

MINUTES OF 16 JAN MEETING

MINUTES OF THE JAN 16, 2021 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING

Jodie Pajak
Department Commander

Milton K Lashus
Department Adjutant

To be approved at the
Department Executive Committee Meeting
March 13, 2021 @ 1 PM
Finances @ 10 AM
Membership @ 11 AM

AGENDA

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING TO BE HELD ON January 16, 2021
Starting at 11:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER Jodie Pajak

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
6. ROLL CALL BY DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT Milton K. Lashus
7. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING on November 21, 2020 AS PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED
8. DEPARTMENT TREASURER'S REPORT Steve Souza
9. DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT Anthony Dias
10. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS
11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. NONE
12. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. CORRESPONDENCE
 - B. MOTIONS
 - C. COMMANDERS APPOINTMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS
13. GOOD OF THE LEGION
14. NO FURTHER BUSINESS – MOTION TO ADJOURN
15. CLOSING PRAYER
16. RETIRE THE COLORS

Meeting called to order by DC Jodie Pajak at 11 AM for Membership

SALUTE TO THE COLORS
INVOCATION
POW/MIA CHAIR
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
PREAMBLE

Roll Call – by Adjutant Lashus

Present: CMDR Pajak; DSrVC Dias; DVC Kee, DVC McPhee; DVC Nay; ADJ Lashus; TRS Souza; HIST Blake; DECW Wright; NEC Brehio; ANEC Davis; PDC White; PNC Comer; PNC Morin; JA Fratolillo; SGT Lacoste;

ASST SGT Desrosiers, Hallene, Kelly, Samko; PHOTO Blake; AIDE Pajak; D1C Hamel; D2C Barber; D3C Mackay; D4C Gauthier; D5C Deegan; D7C Nelson; D8C Genest; D9C Romanelli; D10C Cameron; AD2C White; AD3C Howe; AD4C Conner; AD5C McMath; AD7C Sinatra; AD9C Pietro; AD10C Olson; PDC Avis, PDC Brault, PDC Starks PDC Chisholm, NVC MacDonald.

Excused: Chap Salois; Asst Chap Ryan; HON SGT Lizotte ; AD1C Oleen

Absent: AJA Atkins; AJA Flattes; ASST SURG White; D6C Jerdan; AD6C Milot

PNC Morin so moved to accept the minutes of the Nov 21 Executive Committee and membership meetings. PNC Comer moved and seconded PNC Morin. Commander any discussion? So moved

Treasurer

TRS Souza reported:

Report from 10/31/2020-01/15/2021

Total income was \$855,865.27*, with an anticipated expenses of \$496,415.24 with a Net Income of \$359,450.03.

Total investments \$4,323,980.62 (doing very well)

The good news is that we are in the process of integrating our day to day budget with Quick Books so the Department (Milton and Bill) will have a day to day summary of income and expenses as we move forward. This is a work in progress, currently being aligned with all line items for 2021 and future budgets.

We have recently stated an active program to track checks that have not been cashed. For example: there were several checks issued to post or individuals for baseball refunds due to our season being cancelled. Checks were sent out in May and have not been cashed to date. Post refund checks were sent out in June and have not been cashed. Many are small amounts; however we need to keep our books balanced.

An investment meeting was held just yesterday, on January 15th, 2021 with the two investments companies: Boston Harbor (Wealth Advisors) and RBC (Wealth Management). In attendance were: Steve Souza, Department Treasurer, Frank McDonald, Department Finance Committee Chair and Bob Burke member.

It was reported that both investment companies are doing a fine job with some minor adjustments in investments to be reviewed by the investment committee in weeks to come. It was also noted that both companies are in line with the Departments' investment policies. Additionally, it was discussed, that our investments would be reported to us on the same fiscal year (July to June), to which we report. Lastly, there are local banks requesting applications for funding for the PPP program. This is the second round and should not be passed up for those who may be eligible.

* This income is significantly higher, with less expenses, due to sales of Department Convention Ads (and fees that we pay are not up to date) and the fact of little to no activity due to Covid-19. For example; No convention, No conferences, no programs and little or no travel expenses, etc.

