

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Vice Chairman Roy Smith.

Department ALR Bylaws have been updated and are now posted on the Department website.

The Legacy Run goal was to raise \$1.5 million, we raised \$ 1.556 million.

The Legacy scholarship fund is fully funded, and we have been asked to Champion another cause. This will be the Childrens & Veteran welfare fund.

Mike Lee is finalizing the in-State charity run departing Springfield Post 32 on July 7th. There will be a legion riders Leadership summit on July 6th at 2pm and a pre run kick off meal July 6th at 5pm.

Department Commander Buske and Sr. Vice Commander Lampert visited and thanked the committee for our work.

The Meeting was Adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Lampert
Chairman
ALR Advisory Committee
Department of Illinois

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
VETERANS HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Veterans Home Advisory Committee met October 7, 2023, at 1 p. m. at Department Headquarters.

In attendance were:

Ronald Shapland	Chairman
Gary Fravel	Vice Chairman
William Frangqist	member

Absent were:

Roger Schwengel	excused
Anthony Siciliane	excused

Reported from Quincy:

The Director has been asked to resign. No reason given. The new building project is on schedule with the first part to be complete this fall and the second part next fall.

Report From Anna:

They are authorized 55 residents. They currently have 48 residents and 3 spouses. They have received funding for the building improvements that were approved several years ago.

The project has been started, and the remodeling will consist of new doors and windows, air conditioning and kitchen. It is expected to take 2 years.

Reported from LaSalle Home:

They currently have 89 residents. They are planning a full renovation of the east and west wings. The multi-million-dollar renovation has gone out for bids, and they hope to start soon.

There is a flu vaccine clinic planned for October. They will be obtaining the newest covid booster for the residents.

The Manteno Home will meet in 2 weeks. I am sure they will have many new things to report.

The Chicago Home:

It is open and taking in residents as fast as they can. It's been reported they are getting many transfers from other homes.

All of the homes have many events and programs going on most of the time for the residents.

As always, there is a great turnover in staff and a need for new staff in all jobs.

Respectfully submitted.

Ron Shapland Chairman

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

September 30, 2023

Internal Affairs meeting convened at 1025 hours.

Attending:

Wayne Erickson- Vice Chairman, 3rd Division

Albert Coughlin, Chairman, 1st Division

Roy Smith- 5th Division, Member

Iris Miranda-Kirschner, 4th Division, Member

Paul Gardner, 2nd Division, Absent

1. Should the Legion submit a Resolution to move the US Coast Guard to the Department of Defense, so they are paid during any Federal government shutdown? If transferred, the Department of Homeland Security would maintain operational control over the Coast Guard assets?

Reasoning behind this resolution is that the Legion paid the salaries of the Coast Guards man when there was a shutdown by the Federal Government in _____. The NEC asked for special legislation to authorize salary payments to them.

2. Membership Ad-Hoc Committee has been appointed. District Assessment Committee “pending appointments of each Division’s members before any meetings can be scheduled. Chairman Coughlin will pursue this to confirm if any appointments were made.
3. Is the “Stay Active Program” still in effect? Chairman Coughlin will confirm that Post s receive notices when Legion Members relocate. Need to reactivate it.
4. Motion to adjourn by member Smith, seconded by Vice-Chair Erickson. Meeting adjourned at 1120 hours.

Legion Leadership Committee

September 30, 2023, 1 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Latham at 1:02 pm

Members Present: Don Horn (1), Todd Latham (2), Michelle Aaron (3), Robby Walker (4), and Roy Weber (5). Other attendees: Al Coughlin.

A Salute to the Colors was presented, opening prayer offered, and Pledge of Allegiance were recited by all present. Commander Buske, Sr. Vice Lambert, and Paul Garrett visited the committee and thanked them for their work.

Review of the Previous Minutes

Each district was to guarantee attendance of 40-50 legionnaires. The committee budget is \$3,200 for instructor travel and lodging with each post providing instructor food and beverage. The training was noted as “hard to sell” and interest was low- especially down south. There was discussion if Membership Training overlapped with the purpose of this committee.

New Business of the Committee

Chairman Latham asked that with all the national training accessible online is it hurting the committee’s charge? Past Commander Weber noted he partakes in Training Tuesdays live or recorded. Michele Aaron expressed concern about turnover and ongoing continuity of reliable trainers. Robbie Walker stated it has been some time since the committee offered Service Officer training and found it very beneficial. Al Coughlin shared membership concerns that National and State statistics are not doing well. That leadership and membership go hand in hand.

Latham asked the committee to focus and work on updating the Dept. of Illinois Leadership Manual. The committee started to rewrite the manual when Covid occurred. The committee reviewed the manual and noted areas for improvement. Areas of concern were eligibility, membership form, 5-year card, membership reporting, paper vs. online reporting. It was decided the manual was a good place to start forming a leadership “base”. As mentioned by member Walker the goal is a unified manual for all levels with an accepted guide on how to operate.

