

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF



HIO

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## MINUTES

### DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Leadership Conference Call

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order – Jean Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice
2. Invocation – Suzette Heller, Dept. Adjutant
3. Roll Call – Suzette Heller, Adjutant
  - (a) 24 voting members present – enough for a quorum (18)
  - (b) All Districts were represented
  - (c) Guests:
    - (i) SAL: Scott Thornton, Adjutant
    - (ii) AUX: Not Available
    - (iii) ALR: Mindy Hinkle
4. Department Commander Report:
  - (a) Mention of carry out services at posts for opportunities to be of service.
5. Adjutant Update of HQ Status:
  - (a) COVID-19 Update from Governor:
    - (i) Ohio Primary re-scheduled for June 2
    - (ii) Concerns: Not having enough equipment
    - (iii) Currently 67 cases, up from 50 on Monday (17 additional)
    - (iv) 16 counties/17 hospitalizations:
    - (v) Cases confirmed in Belmont (2), Butler (6), Coshocton (2), Cuyahoga (31), Darke (1), Franklin (4), Geauga (1), Lake (1), Lorain (4), Lucas (1), Mahoning (1), Medina (3), Stark (3), Summit (4), Trumbull (2) and Tuscarawas (1) counties.
    - (vi) Youngest is 14 and the oldest is 86
  - (b) NO public/member consumption of food and beverages in any business. Carry out and delivery only.
  - (c) Department:
    - (i) Sick Employees are being encouraged to stay home (Fever of 100.4 or greater)
    - (ii) We remain flexible.
    - (iii) Considering a 60 day or less temporary layoff for field offices (Dayton, Toledo, Cincinnati, and two from Cleveland)
  - (d) Meetings postponed/cancelled/conference:
    - (i) Remaining Spring District Conferences Cancelled: 3,4,5,9,10

- (ii) Cancelled local groups who utilize our building for meetings to minimize traffic into the building
  - (iii) Conference Call: Finance Committee 3/28 (pending)
  - (iv) Cancel: Pool Tournament April 3/4<sup>th</sup> Post 29 in Zanesville (Pending)
  - (v) Conference: DEC 4/4. Richard Heigert may still attend via conference call.
    - 1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander training postponed (video or conference call)
  - (vi) Postpone: Oratorical 4/5 (Pending)
  - (vii) Conference Call: BBS Spring Meeting (Pending)
  - (viii) Cancel: LIT Conference (Pending) 4/19-4/22
  - (ix) Cancel/Conference: Legislative Meeting 4/25 (Pending)
  - (x) Spring Meetings: NEC ONLY
  - (xi) Department Convention Contingency dates into July if necessary (pending)
  - (xii) Propose weekly Conference Call Meetings until COVID-19 is clear
    - 1. Adjutant Heller recommended to Commander to host this meeting every week at 6pm on Tuesdays.
    - 2. JA Doug Whitney made a point of order that the Rules of DEC list the Chairman can call a meeting as he/she determines. The Department Commander agreed.
    - 3. DEC Members agreed
6. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Report
    - (a) Posts need to be proactive and District Commanders can assist Posts with helping them navigate through getting their mortgages and utilities suspended or deferred.
  7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Report
    - (a) Discussed membership and also helping Posts get CPR's, Buddy Checks, and being of service.
  8. Treasurer Report
    - (a) Talk to local Posts and companies about finances before its too late. Be proactive about seeking guidance.
  9. Judge Advocate Report
    - (a) Constitution & By-Law concerns and District Conventions. Preamble mentions Law & Order. A Post has had police at their Post due to not complying with the Governor directives. We need to be keeping Posts accountable to the principles of The American Legion. Meetings held could open our organizations up to a lawsuit if COVID-19 is contracted and we are out of compliance with directives.
  10. Chaplain Report- Not in attendance
  11. NECMAN Report – Not in attendance
  12. District Commanders Report by District
    - (a) 1<sup>st</sup> D: District FB page has been updated with what the law is, also with an email. Notify Posts of opportunities to help
    - (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> D: Direct all Posts to maintain closure notices to carry-out of food only. No beer, liquor, ticket sales. Encourage Posts to look at finances. Local News channels to put out a statement about Posts and caring for Veterans. Encouraging Posts to do Buddy Checks.
    - (c) 3<sup>rd</sup> D: Forward email to Commanders of Posts and County Commanders regarding what the directives.
    - (d) 4<sup>th</sup> D: Calling the Posts on a regular basis to check in on them.
    - (e) 5<sup>th</sup> D: No Response
    - (f) 6<sup>th</sup> D: No Response
    - (g) 7<sup>th</sup> D: Updating FB page for updates. Large Post Concerns of whether they will survive the closure. Will help support to keep them going.
    - (h) 8<sup>th</sup> D: Half of Posts don't rely on canteen but do rely on fundraising.

- (i) 9<sup>th</sup> D: Teleconference for Executive Committee and County Commanders to check up on each Post within the County to help them.
  - (j) 10<sup>th</sup> D: Talk to each Post about Financial difficulty to assess potential problems.
  - (k) 11<sup>th</sup> D: No Response
  - (l) 12<sup>th</sup> D: Continue Buddy Checks. Call Commanders of Small Posts.
  - (m) 13<sup>th</sup> D: Communications is key with the Posts and their membership. FB presence and Buddy Checks. Looking at virtual meeting space similar to Department.
  - (n) 14<sup>th</sup> D: Problem with large Post in District and help
13. Unfinished Business
14. New Business
15. Good of the Legion
- (a) Jason Rue, 1<sup>st</sup> DC: Not cancel but postpone the Oratorical regardless of whether or not they are able to move onto National.
  - (b) In-depth discussion was had about the financial health of our Posts as a result of COVID-19 and Post closures.