This report was made subject to audit. M/M/C

Membership

DSVC Dias reported:

All district made the 80% target date so let's keep up the good work. We are now at 81.07% great job everyone. That's my report as one in progress.

Motion made by PNC Comer and seconded PNC Morin any questions, so moved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism

DVC Lisa McPhee reported:

There was a Zoom meeting on January 12, 2021.

March 1, 2021 will be the deadline date for American Born and the Foreign Born. Information will be put on the Vets news so advertisement of the awards will be put out for members.

Report in progress: PNC Morin moved. Commander any discussion? So moved

Oratorical

DVC Lisa McPhee:

So far there are 19 candidates across the state signed up for oratorical. The committee will be having a Zoom meeting on Jan. 18, 2021. The zone will be held in three different locations in the state. Pending location for the finals will be Marlborough High School still waiting for conformation from the school principal. I talked with Drew about having it in person and live streaming the finals via Facebook. That way there will not be too many people attending due to COVID. The next Americanism meeting will be held on March 9th, 7 PM via Zoom.

Report in progress:

Lisa McPhee –Americanism Chairman

Motion made and seconded Commander any discussion? So moved

Children & Youth

DVC Kee reported:

1. TFA-No new TFA application received since the last DEC meeting. One inquiry, but no further action required.
2. Committee met on December 2nd on Zoom. Discussions included ideas for supporting Children & Youth during holidays with ongoing COVID crisis. It's time to think outside the box. Think about things like supporting local clothing and food drives, providing school supplies, help with local community events, and support those in need in our communities.
3. The next Children & Youth Committee meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, February 17, 2020 at 7PM.
4. Children & Youth Excellence Award: Guidance for how to apply for the 2020-2021 award cycle available. In brief, to apply write a short narrative (description) of activities that benefit Children & Youth signed by Commander and Adjutant (or corresponding officers) of American Family organization. Include some proof of activity and submit to chairman by March 31st, 2021.

Last but not least, THANK YOU to the American Legion family for all the recent activities to support our children and their welfare during these difficult times.

Respectfully submitted as a report in progress

Sandra Kee-Department Children & Youth Chairman

Training

DVC Sandra Kee reported:

1. There will be NO in person training sessions scheduled for the remainder of the 2020-2021 membership year given the current COVID crisis.
2. National has launched Training Tuesdays held on the last Tuesday of each month. Visit Legion.org/training/training-Tuesday for future topics and replays of past training sessions. The next session is January 26th at 7pm with a topic of Membership Retention.
3. MyLegion.org is changing in 2021. A replay of training and questions & answers from Training Tuesday session on the topic is available online at legion.org/training/training-Tuesdays.

4. National Legion College for 2020 that was postponed until March 2021 is being pushed out until sometime much later in the year (possibly December). Plans are still being made for 2021 class this fall. Although given the current pandemic, this is all subject to change.
5. Many training resources are available online at legion.org/training. Membership Workshop, Basic Training and District Training-in-a-box are just a few of the resources available online at legion.org/training.

Respectfully submitted as a report in progress
Sandra Kee-Department Training Chairman

Community Service

DVC Sally Nay reported:

The Community Service Committee would like acknowledge the following AI White recipients.

May 2020 – Sheffield Post 340 Legion Family for its Memorial Day ceremony

June 2020 – Baldwinsville Roger P. Warfield Post 373 – Legion Family – Distribution of Food Boxes

July 2020 – Baldwinsville Roger P. Warfield Post 373 – Legion Family – Clothing Drive and Bike distribution.

August 2020 – Chicopee Charles C. Kennedy Post 275 – Legion Family – Salute to Veterans at the Soldiers Home in Holyoke

September 2020 - Palmer Merrill L. Simmons Post 130 – 9/11 service

October 2020 – Haverhill Wilbur M Comeau Post 4 – Monthly Blood Drives

We remind everyone that the AI White award is monthly we are still accepting awards for December.

We remind everyone it is not too early to submit your nominations for the Conway Community Service award and the Mulkern Educator of the year award. They are due by March 31, 2021 to be considered. Even if they have been submitted previously and were not selected a new submission is needed. Conway award recipients need to be a Legion, Auxiliary or SAL member – this would include all your Legion Riders. The Mulkern award does not need to be a Legion family member.

