

The American Legion



For God and Country

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Department Executive Committee Meeting July 12, 2026

Meeting Began at 12:00 PM

Commander Alex Slocum - With the colors of our country being in the proper place, we will render the right-hand salute. Two.

At this time, Rachel Merlos will offer the invocation. Please uncover.

Chaplain Rachel Merlos - Let us pray. Holy one, please let this meeting be quick, efficient, and let's get business on. Amen.

Commander Slocum - Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance; I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Commander Slocum - Be seated.

Commander Slocum - I now call this meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Department of Missouri to order. I remind everyone that this is an open session, and all legionnaires are welcome to attend. To speak on any manner, however, they must first obtain permission from their district commander. I would also like to remind you that when speaking that you mention your name, give your district, speak clearly and loudly so the recorder can hear you. Only one person speak at a time, please. Madam Adjutant, would you please conduct a roll call?

ROLL CALL - ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON

Commander Alex Slocum -- Here

Sr. Vice Commander Lloyd Miller - Here

Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson -- Present

Zone 1 Commander Daniel Sauer-- Here

Zone 2 Vice Commander Edward Weaverling -- Present

Zone 3 Vice Commander Mark Reed --Present

Zone 4 Vice Commander Tom Payeur - -- Here

NECman Kerry Boardman -- Here

Alt NEC Mark Clark -- Here

Immediate Past Cmdr Jerome Goolsby -- Here

Past National Commander Joe Frank-- Excused

Judge Advocate Christine Sapp -- Here

Dept Finance Officer John Buckwalter --Here

Department Chaplain - Rachel Merlos - Here

Department Historian Chris Wallingford -- Here

Dept Sgt -- at -- Arms Albert Jackson -- Here

Dist 1 Commander David Blickhan -- Here.

Dist 2 Timothy Munday -- Here

Dist 3 Commander Ricky Volkman -- Here
Dist 5 Commander Thomas Tanner -- Here
Dist 7 Commander Stephen Olson -- Present

Dist 9 Commander Roger Gansmann -- Here
Dist 11/12 Commander Darlene Coats -- Here
Dist 14 Commander James "Jim" Walton -- Here
Dist 16 Commander Charles "Ron" Jones -- Here

Past Department Commanders

Joe Frank -- Excused

Richard Heigert -- Excused

Dave Jennemann -- Excused

Kenneth Goth -- Present

George Scarborough -- Excused

Kerry Boardman -- Here

Rose Noonan -- Here

Jerome Goolsby -- Here

David Voyles -- Present

Dave Shafer -- Excused

Charles Goodin -- Present

Thomas K Goodin -- Excused

Elizabeth Gonzales -- Here

Hattie Williams -- Present

Mark Clark -- Here

Dist 4 Commander Kevin Stremmel -- Here

Dist 6 Commander Larry Griffin -- Here

Dist 8 Commander -Austin Teel -- Here

Dist 10 Commander Arder Jordan -- Here

Dist 13 Commander Paul Kohm -- Here

Dist 15 Commander Milo Daniel -- present

Dist 17 Commander Barb Riggle -- Present

Clark Pointer -- Present

John Nager -- Excused

Lynn Dorrell -- Excused

Dennis Woeltje -- Present

Cary Kellett -- Excused

Gary Grigsby -- Present

John Buckwalter -- Here

Commander Slocum -- So this time I'd like to welcome the new officers to the Department Executive Committee. I would now like to appoint Laurie Friendly Jackson as our Department Adjutant. I would like a motion to approve this.

Immediate Past Department Commander -- Jerome Goolsby - Motion to Approve

Alt NECman -- Mark Clark -- Seconds the Motion

Commander Slocum -- We have a motion to approve. Mark Clark alternate NEC seconds it. Is there any discussion? All in favor signifying by saying All opposed, nay. Motion passed.

Commander Slocum -- John Buckwalter will announce the subjects and dispositions of the resolutions brought before the Convention:

Finance Officer -- John Buckwalter -- We had four resolutions, the subjects of which were Appreciation, City of Springfield, and the 17th District. Resolution 2, Missouri Veterans Commission support, Resolution 3, Missouri Funeral Honors Program, and Resolution 4, Support of MAVO. The recommendation of the Resolutions Committee was that they be approved. They were adopted on the floor by the convention, and I recommend that the DEC take appropriate action to approve these resolutions.

Zone 3 Commander -- Mark Clark -- Motions to Approve

15th District Commander Milo Daniel -- Seconds

Commander Slocum - We have a motion and a second to approve the report. All in favor say aye. Those opposed? Motion passed.

Commander Slocum – Past Department Commander Gary Grisby will now discuss changes and updates to the constitutional bylaws.

