

Department of Illinois American Legion

Disaster Relief

April 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Delmar Buske. All members present. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer. Delmar introduced our guest David Elmore, National internal affairs.

David discussed NEF and hurricane Katrina. The National would like to have a disaster relief committee in all Departments. The National will cut checks the same day that forms are received. The NEF is designed for out of pocket expenses and not as an insurance policy.

The following three items are required:

- 1.) Must be declared disaster. - check FEMA website for complete list -
- 2.) Legionnaire is displaced.
- 3.) Legionnaire or SAL member must be paid up. If member has paid and not received at national, an exception can be approved with Department documentation.

A dead line of 90 days from disaster for filing forms. The National will work with the Department for late applications. If the home is totally destroyed, an immediate \$1,000.00 check will be sent without documentation and will update extra with documentation. Hotel receipts are required. Gas and food will be reimbursed at half of expense. Supporting documentation is required if living with a relative.

Post may receive up to \$10,000.00 when helping community. Documentation is required in support of programs.

The National will process forms electronically from Department. David Elmore is the point of contact for NEF funds that are distributed to the Department to be given to legionnaire. It is a grant and not a loan.

Department Senior Vice Commander Bob Henderson gave the committee a job well done.

Terry Abdelnour commented that members of the committee are the only ones to talk with the press, and coordinate with contractors. While on a disaster site, protective clothing is required. Hard hat, reflective vest, safety glasses, gloves, and respirator will be worn.

Delmar Buske stated don't arrive too early at site, so as to not interfere with first responders.

Department Commander Cheri Stanton offered greetings to a well attended meeting and for all the hard work of the committee. The Commander suggested that we develop a SOP for the Department, Divisions, Districts and Posts. The SOP should include chain of command to get information back to the committee. Compile a list of Posts in Districts that are capable of hosting a command center, as well as other assets.

Roy Weber stated that at District meetings or Post visits we discuss the NEF, SOP, and uses of Posts for command centers. When the Department has training for District Commanders, Sr. and Jr. Vice Commanders we should explain disaster relief program.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Gary Granberg