

MINUTES
RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF
OCTOBER 3RD, 2025
5:00 P.M. - VIRTUAL

1. Call to Order 5:00 P.M.
Department Chaplain Distel opened the meeting of the Department Religious Emphasis Committee at 5:00 P.M.
2. Salute to the Colors
The Colors were saluted.
3. Invocation by 14th District Chaplain Sharon McClain
4. Pledge of Allegiance
Chaplain Distel led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Appointment of Secretary
Jack Paderson, 5th District Chaplain, motions, seconded by Sharon McClain, 14th District Chaplain to have Christie White, Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator be appointed as secretary.

MOTION PASSED

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

Members present:

Ron Distel- Department Chaplain- PRESENT
Randy Roberts, 1st District Chairman- PRESENT
James Fast, 2nd District Chairman- PRESENT
Kevin Knepp, 3rd District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Peg Albert, 4th District Chairman- PRESENT
Jack Pederson, 5th District Chairman- PRESENT
Mel Cantrell, 6th District Chairman- PRESENT
Ray Howe, 7th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
VACANT, 8th District Chairman- VACANT
John Turner, 9th District Chairman- EXCUSED
Frank Barnes, 10th District Chairman- PRESENT
Steve Wainwright, 11th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Brad Beatty, 12th District Chairman- PRESENT
Linda Heffern, 13th District Chairman- PRESENT
Sharon McClain, 14th District Chairman- PRESENT

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

7. Reading of Previous Minutes-

Sharon McClain, 14th District Chaplain motioned, seconded by Mel Cnatrell, 6th District Chaplain to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

MOTION PASSED

8. Approval of Committee Rules-

Sharon McClain, 14th District Chaplain motioned, seconded by Frank Barnes, 10th District Chaplain to approve the rules of the Religious Emphasis Committee.

MOTION PASSED

9. Welcome and Opening Remarks-

Chaplain Distel introduces himself and thanks the committee for attending. He is glad to see everyone and thinks last year went really well. He did memorials for people at Mid-Winter and Convention for people who have lost loved ones throughout the year. It was well received by family and friends that attended.

10. Father John Duffy Award and Chaplain of the Year Award-

There are no changes or suggestions for either award. Make sure to share them with your Posts and send in nominations.

11. New Business

a. Sunday Service for Mid-Winter-

Chaplain Distel notified the Committee that he is already planning a 4 Chaplains. Department Convention will have a Protestant Service. Mid-winter service will be January 18th. For Department Convention, Chaplain Distel will check with local Catholic Churches to see if they have a Priest available to do Catholic Services. Christie and the Chaplain will research the 5th Chaplain and see if National is recognizing him in their Four Chaplains Service.

b. Prayer Requests/ Sick Call-

If there is a prayer request, the Chaplain asked that the information gets passed to him so they can be added to Mid-Winter or Convention services and/or he can make sure a card gets sent out to them. Brad Beatty mentioned that William Lindsay is not doing well and will not be with us much longer, so keep his family in your prayers. Department Adjutants JD's mom just passed away so keep them in your prayers. The Ridenours' are having a rough time medically so keep them in your prayers. PDC Darell Bishop is on the mend. George Thornton from 4th District just passed away suddenly, keep his family in your prayers.

Christie will create generic Get Well Cards and Condolence Cards from the American Legion if the Chaplains would like some sent to them so they can mail them to sick members or to the family of the members that have passed away.

12. Good of the Legion- None

13. Benediction- Ron Distel, Department Chaplain gave the benediction of the Religious Emphasis Committee.

14. Meeting Adjourned. 5:43 P.M.