

Minutes from Religious Emphasis Committee Meeting October 1, 2016  
American Legion Department of Illinois, Bloomington, IL

- † Meeting called to order at 10:05 am by Dept Chaplain Virgil Oikion
- † Opening prayer was given by Danny Eison
- † Members in attendance:
  - Danny Eison, 1<sup>st</sup> Division
  - Virgil Oikion, Department Chaplain, 2nd Division
  - Bob Witkowski, 3rd Division
  - Ron Matheny, 4<sup>th</sup> Division
  - Robert Meier, 5<sup>th</sup> Division
  - Jeff Trout, Detachment Chaplain
- † Department Directory information sheets were updated
- † Chaplain Virgil filled the Commission in on the Chaplain's Conference that was held in Indianapolis at the combined Americanism Conference.
- † 17<sup>th</sup> District said membership is doing well.
- † Robert Meier reports the revitalization in Nashville. He then mentioned he would like to see the POW / MIA table used more often.
- † Bob Witkowski spoke of leaving POW / MIA flags at local schools and breaking ground in Pekin for combination Korean / Vietnam Memorial.
- † Chaplain asked if anyone has is having problems with Posts as far as Chaplains. It was stated that there is a poor turnout at ceremonies. Virgil recommended inviting Posts from neighboring towns.
- † Romeoville will be holding first 4 Chaplains Ceremony this year.
- † Danny Eison spoke of being in poor health the last 2 years. He is thankful to return. His thought for the day: It's Good To Be Seen. He suggested taking this back to our local Posts and say a good word to everyone.
- † Robert Meier shared that Nashville will be holding a 4 Chaplains Ceremony and plans to invite the schools.
- † Open Discussion: Homeless Veterans – Chairman commented chapels are being searched and still finding remains from the 70's and 80's and being given honorary burials.
- † Chaplain Virgil reminded everyone of the Chaplain's Cross Award. Shared with everyone to get with their Adjutants to make sure they have the application.
- † Discussion of specific prayer for burials.
- † Bob Meier hared Gold Star Mothers should be recognized. Bob Witkowski mentioned Gold Star Families. Everyone agreed.

† Bob Witkowski is strongly for an Assistant Chaplain at all Posts. His concern is if a Chaplain is ill or injured. Chairman Virgil mentioned there is nothing in the Handbook for an Assistant but everyone agreed that if a Post has an Assistant or an Aide that is fine.

† Chairman handed out a charm bracelet that has Military charms.

† It was reiterated that if you don't know - ask

† Closing prayer was given by Jeff Trout, Detachment Chaplain

† Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.