

**American Legion Department of Ohio**

**VA&R Standing Commission**

**2 pm, DEC**

**July 15, 2023**

1. Call to order

The meeting was opened by Chairman David Cook of the 6th District. Darell Bishop of the 5th District gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. David Cook of the 6th District was appointed Secretary.

1. Salute to the Colors
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman David Cook of the 6th District
3. Roll Call: The following members were present:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **District** | **Name** | **Substitution** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| 1 | **Pat Grzybowski** |  | X |  |
| 2 | **Mike Homan** |  | X |  |
| 3 | **Mike Blackwell** |  | X |  |
| 4 | **Jerry Perry** | Al Buxton | X |  |
| 5 | **Darell Bishop** |  | X |  |
| 6 | **Dave Cook** |  | X |  |
| 7 | **Vacant** |  |  | X |
| 8 | **Donald Capps** |  | X |  |
| 9 | **William Dittebrand** |  | X |  |
| 10 | **Bob Rhode** |  | X |  |
| 11 | **Steve Wainwright** |  |  | X |
| 12 | **Glenn Hickman** |  |  | X |
| 13 | **Leroy Brinkoff** |  | X |  |
| 14 | **Bob Carson** |  | X |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  | 11 | 3 |

1. Introduction of Guest: None Present
2. Reading of Previous minutes: Reading of Previous Minutes: All reviewed the minutes of March 11, 2023. After review, Darell Bishop stated there needed to be correction Item 8 Line b, after Fisher House, to ADD: Female Section. A motion was made by Bishop D 5 and seconded by Rhodes D 10 to except as amended. Motion Passed.
3. District Reports:

**D 1** Is having issues with Volunteers and VA Staff member, limited on what our volunteers can and cannot do.

**D 2** Donations collected and they and Auxiliary. Usually go to Dayton, this past year donation were given to the Veterans Canteen at Dayton VAMC to be used there as needed.

**D 3** No Report

**D 4** Volunteers can now get in, must do a rapid Covid test first.

**D 5** Sandusky opening to them, can do some visitations

**D 6** can get in COVID testing now only if you are going to a few arears. Genochio announced that Gabe Kilgeor is no longer working for the A.L., is now working for the VA, so at this time no rep at Columbus.

**D7** No report

**D 8** Chillicothe Open, has activity set for Aug 16th.

**D 9** Cleveland Opening up.

**D 10** Razed 2 K for the Warriors

**D 11** No Report

**D 12** No Report

**D 13** Now back up to per COVID

**D 14** No Report

1. **Old Business:** Review of Guidelines for Vets Court. As none in writing, Bishop (D 5) will work with Genochio to get written, like Gifts for Yanks and be sent out to Commission members for review. A motion was made by Buxton D 4 and seconded by Capps D8 to approve this action. Motion Passed.

**New Business:** Review of Commission rules. All reviewed them and a motion was made by Carson D 14 to have the last line in first paragraph changed from- may be reappointed to: a 3-year rotating term. This would give continuity for the commission as would only have possible turnover of only a 3rd of the commission at a time. Cook stated it was like that prior to changing the name from Committee to Commission. Genochio will check on this and see, if possible, to change it back. A motion was made by Rhodes D 10 and seconded by Carson D 14 to except rules, with this possible change. Motion Passed. Review of

**DSO Report:** Genochio went over the report and asked if there were any questions.

**Review of Ohio HB 69**. Cook started reviewing as currently printed. Genochio stated that changes had been made 1) only one Post 911 vet needs to be appointed and 2) the appointing Authority will stay with the Judge and not County Commissioners. With this up dated info, the commission moved on as the issues had been addressed with the changes in the bill.

Chillicothe Stake Holder meeting- Genochio will send out dates to the commission members on when they are.

**Gifts for Yanks Report**: Bishop (D 5) gave a report on the subcommittee. Have 126K in budget. Have funds left over as VA, do to being shut down had not used the funds available. The Vets Homes did not hand out the $25.00 gifts cards provided, as did not want them just lying around, asked for one check and the funds would be put into accounts for the Veteran to use. This is being looked at. Also, the $25.00 Gift card will be increased to $35.00 this year. They spent $144K and still have a reserve. Special project request need to them in by April. Due to turnover at Dept. Staff the letters had not been sent out to the various VA locations. Also, District Chairmen/ Commander will get reports on funds collected and spent now. This will also show who made donations.

1. **Resolutions:** None
2. **Good of the Legion:**

Genochio stated there would be a change in the National Legacy Ride Scholarship is coming to an end After 2023. The 2024 Legacy ride will rase funds for American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. He is looking at Department setting up a fund locally to be use locally, more info coming on this.

It was bought up about our awards: at this time Genochio did not have them, to review. They will be sent out by e mail and a e mail vote taken to approve them.

Carson asked if we could possibly do meeting by computer. Discussion was held. After discussion, it will be looked in to and Genochio will get the word out at all.

Genochio asked that all review the contact sheet and let him know if all contact info was correct, if not to let him know, so it could be updated.

**Closing Prayer** was given by Darell Bishop of the 5th District

The Colors were saluted

This committee was adjourned at 3:15 pm

 David Cook

 Chairman