

**MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2023
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Sally Nay
Department Commander

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant

To be approved at the
Department Executive Committee Meeting
September 16, 2023

AGENDA

**AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON June 8,
2023 Starting at 2:00 PM**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER **Sally Nay**

1. SALUTE TO THE COLORS
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY **William Chisholm**
5. PREAMBLE TO CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION **EVERYONE**
6. ROLL CALL BY DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT **Lisa A. McPhee**
7. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES of the DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING on April 1, 2023 Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough MA
8. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES - none
9. DEPARTMENT TREASURER'S REPORT **Steve Souza**
10. DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT **Sandra Davis**
11. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
13. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. CORRESPONDENCE
 - B. MOTIONS
 - C. COMMANDERS APPOINTMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS
14. GOOD OF THE LEGION
15. NO FURTHER BUSINESS - MOTION TO ADJOURN
16. CLOSING PRAYER
17. RETIRE THE COLORS

Meeting called to order by DC Sally Nay at 2:00 PM
SALUTE TO THE COLORS – Sgt. Robert Desrosiers
INVOCATION – Asst. Chaplain Kevin Hamel
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ALL
POW/MIA CHAIR – Bill Chisholm

PREAMBLE - All

Roll Call – by Adjutant McPhee

Present: CMDR Nay; DSVC Davis; DVC Blake; DVC Conner; ADJ McPhee; TRS Souza; CHAP Salois; ASST CHAP Hamel; HIST Jerdan; DECW Lacoste; NEC Davis; ALT NEC Pajak; PDC Dias; PNC Comer; PNC Morin; JA Fratolillo; AJA Brault; SGT Desrosiers; Lacoste; Hallene; Doud; Aide Nay; D1C Lefebvre; D4C Gallant; D5C Desrosiers; D7C Sinatra; D8C Cannon; D10C Connell; AD1C Oleen; AD3C Fontaine; AD4C Hallene; AD5C Blake; AD7C Scott; AD8C Manning; AD9C Mangels; AD10C Burke; PDC Avis; Brehio; Chisholm; Connors; Lashus; Lenotte; MacDonald; Starks; White
Excused: AJA Atkins; HON SGT Lizotte; Asst Sgt Heisey; Photo Borges; D3C Howe; D9C Bettencourt; AD2C White; AD6C Milot

Absent: Asst Chap Ryan; D2C White

Minutes

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES of the DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING on April 1, 2023 as PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED

Motion made by PNC Comer and 2nd DSVC Davis Any discussion? Motion carried

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES of The Sons of the American Legion- None

Treasurer Report

Treas. Steve Souza:

Budget and Finance Committee

As we are ready to close the books for FY 2023 we would like to report that our Legion is on solid ground. It is projected that we end the year with a surplus. However, it is difficult to report as we have a number of expenses, including this convention to be paid and will be reported at the next NEC meeting. Our Finance Committee has reviewed our FY '23 budget and has made recommendations for FY '24.

Budget 2024

Our budget for FY '24 of \$572,726.00, which was recently approved at a meeting of the Finance Committee via zoom. Our new budget is one that will maintain continuity for all programs, services as well as our operational cost to fund our Department. It reflects a decrease of nearly \$90,000, which takes into consideration the deductions in spending during FY' 23. Although there were shortfalls in income due to low membership numbers, our Department staff showed very modest spending patterns throughout the year, saving unexpected revenue. As of this report and as we come to the close of our fiscal year, we find all committees have completed their mission as we keep with the fine tradition of the American Legion, as we have known, in years past.

Investments

Total investments, as of 6.09.2023 are at \$4,008,009.55, up from previously reported at the last June DEC meeting in 2022. We have had a gain of \$230,283.36. Or roughly 5.8% increase over the last 12 months of investments. These numbers are actually up a bit from my report at the Department Executive Meeting on 6/8/2023 as I thought I would give one final check as to our investments for my Convention report. Goes to show you, the difference a day makes! (\$12,502.72) These funds are closely monitored by our Legion Finance and Investment Committees, with meetings that take a hard look at methods to maintain a sound portfolio.

	Jun '22 DEC	Jun '23 DEC
RBC Capital Wealth Mgt.		\$2,778,111.83 to \$2,914,566.24
Boston Harbor Wealth Adv.		\$999,704.36 to \$1,093,533.31

A final reminder to all committees: If you or any members have any outstanding expenses, please submit them to us by the end of this month as we would like to close all accounts for FY '23, as we move forward.

I have additional expense vouchers, or are available on line, for anyone in need to file expenses.

