

State Fair and Uniform Groups Minutes

Oct 2, 2021

Chairman Larry Miller called meeting to order at Department Headquarters at 1300.

Members present:

1st Div James Kostka

2nd Div Thomas Lynch

3rd Div James Talaska

4th Div Chella Yeakle

5th Div Larry Miller, Chairman

There was one guest, Al Coughlin.

Department Commander, Wayne Fisher and Department Sr Vice Lomac Payton visited the meeting and spoke about membership goals for the department.

2nd Division member Thomas Lynch is new to the committee this year and was welcomed. He replaced Doug Babitzke, who unfortunately passed August 12, 2021.

The budget for the State Fair Committee remains the same as last year and the year before that at \$3,150. About the only expenditures that came from the 2020-2021 budget was travel. The American Legion did not provide any money for the JROTC awards for 2021. All awards were covered by other Veterans Organizations. If The American Legion were to provide an award for the 2022 JROTC competition, Chella Yeakle moved the committee authorize \$600 from the budget for the award. 2nd by Thomas Lynch, motion carried.

Chairman Miller provided copies of the description of the tasking for the State Fair Veterans Day and Uniformed Groups Committee. He pointed out that the duties of the committee are to help on Veterans Day at the fair and duties are assigned by the superintendent of the fair. For the past several years, no duties were assigned by the superintendent of the fair. Veterans service organizations have in the past assisted with food service or clean up in the dining area. That has gone by the wayside as the vendors who obtain the contract, use their own personnel for serving and clean up.

Chairman Miller also discussed the involvement of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) in the planning of Veterans Day at the fair. The IDVA and an ad hoc committee from the various veterans organizations in the state, plan the events for the day.

Another duty of the Department State Fair committee is to promote the organization, maintenance and sponsorship of the various types of musical and drill groups in the Post, Districts or County Councils and arrange for competitions to conform to the rules of the National and Department Convention. Chairman Miller asked the Division Representatives to query within their division to determine if there were any color guards units active in their divisions. If so, then we could move forward and attempt to make arrangements for competition at the Department Convention.

A question was raised concerning the Combined Veterans Association. They were looking for veteran organizations to staff their beer sales tents at the State Fair in 2021. A question came up as to whether they were paying the veteran organizations for the work they performed by staffing the tents. That is a question that needs to be raised to the Combined Veterans Association by those volunteering to work the tents.