

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska
SPECIAL Department Executive Committee
Minutes
January 27, 2024**

Commander Percy called the Special DEC meeting via ZOOM to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 2024 to discuss future convention venues. Pledge of Allegiance was recited along with the Legion's preamble.

Rollcall was taken by Adjutant Salak. Present were: Commander Percy, SVC Yochum, Area A Commander Neel, Area B Commander Patras, Area C Commander Moore, Area D Commander Walters, PDC Suchy, PDC Benes, PDC Wooten, NEC Craigie, D2C Hanvey, D3C Tramp, D4C Stanec, D6C Chappell, D7C Schweitzer, D8C Klinger, D10C Nelson, D12C Neal, D15C Gubser.

Absent were D1C Sones, D5C Bell, D11C Crisman, D13C Buss. Excused was ANEC Costello.

A quorum was present.

Commander advised the Kearney Ramada Inn owner, Colorado Hospitality, informed Adjutant Salak via email they are withdrawing their bid for the 2024 Convention because the hotel renovation currently underway will change the type of business this property can accommodate. Furthermore, Columbus Ramada acquired our Convention bids for 2025 and 2026 but they no longer have amenities such as the restaurant, bar, and pool. Because of these changes, locations for 2024, 2025, and 2026 Conventions would likely have to be changed. He then asked Adjutant Salak for updates.

Adjutant Salak confirmed he did receive an email from Colorado Hospitality advising they are withdrawing their bid to host the 2024 Convention for the reason stated. He phoned Columbus Ramada first, before he knew of their troubles, but they were unable to host the 2024 Convention as the courtyard was not available on Saturday. The Post was not able to host because their meeting space was already reserved. Salak phoned Younes in Kearney and they advised they did have room but they would need an answer quickly. The nightly room rate would be much higher than anticipated at \$149 a night. As to Columbus Ramada, Adjutant Salak phoned the GM, Sara Scheel, and spoke to her about the rumors of amenities being closed. She said it is somewhat correct but it is just a turnover of owners so there won't be an issue. Given this information, Adjutant Salak said he recommended Younes for 2024 Convention and that the 2025 and 2026 Convention stay in Columbus with frequent visits to hotel.

D8C Klinger made a motion to move the 2024 Convention from Ramada Inn in Kearney to the Holiday Inn in Kearney and to keep the 2025 and 2026 Convention in place as already awarded. D10C Nelson seconded. Discussion by Adjutant Salak noted that because the room rate at Holiday Inn was nearly twice as high as previous hotel, Commander Percy could ask the Finance Committee in their May meeting if it was possible to offset some of the cost to DEC members. Area A Commander Neel asked if the move in Kearney was to the Holiday Inn or Younes Convention Center. Adjutant Salak thought it was Holiday Inn but would advise DEC exact location. No other discussion. Motion carried.

Commander Percy adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

David W. Salak
Department Adjutant