

**The American Legion  
Department of Nebraska  
Department Executive Committee  
Minutes  
January 15, 2021  
Ramada Inn – Columbus, Nebraska**

The Department Executive Committee meeting of the Nebraska American Legion was called to order by Department Commander Gary Wooten at 10:00 a.m. Following a salute to Colors, prayer was offered by Department Chaplain Dr. William Jackson, Jr. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the POW-MIA “Empty Chair” ceremony was observed. Preamble was recited by all in attendance.

DEC roll call was taken by Department Adjutant Salak. Present were Commander Gary Wooten, Senior Vice Commander Doug Frahm, Area A Vice Commander Daryl Harrison, Area B Vice Commander Boyd Yochum, Area C Vice Commander Bonnie Brewer, Area D Vice Commander Gene Von Forell, Past Department Commander Beth Linn, Past Department Commander Lyle Bartels, Past Department Commander Jim Costello, District 4 Commander John Sanna, District 5 Commander Marv Donnelly, District 6 Jeff Konz, District 8 Commander Dave Doolen, District 9 Commander Dennis Kennedy, District 10 Commander Roger Griffiths, District 11 Commander Rodd Paul, District 13 Commander Larry Borchert, and District 15 Commander Eddy Muggy. National representative in attendance was NECman Bill Crosier. Motion to seat District 2 member Jerry Landkamer by Jeff Konz. Second by Jim Costello and carried. Motion to seat District 3 member Ken Hanel by Dave Doolen. Second by Rodd Paul and carried. Motion to seat District 7 Vice Commander Jerry Schulte by Boyd Yochum. Second by Jeff Konz and carried. District 1 excused. District 12 absent.

Adjutant Salak declared a quorum and the meeting was declared regularly convened.

Commander Wooten extended a welcome to members and guests to this meeting.

Commander Wooten asked that everyone in attendance please stand for a moment of silence and remembrance for Senior Vice Commander Larry Mach and his wife, Marty.

Commander Wooten reminded all DEC members to submit vouchers to Department Headquarters in a timely fashion. He also noted that the Cheyenne VA is still needing a representative from the Legion.

Commander Wooten asked for the reading of the minutes from the June 28, 2020 DEC meeting. Motion to suspend reading of the minutes and approve them as provided by Beth Linn. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried.

Commander Wooten distributed the District Dues checks and expressed that they are to be deposited into the District bank accounts – not personal accounts. The next District Dues checks will be distributed in July. Commander Wooten noted that Consolidated Post Reports are due June 1, 2021 and that for the past several years Nebraska has been 100% reporting. Nebraska returned 100% of their CPRs to National Headquarters, but National did not except seven of them because they listed zero activity. District Commanders and Department officers were asked to lead the way to another 100% performance. He asked the District Commanders to encourage Posts to track their activities and to fill them out with the correct information.

Adjutant Salak presented the proposed 2021 District Convention schedule. Other changes to the District events calendar include District 5 Junior Law Cadet Interview and Boys'/Girls' State Orientation changed to March 14, 2021 at Hershey High School at 2:00 p.m. CST and District 5 Convention will begin at 10:00 a.m. MST. District 4 Junior Law Cadet is currently scheduled for Easter Sunday. District 4 Commander John Sanna will be bringing a new date during the DEC meeting. Motion to accept the following schedule by Beth Linn. Second by Dave Doolen and carried. Commander Wooten asked that a copy of the District Convention

program including the physical address of the location be forwarded to those participating. Department Staff and Officers will be attending these events, if someone else is wanted they will have to be invited to attend.

