

**The American Legion Department of Michigan**

**Department Post Development Committee**

Meeting was held at The Flint Holiday Inn Gateway Centre in the Monroe room

Meeting opened at 1330

The following members were elected:

Motion made to nominate Jerry Andrus Chairman; motion seconded and carried

Motion made to nominate Al Ford Vice Chairman; motion seconded and carried

Motion made to nominate Derek Blumke Secretary; motion seconded and carried

List of committee members present: All six members present

Number of guests present: 14

Is there quorum? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by: Al Ford, Second Pascal Koyton III; Motion carried

Andrus stated that Pascal was appointed representative from 1st Zone

2nd Zone: no report given

3rd Zone: no report given

4th Zone: many posts need resources and are in jeopardy of closure

5th Zone: Trout Lake; Stan does not have additional information on this post since revitalization; member informed committee that Post now has 15 members

Ford gave overview of multiple posts that have fewer than 15 members; Ford voiced concerns of declining membership and struggling posts across the state

Andrus spoke of Maple City Post getting charter pulled; as well as Ionia and Burt; Grand Rapids Post 59 only has 2 members

Ford discussed unfinished business, recommended that committee hosts a member from each Zone

Motion to accept proposed Rules of Procedures that emphasizes that each Zone is represented on committee

## **New Business**

Zone Commander of 5th District: request for support of Post 47 by Post Development Committee

Zone Commander of 9th District: states that many posts are not welcoming to new members; three members have left his post because of unwelcome environment

NEC John Knox visited with American Legion National Vice Commander Richard A. Heigert: spoke on importance of Post Development Committee and benefit of Legion Act that has opened membership to potential new members; spoke of DMS and need for Department and Posts to reach out to veterans in DMS, but not affiliated with other posts; also spoke of importance of retention, as National Commander's goal is a 90% retention rate from year prior

Alternative NEC Jerry Lynch visited meeting with Candidate for National Commander, Paul Dillard; Candidate spoke to importance of Post Development and need for Posts to be community leaders

Ford takes point of privilege: National Commander Bill Oxford would not appreciate post closures

Blumke took survey of room: Would you say that post closures and declining membership is an issue that is extremely urgent: unanimous vote in the affirmative

8th District Adjutant: Posts need to be more family friendly

Bryan from Harbor Springs

Gary LaMunyon offered support to help Legion Posts with growth of SAL or Auxiliaries

Discussion of posts across the state in "State of Emergency"; initial discussion of state wide audit of all posts, to review membership, local leadership, engagement with district and higher level involvement; and status of physical assets; discussion to be continued with Department at later date

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Andrus, Chairman