



For God and Country

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2025 SPRING CONFERENCE – CLOSED D.E.C. - Saturday, March 1, 2025 – 1:20 PM

CALL TO ORDER (3 RAPS OF GAVEL)

COMMANDER JOHN BUCKWALTER – “The colors of our country being in their proper place we will render the right-hand salute. Uncover for the opening prayer and remain uncovered for the Pledge of Allegiance. Department Chaplain, Rachel Merlos will offer the invocation.” Rachel Merlos states the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(1 RAP OF GAVEL)

COMMANDER JOHN BUCKWALTER: “Please recover. Please be seated.”

COMMANDER JOHN BUCKWALTER: “The purpose for this closed session of the D.E.C. is to consider recommendations for the Department’s Distinguished Service, Distinguished Legionnaire, Legislative, Law & Order and Firefighter of the Year Awards. (Article VIII, Section 4)”

(1 RAP OF GAVEL)

COMMANDER JOHN BUCKWALTER – “I, now, declare this closed session of the D.E.C. convened.”

ROLL CALL BY ADJUTANT LOWRY FINLEY-JACKSON

ACTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – PDC Cary Kellett - the Committee met and voted to recommend Ralph Biele he has been involved in Missouri Boys State for over 50 years having taught in the Law Enforcement School as well has served on the Boys State Board of Directors and the Executive Board. Ralph is a retired Highway Patrolman.

Brian Sapp Finance Officer made a motion to except the recommendation of the Distinguished Service Award Committee; Sr Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby seconds the motion. - Motion passed.

DISTINGUISHED LEGIONNAIRE – Betty Gonzales - the Distinguished Legionnaire Committee met and voted to recommend Drew Wheatley from Post 416 in Farmington as Distinguished

Legionnaire of the Year. Dre's involvement in his community with disabled veterans and the youth made this selection very easy.

PDC Mark Clark made a motion to except the recommendation of the Distinguished Legionnaire Committee; Sr Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby seconds the motion. Motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE AWARD (2)

Recipient Senate – NONE

Recipient House – NONE

LAW & ORDER – Kerry Boardman – The Law & Order committee met via phone , they only had one nomination for Law and Order -Christopher Gearon from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department – Festus. The committee agreed that Officer Gearon should be recommended for the Law & Order Award .

Judge Advocate Christine Sapp made the motion to accept the recommendations of the Law & Order Committee; Sr Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby seconds the motion. Motion passed

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR – NONE


COMMANDER JOHN BUCKWALTER – (Three raps) - Color of our Country being in their proper place- Hand Salute – two

COMMANDER JOHN BUCKWALTER – “The purposes for which this closed session of the D.E.C. having been completed, I declare this session adjourned.”

(1 RAP OF GAVEL)

COMMANDER JOHN BUCKWALTER – “This meeting is adjourned.”

1:31 PM – ADJOURNED


Respectively Submitted,
Rita Coleman, Recording Secretary


Reviewed by:
Lowry Finley-Jackson, Department Adjutant