



102nd Department Convention Meeting Minutes

Department Post Convention -DEC Meeting Minutes

**June 26th, 2021
Canyonville Oregon
1:00 P.M.**

**Call to order
Salute to Colors
Opening Prayer**

Department Commander Steve Adams

**POW/MIA Ceremony
Pledge of Allegiance
Preamble
Roll Call Quorum present
Reading of the previous minutes
Reading of the Department Standing Rules
Introductions of Department Officers
Reports**

Don Weber:

Sergeant at Arms secure the room. Thank you. Facing the colors of our nation. Hand salute. Two. Uncover. Would you provide the invocation?

Chaplain:

We ask you to join us for our DEC meeting. We should ask you to bless each person that is here. Thank you very much for Your presence. We ask You to allow our ears open so we could get our work done according to Your will. We ask this in Your Name, Amen.

Group:

Amen.

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Don Weber:

Please follow me in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Group:

I pledge allegiance to the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Don Weber:

For resolution 288 adopted at the 67th National Convention calls for a POW/MIA empty chair to be placed at all official meetings of the American Legion, physical symbol of thousands of Americans POW/MIAs who are still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty and full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor. Please follow me in reciting the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion.

Group:

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Don Weber:

I declare this Executive Committee meeting of the Department of Oregon regularly convened. Adjutant, will you take roll call please?

Flynn Phillips:

Commander Don Weber.

Don Weber:

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Here.

Flynn Phillips:

First Vice Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

2nd Vice Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips. I am here.

Flynn Phillips:

National Executive Committeeman, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens.:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Finance Officer Bob Huff.

Bob Huff:

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Present.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Chaplain Steve Shollenburg.

Steve Shollenburg:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Historian Dick Winders.

Don Weber:

Excused.

Flynn Phillips:

Judge Advocate Eugene Hellickson.

Eugene Hellickson:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Service Officer Ed Van Dyke.

Ed Van Dyke:

Here.

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Flynn Phillips:

Assistant Jody Marsh.

[inaudible 00:05:04]

Flynn Phillips:

District One Commander Lou Neubecker.

Lou Neubecker:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

District Two Commander Renee Ohler.

Participant:

Juan Palacios

Flynn Phillips:

District Three Commander Dale Jenkins.

John Morford:

Dale Jenkins is absent. I am taking his place. John Morford.

Flynn Phillips:

District Four Commander, David Applegate.

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David Applegate:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

District Five Commander Lance Trowbridge

Lance Trowbridge:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Good to see you Lance. District Six Commander, Glenn Bradley? Excused.

District Seven Commander Jim Moriarty? He's excused. District Eight, Commander Ed Mathews?

Ed Mathews:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

District Nine Commander Larry Hill.

Larry Hill:

Roger

Flynn Phillips:

District 10 Commander is Daniel Burks.

Daniel Burks:

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Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Sergeant at Arms Phyllis York.

Phyllis York:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

Ward Allen.

Ward Allen:

Right here.

Flynn Phillips:

Mike Morris is excused.

Flynn Phillips:

Steven Mayes.

Steve Mayes:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

That should be it. All right. I believe we have a quorum.

Don Weber:

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Roll Call of Past Department Commanders.

Flynn Phillips:

I will read those off. Roll Call of Past Department Commanders is Robert D. Scott Post 51 82-83,

Patsy Nestor Post 158 1986 to '87, Richard Schenfeld Post 5 1993 to '94, Robert Liebenow Post 6 1996 to '97. Don Epperson Post 61, 1997 to '98. George "Toby" Potter Post 12 2002-03. Charlie Schmidt Post 63, 2004-05.

Charlie Schmidt:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

Sid Carter Post 29 2005-06. Bernie Healy Post 158 2006-07. Kevin Owens, post 34, 2008 to 2009.

Kevin Owens:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Jackie Collison post 34, 2010-11. Jon Marsh, post 99, 2011-12, Robert Huff Post 192, 2012-13.

Robert Huff:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

Mike Morris, post 21, 2013-14. Andy Millar post 24, 2014-15. Mike Jones, post 67, 2015-16. Eugene Hellickson, post 86, 2017-18.

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Eugene Hellickson:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

Tom Harris Vernonia post 119, 2018-19.

Tom Harris:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Steve Adams post 51, 2019-21.

Steve Adams:

Here.

Larry Wittmayer:

I make a motion to seat Mr. Morford to replace District Three's Commander

Don Weber:

Thank you.

Speaker 5:

I'll second.

Don Weber:

Motion is second to seat vice commander. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

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Don Weber:

Those Opposed, nay. The motion carries. Thank you. [inaudible 00:09:33]. Distinguished guests, I'd like to recognize Past National Commander and Past Department Commander Charlie Schmidt. Thank you, Sir. Past National Sergeant at Arms, Past Department Commander and current NECman Kevin Owens. Past Department Commander and current Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff. Past Department Commander and current Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson. Past Department Commander Tom Harris. Past Junior Department Commander Steve Adams. Okay, thank you.

