June 8, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented the May 2022 Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, Financial Services Office Summary, Statements of Financial Position, Income and Expenses, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, Foundation Q3 Asset Management Temp Restricted Report, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, and FY2021 and 2022 concurrent audits and Form 990 updates for Committee discussion.

Department Adjutant Gear presented the FY2022-2023 Priorities, Deliverables, Reporting and Program Updates for Committee discussion.

Department Adjutant Gear presented the details of a possible Legion Headquarters Flag Retirement, Four Pillars Patio for Committee discussion.

Motion by Member Jensen, second by Vice Chair Gammon to approve the Legion Headquarters carpet and vinyl tile replacement proposal submitted by Freedom Carpeting, Inc. for a direct cost of up to \$70,228.65, and the estimated information technology (IT) costs of \$5,000 by existing Department IT subcontractor Dennis McKerran, Union Technology Cooperative. Roll Call Vote: (Ayes) Vice Chair Gammon, Members Jensen and Stone, Department Commander Eirich; (Nays) Chair Chapin. Motion Carried.

Motion by Vice Chair Gammon, second by Member Jensen to approve the additional flooring replacement costs (up to \$15,300), outside the FY2022-2023 Budget Process, to be offset by the Q3 Asset Management, Temporarily Restricted Account #721360, HDQ Capital Improvement Funds, if necessary. Motion Carried.

Discussion point: Finance Director added that this capital outlay will reactivate the \$0.35 per member,

membership dues repayment back to the HDQ Capital Improvement Fund. For clarification, this is not an additional \$0.35 in membership dues, per member; the \$0.35 is taken out of the Department dues of \$11.50 per member. At \$0.35 per member, it will take 214,939 members to cover the cost, or 4 years 8 months at averaged 46,000 members per year (not adjusted for market fluctuation).

Chair Chapin provided an opportunity, For the Good of the Finance Committee, for Committee comments. Chair Chapin recessed the Finance Committee to the Call of the Commander at 3:23 PM with Closing Ritual. The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be at Department Convention on July 14, 2022 at 11 AM.

July 14, 2022 Meeting:

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 11 AM 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
Barbara Belmont, Fundraising Committee Chair, Consultant
Jim Johnson, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Donald Stone, Member

Motion by Vice Chair Gammon, second by Member Rumbold to approve the July 14, 2022 Agenda, as amended, to add a discussion to reconsideration of the Legion Headquarters carpet and vinyl tile replacement motion as approved at the June 23, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting. Motion Carried.

Motion by Member Jensen, second by Member Rynes to approve the June 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Lee J. Roundy presented the June 2022 Camp American Legion Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update, Financial Services Office Summary, Statements of Financial Position, Income and Expenses, Q3 Asset Management Investment Reports, Foundation Q3 Asset Management Temp Restricted Report, V360 Fundraising LLC Report, FY2021 and 2022 concurrent audits update, Form 990 updates, Department Programs updates, Foundation and Fundraising Committee SMART revenue goals, and FY2022-2023 Financial Outlook for Committee discussion.

Motion by Member Rynes, second by Member Jensen to approve Department funds for the Camp American Legion Century Wall, cost not to exceed \$5,000.00. Motion Carried.

Motion by Vice Chair Gammon, second by Member Rumbold to table consideration of the Legion Headquarters Flag Retirement, Four Pillars Patio to the next Finance Committee Meeting. Motion Carried.

Reconsideration of the Legion Headquarters carpet and vinyl replacement, no action taken.

Chair Chapin provided an opportunity, For the Good of the Finance Committee, for Committee comments.

Chair Chapin recessed the Finance Committee to the Call of the Commander at 12:41 PM with Closing Ritual.

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 1 PM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS. MOTION CARRIED.

CONVENTION & ACTIVITIES COMMISSION REPORT- Chair Jim Schmidt

Chair Jim Schmidt called the meeting to order at 11:00 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
Tom Carlson, Member
Mark Lesko, Member
John Polzin, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Jim Kell, Member

Guests:

Ted DeMicchi, PDC
Bob Shappell, PDC
Robert Mathison, PDC

Motion by Tom Carlson, second by Mark Lesko to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

The committee reviewed the Event Planner report.

