

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT of MISSOURI  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

## **POW/MIA Committee**

**Purpose:** To explain the function, duties and responsibilities of the POW/MIA committee.

**Scope:** This SOP applies to the POW/MIA Committee, Department of Missouri. The members of this committee can use this SOP to know and understand the duties for the POW/MIA Committee. This committee shall serve as a permanent committee of the Department of Missouri.

**Authority:** Department of Missouri Constitution and Bylaws, The American Legion, Department of Missouri.

**References:**

**Membership:**

1. The POW/MIA Committee has a membership of six (6) members, including the chairman.
2. Each year, the Department Commander recommends to the Department Executive Committee (DEC) six (6) Legionnaires for appointment to either a three (3), two (2), or one (1) year term on the POW/MIA committee. Each member is initially appointed to a two year term so that two (2) members membership on the committee expire each year.
3. Each year the Department Commander, with the approval of the DEC, appoints a member of the POW/MIA committee to serve as chairperson.
4. Recommendations made by the POW/MIA Committee require a majority approval of the committee members.

**Procedures**

### **1. Responsibilities of the POW/MIA Chairman**

1. Arrange for and chair the meetings of the POW/MIA Committee. Meetings are conducted at the Fall and Spring Conferences, and the annual Department Convention if a need is determined.
2. To prepare an agenda for each meeting to ensure all business of the POW/MIA Committee is completed.

## **2. Responsibilities of the POW/MIA Committee**

1. To be aware that the goals of our committee are coincident with those activities nationwide in our approach to the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action issue: being return of all live American POW/MIA's, repatriation of the remains of those who have not survived. Our efforts are directed toward the complete resolution of all conflicts, coupled with endeavors to establish awareness in our Country that will reduce such losses to the lowest possible level during present and future operations against America's enemies.
2. Activism in this committee must be multifaceted with great attention paid to establishing and maintain physical reminders of the issue's continued significance. Symbolism in the form of the international logo's appearance on flags, pins, decals, articles of clothing and accessories that bolster awareness.
3. To be actively involved in acquiring, assimilating, and disseminating information on this issue. To work with community organizations, schools, other veterans' organizations other than our own, and through a broad spectrum of events allow us to convey to the public.
4. To be actively involved in the legislative process and attempt to encourage veterans, individuals, and veteran and civic organizations to write letter to Congress asking them to ensure that adequate funding and personnel are provided each year to underwrite the operational requirements necessary to sustain a high level of effort on accounting of all personnel still missing. To continue to urge our elected officials to contact embassies of all past war zones, asking for renewed efforts on their part to locate and provide records that could expedite the answers we seek in accounting for America's unreturned POW/MIA's.
5. To use awareness communication, education, legislation, and compassion to assuage the pain associated with one of the most devastating outcomes of service to one's Country. As we honor POW/MIA's returned and still waiting to come home, to aggressively pursue means to return the missing and protect those serving.
6. That our mission statement coincide with our goals of bringing public awareness to help support the National League of POW/MIA Families, and other local charities our choice. To conduct safe, professional and well represented events that will accommodate our supporters, sponsors, and patriots. To be guided by the principles of freedom, sacrifice, liberty and brotherhood to ensure that we maintain our focus on the issues at hand.

Prepared by: Phillip Baker

Reviewed/Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_