

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING OF
MARCH 18th, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.
IN PERSON – OHIO STATEHOUSE

1. Call to Order 1:00 P.M.
Department Chairman Heller opened the meeting of the Department Legislative Commission at 1:00 P.M.
2. Salute the colors
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Roll Call: Jacob Brault, Legislative & National Security Coordinator

Members present:

William Billings, 1st District Chairman- PRESENT
Kurt Emans, 2nd District Chairman- PRESENT
Michael White, 3rd District Chairman- PRESENT
Steve Ervin, 4th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Gary Mitchell, 5th District Chairman- PRESENT
Christopher Miller, 6th District Chairman- PRESENT
Emmett Gregory, 7th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Jerry Collins, 8th District Chairman- PRESENT
Gary Petrochello, 9th District Chairman- EXCUSED
Robert Withrow, 10th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Richard Smathers, 11th District Chairman- PRESENT
Suzette Heller, Department Chairman- PRESENT
Bert Boyd Sr, 13th District Chairman- PRESENT
Jacob Marx, 14th District Chairman- EXCUSED

Guests Present:

Jacob Brault, Legislative & National Security Coordinator
Jason Norris, 12th District Vice Commander
Arlinda Mitchell, 13th District

6. Approval of previous minutes

Chris Miller 6th District Chairman motions, seconded by Richard Smathers 11th District Chairman to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

MOTION PASSED

7. Unfinished Business-

Discussion was had on Property taxes and the what if's of eliminating property taxes as a whole.

Chair Heller discussed the options to discuss property taxes with local government agencies in

preparation for potential hearings / outcomes of these bills

8. New Business –

- a. H.B. 708- Legislative Commission discussed the potential impact of if HB 708 were to pass with information provided in the sit-down meeting with HB708 sponsor Rep. Willis.

Commission discussed views on this bill and determined that charging veterans for a service that is free should not happen. Increasing the number of VSO's of spreading knowledge of these free services such as VSO and CVSO.

Chair Heller requested Coordinator Brault forward information on AI in PSO school as a tool and the possibility of decentralizing PSO school multiple times over the year. Along with VAR chairs knowing who is a PSO in their district

9. Good of the Legion –

- a. Proclamation was presented to Rep. Demetriou for being selected as the legislator of the year.

10. Benediction

11. Adjourned- Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.