

Americanism Committee

Fall Conference

50 Capitol

Battle Creek, MI

Friday, September 26, 2025

10:30 a.m. Meeting called to order by 2nd Vice Commander Roger Deaton.

Opening Prayer: Rev. James Warnuck.

Pledge, POW/MIA, Preamble

Roll call of Committee members:

Cmdr Deaton, present

Secretary Tim Hill, present

PDC Wallace, present

James Collis, present

Gary Tanner, present

Mark Downing, present

2ND Zone Cmdr Fred Young, present

29 guests were present

Committee Chairman updates:

Motion by Fred Young to approve the agenda for this meeting. 2nd by Garry Tanner, no discussion, passed.

Minutes from 9-15-26 zoom meeting were read by Tim Hill. Motion to approve minutes as read by Gary Tanner, 2nd by Jim Collis, no discussion was held, passed.

Cmdr Deaton talked about the Passport Program. We as Legionnaires need to get a passport and travel around and fill in your passport by visiting your fellow Posts. There is a Passport Program on Emblem Sales. The cost to the Post is approx. \$30 for the stamp from

emblem sales plus the cost of the passport. We will have a hat pin made and for every 10 Posts that you visit you will receive 1 pin.

An awards banquet, in the past few years, the awards presentations were not held properly. needs to be held on Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Department Convention to recognize each Post that receives awards. No budget has been decided yet.

Our budget that we received from the June Convention was \$50,150.00. This is what it looks like, I have retyped it into an excel worksheet and found a few errors. I am currently working with the Department to straighten them out. Law & Order, Student Trooper, Scouting and Jr. Shooting are all sub-committees. Boys State and Baseball and Oratorical have their own budget. If you would like to see the budget, please see me after this meeting.

Next week, October 6th-9th, 2025, I will be at the National Americanism Committee meeting in Indianapolis.

Subcommittee Reports:

Cmdr Mark Downing Post 413 of Grand Blanc, the new Department Chairperson for our Jr Shooting Program. He states that he has been working closely with the Past Chairperson, Fred Young and learning a great deal about this program. He has been visiting Posts around the State to support this program. Get this information out to your schools and community. There is a lot of scholarship money being lost and underutilized. He visited Hillsdale College last year and not one team there was from Michigan. This needs to change. My email address is simple, legioncommander413@gmail.com Contact me and I will be happy to visit your Post. Fred Young stated that it is not that hard to start a club. The NRA is the biggest sponsor. Every town that has a gun shop usually has a shooting range. They would be happy to help start a club with their range. No college in the state of Michigan has a program. One of our best shooters went to Virginia and the other went to Ohio State. Mark Downing has a complete manual of how to build a range and start a shooting club. Budget is \$3250.00

Scouting America, Gary Tanner, Chairperson for the Department Scouting Committee. The theme for this year is "Let's Get Scout and about". Let's promote Scouting with the Legion. We need Legion Posts to charter scouting. Only about 30^{7/-} scouting units are sponsored by the Legion. We currently have approximately 360 Posts. We need adults that can mentor our youth. If your Post doesn't have room at your Post to charter and organization, check with the library, the schools or a home. Scouting can teach so much such as wilderness training, first aid, emergencies in the community, camping, hunting, fishing, patriotism and

so much more. Thinking back to 1910 during WWI, the scouts did garden, drove ambulances, did coast watch and much more. President Wilson also declared June 14th not only Flag Day but a day for Scouting. Here in Michigan there is a program called Scouting Eagle 250. This is a program to help raise money for the Scouting Programs here in the state. All we need is each Post in the Department to donate \$250.00 or more if they so desire. This will go to Michigan Crossroads Council. If you are involved as an adult leadership, there is the National Commander's Square Knott awards. Camporee at Wil Win this year's theme is the Freedom Torch on Oct 17-19, 2025. Each year they will have activities geared towards their merit badges. The Eagle Scout of the year awards deadline is March 1, 2026. Get the information out and about. Gary Tanner continued with a story about a summer camp and a young man and a swim test. Memories of a lifetime! Jim Lemerand asked about a resolution concerning removing the religious aspect for the Eagle Scout of the Year Award. Nothing will be done about this until the Convention. Wendy Retzloff states that this has been passed by the 8th District. She asked for PDC Wallace's opinion on this matter. PDC Wallace stated that he personally against this resolution because of our Preamble....."For God and Country"! That says it all. If National, has it in their bylaws, then we can't go against what they have. Budget is \$10,100.00 doesn't include Eagle Coins but we will investigate that.

PDC Jim Wallace, Chairperson of Law and Order stated that it is an honor to be here. He stated that his daughter just retired as a police officer of 25 years and that his son who is also an officer of the law is getting ready to retire in about 15 months. He also stated that he himself was a firefighter for 30 years, so Fireman and Police Officer of the year are near and dear to him. Student Trooper (Youth Cadet Law Enforcer Program) has a deadline for the applications of May 1, 2026. Ashley needs to change the date on the flier for it is a misprint. Last year we only had 1 Police Officer and 1 Firefighter that were nominated for Firefighter or Policeman of the year awards. I would like to see at least 10 to 15 applications. The deadline is January 9, 2026. Fred Young stated that he has asked why they haven't had applications from their departments and was told that they couldn't make the deadlines. Fred told his police chief to use their department's last year's officer of the year to apply for our officer of the year. Any EMT and first responder is also available to be nominated if they are also a firefighter. The Student Trooper budget is \$27,950.00. Law and Order budget is \$1000.00.

Old Business: None

New Business: Tim Hill made a motion for \$1000.00 for the Hat Pin program. 2nd by Gary Tanner. Passed

Jim Collis spoke about a Patriots Award that he has helped to design. For businesses that are flying the Flag over their business.

Good of the Committee:

Wendy Retzloff stated that if all our programs had a Q-R Code it would be easier to get our programs out into the community and schools a lot faster and easier.

Rev James Warnuck mentioned that "gaming" at the Posts such as call of duty and many more can bring the youth into our Posts for game day to help our youth get interested in coming and learning a little about us.

12:04 p.m. Motion by PDC Jim Wallace to adjourn

Respectfully submitted

Roger Deaton

2nd Vice Commander

Department of Michigan

M/ Deaton

2/ Benson

to accept