

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska
Department Executive Committee Meeting
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel - Lincoln, Nebraska
June 24-25, 2021**

Department Commander Gary Wooten called the Department Executive Committee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska in conjunction with the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary. The Colors were in place and saluted. Prayer was offered by Department Auxiliary Chaplain Pat Wiseman. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion were recited in unison. The POW/MIA banner was placed on the empty chair.

Commander Wooten welcomed everyone to the joint DEC session and asked Department Adjutant David Salak and Department Secretary Lisa Moore to call the roll of their respective organizations.

Adjutant Salak called the roll with all members of the DEC present with the exception of PDC Beth Linn, District 1 Commander Darrell Marshall, District 2 Commander Dave Merrick, District 6 Commander Jeff Konz, and District 12 Commander David Glantz. Absent and excused were Historian Jennifer Salak, Judge Advocate William Harris, and Sergeant-at-Arms Shannon Falk. Motion to seat District 1 representative Gary Sones by Lyle Bartels. Second by Dave Doolen and carried. Motion to seat District 2 representative Ken Stenka by Dan Benes. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried. Motion to seat District 6 representative Mike Reimers by Dave Doolen. Second by Dennis Kennedy and carried. Motion was made by Dan Benes to seat District 12 representative Jim Varejcka. Second by Dave Doolen and carried. A quorum was called by the Department Adjutant.

Secretary Moore called the roll with all members of the DEC present with the exception of Historian Vickie Ozenbaugh and NEC Kathy Mazur who were excused. A quorum was called by the Department Secretary.

Commander Wooten advised the two DEC's on how the joint presentation of the Building Committee would commence and the procedures they would follow. He asked Finance Officer Mark Novak to the podium to present the Building Committee's findings and recommendations. The committee made the following recommendations for the new building: continue the process of looking for a building in the Lincoln area, looking for a single level floor plan, and to purchase a building vs leasing or building new. Novak discussed what the real estate agent shared that he believed the building was worth at least \$100 per square foot. The committee also recommended that the DEC's authorize the sale of the HQ building, authorize the search for a new building, authorize the new Commander and Finance Office to execute agreements for the sale and purchase, and authorize the committee to spend up to \$200,000 of permanent funds if needed to find the right building. He also shared that there is a chance of owning two buildings, the final decision will be made with the advice of the Legion and Auxiliary staff, and the Finance Officer may need to get a bridge loan or borrow funds to make the transaction. On behalf of the Building Committee, three motions were brought to the DEC's for action.

Commander Wooten brought to both DEC's the first motion. Motion to authorize the sale of the property at 5600 P Street by ALA Finance Chairman Vicki Cyboron. Second by Area A Vice Commander Daryl Harrison. Discussion was held. A roll call vote of each DEC was held.

Auxiliary DEC

Vice President Barb Meyer	Aye
Historian Vickie Ozenbaugh	Absent
Chaplain Pat Wiseman	Aye
NEC Kathy Mazur	Absent
Finance Chairman Vicki Cyboron	Aye
District 1 President Jean Vackiner	Aye
District 2 President Crys Bauermeister	Aye
District 3 President Vicky Gullickson	Aye
District 4 Representative Luayne Weisgerber	Aye
District 5 President Terri Hayworth	Aye

District 6	President Angie Foster	Aye
District 7	President Janie Nelson	Aye
District 8	Vice President Paula Pillen	Aye
District 9	President Peggy Kennedy	Aye
District 10	President Tina Nelson	Aye
District 11	President Arlis Hohl	Aye
District 12	President Cathy Day	Aye
District 13	President Amanda Washburn	Abstain

Secretary Moore declared there were 15 aye, 0 no, 2 absent, and 1 abstain.

Legion DEC

Senior Vice Commander	Doug Frahm	Aye
Area A Vice Commander	Daryl Harrison	Aye
Area B Vice Commander	Boyd Yochum	Aye
Area C Vice Commander	Bonnie Brewer	Aye
Area D Vice Commander	Gene VonForell	Aye
PDC	Beth Linn	Absent
PDC	Jim Costello	Aye
PDC	Lyle Bartels	Aye
District 1	Representative Gary Sones	Not able to vote
District 2	Representative Ken Stenka	Not able to vote
District 3	Commander Dean Ennen	Aye
District 4	Commander John Sanna	Aye
District 5	Commander Marv Donnelly	Aye
District 6	Representative Mike Reimers	Not able to vote
District 7	Commander Dan Benes	Aye
District 8	Commander David Doolen	Aye
District 9	Commander Dennis Kennedy	Aye
District 10	Commander Roger Griffiths	Abstain
District 11	Commander Rodd Paul	Aye
District 12	Representative Jim Varejcka	Not able to vote
District 13	Commander Larry Borchert	Aye
District 15	Commander Ed Muggy	Aye

Adjutant Salak declared there were 16 aye, 0 no, 1 absent, 1 abstain, and 4 not able to vote.

