

Summary of Department Executive Committee – August 1, 2020

The Department Executive Committee was called to order on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 10 am via virtual video conference. A quorum was present. Due to this meeting being a large group, it was difficult to obtain all the names of guests and Past Department Commanders present. SAL Detachment Commander Bernie Kessler, and American Legion Riders Liaison, Jack Nix, were present to bring greetings on behalf of our American Legion Family. Kristen Little, TAL Auxiliary President was not available.

Officer Report SAL CMDR Bernie Kessler (5): CMDR Kessler mentioned Past SAL CMDR Rick Riviotta from Squadron 610 passed away in late July. He also mentioned that at the SAL DEC, they approved the closure of Squadron 717 (Paper Post and meeting at VFW in North Ridgeville) in 5th District. Upon meeting with the Post CMDR, it was to be revitalized and held until the SAL Fall Conference (No Quorum at SAL Fall Conference 10/17/2020). Reported that they modified C&BL for pandemic situations to be voted on at next SAL Convention. Future project monies in amount of \$3,230.66 were distributed to Child Welfare, NEF, Children's Miracle Network, OCW, and Fisher Houses of Dayton, Cincinnati, and Cleveland. National reported 18% of CSR for SAL was submitted by SAL (1143 of 6,201 Squadrons). Ohio turned in 194 of 317 = 61%. This is a requirement for membership cards. Mentioned that Jermaine Ferguson is making a difference with SAL and they are glad to have him!

Report from Jack Nix, ALR Liaison (13): Explained it has been a joy working with Bill Genochio and he is considered a great asset to ALR by he and Mindy Hinkle. New ALR Chapters being requested. Posts still hosting Poker Runs and doing what they can to reduce COVID spread. Newark, Lorain-Amherst, and Kent. Partnering with Ohio Patriot Riders and Combat Vets Association. Ohio ALR POW/MIA Run is scheduled for September (cancelled). Ride and Grab Program with different posts is also on hold. Statewide ALR Meeting in October at Pickerington Post.

Report from 1st Vice, Jean Wilson (4): Welcomed everyone to 2021 Membership year. Post 1 of 12th District is first Post to be quota in Department of Ohio. Standings of Districts: (1) 33.98%, (2) 34.92%, (3) 28.08%, (4) 35.26%, (5) 23.79%, (6) 25.74%, (7) 19.78%, (8) 29.74%, (9) 25.77%, (10) 24.04%, (11) 30.81%, (12) 31.24%, (13) 30.86%, (14) 18.25%. Sixty-One posts were not cleared by 1 August 2020. If help is needed for a Post with an issue or problem with paperwork, Jean offered help. WE cannot have membership processed if it is sitting at HQ waiting for paperwork. Working on 888 membership plan. There is a sheet for every post to complete that tells members seeking to transfer what your Post has and does (ALR Chapter, AUX unit, SAL squadron, clubroom, brick & mortar location, etc). DEADLINE is 1 Nov. 1st Vice Wilson offered bets for membership. When we work together, we strive for excellence!

Membership Goal for Department, set by National, is 84,724 members for 2021. If your District is doing something successful that is working, please share with everyone so they too can be successful. Mentioned Tom Poulton, DC – 12th, is the Membership Chairman for DMS/888 Committee. Membership Workshop from National is virtual this year!

Report from Tom Poulton, 12th DC (12): Only 50% of Posts participated in the 888 member transfers. There are members who do not belong to a Post and are already members of the Department HQ 888 Post. They will join your Post if you ask. Tom is also putting on his own membership workshops.

Report from 2nd Vice, Brad Teis (10): Department Golf Tournament was a success. It was hot and beautiful day. Fifteen Teams was a surprise with COVID19. Thank you to Post 199 of Harrison for hosting. The food and hospitality was great. Thank you Historian Al Beyer and Dayna Beyer for attending and taking pictures. The winning team was 23 under with a two-day total. Miamisburg will host the Bowling Tournament again this year (3rd District). Zanesville Post is waiting for a good time for the Pool Tournament still. They too will host in 2021. The Golf Tournament will go back to Kettering Post 598. There are two bids for the Euchre Tournament and will be decided soon. All activities for 2020/2021 will be scheduled and an advanced calendar soon.

