

American Legion Department of Ohio

Membership & Post Activities Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 21, 2026

Location: Department Headquarters (In Person)

Time: 8:05 AM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **8:05 AM** by **1st Vice Commander Gary Cox, Jr.**

2. Opening Ceremonies

- Salute to the Colors
- Invocation: 14th District 1st Vice Commander, Jacob Marx
- Pledge of Allegiance led by 1st Vice Commander Gary Cox, Jr.
- Preamble led by 2nd Vice Commander Holly Lewis

3. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by **Department Liaison Sherry Yockey.**

- Several members were marked present, with some noted as excused.
- **A quorum was not present.**

4. Quorum Status

Due to the absence of a quorum, **no official votes could be conducted.**

- It was determined that **items requiring approval will be sent via email vote** prior to the April DEC meeting.

5. Old Business

- None reported.

6. New Business

a. District Committee Chairman List

Presented by **1st Vice Commander Gary Cox, Jr.**

- Discussion emphasized ensuring district alignment when appointing committee chairs.
- The importance of confirming appointees are members within their respective districts was noted to avoid duplication and confusion.

b. Legionnaire of the Year

- Candidates were discussed among members present.
- General consensus and recommendations were gathered.
- Final decision will be conducted via **email vote** due to lack of quorum.

c. 2026–2027 Awards Manual

Presented by **2nd Vice Commander Holly Lewis**

Key proposed changes discussed:

- It was noted that the 2027 Awards manual will be implemented if the proposed dues increase is approved at the 2026 Department Convention.
- Removal of certain awards and adjustments to timelines.
- Reduction in monetary awards and overall cost savings.
- Elimination of underutilized awards (e.g., Post Activity Award).
- Adjustments to district incentive structures.
- Replacement of plaques with **certificates or alternative recognitions** (e.g., streamers, pins).
- Discussion on setting realistic and motivating membership percentage goals (e.g., 95% vs. 100%).
- Feedback was received from commission members.
- Final approval will be conducted via **email vote**.

d. 2026 National Membership Workshop

- **Dates:** August 7–9, 2026
- **Location:** Sheraton Indianapolis, 31 W Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN

Discussion points:

- District 1st Vice Commanders **are required to attend**.
- District 2nd Vice Commanders are **encouraged to attend**.
- Department will reimburse:
 - One night hotel lodging
 - Mileage at \$0.45 per mile
- Expense vouchers must be submitted within two weeks.

7. Additional Discussion

- Membership trends and recruitment efforts, including marketing initiatives, were discussed.
- Communication challenges between Department, Districts, and Posts were noted.
- Training opportunities were suggested, including potential **MyLegion system training** and district officer development sessions.
- Upcoming system changes expected later in the year were mentioned.

8. Announcements

- Information shared regarding the **National Convention in Louisville**, including lodging and scheduling.
- Ongoing district membership challenges and incentives were reviewed.
- Contributions were encouraged for a Department project honoring a member.

9. Chairman’s Closing Remarks

1st Vice Commander Gary Cox, Jr. thanked members for their participation and encouraged continued effort through the remainder of the membership year.

10. Closing Ceremonies

- Benediction- 14th District 1st Vice Commander, Jacob Marx
- Salute to the Colors

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately **9:03 AM**.

- Motion by 14th District 1st Vice Commander, Jacob Marx
- Seconded by 3rd District 1st Vice Commander, Michael White

Action Items Summary

- Conduct an **email vote** for:
 - Legionnaire of the Year
 - 2026–2027 Awards Manual
- Follow up on district committee chair confirmations
- Provide additional training opportunities (MyLegion, district operations)
- Submit reimbursement forms for workshop attendance (when applicable)

Discussion (Post-Meeting):

Following the meeting, it was noted that there is a discrepancy between the 2026 Membership Manual and the “Of the Year” Awards booklet regarding the Legionnaire of the Year nomination deadline. After review, it was determined that nominations will be submitted to Internal Affairs (IA) using the May 1 deadline, as outlined in the “Of the Year” Awards booklet.

March 23 – March 26, 2026: The Department conducted an online vote for the 2027 Membership Awards Manual. 17 voted in favor of the manual.