

Fall Children & Youth
Commission Meeting
October 6, 2018

We met at 10:00 a.m. at Department Headquarters. We said the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members were present:

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| 2 nd Division | David Johnson |
| 3 rd Division | Cheri Stanton, Chairman |
| 5 th Division | Zula Summers, Vice-Chairman |
| 1 st Division | Jan Lepinski, absent |
| 4 th Division | Arthur McCulley, absent |

Guests: Department Commander, Micheal Carder; Department Sr. Vice-Commander, Roy Weber; Department Adjutant, Marty Conatser and Department Historian Paul Garrett.

We discussed the brochure and any changes. We requested a list of names, addresses and phone numbers from all Legion Family Children and Youth members so we can get brochure updated.

At each District and Division meeting, each chairman needs to tell about the project for the "SEASON".

FALL – Children's Christmas program for Institutionalized Children. Take up a collection and send to Department. This is the first year we are giving \$10 gifts - \$5 from the Legion and \$5 from the Auxiliary for this program.

WINTER- Have a rep from IMK (formerly OMK) come to district or division meetings to talk about the PILLOW CASE PROJECT. Show a case and ask for donations. We have given out to deploying soldiers and their families over 17,300 cases. Our new members need to know we do this. The Auxiliary buys the cases and our Legion takes care of ink, the press and transfer papers. Any donations can be sent to Department marked for IMK in the memo.

SPRING – Invite a Global Messenger to come to your meetings to tell about Special Olympics. **(THEY TRAIN FOR THIS.) BE SURE TO ASK THEM TO TELL ABOUT THE HOSPITALITY TENT, THEIR FAVORITE FOOD AND THE POPSICLES.)**

SUMMER – It is your turn to tell about Special Olympics and what we do. We always need volunteers to set up and take down. Any food donations are welcome. We go through 18 gallons of sliced dill pickles, 20 gallons of black and green olives, 1,800 dozen of regular cookies, 1,500 dozen of sugarless cooking, 22 gallons of animal crackers, 35 cases of chips and pretzels and over 120 watermelon to cup.....just to name a few. It must come from somewhere. Maybe your post could send napkins, plates or cups. Money is good too. We are one of a few states that has this program and the only we can succeed is with your help. Illinois American Legion started serving the athletes at the first state games 50 years ago. 2019 will make the last year in the big Circus tent. After that we will be in the basketball stadium with air conditioning. We have jobs for people who can lift, sit and pass out food, keep the tea and water cups filled, wash dishes, wash tables and if you can run a golf cart—you can take food out to the outer events of the athletes. What a fun two days. Our AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS are WONDERFUL to let the athletes sit on their bikes and get their picture taken.

If we plan for each meeting, you can always have a report! Joy usually has something in The Department News each month, so you may need to subscribe so you will have a copy. Use this information for all year to refer to.

Check the brochure for the full calendar of monthly suggestions for what your local posts can do for Children and Youth. All our programs are in the brochure as well as lists of all district and division chairman. We are here to help!

Discussion: Cheri attended the National Children and Youth Conference on Homecoming Weekend. They talked about the grants give out this year. One of the recipients told about his syndrome, GOLDENHAR. He has had 18 surgeries in his 17 years of life. If you got to the see the movie "WONDER" he is like that child. Go the PetesDiary.com to see a video of his life. He travels to Junior High and High Schools to tell his story. He is also an accomplished musician with the electric guitar. He talks about choosing kindness.....passes out the trach tube he had when he was a baby, his feeding tube, and since he was born without an ear, he passed out his prosthetic ear too. Very inspirational speaker. He is from Libertyville, IL. You can look up more on Children's Craniofacial Association on the web.

Megan Sweet talked about some changes in the TFA program. They must be a member to get TFA Assistance. There is a once in a lifetime payment of no more than \$1,500. They are to keep within the National budget of \$700,000 for one year.

The Judge Advocate, Kevin Bartlett, was there to talk about the Emblem Use Booklet. You should always check with National before you can use it. He mentioned anytime you have an underage child in a photo, you must have a signed release to publish it. He mentioned there was big problem with "Service Dogs and emotional support dogs". You needed to check with local and state laws. He mentioned that the Boy Scouts have new rules regarding girls. They must have a separate troop for the boys and girls so they will be all boys or all girls.

James Baca, new Executive Director talked about Branding and marketing THE AMERICAN LEGION. www.legion.org/webelieve.

Sons will be asked to bring plastic "thank you" grocery bags.

Dave Johnson mentioned to send pictures to Joy for April & May Department Newsletter about Special Olympics. Need a prewritten permission slip or signed release to publish pictures – we need to make one up.

Any banners from sponsors to put up would be fine.

Dry erase board for map of cooler of where everything is.....so we know where food is.

Ask local Normal Legion if we can us their sinks for veggie clean-up on Thursday afternoon.

F/S Certificate of Appreciation.

Fundraiser for Children & Youth. We have tickets to sell with each Commission member at Division and District meetings.

Adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Cheri Stanton, Chairman