

MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2023

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sally Nay
Department Commander

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant

To be approved at the
Department Executive Committee Meeting
June 8, 2023

AGENDA

FOR DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON April 1, 2023 at 10:00 AM, at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough MA

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 January 14, 2023 at Post 414 Sutton MA
8. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES of The Detachment of Massachusetts Zoom Meeting on 01/19/2023
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 10:00 AM
SALUTE TO THE COLORS – Asst. Sgt. Cindy Lacoste
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; ASST CHAP Hamel; HIST Jerdan; DECW Lacoste; NEC Davis; ALT NEC Pajak; PDC Dias; PNC Comer; JA Fratolillo; AJA Brault; SGT Desrosiers; Lacoste; Hallene; Doud; Photo Borges; Aide Nay; D1C Lefebvre; D3C Howe; D4C Gallant; D5C Desrosiers; D7C Sinatra; D8C Cannon; D9C Bettencourt; D10C Connell; AD1C Oleen; AD3C Fontaine; AD4C Hallene; AD5C Blake; AD6C Milot; AD7C Scott; AD8C Manning; AD10C Burke; PDC Avis; Brehio; Chisholm; Connors; Lashus; **Lenotte**; MacDonald; McKittrick; Starks

Excused: CHAP Salois; PNC Morin; AJA Atkins; HON SGT Lizotte; Asst Sgt Heisey; D6C Lewis; AD2C White; AD9C Mangels

Absent: Asst Chap Ryan; D2C White

Minutes

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES of the DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING on January 14, 2023 as PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED

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

ACCEPTANCE OT THE MINUTES of The Detachment of Massachusetts Meeting on January 19, 2023 Zoom meeting

Motion made by DSRV Davis and 2nd DVC Blake Any discussion? Motion carried

Treasurer Report

Treas. Steve Souza:

As we enter our final quarter for our current financial year, we find ourselves on track with our expenses.

As you know, our budget is one, which has a number of income streams with many expenses, causing it to be very fluid. With that said, we continue to maintain solid fiduciary practices keeping all accounts in balance.

Budget 2023-2024

The budget for next year has begun its process as your finance committee has met and has started taking request from various committees as we are about to draft next year's framework. Request from these committees will continue to come before the finance committee for review, discussion, explanation and approval or dis-approval. Our finance committee will be working to bring our final budget to you during at our next DEC meeting, set for June 8th 2023, which is right around the corner! So, please do not delay?

Your Finance Committee will be meeting via zoom to bring you our final budget.

Cashing of Checks

As we prepare for next year's budget, I must remind everyone and please pass this along at your district meetings to please cash checks that are issued to individuals and post alike. This makes our central bookkeeping more difficult to reconcile. This is an age-old problem. Does not matter if a check is for a few dollars, we must continue to balance our books.

We are in the process of itemizing outstanding checks to which post/individuals will be notified to cash them.

Investments

Due to the Federal Reserve Board attempting to slow inflation down by rising the prime rate, it has had an impact on our investment growth. Some bank failures with mismanagement added to the global money market shortcomings, as well.

Our total investments, as of 4.1.2023 are at **\$3,900,672.92** down from a year ago (4.1.2022). We had a loss of **\$480,575.12** or just about 11%.

As of March 25th

RBC Capital Wealth Management	\$2,842,736.21
Boston Harbor Wealth Advantage	\$1,057,936.71

TD Bank Accounts

As I have been making references from beginning of our fiscal year 2022 to 2023 we have grown from \$1,655,115.71 to \$1,741,802.64. Finding ourselves with a net gain of \$86,686.93 or about a 5%, with our non-investment accounts. These accounts are “restricted in nature” and should not be thought of as funds that cannot be accessed for any reason. These funds are closely monitored by our Legion Finance and Investment Committees. Although we have had a lost from the last DEC meeting, I feel we will remain resilient and able to function even following a bad year. Due to diversity and having a good number of accounts that are not invested, we continue to weather the storm.

Unclaimed Property

Awaiting the next batch of accounts from the Massachusetts Department of Treasury as we were promised to receive a new listing of unclaimed property in late March or early April.

“Foot Note”

As your Department Treasurer, I would like to express a word of caution due to a drop in membership from last year. Our membership is down, due to the massive transfers during last year. Our membership has gone from the top 10%, at the national level, to the bottom 10% in just a short year.

Membership compared to last year at this time is down by approximately 4,000 members, which could mean a shortfall on revenue for the 2024 fiscal year budget.

As we have spoken about revenue streams previously, membership is by far the most important to the future welfare of our organization. Please keep that in mind.