This concludes my financial report as it continues to be one in progress subject to audit, as always.

Treasurer Stephen Souza

Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd by DSVC Davis subject to audit Any discussion? Motion carried

Membership Report

DSVC Sandra Davis Membership Chairman

1. Let's start with Happy Thoughts: The Posts that met/exceeded their annual goal:
 - a. From District 1: Post 125, 340, 350
 - b. From District 2: Posts 28, 148, 260, 266, & 304
 - c. From District 3: Posts 175, 293, 338 & 452
 - d. From District 4: Posts 42, 50, 58, 109, 163, 279, 386,398, 411, 414 & 435
 - e. From District 5: Posts 107, 199, 249, 361, 366, & 440
 - f. From District 6: Posts 11, 169, 208, 209, & 225
 - g. From District 7: Posts 16, 76, 117, 296 & 399
 - h. From District 8: Posts 4, 8, 57, 215, 227, 291 & 379
 - i. From District 9: Post 121, 198 & 265
 - j. From District 10: Posts 35, 71, 108, & 144
2. Metrics:
 - a. We went over all the numbers during the last meeting with the same audience, so not going to spend time reinventing the wheel.
 - b. As a department we did NOT make the 100% target. As of yesterday, according to National, we are NOT one of the top 50 departments. We aren't on the very bottom. There are plenty of rungs on the ladder to climb.
3. Don't forget to keep working expired, delinquent, and DMS lists.
4. If you know of any Posts holding on to any renewals, please have them transmitted ASAP and be sure to contact Posts that haven't had any recent activity.
5. Fun factoid: Here are top 3 posts at adding traditional new people this year:
 - a. Berkley Post 121: 45 newbies
 - b. Somerset Post 221: 38 newbies
 - c. Westfield Post 124: 26 newbies
6. Remember: It's about being out there to MAKE IT PERSONAL in our communities. This is how we show personal value to prospective newbies and keep our current family members. If people see personal value in their local posts and its activities, they will want to belong and stay in our Legion Family. Engaging our people and communities is the key to retaining our people and growing.

Be the one to Make It Personal!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Davis

Department Sr. Vice Commander

(Membership Chairman by virtue of office)

Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd D7C Sinatra

Any discussion?

Motion carried

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Scott Conner Chairman

AI White Community service Awards have been selected for April, we have one submission for May and the May window for submission is still open.

Most Posts have community service events and projects, there are plenty of opportunities to take the time and submit for recognition. Applications and requirements can be found at www.masslegion.org – Programs- Community Service. Need help, e-mail or call me.

Presentation of AI White Awards:

April 2023- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59, Milford, for their work creating a Veterans Memorial and recognition wall at the Blair House in Milford. This will be presented to Unit 59.

The Community service Committee met via Zoom and selected the Conway Award – For outstanding Legionnaire, demonstrating commitment to the Community, continuously during the 2022-2023 year.

Pendill award – For Exemplary Community service by a Post during the 2022-2023 year.

Schreiber Award – For Outstanding community Service by a Post during the 2022-2023 year.

These Annual awards will be presented during convention, tomorrow morning.

Community Service Report submitted as one in progress.

Respectfully submitted Scott Conner Chairman

Motion made by DVC Conner and 2nd by PNC Morin

Any discussion?

Motion carried

TRAINING

Scott Connor Chairman

Minuteman Monday – 2nd Monday via Zoom 7:00 PM

April – Tax Exempt and your IRS form 990 – Mike Lussier – Band CEO and Tax Specialist – 5 people

May – Unlocking the Mysteries of the SPR – “0” people

286 Posts

Training committee will be putting together a fall program, please contact me for topics you think would benefit Posts and members.

Any Info, Programs, District Training, please let me, or the 2023/2024 training chair know, we can develop training event for you.

Legion College – No applicants to date, just saying: Everyone in the “Shute” right now has a Legion College pin on their hat. Not mandatory, just saying.

Training Report submitted as one in progress

Respectfully submitted Scott Conner Chairman

Motion made by DVC Conner and 2nd by DSVC Davis

Any discussion?

Motion carried

CPR

Fred White Chairman

The Consolidated n the Consolidated Post Report are due in the Department office by June 15, 2023. If you haven't submitted your CPR yet, you still have until July 1, 2023 to submit your CPR to National.

You still have time to get it recorded, so get err done.

The latest numbers on the Consolidated Post Report were just released, by Department.

