

**Department of North Dakota American Legion
Executive Committee Meeting
Quality Inn, Dickinson, ND
February 8, 2008**

Voting Members Present

Orville Simundson – Chairman
Harvey Peterson – Department Commander
Carroll Quam – Dept Commander-elect
Robert Ludwig – Central Region DECman
Dale Roth – Western Region DECman
Lester Mutschelknaus – Finance Officer

Non-Voting Members Present

Curt Twete – NECman
Jeff Hall – Alternate NECman
Larry Vetter – Dept Membership Chairman
Mitch Olson – Dept Adjutant
Leon Hiltner – Central Region vice-Commander
Dave Rice – Eastern Region vice-Commander

Guests Present

Don Hayden - National vice-Commander
James Deremo – Dept Service Officer
Keith Kerbaugh – 1st District Commander
Herbert Schultz – 2nd District Commander
Brad Wilson – 5th District Commander
Joe Schmaltz – 5th District vice-Commander
Vern Useldinger – Past Department Commander/Adjutant
Earl Peterson – Chairman, Foundation Board of Directors
Jerry Samuelson-Department Commander Elect Candidate
Bob Lechner – Member, Post #2, Fargo
Vern Fetch- Chairman, Legion Oratorical Committee

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

The Minutes of the October 27, 2007 meeting were read.

NECman Curt Twete indicated that the retirement plan is not frozen and discussed information about the issues. Changes were made to that effect.

On a MOTION by Harvey Peterson and SECONDED by Leon Hiltner, the minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved with changes noted. (Rescinded at DEC Meeting April 16th 2008. Hiltner, Central Region vice-Commander, is not authorized to vote. Change: Commander Peterson re-made the motion and seconded by Quam. Motion to correct; approved.)

Harvey Peterson asked the committee if anyone had a copy of the minutes from the 24th of June DEC Meeting. The Department Staff and Adjutant have looked in all computer and paper files for the minutes. No one had a copy of those minutes. Adjutant Mitch Olson will call former Adjutant Kim Anderson and see if she has any knowledge about the issue.

Lester Mutschelknaus presented the financial statements to the committee. Chairman Orville Simonson and Commander Harvey Peterson discussed CD renewals and rates.

An update on the upcoming 2008 Winter Conference in Dickinson, ND, was presented by Harvey Peterson. Harvey asked Mitch Olson for a possible list of accounts for the dedicated reserve. Lester indicated that he would get together with Mitch on this. Lester also discussed committee member's budgets and indicated to Mitch check to make sure that all expenses have been credited to the right accounts

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

On old business, Orville indicated that he needed to be added to an opposed vote that was conducted at the September 28 DEC Meeting Minutes. Mitch added Orville to that vote on the official minutes and will make the change on page three of his opposed vote, along with Lester Mutschelknaus, to the motion: To not deviate from the current Department policy and to VOID the checks that were not given to the delegates of the 2007 Nat'l Convention.

On new business, Harvey Peterson presented the applicant for Officer of the Year.

A MOTION by Harvey Peterson and SECONDED by Dale Roth and unanimously approved Stewart Stenberg from Dickinson as the Legion Law Officer of the Year.

On new business, Harvey Peterson presented the applicants for Fire Fighter of the Year.

A MOTION by Carroll Quam and SECONDED by Harvey Peterson and unanimously approved Ed Sticka from Dickinson as the Legion Fire Fighter of the Year.

On new business, Harvey Peterson presented the applicant for Legionnaire of the Year.

A MOTION by Dave Rice and SECONDED by Harvey Peterson and unanimously approved Orlyen Stensgard from Fargo as the Legion Law Officer of the Year.(Rescinded at DEC Meeting April 16th 2008. Rice, Eastern Region vice-Commander, is not authorized to vote. Change: Commander Peterson re-made the motion and seconded by Ludwig. Motion to correct; approved.)

Finance Officer Lester Mutschelknaus presented the yearly statement that needs to be approved by the DEC for the LIT refund, A MOTION by Leon Hiltner and SECONDED by Bob Ludwig and unanimously approved, it was (Rescinded at DEC Meeting April 16th 2008. Hiltner, Central Region vice-Commander is not authorized to vote. Change: Commander Peterson re-made the motion and seconded by Ludwig. Motion to correct; approved.)

RESOLVED that it be applied the same as last year, (that the experience refund received from the Legionnaire Insurance trust be applied to Americanism, youth and community activities and information and education programs relative to national security and foreign relations and any other eligible humanitarian and charitable programs operated, conducted and administered by the Department of North Dakota American Legion.)