Don Weber:

Okay. Legionnaire of the Year Mike Speers. I want to keep this meeting short. After all, we have a party to conduct this afternoon but a couple of things that we need to take care of before we can move on. And one thing I want to say, as I've been traveling around, we really need to focus on the programs. If we get our program back on track, that what's going to solve our membership issues. That's going to make people see what they want to be involved in. So there's going to be a big push to work on programs, and use public affairs capabilities to be able to do that. So that's key for our success in the future.

Now, that being said, what I really expect from district commanders this year, is I want to know, how our department and how our committees can help you. That's where we need to get that traction. What do you need to increase the visibility of these things? So take advantage of these resources. I don't believe we get to fully utilize all of our committees and commissions in the past. So let's start with working those guys and get our money's worth out of them.

Gene Hellickson:

Members of the Department Executive Committee here and now referred to as DEC as used in the standing rules are set forth in Article seven section one of the department constitution and article four section two of the department by-laws.

Minutes of the previous meeting shall be sent to all DEC members at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

The meeting agenda shall be sent to all DEC members at least 15 days prior to the meeting date. Roll calls shall include Past Department Commanders. No other visitors will be introduced.

A voting member of the DEC may request a suspension of the Standing Rules that a non-member of the DEC be given the privilege of the floor for the purpose of explanation of a specific proposal that has been proposed to the DEC and is under discussion. Time shall be limited to five minutes. However, additional time may be granted to answer pertinent questions. A two-thirds affirmative vote of members of the DEC shall be required for an extension of time.

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All requests for expenditure of funds in excess of a budget adopted at the annual convention shall be sent to the DEC or the members of the Permanent Finance Commission at least 15 days prior to the DEC meeting date, and must be in resolution form.

The proposed annual budget as prepared by the permanent finance commission shall be sent to all members of the DEC not less than seven days prior to the DEC meeting.

Voting shall be by roll call on all resolutions in the following order. District Commanders, Department vice Commander, Department finance Officer, Junior Past department Commander, National Executive Committeeman. The Department Commander shall vote only in the case of a tie.

Members of the DEC should submit their reports in writing, and reports will be limited to five minutes and a copy of the same shall be given to the Department Administrative Assistant.

All Chairmen of Department standing commissions and committees shall submit their reports in writing.

All motions must be originated by a voting member of the DEC.

All codes of procedure shall be submitted in writing to members of the DEC at least 15 days prior to the date of the Fall DEC meeting.

These Standing Rules may be suspended for a specific cause by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the DEC members present.

The advance time notices are waived for the Post Convention DEC meeting.

Any time a poll is needed, the Department Adjutant shall send out a letter of explanation with a ballot to be returned within five working days.

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. [inaudible 00:16:55].

Steve Adams:

This is a new year, a new slate of officers. They need our support. We need to work with them. Personalities and differences of opinions are set aside. It's what's best for The American Legion Department of Oregon. Okay?

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. [inaudible 00:17:36].

Don Weber:

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District commanders, I don't expect to report, but if you have something you need to run it up [inaudible 00:18:01] this is the time.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander district one Lou Neubecker. District one meetings for 2021- 2022, September 11, Sherwood. December 11, Tigard. March 12, Clatskanie. And our caucus will be May 14th in Seaside .

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. District two.

Juan Palacios:

We're going to host the DEC fall in McMinnville, Oregon, the 24th 25th and 26th.

Juan Palacios:

Okay, we're going to be hosting what we call a brown bag. You bring your own brown bag with food, and it's 20 bucks to walk in the door. I'm only kidding. But we will have it down there again. We got to make money. But anyway, I'm planning on contacting all my post commanders, get them to talk communicate with each other, and especially me. I rely on heavily on my first and second vice commanders to help me out and get all our post commanders up and running again, Sir.

Don Weber:

You guys have great examples here and especially your Past District Commander.

Juan Palacios:

We do at that.

Don Weber:

Thank you. District three.

John Morford:

I would just like to point out that district three is still there and Dale Jenkins is going to be our new commander. So he will fill you in on dates and times as soon as he can get that taken care of. Thank you.

Don Weber:

Thank you. District four.

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David Applegate:

District four, Dave Applegate. I have nothing to report yet. That is my report.

Don Weber:

District five.

Lance Trowbridge:

Commander. District five [inaudible 00:20:25] organized with, we have a vice commander of the North Greg Marvin, coming back to south, Gabby Downey, and I've got a pretty good staff with Sergeant at Arms Phyllis York and a chaplain now. We have a finance officer, we have our finances... We are in active control of finances now for the first time. So I think we have a pretty good start. And I'm looking to working with the Post commanders. There are 16 posts, two of them are inactive and the rest of them, I think I'll be able to work with. Thank you.

