

The American Legion, Department of Michigan

Membership Committee Meeting

Winter Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ballroom C, Lansing

February 12, 2022

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was held Saturday, February 12, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lansing, Ballroom C

Meeting called to order by Brian Mohlman, Membership Director at 10:30am, followed by a hand salute, Pledge of Allegiance, and moment of silence for Richard Parks, Past 4th District and 2nd Zone Commander. He was also a member of the Post development committee.

Scott Nichols offered the opening prayer

PRESENT

Brian Mohlman (Director)	Brian Morrison (4 th Zone Cmdr)	Gene Nethaway (8 th Dist Alt)
Scott Nichols (Asst Dir)	Wendy Retzloff (5 th Zone Cmdr)	Dave McGillen (10 th Dist Alt)
Wendy Sexton (UP Dir)	Michael Green (2 nd Dist Alt)	Stan Kennedy (11 th Dist Alt)
David Yahr (DMS)	Sonja Patrick (3 rd Dist Alt)	Robert Kamin (16 th Dist Alt)
Mike Globke (1 st Zone Cmdr)	Brian Shumway (4 th Dist Alt)	Kim Lambouris (18 th Dist Alt)
Dan Cooper (2 nd Zone Cmdr)	Fred Youngs (5 th Dist Alt)	
Art Diffin (3 rd Zone Cmdr)	Ken Miller (7 th Dist Alt)	

EXCUSED

1st Dist – Gary Demars sat in for Carnel Mickey

6th District – James Bliss sat in for Mike Grant
9th District – Randy Gilbert sat in for Yvonne Herter.

19 Committee members present and 32 guests, which is enough for a quorum.

It was moved by Cooper and supported by Morrison that the minutes of the January 12, 2022, meeting of the Department Membership Committee be approved. Motion carried

SPECIAL GUEST – Jim Triola, Leading Candidate for National Commander 2023 Spoke regarding his plan/goals should he be elected.

SPECIAL GUEST – Doug Chace, National Membership Engagement Coordinator for the central region. His spoke about ways we can engage with our fellow Veterans and the importance of Retention

Unfinished Business

Brian Mohlman presented a certificate and \$1,000 to Randy Gilbert for Post 234 winning the flash drive competition.

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Mohlman brought up the new member welcome packets that were sent out. 1900 letters were sent out to new members welcoming them into the Legion. Now they have been calling in and transferring to their local Post. Very nice job to everyone involved with these packets.

Post Development Committee Chairman, Ken Dittenber gave a status update regarding Post that were about to lose their charter.

~~White Pigeon = charter cancelled~~

Montgomery – had lost 501(c)19 status and things were looking very bad. To our surprise, the town of Montgomery was not ready to lose their American Legion yet. 23 letters were mailed out to the remaining members of Montgomery, informing them that a meeting would be held to discuss the cancellation of their charter. As a result, over 60 people showed up to the meeting. An officer election was held that evening with a new slate of officers who have been working to turn things around. All necessary paperwork has been filed with the appropriate Government agencies, IRS. This is a true success story.

Bellevue – Post 280 is starting to look as if they may be saved as well. They have more than 15 members who have paid 2022 dues, but the Post is having some technical difficulties trying to process them in MyLegion.

Saginaw Correctional Facility is up to 40 members.

New Business:

DMS Contract... every Post has the option of turning in a DMS contract form, which is located on Department's website. If your post has this form on file, it enables Department to transfer DMS (225) members who have asked to join your post. When submitting this form, you will need to include a copy of the minutes from a Post meeting where your members voted to approve the DMS contract.

Michigan is currently in 7th place for this years membership goal/out of 55 Departments. Way to go Team Michigan!

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Cooper, ~~supported by Yearden~~. Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Submitted by Brian Mohlman

Membership Committee Chairman

2/12/2022

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PREVIOUS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 28, 2021

- Robert Kamin made a motion that we approve 2 mailings for new members at a cost of \$10,000, 2nd by Brian Shumway. Discussion was held amongst committee members and vote was taken. Motion passed
- Scott Nichols talked about a new post being formed at the Saginaw Correctional Facility. A site visit will take place on November 9th. By creating an American Legion Post within a prison, it will give these Veterans an opportunity to get their medical care through the VA, as well as help them if they transition back to civilian life after prison (help with claims). More to come.

December 2, 2021

Any Posts within your district that does not have at least 15 members who have paid their 2022 membership dues, needs to be contacted ASAP. They are at risk of losing their charter if they don't have at least 15 members.

January 12, 2022

Scott Nichols is keeping track of Post activities and ask that each Post submit their activities by the 15th of each month. The Post activities incentive runs from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. You can submit any activity for which your Post has completed since July 1, 2021. Please email Post activities to... s.a.nichols@gmail.com

Winner of flash competition is Hart Post 234 – 33.3% renewals were processed. \$1,000 prize

New member welcome packet

- Welcome booklet and window clings have been ordered from Emblem Sales
- Letters will be printed on Department letterhead

Saginaw Correctional Facility

- Dennis Schur, Veterans Coordinator says they have finally worked out the payment issue. The payment will be a certified check from MDOC in the inmates name. There are 2-3 inmates who currently do not have the funds for membership. Their families are sending in a personal check to cover their dues.
- Originally there were approximately 20 inmates wanting to sign up. As word got around, now there may be closer to 50 Veterans ready to join.

Individual Membership Recruitment Pin

- An idea for a future membership incentive was presented. This incentive rewards individual members of the American Legion who recruit new members into the Legion.
- Overall, it was decided that Sonja Patrick will research the idea of this type of incentive program by looking to see how many Departments have enacted a similar program and what the cost will be.