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

Motion made by PDC Avis and 2nd by D7C Sinatra subject to audit Any discussion? Motion carried

Membership Report

DSVC Sandra Davis Membership Chairman

1. Let’s start with Happy Thoughts: The Posts that have already met/exceeded their annual goal:
 - a. From District 1: Post 350
 - b. From District 2: Posts 28, 260, 266, & 304
 - c. From District 3: Posts 175 & 452
 - d. From District 4: Posts 42, 50, 58, 279, 398, 411, & 414
 - e. From District 5: Posts 107, 361, 366, & 440
 - f. From District 6: Posts 169 & 225
 - g. From District 7: Posts 76, 117 & 399
 - h. From District 8: Posts 57, 215, 291 & 379
 - i. From District 9: Post 198
 - j. From District 10: Posts 71 & 108

2. Resources:
 - a. ZOOM roundtables: Thank you to all that participate. This is a good opportunity to get help with issues, share ideas, and talk with our Department subject matter experts. REMINDER: It is NOT acceptable to wait until in-person meeting day to get help. The next ZOOM Roundtable will take place on Monday, April 17, 7pm. A reminder will be emailed to District Leadership the week before the next meeting. For those districts that haven’t jumped into ‘monthly roundtable’ pool yet, come on in the water’s fine.
 - b. District Leadership is sent periodic emails with reminders/FYI about upcoming events and ‘marked up’ weekly metrics reports. This is to help identify and kick start solving issues with posts before they become problems.

- c. Reach out if help is needed. There is a friendly, knowledgeable, helpful Department Representative assigned to each district listed at the top of every weekly metrics report.
- 3. OK...Time for the touchy subject Metrics:
 - a. We went over all the numbers, actions, plans, etc. 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 90% target and we are far from on target to make 95% target on 4/19. 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.
- 4. Don't forget to work expired, delinquent, and DMS lists.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Fun factoid: Here are top 3 posts at adding traditional new people this year:
 - a. Berkley Post 121: 33 newbies
 - b. Somerset Post 221: 26 newbies
 - c. Westfield Post 124: 24 newbies
- 7. Remember: It's about being out there and MAKING 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 a difference by Making It Personal!

Respectfully submitted as a report in progress.

Sandra Davis-Department Sr. Vice Commander (Membership Chairman by virtue of office)

Motion made by DSVC Davis and 2nd by NEC Davis

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

WOMENS VETERANS

Cindy Lacoste Chairman

I only have a couple of items to report on since our last meeting.

First, as you can see on your table, there is a flyer for the YMCA Family Open House which will be held on April 15/16, 2023 at various locations across the state. Some locations are offering a breakfast and then there is a virtual intro by the new Secretary Jon Santiago of the Exec. Office of Veteran Services.

If you cannot scan the QR code, let me know after we break, and I can send the flyer with the link embedded which also gives the information on the various locations and the ability to register.

Second, I had posted on my Facebook page an article from the Military Times, discussing why the transition of female vets after leaving the military is harder for them than men. It would be a good topic of discussion if you were meeting with women who are struggling or have struggled after departing the military. I can provide the link to those who are interested.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/education-transition/2019/07/18/why-leaving-the-military-is-harder-for-female-vets/>

Lastly, The Executive Office of Veterans' Services Women Veterans' Network is excited to announce that our annual **Women's Appreciation Day will be held on Monday, June 12, 2023, at the State House.** The WVN's Women's Appreciation Day and the presentation of the Deborah Sampson Award is an opportunity to once again honor a woman veteran who goes above and beyond for her peers.

We know there are many women veterans who serve our communities, going the extra mile each and every day. All nominations for this year's Deborah Sampson Award must be **submitted by April 28, 2023.** Please refer to the website to learn more and obtain the nomination form. <https://bit.ly/3Z9bD9w>

Please contact Susan McDonough at susan.mcdonough2@mass.gov with any questions about the Women Veterans' Network or this year's Women's Appreciation Day or the award nomination process.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Lacoste

