

**MINUTES**  
**The American Legion, Department of Michigan**  
**FINANCE & PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Saturday February 7, 2026 9:00 a.m.**  
**Port Huron, MI**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Carlson

Roll Call was taken, all members were in attendance, including Bookkeeper Wanda Ophaug and <sup>16</sup> guests.

Minutes from the December 2025 Meeting were read and approved without correction.

A Review of financial statements was conducted covering November & December. Motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Buist to accept the statements as read and emailed, Motion Passed

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Audit progress update was provided by Adjutant Runyan and Wanda. Plan to have audit drafts by March and the committee to review them and approve of the audit once completed.

The Department Employee Manual was discussed and reviewed. Some minor updates were suggested by Adjutant Runyan for compliance purposes. Motion by Mohlman and Supported by Wallace to act on changes to the employee manual for approval and immediate implementation, Motion Passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dept Raffle update was provided by Wanda on income and expenses with a Net profit exceeding 39,000. Update on how using the new vendor is going and updated mailing being mailed to members.

Discussion on the support for Marty's Goldenaires attending the Washington DC Parade celebrating America's 250 birthday. Motion by Mohlman ~~to donate~~ and Supported by Buist to donate in the amount of \$5,000 subject to return if donation is not met and trip is canceled, Motion made by Mohlman and Seconded by De Mars to increase donation to \$10,000. Motion to amended motion to donate \$10,000 and coming out of the Post 225 reserve account, Motion Passed. Original motion amended restated to donate \$10,000 to Marty's Golden Aires coming from the Post 225 reserve account, Motion Passed.

Adjutant Runyan updated the committee on what thoughts are being discussed on the 2026-2028 commander vehicle. The vehicle is under budget and progress is being made for the purchase to be done by end of April or being of May.

Resolution 26-05 Dues increase \$1 for veterans' scholarships was read in its entirety to the committee and guest. Motion by Mohlman and Seconded by Pergande to recommend Rejection of this resolution. Discussion was held at length, Motion to Reject Passed.

VA&R Director discussed a project to start a sponsorship program asking for donations for Service Officer school and the VA&R Endowment fund. Motion by Mohlman and Second by Wallace to allow this program to be instituted and recommend authorizing by the DEC, Motion Passed.

**UPDATES**

Adjutant Runyan reported that all committee chairmen have this year's budget, with blank section for next year as well as expenses year to date.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING will be the Department BUDGET MEETING at HQ – MAY 11, 2026 starting at 9:00am**

**Meeting was Adjourned at 10:45 with short recess and moving into an EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Submitted Raymond Carlson Chairman

M/1st Burnett  
2/3rd overhauls  
to Adopt  
PASS

# MINUTES

## The American Legion, Department of Michigan FINANCE & PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING Monday December 8, 2025 9:00 a.m. Lansing HQ

**CALL TO ORDER** RAY CARLSON, CHAIRMAN

**ROLL CALL** All Members Present: GARY DE MARS (Zone 1) DAVID BUIST (Zone 2) JAMES WALLACE (Zone 3)  
MIKE PERGANDE (Zone 4) RAYMOND CARLSON (Zone 5), ROGER AVIE COMMANDER  
BRIAN MOHLMAN, FINANCE OFFICER, RON RUNYAN ADJUTANT, GARY EASTERLING VA&R DIRECTOR  
LEO COWDRY ALTERNATE, STEVE STRIGGOW ALTERNATE, WANDA OPHAUG BOOKKEEPER

**Guest:** PDC Holt, PDC Money, PDC Cooper, PDC Wood, Jim Austin, Roger Deaton, James Ellis, Karl Burnett, Duane Miller, Mark Brechja, Mark Downing, Jan Lepinski, Scott Nichols

**MINUTES** from the Fall Conference 2025 were emailed out to members, Motion by Buist, Seconded by Mohlman to accept as distributed, Motion Passed

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** from October 2025 were distributed and read by Adjutant Runyan.  
Department from July 1 till October 31<sup>st</sup>: Income \$452,600.73 Expenses \$292,925.03 leaving Net Income \$181,345.12

Michigan American Legion Foundation Month of October: Income \$3,623.79 Expenses of \$13,209.15 with deficit of -\$9,585.36

Michigan American Legion Wilwin Lodge month of October: Income \$4,003.41 Expenses \$3,665.89 Net Income \$337.52

Motion by Avie and Second by Buist to accept statements as read, Motion Passed

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Adjutant Runyan gave verbal update on current Audit progress and last audit by Yeo & Yeo ~~suggestions~~
- Chairman Carlson spoke about email vote on MVAA Women's Expo donation (April 2026) 11/7/2025 M/Pergande 2/Wallace to Allow till April 2026 – Email vote passed unanimously
- Adjutant Runyan and Bookkeeper Wanda updated committee on Raffle updates and current label program
- Mike Pergande provided a written update on Post Recovery Grants on final version. Motion by De Mars and Second by Pergande to approve in Finance Committee and send to the Department Executive Committee for their approval, Motion Passed

### **NEW BUSINES**

Discussion on ACH deadline by committee. Motion by Mohlman and Second by Avie that all Legion Posts, SAL Squadrons, Members of committee and DEC of both Legion and SAL made aware that June 30, 2026 is the deadline for signup for ACH payments from the Department, Motion passed. A flier will accompany all check payments until then with information on signing up for ACH and benefits on why it will be faster and more secure.

### **UPDATES & COMMUNICATIONS**

Presentation by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Austin on a Membership banquet at State Convention. Motion by Mohlman and Second by De Mars to allocate an additional \$6000 to M&PA for this banquet to take place, Motion Passed

Presentation by NEC Holt. Motion by Avie and Seconded by Mohlman to add an additional \$5000 to NEC budget for remainder of 2025 - 2026, Motion Passed. Motion by Buist and Seconded by Mohlman to create a new \$4000 budget for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Motion Passed.

Presentation by Boys State Chairman Brechja on the program and move to Hillsdale College. Explained plans on promoting program to Posts and Districts as well as sending a request to Posts and Districts for additional funding.

Updates for M&PA Committee made by Austin and update by Roger Deaton for Americanism Committee.

**NEXT MEETING** Port Huron February 7, 2025 9:00 a.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT** 10:37 a.m.

M/8th  
2/19th to adopt - PASS