



For God and Country

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Department Executive Committee Meeting March 1, 2025

Meeting Began at 11:00 AM

(3 RAPS OF BELL)

Commander John Buckwalter - With the colors of our country being in the proper place, we will render the right-hand salute. Two. At this time, Chaplain Rachel Merlos will offer the invocation. Please uncover.

Department Chaplain Rachel Merlos – A prayer was said.

Commander John Buckwalter – Please remain uncovered.

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. Accordingly, the POW/MIA flag has been placed on the Empty Chair, a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor.

Commander John Buckwalter – Please remain uncovered and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Commander John Buckwalter – Please recover.

Commander John Buckwalter – Per tradition, join me in saying the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
 To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
 To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;
 To make right the master of might;
 To promote peace and goodwill on Earth;
 To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;
 To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

(1 RAP OF BELL – PLEASE BE SEATED)

Commander John Buckwalter – Welcome everyone to the Spring Department Executive Committee Meeting. “I remind you that this is an open session and all Legionnaires are welcome to attend. To speak on any matter, however, they must first obtain permission from their District Commander.” “When speaking, please give your last name and District or title for the recorder. One person speaks at a time, please.”

ROLL CALL – ADJUTANT LOWRY FINLEY-JACKSON

Commander John Buckwalter – Here	Department Historian – NONE *no volunteers
Sr. Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby - Here	Dept Sgt – at – Arms Albert Jackson – Here
Zone 1 Vice Commander Marion ‘Lloyd’ Miller – Here	Adjutant – Lowry Finley-Jackson - Here
Zone 2 Vice Commander Calvin Bumgarner – Here	Dist 1 Commander David Wood – Here
Zone 3 Vice Commander Alex Slocum – Here	Dist 2 Commander Phyllis Campbell -- Here
Zone 4 Vice Commander Duane DeClue – Here	Dist 3 Commander Edward Weaverling – Here
NECman George Scarborough – Here	Dist 4 Commander Mark Hummer - Here
Alt NEC Kerry Boardman – Present	Dist 5 Commander Thomas Tanner – Here
Immediate Past Cmdr Mark Clark -- Here	Dist 6 Commander Gary Grigsby – excused (Vice Commander-Larry Griffin)
Judge Advocate Christine Sapp -- Present	Dist 7 Commander Stephen Olson – Here
Past National Commander Joe Frank – excused	Dist 8 Commander Paul Backues - Here
Dept Finance Officer Brian Sapp -- Present	Dist 9 Commander Daniel Sauer –Present
Department Chaplain Rachel Merlos – Here	Dist 10 Commander John Chapman – Excused (Hallie Williams)

Dist 11/12 Commander Christopher Schwarz – Absent

Dist 13 Commander Eric Norem – Here

Dist 14 Commander James Walton – Here

Dist 15 Commander Mark Maples – Excused

Dist 16 Commander Ron Jones – Absent (David Shaefer)

Dist 17 Commander William Roark – Absent (Barb Riggle)

Past Department Commanders:

Joe Frank -- Excused

Clark Pointer – Excused

Dave Shafer – Here

Dave Jennemann -- Excused

Lynn Dorrell – Excused

Thomas K Goodin – Excused

George Scarborough -- Here

Cary Kellett – Here

Hallie Williams – Here

Rose Noonan – Excused

David Voyles – Here

Richard Heigert – Excused

John Neger -- Excused

Charles Goodin – Here

Kenneth Goth – Here

Dennis Woeltje – Excused

Elizabeth Gonzales – Here

Kerry Boardman – Present

Gary Grigsby – Excused

Mark Clark - Here

Adjutant Lowry Finley–Jackson: “We have a quorum.”

Commander John Buckwalter – “A quorum has been declared.”

Commander John Buckwalter – “Please note that we will have a closed DEC meeting immediately following this session.”

Commander John Buckwalter – “I would like to request the approval of the minutes of Oct 20, 2024, D.E.C. meeting which were distributed earlier.”

Sr Vice Commander - Jerome Goolsby – makes motion; Mark Clark – seconds the motion; no discussion; motion for minutes are approved.

Commander John Buckwalter – “I will call upon Alex Slocum for the REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE”

Alex Slocum – Sub-Committee Chairman - NO REPORT - No action since DEC fall conference

Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson – “We have a new staff member at Department Headquarters, Rita Coleman.”

Commander John Buckwalter – “I will call upon Lowry Finley-Jackson for the ADJUTANT’S REPORT ON POST CHARTER ACTIVITIES”

Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson

Post closing:

Post 0056 (3rd district); all documentation has been turned in

Post 0122 (9th district) – waiting on paperwork

Recommendations for Post Charters: None

Recommendations for Post Mergers: None

Brian Sapp – makes motion; Calvin Bumgardner – seconds the motion; motion approved to close post 0056 and Post 122 once all documents have been received.

