

RESOLUTION No.: 24-01

ORIGIN: Finance Commission
SUBJECT: Department of Ohio Dues Increase
APPROVED: by Department Executive Committee December 2, 2023

WHEREAS, the Department of Ohio has not had a dues increase since 2004; and

WHEREAS the Department of Ohio membership has decreased by 69,138 members since 2004 resulting in lost revenue of \$622,242; and

WHEREAS, inflation and costs have risen over 63% since 2004; and

WHEREAS the Department of Ohio operating expenses are approximately \$1.8M per year which includes Baseball, A&G trip, Oratorical, and membership awards programs which are not self funded; and

WHEREAS current yearly revenue for the Department is approximately \$1,300,000 broken down as follows:

- Membership dues including DMS/PUFL \$670,000
- SAL \$66,000
- State of Ohio for Service Officers \$450,000
- Legionnaire Insurance Trust \$74,000
- USAA \$31,000
- Emblem Sales \$9,000; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Ohio has investments of \$6,557,235 as of October 1, 2023 broken down as follows:

- Restricted funds (\$3,814,946)
 - Buckeye Boys State Money Market \$56,463
 - Buckeye Boys State Fund \$427,274
 - Scholarships \$1,109,208
 - Special Olympics \$146,670
 - Gifts for Yanks \$520,133
 - Ohio Life Members \$1,611,659
- Unrestricted Funds (\$2,742,289)
 - General investments \$412,564
 - Building Fund \$639,072
 - Reserve Fund \$1,690,653; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Ohio cost reduction projects underway are

WHEREAS, \$600K was taken out of Unrestricted Funds in 2022-2023 to cover operating expenses. At this rate, the Unrestricted funds will last 4.5 years; now therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, by the American Legion Department of Ohio in Convention assembled in Independence, Ohio, on July 12-14, 2024, to increase dues from \$9.00 to \$14.00 to provide an additional approximate revenue of \$375,000 effective January 1, 2025; and, be it further

RESOLVED, by the Department of Ohio that the Department Commander shall direct the Department Finance Commission to look for additional revenue streams, cut costs and self-fund Baseball, A&G trip, and Oratorical programs in collaboration with Commission Chairs and the Department Adjutant.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Department but with National action substituted for local resolving clause.
Adjutant _____ Department _____

Other authorized source:
(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Resolution 21, May 4-5, 2016)

BELOW THIS LINE FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Approved Approved with Amendment Rejected Received and Recorded Consolidated with
Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on
Other Action
Signature of Chairman or Secretary _____

RESOLUTION No.: 24-03

ORIGIN: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
SUBJECT: American Legion Department of Ohio Video Gaming Committee
APPROVED: by Department Executive Committee December 2, 2023

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention report, an average of 17.2 Veteran's committed suicide per day in 2019; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 11-20 % of Veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, 12 % of Gulf War Veterans, and 15% of Vietnam Veterans have PTSD in any given year; and

WHEREAS, Mental health conditions are treatable with the VA offering a wide range of effective treatments and services for Veterans with mental health conditions, including a bundled public health approach involving multiple sectors, including the media and entertainment industries: and

WHEREAS, According to studies conducted by **WebMD** and reviewed by Dan Brennan, MD, playing video **games** has numerous benefits for mental health; including mental stimulation, feeling accomplished, mental health recovery, social interaction, emotional resilience; and

WHEREAS, On May 22, 2019, **Mike** Richman from VA Research Communications reported that studies with a small sample of veterans trying to recover from mental health issues found that video games can help in overcoming such problems as PTSD and substance abuse disorders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michelle Colder Carras, a public health researcher, led a study that appeared in the journal Social Science & Medicine and wrote that gameplay can promote a mindfulness-like psychological escape but can also provide users with benefits of confidence, social connection, personal growth, and opportunities for employment or even leadership and that these benefits are accessible to people with disabilities for whom circumstances or limitations may challenge traditional treatments, leisure activities, or social interactions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michell Colder Carras noted that participants in that study described using video games to "distract from overwhelming symptoms, including suicidal thoughts and drug and alcohol use"; and

WHEREAS, Nasdaq reports that the gaming community and market are gaining traction, surpassing traditional industries such as movie and music-combined while across the globe, billions of people indulge in video games every day, breaking the barriers of age, gender, culture, and society, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of California, at their 104th Department Convention, has passed a similar resolution creating a gaming committee as well as several other departments across national have been getting involved with online gaming and e-sports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That at The American Legion Department of Ohio Convention assembled in Independence, Ohio on July 12th •14th, 2024, amend the Department Bylaws Article III to include a Section 12 that reads,

"Section 12. DEPARTMENT VIDEO GAMING COMMITTEE: Each year the Department Commander shall appoint a five (S) member Department Video Gaming Committee for the purpose of researching and studying the effects of gaming within the organization for social interaction amongst its interested members and the veteran community at large in regard to veterans' mental health, and potential for membership and business enhancement in the support of American Legion Programs"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Committee shall collaborate and establish relationships with other military gaming charities and organizations; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Video Gaming Committee make semiannual reports to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and the Department Executive Committee regarding findings and recommendations.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Department but with National action substituted for local resolving clause.
Adjutant _____ Department _____

Other authorized source:
(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Resolution 21, May 4-5, 2016)

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RESOLUTION No.: 24-04

ORIGIN: National Security Commission
SUBJECT: Establishment of the National Ralph Doll Award
APPROVED: by Department Executive Committee April 6, 2024

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Ohio has established the Ralph Doll Award; and
WHEREAS, The Ralph Doll Award is given to the Post with the best energy and conservation program in Ohio; and
WHEREAS, The Ralph Doll Award is a program that National should urge all Departments to have in place to support energy and conservation; and
WHEREAS, The Department of Ohio has a conservation program which can be used for a pilot program for other Departments to use for their program; and
WHEREAS, The Department of Ohio would assist any Department of the American Legion to begin a great program as this which helps the planet; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion Department of Ohio in regular session assembled in Independence, Ohio, on July 12-14, 2024, that National establish the Ralph Doll Award; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Ralph Doll Award be given at the National Convention to the Post with the best energy and conservation program throughout all Departments.

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Department but with National action substituted for local resolving clause.
Adjutant Department

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