Commander Wooten declared the motion passed.

President Elizabeth brought to both DEC's the second motion. Motion to authorize the new Commander and Finance Officer to acquire a new building on behalf of the Department of Nebraska with a maximum value of \$1 million by District 4 ALA representative Luayne Weisgerber. Second by District 1 President Crys Bauermeister. Discussion was held. A roll call of each DEC was held.

Legion DEC

Senior Vice Commander	Doug Frahm	Aye
Area A Vice Commander	Daryl Harrison	Aye
Area B Vice Commander	Boyd Yochum	Aye
Area C Vice Commander	Bonnie Brewer	Aye
Area D Vice Commander	Gene VonForell	Aye
PDC	Beth Linn	Absent
PDC	Jim Costello	Aye
PDC	Lyle Bartels	Aye
District 1	Representative Gary Sones	Not able to vote
District 2	Representative Ken Stenka	Not able to vote
District 3	Commander Dean Ennen	Aye

District 4	Commander John Sanna	Aye
District 5	Commander Marv Donnelly	Aye
District 6	Representative Mike Reimers	Not able to vote
District 7	Commander Dan Benes	Aye
District 8	Commander David Doolen	Aye
District 9	Commander Dennis Kennedy	Aye
District 10	Commander Roger Griffiths	Abstain
District 11	Commander Rodd Paul	Aye
District 12	Representative Jim Varejcka	Not able to vote
District 13	Commander Larry Borchert	Aye
District 15	Commander Ed Muggy	Aye

Adjutant Salak declared there were 16 aye, 0 no, 1 absent, 1 abstain, and 4 not able to vote.

Auxiliary DEC

Vice President Barb Meyer	Aye
Historian Vickie Ozenbaugh	Abstain
Chaplain Pat Wiseman	Aye
NEC Kathy Mazur	Absent
Finance Chairman Vicki Cyboron	Aye
District 1 President Jean Vackiner	Aye
District 2 President Crys Bauermeister	Aye
District 3 President Vicky Gullickson	Aye
District 4 Representative Luayne Weisgerber	Aye
District 5 President Terri Hayworth	Aye
District 6 President Angie Foster	Abstain
District 7 President Janie Nelson	Aye
District 8 Vice President Paula Pillen	Aye
District 9 President Peggy Kennedy	Aye
District 10 President Tina Nelson	Abstain
District 11 President Arlis Hohl	Aye
District 12 President Cathy Day	Aye
District 13 President Amanda Washburn	Abstain

Secretary Moore declared there were 13 aye, 0 no, 1 absent, and 4 abstain.

Commander Wooten declared the motion passed.

Commander Wooten brought to both DEC's the third motion. Motion to authorize the Finance Officer to secure a bridge loan, if needed, between the purchase of a new building and the sale of an old building by Area A Vice Commander Daryl Harrison. Second by District 11 Commander Rodd Paul. Discussion was held. A roll call of each DEC was held.

Auxiliary DEC

Vice President Barb Meyer	Aye
Historian Vickie Ozenbaugh	Abstain
Chaplain Pat Wiseman	Aye
NEC Kathy Mazur	Absent
Finance Chairman Vicki Cyboron	Aye
District 1 President Jean Vackiner	Aye
District 2 President Crys Bauermeister	Aye
District 3 President Vicky Gullickson	Aye
District 4 Representative Luayne Weisgerber	Aye
District 5 President Terri Hayworth	Aye
District 6 President Angie Foster	Abstain
District 7 President Janie Nelson	Aye

District 8 Vice President Paula Pillen	Aye
District 9 President Peggy Kennedy	Aye
District 10 President Tina Nelson	Abstain
District 11 President Arlis Hohl	Aye
District 12 President Cathy Day	Aye
District 13 President Amanda Washburn	Abstain

Secretary Moore declared there were 13 aye, 0 no, 1 absent, and 4 abstain.

