

American Legion Department of Illinois Baseball Committee

Meeting from October 27, 2018 (Minutes)
Conducted at Department Headquarters

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Wallis at 1010 AM, the flag was saluted and 1st Division Committee member Paul Knudston offered an opening prayer. Members present were Harry Rakers (4th Division), John Gosney (3rd Division), Butch Ogle (Junior Legion Chairman), Paul Knudston (1st Division) and Don Wallis (5th Division). James Huisel (2nd Division) was excused but was able to listen to part of the conference on the phone.

We had discussion concerning the post season at the District/Division level. One concern was that teams with both Junior and Senior teams are dropping to a different level for post season, usually playing in Junior post season This creates some issues with seeding. The Junior State Tournament was held at Wheaton. Junior Legion Chairman Butch Ogle reported that Jerry Miller and Rusty Lindsey did a great job of hosting the tournament. Highland was the Champion, Barrington was second and Teutopolis came in third.

We were visited by Department Commander Micheal M. Carder, Department Senior Vice Commander Roy Weber and Department Adjutant Marty Conatser. Commander Carder asked Don Wallis if he would accept the Chairman position. He stated he would be honored to do so. There was a discussion concerning the Senior Legion State Tournament and some of the issues that arose afterwards concerning how the Champion and runner-up was determined. The Department Commander expressed his desire that the committee would work to prevent a reoccurrence. He also asked that the committee report to the Department any controversial decisions/occurrences at any State Tournament. He also mentioned that there should be more committee members at the State Tournament as there were only two members present this year. Department Adjutant Marty Conatser explained that the "4 Pillars Pin" would be used this year to raise money for the Special Olympics, Boys State, Gifts To the Yanks and the Oratorical Contest. We were each given an application for ordering the Pin.

Our next item was to discuss the Senior Legion State Tournament. This discussion was led by Harry Rakers (4th Division). After a discussion which included input from everyone present it was proposed to declare Co-Champions for Mount Prospect and Danville. Motion was made by Harry Rakers and seconded by John Gosney to declare Co-Champions. Vote was taken and the result was 4-0. We also decided to amend the State Senior Legion Contract to include an extra day if necessary to complete the tournament. The remaining teams on that extra day would be responsible for paying for their own hotels rooms and meal money. The host would be responsible to ensure that there would be rooms available and provide the field, umpires and baseballs for that extra day.

John Gosney (3rd Division) led a discussion concerning the introduction of Girls Softball into the Department Sports program. This was presented at the Americanism Conference in September by a group from North Carolina who has had a program for two years and has seen it grow to more than twenty teams. We concluded we needed to have Department

approval before we proceed.

We had a request from Danville to change their base school to Danville to Oakwood. We discussed this change and a motion was made to deny this request by John Gosney and seconded by Paul Knudston, Vote was taken and the request was denied 3-0. Don Wallis abstained and James Huisel was absent.

We discussed the minimum number of teams to hold a Division tournament. Paul Knudston led a discussion about combining the 1st and 2nd Division for Post Season.

The Senior State Tournament in 2019 will be held in the 2nd Division (July 27-July 30). The Junior State Tournament in 2019 will be held in the 3rd Division (August 1-4). Charleston (Post 93) has been awarded the 2019 Great Lakes Regional

There were several handouts given out. One concerning a change in how teams will pay their insurance and how we are notified. Another was the Americanism Conference agenda items. Important dates in 2018 and 2019. Texas Resolution. Baseball Booster Order Forms, MLB Rulebook Order Forms. Umpire Nomination Order Forms.

We agreed to have a teleconference call in early December (date TBD) to follow up on the progress of the items on our agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 1240PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Wallis
Department of Illinois Baseball Chairman