

American Legion Department of Illinois, Dept Headquarters, Bloomington, Illinois
Religious Emphasis Committee Meeting Minutes
28 Sep 2019

- Before the Committee started Dept Commander Roy and Sr. Vice Wayne came by to welcome the committee. Cmdr Roy talked about his project the National Emergency Fund (N.E.F.) and membership. Both Cmdr Roy and Sr. Vice Wayne believe chaplains can help gain membership and one way is the “Buddy Check”.
- The meeting was called to order at 13:07 Hrs.
- Dept Chaplain Ralph offered prayer and Assist Dept Chaplain Virgil lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Present:
 - Dept Chaplain Ralph, Assist Dept Chaplain Virgil (2nd Div.), Floyd Henderson (3rd Div.) and Stephen Wylie (5th Div.). Excused: Danny Eison (1 Div.) and Richard Wrey (4 Div).
- Next each member introduced themselves and gave a brief history of their service to the Legion.
- The committee updated the Chaplain’s award form, filled out Dept Directory Info.
- Chaplain Ralph told the members about his trip to the Nat’l Chaplain’s Conference in Indy during 20 – 22 Sep. The two big topics were Veterans Suicide and the other was how Chaplains can play a bigger part in the Legion.
 - With Veteran’s Suicide the members agreed that this topic needs a great deal of attention at ALL Levels. Awareness, training is important but the most important part is being there and reaching out to those in need.
 - As for Chaplains serving at all levels. It is getting some to realize that Chaplains are more than just an opening/closing prayer at functions. We can and do have import roles in what our Post, District, Division and Department do from meetings to membership.
- There was also a discussion about the N.E.F. and how important that can be for members who find themselves in disaster situations. The N.E.F. is a great benefit of the American Legion and one that chaplains can tell others about.
- The last part of the meeting was about remembering to pray for our brothers and sisters who have served and are serving, our membership, the Nation and leadership. We also went down the list of upcoming days to recognize such as: Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, Pearl Harbor Day, Hanukkah , Christmas, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Four Chaplain’s Day just to name a few.
- There being no further discussion Chaplain Ralph thanked all members for attending the meeting and is looking forward to a great year.
- Chaplain Ralph closed the meeting with prayer and a salute to the Colors.
- Meeting adjourned at 1410 Hrs. The next meeting will be 18 Apr 2020 at 1000 Hrs at Dept Headquarters.

Ralph W. Rounds II, Dept Chaplain
American Legion, Dept of Illinois