Legion DEC

Senior Vice Commander Doug Frahm	Aye
Area A Vice Commander Daryl Harrison	Aye
Area B Vice Commander Boyd Yochum	Aye
Area C Vice Commander Bonnie Brewer	Aye
Area D Vice Commander Gene VonForell	Aye
PDC Beth Linn	Absent
PDC Jim Costello	Aye
PDC Lyle Bartels	Aye
District 1 Representative Gary Sones	Not able to vote
District 2 Representative Ken Stenka	Not able to vote
District 3 Commander Dean Ennen	Aye
District 4 Commander John Sanna	Aye
District 5 Commander Marv Donnelly	Aye
District 6 Representative Mike Reimers	Not able to vote
District 7 Commander Dan Benes	Aye
District 8 Commander David Doolen	Aye
District 9 Commander Dennis Kennedy	Aye
District 10 Commander Roger Griffiths	Aye
District 11 Commander Rodd Paul	Aye
District 12 Representative Jim Varejcka	Not able to vote
District 13 Commander Larry Borchert	Aye
District 15 Commander Ed Muggy	Aye

Adjutant Salak declared there were 17 aye, 0 no, 1 absent, and 4 not able to vote.

Commander Wooten declared the motion passed.

Commander Wooten and President Paes thanked everyone for their attendance at the joint DEC meeting and for the Building Committees work on this endeavor.

Commander Wooten called a 10-minute recess for the Auxiliary members to return to their meeting and to reset for the Legion DEC meeting.

Commander Wooten called the meeting back to order.

Commander Wooten then made committee appointment recommendations to fill vacancies on standing committees. Appointment recommendations are as follows: Americanism – Michael Hatfield, 4 year; Idajane Martiney, 4 year; Vacant (Area B) - 2 year; Athletic – Jody Moeller, 4 year; Don Kiviniemi, 4 year; Joseph Ruzicka, 4 year; Boys’ State – Doug Boldt, 4 year; Children & Youth – Bruce Gubser, 4 year; Bill Nelsen, 3 year; Constitution and Bylaws - Tom Mlnarik, 2 year; Convention – Delmar Nelson, 4 year; Bruce Gubser, 2 years Finance – Daniel Stramel, 4 year; Membership – Doug Vance, 4 year; Publications & Public Relations – Ron Riley, 4 year; Richard Colson, 3 year; Vacant (Area B), 1 year; Rehabilitation & Employment – Gary Sones, 4 year; Vacant (Area A), 1 year; Scholarship – Carroll Mohlman, 4 year; Bruce Husted, 3 year; and Veterans Home Board – Dave Salak, 2 year. Motion to approve the recommendations and accept the appointments was made by Dave Doolen. Second by Larry Borchert and carried.

Commander Wooten stated that a copy of the Rules and Procedures were included with the DEC packets and would be presented at this meeting. He then proceeded to read the Rules and Procedures. Motion to accept the rules and procedures by Jim Costello. Second by Daryl Harrison and carried.

Several resolutions had been forwarded to members of the Executive Committee for action to be taken. Judge Advocate Harris will present a report to the DEC on Friday, June 25 for action.

Adjutant Salak gave an update on the responsibilities of the District Commanders during the Department Convention regarding the selection of convention committee members, voting procedures and election of national convention delegates.

Adjutant Salak stated that the National Membership Workshop would be held virtually this year.

Adjutant Salak went over the proposed schedule for the 2021 District Conventions as well as other District events. Several additions and corrections were made, and some dates and locations were still missing. Districts were given until noon on Friday to get the correct information to Adjutant Salak for DEC approval. Once approved, the revised schedule will be made available in the near future.

Adjutant Salak made a power point presentation on plans for the 2021 National Convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, August 28-September 2, 2021. Housing will be at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Phoenix, with a room rate of \$138.46. First night deposit is payable with reservation and due July 9. Information was shared regarding dress code, required registration, delegate fee, committee and commission meetings, Nebraska Caucus, parade, and Tri-Stack Party. Information regarding the National Convention, housing, etc., will be available to all elected delegates and alternates immediately after the Sunday morning election at this convention.

Adjutant David Salak provided an update on Nebraska's revenue enhancement program participation. The label campaign as of May 24 has brought in just over \$22,235.29 Fall Label program. The Spring Label program was currently underway, so a final donation report will be available at Mid-Year. The lottery mailing donations totaled \$38,098.00. The gross profits from the lottery minus expenses were \$26,988.00. Bequests of \$8,000 was received from the Stoldorf account in January and it was deposited into Morgan Stanley. \$4,000 was transferred to the Department in October for the membership incentive awards. USAA revenue incentive has not been received yet, but it typically runs around \$16,000. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust held their annual board meeting via ZOOM this year. The department received two checks for a total of \$26,554.36. Adjutant encouraged everyone to keep on promoting this program. He stated that Nebraska had been involved with the LIT since 2005. National Headquarters sent a check for \$22,296.00 for Nebraska member donations that they received from their mailings. A check for \$3,162.74 was also received in May from National for Emblem Sales royalties.