Motion made by DECW Lacoste and 2nd by Alt NEC Pajak

Any discussion? Motion carried

Baseball

Richard Pastor Chairman

1. We ended the 2022 season with 61 Senior and 41 Junior Teams for a total of 102 teams.
2. Thus far we have registered 73 Senior and 51 Junior Teams for a total of 124 Teams. District 9 only had 5 Sr. teams and 4 Jr. teams, thus the Committee voted to at least temporarily disband District 9 and distribute those teams to District 6 and 10.
3. The teams are in the process of purchasing insurance, coaches are completing background checks and abuse training.
4. National has clarified its position on the new logos, the crossed-bat emblem will continue to be used on uniforms, caps, etc., and will be referred to as the Baseball "Emblem", while the term "Brand Mark" will refer to the new Baseball logo which will be used for digital marketing, (websites, social media, email signatures and the like).
5. The Department Senior Tournament will be hosted by Natick Post 107 beginning on July 22, 2023 at Mahon Field, Natick, MA. The Committee voted to send the District runner-up from the District with the most number of Senior Teams to replace the District 9 Champion, this year it will be District 6. The Committee voted to send the runner-up from the District with the 2nd most number of teams to the Tournament to replace District 5 which was unable to form a District this year, this year that District is District 10. The Department All Star Game will also be played at Mahon Field on July 28, 2023.
6. The Department Junior Tournament will be hosted by Natick Post 107 at Mahon Park beginning on July 30, 2022, and the Department Chairman's Cup Tournament will be hosted by Middleboro Post 64 at Middleboro High School varsity field on July 29, 2023.
7. The Region One Sr. Tournament will be hosted by Shrewsbury Post 397 at Fitton Field, Worcester beginning on August 2, 2023, and the World Series will begin on August 10, 2023, at Shelby, NC. I will be the Region One Tournament Director
8. The Regional Jr. Tournament will hosted by West Warwick, RI beginning on August 4, 2023.
9. The 2023 Massachusetts Graduate of the Year is Thom Roche, Manager of the Rockland Post147 team.

Respectfully submitted as a Report in Progress,

Richard D. Paster, Chairman

Motion made by PNC Comer and 2nd by DSVC Davis

Any discussion? Motion carried

PNC Comer ask the District Commanders to go back to their team mangers an ask them to make sure the ball players know of the Department scholarships PDC John Lutinski and a scholarship from National the applications are on the www.masslegionbb.org website. And the John Lutinski is on the Department website www.masslegion.org on the home page scroll down until you see the baseball logo. On the National scholarship they also have a chance to receive up to \$5000.00. The Department has had two bother who have received that amount and 1 ball player who received \$2500.00 Last year I only had one application so let's get more applications this year Scholarship are for \$1000 each. Thank You!

SON OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Partnership for kids

Cliff Smith SPNC and Gene Theroux SDC

The family bowling had 23 teams and raised \$8658.23 so for the 3 Hospitals they each will receive a check for \$2900. Also the Dream Marker made about \$3500 in donation for the Partnership for Kids. I would like to thank everyone for making this event a success. I believe everyone had a great time.

After the bowling Gene, Milton and Bill went on a site visit to the Mount Hope Cemetery in Boston. There are six Medal of Honor recipients buried in this cemetery. It all started out wanting to clean Milton father's stone Alton W. Lashus. On April 19th we will begin at 8 o'clock in the morning flagging and cleaning head stone, there will be a ceremony at 11 Am. Milton would you come up here for all the work you do for the Detachment of MA we would like to present you with your SAL 26 cap. And Jo-Ann also found his department pin on eBay which cost \$2.02 so here your pin. Thank you I will put this pin on my cap.

NEC- NATIONAL VERSES DEPARTMENT

PNC John Comer

National convention each year this is how it is broken down to every department it is based on the membership numbers in Massachusetts I received 18 appointments

May meeting (Indy) 7 appointments

Oct meeting (Indy) 5 appointments

I do not know how long it will last but in 1975 when I was State Commander Membership for MA was 74,714 members compared to today with only 26,000 members. The whole thing is a matter of money when membership is down everyone loses money so how they will allow us to have as many call ins and that goes for every state. So we are very fortunate on how many appointments we receive this National book with over 2000 members in there in Oct we sit with the NEC of every State and they report back to the committee of three which I am the chairman that determines who goes into this book. And if you are not in this book they cannot be appointed. How do you get in this book become part of the team? Team work is what it is all about people that will work with us as part of the team. When I ask for donation for Candidates coming up and you're on my list you're on the team. When I was National Commander I had to raise \$200,000 campaigning that year.

They now have to raise \$300,000 for the year, as the wife cost is not covered. We have about 45 members listed in the book. And they have all been very kind and supportive and if there is anyone who would like to support Jim LaCoursiere he is out of CT and is in line for National Commander for the 2024-2025 year. I will take any amount from a dollar up.

The National Commander and Aide are paid employees of the American Legion.

Another thing I would like to clear up I get asked if they can go to Washington or Indianapolis I only get 8 appointments there are certain committees that meet in Washington and certain committees that meet in Indy. If you're in the book under an Indy we cannot send you to a Washington appointment. Although in Washington we have 5-6 committees that we send from the department National Security, VA&R, POW/MIA etc. If you are on Americanism you can only be called to Indianapolis, membership meets in Oct so you do not get called to other meetings. As they get called out in July, I thought I would let members know how we operate at the National level.