Report from Treasurer, Charles Stennis (9): Fiscal Year has been changed to 1 July to 30 June to align more appropriately with the membership revenue. P&L for 2019-2020 will be distributed to DEC members soon. The IRS 990's for 2019 was also completed in June. The audit report should also be completed and distributed to DEC for review. Over 200 Posts have signed up for Post Credit ACH Program.

Report from Chaplain, Melissa Fowle (3): A training incident in Southern California resulted in a deceased Marine and eight others missing. Post Department Chaplain Jim Vaughan and wife Kay Vaughan have health issues and need prayer. Joe Ruland from 13th District is still recuperating (Joe chimed in that he is doing better). Dept. Sgt-At-Arms, Roy Terry, had surgery and he reported he is doing better also. Religious Emphasis meeting is Saturday, October 3rd at 10 am. Prayer Concerns: Daniel Metzger, past District Commander of 2nd District is on rehabilitation facility (passed away on 10/30). Mike Homan, D2, 1st Vice, fell and fractured hip, in a rehab facility after back surgery.

Report from Historian, Al Beyer (5): Posts are grateful that someone comes to see them and how good it feels to visit them with all their good ideas. Concerns are military honors for veterans. The Officers guide has the guidelines for the Post History Contest and how to make and submit a History Book for the Post. Pages 140-149 and on TAL website (www.legion.org). National Historian, Jim Mariner, advised that the 2019-2020 contest deadline has been extended, directed by National Adjutant Wheeler, due to cancellations and postponements of programs. New Deadline for Post History Books is February 2, 2021 for Department and April 2, 2021 for National. Do not confuse new date with the 2021 History Contest. That is still the same deadlines. Post History Books can be mailed or hand delivered to Department HQ. Thank you to Greg Elsbernd, Assistant Historian, and Dayna Beyer, Wife, for taking pictures and reporting of News for the Legion.

Report from NECMAN, Robert Klostermeier (1): Not hearing much from National other than membership reports for TAL and SAL. No information on Fall Meetings yet. NEC meeting and Commander and Adjutant meeting is also being adjusted. Received CPR Report from IA and Ohio was 16th Place and submitted 448 CPR's out of the 528, for a total of 85%.

Report from Alternate NECMAN, Steve Masowick (9): If Bob's here, I'm good.

Report from PDC Robert E. "Bob" Schmitt (1): Nothing other than everyone gets to contribute in the Membership Workshop which is a good thing.

Report from Judge Advocate, Doug Whitney (3): Post Constitution & By-Laws and Post Articles of Incorporation are important for IRS and Ohio Licensing, property ownership, and tax matters. The name in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution & By-Laws, and all licenses and property deeds, must be

identical. Many of them are not, which could cause problems in the future. The stated purpose of the Post corporation should be word for word as stated in the latest version of The American Legion Preamble to the Constitution. The membership criteria must also be current based on the most recent expansion of eligibility from the Legion Act. Please encourage your District Judge Advocates to look at these documents to ensure they are up to date and amended. Post Officers manual on Page 23 has guidance. Election season is upon us and we need to remember to be non-partisan. No campaign buttons or personal views may be expressed or seen, as a Legion member. We must make our Posts available to all parties, not just one. Any Legion apparel must be removed from the meeting. Legion caps or attire may not be worn while attending a rally or party meeting. Violations of these rules may jeopardize the tax exemptions granted for Legion donors under section 501c-19 of the US Code. Doug mentioned having heart surgery scheduled for August 10th (Surgery successful).

Report from Parliamentarian, Jerry White (8): Jerry reported as Parliamentarian and the Chairman of the Constitution & By-Laws Committee. Recommendations were made to Commander Friend who would serve on this Committee by CHRMN White and the following were appointed: Department Judge Advocate, Doug Whitney (3), PDC Ron Chapman (4), PDC Richard Zulch (1), Department Adjutant Suzette Heller (Ex-Officio) (12). Motion made by Treasurer Charles Stennis (9) and seconded by Richard Wright, (13) and passed unanimously. Tasks of Committee is to review the Five C&BL Resolutions passed by DEC in the previous year for thorough review prior to going to Convention in 2021. Committee is already at work. Also reviewing C&BL for recommended changes and necessary updates. Committee will also review the most current rules of the Department Executive Committee, recently updated, to ensure everything is aligned properly.