Speaker 1:

Thank you. District 8

Ed Mathews:

We're going to have a flag sale on the second and the third of this month at Food4Less in Oregon City. And before that we're going to have on the 28th the national commander will be in post one. And that's at seven o'clock. \$15.

Speaker 1:

Post 150.

Participant:

150, sorry. Yeah. So anyway, that's what's going on with us.

Don Weber:

Okay, thank you.

Larry Hill:

Nothing new. Nothing exciting yet. On the first of July, we got the national commander coming to post 16 spend the night going to go visit VA the next day. And then it'll be on his merry way. That's about all we got right now. More to follow. Thank you.

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Don Weber:

Thank you.

Dan Burks:

Dan Burks district 10. We have nothing to report at this time.

Don Weber:

Thank you. First Vice?

Larry Wittmayer:

Nothing to report.

Don Weber:

Thank you. Second Vice?

Cory Brockmann:

I just want to congratulate all the district commanders. There will be a lot on your plates as this gets underway. Do give attention to your committee assignments within the district. I think [inaudible 00:22:58] worked really well for the district side with our department and committee and commissions. But I want to strengthen our committees at the district level to work on that and I'll be following up [inaudible 00:23:15]. Thank you.

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. There will be a focus to bring the district committees into the communication channels of that we have. Finance, Bob Huff.

Bob Huff:

Commander. [inaudible 00:23:36]. New district commanders every month on the website is a process [inaudible 00:23:45]. The meeting that is this Fall is 24th, 25th and 26th of September. Our new budget that was just approved at this convention starts from the 1st of October. [inaudible 00:24:09]. Inside your delegate package that I am sure has been out in your car is the approved budget. If you have questions, please ask.

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Don Weber:

Sir.

Tom Harris:

[inaudible 00:24:38] we had several things occur this week. Do you have any updates on [inaudible 00:24:44]?

Don Weber:

Thank you, [inaudible 00:24:48] for staying on top of it [inaudible 00:24:49]. There were a couple of people [inaudible 00:24:53] medical issues [inaudible 00:24:54] Whatever updates we can get on them.

Tom Harris:

I've been in talks with Mike Jones, he's been yelling at me and screaming, [inaudible 00:25:17] he's feeling a little better.

Don Weber:

[inaudible 00:25:33]. So I don't want to go through a full list of the committee reports. But I think we got [inaudible 00:25:37] VA has an update interesting [inaudible 00:25:42].

Dan Burks:

So the membership committee was actually in talks for pretty much over a month already. One of the things that we wanted to do is have some sort of incentives put in place by convention. And so, one of the goals that we have is to make this as simple as possible. We have a membership award, a retention award and a transfer award. The membership award is real simple. The district must hit goal and be the highest. There aren't really a whole lot of rules and regulations to that. But what you get is a dinner for two, cruise along the Columbia River through the historic Scenic Area aboard the authentic sternwheeler, and the executive chef... I'm reading this off their website... So basically, you get the Admiral's package includes the window seat and bar-drink, beverages, upgraded dessert, souvenir glass, boarding photo and appetizers, all that is included in that price.

Then we have the retention award. Again, my goal this year was to make everything very simple and easy to attain. Retention reward is \$100 to your favorite restaurant to take you and your spouse out for a fun evening. The way you win that is district with the highest retention percentage by May 1. Then we have a transfer award. Working with the DMS114 list. We have different stuff, but this one here is going to be a little bit different. So the transfer award, again is \$100 to your favorite restaurant.

However, what it will be is a district that gets the highest percentage of their 114 DMS transfers completed, again by May 1, wins. But this award will be handed over to the district, and the district gets to decide what member of the district receives it. So while the other ones, it's highlighted one's a district Post-Convention DEC

membership chair, and the other one's a district commander. This one, the district will actually get to decide who deserves that award. Down at the bottom, it's real simple. Given our current dilemma with my Legion not reporting accurately, it is highly advised and recommended to have your post commanders keep track the best they can have transmittals and transfers. So that way at some point in time, this will get cleaned up. And then if we have a record of it, we can go in and start fixing this. But if we're shooting from the hip, I'm short so my hips are pretty small. That's all I have commander.

Don Weber:

District commanders, any questions? Does that make sense? There's one. Yes, sir.

Larry Wittmayer:

Are these awards within the budget?

Dan Burks:

Absolutely. And we actually talked about it and voted on it prior to the convention to make sure that we stayed well within our budget.

Larry Wittmayer:

Okay, so that's all it's going to be taken out of the budget?

Dan Burks:

So far.

Larry Wittmayer:

Thank you.

Dan Burks:

This year our goal is to get back to basics and it's real simple, it's get in front of our members. We want to make sure that our membership realizes that they're more than just a number on a piece of paper. We need to make them feel important to the Legion again, and with that, our membership will grow by itself.