<b>District</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
District 1	Saturday, April 10, 2021	9:00 a.m.	Chadron Post 12
District 2	Sunday, March 14, 2021	9:00 a.m.	Crofton Post 128
District 3	Saturday, March 20, 2021	9:00 a.m.	Ponca Post 117
District 4	Saturday, April 11, 2021	10:00 a.m.	Morrill Post 10
District 5	Sunday, March 7, 2021	10:00 a.m.	Paxton Post 303
District 6	Saturday, March 6, 2021	9:00 a.m.	Grand Island Post 53
District 7	Saturday, March 13, 2021	10:00 a.m.	Valparaiso Post 371
District 8	Saturday, February 13, 2021	9:00 a.m.	Gretna Post 216
District 9	Saturday, March 20, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Curtis Community Center
District 10	Saturday, February 20, 2021	10:00 a.m.	Alma Post 118
District 11	Saturday, February 13, 2021	10:00 a.m.	Western Post 255
District 12	Saturday, March 13, 2021	9:00 a.m.	Hickman Community Center
District 13	Saturday, February 20, 2021	9:30 a.m.	Johnson Post 33
District 15	Tuesday, February 9, 2021	6:30 p.m.	Lincoln Elks Club

Commander Wooten stated that the 2021 Department Convention will be held June 24-27, 2021, in Lincoln. All convention sessions for the American Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion will be conducted at the Cornhusker Marriott, 333 S 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln.

Commander Wooten and Adjutant Salak spoke about the Washington Conference stating it was going to be held virtually this year. All Commission and Committee meetings will be held via Zoom. Each Department will be allowed to submit members to virtually storm the hill and meet virtually with their Senators and Representatives. National Commander's testimony will be on March 4 and will be by invitation only.

NECman Bill Crosier brought greetings from National Commander Bill Oxford. He shared that all Committees and Commissions that were supposed to meet in Indianapolis for Fall Meetings all met via Zoom to take care of their business. Resolution 36 Mission Blue Post Assistance has been utilized here in Nebraska and for more information contact Department Headquarters. He also shared that the NEC had also adopted a new mission statement, vision statement, and motto for The American Legion. He briefed the DEC about the sponsorship of an Indy car by National and the hope that it will bring in more members. NECman Crosier also stated that National has billboards and PSAs in highly populated areas, so the hope is the televised races will have a greater reach in the more rural areas.

Adjutant Salak briefed the DEC on the 2021 National Convention being held in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27-September 2, 2021. The Nebraska delegation will be housed at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix with a room rate of \$123 per night plus 12.57% tax. Parking rates are \$23.00 per day for self-park and \$37.00 per day for valet service. First night's room deposit of \$138.46 will be due at Department Headquarters on July 9, 2021. Registration fee remains at \$25.00 per person. Nebraska is the host of the Tri-Stack Party. More information will be distributed as it becomes available from National Headquarters. Commander Wooten brought up the feasibility of having a Nebraska Hospitality Room. He shared that the hotel wasn't happy about each state having a hospitality room and that if there were any complaints it would be shut down indefinitely. He felt that if there was a room during the event, then it would be run by the delegates attending. A vote on the hospitality room would be taken later in the DEC meeting.

Department Adjutant Salak stated that all Department officers have been certified to National Headquarters with official documents verifying eligibility in the American Legion.

Adjutant Salak gave a report that the 2020 National American Legion College had been rescheduled to March 20-26, 2021, but the event was just recently postponed. National is looking to push the event to November.

Nebraska had three candidates for Legion College. National had lifted the war era restriction on attendees for the program. Nebraska submitted three names for 2020: Daryl Harrison, Judy Walters, and Ron Riley. The 2021 program had been scheduled for December 11-17, 2021. Daryl Harrison will attend the 2020 session.

Adjutant Salak shared that the 2021 Nebraska Legislative Day had been cancelled due to restrictions at the State Capitol.

District 2 Commander Dave Merrick arrived and was seated at the DEC. Motion to seat Gary Sones as the District 1 representative by Rodd Paul. Second by Jerry Schulte and carried.

Adjutant Salak shared information on all Posts filing their 990s. He stated that if the form isn't filed once every three years the Post will lose their tax exempt status. Posts should also be incorporated with the State of Nebraska to protect its members from any legal recourse. Posts can check if they are incorporated on the Secretary of States website.

Commander Wooten noted that there were two Posts, Stratton Post 281 and Thurston Post 372, who had submitted the correct paperwork and were looking to be closed at this meeting. District 9 Commander Dennis Kennedy addressed the DEC regarding the status of Stratton Post 281. He stated that he met with the membership and they came to the decision that there were not enough people to keep the Post open and active. He presented a check for \$853.54 from Stratton Post 281 for Operation Comfort Warriors. Motion to accept the closing of Stratton Post 281 and Thurston Post 372 by Beth Linn. Second by Dave Doolen and carried. Commander Wooten shared that Long Pine Post 260 was also considering closing, but paperwork had not been submitted. Adjutant Salak reminded everyone that the cancelled Posts will not be officially cancelled until after the NEC Spring Meetings. They will still receive correspondence and will need to submit a CPR.

