

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 28, 2015  
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS  
DELAWARE, OHIO

Department First Vice-Commander Jim Campbell 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-No Representative  
District 2-Ken Schutz  
District 3-No Representative  
District 4-Ron Chapman  
District 5-Jim Ludban  
District 6-Bart Arndt  
District 7-Karen Brown  
District 8- No Representative  
District 9-No Representative  
District 10-Robert Witherow  
District 11- Charles Sands, Jr.  
District 12- Vernon Hall  
District 13- Richard Wright  
District 14- No Representative  
Chairman- Dept. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Jim Campbell

Guests: Jason Graven, Internal Affairs Director  
Merl "Gene" Noling, District 10 Commander  
Harold Owens, District 12 Second Vice-Commander

First Vice-Commander Campbell opened the meeting with comments regarding the current membership rankings and thanked the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commanders for their hard work during the 2015 membership year. Vice-Commander Campbell emphasized the necessity of the Post to utilize their Post credits at Department

Headquarters and stressed that the membership year is not over and a continued push to reach 100,000 is necessary.

A motion was made to dispense of reading of the previous minutes as they had already been distributed to the committee via email prior to the meeting.

Motion to Approve-Ludban (D5); Second-Brown D7)

Motion Carried

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 had Christie White, Membership Coordinator, explain the online renewals and the credit program. Director Graven stated that the Department currently carries \$20,387.37 for a total of 906 members. 21 Posts in the Department have enough credit to be quota as of today.

Director Graven also discussed the Big Twelve Competition and the Department of Ohio finishing in second for the size category and 876 cards away from Commander Hilliard's 92.5% target. He then spoke on the PDC Membership Round-Up held March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup>. He stated that 698 cards were turned in, down from 807 last year and 1,200 from the year prior. He attributed part of this to the fact that the March turn-in date was 3 days earlier.

Director Graven then discussed the initiatives that had been tabled at the previous meeting held 3-22-14:

Investigating the viability of creating a Department DMS Award.

*It was discussed by the panel and decided that creating a Department level DMS transfer award was not necessary at this time and that if the awards were desired it should be done at the District level to reward individuals at the Post level.*

Due to the low amount of requests, ending the Membership Star program.

Motion to Approve-Ludban (D5); Second-Wright (D13)

Motion Carried

Membership Director Graven then proposed changes to the 2016 Membership Awards Manual. The proposals were:

Changing the November 11<sup>th</sup> turn-in day to November 13<sup>th</sup> as to not interfere with Veteran's Day activities in 2015 only.

Motion to Approve-Witherow (D10); Second-Hall (D12)

Motion Carried

Placing Online Renewal cut-off for turn-ins to be the midnight prior to Lap Turn-In dates in the Awards Manual.

Motion to Approve-Ludban (D5); Second-Hall (D12)

Motion Carried

Moving the December 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Lap Date to December 5<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the December D.E.C. meeting.

Motion to Approve-Wright (D13); Second-Arndt (D6)

Motion Carried

Authorizing the change in defining "special award" for the 1,000 and Over Quota Award once discovered what the award has been in the past.

Motion to Approve-Witherow (D10); Second-Hall (D12)

Motion Carried

Adding “District must be quota to qualify” to the Eli K. Jensen Award.

Motion to Approve-Ludban (D5); Second-Wright (D13)

Motion Carried

Eliminating the Department Adjutant’s Cash Award and rewording the Department Adjutant’s Award to “Plaque presented annually to any District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander whose District reaches quota.”

Motion to Approve-Ludban (D5); Second-Wright (D13)

Motion Carried

Adding “Plaques awarded annually at Department Convention” to page 22.

Motion to Approve-Arndt (D6); Second-Hall (D12)

Motion Carried

Proxy by Suzette Price, Department Service Officer:

Including all VA&R Awards to, and categorizing, pages 23 and 24 “Other Program Awards”

Motion to Approve-Ludban (D5); Second-Wright (D13)

Motion Carried

Removal of page 2 and the Convention Housing penalties (Goose Egg and Officer Certification Form).

Motion to Approve-Ludban (D5); Second-Wright (D13)

Motion Carried

Under Good of The American Legion, Director Graven then explained the series of charts that were distributed showing the nature and direction of the membership program over the last decade. Panel discussion led to the conclusion that drastic measures must be undertaken to correct the ship and a renewed focus must be placed on reaching the communities our Post reside in. Further focus must be placed on both the Gulf and Vietnam eras to help curtail the loss in membership over the next decade as the WWII and Korea eras pass on, specifically to the tune of 32,603 members currently on our rosters.

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

Jason Graven  
Secretary