

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

CONVENTION & ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

Department Spring Meetings, Portage, WI

Friday, May 6, 2022

3:30 PM

NOTES

Chair Jim Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

Jim Schmidt, Chair
Tom Strey, Vice Chair
Tom Carlson, Member
Victor Ambrose, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Phil Ingwell, Member
Jim Kell, Member
Mark Lesko, Member

Guests:

Roger Mathison, PDC
Bob Shappell, NECman
Ted DeMicchi, PDC
Bonnie Dorniak, Department Secretary/Treasurer

The committee did not have a quorum, therefore the committee received reports to file.

Ted DeMicchi gave an update on the 2022 National Convention. He gave a report to the National Commission this past week.

Tom Strey gave an update on Golf. The Foundation is going to do a Golf Outing this year on August 10th in Lodi, as the Golf Association does not have one this year. He also stated that Mukwonago will be hosting the Golf Outing next year.

Bob Shappell gave a report on Legion College. (see attached)

Commander Eirich addressed the commission.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual at 4:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Jim Schmidt, Chair

WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE UPDATE

Spring Meetings – May 6, 2022

1. Since the Midwinter meetings, the Wisconsin American Legion College (WALC) has provided the following courses:

A. Midwinter face-to-face

1) Post Commander Course

2) Post Adjutant Course

3) American Legion Programs

B. Virtual courses during our second Virtual Training February

1) Two Basic Courses

2) Two Post Commander Courses

3) Two Post Adjutant Courses

4) Two Consolidated Post Report Courses

5) Two County Commander Courses

6) One Effective Social Media Use at the Post Level

C. Virtual Courses in March and April

1) Two Intermediate Courses

2) Two Advanced Courses

2. Total attendance for courses in February was 182, an increase of 20 from Feb 2021 (when there was no midwinter training). Approximately 140 attended the in-person Midwinter classes.

3. Total attendance at all courses to date in 2022 is over 400.

4. 31 Legion Family members completed all 3 core courses and earned their College pin with all 3 keys attached. Our special thanks go to PNC Denise Rohan who completed both the Intermediate and Advanced courses, and contributed greatly to the discussions.

5. One Legionnaire from Kansas and one from Massachusetts attended courses. The individual from Kansas completed both the Intermediate and Advanced Courses and plans to attend the Basic this fall to become a graduate of the College. The Kansas attendee heard about the College from a friend in WI, while the one from Massachusetts found his way to our new Facebook page.

6. The newly developed County Commander Course received excellent reviews for the 33 whom attended. The course was largely based on the inputs from Legionnaires who have been county

commanders in the past. We also solicited and received inputs from department legion college staff members in Minnesota and Illinois.

7. As mentioned the College's Facebook page is up and running. Search for Wisconsin American Legion College to Like and Follow it.

8. The following initiatives are in work:

a. Host two sessions of a virtual Post Commander Conference for the new Department Commander. Follow up with a Post Commander Course.

b. Hold a County Commander Course in the Aug-Sep time frame

c. Work with Lee Roundy to develop a course for post finance officers

d. Developing an advanced social media course for those who want to go beyond the basics

9. As always, we ask everyone to encourage Legion Family members to attend the College courses. Yes, they are open to all Family members. We now have 19 Auxiliary members and 13 SAL members who are graduates of WALC. Course schedules and announcements will be posted on the College and Legion Family Facebook pages, as well as the department website

Bob Shappell

Dean, WI Legion College

wilegioncollege@gmail.com

Angie Chappell, Administrative Manager/Major Events Planner Spring 2022

Department Convention:

- New for this year and moving forward is the Auxiliary will not caucus.
 - Legion can consider altering schedule to have 6 Districts meet at one time and 6 later
 - This would open up other facilities that could hold our group due to less breakouts needed
- Future Conventions:
 - 2023 – Wausau
 - All but 1 hotel contracts are in place
 - The Harley dealership next to the convention center would like to host an event. Working with the riders to do the Commander's run into convention like previous years
 - 2024 – Appleton
 - Contract in place
 - Now a Hilton property
 - 2025 – Green Bay
 - Contract in place
 - 2026 – Appleton
 - Contract in place

National Convention:

- WI's hotel will be the Drury Hotel- They offer complimentary breakfast and evening snacks with drink tickets
- There will be an Oktoberfest at the War Memorial the weekend of the convention, and Sunday will be Legion Family Day (there will not be a parade)
 - There is an online link to reserve tables or the standing room only tickets
 - There are 2 sessions to choose from
 - Department has booked some tables, you can reserve seats through the department
- Future Conventions:
 - 2023 Charlotte, NC
 - 2024 New Orleans, LA
 - 2025 Tampa Bay, FL
 - 2026 Louisville, KY

Celebration of Freedom:

- 2022 Dates: September 8-10, 2022
- Main attraction- WWII Replica of the one in DC
- Adult softball tournament (will take place the 10th and 11th)
- Saturday Entertainment- 3 bands back to back
- Need Vendors and Sponsors

Department Fall Meetings:

- October 14-15, 2022

Midwinter Conference:

- 2023 Radisson Green Bay- **NOT** the same location as Convention
 - Contract in place
- 2024 La Crosse
 - Contracts in place
- 2025 Appleton
 - Contract in place
- 2026 Radisson Green Bay
 - Contract in place

Very Respectfully,

Angie Chappell
Administrative Manager/Major Events Planner