Commander Wooten noted that there were fourteen Squadrons, Adams Squadron 221, Yutan Squadron 262, Cortland Squadron 253, Tecumseh Squadron 2, David City Squadron 125, Shelton Squadron 297, Fullerton Squadron 151, Scribner Squadron 121, Holdrege Squadron 66, Plainview Squadron 148, Louisville Squadron 353, Madrid Squadron 271, Nebraska City Squadron 8 and Maywood Squadron 272, who had submitted the correct paperwork and were looking to be cancelled at this meeting. Pawnee City Squadron 168 submitted three years of membership to Detachment and had been removed from the list prior to being submitted. Dave Doolen moved to accept the closing of the Squadrons listed above. Second by Jeff Konz and carried.

Commander Wooten shared that after having a Zoom meeting with the District 4 members, he had appointed John Sanna as the District Commander until the next meeting where a new commander will be elected. He stated that if the District did not produce two new officers at the meeting that a resolution would be submitted to dissolve the District and combine it with other Districts.

Commander Wooten requested the approval of Doug Frahm as Senior Vice Commander for the remainder of the term, Levi Bennett as the Department Service Officer indefinitely, and John Sanna as District 4 Commander until for the remainder of the term. Motion was made by Jeff Konz to discuss the appointments on an individual basis. Second by Marv Donnelly and carried. First appointment to be discussed was Senior Vice Commander. Motion by Jeff Konz to reject the appointment. Second by Jerry Schulte. Discussion was held regarding the appointment. Judge Advocate Harris shared that the Constitution and Bylaws Article VI Department Officers sections 4 and 5 clearly outlines the Department Commander's authority to appoint any vacancies. It states:

"At the first meeting following the Department Convention, the Department Executive Committee shall designate the seniority of the Area Vice Commanders, and they shall in the order designated, in the event of the death, resignation or permanent incapacity of the Department Commander and the Department Senior Vice Commander, succeed to the office of Department Commander, or in the event of the temporary absence, incapacity or disability of the Department Commander and the Department Senior Vice Commander, the Area Vice Commanders, in the order designated shall assume and have the Department Commander's

responsibilities, power and authority. Section 5. Vacancies in all Department offices occurring between Department Conventions, shall be filled by the Department Commander, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee at its next meeting after such appointment provided.”

Judge Advocate Harris ruled that the appointment of Senior Vice Commander Doug Frahm was done in the appropriate way and presented to the DEC correctly. Commander Wooten asked for a hand vote for the motion to reject. The motion failed with a 7-10 vote. Doug Frahm was appointed as Senior Vice Commander.

Second appointment to be discussed was Department Service Officer Levi Bennett. Boyd Yochum moved to approve the appointment. Second by Jerry Schulte and carried.

Third appointment to be discussed was District 4 Commander John Sanna. Beth Linn moved to approve the appointment. Second by Dave Merrick and carried.

Commander Wooten held an installation ceremony for the three appointees.

Commander Wooten asked the DEC to designate the seniority of the Area Commanders. Beth Linn moved to establish the seniority of the Area Vice Commanders on a rotating basis starting with Area A, Area B, Area C, and Area D this year. Second by Jeff Konz and carried unanimously.

A recess was called until 1:15 to allow for lunch.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Convention Committee report was given by Commander Wooten as Chairman Dave Smith was the only one at registration. He reported that the 2021 Department Convention would be held June 24-27, 2021, at the Marriott Hotel in Lincoln for \$110.00 a night with a hot breakfast. The 2022 Midyear Conference will be held January 21-23, 2022, at the Ramada Inn in Columbus for \$99.95 a night with hot breakfast. The 2022 Department Convention will be held June 23-26, 2022, at the Ramada Inn in Columbus for \$99.95 a night with a hot breakfast. The 2023 Midyear Conference will be held January 14-16, 2023. The 2023 Department Convention will be held June 22-25, 2023, at the Ramada Inn in Kearney for \$82.00 a night with a hot breakfast. Motion to accept the report was made by Dave Doolen. Second by Jerry Schulte and carried.

