

Date: October 9, 2026

To: The American Legion Department of Illinois

From: Jerry Howard, Chairman, Community Service Committee

Subject: Committee Meeting notes of September 26, 2026

The Community Service Committee met at the Department Headquarters at 10 AM for the purpose of discussing programs for this year. Those attending were Thomas Strossner (1st Div.), Jerry Howard (2nd Div.) and Bill Seward (3rd Div.). Excused were Ron Hoffman (4th Div.) and Gary Reynolds (5th Div.). We were joined for a portion of the meeting by Celeste Latham, Wayne Erikson and Josh Thielen from our Department of Illinois. Also, Paul Garrett, Chairman for Public Relations joined the group. The following was reviewed and approved at the meeting.

1. The current brochure will be updated this year. We recommend the “year” be taken off the flyer so that it can be duplicated for several years. We recommend that a new application page for Hall of Fame be written and produced; an application form and photo of the current recipient Post 577, Lena to be added. (We would like the photo to be updated annually.) We request that the brochure be printed and distributed by normal procedures and on the Department website for Community Service Committee.
2. We recommend the list of all past Hall of Fame recipients be added to the Department website. The list has not been updated anywhere since 2021.
3. We recommend that the 2026 Hall of Fame recipient, Post 577, Lena, have a spot on the Department website.
4. We discussed the need for conserving Department resources. We were given 20% less budget this year. One saving we agreed to is to make the plaque for upcoming Hall of Fame recipients the same style as our other award recipients.
5. We will encourage Department, Division and others to promote our programs to all Posts. We will use Zoom, mail, phone and direct communication throughout the year.
6. We agreed to include future meetings with the Public Relations Committee. We will promote our programs together (but continue as separate committees).

It is a pleasure to serve Commander Celeste Latham and the Department of Illinois this year.