National Executive Committeeman Bill Crosier was introduced for remarks on activities at the National level. He extended greetings from National Commander Bill Oxford and the National Headquarters staff. He expressed a big thank you to everyone for their support over the past five years as NEC. He shared that the Washington Conference was held viz ZOOM this year and the different Senators and Representatives met with him that was as well. In March National Commander Oxford visited Nebraska and he was able to travel parts of the state, attend a few District Conventions, hold a meet and greet, and attend a banquet in his honor. NEC Crosier shared that the Spring NEC meeting was held in May and was yet again virtual. Over 30 resolutions were acted on by the NEC members and had a various range of topics. They also covered appointments to committees and the acceptance of Post charters. The American Legion car #48 has appeared on tv on various programs and it has been racing every week. The American Legion has a few new commercials that have been playing on the various programs. National Convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona this year. It will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2022 and it will be in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2023. Motion to accept the report by Dan Benes. Second by Rodd Paul and carried.

Long Pine 260 has submitted all of the paperwork to cancel their Post charter. Motion to accept the cancellation of Long Pine by Gene VonForell. Second by Dean Ennen and carried. The proper paperwork will be done on this cancellation and be forwarded to National.

Commander Wooten stated that each District Commander is to turn in to Adjutant Salak a list of County Commanders certified and signed by them. County Commanders not certified as such will not be able to register or vote as County Commander at the convention.

Districts reported updated dates, times, and locations of their District events for the calendar.

Adjutant Salak stated that the 2020 Legion College had been postponed due to COVID and that it will now be held in November 2021 in Indianapolis. Area A Vice Commander Daryl Harrison will be representing Nebraska at the session. He shared that he had received one application from District 7 Commander Dan Benes to attend the 2021 American Legion College in Indianapolis. Department Adjutant recommended him to National and he was accepted to attend.

Commander Wooten stated that there were several Districts that still had Posts who had not yet submitted their Consolidated Post Report. He requested that the District Commanders contact their posts and complete the reports by the end of the convention on Sunday.

Commander Wooten stated that the NEC and Alternate NEC will be elected this year, but it will only be for a one-year term. This is to conform with the constitution and bylaws and there will be another election next year to remain with the even year elections.

Commander Wooten shared that in Article II Section IV states, "All questions pertaining to the election or appointment, eligibility, and conduct of the Department officers shall be referred to the Department Executive Committee for settlement." Currently, District 8 Commander elect Fran Shelton cannot find her DD-214. She has requested it from Saint Louis and is waiting to present it to Department. Motion to allow Fran Shelton to serve as District 8 Commander until she receives her DD-214 for further examination and to be readdressed during Mid-Year Conference. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried.

Commander Wooten announced that the VA will be providing free COVID vaccines on Friday to those who wish to have it. He asked those wishing to participate to talk to Adjutant Salak.

Committee reports were given as follows:

POW/MIA Liaison Report was given by Liaison Boyd Yochum. He stated that it is very important for anyone who is a relative of a service member who is missing to go and get their DNA swabbed and put into the database. This helps identify those whose remains have been brought to the DPAA for identification. The USS Oklahoma remains are being reanalyzed and many have been found to be commingled with other service members. As of June 1, 2021, 338 USS Oklahoma service members have been identified. This is the most successful identification project recorded. Two Nebraska service members who served on the ship were identified within the last few months. The remains will be escorted back to their hometowns for proper burial. Yochum looks to produce a resolution to declassify the records of all missing service members. Motion to accept the report by Jim Costello. Second by Dave Doolen and carried.

Junior Shooting Sports Liaison Report was given by Liaison Doug Frahm. He stated that there were a number of changes. The registration process is longer, the postal matches will also be longer, all coaches and sponsors must complete a risk management course and background check, and payments must be completed via credit card this year. Nebraska had 4 clubs that registered for the 2020-21 postal match to compete at the National Competition. State champions were determined in the first round of the postal and the second round determined the top scores nationally. The highest 15 scores in both classes were invited to attend the 30th Annual American Legion JSSP competition July 19-25 in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Frahm will be attending. The top Nebraska Precision and Sporter class participant and the top team has received trophies provided by the Detachment of Nebraska. Emily Eilers of the Sharp Shooters 4-H Club sponsored by Winside Post 252 received the highest score in the precision discipline and is the state champion. Shelby Carr of the Guns R Us 4-H Club sponsored by Alliance Post 7 received the highest score in the sporter discipline and is the state champion. She also posted the third highest score in the nation and will be attending the national championships this year. The Homestead 4-H Club sponsored by the Beatrice Post 27 received the highest score in the team competition and is the state champion. Motion to accept the report by John Sanna. Second by Dave Doolen and carried.