Americanism Report was provided by Michael Hatfield as Chairman Jim Scott was excused. Hatfield stated that the 2020 National Oratorical finals was not held due to COVID. The 2020 Nebraska winner, Sarah Lasso of Columbus, and all other Department finalists were able to receive a \$2,000 grant from The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The State Oratorical finals are at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, with the National finals in April in Indianapolis, Indiana. Awards being presented at the Midyear Conference include Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2020 Sargent Daniel S. Martin of the Omaha Police Department and Nebraska Firefighter/EMS Officer of the Year Ezer R. Garcia of the Offutt Air Force Base and Emergency Services. Martin is not able to attend and will be presented at the District Convention. The 2019 Nebraska Firefighter/EMS Officer of the Year Ryan N. Berney was selected as the National Firefighter/EMS Officer of the Year. Also being honored is the 2020 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player of the Year Jacob Jarzynka. Hatfield noted that only five County Government Day reports had been submitted to Department Headquarters to date. The biennial filing for the Cornhusker Boys'/Girls' County Government Corporation has been completed. Motion was made by Jeff Konz to accept the report. Second by Rodd Paul and carried.

Jr. Shooting Sports report was given by Liaison Doug Frahm. Frahm stated that during the Junior Shooting Sports Zoom meeting in September, the committee voted to extend the time frame for registration, update the registration process to include all coaches and chaperones to complete a risk management course and background check, and to continue with the credit card only registration process. Nebraska has four clubs who

registered for the 2020-21 National Competition and will compete in the postal match. He also shared that the Air Rifle National Championships which were to be held in Colorado Springs in July 2020 were cancelled due to COVID. The Sons of The American Legion presented trophies to the top Nebraska shooter in each class and to the top team in the state. Emily Elilers sponsored by Winside Post 252 received the highest score in the Precision discipline, Wyatt Hebbert sponsored by Hyannis Post 57 received the highest score in the Sporter discipline, and the Homestead 4-H Shooting Club sponsored by Beatrice Post 27 received the highest score in the team competition and they are considered the state champions. Jerry Schulte made a motion to accept the report. Second by Jeff Konz and carried.

Boys State Committee Report was provided by committee member Doug Boldt. Boldt reviewed the minutes of the November 2020 Boys State committee meeting as well as giving a brief report on the meeting of the annual Board of Directors. He noted the dates for the 2021 session are June 13-19, 2021 and the sponsorship cost will remain at \$375.00. Currently, the session will be in person, but a final decision will be made in March or April. Boldt thanked Mark Novak for the watchful eyes on the Boys' State investments and for auditing the books. He also shared that the committee will continue to ask for a \$50 fee from the colleges that set up a booth during the college fair. Boldt showed and explained the new Boys' State informational poster that was created worked well last year and will be continued in the future. The Boys' Nation session was cancelled for 2020 as well. The Samsung scholarship was also cancelled. Members of the Boys' State Committee participated in a Zoom call with the Texas Boys' State Program and they shared information on their 2020 virtual session. Motion to accept the report was made by John Sanna. Second by Gene Von Forell and carried.

Children & Youth Report was provided by Chairman Don Suchy. He reported that Ken Hanel, Don Suchy, Donald Nelsen, Marge Suchy, Adeline Hanel, and Eric Garrels attended the morning Children & Youth Committee meeting. Suchy stated that each committee member was assigned a topic to write about for the newspaper. Suchy once again asked that District Commanders strongly encourage Posts to complete the Children & Youth section of the Consolidated Post Report. He shared that the Children & Youth Commission meetings were held via Zoom this year. Motion to approve the report was made by Jeff Konz. Second by Dave Doolen and carried.

Don Suchy asked for a minute of personal privilege. He stated that District 7 Commander Dan Benes had shared that his wife, Collie, had woken up on Thursday with no feeling in her arm and not feeling right. They took her to the hospital Thursday, and they were worried she had a stroke. Dan reported that he was able to bring her home Friday with no damage and that she was feeling better.