Don Weber:

I really want to do some work here to tie together our post activities.

Dan Burks:

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Correct. So we have some stuff in works with that as well, but I didn't think we all had to go out and...

Don Weber:

Okay, thank you. Appreciate it. [inaudible 00:29:57]. Okay, thank you. You're doing a great job, thank you. Suspension or cancellation of charters?

Participant:

Commander?

Don Weber:

Yes, sir?

Participant:

We have two.

Speaker 1:

[inaudible 00:30:26].

Kevin Owens:

[inaudible 00:30:31]. We just want to get a few housekeeping things so we are all on the same page. As the Permanent Finance Chairman you all have asked us to keep us within the budget. So as you know we cut the budgets a little bit and I'm looking [inaudible 00:30:47]. So that's really going to be determined on membership. [inaudible 00:30:57]. We have 30 days from this date to turn in your expense reports. Thirty days. We are not going to go 31. No excuses. Get them in. [inaudible 00:31:08]. It makes it easier for the bookkeeper. Easier for the Adjutant. We don't want to wait on people to send them in. There is no excuse. And the other thing is when we get back to this, I don't want to call it a fine thing, but we need to start getting back [inaudible 00:31:26] with our members. And that's why [inaudible 00:31:30]. There's no reason why you can't write an article [inaudible 00:31:38]. Don't blame Flynn because we are going to take the money out of the budget. You're required to do that. It's a policy. Let's stick with the policy. [inaudible 00:31:46]. So please, let's not make this a big... It's not supposed to be a big [inaudible 00:31:59]. If you do your job, you've got a reason to feel [inaudible 00:32:03]. But don't make this an issue. We don't want you to make this an issue. It seems to come up every [inaudible 00:32:10]. So don't make it an issue. Please. Do what you are supposed to do. That's all I got.

Larry Wittmayer:

The policy wasn't voted on.

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Kevin Owens:

No.

Larry Wittmayer:

The fines [inaudible 00:32:26].

Kevin Owens:

The fines were voted down so we made it a policy.

Larry Wittmayer:

But we change the policies change each year.

Kevin Owens:

[inaudible 00:32:26]. No, this is policy. It's in our... Mr. Schmidt updated a resolution that we passed. So if there's an issue [inaudible 00:32:43]. They do this in the military. Let's not make that an issue. Let's just do what we are supposed to do. [inaudible 00:32:56]. Thank you.

Don Weber:

Are there other commission reports that we need here today? Thank you. Okay. Dan, you can go forward with yours.

Dan Burks:

Commander, both of these resolutions were read at the convention. Do you want me to reread the whole thing or-

Don Weber:

[inaudible 00:33:40].

Dan Burks:

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This resolution is for the consolidation of Monument post 148 and Ellis Tracy post 77. Be it resolved that upon approval the Department of Oregon Executive Committee, the existing six members of the Monument post 148, shall become members of Ellis Tracy post 77 and shall be afforded all rights and privileges extended to the regular members and be it further resolved that the balance of monies and monument post 148 checking account as well as the financial record shall be turned over the Adjutant and Finance Officer of Ellis Tracy post 77. And be it further resolved that monument post 148 [inaudible 00:34:31] District 10 commander shall deliver the Alexander Harper proposed 115 post charter and post colors to headquarters department of Oregon, as if the post had dissolved.

Commander with that one there was a typo in that, it should have been delivered the Monument post 148 post charter and colors.

Don Weber:

Go ahead and read the other one.

Dan Burks:

They resolved that, upon approval of the Department of Oregon Executive Committee, the existing six members of Alexander Harper post 115, shall become members of Ellis Tracy post 77 and shall be afforded all rights and privileges extended to the regular members. And be it further resolved that the balance of monies and Alexander Harper post 115 checking account, as well as the financial records shall be turned over to the Adjutant and Finance Officer of Ellis Tracy post 77. We have further resolved that Alexander Harper post 115 adjutant and district commander shall deliver the Alexander Harper post 115 post charter and post colors to headquarters department of Oregon, as if the post had dissolved.

Don Weber:

Ward have you had the chance to review the sufficiency of these?

Ward Allen:

[inaudible 00:35:57] the recommendation was to approve.

Dan Burks:

Sorry, I was letting him get to the microphone. Yeah, there we go.

Ward Allen:

Commander. Ward Allen. Constitution and By-Laws Chairman. The committee has looked at those resolutions, and we have recommended to pass.

Don Weber:

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Thank you. My apologies that I jumped ahead of the gun here and didn't ask for a second. Is there a second?

Lou Neubecker:

Second.

Don Weber:

The resolution is a motion. And a second. So now we're in discussion phase, [inaudible 00:36:34] on these topics.