Membership Committee Report was given by Chairman Steve Bartos. Chairman Bartos shared that the committee met earlier today to discuss the 2021-22 membership awards. The committee decided to look at the categories that were listed and work on a new way to split them up. The committee looked at the Posts who were under 10 members and those who were getting close to that level. They are going to work with those Posts to see if they can assist in membership recruitment. Bartos addressed the new MyLegion program and the issues that it still has. He is hopeful they will straighten it out and that all of the reports for the Post 500 members will be available soon. He stated that all members were present at the meeting. Motion to accept the report by Rodd Paul. Second by Dennis Kennedy and carried.

Boys' State Committee Report was given by Committeeman Doug Boldt for Chairman Randy Kaliff. Boldt reported that for the second year the Cornhusker Boys' State session was cancelled due to COVID. This occurred because only 171 applications were received this year and the committee had made the decision to go to a virtual program with a minimum of 200 students. He shared that in a typical year the committee will receive about 100 Samsung scholarships to judge during Boys' State, but this year they only received 25 to judge. They attribute this to the last-minute decision by national to allow the students to apply for the scholarships. Boldt noted that at the previous Boys' State Committee meeting, Chairman Kaliff has requested that the committee rename the Wednesday during the Boys' State session "Aldie Johnson Day". The committee approved this request. Boldt shared that Program Director Salak has created a Risk Management Plan for the Boys' State program and the committee will review it at their next meeting and will adopt a plan then. UNL requires all volunteers take a background check prior to the program starting and the background check company now requires each person to take a SAM training that is about 3 hours long. The 2022 session is scheduled for June 5 – 11 on the UNL campus. Motion to accept the report by Boyd Yochum. Second by Dan Benes and carried.

Candidates seeking Department offices addressing the DEC at this time included: Doug Frahm for Department Commander; John Henry Percy and Don Suchy for Senior Vice Commander; Mike Sheridan for Area A Vice Commander; William Berney for Area B Vice Commander; James Doyen for Area C Vice Commander; Monte Warner (announced by Richard Colson) for Area D Vice Commander; Fred Craigie for NEC; and Jim Costello and Mike Reimers for Alternate NEC.

Following announcements by Adjutant Salak, the meeting recessed at 4:35 p.m. with a salute to the Colors.

The DEC reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 25 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. Opening ceremonies included a salute to the Colors and a prayer by Chaplain Dr. William Jackson, Jr.

Adjutant Salak called the roll with all members of the DEC present with the exception of PDC Beth Linn and District 1 Commander Darrell Marshall. Absent and excused were Historian Jennifer Salak and Sergeant-at-Arms Shannon Falk. Motion to seat District 1 representative Gary Sones by John Sanna. Second by Rodd Paul and carried. Motion to seat District 2 representative Ken Stenka by Dave Doolen. Second by Dan Benes and carried. A quorum was called by the Department Adjutant.

Commander Wooten announced that the VA will be providing free COVID vaccines at 1:00 today to those who wish to have it. He asked those wishing to participate to talk to Adjutant Salak.

Commander Wooten asked the DEC if there was any additional information for the District events calendar. Motion to approve the current District events calendar pending the District 5 Oratorical and Fall Round-Up address and the District 13 Convention location and address by Dave Doolen. Second by Jeff Konz and carried.

Commander Wooten urged District Commanders to get the CPR reports filled out and returned to Adjutant Salak as soon as possible. There were still 74 Posts who had not turned in a CPR.

Several resolutions had been forwarded to members of the Executive Committee for action to be taken. Judge Advocate Harris presented a report from his committee to the DEC for action.

Resolution 1: Area Commander Seniority. Unanimously adopted with slight revisions.

In the second WHEREAS clause, remove linefeed after “Area Vice-“ so that “Commanders; now therefore be it” are all on the same line.

In the RESOLVED clause, after “Section 4,” the committee added “third paragraph” to detail precisely which part of Section 4 was being referred. Also, the words “Both” and word “Until” should not be capitalized.

The numbered paragraphs should have “;and” after paragraphs 1 through 4 for consistency and the “I” in paragraph 3 should be deleted.

Resolution 2: Bequests. Unanimously adopted.

Resolution 3: Department Officer Succession. Rejected by a vote of 2 to 1.

Committee felt just rolling the Area Vice Commanders would cause future issues because we have had Past Department Commanders as Area Vice Commanders who would not be eligible to be Department Commander. Additionally, by deleting the remainder of the paragraph, it removes the succession if both Commander and Senior Vice are killed, resign, or permanently incapacitated.

Resolution 4: NEC/ANEC on DEC. Unanimously adopted.

Resolution 5: Parliamentary Procedures. Unanimously adopted with slight revisions.

In third RESOLVED clause, replace the words “District” with “Post”.