Past Department Commander Gary Grigsby - Commander, there were no changes or amendments that were brought forward, but we will be bringing a change to the next meeting, a revision of the word Boy Scouts of America or that phrase for the committee, making it a scouting committee.

Commander Slocum – I would like to announce my subcommittee at this time. The chairman will be Rachel Merlos, and the committee members Ricky Volkman and Roger Gansman. I would like a motion to approve the sub-committee recommendation.

Zone 3 Commander – Mark Reed – Motions to Approve

Past Department Commander – Gary Grigsby – Seconds

Commander Slocum - Additional committee and commission changes are being passed out of this time. I actually made some changes as of yesterday. These are the changes, and once we get the changes officially made, we'll publish a new roster. Some additional changes, if you go to the ROTC committee on the second page, on the advice of the zone commander and personal history, we are removing Heather Lawson as the chairman, replacing it with Mark Hummer, and adding Lucia Greer as a member. Additionally, the foundation you can write in, John Balkwater will be added, Kevin Stremmel will be added, and David Bexten will be removed. Some of the committees we're discontinuing, the contest committee. If a contest comes up, the commander can appoint an ad hoc committee to do it. The county government day committee has been discontinued. The Foreign Relations Committee will fall underneath the Homeland Security Committee.

Commander Slocum - I'd like a motion to approve the appointments at this time.

15th District Commander – Milo Daniel - Motion to approve

Zone 2 Vice Commander - Edward Weaverling – Seconds

Commander Slocum – Motion has been made and seconded is there any discussion? All in favor by saying Aye. All Opposed Nah.

Motion Passed

Commander Slocum - Please be advised that an appointment to the Baseball Commission will be made at the fall conference.

Commander Slocum - Is there any new business to come before this meeting?

Commander Slocum - Finance Commission Chair Brian Sapp will now present the 26-27 budget.

Finance Commission Chair – Brian Sapp - Thank you, Commander.

The proposed budget for 2026-2027 was printed in the Legionnaire. However, there was just recently just passed out an updated copy. We did have to make some administrative changes to a

few of the line items. You're welcome to go back later on. I'm not going to read down each individual line item, that was changed. The budget you'll see on the back page shows a loss of approximately \$167,000. It should be noted that while all of our past year's budgets have estimated a loss, we've actually shown a net surplus over each of those last three years. Some of the other main differences from this year's printed budget and last year's budget are as follows. First salary raises, the 2025 cost of living allowance was 2.8 nationwide, 2026 was 3.2. We increased salary each year at 3%, and the commission recommends giving the employees a 3% cost of living raise again for 2027. This will cost an estimated additional \$13,486.00. We assumed a 5% drop in membership. We increased the employee health insurance by 5%, decreased LIT revenue by \$6,693.00, increased state grant money expenses or income by \$21,287.00, increased The Department Legion College expense account from \$1,000 to \$1,200. Total revenue increased by \$148,253. Total expenses increased from last year by \$173,541. We decreased the overall budget by \$25,289 from last year. We discussed some issues with some zone, post, district revitalization efforts to move members from post 1000 to local posts. Most post 1000 members are paying significantly less per year than the local post and therefore don't want to move during revitalization efforts. The commission carried a motion to raise Post 1000 dues to \$45 per year to match approximately 80% of the posts across the department. This was approved by the DEC on Thursday, July 9, 2026. Financial projections at this time show we will not need a department membership dues increase until at least 2031. Commander, at this time, I'd like to ask for you to entertain a motion that we accept the proposed budget.

Past Department Commander – Goolsby – Motion to Approve

9th District Commander – Roger Gannsmann – Seconds

Commander Slocum - We have a motion and a 2nd. Do we have any discussion? All those in favor say Opposed?

Motion Passed.

Finance Commission Chair – Sapp - One last thing. During our Finance Commission meeting, we had a presentation from Mike Pettingill with PCI Publishing Concepts International on the Military Oral History Project. The department participated with PCI in 2017, but there were some issues with rolling out early, causing confusion, combined with some subpar published books. They have agreed that if our department participates with them again, they'll agree to our rollout timelines with department adjutant having the final say in when they can begin to get the word out to all posts before they start mailing postcards or making phone calls. They can assist in updating contact info for current members, providing contact information for non-members, as well as assisting with membership renewals if we wish to use them for that. Some of the key notes here, PCI is guaranteeing \$15,000 plus a \$2,500 bonus to make up for last times publishing issues for a guaranteed income if we partner with them again of \$17,500. The 2017 income from the partnership was approximately \$20,000. They estimate our income this time to be around, be closer to \$25,000. A discussion was held, a motion was carried, recommending another partnership with PCI. The Finance Commission recommends that the DEC pass a motion to move

forward with a new partnership with PCI Military Oral History Project. Commahder, I'd ask for you to entertain that motion.

