

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Authorization:

This committee was authorized in its present form at Department Convention, July 20, 1975, although the Committee had been established at an earlier date.

Membership:

Subject to the Department Commander's discretion, and with the approval of the Department Executive Committee, the Children and Youth Committee of the Department of Michigan will normally consist of six (6) regular members with vote, and two (2) alternate members, without vote, unless they are serving in the absence of a regular member.

"The term of office of all regular members of Department Committees shall be staggered so that the term of one-half of the committee shall expire at the close of the Annual Department Convention each year. Appointments, except when a shorter term shall be necessary to comply with this provision, shall be for a term of two (2) years each." (Article Five (V) Section Four (a) The American Legion, Department of Michigan, Constitution and By-Laws, Rev July 20, 1975)

"All committee members shall be appointed and may be removed for cause by the Department Commander with the approval of the Department Executive Committee. The Department Commander shall name the Chairman of each committee to serve until the next Department Convention.

No Legionnaire may be appointed to serve on more than one regular standing appointive Department Committee at any one time." (Article Five (V) Section Four (b) The American Legion, Department of Michigan, Constitution and By-Laws, Rev July 20, 1975)

The Department Commander shall appoint all regular and alternate American Legion members of the committee that originate in the Commander's term. The Commander shall fill all vacancies in the committee that occur during his term.

"Alternate members will be appointed to serve a one year term and will be designated as first and second alternate." (*DEC Action, April 20, 1974*)

At the first meeting of the new term, the Children and Youth Committee will elect one of its members to serve as Vice Chairman and one to serve as Secretary during that term of office. The Vice Chairman shall assume all duties of the Chairman in that person's absence.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:

Purpose:

The purpose of the Children and Youth Committee is to formulate and implement plans, programs and activities designed to assure care and protection for the children of veterans and to improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home, preventing social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth, and maintaining a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

Meetings:

"All meetings requesting travel expenses from Department funds, or any funds subject to Department control, or raised for any Department program shall be upon the call of the Department Commander to qualify for receipt of said funds in manner and form as provided by the Department Executive Committee and within the limitations as set up by the Finance Committee." *(DEC April 5, 1959)*

Meeting Schedule:

| | Member | Chairman |
|----------------------------|---------|------------|
| Fall Leadership Conference | One day | Three days |
| Winter Meeting | None | One day |
| Department Convention | One day | Two days |

Special Meetings:

Necessary special meetings may be held at Department Headquarters, via telephone conference, or internet conference capability (provided all members can hear each member during proceedings), with no mileage nor per diem authorized. Lunch may be provided by Committee funds with prior approval of the Department Commander. *(Rev 3.12.17)*

Per diem and/or mileage:

Per diem and/or mileage, if any, and only upon the authority of the Department Commander, shall be in accordance with current published Department policy, as recommended by the Department Finance Committee and approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Minutes:

Written minutes of each meeting shall be recorded by the Secretary and shall constitute the Chairman's report to the Department Executive Committee or the delegates to the Department

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:

Minutes – continued

Convention and will be included in the official proceeding of the meeting, conferences or convention thereby being made a permanent record for retention at the Department office. Minutes of any special meetings, adoption of motions or resolutions approved at any time occurring between Department meetings, conferences or convention shall be incorporated into the next official proceedings. Recommendations and/or resolutions must be presented in proper form to the Department Executive Committee or delegates at the Department Convention.

Transacting Business:

The committee may transact business by mail, telephone, e-mail, and other technologies including, but not limited to, Skype, Facetime, conference calls, and webinar/video chat, provided all members see/hear all votes made. If an e-mail vote is implemented, each response must be forwarded to all members of the Committee. If standard mail, the voting shall be considered closed at the end of seven (7) business days provided a majority of members of the committee have returned to the Chairman their votes by that time, or it shall be considered closed at anytime prior thereto and when all the members have returned their votes. Other technical votes include a telephone conference or web conference provided each member can see and/or hear each other members' votes. In the event one-third (1/3) members of the committee objects in writing, the matter shall not be decided and will be considered as the first order of business at the next regular meeting or special meeting and the Chairman shall notify the committee of the action taken. *(Rev 3.12.17, 6.24.18 Res. 18-C-15))*

Chairman:

The Chairman, with the Children and Youth Committee, shall establish a Department program and administer same following the National Guidelines. The Children and Youth program shall be presented to the Department Executive Committee for approval at the Fall Leadership Conference.

The Chairman, with the Committee, shall present a Children and Youth School of Instruction at the Fall Leadership Conference. The Chairman shall prepare a School of Instruction for The American Legion session, which may be held jointly with the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Chairman shall accumulate all information pertinent to the program and shall disseminate the information to the Chairman of the various districts and posts.

The Chairman shall implement all mandates of the Annual Department Convention to the Children and Youth Committee.

The Chairman, with the Committee, shall develop a financial budget for expenses of the Children and Youth Committee and program. The budget is to be presented to the Department Finance Committee for approval at the annual budget meeting.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:

Chairman – continued

The reviewing of Consolidated Post Reports for awards will be done the Thursday of each annual Department Convention, wherever it may be held. The Chairman or Vice Chairman shall represent the Department of Michigan at Region V and present the Michigan program as prepared by the Children and Youth Committee. In the event the Chairman or Vice Chairman cannot attend the conference the Committee, with the Chairman, shall appoint a representative.

An Annual Report shall be written and submitted to the Editor by May 1st of each year.

Procedure:

Parliamentary procedure used to conduct meetings of this committee shall be governed by the Department of Michigan, The American Legion, Constitution and By-Laws. All questions not covered by the Department of Michigan Constitution and By-Laws will be governed by "Roberts Rules of Orders Newly Revised."

Quorum:

A quorum shall exist at any meeting of the Children and Youth Committee when a majority thereof shall be present, or shall have replied to mail polling. At no time shall lack of a quorum prevent those present from proceeding with the program but, where there is not a quorum, no vote shall be taken.

Amendments:

These procedures may be amended, in content but not in format, by a majority of the members of the Committee; submitted to the Internal Affairs Committee for review and recommendation; and approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Approved: *DEC July 29, 1978*

Amended: *DEC July 19, 1984, July 8, 2006, September 19, 2009, September 2014, March 2017, June 24, 2018*