

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE MEETING

June 24, 2016

The meeting of the Department Americanism Committee was called to order by Carl Atkinson, temporary Chairman in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on June 24, 2016 at 8:36 AM.

The following people were present:

Carl Atkinson, John Stams, & Mel Adams

Beverly List, Chairman is not here, she is resigning. We have 3 out of 6 people in the committee here, so we have a quorum.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was moved by John Mella 12th Dist and supported by Don Hudon 11th Dist to elect Carl Atkinson as permanent Chairman. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was moved by Adams 8th Dist Dist and supported by Ed Gorecki 16th Dist to elect John Stams as Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

It was moved by John Mella 12th Dist and supported by Don Hudon 11th Dist to elect Mel Adams as secretary. Motion carried.

DISTRICTS: 5,8,9,10,11,12,16,18

GUEST: 7

Carl thanks Jeff McGinnis for taking minutes.

MINUTES

It was moved by Stams and supported by Adams that the minutes of the 2015 Convention meeting of the Department Americanism Committee be approved. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

CPR's are up from last year, 255 CPR's received. 36 more Posts set aside as missing information.

The final approval for CPR awards will be made after this meeting.

Talked about moving the "total members in your Post" question in the future – from the top of the CPR to the bottom. Most people seem to miss this one area. Most were disqualified for this miss.

Baseball Report- Jeff McGinnis, Zone 1 Baseball Chairman, A & AA 2016 Tournaments will be in Adrian, MI. 2017 Tournament will be held in Midland, MI.

Boys State Report – John Mella reported – much discussion was held on who went and John thanked them for sending Boys and Girls to Boys State and Girls State.

Law and Order Report – N/A

Scouting Report – 70 units, 57 posts were sponsors: 32 Cub scouts, 30 Boy Scouts, 7 Crew, & 1 Sea Scout. 2016 Eagle Scout of the Year Andrew Twiford.
See attached list. Talk to your Post about getting involved.

Oratorical Report – N/A

8th Dist – talks about bringing in the Eagle Scouts to your Post and ring him in front of your Post to honor him.

Mel Adams talked about Hunter Safety Program at his Post. Input thinks this is a good program. Chairman Atkinson talks about Bow and Fishing Safety also. This leads into Jr. Shooters Program. Let them show and demonstrate this to youth – Thanks this is a good idea!

Mr. Horning, 9th Dist, reports they have American Legion Junior Baseball program from 5 years old to 18 years old. This is their 70th year of doing this. This is in the Traverse City area. He also talks about sponsorship in the city or outlying areas. Also about how much his post gives (mitts, balls, etc.) Low income people, and will play for free or at least low amount of money. They would with the schools on this program.

State Trooper program – That is coming in July, so it will be reported on at a later date.

John Mella says that there is an old trophy in Lansing HQ and thinks that the trophy should be updated, and made to look new. It's a shame the way it looks.

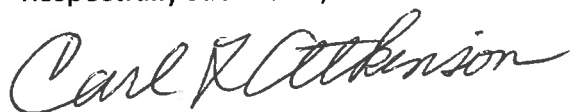
Mr. Hudon wants more PR and cash for the American Legion Baseball program.

Steve from Post 176 thinks that schools should give credit for the Boys State Program; they learn a lot about government. How about Community Service – much discussion was had on this great idea.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was closed at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl Atkinson, Chairman

**American Legion
Michigan Department
Scouting Report for 2016**

It has been another good year for Michigan Department scouting units. Our 70 scout units were busy with unit activities and being involved in many American Legion Post activities. We ended the year with 70 scout units and are represented by an excellent Eagle Scout of the Year candidate. This year we again did not have a American Legion scout leader Square Knot Award winner.

Our Eagle Scout of the Year Award this year went to Mr. Andrew Twiford of Byron Center, MI. Andrew just completed the 11h grade at Byron Center High School and carries a 3.82 GPA. Andrew has completed his Eagle Scout rank and has added 4 palms. Andrew is in the National Honor Society and participates in band, soccer team, lacrosse team and track team.

Andrew excelled in cub scouts and won many awards. Andrew was part of boy scout troop 250 where he held a number of leadership positions. Andrew earned 62 merit badges which is a huge accomplishment. He participates in many camp outs, jamborees, and activities. Some special activities Andrew participates in were Mackinac Island Honor Guard, USS Gerald R. Ford CVN-78 Christening Ceremony Guard, and 98th Indianapolis 500 Opening Ceremony. Andrew's Eagle Project was to build flag disposal boxes for the American Legion Post 127 in Dorr to collect flags. The project was a real success and had there was \$500 left over which was donated to the American Legion Post 127 in Dorr. We congratulate Andrew on being chosen the Eagle Scout of the Year for the American Legion Michigan department. We wish Andrew much success in his future.

The 30th International Scout Rally will be held at our Wilwin Lodge at Trout Lake on Sept. 16, 17 & 18. Scouts from Northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Canada will again be involved.

Any scout units interested in joining in this years Inter. Scout Rally can contact Ray Schebel at (906) 484-9998.

I encourage all our legion posts to get involved with scouting in your areas. Supporting scouting is a great way to build goodwill in your communities. Some ideas on how to get involved are:

- Poppy Day sales**
- Flag disposal ceremony**
- Memorial Day parade**
- Putting flags on veterans graves**
- Helping with dinners, cook outs or clean up days at the post.**
- Helping with the Flag Disposal ceremony at the post on Flag Day.**

2.

- Support Eagle Scout projects as providing flag disposal boxes.**
- Conduct flag etiquette classes and flag folding classes in school.**
- Team up with scouts and have a community clean up day.**

The American Legion Michigan Department charters 70 scout units in Michigan.

We have 57 legion posts that charter scout units in Michigan.

A break down of type of scout units is as follows:

- Cub scout packs - 32**
- Boy scout troops - 30**
- Crews - 7**
- Sea scouts - 1**

Thanks to all our Michigan Legion Posts and members for all your support to scouting in Michigan during the past year.

Lets keep it up.

Its been a privilege to again support scouting in Michigan through the 2016 year. If you have a question on American Legion and scouting, please contact me at Carl Atkinson (269) 838-3491.