

MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2024

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sandra Davis
Department Commander

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant

To be approved at the
Department Executive Committee Meeting
April 6, 2024

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel

Membership 10:00 AM with DEC to follow

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON January 13, 2024.

Starting at 11:00 AM

Meeting Called to order by Department Commander Sandra Davis

AGENDA

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON

January 13, 2024 starting at 10:45 Zoom Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER **Sandra Davis**

1. SALUTE TO THE COLORS-ALL
 2. INVOCATION
 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-ALL
 4. POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY **William Chisholm**
 5. PREAMBLE TO CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION **ALL**
 6. ROLL CALL BY DEPARTMENT **Lisa McPhee**
 7. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF the DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE on November 18, 2023 and at Post 440 Newton, Massachusetts
 8. DEPARTMENT TREASURER'S REPORT **Milton Lashus**
 9. DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT **Nelson Blake**
 10. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS
 11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 12. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. CORRESPONDENCE
 1. Williams Hallene's Resignation.
 - B. MOTIONS
 1. District 4 Commander Steven Gallant to Department Executive Committeeman
 2. District 4 SVC Adam Doud to Alternate Executive Committeeman
 - C. COMMANDERS APPOINTMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS
 13. GOOD OF THE LEGION
 14. NO FURTHER BUSINESS - MOTION TO ADJOURN
 15. CLOSING PRAYER
 16. RETIRE THE COLORS
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Meeting called to order by DC Sandra Davis at 10:45 AM
SALUTE TO THE COLORS –Sgt. Bruce Heisey
INVOCATION – Asst. Chaplain Kevin Hamel
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ALL
POW/MIA CHAIR – Bill Chisholm
PREAMBLE - All

Roll Call – by Adjutant McPhee

Present: CMDR Davis; DSVC Blake; DVC Conner; DVC Jerdan; DVC Pajak; ADJ McPhee, TRS Lashus; ASST CHAP Hamel; HIST Howe; DWEC Lacoste; NEC Pajak; ALT NEC Lenotte; PDC Nay; PNC Comer; PNC Morin; JA Brault; Asst JA Brehio; Sgt Heisey; Asst Sgt. Desrosiers; Lacoste; Doud; D1C Keil; D2C Duffy; D3C Fontaine; D4C Gallant; D5C Desrosiers; D6C Lewis; D7C Scott; D8C Cannon; D9C Mangels; D10C Burke; AD3C White; AD4C Doud; AD5C Blake; AD8C Manning; AD10C Montelo; PDC Avis; Davis; Starks

Excused: Chap Salois; AD1C St Pierre; Asst Sgt Lewis; Photo Borges; D2C Lewis; AD9C Borges; Aide Favazza

Absent: AJA Atkins; D9C Mangels; AD2C Hal; AD6C Milot;

Minutes

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES of the DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING on September 16 2023 as PRINTED/DISTRIBUTED and Emailed.

Motion made by D10C Burke and 2nd DVC Pajak Any discussion? Motion carried

Membership Report

DSVC Nelson Blake Membership Chairman

I would like to thank the department as a whole as we reached the 80% goal before the cutoff date 1/18/2024. However, there is room for improvement as of the latest national report we are in 28th place out of the 55 departments.

Only seven districts out of ten have reached the goal so far, but they still have time until the 18th of this month to reach the 80% target. So let us keep working on having all districts at 80%, the current top three districts are District 4, District 1 and District 2.

The SAL have reach their goal of 65% with District 1 at 100%. In addition, they are at 40th place out of 55 departments nationally.

I would like to thank this department as a whole for reaching every goal so far and keeping me in the Red Sox bowtie all year. When I sent this challenge out to you at DEC meeting in June, I did not think that I would be wearing the bowtie for every goal and I have learned that this department has the will to reach anything put in front of them.

Submitted as one in progress

Nelson Izaak Blake

DSVC/ Membership Chair

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

Treasurers Report

PDC Milton Lashus

Total Bank Accounts (10) Includes all accounts

RESTRICTED FUNDS and (4) CD is **\$1,837,913.83**

CD 6 month – Convention AD Book Acct. \$253,337.00

CD 6 month – Revenue Enhancement \$251,062.00

CD 6 month – BS – BB- JLC \$100,000.00

CD 6 month – Scholarship \$100,000.00

LIQUID ASSET: \$1,133,515.00	
Sweepstakes as of 1/9/2024 Profit	\$13,719.00
Budget Total income \$36,000 as of 1/9/2024	\$38,929.00
Budget Expenses \$26,323.00 as of 1/9/2024	\$25,210.00

INVESTMENTS ACCOUNTS:

RBC: \$3,158,835.00 + \$183,929.00	
BOSTON HARBOR/RAYMOND JAMES: \$1,179,321.00 + \$70,402.00	
COMBINED TOTAL ACCOUNTS:	\$4,338,156.00
COMBINED (+/-)	+ \$254,331.00

Respectfully submitted

Milton K Lashus Treasurer

Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd DSVC Blake

Any discussion? Motion carried

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

AMERICANISM

Robert Jerdan Chairman

Americanism Committee had a Zoom meeting on December 6, 2023 in attendance D10C Burke; AD10C Montelo and SAL 124 Theroux. We did not have a quorum.

