MINUTES
The American Legion, Department of Michigan
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, November 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Tree Tops Resort, Gaylord, MI

CALL TO ORDER RAY CARLSON, CHAIRMAN

ROLL CALL MEMBERS PRESENT:

☒ GARY DE MARS ☒ DAVID BUIST ☒ JAMES WALLACE ☒ MIKE PERGANDE ☒ RAYMOND CARLSON
☒ JAMES AUSTIN, STATE COMMANDER ☒ SCOTT NICHOLS , FINANCE OFFICER ☒ RON RUNYAN, STATE ADJUTANT
☒ GARY EASTERLING, VA&R DIRECTOR ☒ ALTERNATE ROGER AVIE ☐ ALTERNATE BRIAN MOHLMAN
☒ OFFICE STAFF WANDA OPHAUG

MINUTES CONVENTION MINUTES 2026 WERE APPROVED AT STATE CONVENTION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Monthly statements update on Wilwin and Foundation for information only

VA&R Director Update Gary Easterling to address VA&R program and employees. Staff is working in conjunction with Gary Tanner to promptly process and assist with TFA submissions. The VSO's will also be assisting the Heroes to Hometown Sub–Committee chairman.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS **Resolutions assigned NONE**

a) Moore Group Fall Raffle update: A profit of $26,228.00 was made on the Fall 2026 raffle. The profit is lower than usual, as only 2026 and 2027 members were mailed raffle tickets.

b) Yeo & Yeo Audit update by Wanda that information is being updated in both QuickBooks Online and in the audit portal.
Motion by Nichols, Seconded by Austin, to add a 90-day disclaimer that checks not cashed will be voided. Motion Carried. The Adjutant will be providing Posts, Districts and news articles for dissemination of the new policy. The Adjutant also committed to communicating with Pronexus on information on an actuary, based on recommendations from last year's audit review.

c) ProNexus Update: Accounting and working with the new accounting company is proceeding well and has made great strides to clean up all accounts. Motion by Austin, Second by Nichols to contact law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office to review the Department's prior accounting vendor, overpayments, and action that could be taken. Motion to Amend by Nichols, Second by Austin to add that this will be done with the Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer. Motion Passed. The AMENDED Motion by Nichols, seconded by Austin, to allow the Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer to contact law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office to review the Department's prior accounting vendor, overpayments, and action that could be taken. Motion Passed.

d) Motion by De Mars and Second by Pergande to setup a reserve in the Michigan American Legion Foundation for funds received on behalf of "Be the One" program, Motion Passed.

e) December Meeting via Zoom, NOT in person, held December 14th at 4:00 pm

Updates by Adjutant Runyan:

New Department website development, cost, and proposal. More information will be provided on the Zoom meeting next month.

Paychex Payroll & Benefits Change to PEO January 1st. Motion by Austin, Seconded by Buist, to allow the Adjutant to pursue the cost savings and obtain information with Paychex. Motion Passed.
Wanda and the Adjutant will be meeting with Paychex and will be providing more information on the December Zoom meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 am

Raymond Carlson

Raymond Carlson, Finance Chairman

M/ 1st Dist
2/ 19th Dist
to Adopt
PASS