Way back until 1975 1 man out of New York controlled the whole organization he died in 1975. He made it know the John Geiger would take his place but he did not want to be a 1 man team so he name Jim from Ohio and Roy from SC. That's the way it has been since 1975 when one passes away one steps in on about 10-12 years ago I was appointed. I worked my way up to number one, Dan Dillinger VA is number two and Dave Rehbein IA is number three. When either one of resigns we have pick someone to take our place Paul A. Morin will be my replacement and start off in the number 3 spot. At the team level we meet twice a year May and Oct there are 21 members on that committee I ask John Geiger has he determines who set on that committee he said count the votes. The representative of those 21 have more votes that the other states. Are there any other questions on what we do just thought I would let you all know. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted John P. Comer PNC

Motion made by DSVC Davis and 2nd by DVC Blake Any discussion? Motion carried

AMERICANISM

Mark Avis Director

YOUR AMERICANISM DIVISION HAS BEEN WORKING 24/7 GETTING PREPARED FOR THIS YEARS PROGRAMS. WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE ORATORICAL FINALS IN INDIANAPOLIS FROM April 21-23, 2023. IT TAKES ABOUT 120 VOLUNTEERS TO RUNE THE PROGRAM WITH MOST OF THEM NEEDED

ON SATURDAY. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS POSSIBLE SET ASIDE FUNDS SO WE CAN PERIODICALLY SEND SOMEONE TO ASSIST IN THIS PROGRAM.

THE NATIONAL JUNIOR SHOOTING FINALS WILL TAKE PLACE IN COLORADO SPRINGS FROM JULY 21-23, 2023. THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION PROGRAM WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR AT LOYOLA MARYMOUNT FROM July 21-29, 2023. IF ANY STATES HAVE ANY LEGIONNAIRES INTERESTED, PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT JEFF BENNETT AT THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION WILL MEET IN INDIANAPOLIS FROM MAY 8-9, 2023.

ALSO REMEMBER THAT APRIL IS CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH, SO DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME, WE ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY THAT THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY IS DEDICATED TO AMERICA'S YOUTH.

LASTLY WE WILL BE HOLDING A ZOOM MEETING FOR THE OUTH LAW CADET AS CHAIRMAN PRICE IS AWAITING A TRANSPLANT AND WONT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE MAY MEETINGS, OUR PURPOSE IS TO EASE AWARENESS TO THE PROGRAM AND SEE IF WE CAN GET BEYOND THE 22 DEPARTMENTS WHO ALREADY HAVE THE YOUTH LAW CADET PROGRAM. THE GOAL IS TO GET MORE DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED AND MAKE A CAPSTONE EVENT. WE NEED TO FOCUS ON LAW INFORCEMENT MORE THEN EVER NOW AS SO MANY ARE LOOKING TO FILL THERE RANKS WITH GOOD QUALITY OFFICERS AND WE THE AMERICAN LEGION SHOULD LEAD THE WAY.

YOUR AMERICANISM DIVISION HAS BEEN WORKING TO BRING THE FOCUS BACK ON THE YOUTH OF AMERICA. IF YOU READ BACK IN HISTORY STARTING IN 1919 OUR FOREFATHERS WERE VERY CONCERNED WITH THE YOUTH OF AMERICA AND PLEDGED TO FIGHT THE FIGHT AGAINST THOSE WHO WANT TO UNDERMIND OUR GOVERNMENT AND OUT VALUES OF 100% AMERICANISM.

COMMANDER, I SUBMIT THIS REPORT AS ONE OF PROGRESS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, MARK A. AVIS DIRECTOR, AMERICANISM

Motion made by DSVC Davis and 2nd by D3C Howe

BOYS STATE

Mark Avis Chairman report

THE BOYS STATE PROGRAM IS MOVING RIGHT ALONG WITH ITS PLANNING AND RECRUITING OF STUDENTS. THIS YEAR THE EMPHASIS IS ON RECRUITING KIDS FROM THE INNER CITY (INSIDE 128) AS THIS IS AN AREA WHERE WE USED TO GET KIDS BUT HAVE NOT FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS NOW. THIS IS BEING HANDLED BYTHE COUNCILING STAFF. THE DISTRICTS ARE SLOW TO RESPOND SO FAR, DISTRICT CHAIRMAN NEED TO GO OUT AND PUSH POSTS TO GET THE JOB DONE. DISTRICT 1 HAS HAD 3 POSTS WHO HAVE RECRUITED SO FAR, DISTRICT 2 HAS HAD 1 POST RESPOND, DISTRICT 3 HAS HAD 5 POSTS 1 SAL, DISTRICT 4 HAS HAD 1 POST AND COUNCILOR RESPOND BY SPONSORING 8 KIDS, DISTRICT 5 1 POST RESPONDED, DISTRICT 6 HAS HAD 1 POST RESPOND, DISTRICT 7 0 POSTS, DISTRICT 8 1POST, DISTRICT 9 5 POSTS (POST 7 HAS DONE A GREAT JOB FILLING IN FOR BOB HICKS WHO PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR AND DISTRICT 10 3 POSTS SO FAR. AS YOU CAN SE FROM THOSE NUMBERS A LOT OF WORK STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO REACH OUR GOAL OF 325. WE NEED EVERY POST TO STEP UP AND GET INVOLVED.

