

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Department Spring Meetings, Portage, WI
Friday, May 6, 2022
8:00 AM

MINUTES

Chair James Waltich called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM with a salute to the Colors, Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken with the following in attendance:

James Waltich, Chair
Steve Kohnke, Vice Chair
James Lee, Member
Justin Steiner, Member
Rita Rindahl, Member
Tom Visintainer, Member
Julie Muhle, Department Vice Commander
Keith Lovell, Department Vice Commander
David Latimer, Department Vice Commander
Harry Bauer, Department Vice Commander
Jim Johnson, 2nd District Commander
Linda Pfeiffer, 4th District Commander
Gail Minks, 6th District Commander
Adam Klapperich, 8th District Commander
Larry Larson, 10th District Commander
Scott Markle, 12th District Commander
Jeff Zwiers, DEC Liaison
Greg Eirich, Department Commander, Ex-Officio
Nathan Gear, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Absent:

Justin Steiner, Member

Guests:

Karl Stuvengen, 1st District Commander
Roger Matheson, PDC
Bud Mautz, PDC
Russ Hansetter, PNVC
Denise Rohan, PNC
Jerry Wilson, NVC
Jean Wilson, Commander, Dept of Ohio

**Motion by Harry Bauer, second by Steve Kohnke to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
Motion carried.**

Post Closures:

- Discussed post closures and transferring of Legionnaires.

Motion by Harry Bauer, second by Steve Kohnke to transfer the remaining Legionnaires in posts, 0338, 0235, 0323, and 0424 to Post 2930. Motion carried.

Discussed schedule of events:

- Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day: Table with Jim Waltich and Dave Wischer.
- Road America Indy Car: Volunteers have been identified, can koozies are on hand, shirts with patches are on hand.
- Road America NASCAR: Volunteers have been identified, waiting on final contract.
- Wisconsin Tractor Pulls: Districts need to supply volunteers.
- Wisconsin State Fair: Sub-committee will report to the Membership Committee. Need Baseball Tickets made to hand out at the fair for the All-Star Game.
- Celebration of Freedom: Discussed all of the events happening

March Membership Madness:

- Discussed the benefits of conducting the membership drive per the numbers

2023 membership Year:

- Discussed and agreed with using Fair Share Goals for the 2023 membership year.
- Discussed a new 100% goal incentive to encourage posts to get to 100% rapidly.
- Discussed American Legion Championship Game participation from local posts to help promote the American Legion. Chet will forward the dates to the District Commanders.
- Discussed Northwoods Baseball League. Some posts are already participating in events with the teams, but not all.
- Discussed getting involved with the 67 National Guard units to help promote the American Legion
- Discussed posts hosting “New Enlistment Banquets” for recent high school graduates who have entered the service along with contacting school guidance counsellors for a list.
- Discussed moving Post 1925 from District 11 to District 99.

**Motion by Jim Johnson, second by Steve Kohnke to move Post 1925 from District 11 to District 99.
Motion carried.**

Goals and assignments:

- Discussed Districts getting dates set for membership events before Department Convention so each post can start the new membership year off with some direction.
- Discussed sending Jim Waltich and/or Chet Faith a list of membership mentors.

Meeting was adjourned per ritual.

Respectfully submitted;

James Waltich, Chair



The mission of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin is to provide service to veterans, their families and their communities.

Subject: Transfer 1925 from District 11 to District 99

- Post 1925 is the cyber post that was chartered in 2019.
- The post encompasses the entire state as a cyber post, but is listed as Lake Tomahawk for location due to the post being centered around helping Camp American Legion.
 - This could have easily been any place. If Highgrounds was an American Legion program, the name could easily be Post 1925 Highgrounds.
 - The post was created to encourage the veterans from all around the state who visit Camp American Legion to join the American Legion and hopefully become ambassadors for Camp American Legion.
- Being a cyber post, Post 1925 is quite unique. They are a chartered post with Constitution and Bylaws, Officers, and a permanent charter in routing, but they do not have a physical presence when it comes to meetings or a location. They are based out of Camp American Legion by name and spirit alone.
- Until recently post 1925 had only held one meeting.
- Post 1925 was been reported under District 99 for the entire 2022 membership year and District 11 Commander John Polzin was a part of the conversation when the unofficial move was made. Commander Polzin felt this was a good move and supported it.
- After discovering that there was a post that solely supported Camp American Legion, Legionnaire Annastasia “Yiayia” Wischki transferred from Post 0145 to Post 1925 and volunteered to step up as the post adjutant as long as Commander Brian Jopek would remain as the Post Commander for the next year.
- The post has submitted a Post Officer Report, an updated Constitution and Bylaws and they are currently signing and routing their application for permanent charter.
- The post will begin meeting virtually every other month and starting July 1st, 2022 they will be raising their dues to \$35 and the \$5 per Legionnaire over the Department and National portion of \$30 is going to be donated to Camp American Legion at the end of each membership year to go towards a specific project.
- The post intends to officially change their location to “Camp American Legion” vice Lake Tomahawk once their permanent charter is approved.
- Keeping a cyber post in a District other than District 99 would be like adding Post 2930 to District 2.
- Transferring Post 1925 to District 99 is just making it administratively official since they have operated under that compacity for at least the last 9 months.