

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