The American Legion

Department of Michigan

Fall Conference

Treetops Resort

Meetings Time & Place

Meeting convened at 10:45am.

Chairman: Marilyn Britten, committee members Roger Avie, Scott Nichols, Secretary Tim Walters, John Mella was excused.

There were 21 guests in attendance, there was a quorum.

This committee has a responsibility, for making sure that we have properties to stay at and roofs over our head for our meetings around the state. We're going to start with Mr. Boman because he has an appointment at the CBOC.

Mr. Bowman. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Charles Bowman. I'm here representing the 20 North Convention Corporation. We have a total of four bids available. This time, unfortunately, I cannot print out the documents, so I don't have the exact numbers. The first bid I will present is to return to Treetops Resort, where we currently are. The dates are September 19th through the 22nd, 2027.

That is a Sunday through Wednesday. Room rates are $130 a room, plus state taxes. The second bid is for the Doubletree by Hilton, in downtown Lansing. This hotel is two blocks from the state capital. It is a recently renovated and updated hotel. Dates on this one will be the 23rd to the 26th. Actually, we did the 24th through 26th of September, 2027. Room rates would be $159. There isn't applicable parking, so this hotel is on one side of street. There is a parking lot on the other side of the street. The hotel has stated that, should they be selected, they are willing to negotiate with the city. and try to reduce or eliminate those daily parking fees. This hotel has more than enough media rooms. Ron Runyan has the layout of all of it. So, that is the Double Tree by Hilton.

The next bid I have is for the Crown Plaza, which we have been to before, we went there about four years ago. The Crown Plaza's located off Creyts Road and I-496. The room rate at the Crown Plaza are $144 per night. This hotel the Double Tree has 250 rooms, and the Crown Plaza has 209 rooms, so both of those hotels are well within our requirements. The dates on that one would be the weekend immediately following Labor Day next year. So, the meeting dates would be the 10th through 12th. It would be a full week after each complete the current national.

Shanty Creek Resort. We were there five years ago, I believe it was, for fall meeting. Immediately following COVID. This one is a bit more expensive. It is $213 a night. It is a beautiful property, much like this. However, much like this, it is spread out as well. There's walking involved. There was discussion about the various dates, however the cost was deemed too high.

The Crown Plaza is willing to give us the same rate of $144 for fall of 2028. However, because of their corporate rules, they cannot lock rates in for that year. They would lock them in for us as soon as possible, and be flexible on them. I can also make a comment on that, because having had the corporation before in that area, the reason they also can't block it in is because they're under contract to Michigan State University for the traveling football teams coming in. And they don't have that schedule yet. They will know, July, August, time frame, next year, they would be able to give us a date.

And also, a further comment on the Doubletree downtown in Lansing, he was quoted a price of $10 for the parking. And there is a skywalk over to that parking ramp, and it's a city run ramp, which is why they can't make a concession on it.

Tim Hall, we've got another bid for 2027 from the Michigan Convention Corporation. We deal with the Double Tree, Port Huron. You've been there before, September 29th to 31st of October 2027, Doubletree. Anywhere from $169 to $184. You've got two king suites. We also have the Fairfield Inn that we now have as our overflow hotel. They've already locked in for us, 30 rooms, and if they need more than 30 rooms, they'll accommodate us. Um, I do not have the prices for the Fairfield Inn at the present time.

I (Roger Avie) would like to make a motion that we choose the Crowne Plaza at 925 S. Creyts Rd in Lansing for the Fall Conference 2027, on 9th through 12th of September 2027 with a rate of $144 per night. I second that motion (Scott Nichols). Is there any further discussion? No, then all in favor say Aye, (3) opposed nay (0), motion approved.

Okay, what we're discussing for the 2028 Fall conference is, the problem with the Crown Plaza has the contract with MSU, and that is far more lucrative than the American Legion of Michigan. So, we're going to hold off, you know.

Motion to table, the vote until the Winter meeting 2027. We'll revisit meeting as soon as we know. Motion & second. Okay. Are you ready? Yes. All those in favor? Aye (3) opposed none.

Okay, we're going to move on from there. I don't have enough copies to pass through all for everybody. This is from the meeting a year ago, and then this past convention in Battle Creek at the Doubletree Hotel. People encountered a lot of problems. We went in there so they could iron out all their issues. And then we went in for the convention, and it was actually worse than the fall meeting. And I'm not sure why that happened. That sounds to me like a management problem at the hotel. But it was significant.

So, I can just highlight some of the issues, and I'm sure if you stayed there, one of the biggest problems was the elevators, because they were down to one elevator, and we had a whole other folks there, and that was bad. The restaurant issue did not get any better. In fact, it got worse. They literally ran out of food at the convention.

So, parking was a big issue, because the gates didn't work. There is no one here from that corporation today. The former Permanent Time of Place Committee and now this one, we previously had a rule. We never booked two meetings for a convention at a propertythat we'd never been to. We should have stuck to that. If people can't even get up and down on the elevator, that's a real problem. I will make sure when we get results they will be posted on the website.

I have sworn to the commander that this committee will be transparent. We also have to look out for our due diligence is to make sure we take the best care we can of our members. And that means watching their wallets too.

I have another thing that has come up. And I appreciate this a bunch. A lot of our younger members, older too, are asking about shortening of meetings, conferences, and conventions. We did this a few years back. It went well, but we have slid back into doing multiple days again.

And part of that is we are a business, and we have to stick to a schedule. But we need to conduct business quickly and properly, and get the business done and get moving. So please, if you have suggestions on that, please pass them on to me. And I will greatly appreciate it.

Does anyone else from the committee have anything to bring up? No.

Anyone from out here in the room? Mike, Auxiliary Membership Employee, reported that there is not enough room for our members and they're stuff.

Can we get a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn (Roger Avie), Second (Scott Nichols). All in favor say aye (3) opposed nay (0). So moved.

This meeting of the Time and Place Committee is here by closed. (11:32am)

Mindy Britton
Chair

M/ 2ND DIST
2/ 9th DIST
to Adopt
PASS