Ted DeMicchi gave a 2022 National Convention update.

Motion by Mark Lesko, second by Tom Carlson 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 & ACTIVITIES COMMISSION REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE- Chair Jeff Zwiers

Chair Jeff Zwiers called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Jeff Zwiers, Chair
Jerry Lauby, Member
Karl Stuvengen, Member
Jeff Antczak, Member
Mike Burt, Member
Norm Bednarek, Member
Jim Chapin, Finance Chair, Consultant
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Jim Klement, Camp Director, Consultant

Guests:

Carl Sjolander, 7th District Commander
Denise Jamrozy, Camp Committee Chair

Motion by Norm Bednarek, second by Jeff Antzak to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Update given on Cabin 18, Cabin 11, revised CIP for Cabins 1,2 and 3 and the main lodge septic.

The committee is being dis-established and there was discussion on how projects will be reviewed.

Commander Eirich addressed the committee and thanked them for their work. There was updates on the museum and camp.

Motion by Jerry Lauby, second by Mike Burt to send the Headquarters carpeting project back to the Adjutant for revision, consideration of alternate materials, specifically Luxury Vinyl Tile. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT- Chair Nellie DeBaker

Chair Nellie DeBaker called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Nellie DeBaker, Chair
Nick Berg, Vice Chair
Joe Roberts, Member
Lisa Fauster, Member
Scott Markle, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Absent:

David Hubatch, Member

Angela Russell, Member

Guests:

Scott Markle, 12th District Commander

Motion by Nicholas Berg, second by Joe Roberts to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Discussed the Children & Youth Report revisions, the chair will follow up with Angie at Department.

Discussed judging, the revised report should help with participation. Discussion on awards, forms, costs and budgeting.

Motion by Nick Berg, second by Joe Roberts to create an award for the highest percentage and/or the first Post to 100% of qualifying activities. The award is a flag streamer. Motion Carried.

Commander Eirich and Adjutant Gear addressed the Committee.

Motion by Nicholas Berg, second by Joe Roberts to Adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 10:12 AM.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTIN BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY JIM JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE REPORT- Vice Chair Roger Mathison

Vice Chair Roger Mathison called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Roger Mathison, Vice Chair, Baseball Commissioner

Jim Foster, A&G Scholarship Chair

Bill Cosh, BBS Representative

Harold Rihn, County Youth Government Day Chair

Norm Bednarek, Education & Scholarship Chair

Robert Stone, Oratorical Chair

DuWayne Wieck, Shooting Sports Chair

Ray Pasbrig, AL Riders President

John Wolfe, WALLECA Chair

Robert Stone, Oratorical Chair

Larry Larson, DEC Liaison

Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio

Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Jeff Puddy, Chair, Department SAL Chair

John Edelblute, IV, Scouting Chair

John Walloch, Member
Carl Bogar, Member

Absent:
Allen Morris, Member

Guests:

Chris Sherman, SAL NECman
Jim Johnson, 2nd District Commander

Motion by Ray Pasbrig, second by Jim Foster to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

Program reports were given.

Motion by Harold Rihn, second by Norm Bednarek to approve the Program Reports. Motion Carried.

Chris Sherman, SAL NECman presented the SAL resolution to cancel a charter.

Motion by Jim Foster, second by DuWayne Wieck to recommend the DEC approve the SAL Resolution. Motion Carried.

Motion by Harold Rihn, second by Jim Foster to amend the County Commander of The Year Award Application to include “reported County Youth Government Program to Department”. Motion Carried.

Motion by Robert Stone, second by Norm Bednarek to adjourn. Motion Carried.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

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

OFFICER REPORTS

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN’S REPORT

Department Chaplain- John Gessner

Attended the Commander’s testimonial Dinner, 14 May 2022.

