

Religious Emphasis Committee Meeting
16 October 09; Telephonic

The Religious emphasis committee meeting was originally scheduled for 10 Oct 09. As the Chairman, I called each member to confirm their attendance. Not a single member indicated that they would be able to attend for various personal or medical reasons.

Therefore, I rescheduled the meeting to 17 Oct 09. Again, I called to confirm attendance. This time only two of us on the committee would have been able to attend. So, I decided to conduct the meeting by phonecon on 16 Oct. 09. I called each individual committee member on the morning of 16 Oct 09 at about 10:00 AM and discussed my agenda in detail with them, letting them know what the other members thoughts and comments were.

The agenda was fairly simple:

1. What have you been doing in your Divisions since the Convention?
2. Review the last Convention Memorial Service for comments/suggestions for what went wrong and what was good.
3. Discuss new ideas for conducting the Memorial Service at the Convention for 2010 including music or any other different ideas that would draw more Legionnaires and Auxiliary members to attend the service.

Relative to Agenda #1: All member, except for the Chairman, were temporarily disabled because of personal medical issues. Some visits, however, were made by our committee members, although not as many as normally would have been made, to several VA facilities and hospitals, nursing homes and personal home visits in addition to their normal duties of leading prayers at Post, District and Division level meetings.

Relative to Agenda #2: All members thought that the Memorial Service at the last Convention went well and that the Bagpiper and the Snare Drummer to honor Dept. CDR Bill Hudson a former Chicago policeman, was appropriate and a nice change from many previous services with Church choirs basically singing the same hymns.

The consensus of the committee members was the change the seating arrangement for the 25 District Legion and Auxiliary Chaplains from occupying the extended front row seats on either side of the aisle to being seated with only five chaplains in the first five rows on either side of the aisle. Everyone agreed this would do two positive things for the chaplains. First, it would be easier for the chaplains who are physically challenged to be seated, and secondly, it would allow them to be able to view the entire ceremony. Those who were seated at the fringes were not able to see the program even though there were able to hear. One of the complains over the last several years was that those seated on the extreme ends felt left out of the service if they could not see what was going on at the podium and on state during the service.

Relative to Agenda #3: I informed the members that I was considering having two (2) tenors sing accapella for next year's service as one change in the program, and if we were able to get this information out to all the Legion and Auxiliary District members attending the Convention, that we may just very well encourage more people to attend the Memorial Service even aft4er a Friday night Freedom Fest. All members agreed this was a good idea.

I also informed them that I received a letter from Dept. HQs concerning a Girl's Drill Team from central Illinois which did a Memorial Service as part of their performances. The members agreed that I should look into it to see if I could fold it into our service in any way. I will do so.

The telephonic meeting concluded at about 11:00 AM.

Vitas G. Paskauskas
Chairman, Religious Emphasis Committee
Department Chaplain