Commander Peterson discussed the LIT representative situation. In the past, the Adjutant has been the rep. and that has not been good as LIT hasn't really done anything in the past. We need to find a representative that understands insurance and someone who wants to promote it. Chairman Simonson indicated that in the past the Past Department Commander went on the LIT trip. Next year, Commander Peterson indicated he would be willing to give up his trip to a good representative. The carrot being, if he increased that income of the LIT program, he gets the trip, otherwise the Past Department Commander will go. NECMAN Curt Twete gave some history on the LIT Rep. and program. He indicated that it should be someone in the insurance program and who has a license. He concurs with Harvey's opinion. Vern Useldinger indicated that because of our bulk mail rate, we are limited to advertising to promote the program. Curt Twete indicated that the LIT could make Chairman's Report's instead in lieu of the advertising issue. Harvey indicated that he would advertise this position at the Spring District Meetings and it will be Carroll's decision to appoint someone, as he will be commander. Carroll Quam agreed. Commander Peterson asked if there was a line item in the budget for an LIT representative? The answer was no.

The interest income earned on dedicated reserve was discussed. Harvey indicated that we have never made a decision on what to do with the interest. He wanted this on the books, and Lester agreed that the interest go back in the dedicated reserve and not be put in the general fund.

A MOTION by Commander Peterson and SECONDED by Carroll Quam and unanimously approved, that the interest off the dedicated reserve goes back into the dedicated reserve and not be put in the general fund.

Budget Committee, Lester, Adjutant & Commander & Commander elect, was discussed. The budget committee will meet during Spring District Meetings

Department employee evaluations: Orville indicated that they would use last year's employee evaluations form for employee interviews and evaluations. We will use this form.

On a MOTION by Larry Vetter and SECONDED by Carroll Quam, with approval of all the voting members present that Commander Harvey Peterson, Commander Elect Carroll Quam and Senior DEC Officer James Karas will implement employee evaluations before Spring District Meetings and submit to the DEC for approval. (Rescinded at DEC Meeting April 16th 2008. Vetter, Membership Chairman, is not authorized to vote. Change: Carroll Quam re-made the motion and seconded by Peterson. Motion to correct; approved.)

Break for lunch, Chairman Orville Simundson called the meeting back to order at 12:35p.m.

Commander Harvey Peterson introduced Earl Peterson and a letter from an individual on Boy's State and burial Benefits.

Oratorical Chairman Vern Fetch discussed the mistake with tabulation of points in a District Oratorical Contest. Vern recommends an extra \$150.00 Savings bond be presented because of the actual 5th place winner was awarded 1st place and the actual 1st place winner was awarded 5th place. Fetch also recommends that a tie for 3rd place be awarded an extra \$25.00 Savings Bond for this situation, for a total department expense of \$175.00. Vern Fetch also indicated that he would be willing to conduct a school for additional training for Oratorical representatives throughout the Districts and possibly at the Post Level. This could be held at Camp Grafton for 4 to 8 hours and reduce expenses for this venture. Vern Fetch also indicated that he has been honored with the Chairmanship of the Oratorical Program and will be resigning as he, and his significant other, will both be retiring and spending a lot of time in Florida. Vern indicated that he would still be a part of the North Dakota American Legion and its programs and mission.

On a MOTION by Commander Peterson and SECONDED by Carroll Quam, with approval of all but, (Dale Roth and Chairman Simundson **disapproved**), Motion approved of an additional \$25.00 Savings Bond for the tie for 3rd place winners.

On a MOTION by Dale Roth and SECONDED by Chairman Orville Simundson, with approval of all the voting members present, that the DEC **not** approve an extra \$150.00 for the error of the tabulations of points for the district 1st & 5th place winners.

Department Service Officer Jim Deremo offered information discussing the proposed legislation making drastic changes to the ND Department of Veterans Affairs and the ND State ACOVA. His recommendations on this legislation, is that we support three proposed resolutions against this on behalf of the Department of North Dakota. NECman Curt Twete indicated that the past law and legislation is, that the ND Department of Veterans Affairs be located in the city where the VA is located and there is no "constructive reason" for the ND Department of Veterans Affairs be located in any other location.

On a MOTION by Commander Peterson and SECONDED by Chairman Carroll Quam, with approval of all the voting members present that the DEC, approve all three proposed resolutions to reject the legislative change. (3 Resolutions attached)

The National vice-Commander Don Hayden made introductions and Remarks.

Commander Elect Carroll Quam, read a letter of request from the Maddock's Legion Post # 123, requesting that we consider holding the Mid-Winter Conferences in a city, which is centrally located in the state, such as Minot, Bismarck, or Mandan. The distance to travel to the cities on the border is very inhibiting during the winter months. This concern increases as the age of our member's increases.

Department Membership Chairman Larry Vetter indicated that the current department membership as of this time is 18,328, which equates to 90.7%. We are currently #2 in membership standings in the nation. We still need 2,050 to meet our goal for the year.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.