THE BOYS STATE PROGRAM HAS BEEN FLOATING IDEAS ABOUT OUR STORAGE OF INFORMATION AND MATERIAL FOR THE PROGRAM. THE SERVER WE BOUGHT ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO HAS ABOUT COME TO THE END OF ITS LIFE. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE COST OF STORING EVERYTHING ON THE CLOUD. NON PROFITS CAN GET A GOOD DISCOUNT, WE ARE CHECKING NOW TO SEE IF THE AMERICAN LEGIONS' 501 C WILL QUALIFY AS A NON PROFIT. IF NOT WE WILL PROBABLY USE THE FOUNDATIONS 501C3 AND WRITE UP AN AGREEMENT THAT ALL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AS WELL AS ALL BOYS STATE INFORMATION WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

AS ALWAYS WE ARE LOOKING FOR LEGIONAIRES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ASSIGNED A CITY OR TOWN TO WORK WITH AND HELP GUIDE THE PROCESS. IF INTERESTED CONTACT ME AND WE WILL SET AN INTERVIEW TO SEE WHERE YOU WILL FIT BEST.

OUR SPEAKING PORTION IS ABOUT SET AND WAITING FOR INVITED GUESTS TO RESPOND TO THEIR INVITATIONS.

IN CLOSEING A REMINDER THE EARLY BIRD IS ABOUT TO END AT WHICH TIME THE COST RISIES TO 375.00 PER STUDENT. AGAIN, THE DATES ARE JUNE 17-23, 2023 AT STONEHILL COLLEGE EASTON, MA.

COMMANDER, I SUBMIT THIS REPORT AS ONE OF PROGRESS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MARK A. AVIS CHAIRMAN, MASSACHUSETTS AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Motion made by DSVC Davis and 2nd by D3C Howe

EMPLOYMENT & VETERANS PREFERENCE

Lawrence Connors Chairman

We have reached the deadline for the Employer of Veterans Award. This year we received only on Nomination. A nomination from The Robert I Nickerson Post 382 of Squantum MA. M&S Auto Body of Dorchester MA in the small category. The application has been forwarded to National for review. Results of the will be announced at The Department Convention in June, submitted as one in progress.

Respectfully Submitted Lawrence A. Connors Department Chairman Employment & Veteran's Preference.

Motion made by PNEC Connors and 2nd by PNC Comer

Any discussion? Motion carried

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE REPORT

PNEC James Brehio

Washington Conference Feb. 26 – 27, 2023

Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Under Secretary for Memorial affairs

Honorable Matthew T. Quinn

In the past year 47,000 veterans were took advantage of the State, Tribale and U.S. Territories cemeteries.

15% of veterans that pasted away in the last year used National Cemeteries

5% used State, Tribale or U.S. Territories

The National Cemetery Administrations goal is to have a cemetery within 75 miles of populated areas.

They are at 94% of that goal.

New construction: the NCA's focus is now to expand existing cemeteries.

National grave locator: names and location of veterans are there including.

Non-government cemeteries.

Headstones, markers, and medallions are available.

Veterans Legacy program, you can tell the story of the veteran, friends and fellow veterans can leave messages.

Pre-planning or as National cemeteries calls it is pre-need. Binding?

Why? The veteran is the best resource for his/her military information.

Incorrect headstones/markers are replaceable (this one reason for pre-need)

Lastly The NCA is asking for help as to inform Veterans of the benefit of choosing a veteran's cemetery.

National Cemetery Committee - Break out session.

With no resolutions to be discussed we had a guest speaker, he was.

Mr. Michael Conley, the chief of staff of the American Battle Monuments Commission

Mr. Conley explained that the American Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for the 26 American military cemeteries and 32 federal monuments in 17 countries.

Each location has a superintendent vetted by the U.S. government who lives on site and manages its grounds. Larger locations also employ foreign nationals who assist with the cemetery's administration, acting as a liaison with the ground staff.

He then provided a video showing many of cemeteries and monuments.

He also spoke about the ABMC turning 100 years old on March 4, 2023, with celebrations marking the anniversary scheduled around the globe.

After Mr. Conley finished, I answered some of the questions the Under Secretary didn't have the information at hand. Then I opened the floor for any other questions

TBI/PTSD/Suicide Prevention Committee

The American Legion's Washington Conference on Feb. 26, 2023

Gun safety/Suicide prevention

Our speaker was Donna-Marie Drucker is the wife of a combat veteran, the daughter of a gunsmith – herself a gun enthusiast – and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Part of her background includes hundreds of hours performing crisis intervention.

She's also the survivor of a youth suicide attempt.

