

DMS COMMITTEE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
Department Headquarters-10:00 am

The meeting of the DMS Committee was called to order in the library at Department Headquarters by Chairman Jerry Wilson (District 4). Chairman Wilson led the committee in the salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. James Volgares (D7) gave the invocation. Jason Graven was appointed secretary.

The following members were present:

DISTRICT – NAME

1. Stan Oren
 2. None Present
 3. David Jones
 4. Michael Bender
 5. Bill Edwards
 6. Charles Armstrong
 7. James Volgares
 8. John Hood
 9. William Keller
 10. Holly Lewis
 11. George Bradley
 12. Thomas Rowe
 13. None Present
 14. John Life
- Chairman: Jerry Wilson

GUESTS:

Department 2nd Vice Commander Stanley Pleasant
Judy Willoughby (D8)
District 5 1st Vice Commander Gilbert Cole

Motion to dispense reading of previous minutes (September 19, 2015) made by Bill Edwards (District 5). Seconded by John Life (District 14)

Motion Carried

Chairman Wilson introduced the guests present.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



HIO

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Chairman Wilson then gave opening remarks stating that the DMS program is one of the most important programs The American Legion has in terms of membership. He continued with highlighting some of the information that myLegion.org has available to help recruit but none of it is worth anything if you don't use it. Chairman Wilson stated that he did not understand why there were so many complaints with regards to recruiting new members and that you just have to do or say something. He explained a situation from several years back where a Post was failing when he was a District leader and made a deal with the Post that if he could recruit 10 new members to make them quota that they would have to accept the new members into their Post. Chairman Wilson then gathered their 888 list and made 14 phone calls and out of those 14, 10 were willing to transfer. He went on to explain how his Post (199) and his District (4) have been successful in recent years by utilizing the 888 list. They send out a mass form letter to all 888 members in the District inviting them to transfer and include a 3x5 notecard requesting their information along with the letter. Both Post 199 and District 4 were quota last year.

DMS Director Graven then spoke on the 2015-2016 DMS end-of-year report explaining how the information was calculated and pointed out that the two quota District's for the previous year were also the two Districts who were most active in transfers of 888 members.

DMS Director Graven continued with explaining Post and District Revitalization in collaboration with information contained on myLegion.org. He also explained the "hidden list" that National has with DMS members who signed up through National that Departments can't access for two years and that these individuals can be accessed by requesting National's assistance with a District Revitalization.

Chairman Wilson then established standards for the 2016-2017 year by asking each District to look at the previous year's transfers and estimate the amount of individual's they felt that they could transfer during this membership year:

District 1: 120
District 2: 0
District 3: 400
District 4: 450
District 5: 300
District 6: 250
District 7: 100
District 8: 75
District 9: 250
District 10: 150
District 11: 60
District 12: 400
District 13: 0

District 14: 100

After each District gave their estimation he then set the expectation of 2,655 based on their numbers.

Chairman Wilson then gave a complete explanation of the DMS Award passed the previous year stating that the award is based on the number of transfers with regards to the District quota and NOT the arbitrary estimates presented in the meeting. Both the District Commander and the DMS Chairman with the greatest percentage of transfers with regards to District quota receive awards at the Mid-Winter Conference (based on Dec 31 numbers) and Department Convention (based on end-of-year numbers).

Chairman Wilson then asked for remarks from the Committee. Holly Lewis of District 10 asked for best practices concerning the acquisition of DD-214's since National does not require proof of eligibility when members sign up online and are sent into the DMS Program. Chairman Wilson explained that the acquisition of discharge paperwork is to be done at the Post and that the potential member should be contacted and it should be explained that upon transfer the Post will ask for documentation.

Director Graven then explained the Project Stay Active and Request to Transfer Forms received from National. Project Stay Active is sent to the Department's when members indicate that they have relocated so that the Post's know a member has moved to their area so that they can contact them and inquire about a transfer of that member. The Request to Transfer form is sent out along with renewal notifications allowing the member to indicate their desire to transfer out of 888 and into a local Post. Director Graven explained that Tom Faller (District 2) from previous year's committee worked with national to allow this form to serve as their signature on the membership Data Form since the member has already expressed their desire to transfer.

Director Graven then continued to explain the difference between someone signing up through National and someone indicating a desire to join through the Department website (ohiolegion.com). Where National accepts their dues and puts them into the DMS program, if someone signs up on the Department site their information is then transferred to Department HQ at which point Director Graven will then forward their information to the District leadership to contact them and put them directly into the nearest Post to their location so that they do not sit in National's DMS Post for two years without anyone knowing about it and preventing them from being transferred into that Post for two years.

Chairman Wilson then recognized Department 2nd Vice Commander Stanley Pleasant for remarks. Vice Commander Pleasant explained Department Commander Ron Chapman's reasoning behind asking National to make the Department quota 100,000 instead of the proposed 95,000 from National and explained how the DMS

program will help the Department meet the 100,000 mark. Vice Commander Pleasant discussed Post level involvement in working the DMS program and why some Posts refuse to participate in the program. He concluded with stating that the DMS Chairpersons are the ones who can make the success of the DMS program.

Holly Lewis (D10) then made a motion to hold the next meeting on December 3rd to include the option of video conferencing. Thomas Rowe (D12) seconded.

Motion Carried

Chairman Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am in proper form.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Graven
DMS Director