(1 RAP OF BELL)

Commander – John Buckwalter: Call upon Sr. Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby for the Membership Report.

Missed 85% target (missed by .53%)

90% goal – March 12 target date

Nationally, Missouri is 22nd

Districts 7, 2, 8, 13 and 14 all reached 85%

Request all District Commanders before the end of March:

Ensure that all posts have a list of all members who have not renewed or can be reinstated

All posts should have a list of members from post 1000 that can be transferred

All posts to do a buddy check on long time members – check on well-being; don't ask for dues

Email Department Headquarters to see if there is a credit on their post account that can be used for renewals

Work hard from now until the Department Convention, we can make 100%

Appreciate all your hard work

Give veterans a place to go, so they don't go to a dark place

Sr Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby: "Are there any questions?"

PDC George Scarborough asked, "What is our membership compared to today with last year? How many districts have performed revitalizations this year?"

Sr Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby responded:

Districts that have not done a revitalization should do so in short order, before the end of the year

Districts that have done revitalizations – 5 districts

Revitalizations have proven to be successful for increasing membership

Commander John Buckwalter – I believe we are pretty much at the same numbers as last year.

86% renewals; 85% goal in February. Need to concentrate on finding new members. Jerome said that we just missed the goal. Getting more and more challenging. Need 1000 new members by March 12.

If your post is below 75%, need to reach out and find out what the problem is. Districts need to reach out to their posts. Need to get back on track. If you haven't done a revitalization, do one.

Commander John Buckwalter - Report from Past Department Commanders Advisory Study Group

David Voyles stated that two individuals are looking into Service Officers;

Mark Clark is waiting for a return phone call, should be early next week

David Lee explained that the process needs to be understood; how money is allocated from Veterans Administration to our service officers

Received \$27,000 less this year than last year. We need more money, so we can support our service officers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commander John Buckwalter - Information from Finance Committee Chairman Terry Lanning – NO REPORT

Commander John Buckwalter - You were supposed to have your budget to Commander Lanning by today. If you didn't ask for any funds, you don't get any funds. Make sure you see Terry today.

Commander John Buckwalter - Oratorical Chairman recommendation:

Recommendation that Mark Hummer and Patricia Olmstead be re-elected to the Oratorical Commission and that Stephen Olson be elected to replace Kerry Boardman.

Chairman Benton (will talk to him this weekend about the reappointments)

Sr Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby – makes motion to approve the recommendation of the Oratorical chairpersons; David Shafer – seconds the motion; no discussion; motion approved

(1 RAP OF BELL)

Commander John Buckwalter - Establish Registration fee for Department Convention. The current fee is \$10.00 which went into effect at the last Convention to cover overhead costs.

(Approve the Department Delegate registration fee) May I have a motion to approve the Department Convention Registration Fee.

Sr Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby – makes motion; Kerry Boardman – seconds the motion; discussion regarding actual cost versus only charging \$10. If the registration fee is too high, members will not attend. Motion approved.

(1 RAP OF BELL)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commander John Buckwalter – Now we will have reports

Judge Advocate Christine Sapp – NO REPORT

National Executive Committee Member Report – George Scarborough

Just returned from Washington Conference. Very good. Committee members will be giving reports.

Department of Washington and Department of Colorado had their charters pulled.

Washington Department Charter – reinstated; Colorado Department Charter – still working on

Request made for donations for Past Commander Dan Wylie – presented to him at the National Conference

Letters sent to approximately 30 individuals; only 15 responses. We are agents of the National Organization. We support the National Organization. What does the National Organization support? Veterans. When the National organization goes down, we are gone.

Legislative Chairman – PDC Charles Goodin

- Had a good turn-out at the Washington conference. Saw as many senators and congressmen as they could. When speaking with them, told to just cover 3 topics.

- Need to have all members sign up for LEGION ALERTS
- Make the military more lethal – Chinese are outnumbering US
- ROCK THE ROTUNDA – March 11, 2025 at 8 AM

WASHINGTON TRIP Report -Terry Beasley – National Security Council – Terry & AJ attending

- AIR FORCE – running out of money; money distributed to other branches – 54 bombers – mission capable; 2,000 pilot shortage
- SPACE FORCE – “what if” – loss of GPS; think tank underfunded; AI tech replace people (AI uses massive amounts of electricity)
- Resources depleted of US and US Allies
- CHIP ACT – build chips in US
- National Reserves and National Guard – Heavily used
- Doug Collins of Veteran Affairs: “No cuts to Benefits” – YouTube video – A Legionnaires Guide Meeting with the Legislature (16min)

ALR – RIDERS Report - Tony Rumbo

- Had conference meeting this morning
- Legacy Ride 6/26 – 6/29 – Poplar Bluff to Perryville to Hannibal to Columbia
- Post 331 – Casino Night
- Post 624 – National ALR
- Post 287 – Car Shows
- Post 312 – Golf Tournament 4/12
- HONOR FLIGHTS
- AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS-RIDER OF THE YEAR – CECIL GOODIN