Membership Committee Report was provided by Chairman Steve Bartos. Bartos stated that the Membership Committee met this morning with Dave Bruckner, Bruce Husted, Steve Bartos, and Barb Meyer in attendance. He shared that on the January 8, 2021 membership analysis that 19 Posts were at goal, but over 90 Posts had yet to reach 90%. He noted that there are a few Posts that have not reached the 10-member minimum yet and that the committee would be making calls. The committee reviewed the 2021 membership awards and they had agreed to present a similar list for the 2022 membership awards. He thanked those who had been working the Post 500 list and was available to help if needed. He also shared that once the new website is up and going, he would offer to help members look up their lists. Bartos shared that he had received a document from Commander Wooten proposing the District Commanders bid for a membership percentage like the Departments do at National and let them have a competition. The committee is favor of this competition and offered some of their budget, up to \$500, as an incentive for the Districts. Bartos asked District Commanders to invite members of the Membership Committee to their District Conventions if they wanted. Motion to accept the report was made by John Sanna. Second by Eddy Muggy and carried.

Finance Committee Report provided by Chairman Dan Stramel. The committee met at Headquarters in December 2020, and Stramel reviewed the highlights of the minutes of their meeting. Stramel also spoke on revenue enhancement, the investment portfolio, and the condensed monthly financial statements. Other topics discussed by the Finance Committee included the building and grounds report that will be discussed later in

the meeting, the possibility of changing banks, and the changing of the current bequest policy in the constitution and bylaws. Stramel turned the podium over to Finance Office Mark Novak.

Finance Officer Report was presented by Finance Officer Mark Novak. He started by introducing Mark Yosten of Morgan Stanley. He reported that the finances of the department are in good shape and that the 2019-20 fiscal year finished with a positive balance and no withdrawals from the investment account were needed. As of the December 31, 2020 financial statement, the Department is ahead of the estimated expenses by \$134,874 because of the watchful eyes of Department Headquarters staff. The financial statement only shows a \$57,498 net income because \$77,376 was taken from the bequest account and was put into a cash account at Morgan Stanley until the DEC makes a decision on what to do with it. The Finance and Membership Committees will be looking at ways to better track Department Life Members and making sure they are marked deceased in a timely manner. The markets were up over 14% this year and our Permanent Investment Fund (PIF) had an appreciation of \$118,000. The balances as of December 31, 2020 are as follows: PIF \$936,709, Scholarship \$131,466, Hurlbert \$67,199, Past National Commander \$136,731, and Stoldorf \$54,350. Investment funds are expecting to generate \$25,000 worth of dividends and interest in the next 12 months. Novak briefed the DEC on the audit that was completed by BMG CPAs. A copy of the audit was provided to all members of the DEC. Motion to approve the joint Finance Committee and Finance Officer report was made by Daryl Harrison. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried.

Publications & PR Committee Report provided by Adjutant Salak on Chairman Julie Schnitzler's behalf. Schnitzler reported that the PR Committee would be meeting on Saturday to meet new committee member Ron Riley and Media Specialist Lauren Delahunty. The committee would be looking to change the current nomination form for the Post webmasters and editors to be recognized for their work. Currently the Post Adjutant or Commander has to submit the form and the new form will be a self-nomination form to encourage more participation. The committee is hoping to partner with NE-ALPA and create training videos for members for newsletters, social media, and others. Motion to approve the report was made by Jim Costello. Second by Dave Doolen and carried.

Scholarship Committee Report was provided by Chairman Carroll Mohlman. He reported that the deadline for Maynard Jensen and Boschult scholarship applications is March 1, 2021. The committee is looking at both applications to see how they can be formatted differently to not require as much personal financial information. The current applications will not change for the 2021 year. Applicants for this scholarship must be a Nebraska resident who is going to attend a Nebraska school of higher education. The judging for these scholarships will take place in April. He asked all members in attendance to promote the scholarships as the number of applications has been declining. Motion to approve the report was made by Rodd Paul. Second by Dave Doolen and carried.

