

**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA**  
**February 14, 2025 – 1:00 PM, Airport Holiday Inn**

**1. Call to Order**

Department Commander Brian Ring, Sr, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A hand salute was rendered to the colors followed by an invocation given by Department Chaplain Cindy Yslas. The POW/MIA flag was recognized. After a moment of silence to honor our departed comrades, all recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble.

**2. Roll Call**

Department Adjutant John Derner read the roll call:

Department Commander	Brian Ring, Sr
NEC	Dennis Soppe
Alt. NEC	Bob Waugh
Department Vice Commanders	Jerry Bennet (Excused)
	Jeff Large
	Ed Fontes
	Sam Blumer
	Bob Colin
Department Adjutant	John Derner
Department Finance Officer	Candice Lanning (Excused)
Department Judge Advocate	Dwight Dinkla
Department Historian	
Department Chaplain	Cindy Yslas
Department Service Officer	Shane Pankonen
Department Sgt-at-Arms	Tom Ryan
Past Department Commanders	Bob Waugh
	Randy Johnson
	Stanley Elliott
1 <sup>st</sup> District Commander	Curtis Goudy
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Commander	Dick Bries
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Commander	Del Shepard
4 <sup>th</sup> District Commander	Cindy Yslas
5 <sup>th</sup> District Commander	Gary Quinlan
6 <sup>th</sup> District Commander	Don De Kock
7 <sup>th</sup> District Commander	Mitch Brahms
8 <sup>th</sup> District Commander	Tony Lile
9 <sup>th</sup> District Commander	George Farrell

Guest(s) in attendance: Various Commission/Committee Chairs, Candidate for Department Commander Darrin Alderson, staff member Ann Haack

**3. Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Stanley Elliott motioned to suspend the reading of the minutes. Ed Fontes seconded. Motion carried.

**4. Finance Commission Report**

Bob Waugh presented the Finance Commission Report and recommendations (see attachment).

**5. Department Officer Reports**

- a. Department Service Officer – Presented by Shane Pankonen.

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- b. Department Adjutant – Presented by John Derner.
- c. National Executive Committee Member – Presented by Dennis Soppe. He explained a recent resolution at the National level was presented to allow the Department of Washington back into the Legion, which was approved with stipulations for the Department of Washington. He also mentioned the upcoming Washington Conference and the Iowa day at the capital.

**6. Reports to the DEC**

- a. Internal Affairs Commission – Jennifer Rehbein asked the committee chairs to present reports.
  - i. Training Committee – Presented by Ken Fields.
  - ii. Membership Committee – Presented by Tim McLaughlin.
  - iii. Sons of the American Legion Committee – Presented by Gary Quinlan.
  - iv. American Legion Riders Committee – Presented by Cliff Barker.
  - v. Strategic Planning – Presented by Dennis Soppe.
- b. Americanism Commission – Jim Kessler asked the committee chairs to present reports.
  - i. Community Service Committee – No one present to report.
  - ii. Children & Youth – Presented by Cindy Yslas, including the results of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Flag Essay.
  - iii. Boy Scout – No one present to report.
  - iv. Baseball – No one present to report.
  - v. Oratorical Contest Committee – Presented by Bob Waugh.
  - vi. Junior Shooting Sports Committee – No one present to report.
- c. National Affairs – No one present to report.
- d. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – No one present to report.
  - i. Veterans Benefits Committee – Submitted by Jerry Hansen.
  - ii. Health Administration Committee – No one present to report.
- e. Legislative Commission – Presented by Randy Johnson.
- f. Convention Commission – Presented by Stanley Elliott.
- g. Marketing Commission – Presented by Darrin Alderson.
- h. Be the One Ad Hoc Committee – Presented by Whitney Smith McIntosh.
- i. Operating Structure Ad Hoc Committee – No one present to report.
- j. Service Office Ad Hoc Committee – While no report, Adjutant Derner provided more information about the Service Office, including interns and funding.
- k. American Legion of Iowa Foundation – Presented by Acting President Steve Dixon.
- l. American Legion of Iowa Boys State – No one present to report, but Brian Ring, Sr, presented information to the DEC about Boys State, including food will be catered, all classes will be SF70, and that 40 boys have signed up so far.

Cindy Yslas motioned to receive and file all reports. Jeff Large seconded. Motion carried.

**7. Unfinished Business**

Curtis Goudy presented an update on the work for an archery program, based on a previously passed resolution. He has been talking with the DNR and NASP program, and even possibly volunteering for an archery competition. He advised the program would take time to build.

**8. New Business**

- a. Appointments to fill vacancies.
  - i. Rick Jacoby was appointed as Vice Chair for the Veterans Benefits Committee. Bob Waugh motioned to ratify the appointment. Randy Johnson seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Appointments to Foundation Board.

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- i. Jeff Large was appointed as 3<sup>rd</sup> District Board Director. Del Shepard motioned to ratify the appointment. Tom Ryan seconded. Motion carried.

**9. Adjournment**

With no further business, Department Chaplain Cindy Yslas gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.