Leadership Opportunities

The committee discussed individual goals on leadership. Committee goals will focus on an updated manual, train the trainer, a focus on Districts training Posts, and lastly localize training. Topics discussed included setting up meetings,

developing and understanding protocols, protocols of various levels, mentoring, establish a mentor pool. Department Leadership webpage of resources. Use of in person and online training. Promoting “know where to look” by creating a resource guide. Training and emphasis on roles and responsibilities. MyLegion training and use guide. Setting Leadership priorities for the Posts, District, and Department. What do other Departments offer for training?

Survey members for training interests, expertise (SME) or what do you want to learn to become a better Legionnaire.

Training Areas

How to Run Meeting

Roberts Rules of Order

Templates

MyLegion

What is your Role

Post Operations or How to Run a Post

Other types of leadership such as how to handle difficult persons/personalities.

Outreach

District Leadership Training (In person, Zoom, Podcast) Leadership Tools

NALC and forming an Illinois Legion College.

Create a training page that has recordings of trainings.

Landing page for LEADERSHIP with discussion on the webpage, how best to reach all members, blend new and old, greater use and updating of the mobile app.

For the next meeting each member will review the training guide offer additions, deletions, and new content.

A closing Prayer was offered followed by a Salute to the Colors.

Adjourned at 1:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Latham, Chair

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION MEETING 9-30-2023

- 1st Joe Lampert, Present
- 2nd Celeste Latham, Present
- 3rd Bob Zimbelman, Present
- 4th Mike Vance, Excused
- 5th Roy Weber, Present

September 30, 2023

1. Make a push for any school that is in your area. Make sure someone approaches them for our program support.
2. When an order comes in, all members of the Committee will be notified by group email.
3. Have email meetings in place of our regular meeting and Emergency meetings.

National Security Meeting September 30, 2023 Adjourned.

POW-MIA Minutes

Sept. 30, 2023

Dept. Headquarters

1st Div. Derrick Stinson Sr. - excused

2nd Div. Kevin Kostuchowski- excused

3rd Div. Sam Rice- present

4th Div. Chella Yeakel -present

5th Div. Chris Shoo- present

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion opened with how our booth went at convention. We thought it went well because our booth was located on the main aisle going to the convention floor. Our supply of t-shirts were given out along with caps and huggies. We also discussed what we should get for next year.

A representative from Springfield Post 32 Legion Riders asked about getting t-shirts for the Legion Riders going on the Legacy Run. He will get back with Sam later.

Chris passed around a booklet he got at National Convention on all the happenings of the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency. (DPAA)

Sam passed out new information on the National League of POW/MIA families.

Our committee was visited by Dept. Sr. Vice Joe Lampert and Dept. Commander Delmar Buske. They checked in to see what we were working on and to show their support for our committee.

Our committee will keep in contact through email. Our next meeting will be 4-13-2024.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55.

Religious Emphasis Committee
September 30, 2023
American Legion -Department of Illinois
Bloomington, Illinois

- 1, Meeting called to order by Department Chaplain Kevin Keen at 1:00pm
- 2, Salute to the colors
- 3, Opening prayer offered by 5th Division Chaplain Ralph Rounds
- 4, Pledge of Allegiance led by 3rd Division Chaplain Floyd Henserson

Attendees: (Present)

Department Chaplain Kevin Keen

2nd Division/Asst. Department Chaplain Virgil Oikion

3rd Division Chaplain Floyd Henderson

5th Division Chaplain Ralph Rounds

(Absent – excused)

1st Division Chaplain Danny Eison

4th division Chaplain Annette Tincher

5. Round table introductions and personal Legion history exchange by members present.
6. The “Outstanding Chaplains Award” for the 2023-2024 year has a new look and will be included on the Department homepage under the “Religious Emphasis” tab.
ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to visit the Department web page and discover what your chaplain can do for you and your post. A discussion followed with emphasis on providing every District Commander with a hard copy of the Award Form to stimulate interest in the program and improve participation down to the individual post level. ANY CHAPLAIN AT ANY LEVEL can be nominated for this recognition; District Commanders are the reviewing authority for those considered.
7. The Story of the “Four Chaplains” is being considered for introduction on the Department webpage under the “Religious Emphasis” section as a stand-alone tab for all to read and familiarize themselves with this fascinating story of bravery and sacrifice, A campaign was discussed to encourage all posts to conduct, at a minimum, a READING of the Story of the Four Chaplains at their FEBRUARY regular meeting. The first Sunday in February Four Chaplains Sunday.
8. Assistant Chaplain Virgil Oikion announced that a “Unaccompanied Veterans Military Honors Ceremony” was held at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois on Friday, July 14, 2023. The ceremony recognized 39 veterans who were previously interred without receiving military honors. The next ceremony is scheduled for October 16, 2023. For more information on future ceremonies, contact Jack Picciolo at VFW Post 5788 (815)919-7507.
9. It was suggested and determined that the Memorial Ceremony to honor our fallen comrades from the previous year be conducted the same as at the 2023 Convention. Division Commanders, with the help of the Department Commander and Senior Vice Commander all light a single candle to memorialize the fallen.

