

October 1, 2025

Minutes from POW/MIA Committee Meeting

Sept. 27, 2025

The POW/MIA committee met at Department on September 27, 2025, at 1:00. Members present were John Buhle 1st Division 8th District, Paul Ahern 2nd Division 10th District, Sam Rice 3rd Division 16th District, Theresa Thomas 4th Division 17th District, Chris Schoo 5th Division 24th District.

When we got to our meeting we were informed that our members from the 1st Division and 2nd Division had been replaced. We introduced ourselves to the new members and explained what our committee's mission is.

Theresa, Chris and Sam spent quite a lot of time answering their questions.

Our mission is to promote public awareness to Legionnaires and the general public that the American soldiers that are still listed as missing are not forgotten.

We gave suggestions to John and Paul on how we speak at public events, especially near Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and National POW/MIA Recognition Day to make people aware of the MIA situations.

We also give reports at District and Division meetings.

We discussed our booth at the 2025 convention. Sam informed all that he would not be at the 2026 convention to man the booth.

We talked about who will get Sam's POW/MIA table to convention and set it up in front of the stage.

We also discussed how the booth went with only one table length in front. It was decided we would stay with one table frontage.

We were visited by Commander Roy Smith, Sr. Vice Celeste Latham, Adjutant Josh Thielen, and Membership Director Mike Monroe. Adjutant Josh gave us directions on guidelines of the committee chairman expectations and video conference guidelines. They also volunteered their help if needed.

This fiscal year of 2025, which just ended, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that 231 former MIAs were returned to their families for proper burial. Still

unaccounted for from WWII – 71,850; Korean War- 7,398; Vietnam – 1,566; Cold War – 126 for a total of 80,940.

Over 41,00 of those still missing are presumed lost at sea and may never be accounted for.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.