Conducted Chaplain’s retreat at Camp American Legion weekend of 20-22 May. 14 personnel attended. Subjects included: How to be an effective chaplain, putting emphasis back into religious emphasis, and how to conduct various services. Chaplain Fanta conducted a church service on Sunday. Chaplain Harn conducted a tour of Camp American Legion. This was a test activity which we plan to expand in 2023.

Spoke at the Waterloo post Memorial Day activity 30 May. Attended the Auxiliary President testimonial dinner June 11.

Scheduled to speak at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in La Crosse, 23 June.

Attend the American Legion State Convention 13-16 July. Attend the Religious Emphasis Committee Meeting Thursday, conduct church services on Saturday, and conduct the final bugle ceremony on Sunday. Hand off to new Department Chaplain on Sunday.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

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

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT

Department Judge Advocate- Nicholas Lange

Welcome to my fellow American Legion Family members! And thanks to all of you for attending the 2022 Department Convention to represent your Posts, Units, Squadrons.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve another year as the Department Judge Advocate for the Department of Wisconsin. My activities and interactions as Department Judge Advocate are always rewarding, interesting, and enlightening. I offer my most sincere thanks to Department Adjutant Nathan Gear and all of the Department staff for the help and support they provide.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin has been strengthening the United States of America through service to others in support of veterans, youth, defense, and Americanism for more than 100 years. The programs and activities of our Wisconsin Posts, Units, Squadrons, Counties, Districts, ALRA, Departments and Detachment give us so much to be proud of. Thanks to all of you for everything you do. Let's continue with our successes into the next century and beyond!

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JIM JOHNSON, SECOND LINDA PFEIFFER TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATES 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 VA, the Wisconsin veteran family receives over \$62 Million a month in benefits. This equates to over \$744 Million in the last year. I want to thank the Service office staff for their invaluable work efforts.

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.

I recently was asked by the National VA&R staff to review a new Service Representative course created by Bergmann and Moore Veterans Law Group. I completed the review in June.

We have employed a platform to improve our service to veterans and their families and to break down the distance barrier by being able to securely deliver and receive documents.

There have been several major changes and some pending changes to veteran benefits: VA started to adjudicate claims for bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism that were added to list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange; The law fixing the 'Unfair Widows Tax' we have been fighting for (Dependency Indemnity Compensation/Survivors Benefit Plan) providing a waiver offset

allowing concurrent receipt, hit the second year of the three-year phase-in plan; and on February 15th, 2022, VA posted proposed changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities specifically pertaining to the respiratory, auditory, and mental disorders body systems. The VA may implement these proposed changes 120 days after the posting.

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

Office Statistics	06/2021 - 05/2022
Walk in Clients	504
Appointments	332
Incoming Calls	2978
Outgoing Calls	5201
Emails	12243
Incoming Mail	20105
SEP and Transmittals	677
Direct Uploads	854
Hearings	106
Events Attended	4
Total Office Transactions	43004

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 by statute **terminated July 10, 2022**. It is done.

H.R.3967 - Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 was passed by the House and the Senate. This bill, if signed into law will create many changes to veteran benefits.

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.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT

National Executive Committeeman- Robert Shappell

May 14 – Attended Commander Eirich's Testimonial Dinner in Sheboygan

May 21 – Participated in the Sweat For vets post to post walk from Cedarburg to Grafton

May 27 – Attended the Ozaukee County veterans' memorial ceremony in Port Washington

May 28 – Participated in ALA poppy distribution in Cedarburg

May 30 – Guest speaker for Memorial Day ceremonies Lake Mills

June 6 – Participated in funeral honors in Bruce for 101-year-old World War II veteran Elmer Wisherd of Ladysmith Post 64, a participant in the D-Day invasion in 1944. I commend all the local posts for participating, with special kudos to District Vice Commander Jim Woody. Elmer Wisherd published a book about his life experiences, as well as his WWII adventures as a C-47 crew chief who flew on missions in the European Theater, including Operation Overlord on June 6. The book's title is Clear the Prop! Memoirs of a WWII Crew Chief.

