

The **Internal Affairs Commission** convened at 1045 hours on Saturday, 3 December 2022, at the Department of Illinois, American Legion Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois.

Present were:

Mr. Al Coughlin, Chairman, 1st Division;  
Mr. Roy E. Smith, Vice-Chairman, 5th Division;  
Mr. W. Wayne Erickson, Sr., Member, 3rd Division;  
Mrs. Iris I. M. Kirschner, Member, 4th Division; and  
Mr. Paul Gardner, Member, 2nd Division, was excused due to illness.

Quorum was met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following matters were discussed:

1 - Vice-Chairman Smith submitted the Final Version of the By-Laws for the American Legion Riders for Committee review. The Members will review and submit their comments to Chairman Coughlin, who in turn, will present comments at the Spring DEC meeting.

2 - Vice-Chairman Smith stated that as of Friday, 2 December 2022, there were 3 Districts with Membership below 1000 Members. The 2nd District has 420 Members; the 3rd District has 932 Members; and the 5th District has 986 Members. Membership Letters will go directly to the affected District Commanders from the Committee Chairman.

3 - Chairman Coughlin stated that his Post is hosting an event with the local VA to determine VA eligibility. He hopes it will serve as a possible recruitment tool for Post Members. He will inform us of the event's success.

4 - Chairman Coughlin stated that new Commanders are auditing their District accounts and discovering financial improprieties. The Districts have no reason to possess credit cards and yet, some are using credit cards. The Committee does not possess the authority to review, audit, or intervene in the finances of a Legion entity.

5 - Department Adjutant Martin F. Conatser joined the meeting at 1130 hours. He provided the following information:

A - The Legion Riders' By-Laws Final Version has been given to Judge Vincent M. Gaughan for input. He is the Department Parliamentarian.

B - Mr. William J. Flanagan will serve out the rest of Myron Kirby's term as Department Treasurer. Mr. Kirby died in October.

C - He announced plans to step down as the Department Adjutant so expect a Vacancy Announcement to replace him in early 2023. He wants to allow for a period of transition to ensure the Department and National Conventions go smoothly.

D - The Department's Fiscal Year's fundraisers have a \$60K shortfall. The Trust Fund is fluctuating due to markets' volatility and isn't immune to inflationary pressures.

E - The National Guard wants to continue hosting the Youth Police Program because it is a good recruitment tool. The Department is trying to return to the Illinois State Police Academy as the venue.

F - The Department is working to help Premier Boys' State recover after the pandemic harm.

6 - Iris informed the Committee that she will send a get-well card to Paul Gardner on behalf of the Committee. Card was mailed on 6 December.

Meeting adjourned at 1145 hours.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Iris I. M. Kirschner**

**LtCol, USAF, Retired**

**Staff Judge Advocate: Post 759; 21st District; 4th Division; and 20 & 4 Honor Society**

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