

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 22, 2014  
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS  
DELAWARE, OHIO

Department First Vice-Commander David Hilliard called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The colors were saluted and the Pledge of Allegiance recited. Jason Graven was appointed secretary.

Roll Call:

Present: District 1-Chester Nowak  
District 2-David Myers  
District 3-Arnold "A.J." Whatley  
District 4-Allan Walsh  
District 5-Leslie "Jim" Ludban  
District 6-Vince Becker, Jr  
District 7-no representative  
District 8-Teresa Bly (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice sitting in for Marvin Shamhart)  
District 9-Ed Doherty  
District 10-Merl "Gene" Noling  
District 11- no representative  
District 12- no representative  
District 13- no representative  
District 14- no representative  
Chairman- Dept. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander David Hilliard

Guests: Jim Morris, Past Department Commander  
Jim Campbell, Department Second Vice-Commander  
Jason Graven, Internal Affairs Director  
Douglas Russell, 10<sup>th</sup> District Judge Advocate  
Harold Taylor, 10<sup>th</sup> District  
Dick Houpp, 10<sup>th</sup> District  
Bart Arndt, 6<sup>th</sup> District 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander

First Vice-Commander Hilliard opened the meeting with comments regarding the current member's rankings and thanked the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commanders for their hard work during the 2014 membership year.

Internal Affairs Director Graven handed out a post-by-post listing to each district showing the amount of credit each post has within the given district and then explained the online renewals and the credit program. He stated that for a total the Department has \$22,760 for a total of 1,012 members. 12 Posts in the Department have enough credit to be quota as of today.

PDC Jim Morris discussed the Big Twelve Competition and the Department of Ohio finishing in fourth for the size category. He then spoke on the PDC Membership Round-Up held February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that 807 cards were turned in, down from 1,200 from the year prior. To help with the card turn-in, he stated that the PDC Round-Up will be held on Saturday and Sunday in 2015 as opposed to Friday and Saturday as it was this year.

First Vice-Commander Hilliard proposed a District size category restructuring to make the size categories fair for all districts. The proposal was:

Proposal 1-Current Levels

Large = 10,000+

Districts 1, 5

Medium = 5,501 – 9,999

Districts 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

Small = under 5,500

Districts 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14

Proposal 2-(based on membership levels as of 2-28-14)

Large = 8,500

Districts

1 – 9,727

3 – 8,561

5 – 12,258

10 – 8,781

Medium = 4,500 – 8,499

Districts

2 – 6,765

4 – 7,965

9 – 5,306

11 – 5,007

Small = under 4,499

Districts

6 – 3,851

7 – 3,914

8 – 4,261

12 – 4,005

13 – 4,412

14 – 3,619

Proposal 3- Offered by Jim Ludban D5

Replace 3 categories with 2

Large Category- Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10

Small Category- 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14

Winners would be based on percentage of improvement over previous year. Large Districts have more resources but the smaller Districts show more of a gain with each new member.

Vice-Commander Ludban also stated that the current system is not motivating and suggested eliminating negative penalties from the membership program such as housing penalties at conventions. He also suggested that the cash awards be donated in Districts names to specific American Legion programs instead of going to the Districts.

Motion to accept proposal 2 was made by Vince Becker, Jr D6, seconded by Allan Walsh D4.

**Motion Carried**

First Vice-Commander Hilliard presented the need for a DMS Transfer Award for the District that completes the most DMS transfer. The winner would be by percentage. Chairman Hilliard asked for a motion to have Membership Director Graven look into the viability of such an award.

Motion was made to accept by Chester Nowak D1, seconded by Gene Noling D10

**Motion Carried**

Membership Director Graven then proposed changes to the 2015 Membership Awards Manual. The proposals were:

Removal of the averaging for "All-Time" High

Motion to accept was made by Chester Nowak D1, seconded by A.J. Whatley D3

**Motion Carried**

Removal of **CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP CARDS** due to the discontinuation from National

Motion to accept was made by Chester Nowak D1, seconded by A.J. Whatley D3

**Motion Carried**

Having posts purchase **CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP STARS, CITATION FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION** directly from National Emblem and Sales

Motion to accept was made by Jim Ludban D5, seconded by Allan Walsh D4

**Motion Carried**

Changing the **ELI K. JENSEN AWARD** to an increase over the previous year.

Motion to accept was made by Jim Ludban D5, seconded by Vince Becker, Jr D6

**Motion Carried**

Renaming of the **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD** to “**VETERAN SERVICE AWARD**” so it is no longer defined as a second place award but rather given to the Post which demonstrates the best Community Service to the Veteran Community.

Motion to accept was made by Chester Nowak D1, seconded by Ed Doherty D9

**Motion Carried**

Removal of the **Post Star Pins/Individual Membership Awards** due to lack of interest. Only 5 submitted for 2014.

Motion to table recommendation until 2015 depending on 2014 submissions was made by Chester Nowak D1, seconded by Jim Ludban D5

**Motion Carried**

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

*Jason Graven*

Jason Graven

Secretary