Dan Burks:

I just want to put before this body that closing down two posts is not an easy thing. And with that right here, I have signed letters from every single member. And in this letter, I gave every single one of them an option to step forward and help me build this post. And unfortunately, we had no one. Jim Jerome, past national commander Charlie Schmidt and several others have worked for a long time tirelessly. And with that, there's a letter that I received. And I'd like to read that.

Dear Mr. Burks, I'm sorry to hear that post 148 is having a problem finding a commander. As a 51 year member of the post 148 I would be saddened to see it close. Since I do not live in Monument, it would be hard for me to volunteer for the position. Since I have been sending my yearly dues to post 77 anyways, and since 148, lost their commander, I think the only option is for us to merge with post 77. Respectfully submitted.

Don Weber:

Okay, thank you. Further discussion?

Bob Huff:

Commander.

Don Weber:

Yes, sir.

Bob Huff:

Commander, hang on a second. Is there any property [inaudible 00:38:23]?

Dan Burks:

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There is no buildings. And as far as property is concerned, there is no physical assets anymore. We believe there is still a 48 star flag which is in possession of the Burns posts currently. The checking accounts are managed by past district commander Jim Jerome, at which point in time upon approval, we will be transferring the monies to post 77.

Bob Huff:

Is there any debt?

Dan Burks:

No.

Don Weber:

Okay, further discussion? Okay, all those in favor signify by saying aye?

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed, signify by saying nay. Motion carries.

Don Weber:

Okay. We need to ratify some commissions and committees. In fact, if I can call on Flynn to read them, we will do them a committee at a time. We have a lot of holes in our committee list. I did not want to just put a lot of names in there where we don't have people that are willing to do the job. So again, I am going to call on District commanders to start developing some people to work some of these programs. And let's see if we can get some new people in a lot of these different programs.

Flynn Phillips:

Okay, Your Officers and Commissions. You have Department Chaplain Steve Shollenburg

[inaudible 00:40:16]. That's Better. A&A Committee Rob Liebenow, Bob Huff, Kevin Owens, Jon Marsh, Charlie Schmidt and Mike Jones is a special one year. And Adjutant Flynn Phillips.

Don Weber:

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Exofficio.

Flynn Phillips:

Exofficio. [inaudible 00:41:03].

Don Weber:

Is there a motion to approve that?

Participant:

[inaudible 00:40:16]

Don Weber:

Okay. Is there a second?

Lou Neubecker:

Okay, I'll second that.

Don Weber:

[inaudible 00:41:35]. Thank you, sir. Any questions? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed, nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Americanism Gea Clausier Chair. Mike Sowles for baseball, Randy Shaw. Rod Trask. Art Cummins Vice-Chair.

Don Weber:

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Is there a motion?

Speaker 5:

[inaudible 00:42:23].

Don Weber:

There's a motion to accept. Is there a second?

Speaker 3:

I second that.

Don Weber:

Okay. Motion and the second. Discussion? With all that silence there must be some questions in there. Okay, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed, signify by saying nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Okay, Boy Scouts, can you guess who's in charge of that? That's Larry Wittmayer. Robert Huntington, Norm Hoffman and Stan Gandy.

Lou Neubecker:

I make the motion.

Don Weber:

Is there a second to approve the list. Discussion? There's a lot of holes in that, we could really use some help there. But we're going to ask those folks to get us started. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

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Opposed signify by saying nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Boys State. Ian Gerstel Chair, Rob Liebenow, Jim Craigg, Kenneth Broadwater, John Lee and Steve Shollenberg.

Group:

[inaudible 00:43:42].

Don Weber:

Motion is second to approve the [inaudible 00:43:47]. Discussion? Kenneth Broadwater is brand new in the Legion and he has taken over as commander of the Keizer post and has already started reactivating the [inaudible 00:43:59]. He's a Boys State alumni and that was a program that actually excited him to get into the American Legion started working with us. And Rob was one [inaudible 00:44:10] for quite a while. Okay, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Children and Youth. Judy Johnston chair, Yvette Morse, Dan Burks and William Rosansky.

Participant:

So moved.

Participant:

I second.

Don Weber:

Post-Convention DEC

Motion and a second for approval. [inaudible 00:44:44] discussion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Junior shooting. It looks like you have Keegan Hodges. Is Dan Evers crossed out?

Don Weber:

Dan Evers is crossed out and he has the name of the person that is supposed to replace him. And I can't think of it right now. [inaudible 00:45:18]. We'll have to leave that for the time being. Next time [inaudible 00:45:23].

Flynn Phillips:

Okay. Two others are David Allen and [inaudible 00:45:25].

Participant:

So moved.

Participant 2:

Second.

Don Weber:

Motion is to second. Discussion?

Bob Huff:

Discussion commander.

Don Weber:

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Okay.

Bob Huff:

[inaudible 00:45:36] a lot of money on our shooting sports [inaudible 00:45:43] and working with [inaudible 00:45:44].