Report from Department Adjutant Suzette Heller (12): Post Inspection and Post Selection Sheets were discussed. The Post Selection sheets allow a Post to indicate specific details about the Post that an 888 member can review and determine which Post they would like to join. There is a question on the bottom of the sheet where the Post can indicate that they agree to “automatically receive 888 members for review.” This allows an 888 member to be transferred into a Post of their choosing, based on the information on the Post Selection Sheet. Posts can receive new members for review to expand their American Legion family. Post Inspections performed by District Commanders MUST be done by MARCH 30st, 2021. The Department Finance Committee, and DEC, approved a policy that the Department will no longer deduct Emblem Sales expenses from the District Activities Funds for DEC members. Each year, every Department receives Royalties from The American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales. The Department will use these funds to purchase a cap and badge for DEC members and they will be expected to purchase their own ties. What we will expect is that a POST INSPECTION is performed on every Post, every year. District Activities, District Commander, and District 1st Vice distributions will be withheld until 100% Reporting of Post Inspection Forms are submitted to Department HQ. If this is done by the March Deadline, there shouldn't be any problem getting those monies distributed immediately after 1 July each year (Revenue based on final membership reporting on 30 June every year). Adjutant Heller Proposed a monthly DEC conference call for DEC. Secretary of State Frank LaRose campaign “Second Call to Duty” to increase volunteers for poll working during upcoming election. Due to COVID19, large majority of current volunteers are compromised with health conditions that make them vulnerable. Our goal is to keep our members safe.

Report from National Security Chairman, Al Buxton (4): Chairman Buxton reported on the activities of the National Security Committee meeting at Department HQ on July 11, 2020, at 10am. POW-MIA

Program sold \$300 of pins which cost over \$850. Committee requested \$3,000 from Charities, Inc., for POW-MIA Fund to assist supporting the military by supporting Central and Southern USO Program. Blood Donor Program had 2,086 donors from Posts who donated 4,577 pints of blood. Encouraging Posts to support Red Cross Blood drives. Rick LaValley, 7th District, mentioned wrongdoing at Post's regarding money, stealing, and mismanagement. Recommended a resolution to make the National Security Committee to be responsible for Post auditing and problems. Members of Committee to write resolution is Jose Rivera, (9), Rick LaValley (7), and Doug Russell (10). No Good of the Legion reported and meeting concluded at 11:30 am.

Report from Americanism Committee Chairman, Tom Rowe (12): Americanism Committee met on July 11, 2020 at 10 am at Department HQ. This report is Informational Purposes Only. Committee agreed to allow the question of "What are your thoughts on the desecration, removal, or vandalism of historical monuments or statues?" to be the essay question on the A&G Test. New "Americanism Fact Sheet" was created and will be used to market Americanism Programs. A&G Testing scheduled for 11/2 – 11/6 and Alternate testing 11/9 – 11/13. A&G Trip is scheduled for March 1-5 2021. Civics taught in schools are huge concern as they are not being taught. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Children & Youth Committee Report, Chairman Andy Atkins (10): Meeting was called to order in the afternoon of July 11th, 2020. Program donations supported by C&Y Committee for 2020-2021 is Fisher House, Donovan's Kids, Ohio Military Kids (4-H Project), and the Burn Institute. Taking nominations for Child Welfare Worker of the Year. There are 200 pins left, motion made to reduce price of pins to \$3 to get rid of what is remaining in stock. Recommended that Special Olympics Committee be replaced by the Children & Youth Committee and that Special Olympics become a program for the committee to decide its fundraising, donations of, and volunteer support. Department Historian Al Beyer was present and discussed a "Parade of Flags" program where a Post adopts an area of their community that is supported by residents and businesses that donates monies for the Post to install flags several times/year annually for patriotic holidays. C&Y would like a table cloth for marketing the program at events or conventions. Committee agreed to meet again on 10/24 at 1 pm. Meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.