BOYS STATE – PDC Kerry Boardman

- June 21, 2025 – June 28, 2025
- Need volunteers to work; volunteers must have background check
- Still taking applications
- Commander John Buckwalter added that June 26 is Legion night at Boys State

AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP TRAINING – PDC Mark Clark

- Missouri American Legion College – April 11, 2025 to April 13, 2025
- Salvation Army Camp Mihaska – Bourbon, MO

- Application / Information Packet will go out this week
- History / Organization of National American Legion and Missouri American Legion
- Will not be expensive to attend. Receive certificate.
- Build future leadership today.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS – T. McCart – NO REPORT

- SCOUTING – Sr. Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby, Chairman
- BSA set to meet March 7, 2025 at Department Headquarters.
- All BSA tasks should be reported on CPRs.
- Volunteer is worth \$19 per hour.
- On-going need for trainers and counselors.
- You can reach out to the BSA when you have post tasks that need to be completed (painting, raking, etc.). Assist Eagle Scout earn badges.

BASEBALL – Tom Rhoades

- 100-year anniversary
- July 28 – field box tickets
- May 10 – Golf Tournament – Wentzville
- Centennial Games played in Warrenton - States of Kentucky, Kansas, Tennessee – Departments wanting to challenge Missouri

Commander John Buckwalter - The Adjutant will send to the Districts a list of posts who did not send in CPRs.

Address the posts that are having problems

Complete CPR on paper or on-line

Adjutant Announcements / Other Topics

Commander John Buckwalter – Before the Department Adjutant comes with announcements are there any other Commission or Committee chairman who would like to make a report?

Department Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson

Presented Stephen Olson with Lincoln Pilgrimage jacket

Department Convention - REGISTRATION OPEN

National Convention – 3/17 – REGISTRATION OPEN

Commander John Buckwalter – “Does anyone have anything else for the good of the order?”

APPROVAL OF MILEAGE

Sr Vice Commander - Jerome Goolsby – makes motion; Brian Sapp – seconds motion; motion passed;

Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson - Don't forget to sign and date your expense reports .

(RAP OF BELL)

Commander John Buckwalter – Department Convention Golf Tournament on July 10, 2025. \$100 fee each player (2-players teams)

Commander John Buckwalter - “Being no further business, I declare the Spring Department Executive Committee Meeting adjourned.”

Commander John Buckwalter – “Please rise and uncover for the Benediction from our Department Chaplain Rachel Merlos.”

Department Chaplain Rachel Merlos delivers Benediction.

Commander John Buckwalter – “Please cover. With the colors of our country being in their proper place: Salute – Two.”

We will conduct the Closed DEC meeting at 1:20 PM

Commander John Buckwalter – “I now declare this meeting of The Department of Missouri American Legion Executive Committee Meeting duly closed.”

(RAP OF BELL)

Meeting adjourned 1:11 PM



Respectfully Submitted,
Rita Coleman, recording Secretary.



Reviewed by:
Lowry Finley-Jackson, Department Adjutant

Post Data Reports - sent out Friday, February 28 with monthly mailing – Please share with the posts in your districts.

March 1 Post Monthly Mailing - Mailed 292 pieces @ \$2.04 each--Total \$591.60 – Each packet included 14 documents.

CPRs - If you start your CPR on-line, please go out and finish it.

Cadet Patrol - June 8, 2025 to June 13, 2025 -Due to Department by April 1 extend deadline to May 1. As of 02/28/2025 – 3 applications received – need to have enough persons to hold a class Spoke with Frankie on Friday, 2/28/2025 and he has 2 to be sent to department. There is one that was going to attend last years' session, but he injured himself and was unable to attend, he is eligible to attend this year, but I am unable to contact him. One application from Jackson, Missouri

State Youth Government Day - April 8, 2025 Due to Department by March 25 - As of 2/28/2025 – None Received

Weapon and Static Display Certifications - Posts must certify their weapons/equipment – if you are unsure if you have certification, verify.

Background Checks: Required and must be completed when working with children

Commander John Buckwalter – “Is there any other business?”

Alex Slocum (zone 3) – made a motion to rotate DEC meeting between the zones; Larry Griffin seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Lowry Finley-Jackson – Post Adjutant and Zone/District Commander should secure the location.

Kerry Boardman – needs to stay centrally located. Prevents long drives North to South and NW to SE or NE to SW.

Thomas Tanner – need to take Riders into consideration. Riders meet before DEC meeting at same location.

Christine Sapp – tries to have the oratorical competition in line with DEC meeting

Motion failed

(RAP OF BELL)

Mark Clark – motion to Department of Missouri donate \$150.00 to post 0152 for the DEC meeting; motion was seconded by Sr. Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby . Motion passed.

(RAP OF BELL)