POW/MIA Liaison Donald Nelsen provided a report to the DEC. His report included information on two service members who had been identified in the last month, one being from Nebraska. He noted that the DPAA at Offutt Air Force Base is making progress in identifying those recovered at the USS Oklahoma and Pearl Harbor, and those remains recovered in Vietnam and returning them to their families for proper burial. He shared and passed out some pictures from Ted Gostas, a Vietnam POW/MIA, who had visited Valentine and shared his story. He also had DEC members read the stories of five POWs. Motion to approve the report was made by Dave Doolen. Second by Jeff Konz and carried.

Sons of The American Legion Liaison Mike Reimers provided a report to the DEC. The 2020 Sons DEC meeting was held via Zoom. Unfortunately, there were 15 Squadrons that were voted to have their charter revoked at this meeting. There are two new Squadrons that have been chartered since June 2020. Reimers encouraged the Posts to check on their Squadrons and make sure everything is going well. Invite them to help with events and be sure to support theirs as well. Motion to approve the report was made by Dave Merrick. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried. Reimers shared a resolution on behalf of the Sons. The resolved clause states that the Nebraska Sons per capita dues remitted to Detachment will be \$15.00 effective for the 2022 membership year. Motion to approve the resolution by Dave Doolen. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried.

Homeless Veterans Liaison Bruce Husted provided a report to the DEC. Husted reported the Stand Down in Omaha was cancelled due to COVID. The local veterans organizations did not let that stop them from collecting food and other items for the over 250 homeless veterans in the Omaha area. Donations are needed to provide supplies and food for homeless veterans. The group Moving Veterans Forward awarded a \$5,000 grant to providing items for homeless veterans in the state. Motion to approve the report was made by Dave Doolen. Second by Jeff Konz and carried.

Historian Report provided by Adjutant Salak on Historian Jennifer Salak's behalf. Historian Salak reported that she had finished the 2019-2020 Department Yearbook and that it had been submitted to Department Headquarters for final review. The contest had been postponed, and the Yearbook will be sent to National in March for judging. She stated that there was lots of content for the Yearbook and she hoped that the next years book would capture the Commander's year as well. Finally, she noted that she continued to submit an article for all of the Legionnaire Newspapers and that she continued to maintain the Department website. Motion to approve by Jeff Konz. Second by Dave Doolen and carried.

Legion Riders Liaison Marty Timberlake provided a report to the DEC. Timberlake reported that there are 45 Chapters statewide with over 1,200 riders. Grand Island is the newest Chapter. He stated there are four Assistant Liaisons as well. Chapters have been participating in Quilts of Valor presentations and have been collecting donations for OCW, the Legacy Scholarship, and the State Patrol K-9 Initiative. Timberlake shared that Chapters participated in the South Central Legacy Run and the annual State Romp while maintaining proper social distancing guidelines. Motion to approve the report was made by Rodd Paul. Second by Daryl Harrison and carried.

Department Service Officer Levi Bennett provided a report to the DEC. Bennett shared some information about how he became a member in the Legion following his service and now that he has become more involved with his local Post in Havelock. He stated that he is accredited through five separate organizations to work as the POA for veterans. Bennett plans to visit local Posts as he travels the state for the State Service Office. Motion to approve the report was made by John Sanna. Second by Marv Donnelly and carried.

No reports were given for Rehabilitation and Employment Committee (Jim Zach excused) and Athletic Committee (Jody Moeller absent).

Commander Wooten shared that District 4 is changing their Junior Law Cadet interviews to Saturday, April 3, 2021. Motion to approve the date change by Jeff Konz. Second by Dennis Kennedy and carried.