Drucker said the facts we need to deal with are, are people that own guns do not have more thoughts of suicide than people that do not own guns. People that own guns do not have more suicide attempts than people that do not own guns. People that own guns died at a considerably higher rate of suicide than people who do not own guns because they have access to a very deadly means. This is just a fact, and as gun owners, we can lead the way in changing this."

Drucker pointed out that since 2001, the number of military/veteran suicides is more than four times higher than combat-related deaths. "The idea that our veterans are in so much pain that they're choosing to end their own life is unacceptable," she said. "And we need to change that."

Drucker is co-founder and executive director of the Oregon Firearm Safety Coalition (OFSC), which is a collaboration of Oregon gun clubs and associations that became the driving force, the state and federal veterans' agencies, and other organizations from both sides of gun control and gun owners, finding ways to allow gun owners to be able continue to own guns even if the gun owner show signs of suicide.

They range from having gun locks with someone else having the keys, having someone to call (a.k.a. Buddy checks) and have them remove the guns to having secure guns storage away from the veteran to prevent firearm suicides.

Drucker stated that these community-based strategies are working ...and as a community we are learning from firearm owners. Having people that don't own guns trying to explain to gun owners what they should be doing doesn't work. So we need to listen to our (gun-owner) community.

Submitted by

PNEC Jim Brehio

Member, TBI/PTSD/Suicide Prevention Committee

Motion made by PNEC Brehio and 2nd by DSVC Davis

Any discussion?

Motion carried

MARKETING REPORT

Michael Davis Chairman

The marketing year continues, as does our partnership with The Springfield Thunderbirds of The American Hockey League with our Veteran of the Game and Challenge Accepted campaign. The regular season is coming to a close soon but this partnership continues to provide us exposure to fellow veterans and increases our brand awareness to the general public. If you have a nominee for Veteran of the Game you can nominate him or her via the team's website.

The next department fundraiser will be the spring sweepstakes drawn at the department convention in June. The sweepstakes help the department's general fund and by extension our programs. Please consider a donation when you receive your tickets as not only do you support the department but also have a chance to win cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$3,000.

The committee also recently co-sponsored a veteran's video gaming night along with other veterans service organizations. You may remember that video gaming was recently a cover story in The American Legion magazine as a great way to gain exposure to younger veterans and show them that we are an organization that is still here, still relevant and still helping veterans of all ages and eras. Many thanks are due to Past Department Commander and Past National Executive Committeeman Lou Brault for bringing this gaming night to the committee's attention.

The department recently received its yearly royalty check from National Emblem Sales. Each March the department receives a check based upon 20% of the previous calendar year's sales within our state. I am happy to report that our royalty check was once again over \$3,000 after being under \$2,000 in recent years due to sales being down because of the pandemic. The department received a royalty check in the amount of \$3,258.73. Reminder that when you purchase from Emblem Sales you support The American Legion on both a national and department level.

As always if you have any leads or ideas on marketing please bring them to the committee's attention as we are always looking for new ways within our capacity to increase our brand awareness.

Respectfully submitted as a report in progress,
Mike Davis NEC Marketing Chairman

Motion made by NEC Davis and 2nd by DSVC Davis any discussion? Motion carried

DECW Cindy Lacoste stated that while doing the table at the last hockey game they had several people click on the QR code and are able to join right then. And they also had brochures about the fast pitch softball not only people from around the western part of the state but also from the central part asking all kinds of questions. Where are post located and they are thankful for us being there and we are there until the 2nd period answering a variety of questions.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

Nelson Blake Chairman

The Americanism committee has received 2 application for the American Born and 0 for the Foreign Born district 10 and district 3 have a candidate for the award. If I get any in the mail post marked by the March 31st that it will also be added for judging. District 8 has the Joseph Steen scholarship award to be given out this year. We will be having a meeting this week to do the judging of the applicants.

Submitted as one in progress.

Nelson Blake Chairman

Motion made by DVC Blake and 2nd by DH Jerdan Any discussion? Motion carried

CHIDLREN & YOUTH

Nelson Blake Chairman

The committee has not received any applications for the Children & Youth Excellence Award. The next meeting will be in May to wrap up this years activities. You will also see a bronze pig going around for the Child Welfare program.

Submitted as one in progress

Nelson Blake Chairman

Motion made by DVC Blake and 2nd by D7C Sinatra

TRAINING

Scott Connor Chairman

Department Training Committee

Since the last DEC:

Minuteman Monday - 2nd Monday via Zoom, 7:00 pm

January - How's your Post Meeting going **On the Horizon**

February - Assessing your Post's Community Relevance

March - Navigating the Informational Highway

On the Horizon

April - Tax Exempt and your IRS Form 990 - Mike Lussier

Training Tuesday - Last Tuesday of the month

April 25th, 7:00 PM Topic forthcoming

Training Committee will be putting together Pilates for a Fall Program, please contact me for topics you think would benefit Posts and members.