I asked how posts and districts were doing on promoting Americanism. We had a round table discussion with the members present.

I would like to schedule the next meeting for zoom on January 24, 2024 A 7:00 PM

And only one submission for American born Citizen

No submission for Foreign Born Citizen

It is great to post promoting Americanism around the community and state.

That is my report one in progress.

Respectfully submitted

DVC Robert Jerdan

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Drew Pajak Chairman

The Children and Youth committee met via zoom on December 28th at 7pm for a year end recap and preparation for the 2024 year.

The adjutant advised the committee that donations for the commander's charity, Child Welfare, were being received in the office in good numbers and would report back at the next meeting. The committee was advised that the first order for commander's polo shirts went in that week ad should be done shortly. The donations from the commander's banquet weekend which included the adjutant fines during the dinner a visit to District 10 and District 5 brought in around \$1000.00 for Child Welfare. A special thanks to all who played along.

The Auxiliary golf tournament and Sons Bowling tournament were discussed with golf being on March 24th at Trombetta's Farm 655 Farm Rd. Marlborough MA, which is an indoor venue and bowling which will be at the Webster timber lanes on April 13th 460 Bedford St, Abington, MA.

On to the New Year we discussed future things for the committee to work on including April is children and youth month and continuing articles for the E-legionnaire.

A question was asked on the proceeds from the polo shirts if any of the cost of the shirt went to children and youth. The committee was given a breakdown of our cost and the profit from each polo and a list of all clothing items that can be done by embroider. Other options were discussed including t shirts and hoodies.

We discussed the donation cans that we have sent out to posts and advised the committee about the Springfield Thunderbirds allowing us to put one out during the games.

In other news, the Department of Massachusetts and the Springfield Thunderbirds have teamed up in a raffle for a team signed authentic Thunderbirds Jersey with Be The One and the Number 1. The Children and youth Committee is running this raffle and the Jersey is displayed at all tables the Marketing team is doing at all home games. Tickets are \$5.00 each and the drawing will be April 20th at the last home game of the regular season vs. Hartford. 500 tickets were printed and all proceeds from the raffle will go the Veterans and Children's foundation.

Respectfully submitted as one in progress
Drew Pajak, Chairman Children and Youth

Baseball

Dick Paster Chairman

1. Team Registration including background checks and abuse training has begun. Team registration must be completed prior to February 1, 2024 in order to participate in the Program in 2024.
2. The Baseball Committee has accepted Shrewsbury Post 397's Bid to host the 2024 Sr Department Championship Tournament which will be held at Fitton Field on the campus of the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA beginning on Saturday, July 27, 2024.
3. The Baseball Committee has accepted Middleboro Post 64's Bid to host the 2024 Jr Department Championship Tournament which will be held at Middleboro High School Varsity Field, Middleboro, MA beginning on Saturday, August 3, 2024.
4. The Jr Regional Tournament will be held at Mansfield Stadium, Bangor, ME beginning on Friday, August 9, 2024.
5. The Committee has authorized me to negotiate a contract on its behalf with Precision Performance Center LLC, d/b/a Baseball Data Combine, to conduct a minimum of 4 events at various locations around the Department for ALB players to attend. The following information will be gathered for each player which will be made available to college coaches at the players' request: sprint times, catcher pop-time, outfield/infield throwing velocity, hitting exit velocity, pitching velocity. ALB players will pay a reduced fee to attend the events.

Respectfully submitted as a Report in Progress,
Richard D. Paster Chairman

Scouting

OC Chairman

50th Annual American Legion Department Camporee - starting point for the next 50 years
Eagle Scout of the Year (ESOY) packets, due to Departments by 17 March 2024, Then ESOY packets due to National HQ by 1 April 2024. FYI: only 15 were received Nationally last year
Youth Leadership Development Program What other TAL youth program mirrors all of our values (Resolution 21)
Resolution #21 – attached
Scouts BSA (not Boy Scouts)
Ambassadors Needed - Boots on the ground – not names on paper
FDR – *a pot chicken in every pot* - Scouting Chairmen Conference – 16SEP23 – A Pack in Every Post Be The One – A Pack in every Post!!!

