

MINUTES  
RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF  
OCTOBER 3, 2020  
10:00 A.M. Department Library

1. Call to Order 10:00 A.M.

Chairwoman Fowle opened the meeting of the Department Religious Emphasis Committee at 10:00 A.M.

2. Salute to the Colors

The Colors were saluted.

3. Invocation by Melissa Fowle, Department Chaplain

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman Fowle led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Appointment of Secretary- Department Chaplain Fowle appointed Christie White, Americanism and Children and Youth Coordinator as Religious Emphasis Secretary

6. Roll Call: Christie White, Americanism and Children and Youth Coordinator

**Members present:**

Ron Distel, 1<sup>st</sup> District Chairman-  
James Fast, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Melissa Fowle, Religious Emphasis Committee Chairwoman- PRESENT  
Mike Maloney, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
David Hurst, 4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman-  
William Edwards, 5<sup>th</sup> District Chairman-  
James Crawford, 6<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Susan Frasher, 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman- EXCUSED  
Mary Austin, 8<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman- EXCUSED  
Charles Stennis, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
C David Rhodes, 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairman-  
Steve Wainwright, 11<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Carl Bradley, 12<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
William Schiffer, 13<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
William Fast, 14<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT

**Guests Present:**

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator  
Suzette Heller, Department Adjutant

## 7. Reading of Previous Minutes

Charles Stennis, 9th District Chaplain moved, seconded by entire Religious Emphasis Committee unanimously and in unison, to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

### **MOTION PASSED**

## 8. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Department Chaplain Fowle welcomes religious emphasis committee members with excitement to see everyone's faces. Department Chaplain Fowle also informs the committee that her husband has been deployed and she received news that he will be returning home next Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Religious Emphasis Committee gave them blessings, support, and thankfulness that God provides.

## 9. Four Chaplains- Father Duffy Award Criteria

Suggestions were made to streamline the Father Duffy Award. The following was suggested and discussed for the 32 categories.

- a. Opening and closing Post prayers- keep
- b. Legion Grace Cards- Discard
- c. Special time for Chaplain at post meetings- Keep
- d. Service to God and Country- Keep and change page # to Page #6
- e. Church Service attended by Post members as a body- Keep- EXTRA
- f. Clergy person speaks at Post meeting- Keep
- g. Department or District Chaplain to speak at Post meeting- Keep
- h. Service to God and Country Bulletin Inserts- Discard
- i. Service to God and Country Dinner Placemats- Discard
- j. Post Religious Emphasis Committee- Keep- EXTRA
- k. Post Certificate- Keep
- l. Post Chaplain explains to Post about award- Keep
- m. Post member serving on Dept or Dist Religious Emphasis- Keep- EXTRA
- n. Post Four Chaplains Service- Keep
- o. Go to Church sign- Keep- EXTRA
- p. Memorial/Veterans Day Post Services- Keep
- q. American Legion Magazine- Discard
- r. Memorial Bible- Keep
- s. Literature Given to Parents- Discard
- t. Post family night with children present- Keep
- u. Post certificate of appreciation- Keep
- v. Post members visiting those bedridden- Keep
- w. Post and Aux having joint memorial service- Keep, add SAL and Riders
- x. Award, Citation "For God and Country"-Keep, change to plaque/certificate
- y. "Chapel for Four Chaplains"- Discard
- z. Post Chaplain- Discard
- aa. Post Everlasting Citations- Keep
- bb. Post honor guard for graveside services- Keep

- cc. Attend wake/funeral services- Keep
- dd. Present American flag- Keep
- ee. Oratorical contest- Keep
- ff. Buckeye Boys State- Keep

Different categories were discussed. Children & Youth, Community, Veterans, Posts and Extra. Committee decided to break up award into categories at home and then share their ideas via email, so they have more time to look into them and decide.

Steve Wainwright, 11<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain, motions to categorize the Father Duffy Award at home and share with the committee via email. Charles Stennis, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain seconds the motion.

**MOTION PASSED**

Charles Stennis, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain, Motions to amend the previous motion to include October 31<sup>st</sup> as the deadline to send categories to Department Chaplain Fowle and Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator Christie White. Carl Bradley, 12<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain seconds the motion.

**MOTION PASSED**

10. Post Chaplain Award- Carl Bradley motions for reaffirming the Religious Emphasis Committee to score and grade the Chaplain Award and Father Duffy award and give their recommendations to the Convention Judging Committee. Charles Stennis, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain seconds the motion.

**MOTION PASSED**

James Fast, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chaplain, motions that if a member of the Religious Emphasis Committee is a Post Chaplain with a submission, they should excuse themselves from judging. Charles Stennis, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain, Seconds the motions.

**MOTION PASSED**

Mike Maloney, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chaplain, motions to amend the previous motions to, if a member of the Religious Emphasis Committee has a submission from his/her post, they would be excluded from judging that individual submission. Charles Stennis, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain seconds the motion.

**MOTION PASSED**

11. Old Business- Prayer and religious services were discussed at Mid-Winter and Department Convention. Committee believes the Religious Emphasis Committee's mission statement should stay the same. Committee members went around the room and discussed what their occupation was before retirement or what their profession is currently. Everyone's backgrounds are very different, but they all have something to bring to the table, For God and Country. Department Chaplain Fowle asked the Committee to send cards to Malcolm Glasgow as well as Commander Friend.

12. New Business –

a. Approval of Rules of the Committee-

Charles Stennis, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain, motions to approve the rules of the Religious Emphasis Committee. Mike Maloney, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chaplain seconds the motion.

**MOTION PASSED**

b. Sunday Services for Mid-Winter Convention- Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator will send the committee info on Four Chaplain Services at Mid-Winter Conference.

Prayer Concerns and joys were discussed with the Religious Emphasis Committee. Members went around the room and discussed prayer concerns or joys that they would like to share.

13. Benediction- Melissa Fowle, Religious Emphasis Chairwoman.

14. Salute the colors

15. Meeting Adjourned. 12:22 PM