Don Weber:

There must be the name [crosstalk 00:45:50]. Let's put his name in as the chair. Keegan Hodges [inaudible 00:46:01]. All a favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Law Enforcement Career. We've got Eddie Owens, Brett Johnson, Randy Shaw, Greg Marvin and John Lee.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander before we make the motion, can we change that name please?

Don Weber:

Change which name?

Lou Neubecker:

[inaudible 00:46:42] It's called the Jim Willis Memorial Law Enforcement Career Camp. [crosstalk 00:46:45].

Speaker 1:

Taken care of.

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Participant:

So moved.

Participant 2:

Second.

Don Weber:

Any discussion? Eddie Owens is new to us. He has a large extensive background in law enforcement. He has done a lot of this work before, of course. As a matter of fact he is a Boys State alumni, also. So [inaudible 00:47:15]. John has agreed... John and Greg have both agreed to help him mentor him and that program on track. This year's program is going to be a virtual program but we've got a very short turnaround on getting some nominees for this year's program. He's going to get some information out to you in the very near future about the program. And we really need to target those law enforcement agencies in your districts that have explorer posts. And I think we can very quickly get some people to attend that. That's going to be his focus and you'll be seeing some material on that in the very near future.

Further discussion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Oratorical we have Maria Tye as chair and Steve Bergadine.

Participant:

[inaudible 00:48:15].

Who's the chair?

Speaker 1:

Maria Tye.

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Don Weber:

Let's get a motion so we can have a discussion.

Participant:

So moved.

Don Weber:

Is there a second?

Participant 2:

Second.

Don Weber:

So the motion is second to approve the committee. Discussion Maria Tye is a member of District six. They have been not been involved in the Legion before. Maria herself is an honor society legionnaire with an association in Washington. I personally have not heard of an Honor Society Legion before. Did you hear of it when we were working? Very sharp gal. I met her on the district six tour. She's extremely excited to chair the oratorical competition and Charlie Schmidt has agreed to coach her and help her get going with all the right materials. She is very sharp. Yes sir.

Cory Brockmann:

I was the department oratorical Chairman last year, and I canvassed the existing committee members on their interest and willingness to serve as next year. Charlie Schmidt was willing to stay on. He's the one-year committee member. Deborah Jacobson Post 149 was instrumental in serving as a coordinator at our department oratorical contest. The only committee member willing to step down was Rich Ramey, and with a one-year appointment... He had actually worked four, three, two and one year and is ready to step down.

Group:

[inaudible 00:50:09].

Don Weber:

Okay, then my recommendation is to add Deborah Jacobson to the list. Is it okay to add Deborah to the list? So, then we will get a confirmation from Deborah [inaudible 00:50:31] she's willing to serve on [inaudible 00:50:33]. All those in favor of this is committee signify by saying aye.

Group:

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Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed signify by nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Next up is a convention committee. Chairman, Jon Marsh, Kevin Owens, Phyllis York, Eva Summers, and [inaudible 00:51:01].

Participant:

So moved.

Participant 2:

Second.

Don Weber:

Motion for second for approval committee. Discussion?

Lou Neubecker:

How many openings are on that committee?

Don Weber:

There's quite a few openings.

Lou Neubecker:

Does Jon have any names that he wants to put on?

Don Weber:

Jon, do you could have some ideas on some people to add to that committee that could help you out?

Jon Marsh,

Well, Kevin and I do, but he's kind of busy now. [inaudible 00:51:35].

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Don Weber:

Further discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Okay, internal affairs. The chair is Tom Spross [inaudible 00:52:03].

Don Weber:

That's all? [inaudible 00:52:08].

Flynn Phillips:

Constitution and By-laws. We got [inaudible 00:52:14] Ward Allen, Steve Woodford, Judy Johnston, Bob Huff and Exofficio Flynn Phillips.

Don Weber: So that's the commission that has those [inaudible 00:52:36]. Yeah, so the committee chairs are the members of the commission. [inaudible 00:52:56]

Flynn Phillips:

All right. And then the American Legion Riders Committee is Gale Sears, Mike Speer, Mark Lueck, John Blum and Gordon Treber. Resolution Assignment is Terry Brown, Judy Johnston, Don Adams, Larry Hill. Sons of the American Legion committee, Dan Burks, Steve Woodford and Michael Jones. Training and Development, Betty Fish-Ferguson, Bob Huff, Charlie Schmidt, Gea Clausier, Larry Wittmayer. Trophy and Awards, Judy Johnston, Steve Shollenburg, John Bolner. Then you got the Legislative Committee, you got John Lee, Kevin Owens, Bob Huff and Keegan Hodges.

Lou Neubecker:

Legislative is not part of the IA.

Flynn Phillips:

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Okay, all right. I see the line.

Participant:

Motion.

Group:

So move.

Participant 2:

Second.