Commander Wooten called on Finance Chairman Daniel Stramel to report on the ADHOC Building Committee. Stramel stated that the committee had met twice since the forming of the committee in June. He read the minutes of the first meeting of the ADHOC Committee and shared that the committee was still in the early stages of collecting data about what is best for the organizations. Currently, District 7 Commander Dan Benes' nephew, Troy Benes, will be evaluating the current building for an estimated selling price and is looking at possible locations for purchase or lease. It was moved that two Auxiliary members be invited to attend the meetings since the Auxiliary owns 1/3 of the building. Stramel read the minutes of the second committee meeting. He shared that Lisa Moore and Vicki Cyboron of the Auxiliary were present for the Zoom meeting. After much discussion, it was decided that leasing was not a viable option and should no longer be considered. Troy Benes estimated that the current Headquarters building is worth between \$800,000 and \$929,000 dollars and recommended a starting sale point of \$850,000. Benes has sent different buildings to the committee for review. The committee shared their pros and cons of the current building and then the pros and cons of moving the building. Stramel asked that Commander Wooten dissolve the current ADHOC committee and create a full committee to continue researching this situation. Motion to approve the report and dissolve the ADHOC Building Committee by Daryl Harrison. Second by Beth Linn and carried. Motion to establish a standing Building Committee that is chaired by Chairman Stramel and five other members to be named later by Commander Wooten by Dave Doolen. Second by Jeff Konz and carried.

Commander Wooten called on PDC Jim Costello to report on the ADHOC Leadership Committee. Costello called on John Henry Percy to do a leadership presentation. Percy shared that leadership revitalization happens at three separate levels: Post, County, and District. In order to get the leadership to develop, you have to get members involved and have mentorship. He stated that it takes involvement from members at all levels and a want to change. What we have always done has not been working, mentoring members is vitally important. Motion to approve the report and continue the ADHOC Committee until June and have them report at Department Convention by Dave Merrick. Second by Roger Griffiths and carried.

Commander Wooten called on Area C Commander Bonnie Brewer to report on the ADHOC District Meetings/Dates & Realigning Committee. Brewer shared spreadsheets showing the District Conventions by date and location. The committee will work with the Districts prior to the District Conventions to help eliminate multiple conventions on the same date. Currently the committee is not proposing a change to Districts, but this will change if District 4 is unable to get a Commander and Vice Commander. Brewer shared some of the responses that were received from members regarding why they do not attend District and Department meetings. Motion to approve the report and continue the ADHOC Committee until June and have them report at Department Convention by Beth Linn. Second by John Sanna and carried.

Commander Wooten shared that Department would start using the emails that were created for all of the DEC members, Department Officers, Committee Chairman, and Liaisons on January 19.

Adjutant Salak shared that the Nebraska Cattleman's Association had contacted the Department in order to partner and create a scholarship in memory of Larry Mach. It was stated that a resolution would need to be presented at Department Convention for action.

Commander Wooten asked for a vote on the hospitality room at National Convention. Motion to not have a Nebraska hospitality room by Beth Linn. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried. There was one no vote.

Commander Wooten brought to the attention of the DEC that the current employee handbook stated that employees are to be discharged if they are caught with a concealed weapon in the office, even with the proper qualifications. Motion to remove the provision pertaining to employees carrying weapons in the office with proper qualifications by Larry Borcher. Second by Rodd Paul and carried.

Commander Wooten asked District 7 Vice Commander Jerry Schulte to address the honorary title resolution for Larry Mach. Schulte read the memorial resolution proclaiming Larry Mach with the title of Honorary Department Commander. Motion to approve the resolution by Jim Costello. Second by Jeff Konz and carried.

### **For the Good of The American Legion**

Daryl Harrison shared that there will be 12 signs across Highway 20 and they will be up by May 11, 2021 when Ken Hanel and Harrison walk across the state. Coins and shirts will be available for purchase.

Jerry Schulte passed out two thinking of your cards for Legion members in District 7 with cancer.

Candidate announcements were made by Doug Frahm and Daryl Harrison, Department Commander; John Henry Percy and Don Suchy, Senior Vice Commander; Fred Craigie, National Executive Committeeman; Jim Costello and Mike Reimers, Alternate National Executive Committeeman; Michael Sheridan, Area A Vice Commander, Bill Berney, Area B Vice Commander, and Gene Von Forell, Area D Vice Commander. No candidate for Area C at this time.

Adjutant Salak shared that Columbus Post 84 invited everyone out to the Post, LIT polos are on the back table and they are first come first serve, and lottery tickets will be sold immediately following the Oratorical contest.



Having no further business to conduct at the Department Executive Committee, Chaplain Jackson provided a prayer prior to the meeting adjournment at 5:30 p.m.

David W. Salak  
Department Adjutant

APPROVED