

Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 20, 2019
Internal Affairs Committee Meeting
Fall 2020 Zoom Meeting

7:08 PM Chairperson McCall Called meeting to order.

Meeting Started.

In Attendance, Ron McCall, Tim Hernandez, Dick Chatman, Howard Crumit, Bob Mayrand, Robert Kamin.
2 Guests were present. Commander Barry and Kim Siedelberg

Order of Business

Constitution and By-Laws of the Department

Discussion of the Proposed By-Laws issue, In the proposed Constitution

le:

Article XII Section 3: it states that at "Department Convention, on even numbered years, shall elect one National Executive Committeeman and one Alternate Committeeman.... " however this is NOT correct. I went through the last 15 years of officer list and the NEC and Alt NEC has always been elected on ODD numbered years.

This was recommended by the C& BL Chairman Tim Hernandez and Chairman McCall for the revision but was not submitted as an amendment therefore was not in the final draft of the Current Constitution.

Website:

Discussion that the current Constitution and Bylaws were approved for separation and therefor are two documents and should be on the website. This was requested upon approval after the 2019 Convention. Also discussed were the many issues with the current website, multiple broken links, missing committee/Sub-committee information, challenging navigation as reported by members of the American Legion Department of Michigan. Further follow-up with the Adjutant Runyan and Mark Sutton.

Michigan American Legion Foundation:

Discussion about the Michigan American Legion Foundation:

Since the inception and initial proposed Intent was very simple yet the Michigan American Legion Foundation lacks the transparency that the American Legion has required and been steadfast in since it's creation over 100 years ago. As an example: The Foundations meeting should be published in the schedule at all department functions as every other Department Program and Committee does to allow the members attendance at the Foundation Meeting.

Further discussion as to the validity and overall function of the Foundation. The Foundation was created because the Kellogg Foundation wanted to donate money to the American Legion but did not want to Donate to a 501c19. The Intent was to create a foundation, seek 501c3 status to allow programs of the Michigan Department of the American Legion to receive donations through the Foundation and the Donor receive the immediate tax advantage.

Although Certain Committees have received donations, the Foundation has in a sense taken control of these committees and or funds. This was never the intent nor has there been membership or DEC Approval of such to the members knowledge. It is the recommendation of the Internal Affairs Committee that the Department look into the hiring of a qualified Non-profit attorney to guide and direct the Department of Michigan American Legion on the proper aspects of the non-profit laws as applicable to the Department and the Michigan American Legion Foundation.

Committee and Department ROP/SOP's

Committee ROP have become very standard in the recent years and it is the belief of the Committee that Committee ROP should be standard and detailed SOP's should be created, approved by the DEC and implemented to explain all committee duties, Intent, function, policies and procedures to allow not only current members a tool but allow prospective members a true insight of the committees function to better understand needs and desires of new committee members prospective when applying for an appointment to department committees. This has been discussed at great length with the Department Adjutant as well as the PDC's. Further investigation and research as well as Committee Chairman input will be forthcoming.

Constitution and By-Laws Chairman

Chairman Hernandez has expressed the desire to step down as chairman do to extensive obligations as Convention Chair for the Genesee. This would take place after the current Commanders Term and PDC Chatman,, Current IA Committee member has accepted the Committees recommendation as the next chair of the Constitution and By-Laws chairman with the Incoming Commanders approval. Additional Internal Affairs member from the UP. Committee member Morrison was asked for input of an additional member from the UP to possibly fill the spot of Chairman Hernandez. Recommendations will be taken under advisement.

Department of Michigan American Legion

Internal Affairs Liaison, Kim Siedelberg. Committee Members were once again made aware that she is our department contact for the Internal Affairs Committee and to email her questions or issues that we need to distribute. We need to rely on her years of experience and knowledge as same and Kim was thanked for all she does for the Department and the Committee.

No further business

With no further business to discuss, meeting was adjourned. 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'RM' or a similar monogram, enclosed within a circular scribble.

Ron McCall, Chairman
Internal Affairs Committee