June 8 – Attended the Policy Committee meeting in Portage

June 11-18 – Participated in Badger Boys State at UW-Eau Claire

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND BY LINDA PFEIFFER TO ACCEPT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT'S REPORT

Department Adjutant- Nathan Gear

Congratulations to our American Legion Family on a productive year of huge impacts. These actions are a direct result of Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units and Squadrons remaining active in their communities. By continuing to be active in your communities, Department remains strong and able to expand new opportunities with new partnerships.

My strategic goals this past year focused on recruiting and retention of quality employees, expanding our return of investment with key areas of the Legion. Listening and better understanding the Legion needs working with PDC's and Dept Officers, growing brand awareness to directly improve new membership and retention goals, adding and updating new relevance in each area of operations, creating digital annual reports to help advance Posts with a more efficient and alternate way to save on mailing, expanding grant writing and fundraising, changing organizational cultures by understanding today's challenges and recruiting talent management to fill out position vacancies.

On behalf of the Department Team, we recognize our elected Department leaders, especially The American Legion Family officers that inherited a responsibility to represent our organization both in state and nationally. Department Commander Greg Eirich and the DEC, Auxiliary President Diane Weggen and Executive Director Dorniak, Detachment Commander David Fuller who made the headlines with his program, "Freezing for a Reason", and ALRA President Ray (Godfather) Pasbrig that continues to do remarkable fundraising events across WI that directly impact our veterans, thank you everyone for your continued leadership and dedication.

Special recognition to our Battle Buddies we lost this past year, you will never be forgotten.

I would like to recognize our dedicated Department HQ's Team that daily serves the mission of Legion Wisconsin. Our Veteran Service Office continues to remain one of the top Veteran Service Offices in the Nation. Camp American Legion continues to expand on its infrastructure and outreach to first time veterans in WI. The HQ's Team continues to go above and beyond to support the Mission of The American Legion,

Department of Wisconsin by improving operations within the Legion Programs, centralizing resources through our easy access website, and speaking daily with our stakeholders. Our organizational success is directly contributed to the teamwork between legionnaires and volunteers for all Legion Programs.

I am deeply honored to serve our veterans and their families.

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

MOTION BY JEFF ZWIERS, SECOND KARL STUVENGEN TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT'S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S REPORT

Department Commander- Greg Eirich

As my year as your Department Commander ends, I want you to know that your Department of Wisconsin, American Legion continues to be a strong organization. The Department Headquarters TEAM consistently, and positively worked hard to make sure that all our programs were executed and completed successfully! Legion Family, you should be so proud that we have a professional and dedicated, loyal TEAM!

I have completed extensive traveling throughout the State this year, visiting Post events, community events and of course all the District Conferences apart from a couple. It is difficult to be in two places at one time! A huge Thank You to my Department Vice Commander's for filling in for me when necessary!

I just want to add, the warm and wonderful hospitality that I received at each visit that I attended. Wonderful Legionnaires doing great activities and providing the outstanding leadership that is expected and needed.

Thank you to the Department of Auxiliary President Weggen, SAL Detachment Commander David Fuller, and State Legion Rider Director Ray "Godfather" Pasbrig for their outstanding contributions to our Legion Programs. Each of these leaders contributed successfully to making sure that our Legion 4 Pillars are as strong as ever! Your Department Chairpersons have done a fantastic job of administering their committees and completing their committee responsibilities in a timely manner. A huge shout out of THANKS for their dedication and loyalty to our department.

Camp American Legion has gone Four seasons, Badger Boys State has moved to UW-Eau Claire, WALLECA continues to be a successful program for our youth who are looking to become Law Enforcement Officers. Our Department Oratorical Program contest, headed by Robert Stone, completed as usual, very successfully. Roger Mathison, our Legion Baseball Commissioner will be leading the 50th year of celebration of Legion baseball at American Family field, Milwaukee this year. 3 Visits from National Vice Commander Jerry Wilson (Ohio) to our great State! Great hospitality was shown to NVC Wilson and to Department of Ohio Commander Jean Wilson (Wife of Jerry). Thank you to NECman Robert Shappell and ALTNECman Frank Kostka their effort in making Wilsons' stay comfortable and successful. They will have wonderful memories of their stay in the Great State of Wisconsin!

