



Department Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 2018



The Department Executive Committee met on Saturday June 3, 2018 at the Columbia Marriott, 1200 Hampton St, Columbia, SC 29201.

Dept Commander John Britt  
Dept Adjutant Nick Diener  
NEC Gary Mitchell  
Alt NEC Michael Strauss  
Department Historian Russ Cantrell  
Dept 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr Walt Richardson  
Dept 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr Ron Price  
Dept 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Cmdr Robin Rucker  
D-1 Cmdr Jim Jarvis  
D-2 Cmdr Chuck Blankin  
D-4 Wayne Southworth  
D-6 Cmdr Jim Kvam  
D-7 Cmdr Charlie Bethea  
D-8 Cmdr Chuck Shaffer  
D-9 Cmdr Doc Sweet  
D-10 Cmdr Tommy Sinclair  
D-11 Cmdr Jack Lonergan  
D-12 Cmdr Charlie Davis  
D-14 Cmdr Michael Brandt  
D-15 Cmdr Leroy Williams  
D-18 Cmdr Larry Pouncy  
D-19 Cmdr Bob Gibbons  
D-20 Vacant  
Dept Chaplain Bill Quarles

**Absent:**

Dept Sgt-at-Arms George Oxner  
J/A Stephen Lewis  
Asst J/A Anthony Livoti  
Dept 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr Roberta Poulos  
D-3 Cmdr Bridget Lewis  
D-5 Cmdr Jack Wright  
D-13 Cmdr Carlton Patterson  
D-16 Cmdr Jim Defrehn  
D-17 Cmdr Ed Miller

**Also Present:**

PDC Jim Hawk  
PDC Joe Lysaght  
PDC Bud Hennis  
PDC W. M. McLaughlin  
PDC Bob Scherer  
Dept Asst Sgt-at-Arms Peter St Onge.

Exec. Dir M. May  
Mbrship/Programs Director E. Massaro  
P-101 Vice Cmdr Tim Onderko  
P-111 Mbr Bruce Donegan  
P-130 Adj Darlene Walton

Cmdr John Britt: We continue and we hope to grow this year. Our Chaplain brought a wonderful sermon this morning, I really appreciate Bill, we've known each other a long time, a long time.

Chaplain Quarles : Since Reform School (laughter)

Cmdr John Britt: But Bill's message to join, once you join, support. We may argue and fuss about what goes on in here but when we walk out that door, let's walk out unified in what we're going to do. We don't want to go out and put down what's going on, we need to support this Department and each other and the veterans that are in our hometowns and our areas. That's my challenge and charge to you this morning.

Cmdr Britt called the meeting to order. He asked all to uncover and called on Chaplain Quarles for the invocation. The Commander read Resolution 288, led the Pledge of Allegiance and then asked everyone to join him for the Preamble.

Cmdr Britt called on Adjutant Diener to call the roll. Adjutant Diener called the roll and told Cmdr Britt he had a quorum.

Dept Cmdr Britt: As you rise to speak, please state your name and position for the record so Maggie can get it down properly. I ask that you do that for every time you wish to speak. I call for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting.

**PDC Joe Lysaght: I make a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes**

**PDC Gibbons: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Britt: Any discussion? All in favor say aye, opposed? Motion carried, we will dispense with the reading of the minutes.** Would you like to talk about membership? We don't have a membership Chairman right now.

Dept Adj Diener: I would love to talk about membership. We are less than 200 away from hitting our goal. At least in my time, we've never been this close. And the only way that we can hit it is we need every one of you all to make that final hard push with your posts. Onesies and Twosies here, that's the difference. It's right here within our grasp to make 100%. The first step is to grow, the second step is to get us to 100% and folks we can do it. I know a lot of ya'll have been doing that and I know you've been twisting arms but we're asking you to twist just a little more. The next critical date is June 14<sup>th</sup>, Flag Day for National Convention, but we have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to hit 100% but it sure would be nice to hit it by Flag Day. We need it in headquarters by the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> because we have to get them to National by the 14<sup>th</sup>. I've seen all the hard work and we're so close and to let it slip away would be shame so that's all. Cmdr Rucker, as the outgoing Chairman, anything you want to add to that?