Resolution 6: Room Rate & Mileage. Unanimously rejected.

Third WHEREAS clause is not accurate.

Resolved clause would allow any DEC member to stay overnight at any hotel of their choosing with full reimbursement (i.e. instead of paying modest group rate as worked out by the Department, member could actually go to a swanky hotel and be reimbursed for full amount no matter the cost.).

Resolution 7: Succession Change. Unanimously rejected.

Resolution 8: Virtual Department Meetings. Unanimously adopted with slight revision.

Remove the word “catastrophic” in RESOLVED clause.

Resolution 9: National Appointments. Received & filed with committee support.

Resolution 10: Area Commander Budget. Unanimously rejected as RESOLVED clause does not indicate the intent of the resolution nor is it the duty of the committee to speculate the action the author intended.

Resolution 11: Membership Budget. Unanimously rejected as RESOLVED clause does not indicate the intent of the resolution nor is it the duty of the committee to speculate the action the author intended.

Resolution 12: Refusal to Support #48 IndyCar. Received & filed with corrections.

First WHEREAS clause \$38 should be #48.

Third WHEREAS clause should read “two (2)” versus “two (w)”

First RESOLVED clause should read “support” versus “suppose”

Resolution 13: Merchant Mariners. Received & filed with committee support.

Resolution 14: Post 500 Dues Increase. Received & filed without committee support.

Resolution 15: Post 500 Dues Increase. Received & filed with committee support.

Resolution 16: SAL Per Capita Dues Increase. Received & filed.

Resolution 17: SAL Dues Increase. Received & filed without committee support. Unanimously rejected as RESOLVED clause does not indicate the intent of the resolution nor is it the duty of the committee to speculate the action the author intended.

Resolution 18: Voter Identification. Received & filed with committee support. (Same resolution as #19 below except in the eighth WHEREAS clause, the word "rampant" is deleted.

Resolution 19: Voter Identification. Received & filed without committee support.

Resolution 20: Officer Succession. Reject by vote of 2 to 1 (1 abstain). Passing resolution would automatically move Area Vice Commander to Department Commander if the Senior Vice Commander was absent, incapacitated or disabled (even though Department Commander was still in good health).

Motion to approve the report by Rodd Paul. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried.

Committee reports were given as follows:

Convention Committee Report was given by Chairman Dave Smith. The committee reviewed upcoming dates for Mid-Year and Convention. The 2022 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 13-16, 2022, at the Columbus Ramada. Registration fee for this convention will be \$10.00. At that meeting future dates and locations will be decided and announced. Members absent were Larry Johnson and Delmar Nelson. Motion to accept the report by Larry Borchert. Second by Dan Benes and carried.

Finance Committee Report was given by Chairman Dan Stramel. Chairman Stramel reviewed the minutes of the May meeting. Items discussed included the investment portfolio, USAA, Legionnaire Insurance Trust, revenue enhancement programs, budget expenditures, charitable donations, the sinking fund for the heating and the front steps, and the possibility of moving expenses if the building is sold and moved. He stated that the financial statement has been trending in a good direction this year and the Department is right on track. He did mention that there were a few unexpected costs that came to be, but that can happen to anyone. Chairman Stramel noted that the committee voted to approve Resolution 2 pertaining to bequest money that is received, and the committee voted to reject Resolution 6 pertaining to room and mileage rate. The committee created two budgets to present to the DEC, one with Resolution 6 passing and one without Resolution 6 passing. The committee believes that this resolution will increase all committee and officer expenses up to 35%. Chairman Stramel thanked the DEC for their approval of the sale of the Headquarters building. Motion to accept the report without approving the budget by Dan Benes. Second by Jeff Konz and carried.

Finance Officer Report was given by Finance Officer Mark Novak. Novak reported on the Department investments and reviewed the financial statements and proposed budgets for the general fund. Novak also reported on the Department investments and stated that our investment portfolio continues to exceed our expectation of 6% return. He shared that the Department is yet again doing well and will not need to take a disbursement from the investment fund. Novak stated that he created a Bequest Account at Morgan Stanley, and it has approximately \$81,126 to date. This account has specific requirements as laid out in the Constitution & Bylaws and this is the reason for Resolution 2 to change these requirements. If Resolution 2 does not pass, the funds will remain in the restricted account. He presented the proposed budgets for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year. Motion to accept the report without approving the budget by Jeff Konz. Second by Ed Muggy and carried.

Chairman Stramel and Finance Officer Novak brought the two budgets, one with Resolution 6 passing and one without Resolution 6 passing, to the DEC for approval. They stated that the Department will use the budget that aligns with how Resolution 6 ends up. Motion to approve the budget, depending on what happens with Resolution 6, by Dave Doolen. Second by Ed Muggy and carried.