The Pendell/Shriver award is also due to me by March 31, 2021 – This should include what you put in your Post Consolidated Reports so it is a good way to collect your information for both at the same time. Also remember that you should be including the activities done by your Post American Legion Riders as it is a program of your post that don't do a separate consolidated report.

The guidelines and report are on the Department website. I would be happy to talk to anyone who needs additional information to complete this award submission.

Respectfully Submitted

DVC Sally Nay, Community Service Chairman

Moved by

SCHOLARSHIPS

PDC Louis Brault reported:

1. THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE ON LINE AND READY TO BE DOWN LOADED. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMISSION AND INSURE THAT IT IS FILLED OUT CORRECTLY, A LOT OF TIMES SIMPLE DIRECTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED AND ENDS IN DISQUALIFICATION.

2. PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 1ST 2021.

3. THIS YEAR AFTER BEING IN COVID THERE IS NOT GOING TO BE A DEADLINE EXTENSION THE FINAL DATE IS THE 1 ST.

SO PLEASE GET THEM IN, I SUBMIT THIS IS A REPORT IN PROGRESS

LOUIS BRAULT CHAIRMAN

Moved by PNC Comer and seconded, any questions, so moved

YOUTH CADET LAW

PCD Louis Brault reported:

AFTER SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE STAFF AND THE COMMADANT OF THE MSP IT WAS DECIDED BY ALL INVOLVED THAT DUE TO THE COVID- 19 , THAT IT WAS TOO RISKY TO HOLD THE CADET LAW COURSE FOR THE 2021 YEAR. THEIR CALANDER IS PLANNED A YEAR OUT AND WITH THE UNCERTAINTY IT WAS BEST TO CANCEL 2021 AND FOCUS ON 2022.

I SUBMIT THIS REPORT AS ONE IN PROGRESS.

LOUIS BRAULT CHAIRMAN

Moved by NEC Brehio and seconded, any questions, so moved

LEGION RIDERS

PDC Louis Brault reported:

AS YOU KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW RESOLUTION THAT PASSED DURING THE FALL DEC MOST OF THE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED BUT A FEW WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE SPRING MEETINGS, BE PATIENT AND I'M SURE THE ANSWERS WILL COME .

I HAVE A CHARTER REQUEST FOR A NEW CHARTER FROM WEBSTER POST 184, THE PAPERWORK IS IN ORDER AND WORKING WITH THE SENIOR VICE OF DISTRICT 4 ALL THE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED AND I WILL MAKE A MOTION UNDER NEW BUSINESS TO APPROVE THE CHARTER .

I SUBMIT THIS REPORT AS ONE IN PROGRESS

LOUIS BRAULT CHAIRMAN

Moved by NEC Brehio and seconded, any questions, so moved

Athletics:

Richard Paster reported:

The National World Series is scheduled to happen in 2021 depending on COVID. This year departments will be given latitude as to how to run the program in each state. High Schools will be holding their season form April 24- July 03.

The department will be holding two playoffs one in late July for the senior teams in Quincy. Every other team will continue playing until the first weekend in August. Then the second senior tournament will be held with the location not known at this time. That is because of only have eighteen days before the playoffs so we are going to try and do combing regular games with mini tournament games. By July 24th so that each district will have a winner, so we can have the State Tournament.

The juniors are not under the same circumstances, there tournament will be held on August 8th in Weymouth. Juniors will be playing between 15 – 18 games.

I have asked teams to register on line by January 31 with National Baseball and about one third has done so. I am holding off doing the baseball rules as we do not know what it is going to be like. So there will probably no rules at the March DEC meeting but will have to be voted on before the season begins and a copy sent to National. We are going to have to be flexible this year with everything going on we need to have a baseball season.

Submitted as a work in progress

Moved by DSrV Dias and seconded, any question, so moved

PNC Comer would like to thank Dick for how he runs the program properly, but also gives everyone in the state updates on what is happening.

Consolidated Post Report Committee

PDC White reported

Good Morning; I know that you have been working hard on membership. Now is the time to divert some of that energy to completing the Consolidated Post Report.