District 1 – Berkshire County, has 10 posts, 4 have not submitted a CPR – 63.6 completion rate

District 2 – Franklin/Hampshire County has 15 posts, 10 have not submitted a CPR – 33.3% completion rate

District 3 – Hampden County Has 22 posts, 9 have not submitted a CPR – 59.1% completion rate

District 4 – Worcester County has 54 posts, 36 have not submitted a CPR – 33.3% completion rate
 District 5 – Middlesex County has 46 posts, 26 have not submitted a CPR – 39.1% completion rate
 District 6 – Norfolk County has 28 posts, 14 have not submitted a CPR – 50% completion rate
 District 7 – Suffolk County has 21 posts, 7 have not submitted a CPR – 66.7% completion rate
 District 8 – Essex County has 33 posts, 16 have not submitted a CPR – 48.5% completion rate
 District 9 – Bristol County has 21 posts, 9 have not submitted a CPR – 60.0% completion rate
 District 10- Ply/Barn/Dukes/Nan County has 32 posts, 17 have not submitted a CPR – 46.9% completion rate
 So out of 285 posts 148 didn't submit a CPR – 52% completion rate
 National has us at 36.6%, which is 20th place of all Departments of the American Legion and in 5th place in the Northeast Region.

Of all the posts 12,112 posts only 3,567 have submitted a CPR to National for a completion rate of 29.5%.

Respectfully submitted as a final report

CPR Chairman - PDC Fred J White

Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd by DVC Blake

Any discussion?

Motion carried

Constitution & By Laws

PNC MORIN

There seems to be some miss communication with post that have problems with your districts.

Post problems go to the district the District Commander forms a review committee within the district,

If action is needed by the Department Executive Committee the District Commander needs to give there report in writing to the DEC. And if the DEC decides a review committee is needed one will be appointed by the Department Commander, and will report back to the DEC course of action needed in writing.

NEC MEETING

PNC MORIN

A resolution was adopted to do multiple years membership

If Post dues are \$40 you will be able to pay three years either by credit card, pay pale or whatever National uses for payment. So if members pay the \$120.00 and National raises the dues, those who paid will not be affected by the increase. There is talk of a National increase of \$5.00 in the 2024-2025 membership year. So that is an incentive to pay dues for multiple years.

Motion made by SVDC Davis and 2nd by Historian Jerdan

Any discussion?

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. District 10 Commander Paul Connell ask to send a check for approximately \$4300.00 to post 140 Hull from the unclaimed property funds. The post is up and running they have car shows, wreaths across America, food pantry every other week and are working on getting a post home.

Motion made by D10C Connell and 2nd by PDC (Alt) Pajak Any discussion? Motion carried

2. District 10 Commander Paul Connell ask for donation for the Boston Health Care System Brockton Division to support the summer and winter adaptive sports out of the Rehabilitation funds. \$1500.00 each for the summer and winter sports. PNC Morin to be forwarded to the Rehabilitation Committee for review.

Motion made by D10C Connell and 2nd by PDC (Alt) Pajak that it be forwarded to the Rehabilitation Committee for review. Any discussion? Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Received a thank you from Military Women's Memorial for \$200 donation made on 12/7/2022
2. Received a thank you from Milton Lashus to the Department Officers for retirement gift of a cruise
3. Received a letter from Treasurer stating not seeking appointment to Department Treasurer for the upcoming year
4. Received District One Meeting Minutes for 03/19/2023, 04/16/2023, and 5/21/2023
5. Received District Three Meeting Minutes for 03/12/2023
6. Received District Four Meeting Minutes
7. Received District Five Meeting Minutes for 03/18/2023, call to Council membership meeting for 05/21/2023
8. Received District Six Meeting Minutes for 04/28/2023
9. Received District Seven Meeting Minutes for 03/18/2023 and 05/27/2023
10. Received District Eight Meeting Minutes for 03/19/2023, 04/16/2023, 05/21/2023
11. Received District Nine Meeting Minutes for 03/23/2023
12. Received District Ten Meeting Minutes
13. Received SAL Detachment Meeting Minutes
14. Received District 6 Call to Norfolk County Meeting for 05/24/2023 at 7 PM Post 24 Canton
15. Received District 9 Special Meeting Minutes for 04/29/2023 regarding Post 314 closing

ENDORSEMENTS:

1. District 7 unanimously endorsed Ryan Howe for Department Historian. Drew Pajak for the position of Department vice Commander. Jodi Pajak for National Executive Committeeman. March 29, 2023.
2. District 8 unanimously endorsed Nelson Blake for the high office of Sr. vice Commander on Sunday April 16, 2023 for the year 2023-2024.
3. ALA Post 40 on April 13, 2023 unanimously endorsed Andrew Pajak for Department vice Commander
4. District 9 on April 27, 2023 unanimously voted to endorse Sandra Davis for the office of Department Commander for the year of 2023-2024, Jodi Pajak for the office of Department National Executive Committeeman for year of 2023-2024, Andrew Pajak for the office of Department Vice Commander for the year of 2023-2024, and Shawn Ryan Howe for the office of the Department Historian for the year of 2023-2024
5. District 7 unanimously endorsed Department Historian Robert Jerdan for the high office of Department Vice Commander at their May 27th District meeting.