Don Weber:

Okay, motion seconded. Discussion? Tom Stross is a long-term post judge advocate. He's anxious to get involved in some department activities. He's anxious to learn. He works as an insurance adjuster. He's a very [inaudible 00:54:58] individual and Richard Ramey has agreed to mentor him significantly. And I think you all know how much experience Richard Ramey has. So, our intent here is to get the advantage and get his feet wet, get him some real experience in getting some training and his goal is to the long-term, be the department judge advocate. Any further discussion?

Okay, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

Legislative Committee is John Lee, Kevin Owens, Bob Huff and Keegan Hodges.

Lou Neubecker:

So moved.

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Participant:

Seconded.

Don Weber:

Motion and a second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed nay. Motion carries. Thank you.

Flynn Phillips:

You've got the media and communications commission chair Lou Neubecker. Under that you've got the Legislative Committee Lou Neubecker, Dan Burks, Juan Palacios and David Applegate. IT committee, you've got Gene Hellickson, Lou Neubecker, Kirk Connor, Juan Palacios and Flynn Phillips. And in public relations, we have Charlie Schmidt, Rick Dominguez and Vandee Mauser. Membership and Post Activities. That's a different one.

Participant:

Commander.

Don Weber:

Yes sir.

Participant:

Rick Dominguez is no longer a member in the Department of Oregon.

[crosstalk 00:56:41].

Don Weber:

Delete that name. [inaudible 00:56:51].

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Lou Neubecker:

Commander, I've declined all those appointments.

Don Weber:

That's what I thought I'd heard. We're not going to be able to approve that. This is a commission to ask some significant skill sets that are needed to fill these positions that are extremely hard to fill. So I really need your help in finding some people that would like to do those. Charlie's been doing a great job of Public Affairs, and I don't think [inaudible 00:57:17]. So please help me find some people for those positions and we'll be reviewing them at the Fall DEC.

Eugene Hellickson:

Commander.

Don Weber:

Yes, sir.

Eugene Hellickson:

[inaudible 00:57:37].

Flynn Phillips:

Membership and post activities. The chair is Dan Burks, Tom Harris, Greg Marvin, Renee Ohler, Mike Jones, and Larry Hill.

Lou Neubecker:

So moved.

Participant:

Seconded.

Don Weber:

Motion and a second for the committee. Discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

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Don Weber:

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

National Security Commission, Greg Marvin chair, Steve Adams, Don Adams, John Lee and Tom Fitzgerald and James King Walsh. That's the national security committee. And then foreign relations committee/ROTC.

And then you have law and order Homeland Security is Eva Summers, Chuck Zeitler, David Solomon, Ward Allen and [inaudible 00:59:07]. Military benefits and quality of life committee, James Jerome, David Solomon, Norman Sims. National Guard Reserve committee, Don Adams, Ward Allen, Eva Summers, Tom Fitzgerald.

Lou Neubecker:

So moved.

Participant:

Second.

Don Weber:

Discussion? There's been a lot of discussion of recommendations made to merge several of these committees together. The workload that they have is not significant. I think we need to take a closer look at that. And as you can see, we have quite a few duplicates on those different committees. So, let's take a look at that at the Fall DEC. There is a motion to approve those committees. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed, nay. Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

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Okay, Permanent Finance Commission, Kevin Owens chair, Gea Clausier, Cory Brockmann, Betty Fish-Ferguson and John Marsh. And Finance Officer Bob Huff.

Lou Neubecker:

So moved.

Participant:

Second.

Speaker 1:

Motion and second for approval of the committee. Discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Opposed? Motion carries.

Flynn Phillips:

VA&R committee, commission, chair is John Lee, Ann Everetts, Larry Williams, John Marsh, Bob Huff.

Don Weber:

We're going to have to delay that one. John Lee has not approved his chair on that. We'll have to review that at the Fall DEC.

Don Weber:

Yes sir.

Bob Huff:

This would be an opportunity to merge VE&E and VA&R as basically they are the same thing so...[inaudible 01:01:22].

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Don Weber:

That's a discussion that [inaudible 01:01:27]. What's the last one?

Flynn Phillips:

The last one is the Veterans Employment and Education Commission and that's Bob Huff.

Don Weber:

Okay, thank you. We have new orders.

Participant:

[inaudible 01:02:17].

Don Weber:

[inaudible 01:02:37]. Yes sir.

Cory Brockmann:

This past year, then department commander, Steve Adams created an ad hoc committee entitled The exigency actions committee. It's not a permanent committee, but it was voted on by the DEC to create a make a motion that we dissolve that committee.

Group:

Second.

Don Weber:

Motion and a second to dissolve that special committee. Discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed, nay. Motion carries. Any other unfinished business? New business? I have a couple of things. Yes, sir.

Charlie Schmidt:

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Permission of the floor commander.

Don Weber:

Absolutely.