For many years there was no standard procedure for reporting to National what each post did each year. This made it difficult to put the numbers together for each post. In 1975 a standardized Consolidated Post Report form was developed so that all posts would send in a CPR that could be easily counted.

The CPR runs from June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021, and we already are seven months into the year, 2020-2021 The completed Consolidated Post Report is due in the Departments Office by June 15, 2021 and National Office by July1, 2021. Most posts know what they have scheduled for May of 2021. Instead of waiting until June, 2021 to submit a CPR. Submit it sometime in May. You can also update your CPR and if necessary, put it on the 2021-2022 reporting year.

For the reporting year of 2020 the Department of MA had 98 Posts who did not submit a Consolidated Post Report. Although the COVID – 19 PANDEMICS caused all of our meetings and most of our programs to be cancelled. I still believe we should have had a better percentage.

We found out that sending e-mails and snail mail, doesn't always work. The personal touch is what some Comrade's need if the CPR hasn't been submitted, when you visit or call a post, help the Adjutant fill out the form and submit it. Tell the Adjutant and the Commander that they can always update it throughout the year.

I know that in most cases, paper posts are especially difficult to find out whom the Commander is or who can answer questions about the post? The paper post counts as much as the Plymouth post, each is about 3% of the total. Weather you have a 15 member posts or an 800 member posts they are both worth about 3 percent of the total. Every post counts.

Every post is responsible for submitting the Consolidated Post Report; you would be surprised, when you go through the items on the report, all that your post does in support of our four pillars. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Defense, Americanism and Children and Youth, If possible, it would be great if you submitted your Consolidated Post Report before the deadline. It is my understanding that the 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report is online at mylegion.org and the Department will be getting paper copies shortly, and will be sending a copy to each post in the Department.

If I can be of assistance, don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an e-mail. I will certainly reply. Stay safe.

Submitted as a work in progress

Yours in Comradeship

Consolidated Post Report

Chairman, PC Fred J White

SAL

PNSC Clifford Smith reported:

I would like to thank Judy Hall for all she does for the SAL. Our state is one of few that have the correct membership report weekly. I will also be making all donations this week for our programs.

Respectfully submitted as a report in progress

PNSC Clifford Smith

BOYS STATE

PNVC Mark Avis reported:

THE BOYS STATE PROGRAM IS ON SCHEDULE TO HOLD AN INPERSON PROGRAM IN JUNE 2021. AS OF NOW THE SIZE OF THE PROGRAM IS IN QUESTION AND WE ARE PREPARING ACCORDINGLY.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET POSTS NOTIFIED THAT WE ARE HOLDING THE BOYS/GIRLS STATE PROGRAMS. POST NOW MORE THEN EVER NEED TO REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY TO HELP SEND KIDS TO THE PROGRAMS.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING AS WE MOVE FORWARD. POSTS THAT DID NOT GET RETURNS ON THEIR FEES PAID LAST YEAR WILL BE NOTIFIED WITH A NEW APPLICATION LINK AND NUMBER.

I SUBMITT THIS AS ONE OF PROGRESS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

MARK AVIS CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Moved by PNC Comer seconded by DSrV Dias, any questions, so moved

Women's Veterans

DECW Neysa Wright reported:

The women's veterans act is now a law. There will be a virtual event in February on Heart Health. The Women's Veterans appreciation day at the State House is June 12, 2021. Applications for nominee are online. If you town has any Women's memorial would you send pictures to Susan MacDonough.

Submitted as one in progress Neysa Wright

Moved by PNC Comer, seconded any questions so moved

Marketing

ANEC Michael Davis reported:

Our winter sweepstakes have been collected and the drawing will be concluded today with a virtual drawing at our department executive committee meeting. Special thanks to all who participated and contributed as your donation supports our department and its programs. The next sweepstakes will be mailed at a later date and drawn at our convention in June. Please, consider participating and donating to the next sweepstakes to support the department. Of course, do not forget that you can win some very good money prizes as well.

As mentioned in earlier reports the marketing committee has for various reasons chosen to forgo our winter gift campaign this year.