Gifts For Yanks Program Report, Chairman Darell Bishop (5): GFY Committee met on Saturday, July 18th at Department HQ. Sub-Committee minutes were not available. Fundraising to date was \$156,547 for 2019-2020. The Raffle has a profit of \$1,933. The hats have not paid for themselves yet due to lack of events (pandemic). Fundraising for 2020-2021 is set for \$200,000. Coin raffle will be held at Mid-Winter. Mentioned to send pledge cards to Posts and send Bullet Pens for \$10 for fundraiser. Money not spent from previous year is \$48,000. Program bank account balance is \$177,244.45 as of 6/3/2020. Monies still remain in investment account and Fisher House monies were not removed from but taken from GFY cash on hand. Favored to keep money in investment account to accrue interest. 2020-2021 Gift is back scratcher, pocket calendar, bullet pen, breakaway lanyard, metal straw w/ case, and a cushion with a blanket at a cost of \$27/gift. Committee approved budget. Committee agreed to add \$10,481 for Cleveland VA to receive two games with carts to be wheeled around. Also \$12,000 for Veterans Appreciation Night has to be re-allocated due to cancellations. Cincinnati VAMC received \$7,000 for food pantry and Georgetown OVH received a six-passenger golf cart. Lorain Clinic received \$750 for Veterans Appreciation Day. Total of \$189,981.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Report, Chairman Dave Cook (6): Meeting convened at 1:00 pm. Service Officer Updates were provided from Bill Genochio, DSO Supervisor. Veterans must have an appointment at their offices. PSO will be 11/7 at HQ (Virtual) from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Veterans Treatment Court updates are pending guidelines due to opportunity to meet with current COVID19 pandemic. Project is underway. Veteran Suicide Prevention has been decided to also hold off until closer to Convention. Resolutions pending were reviewed. Next meeting scheduled for 10/3. Meeting Adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Buckeye American Legion College (BALC) Update, Holly Lewis (10): Holly Lewis not able to be present, Adjutant Heller gave brief update: BALC Training scheduled for September 19 & 26 with three 40 minute presentations on topics of Communication/Signs of Toxic Leadership, Conflict Management, Goal Setting and Project Management, and Building an Inclusive Culture of Team Building. Individual will pick two options. Mid-Winter will host more BALC Graduates.

Cancellations/Revocations/Suspensions/Application for Post Charters: Post 757 will be returned their charter on 8/3. DEC Voted to lift Post Suspension, Tom Poulton (12) Motioned, Ken Crawford (7), seconded. Unanimous. Post 182 in Columbus awaiting cancellation paperwork and Squadron 717.

Resolutions: 21-02 to Amend Article XI, Section II., "The Post". Will go through membership committee. Resolve is to reduce minimum members at post from 25 to 15.

Good of the Legion: 1st Vice Jean Wilson mentioned the Membership Training Workshop. Richard Wright mentioned NFL taking a knee. Commander Friend stated we are non-partisan and that is an individual's right to take a knee. Adjutant Heller mentioned that maybe we should be more apt to look at why people are taking a knee and to not be argumentative or debitive about it. Maybe this is an opportunity to encourage the value of and to promote Americanism and what our Nation's flag stands for. Opportunity to unite in solidarity to teach about the flag and to consider deep-rooted issues of racism that continues to go on around us. Find a common ground, teach unity, and solidarity. Jason Rue (1) mentioned his comrades coming home in flag draped coffins and how offensive it is for him to watch people take a knee. Agrees to opportunity to teach Americanism and Flag Etiquette. 2nd Vice Brad Teis (10) mentioned NFL Players giving back to communities as opposed to protesting and fault of media. Mentioned not having the National Anthem at Sports and for them to just play. Larry Glasgow (10) mentioned unity and diversity and that we are all different, that's what makes us Americans and we fought for their freedoms to do so. Jerry White mentioned that PDC Ed Voisard passed away and will be laid to rest in St. Mary's.

Benediction/Prayers/Closing: Chaplain Melissa Fowle (3) provided the benediction and meeting convened at 12:30 PM.