Sons of The American Legion Liaison Report was given by Liaison Mike Reimers. He stated that the Detachment currently had 160 Squadrons in the Detachment and there were 6,689 members. The Detachment chartered three new Squadrons this year. He stated that 14 Squadrons that have turned in less than 10 members and many still have zero. The Detachment is working on some scholarships that they would like to start offering. There are 14 resolutions that will be covered during their convention. Motion to accept the report by John Sanna. Second by Daryl Harrison and carried.

Homeless Veterans Liaison Report was given by Liaison Bruce Husted. He stated that the last two years have been difficult to hold standdowns and other events. The local Posts have been working with the Omaha VA to place homeless veterans. Posts have been collecting personnel items, clothing, food, and furniture for veterans moving into apartments. Motion to accept the report by Dave Doolen. Second by Rodd Paul and carried.

Americanism Committee Report was given by Chairman Jim Scott. Absent and excused were Dean Chase and Bob Kasl. Programs reported on included Americanism Awards, County Government Day, Law and Order Program, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter/EMS of the Year, Oratorical Scholarship Program, Eagle Scout of the Year, Flag Etiquette, Junior Shooting Sports, and Teacher of the Year Award. Eagle Scout of the Year is Andrew Schmitz of Papillion. Kathy Hansen of Winside Public Schools was chosen as the Elementary Teacher-of-the-Year, Susan Eigsti of Friend Public Schools was chosen as the Middle School Teacher-of-the-Year, and Mardi Milton of Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools was chosen as the High School Teacher of the Year. 8 counties held a County Government Program, and 80 counties did not report. Scott noted that the Oratorical competition assigned topics were available online now. The Nebraska Oratorical contest winner was Sarah Lasso of Columbus High School. The National competition was cancelled for the second year due to COVID. The National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was Daniel S. Martin of the Omaha Police Department. Junior Law and Boys' State were both cancelled for the 2021 year. Motion to accept the report by John Sanna. Second by Dan Benes and carried.

Children & Youth Committee Report was given by Chairman Don Suchy. Suchy reported that all members of the committee were present, including newly appointed member Bill Nelsen. He shared that Nebraska received \$35,000 this year for Boys' Town and \$12,400 this year for Children's Hospital from the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). He expressed the importance of filling up and turning in the CWF pigs. Suchy noted that only 40 Posts fill out the Children & Youth portion of the Consolidated Post Report. He hopes more Posts will start doing this and reporting what they are doing. Donations collected at this convention for Children & Youth programs will be donated to the Rainbow House in Omaha and the Child Welfare Foundation. Motion to accept the report by Dan Benes. Second by Boyd Yochum and carried.

Publications and Public Relations Committee Report was given by Chairman Julie Schnitzler. Schnitzler stated that all members of the committee and Amanda Washburn were present for the meeting. She noted that both Fran Shelton and she have been elected as District Commanders and had to resign their positions on the committee. The Committee is still recognizing those webmasters, social media admins, and newsletter editors from each Post with a pin and certificate to thank them for what they do to help share the news about their Post. Please send in the nomination form for this award. Schnitzler talked about Google Docs and how they can be effective for Posts and virtual meetings. These allow for multiple people to type on a document at the same time to see live changes. Schnitzler reminded everyone that NE-ALPA will have their annual business meeting on Saturday at 7 a.m. on the Mezzanine Level and everyone is invited to come and get involved. Motion to accept the report by John Sanna. Second by Dave Doolen and carried.

Rehabilitation & Employment Committee Report was given by Committeeman Gary Sones. Sones stated that he was the only member of the committee present, and everyone else was absent. Motion to accept the committee report was made by Daryl Harrison. Second by Larry Borchert and carried.

American Legion Riders Liaison Report was given by Liaison Marty Timberlake. Timberlake reported that Nebraska currently has 45 Chapters with over 1,200 riders. They rode over 100,000 miles ridden doing escorts, Quilts of Valor ceremonies, funerals, parades, events, etc. He shared that the riders were able to do two escorts for identified remains, escort the Wall of Honor across Nebraska, and ride across Highway 20 for its rededication. Motion to accept the report by Jeff Konz. Second by Ed Muggy and carried. NEC Bill Crosier presented a \$600 donation to the Legacy Scholarship on behalf of Kearney Chapter 52.