Respectfully submitted as a report in progress,
OC

Boys State

PNVC Mark Avis

Your Boys State has been busy getting this year's program in order. We need your help in getting the numbers up. On the Boys State web site, we have a link for interested students to fill out an application and we will make every effort to link the student with a post. The Foundation is committed to sponsoring as many boys as they can. We have received a donation from and UN named source to sponsor upwards of 14 boys.

Post are beginning to send in sponsorship and we have the program up and running to register them as soon as they get ID numbers.

The Foundation has sent a letter to all Peps and Senators in the State House asking for contributions to send boys. The Foundation is poised to have an advertisement in the school councilor's newsletter.

I have been busy contacting posts who have not sent students recently and am getting negative responses as they say they cannot afford to send anyone. The time is now to think out of the box to fund these kids. With the lack of posts working to sponsor students we are in jeopardy of losing our programs (Boys State and Law Cadet especially). Today's posts are not in that fluid state to support the programs at this time and the lack of members wanting to engage in the programs is another main reason.

I have scheduled a zoom meeting for Tuesday evening and have invited the District Chairman as well as District Commanders (my response form District Chairman was weak, less than half responded.) That is when I extended an invitation to the District Commanders, as they are the ones who appointed the individuals in their Districts. If anyone would like to attend the zoom please contact me and I will send you the link. The Chairman at a minimum should be making contact with the posts in their Districts to help them and encourage them to participate.

Commander I submit this report as one of progress.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Avis Boys State Chairman

Scholarships

Louis Brault Chairman

Scholarships have been mailed to every post and are posted on www.masslegion.org site.

Respectfully submitted

Louis Brault Chairman

Oratorical

Lisa McPhee Chairman

The State Oratorical final will be held on February 18, 2024, location Anthony-Hunt-Hamilton Post 221 in Bedford MA, time 12:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa McPhee

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Scott Conner Chairman

There has been only one Al White Award application since submitted since the last DEC. That submission did not meet current criteria, thusly not reviewed. Appeals for submissions have been sent out repeatedly. If you know of a Post/Unit/Squadron/Chapter that has had some type of Community Service activity, please let me know, I will contact them personally and urge them to submit for an award. 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 MassLegion.org - Programs - Community Service. Need help, e-mail or call me.

Conway Award - For outstanding Legionnaire, demonstrating commitment to the Community, continuously during the 2023/2024 year.

Pendill Award - For Exemplary Community Service by a Post during the 2023/2024 year
Schreiber Award - For Outstanding Community Service by a Post during the 2023/2024 year.

Mulkern Award - For outstanding contribution in the field of Education during the 2023/2024 season
The Annual Awards will be presented in June. Community Service Report submitted as one in Progress.

TRAINING

Scott Connor Chairman

Department Training Committee

Minuteman Monday - Has been suspended due to lack of participation. Minuteman Monday has had only 9 participants in the last 5 presentations. **Convention Training** - Many have ask about substantive training at Convention. Stuff they can use, training that makes a difference. Please contact me with topics and ideas as we are putting the convention agenda together. Nothing is off the table. Let us know the what and the when you would like to see training modules at the Convention. Any Info, Programs, District Training, please let me, or the 2023/2024 training chair know, we can develop a training event for you. Training Tuesday - A National Training Program - Next topic: Buddy Checks - January 30, 7:00 pm Previous episode to visit at legion.org/training: November - Implementing the 21st Century Report Legion College - Considering NALC, feel free to reach out to any graduate for a brief description. Call me concerning the application process.

Training Report submitted as one in progress.

Chairman Scott Conner

MARKETING REPORT

Michael Davis Chairman

Our Winter Sweepstakes will be drawn today after the close of this D.E.C. Meeting. I am pleased to report that we received a profit of over \$13,700 from this sweepstakes. Many thanks to all who donated making this fundraiser a success for our department and its programs. The next fundraiser will be the sweepstakes drawn at department convention in June. Let's hope that is equally successful.

Our partnership with The Springfield Thunderbirds and the "Challenge Accepted" Veteran of the game continues to be a success in creating brand awareness of The American Legion. So far this season we have hosted 6 information tables at games. One table in October, one in November, three in December and one in January. Special thanks to all who staffed the tables as we could not have had them without your time and efforts.

As always if you have any marketing ideas that fit within our budget and capabilities, do not hesitate to contact the committee.

