

**Department of North Dakota American Legion
Executive Committee Meeting
State HQ's, West Fargo, ND
April 16, 2008**

Voting Members Present

Orville Simundson – Chairman
Harvey Peterson – Department Commander
Carroll Quam – Dept Commander-elect
Robert Ludwig – Central Region DECman
Jim Karas – Eastern Region DECman
Lester Mutschelknaus – Finance Officer

Absent

Dale Roth – Western Region DECman

Non-Voting Members Present

Curt Twete – NECman
Jeff Hall – Alternate NECman
Mitch Olson – Dept Adjutant
Dave Rice – Eastern Region Vice Commander

Guests Present

Keith Kerbaugh – 1st District Commander

Chairman Simundson called the meeting to order at 11:00 am with a salute to the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Harvey Peterson offered prayer.

The minutes of the February 8, 2008 meeting were read.

Jim Karas asked why non-voting members made motions and seconded them at that meeting? Discussion was held on those motions. They were rescinded and voting members remade motions as indicated in the updated minutes of February 8th.

On a MOTION by Harvey Peterson and SECONDED by Carroll Quam, the minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved with changes noted.

A draft of the June 24, 2007 minutes (that were reconstructed by Commander Peterson) was presented. Some minor changes were made.

On a MOTION by Harvey Peterson and SECONDED by Carroll Quam, the minutes of the June 24, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved with changes noted.

Finance Officer Lester Mutschelknaus presented the current Fiscal Year Financial Statements.

On a MOTION by Robert Ludwig and SECONDED by Lester Mutschelknaus, they moved to approve the financial statements, subject to audit.

Some discussion on how the Legion News is funded and how much the Auxiliary pays for their portion of the paper and postage costs. Discussion was also held on the increase in postage and a possible increase of Auxiliary dollars for their portion of this increase. Commander Peterson also discussed a new way of consolidating or e-mailing the paper. Editor Mitch Olson will look into these issues.

Break for lunch, Chairman Orville Simundson called the meeting back to order at 1:25p.m.

The 2008-2009 proposed budget was presented by the Budget Committee made up of: Commander Peterson, Commander-Elect Quam and Adjutant Mitch Olson. The DEC went through it line by line. The Budget Committee proposed adding a Guard & Reserve Liaison Committee with a budget of \$500.00 for the year.

NECman Curt Twete discussed increasing the Adjutant Travel Budget by \$1,000. Since the Adjutant is now full time, Curt believes that he should always attend the Washington DC Conference & National Meetings to allow consistency for our Department. Curt also indicated that he can only do so many call-ins to National.

Discussion was also held on increased insurance costs and employee wage increases. Due to those increases, the employee wages were increased.

On a MOTION by Harvey Peterson and SECONDED by Carroll Quam, the 2008-2009 Budget was unanimously approved with changes noted.

Adjutant Mitch Olson discussed his concerns about tightening up security and financials issues. He proposed that all new employees of the Department and new Department Officers be required to have a credit check for security reasons. He also proposed increasing our insurance bonding from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

On a MOTION by Harvey Peterson and SECONDED by Jim Karas, the employee financial insurance should be increased to \$100,000 and it was unanimously approved.

Adjutant Mitch also requested that a new/larger fridge be purchased for the office. Money from the Winter Conference silent auction (office items) could be used to fund this request and put it back into office equipment.

On a MOTION by Harvey Peterson and SECONDED by Carroll Quam, an amount up to \$400.00 could be used for the fridge and was unanimously approved.

Harvey Peterson discussed many issues, to include:

- 1) Increasing revenue enhance programs or increasing dues
- 2) DEC Term Limits
- 3) Request from an inmate to start a Legion Post at the ND Penitentiary
- 4) Make up of a Convention Resolutions Committee
- 5) Membership Advisory Group made up of young returning OIF/OEF and some more mature Legion representatives to ask them what they would like our organization to focus on.

Adjutant Mitch Olson indicated that the computer located at Service Officer Deremo's VA Office has crashed and is in need of updating. The VA Information Technology section has presented information of what the Department needs to include on a purchase of a new one. Approximate costs would be between 2,000 to 3,000 dollars.

On a MOTION by Jim Karas and SECONDED by Robert Ludwig, an amount up to \$3,000 was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.