Charlie Schmidt:

Commander, members the DEC, just a couple of reminders. First of all, the resolution pertaining to the merger of the post course that will probably go to department or national. Also, the two NEC persons that we just selected today, they will not officially going to office until at the end of the national convention in Phoenix. So, they are two-year tours. In fact, Andy is still the NECman. So just for everybody's information. Also, the good news is and I might be jumping ahead for the good of The American Legion is our national commander is coming to Oregon on Monday. And I tell you what, as I said before, it's a great opportunity for our American Legion family, not just for the legionnaires but also the Auxiliary and the Sons and the Riders to see our national commander.

He's going to be going to about 10, if not more posts. In fact, in district two, they're going to have a district luncheon. But at each place, hopefully there's going to be members of the American Legion family. He's only going to be in the Greater Portland area really one day and that is Monday. And I think commander Ed had also mentioned that there was going to be a dinner at Oregon Trail 150, Monday evening. After that, we're going south, east, and then back around and back up north, do a loop. But if you want to go to that dinner in post 150, contact the adjutant. I think they still have space. Of course, they still got some COVID limitations.

But again, it's a good opportunity for everyone in the Greater Portland area to go see and meet national commander Bill Oxford. And by the way, commander, our goal when these national guests come is not to just bring them to convention or to the DEC. As you know, as you see, our attendance at the convention has been small in past years. Also, at our DEC's our attendance is small. So, we're going to take our national leaders and potential national leaders are coming to visit our department and we're going to bring them to you.

We're going to get him out to see and be seen. And that works two ways, for you and also for the national commander. On the horizon, and this is public relations. On the horizon, as you know, the Portland Grand Prix is going to be 10 through 12, September, and we hope to have a department function with the racing team. And the details got to be worked out. But this is a good opportunity for you to see what the American Legion is doing, particularly in the public relations, and also, as Dean said, on Thursday, as branding. Also, the next national commander, which in all probability is going to be from the great State of Texas. He's been here before. He was at our last convention in Astoria. And then is going to be Paul Dillard. We have requested for him to be in Oregon in September before the snow falls.

And, also at the same time, by that time, the leading candidate for nation commander from the great state of New York, Jim Troiola, is scheduled to come also in September. And depending on when we get the official word of when the national commander will be with us in September, that may change Post-Convention DEC

the leading candidate schedule. But again, we're going to bring them to see you. We may not get your approached right away, but objective is to get them all around. And course we got a national vice commander that's we're going to have access to.

As you know, we took our current national vice commander and he had a great tour of District six, which I think commander Adams can attest to that. And vice commander Larry had a great time. And they were really welcomed in district six. So, we're going to get our national leaders out so everybody can see them. And I tell you what, it's a treat, and it's an honor for them to come to your post. So, when they come, please show up. If they don't exactly come to your post but somewhere nearby, show up.

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. Those are the two items I had on the [inaudible 01:08:40]. Let me add that Dean did promise us a booth at the PIR and they were going to need some help in staffing that thing. So please contact Flynn to get your name on the list. It will be a great opportunity to meet some great people. And I don't know for the recruiting restrictions, but we can certainly get the word out about the American Legion and the great things that we do. So, it will be a fantastic opportunity. And the date of that are September 10th through the 12th. So that's why we need to get the names of people who are interested in so that we're ready to move on as soon as we get follow up information from the Dean. Yes, sir.

Participant:

I also have some information about the national commander. He'll be in our Central Oregon area on Tuesday. He'll be staying at the Best Western motel for Tuesday evening and to have dinner at the Brand 33 restaurant.

Don Weber:

Do you have openings for that?

Participant:

We have openings. If you would like to come to dinner, please call me or email me and I'll put your name on the list. We're having beef or fish. I need to know those two items.

Don Weber:

And I hope you have the department president's name on the list. He has a close connection with the [inaudible 01:10:05], I believe the homeless [inaudible 01:10:07] over there [inaudible 01:10:09] project is yours.

Participant:

Exactly correct.

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Don Weber:

He's planning on coming over to join us. Are there any other items for the good of the order?

Participant:

I have nothing to report.

Don Weber:

The Department Executive Committee will be September 24 through 26th at McMinnville Post 21. The 24th is Friday so people just consider that and the 25th and 26th for the DEC. Chaplain, may I call on you for the benediction, please? Uncover.

Steve Shollenburg:

Great Father God, as we conclude our DEC, we want to thank you for being with us this week and looking over us as we conducted our business. We enjoyed a fun, learning experience and the family comradery. Father we ask you to be with the sick and injured. The ones who did not make the convention and the DEC. Bless them and us Father, as only You can do. Protect us Father, we need this place. Bless us for getting back together again as a family soon. We pray this in your Son's Name. Amen.

Group:

Amen.

Don Weber:

Cover. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation, be ever the main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom and democracy. Colors in place. Hand salute. Two. **I now declare this meeting of Department Executive Committee of the American Legion's Department of Oregon adjourned. Thank you**