Respectfully Submitted

Mike Davis PNEC Marketing Chairman

National Commanders Banquet

PNC Comer

1. National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer will be in MA
April 4th Drew Pajak will be escorting NC in the Springfield area
April 5th Constitution and the Old North Church Boston than to the Morrisette Post 294 Quincy MA, time 4 PM – 6 PM
April 6th Banquet 1:00 PM.
April 7th Rhode Island will be picking him up in Marlborough.
2. Contribution to Dan Wiley make checks out to Dan Wiley most everyone has sent their checks only have a few more to get. So we can present him in June. Any one on this Zoom meeting that has not given please send you donation to my address.

Women's Membership

DECW Cindy Lacoste

Cindy Lacoste, DECW

Women Veterans Network Massachusetts

Wednesday, January 31st

13:30 PM to 1:30 PM – Zoom

Guided Meditation: A Journey Through the Forest

Respectfully Submitted

DECW Cindy Lacoste

POW/MIA

Bill Chisholm

Will try and have a zoom meeting. It was suggested to have an in person meeting as there has not been one all year. Hopefully it will be in February.

IT

Drew Pajak

A reminder to all committee Chairman that if you want Zoom meetings set up please send in the information on the meeting. At that point the meeting and Zoom link will be added to the new department calendar on the website (meeting shown the new website calendar.) as you can see when the person clicks on the event the description comes up with the link. Please send in meeting information.

Respectfully submitted as one in progress.

Drew Pajak

Member, IT Committee

RISK & COMPLIANCE

Mark Avis

That all programs any youth over the age of 17 years needs to have a **CORI check** in order to participate in the youth programs (Scouting, Boys State, Youth Cadet and Baseball) of the Department of Massachusetts It was said to review and make the necessary changes and bring back to the DEC for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

A CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a thank you letter from the Brendan Grant Foundation for a donation of \$300.00
2. Received a thank you letter from Wareham Public Schools for a \$500.00 donation to JROTC.
3. Received a thank you letter from Brockton VA for \$625.00 in gift cards
4. Received a thank you letter from Helping Hands for \$500.00 Donation.
5. Received District 1 Meeting Minutes for 11/19/2023
6. Received District 2 Meeting Minutes for none received
7. Received District 3 Meeting Minutes for 11/19/2023
8. Received District 4 Meeting Minutes for 11/25/2023
9. Received District 5 Meeting Minutes for none received
10. Received District 6 Meeting Minutes for none received
11. Received District 7 Meeting Minutes for 11/25/2023
12. Received District 8 Meeting Minutes for none received
13. Received District 9 Meeting Minutes for 11/16/2023
14. Received District 10 Meeting Minutes for 11/19/2023
15. Received SAL DEC Meeting Minutes for none received
16. Received Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 11/18/2023
17. Received State Convention Committee Minutes for 11/18/2023
18. Received Letter of resignation from William Hallene District 4 Commander 12/06/2023

ENDORSEMENTS

1. **District 4 Worcester County Council endorses Ryan Howe for Department Vice Commander and Grace Conner for Department Executive Committeewoman for year 2024-2025**
2. **District 10 endorses, Drew Pajak for re-election to Department Vice Commander, endorses Scott Conner for Department Sr. Vice Commander, and Grace Conner for Department Executive Committeewoman. The votes were all unanimous.**

B MOTIONS

1. File all correspondence
Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd by PNVC Avis Any discussion? Motion carried
2. Except the resignation of D4C Hallene
Motion made by PNEC Brehio and 2nd by DSVC Blake Any discussion? Motion carried
3. District 4 Commander Steven Gallant to Department Executive Committeeman
Motion made by PNEC Brehio and 2nd by DSVC Blake Any discussion? Motion carried
4. District 4 SVC Adam Doud to Alternate Executive Committeeman
Motion made by PNEC Brehio and 2nd by DSVC Blake Any discussion? Motion carried
5. Legionnaire of the Year Award date for turning into the Chairman be changed to April 15th
Motion made by PNVC Avis and 2nd by PNC Morin Any discussion? Motion carried
6. Motion made to send a letter to the Governor, House Speaker and Senate pro tem opposing the elimination of the funds for the two Veterans Homes that we are opposed to the license plate money as it is used for their recreation
Motion made by PNC Morin and 2nd by PNC Comer Any discussion? Motion carried
7. 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 PNEC Davis and 2nd by PNEC Brault
8. Motion to adjourn by PNC Comer and 2nd by DVC Pajak Any discussion? Motion carried
Prayer Asst. Chaplain Hamel
Sergeant Heisey – Hand Salute

NEXT MEETING
APRIL 6, 2024
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
181 Boston Post Rd W
Marlborough MA
10:00 AM MEMBERSHIP
DEC TO FOLLOW
National Commanders Banquet
New time 3:00 PM