Any Info, Programs, District Training, please let me know, we can develop training event for you

Legion College - Congratulations to Post 125 Cmdr. Mitch Kiel

Training Report submitted as one in progress.

Motion made by DVC Conner and 2nd by D3C Howe Any discussion? Motion carried

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Scott Conner Chairman

AI White Community Service awards have been selected for December through February. No submissions were received for December and after conferring with the Community Service committee, it was decided to work with the spirit of awarding 12 awards per year. Looking for a submissions, please.

Excerpt from AI White bio:

The Department of Massachusetts George "Al" White Community Service Award recognizes the work of dedicated individuals and posts who have invested themselves in their community and our country.

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 under programs /Community Service.

Need help email me smconner@charter.net or call.

Presentation of AI White Awards:

November- Post 373 Baldwinville for the "Be the One" program and seminar at Narragansett Regional High School.

January- Post 306 Paxton for the culmination of fundraising efforts and the presentation of a check to the NEADS Service Dog program.

February- Post 338 Southwick for fundraising and food, clothing and financial donations to the VA Food Pantry Located in Leeds.

March- Post 124 Westfield for fundraising efforts to support the "Soldier On" program at the VA Center in Leeds. Soldier On is a program that advances the care of our most vulnerable and at risk veterans.

The Community Service Committee will meet to review and vote on the annual awards at the Vernon Hill Post 435

Community Service Report submitted as one in progress

Scott Conner Chairman

Motion made by DVC Conner and 2nd by DSVK Davis Any discussion? Motion carried

PNC Comer

Introduces National Commander Triola and his Aide Gary for the presentation of his pens.

ORATORIAL

Lisa McPhee Chairman

We held the State finals at Bedford Post 221 and there were 3 legislative judges at the program this year. The winner was Sam from Norwood who will be going to Nationals on April 21-23. I wished his luck and we will see how he does.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa McPhee Chairman

Motion made by DSVC Davis and 2nd by DVC Blake

CPR

Fred White Chairman read by Adjutant McPhee

See the chart submitted by Membership Coordinator Judith Hall.

You all have a lot of work to do before the June 26 deadline.

Although National went to the trouble to get the 2022-3023 "CPR" out before 2023.

District 1, 6, and 10 have zero submitting of their posts "CPR" not one in several months.

All the rest of the districts who have submitted a "CPR" are in the single of low teens. The one District that seems to be working on their posts ""CPR" is District 7 good work

The rest of the Districts have a lot of work to do if we expect the Department of MA to make a presentable showing by June 26, 2023. You now have only 3 months to submit a "CPR".

All posts have completed at least one of the items listed on the 2022-2023 "CPR" form

Let's get er Done"

Respectfully submitted as a report in progress

CPR Chairman - PDC Fred J White

Motion made by DSVC Davis and 2nd by DVC Blake

EMPLOYMENT- Washington Conference

PDC James Frattolillo

1 GI Bill parity when the Nation Guard & Reserves are activated under State orders there time does not go towards there GI Bill priority. When you are active duty so many hours for points go towards the GI Bill the American Legion believes that when they are doing the same job as those under Federal orders they deserve to get the same type of parity.

2 The American Legion National Commander spoke at the committee on prioritizing Federal contracts for service Disabled Veteran owned businesses, the law said that Federal Contracting should hit to goal of three percent award to service Disabled veteran owned businesses. Only 4 out of the 24 largest agencies made the quota, the one agency that does first priority is the Veteran Administration wants to change contracting to the defense logistics agency but they do not have the same first priorities for Veterans owned business. That the Federal contracts should honor the law for business owned by Disabled Veteran should be awarded to them.

3 Veterans homelessness people that are coming across our borders are getting more that our veterans, they get housing, food, clothing and more. Where veterans are not getting these benefits the government needs to allocate more money for our homeless veterans. And the American Legion endorses an increase in funds to help stop homelessness for women veterans.

4 Thanks to PD Adj. Milton I am on a new nominating committee for the Health and Humans Services. New bill for a new position sent in by Representative Velious from the office of Veterans Advocacy for all Veterans including the 2 soldier's homes. To ensure that everything is appropriate for our veterans. Tom Lyons and a couple of Generals are also on the

committee. This job will report right to the Governor. Do you know of any VSO that maybe interested? The job description is posited on line mass.gov.

