

The Internal Affairs Commission convened at 1005 hours on Saturday, September 28th, 2024. The Meeting occurred at Department HQ in Bloomington, IL.

Chairman Al Coughlin, 1st Division, attended and presided over the meeting.

Member Paul Gardner, 2nd Division, was excused.

Vice-Chairman Wayne Erickson, 3rd Division, attended.

Member Iris Miranda-Kirschner, 4th Division, attended.

Dep't Senior Vice-Commander Roy Smith, 5th Division, attended.

1 - Meeting was convened with a quorum.

2 - Dep't Commander Lampert, Dep't Senior Vice-Commander Smith, and Dep't Adjutant Theilen spoke about the status of the Department's website. Statements of Purpose need revisions and Minutes need posting. They stated that Illinois now ranks 14th in membership in the nation.

3 - The AD-HOC District Reassignment & Realignment Committee requires a detailed map which shows all of the Legion Districts throughout the Department. There is a special need for a very detailed map of the Chicago area. The Committee wants to focus on those Districts that are hovering around the 1000-member mark and those Posts that are hovering around the 15-member mark. They are most at risk. Senior Vice-Commander Smith said there are websites that list the number of Veterans per county. Member Kirschner stated that County Veterans Assistance Commissions can also assist with this data.

4 - There is concern that Posts and Districts are recycling positions with the same members due to fewer members wanting to serve. Internal Affairs wants to emphasize training in procedures and protocol for new officers. These training sessions should be held at the Division level.

5 - There are school districts that will not allow Legion Color Guards at school events because they carry rifles - even though they may be fake or painted wood. There are

Federal statutes that set forth what constitutes a Color Guard and a school district simply cannot override the statutes. Recently, the Chatham Legion Post 759 went to their local School Board meeting and provided copies of the Federal statutes to the School Board because the Superintendent tried to deny Color Guard access. The matter is now moot. Dep't Adjutant Theilen said that the Legion's functions are too critical to allow such efforts to thwart them.

6 - Chairman Coughlin indicated that membership is critical. In order for Posts and Districts to realize where they stand all Posts under the required 15 members will reflect their goal as 15 on the membership reports and any District under 1,000 members will show 1,000 as their membership goal. All Posts and Districts need to reach their minimums and to grow more measurable membership, The Department needs to grow in order to continue.

Chairman Coughlin stated that he will review and revise the Commission's Statement of Purpose on the website to reflect its current role.

The commission thanks the Commander for allowing us to serve. I want to thank member Iris Kirschner for compiling the minutes of this meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Vice-Chair Erickson and seconded by Member Kirschner. The Meeting adjourned at 1133 hours.

Submitted

AL Coughlin / Chairman