9. There being no other business before the committee at this time, Department Chaplain Keen closed the meeting at 1:50pm with a prayer, followed by a salute to the colors.

Respectfully submitted.
Kevin Keen, Post 1922
Department Chaplain, IL

American Legion Department of Illinois
Technology Committee
Meeting minutes, fall meetings 2023
October 7, 2023

Meeting held via Zoom virtually, with one member at Dept. HQ in Bloomington

Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm.

Ray Doeksen representing 1st Division, assuming the chair
Carter Corsello representing 2nd Division, at Department HQ
Robert Gardner representing 3rd Division
Joshua Thielen representing 4th Division
Drummond "Drew" Webb representing 5th Division

Old business:

1. Previous Dept. Commanders have asked for a messaging recommendation to more easily publish information. Current hosting provider had been asked if they could provide a service. The Committee should put that request into writing and address it, eventually making a recommendation. Current and past Dept. leaders should be polled about their needs.

Department Commander Delmar Buske addressed the committee from Department HQ.

Bob adds: during the recent Department Training sessions, there was talk about using Constant Contact or similar solutions.

Carter: recently updated the Dept. website homepage, added a search feature, added program tiles for youth programs.

Carter: Sat in on the Americanism meeting earlier in the day, and heard their complaints about updating website contact. We may need to educate content owners about how to update their own content.

New business:

1. Department Directory. It's late again, and we should pursue having Shandi Green help us to publish the data digitally, not just as a PDF but as Excel, CSV, and as web-searchable content, perhaps that behind a login/password protected page.
2. Ray will host a follow-up meeting next Tuesday, on Zoom, at 7 pm, for any that are interested. Optional, not mandatory. We will plan to try several different video meeting options including Google Meet

Meeting adjourned at 1:39 pm

VA & R COMMISSION MEETING 07 OCT 2023

Opened: 1006 hrs. by Chair Rodger Bennett at American Legion Dept. Headquarters in Bloomington, IL.

Flag Salute: R. Bennett

Roll Call:

- Div. 1- Bernie Stegmuller- present
- Div. 2- Ashley “Dave” Davis- present
- Div. 3- J. Tom Nebgen- present
- Div. 4- Rodger Bennett (Chair)- present
- Div. 5- Stephen Wylie- Excused

National Convention Report- R. Bennett asked who from VA & R to report? R. Bennett asked who from VA & R attended & was there anything about VA & R to report? R. Bennett and B. Stegmuller attended and reported that almost everything talked about and concerned with the recently passed Pact Act and nothing further to report.

At 1011 hrs.- Dept. Commander Delmar Buske and the Sr. Vice Commander visited. Both discussed how we cannot survive without membership, keep it going. Commander Buske mentioned that Gi Gi our Legion VA & R specialist was now coming to Bloomington once a month to assist, advise & inform Dept. & others with VA assistance. Both left about 1020 hrs.

VAC Report- R Bennett asked D. Davis for a report about any VAC news or happenings. Dave reported about the new VAC codes for Illinois and that main change to the code is that now the county VAC Commissions will control the funds, not the County. Dave also reported that the State of Illinois VFW has also created a Veteran’s Assistance Liaisons Committee similar to our Legion Committee and the VFW State Chair for the Committee Doug Jameson asked for us & them to work together as partners to support our VAC’s throughout the State. This partnership should be a great thing for our VAC’s & our Veterans & Families.

T. Nebgen Reported- That some VA Clinics & Hospitals are once again requiring masking. Be aware & bring a mask just in case.

R. Bennett mentioned- that the D.C. Conference is coming soon & if we plan to attend, let him know.

Closed: 1100 hrs.

A “Dave” Davis Recording Secretary.

Meeting Minutes

Veterans Employment and Education Committee

October 7, 2023

Call to Order: 1:00 PM

Attendees:

1 st Division – Lawrence Hippert	Present
2 nd Division – William Frangquist	Present, however in another meeting
3 rd Division – Norm Flowers	Absent
4 th Division – Dennis Tipsword	Present
5 th Division – James McElyea	Present

Dennis explains the committee function for the new members.

Dennis went over the awards application. He discussed the categories and the criteria to win an award.

Dennis said our budget was reduced from \$5000 to \$4000.

Meeting adjourns at: 1:33 PM

Respectfully Submitted:
Lawrence Hippert
Vice Chairman

Approved:
Dennis Tipsword
Chairman