Commander Slocum - Do I have a motion on the PCI Oral History Project

15th District Commander – Daniel – Motions

Zone 2 Commander – Weaverling – Seconds

Commander Slocum- We have a motion and a second is there any discussion?

NECman Kerry Boardman - If I remember right, when we did this last time; many, many members of our posts were concerned about their information just going out and not, and there was a lot of discussion, a lot of heartburn. I mean, we're going to have the same heartburn again.

Finance Commission Chair – Sapp - No.

NECman Boardman - How will we not have the same heartburn?

Adjutant Finley – Jackson - What happened the first time was they got out in front of us before we could get the information out to our members. This time we get out in front of it. We put the information out that this fundraiser is coming, and this is what it entails. Before, we didn't get to do that. That's the reason why we had a lot of hard work.

NECman Boardman - I just don't want the same hard work. We don't need them.

Commander Slocum - All right, any further discussion? Hearing none, this is signified by saying aye. Aye. Pass. Nay? Any nay.

Commander Slocum - Motion approved.

Commander Slocum - This time we'll call Senior Vice Commander Lloyd Miller to present his membership plan.

Sr Vice Commander – Lloyd Miller - I'm not going to go into any detail. I don't really have what you might call a really detailed plan that we're going to do. It's more going to be based around what we've done in the past, what we've kind of been doing in the last two or three years, which I think is working extremely well, except we still haven't made any gains. But we've seen some tremendous development of success in a lot of different areas. There's some that are not, but we're going to work on that. So my basic plan is what I'm going to do is I'm going to get together with the four zone commanders, and then I'm going to ask them to keep in direct contact with their four district commanders and make sure that the information that we get from the top is going to flow right on down to them. Because it's very important that the district commanders do their job of contacting each one of the post commanders. The contacting of the post commanders is a vital link there. And if we don't do that, then there's going to be some issues. In terms of the actual membership, sort of to me, I realize this last year, probably if we could just have gotten the renewals along, we've been very close to 100%, but we just didn't get the renewals done. I'm not sure what's so hard about calling up the people that didn't renew and talking to them. So, I really encourage the zone commanders to put the pressure on the district commanders, and the district commanders put the pressure on the post commanders to look at that renewal list. That's so important. But the second

part is, is going out there and getting new members. And that's what we covered in the membership meeting. I think they did an excellent job in that membership meeting covering what the success stories were from those areas that really had success. My post will tell me, we can't do this, we can't do that, there's no way, but these posts are doing it and they're very successful at doing it. So, it's my post and a few others that are sort of dragging us down because we're not willing to make some of those changes. So that's one of the things I want to work on is making sure we reach out and do some of these suggestions. I want to get that put out to the zone commanders and to district commanders that report from Nick and make sure that they kind of know what some of the things we can do. Other than that, I just appreciate the confidence that you have in me, and I will do my best to follow up to my predecessors to do the best job and membership. Thank you so much. You have a question?

7th District Commander – Steve Olson – The elephant in the room is Are the goals going to be set some way, or how are we going to come up with? What people should be kind of gearing toward.

Sr Vice Commander – Miller – I will refer that to Alex.

Commander Slocum - So when we meet with the incoming national commander at the membership workshop in Indianapolis, he'll set our goal at that time. . Hopefully, he'll follow the path of Commander Wiley, conservative goal. It's going to be at least last year's numbers. . Good question, thank you.

Commander Slocum - All right, anything good of the order?

Department Historian – Chris Wallingford – Motion to approve mileage

Immediate Past Department Commander – Goolsby – Seconds the Motion

Commander Slocum - I have a motion to approve mileage and a second is there any discussion.

Commander Slocum – All in favor by saying Aye

Commander Slocum – All opposed – Nah

Commander Slocum – Motion Passed

Commander Slocum - Please rise and uncover for the benediction by our department chaplain..

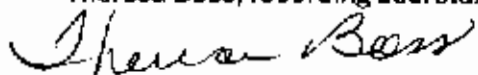
Chaplin – Merlos - Let us pray. Dear Lord, Thank you for the productivity that we've had this weekend. And for new officers, please give them patience and grace as they learn the information. Amen.

Commander Slocum - Cover with the colors of our country being our proper place. Hand salute. Two. I now declare this meeting of The Department of Missouri American Legion Executive Meeting duly closed. Thank you,

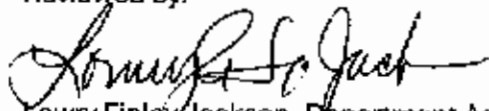
Meeting adjourned 12:25 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Theresa Boss, recording Secretary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Boss".

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lowry Finley Jackson".

Lowry Finley Jackson, Department Adjutant