

**DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**February 13, 2016**

The Department Membership Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Brett Holt, Chairman in the Taylor Room at the Holiday Inn Express Centre Hotel in Flint, Michigan.

**ROLL CALL:** There was 7 members present with 2 excused.

**GUEST PRESENT:** 19

PDC Ken Dittenber spoke about how pleased the National Organization is with the progress on membership.

N.E.C.man Roger Webster introduced National Commander Dale Barnett to the committee for our progress thus far. He said while we are doing great it is not over. Don't stop now. Keep working for that 100%. Department at 90.238% and 7<sup>th</sup> place Nationally and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Regionally.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Wood, seconded by Gilliam to except the minutes. Motion carried.

**DMS:** Steve Striggow stated that 799 request to transfer and 984 project stay actives have been mailed to date.

Director Holt said Post 225 currently has 7,818 paid members. After subtracting those that paid dues to other posts and transfers, there are approximately 600, 225 members to renew. Get your post out and renew these people.

**Zone Commander Reports:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Zone Commander Wood stated that 2<sup>nd</sup> Zone is doing well and has reached 90% He stressed that now is the time to make phone calls and knock on doors in order to get that last 10%. Mr. Wood discussed phone numbers for Posts are a problem and less than half of the Posts use myLegion. Each Post should form a membership committee and have them contact all new members to welcome them into the American Legion Post.

3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Commander Gilliam reported that of the 76 posts at 100%, 32 of them are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone.

4<sup>th</sup> Zone Commander Tracy stated the 4<sup>th</sup> Zone is doing okay; however, the 9<sup>th</sup> District has some work to do but they are working hard on improving their numbers. 10<sup>th</sup> District in 1<sup>st</sup> place.

5<sup>th</sup> Zone Commander Kennedy reported that the U.P. tour just concluded and having had Department distinguished guest there will help encourage the post visitors to continue to work on membership. The 5<sup>th</sup> will be making phone calls to members until the weather allows them to door knock.

Chairman Holt stated that the committee had completed membership team training in all 16 Districts. Examples of phone scripts, window signs were shown and ways to recruit and retain were discussed. All the training information is available at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org), double click the membership tab and click the red recruit, retain, renew link.

Chairman Holt reiterates the fact that the last 10% will take work. We will have to go out and convince them to renew or join.

Remember that you belong to more than just your post. In the March Legionnaire newspaper in the membership section, there are statistics you can use to tell the Legion story to potential members and explain what we do.

A Direct Renewal Delinquent list has been emailed to all District Commanders. These are listed by Post. Please get this information to your post so that they can contact and renew these members.

The training for all members that paid by Veterans Day will be taking place soon. Winners will be announced in the Legionnaire.

The Director advised all post that need to make a dues increase to cover a potential Department dues increase consider doing so when sending in the information form for 2017 dues that posts will receive in April or May along with the New Post Commander and Adjutant form.

Chairman Holt advised that District Commanders need to have a plan for improving posts with less than 15 members, membership levels or their post will be on notice that Department will consider closing them.

Department will be emailing a list of posts that owe Department dues money to the District Commanders. District Commanders need to inform their posts they must pay Department. There is a misunderstanding that if a member paid by the deadline then the post can still send in the old dues amount. This is not true.

**Unfinished Business:**

The Rules of Procedure for the Committee have been updated by the committee formed at Fall Conference. An email vote of the committee was taken Feb 5, 2016, and the changes passed. They have been forward to Internal Affairs for consideration.

**New Business:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before this committee, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 10 a.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett E. Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

BRETT HOLT, DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN  
CATHERINE BUCKLEY, SECRETARY