LATE CORRESPONDENCE

1. District 9 March 23, 2023 County Minutes

Motion made by D7C Sinatra and 2nd by PNC Morin to file all correspondence Any discussion? Motion carried

Motions

1. Pay Legion delegate registration for National Convention.

Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd by many Any discussion? Motion carried

COMMANDERS APPOINTMENTS

1. Appoint PDC John Lenotte as parliamentarian for Department Convention

Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd by DVC Blake Any discussion? Motion carried

GOOD OF THE LEGION

PNC Comer

- 1 Introduces National Vice Commander Paul Kennedy from PA
- 2 Introduces the leading candidate for National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. 2024-2025
- 3 Thank you from the ROTC in Wareham and North Quincy Isabel Wu
- 4 PDC John Lutinski Department Baseball Scholarship for \$1,000.00. Applications are on the baseball website and on www.masslegion.org. National gives out a \$500.00 scholarship and the department adds \$500.00 so each scholarship is

for \$1,000.00.

Each state submit one winner to National and at the World Series they select nine winner who receives another check. One gets selected from each region \$2500.00 and there is a top scholarship of \$5000.00

Both applications are due by July 15, 2023 sent directly to John Comer.

5 Social members are not recognized by The American Legion

A Federal statute states you only have active members:

“An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation only if the individual...has served in the Armed Forces...” Further definitions within the chapter narrow down membership eligibility from there to specify periods of war relevant to the statute, but the key word in there is “only” which would preclude any form of membership offered to anyone outside the criteria enumerated.

Further, our National Constitution states in Article IV, Section 2 that:

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually, for multiple years, or for life.

B Commonwealth states

Veterans clubs when a member brings in a guest the member is the one who buys their drinks, and when the member leaves the guest needs to leave with them.

In 1987 I went into a post in NC the bartender ask for my membership card, someone from across the hall yelled that's the National Commander. I still showed my membership as the bartender is responsible on serving the drinks to Veterans. Only members can buy a drink and the nonmember must leave when the (Veteran) post member leaves. Nonmembers should be signing in the book with who they came in with. If the ABC comes to your post and you are selling to nonmembers they will take your lease and shut your post bar down

I would like to send this to Dick Pastor so he can look up the ABC rules for the Commonwealth of MA and the National letter so the Department can mail to each post.

Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd by D8C Cannon Any discussion? Motion carried

6 PNC Comer on Saturday morning there is a Zoom meeting at 12:00 PM for the NEC, NVC and PNC involving the states of Washington and Colorado about suspending their charter. People in those departments violated their constitution and by Laws in their own states. They will be suspended from the Legion and cannot wear their hats or attend the National Convention.

7 Dick Paster wrote to his town stating they should not fly the pride flag under the American flag, the only flag that should be flown under is the POW/MIA. So the town is going to fly the pride flag in another location.

8 May is a month were we should be remembering our Forgotten Veterans for the whole month and Nov. should be a month long celebration for Veterans. There are already on the books May is for Departed Comrades and Nov for Veterans.

9 A second year member of squadron 315 in Dracut, where they have the Veterans Park the town was going to put in a fitness pad. After much discussion it is decided to not put it so close to the memorial but further away so as not to disrupt the memorial location.

10 Nov 4th will be the Department Veterans Day Parade

11 Steve Souza there is nothing for Post to do at Department Conventions

12 Scott Conner how to get younger members interested in the post training

TECHICAL MOTIOIN

PNC Morin Comrade Commander, I have a technical motion. I move that the Department Adjutant be instructed to review the minutes of the DEC meeting, make any necessary correction without changing the intent of the DEC meeting, and proceed to edit and distribute these minutes.

Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd PNC Comer Any discussion? Motion carried

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by PNC Comer and 2nd by NEC Davis

Closing Prayer
Chaplain Father Phil
Salute Sgt. Robert Desrosiers

**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 11, 2023
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
CONVENTION AND
A PRE-
NATIONAL CONVENTION CAUCUS MEETING**