Submitted as a finale report

DJA James Fratolillo

Motion made by DSVC Davis and 2nd by D7C Sinatra

Does it have to be a Veterans applying – It is strongly preferred it be a veteran

It could be a family member that has gone through the experience

Needs to have a minim number of years that have worked with veterans

As they will be outreaching to Veteran Organizations

State job – civil service

Candidate will be selective by the committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PNC Comer – There will be a mass today in this room at 3:30 with Father Phil

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Received a thank you from Veterans, Inc for \$100 donation
2. Received a thank you from Tabitha Hayes for Scholarship
3. Received a thank you from VA Hospital Leeds for donation of 24 winter coats.
4. Received a thank you from PDC Dias for sympathy card regarding his brother.
5. Received an invite to ROTC Spring Awards Ceremony at WNEU.
6. Received a thank you from John (Jack) Hood for \$500 Scholarship.
7. Received a thank you from
8. Received District One **01/22/2023 & 02/19/2023** Meeting Minutes
9. Received District Three **01/08/2023** Meeting Minutes
10. Received District Four **01/21/2023 & 03/18/2023** Meeting Minutes
11. Received District Five Call to **date** Council Meeting
12. Received District Six **02/22/2023** Meeting Minutes
13. Received District Seven **01/28/2023** Meeting Minutes
14. Received District Eight **03/19/2023 & 01/22/2023** Meeting Minutes
15. Received District Ten call to Council, future meetings dates & upcoming Dept. Events
16. Received SAL Detachment **01/19/2023** Meeting Minutes approved under #8

ENDORSEMENTS:

1. District 5 voted unanimously to endorse of Nelson Blake for the Office of Department Senior Vice Commander for the year 23/24.
2. District 4 voted unanimously to endorse DECW Cindy Lacoste for re-election for Department Executive Committeewoman, SVC Sandra Davis for the office of Department Commander, and Andrew Pajak for the office of Department Vice Commander.
3. District 1 voted unanimously to endorse Sandra Davis-Department Commander, John Lenotte-Alternate NEC Committeeman, Jodie Pajak-NEC Committeewoman, Shawn Ryan Howe-Department Historian, Nelson Blake-Senior Vice Commander, and Scott Conner-Vice Commander. Endorsements found in 01/22/2023 minutes.
4. District 3 voted unanimously to endorse Scott Conner-Department Vice Commander, Cindy Lacoste-Department Executive Committeewoman, and Jodie Pajak-NEC. A motion to support Drew Pajak as Department Vice Commander was approved and seconded. Endorsements found in 01/08/2023 minutes.

5. District 7 voted unanimously to endorse Sandra Davis-Department Commander and Scott Conner-Vice Commander. Endorsements found in 01/28/2023 minutes.
6. District 8 unanimously endorsements of Ryan Howe for Historian, Cindy Lacoste for reelection to Department Committeewoman, Scott Conner for reelection for Department Vice Commander, Drew Pajak for Department Vice Commander, and Jodie Pajak for National Executive Committeeman for election year 2023-2024.

Motion made by DSVC Davis and 2nd by D3C Howe
 To file all correspondence

Any discussion? Motion carried

Motions

1 AD6C Milot turn in the charter for post 367 Medway all letters have been sent to members and movement has happened Frank has all the paper work.

Motion made by AD6C Milot and 2nd by PDC Dias Any discussion? Motion carried

2 Accepted the Baseball rules

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

3 Accept the Guide lines Code of Conduct

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

4 D5C Desrosiers to send a certified letters from the Department of Massachusetts both the Post 247 Commander Matt Deluca and to the Finance officer Jim Lawler Jr. Also to provide statements of all bank accounts and list signatures of on all the bank accounts according to the bylaws within fifteen days back to the department office failure to do so will result in the suspension of the post charter.

Motion made by D5C Desrosiers and 2nd PDC Brehio

DJA Fratolillo We just discussed this there is a procedure to suspend a charter. You cannot just taken it away I will work with Bob we cannot just take their charter in fifteen days they need to fix the accounts within fifteen days notified them we will begin proceedings to take the charter.

COMMANDERS APPOINTMENTS

1 Keith Delgado - Vice Commander Baseball

Motion made by PNC Comer and 2nd by PNVC Avis

GOOD OF THE LEGION

1 Matthew Nay – Adain Nay started a project collecting hats, socks, ponchos and monetary donations. His total is \$13130.00. Thank you to all the post and districts that helped him reach that goal. His is attempting to receive the Marvin Nay Award from the SAL National VA&R.

2 PNC Comer – Milton Lashus this is a gift from the Department of MASS – Cruise

3 D3C Howe - New Vets Center in Ludlow – Telehealth, State Rep, and food pantry will be opening up soon. Ludlow Vets Center

TECHICAL MOTIOIN

NEC Davis 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 NEC Davis and 2nd PNC Comer Any discussion? Motion carried

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by PNC Comer and 2nd by NEC Davis

Closing Prayer

Asst. Chaplain Kevin Hamel

**THE NEXT
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE MEETING
THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2023
BEST WESTERN ROYAL PLAZA HOTEL
181 BOSTON POST ROAD WEST
MARLBOROUGH**

**MEMBERSHIP 2:00 PM
WITH THE DEC TO FOLLOW**



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