Scholarship Committee Report was given by Chairman Carroll Mohlman. He stated that all committee members were present for the scholarship judging. There were only 60 applications for the Maynard Jensen scholarship. More needs to be done to put out the information that the scholarship is available. Information and applications are available online on the Nebraska American Legion website. There were twenty \$500.00 Maynard Jensen scholarships and six \$500.00 Boschult scholarships for the 2021 year. The committee moved to keep the number of scholarships at the current amount, but to use the excess funds earned each year to pay for some of the Junior Law Cadet candidates for the 2022 session and bring this recommendation to the DEC. The committee also discussed the possibility of raising the Boschult scholarship amount, but this item was tabled until their next meeting. Motion to accept report by Dan Benes. Second by Dean Ennen. Discussion on the recommendation from the committee. Since there was no resolution provided, no action can be taken on this recommendation. Motion carried.

Department Historian Report was given by Adjutant Dave Salak on behalf of Jennifer Salak. Salak noted that she will be finishing up the Yearbook and sending it to National for judging in October. She shared that she did complete a Yearbook for the 2020-21 year, but the national competition was cancelled. Salak reported that she has been providing monthly articles for the Nebraska Legionnaire and has been maintaining the Department website. She stated that she had helped judge the NE-ALPA entries and was proud of how all of the Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters have been helping veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Motion to accept the report by Dave Doolen. Second by Dean Ennen and carried.

Department Service Officer Service Officer Levi Bennett was absent.

Announcements for the Good of the American Legion were made.

Dan Benes of Valparaiso Post 371 announced that he was a candidate for Department Commander.

Area C Vice Commander Bonnie Brewer to update the DEC on Lincoln Post 1919. Brewer shared that she attended their last Post meeting and presented them their permanent charter. She looked forward to them becoming more active in the future.

Commander Wooten shared that Macy Post 139 had received their temporary charter and the members are excited about starting their Post.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. with a prayer and a salute to the flag.

David Salak
Department Adjutant

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska
Post-Convention
Department Executive Committee Meeting
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel - Lincoln, Nebraska
June 27, 2021**

The Post-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Department Commander Dan Benes following the adjournment of the Department Convention.

Following opening ceremonies, Department Adjutant David Salak called the roll with all members of the DEC present with the exception of Area C Vice Commander James Doyen and Area D Vice Commander Monte Warner. Motion to seat District 1 Vice Commander Gary Sones, District 4 Vice Commander Steve Stanec, and District 10 Vice Commander Don Nelson was made by Jim Costello. Second by Jerry Schulte and carried. A quorum was called by the Department Judge Advocate.

Commander Benes thanked the members of the DEC for their support and hoped this would be a great year for the American Legion. Since he was just elected, he did not know what his theme or project would be for the year.

Commander Benes requested the approval of the following appointments: Chaplain – Dr. William Jackson, Jr.; Historian – Jennifer Salak; Judge Advocate – William Harris; Sergeant-at-Arms – Mike Landkamer; Public Relations Officer – vacant; Finance Officer – Mark Novak; Service Officer – Levi Bennett. Motion to approve these appointments by Michael Sheridan. Second by Don Nelson and carried.

Commander Benes asked for approval of the following committee chairs: Americanism – Jim Scott; Athletic – Jody Moeller; Boys' State – Randy Kaliff; Children & Youth – TBD; Constitution & Bylaws – William Harris; Convention – Dave Smith; Finance – Daniel Stramel; Membership – Steve Bartos; Publications & Public Relations – TBD; Rehabilitation & Employment – TBD; Scholarship – Carroll Mohlman; Law & Order – Gabe Skalka; Oratorical – Michael Hatfield. Motion to approve these appointments by Larry Borchert. Second by Michael Sheridan and carried.

Commander Benes asked for approval of Liaison officers as follows: S.A.L. – Mike Reimers; POW/MIA – Boyd Yochum; Junior Shooting Sports – Doug Frahm; Homeless Veterans Task Force – Bruce Husted; Scouting – Roxanne Sones; County Government Day – Dean Chase, and American Legion Riders – John Arias. Motion to approve these appointments by Julie Schnitzler. Second by William Lawrence and carried.

Commander Benes asked the DEC how the Area Vice Commanders should be ranked. Discussion was held. Motion to start with Area A in 2021 and then continue on with Area B, Area C, and Area D in a rotating fashion by Michael Sheridan. Second by Ed Muggy and carried.

Commander Benes asked SAL Liaison Mike Reimers give a synopsis of the resolutions that were passed so the DEC could ratify them. Motion to ratify the 14 resolutions by Rodd Paul. Second by Jerry Schulte and carried.

Commander Benes suggested that members should contact the specific officer to attend a meeting. The dress code will be suit and tie or the equivalent. If the dress code is different, please notify the attending officer.

Commander Benes announced that the date and location for his Department Leadership School and Homecoming will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. with a prayer and salute to the colors.

David Salak
Department Adjutant