Vice Cmdr Rucker; No sir, thank you.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Normally we would not have a finance report but I'm going to ask our Finance Chairman, he's got something he wants to talk about.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: I got hit with this yesterday. **The Riders in their meeting yesterday voted to send \$5,000 to the Legacy Fund.** It was not in the budget we approved at the last meeting. The finance cmte agrees with it, does not see an issue with it so we would like to make a motion with you that they be allowed to go ahead and do this. And is out of their pot of money and that's why I was asked to do it.

**Vice Cmdr Price: I make a motion that the Riders be allowed to donate that money.**

**D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: I second the motion.**

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any discussion?

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Absolutely. Why do we have to approve what they're taking out of their budget?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: It's not in their budget that we approved, it wasn't in there. That's why they're asking.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Ok.

**Dept Cmdr Britt: Any other questions or comments? Hearing none, all in favor say aye, opposed? Motion carried.**

Dept Adj Diener: Ok, we've come to the point as we do in each of these first meetings there's housekeeping on appointments. The first thing is the SAL, the Detachment we have to approve their Officers they selected. (Adjutant Diener read the list of SAL Detachment appointments).

Cmdr Britt: Is there a motion to approve?

**D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I make a motion we approve the SAL's slate.**

**D-14 Cmdr Brandt: I second.**

**Cmdr Britt: I've got a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor say aye, opposed? Motion carries.**

Dept Adj Diener: Ok, next we need to through the list of Department appointments that Commander Britt has made for the Dept committees. (Adjutant Diener read the list of American Legion appointments). For the VA&R Sub-Committees, they have not been reappointed, we had to wait and see if all the consolidations passed. He'll do that once we look at those. At this point we need a motion to approve the Cmdr's appointments.

**Alt NEC Strauss: I would like to make a motion that accept the Dept Cmdr's recommendation and allow him to fill any vacancies throughout the year as they come forth.**

**Historian Cantrell: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Britt: A motion and a second, any discussion?**

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I have two problems. Number one, there were a lot of appointments in here. We asked for these appointments to be passed out to the DEC so we could study them, we weren't given them. Now all a sudden here.....and we're being bombarded, and we don't have a written copy of these things. So, you know, that's, you know, those are the two problems I've got. You know, I don't think this is right.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Thank you Walt, for your comment. My response is this is the way it's been done in the past and that's the way we're going to handle it this year. Next year, if you want to handle it different, that's up to you as Commander.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Thank you very much.

**Dept Cmdr Brit: Any other questions or comments? All in favor of the motion say aye, opposed? Ayes have it motion carries.** Nick, do you have anything else?

Dept Adj Diener: There was two things in your motion there was these and for future ones. One of the things we have in our Constitution is we conduct officer training after the close of the convention. As we've done for several years, I'd like to ask for a motion to extend that to Fall Conference.

**D-6 Cmdr Jim Kvam: I make a motion to extend that meeting to the Fall Conference.**

**D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I second that motion.**

**Dept Cmdr Britt: I have a motion and a second. Any comments or questions? All in favor say aye, opposed? Motion carries.**

Dept Adj Diener: That's all I have except for a personal note. I would like to add to any of last years officers in their positions and the various committees. I would to thank you all for all the support you gave us at the Department for getting our job done. Thank you very much (applause).

Dept Cmdr Britt: I would like to thank Mike Strauss for his year as Department Commander. I think he moved the Department forward. I've got big shoes to fill, I want this Department to continue to move forward and I ask that each of you work with me as we do that and work with the staff. Is there any other business for the good of The American Legion?

Cmdr Britt closed the meeting and called on Chaplain Quarles for the Benediction.

For God and Country,

Nick I. Diener  
Department Adjutant

ND/mm