

MINUTES  
RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2021  
11:00 A.M. DEPARTMENT LIBRARY

1. Call to Order 11:00 A.M.

Department Chaplain Buxton opened the meeting of the Department Religious Emphasis Committee at 11:00 A.M.

2. Salute to the Colors  
The Colors were saluted.
3. Invocation by Chaplain Distel and Chaplain Schiffer.
4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chaplain Buxton led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Members present:**

Ron Distel, 1<sup>st</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
James Fast, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman- EXCUSED  
Melissa Fowle, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chairwomen- EXCUSED  
Al Buxton, Department Chaplain- PRESENT  
Richard Ruzsa, 4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
William Edwards, 5<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- NOT PRESENT  
James Crawford, 6<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- NOT PRESENT  
Susan Frasher, 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- EXCUSED  
Mike Giese, 8<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- NOT PRESENT  
Charles Stennis, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
C David Rhodes, 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- NOT PRESENT  
Richard Johnson, 11<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- NOT 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- EXCUSED

NO QUORUM. Committee can't make motions or vote on anything. Discussion only.

**Guests Present:**

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

5. Department Chaplain Buxton gave greetings to the committee on behalf of Commander Jean Wilson and thanked them for serving on the committee.
6. Reading of Previous Minutes  
There was not a quorum to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

## 7. Approval of Committee Rules

There was not a quorum to approve the committee rules. Chaplain Buxton asked for the committee rules to be emailed to the committee and voted on.

8. Welcome and Opening Remarks- Chaplain Buxton asked the committee to promote the Father John Duffy Award and Post Chaplain Award in their Posts and Districts. Chairman Schiffer mentions that since the Commanders project is suicide awareness, he would like more information to be handed out on resources for the District Chaplains to utilize to help their members. Chairman Distel mentioned that Save a Warrior is a great resource to use to help veterans in need. Charles Stennis wants to make sure we continue to have services at all Department Meetings (mid-winter, fall conference, department convention). Chairman Distel mentions that Monday is the 50-year anniversary of him returning from the war.

## 9. Old Business

- a. Father John Duffy Criteria- Chairman Stennis let the new committee know that the application criteria was reduced last year by Chaplain Fowle to make it easier for nominations. Chaplain Buxton asked if Department can mail the Father John Duffy application and Chaplain Applications to all Post Chaplains. Christie White asked all District Chaplains to send her the list of all their chaplains in the district to make sure Department has updated information and can mail out the application to them.
- b. Post Chaplain Awards (promote to Posts)- Department Chaplain asked each member to push the award in their posts so the committee has 14 applications to vote on at Department Convention.

## 10. New Business-

- a. Sunday Services for Fall Meeting- Chairman Distel will take care of the Catholic Services. Chaplain Buxton and Chairman Bradley will take care of the Protestant services. If there are not enough people, they will combine and do a non-denominational service.
- b. Prayer request/sick call- Chaplain Buxton is sending out cards to those members that have reached out and asked for prayer. Charles Sollberger's wife is not doing well. Lou Dimmerman was just released from the hospital. Steve Ebersole's wife Carol is in hospice.

11. Good of the Legion- Chairman Bradley has instituted that his Post Chaplains attend the Post Service Officer training because as Chaplains, they are asked for help in that area from their members. He is also setting up a meeting with the Franklin County VSO to make sure they are all on the same page on the proper way to assist veterans. Chaplains discussed them conducting their Post Everlasting services at their Posts. Chaplains discussed having a "Post Everlasting Wall" at mid-winter and convention. All the names from the Taps sections on the OLN will be printed out and hung up on the wall the entire weekend to pay respects to our fallen comrades.

12. Benediction- The Religious Emphasis Committee moved to the memorial outside of Department to pay their respects and to give a Patriots Day prayer. Chaplain Buxton, Department Chaplain, and entire Committee.

13. Salute the colors

14. Meeting Adjourned. 11:55 A.M.