As most of you already know, the department partnered with The Springfield Thunderbirds of The American Hockey League last season for the "Veteran of the Game" program in which a featured veteran was selected for each home game and awarded a "challenge accepted" coin. A POW-MIA empty chair was also dedicated by the team. The American Legion Emblem was displayed along with the selected veteran on the big screen and an American Legion public service announcement was played. This partnership gave our organization positive exposure to the often sold out crowd at the games. It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I have to report that due to the uncertainty of seating restrictions and a shortened hockey season both due to the COVID19 pandemic, the department will not be able to partner with The Thunderbirds for the 2020-2021 season. Hopefully, with the distribution of the vaccine this pandemic is under control before the 2021-2022 season and we will be able to resume the partnership once again.

Respectfully submitted as a report in progress,

Mike Davis ANEC, Marketing Committee Chairman

Moved by Dry Dias, seconded by PNC Morin, any questions, so moved

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a thank you from TAL Veterans and Children Foundation for the \$10,000.00 donation
2. Received a thank you from Adam LA Bombard for the \$1,000.00 Scholarship he received
3. Received a letter from Post 454 members who voted unanimously to turn in the Post Chart
4. Received District 2 Franklin –Hampshire County March 15, 2020 & October 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes
5. Received District 7 Suffolk County November 28, 2020 Meetings Minutes
6. Received TAL Dec. 2nd Children & Youth Committee Agenda, Minutes & Handouts
7. Received TAL October 15, 2020 Americanism Committee Meeting Minutes & the American & Foreign Born Citizenship Award Application information
8. **ENDORSEMENTS (None)**
9. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE:**

Thank You from Bedford VA for canteen books

PNC Morin ask that #3 be moved to new business

Moved by PNC Morin to file correspondence seconded by PNC Comer, any question so moved

New Business

MOTION

1. Post 454 to turn in charter to National when all members have been transferred to different post.
PNC Morin moved seconded any question so moved
2. Move that the treasurer and adjutant file for PPP if able
PNV Morin moved seconded any question so moved
3. Move the minutes be reviewed by the adjutant and sent to the
PNC Morin moved seconded by PNC Comer and question so moved
4. Move the charter for Legion Riders Post 184
PNEC Brault seconded any question so moved
5. Move that Walter White be moved to Department Surgeon.
PNC Comer moved and seconded by DsrV Dias any question so moved

COMMANDER'S APPOINTMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Lenny Noce to be a Department Consultant for the Athletic committee, he was a consultant for District 5 but had to step down as he is a SON so he became the consultation for district 5. The Athletic chairman for District 5 has been replaced so they no longer need Len as a consultant. I would like Len to take over the Department All Star team and be appointed in that stance.
Moved by Paster and seconded any questions so moved

7. **CONVENTION IN JUNE**

What is the status of the June Convention? We have sent out the room application to all the department officers and the post will be mailed out shortly. We have not heard from the Hotel as of this time but I have been in contact with the convention chairman Phil Ryan. We are still moving forward as if we are going to have convention. If they can only come down to vote its just the way of the times so be it its the symptoms of the time. If nothing else we will be voting this year we will not have the committee stay the same or the department officers. We will not be charging a delegate fee if it is only for voting. We will have to develop a way to vote a process to vote. To have a post or two to have elections, Plymouth is the logical place to have the election.

GOOD OF THE LEGION

1. Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS 0462) list \$5 reward for each 2020 member
2. DMS members that have already been paid you only need one page.
3. Businesses in your town that helped your post or laborers to make sure your post were safe to let your patrons in make sure you send a citation or a thank you. Contact your local newspaper and get a little PR out of it as that's something we do not do often enough.
4. Service Officers training virtual March 8th -26th
5. When calling the Department office call with little respect. Mostly members are upset that their dues have not been paid to National and they keep getting renewal notices.

Drawing for the Fall Raffle

NO FURTHER BUSINESS – Motion to adjourn PNC Comer moved and PNC Morin seconded
Commander any discussion? So moved

CLOSTING PRAYER – D1C Kevin Hamel
Sgt.at Arms Colors in place – Salute ready 2

**NEXT Executive Zoom Board Meeting
March 13, 2021
Membership @ 11:00 AM
Followed by the
Executive Board Meeting**