There have been challenges this past year. There were posts who turned in their Charters because they were no longer active in their communities. This was long overdue. And there are more in the waiting line. The District Commanders are aware of additional posts that need to turn in their Charters and will work on them this next year. Membership of course, is at the top of the list of concerns. We need new veterans in our department. I know posts have made inroads to addressing this. Thank you! Are you aware the major Veteran Population in our Department is now Vietnam Veterans? Something to think about. We can make the turn to Positive numbers this next membership year! You, me, all of us, making a Positive Impact on membership in 2022-2023! There of course, have been many successes. Our Fall and Spring conferences went off without a hitch. The Department Delegation to the National Convention last year in Phoenix was completed very successfully. Mid-Winter

Conference at Ho-Chunk again was an outstanding event (even though COVID virus were nipping at our heels). Lincoln Pilgrimage in Illinois this past February. A great trip and a magnificent event! And recognition to Nathan Bond for Top Post membership! Wow! How can you beat that! Thoroughly, enjoyed the dinner, meeting the Department Commander and of course the trip to the Lincoln Memorial. Always a humbling and wonderful visit! The National Convention will be held in Milwaukee this year. Organized by National and our Wisconsin Team headed by Ted DeMicchi is going off without a hitch. What a wonderful event this is going to be! Hope I see you there! And this wonderful Department Convention in the beautiful City of Green Bay! Enjoy, engage, and make it a positive experience for yourself!

When I made my Commander visits to posts, or County, District events I always asked if someone was there who I should recognize. And of course, there was always someone who did something that required my attention and recognition. So many times, I gave out a Thumbs Up statue for a job well done and a Commander's Coin. It always pays to say Thank you to Legionnaires who go beyond their duties. Great memories and recognition!

An additional highlight of my year was attending Badger Boys State for 4 days and Badger Girls State. Attending SAL Commander's Fuller's Testimonial along with Auxiliary President Weggen's Testimonial.

Participating in a Legion Riders Iroc's Badger Run for 3 days and raising a total of more than 34,000 dollars for Highground. Covered more than 800 miles on my motorcycle!

My theme for this past year is "Positive Impact"! My encounters with so many wonderful Legionnaires have left a lifelong impact on me. I want to thank each one of you for your outstanding contributions to this great nation and The American Legion. Keep up the splendid work! Never falter! Always forward, pushing ahead to new and better horizons. Positive attitudes foster Positive Impacts!

With the deepest of gratitude and respect to our Legion Family, THANK YOU!

DEC DISCUSSION ENSUED AND ACTIONS TAKEN ARE AS FOLLOWS;

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All District Commanders and Candidates for Office are to remain following the DEC for a briefing on election procedures and announcements. It is recommended that all incoming District Commanders and those giving nominations speeches also attend.

All District Commanders, at your district caucuses tomorrow, please announce to all of your Legionnaires that if they are receiving an award to please listen carefully to the program and follow the instruction that will be given at the podium regarding awards. At the briefing following this meeting, you will receive a list of award recipients, those highlighted in yellow did not respond to the invitation they were sent, or cannot attend. If you hear a Post called from your District and no one is there to accept it, please accept it on their behalf.

All Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms appointed to Convention are to meet for a brief meeting at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning on the Convention Floor.

All Department Vice Commanders please attend the briefing following this meeting to go over the scripts with Angie so that you are clear on your roles during the General Sessions.

Saturday Night PCC Legion Bash

- a. Can pay at the door
- b. Entertainment – Daddy Ds Production

c. Changing of the Guard

Celebration of Freedom Reminder – September 9-10, 2022 more at <https://wilegion.org/celebration-of-freedom/>

The Ad Hoc Committee for Post 1925 will consist of the following:

- John Polzin
- Karl Stuvengen
- Adam Klapperich
- Gail Minks
- Judge Advocate Nicolas Lange, Advisor

Meeting adjourned per ritual at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted;

Nathan Gear
Department Adjutant