



Department Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2021



The meeting of The Department Executive Committee meeting was held beginning at 10:00 am, August 14, 2021, at American Legion Post 6, 200 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC 29205.

Dept Cmdr Ron Price	D-9 Cmdr John Comins
Dept Adjutant Nick Diener	D-10 Cmdr Doug Dilleshaw
NEC Michael Strauss	D-11 Cmdr Jack Lonergan
Alt NEC Bob Scherer	D-12 Cmdr Charlie Davis
Imm PDC Walt Richardson	D-13 Cmdr-Rick Gibson
Dept Historian Suzy Spurgeon	D-14 Cmdr Mike Brandt
Dept 1st Vice Cmdr Jim Jarvis	D-15 Cmdr Richard Dorman
Dept 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr Jim Kvam	D-16 Cmdr Jim Defrehn
Dept 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr Bruce Donegan	D-17 Cmdr Jerome Childs
Dept 4 <sup>th</sup> Vice Cmdr Jim Rabon	D-18 Cmdr Larry Pouncey
D-1 Cmdr Darlene Walton	D-20 Cmdr David Mills
D-3 Cmdr Bridget Lewis	Kevin Joy, Dept Sgt-at-Arms
D-4 Cmdr-Wayne Southworth	PDC Jim Hawk
D-5 Cmdr Jack Smith	Alt NEC Elect Joe Lysaght
D-6 Cmdr Tim Burnside	PDC John Britt
D-7 Cmdr- Vacant	PNVC James Holland
D-8 Cmdr Ed Courtney	

**Absent:**

Dept JA Stephen Lewis  
Dept Asst JA Cody Mitchell  
D-2 Cmdr John Coy  
D-19 Cmdr Gerald Brown  
Dept Chaplain Richard Mullinax

Department Commander Ron Price opened the meeting and called on D-7 Cmdr Rucker for the invocation. Commander Price read Resolution 288, lead the DEC in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution.

Dept Cmdr Price: First I'd like to extend my thanks to all of you that are here, I really appreciate this. I know it was a short called meeting but this tells me that you realize the impact that this meeting is going to have on our Department in the future. So with that said, I appreciate you changing your calendar and being here, thank you very much. Adjutant, would you do a roll call?

Adjutant Diener called the roll and informed the Commander that there was a quorum.

Dept Cmdr Price: Again, thank you for being here. The issue before the DEC today is to determine how we are going to find a replacement for Adjutant Diener upon his retirement. Since this is a special called meeting, that is the only issue which will be addressed during this meeting. Additionally, so that this meeting does not get bogged down, we're going to utilize the same rules as we use at the caucus at

the convention. Each member will be allowed to speak twice for no more than three minutes on the same question. Members will not be allowed the second time if there is any member that has not spoken, and they desire the floor. A member that has spoken twice on a particular question has exhausted their right to debate that question, regardless of how many minutes they use. I also want to remind that you that when recognized, you need to come to the podium to speak so that we can clearly pick you up on the recording. You need to identify yourself and address your comments to the chair. I also ask that you be respectful of each other and allow your fellow members to speak without interruption or comment from the body.

Now that we have the rules set, let's proceed with the issue at hand. On August the 2<sup>nd</sup>, I sent out an email vote message that recommended we establish a seven-person committee and my recommended committee members. Your decision was that the issue was not to be handled by an email vote. And even though the vote on the committee was not official, based on the decision to not handle by email, the votes that were submitted show that you do not feel the Department Commander should be the chairman of the committee. I got your message loud and clear. In addition, some of you expressed concerns on holding this meeting and wanted to wait until after the National Convention to hold this meeting. Let me address that first. The committee that we appoint, if you so decide, has a tremendous challenge in front of them. The first part of that challenge is to determine how the position will be selected. That has many pieces to it. They must review the current job description to see if it needs updating, they must determine how and to whom they are going to advertise the position, they must work with the finance committee to determine a range of the compensation package. Do they bring the individual on first as the Assistant Adjutant? Those are just a few of the items they must determine. Once they develop a plan, they will need to bring it back to this body for approval. All that must take place before they can even begin the recruiting process. We only have nine months before Adjutant Diener retires. We want his replacement to have some shadow time. The more the better for our Department. Every week we delay the establish the committee eats into that overlapped time. At best, even with the meeting today, I think we will be lucky if we have someone aboard by January. Therefore, while I appreciate your comments and I do understand the inconvenience, I do feel this meeting was necessary and in the best interest of the Department.

Now as to the committee itself. I recommend that the DEC appoint a seven-person committee to develop a plan of action for DEC approval, implement the plan and present the DEC with a recommended replacement for Adjutant Diener. Based on your input, I am not recommending that I be a member of this committee. My recommended committee members rely heavily on our Past Department Commanders and are as follows:

The first four recommendations, if you will note, are the last four Department Commanders.

First, I recommend Immediate Past Department Commander Walt Richardson as Chairman. PDC Richardson brings two years of experience as the Department Commander. During his tenure he worked very closely with Adjutant Diener, on a daily basis and has spent more time at the Department Headquarters than he ever dreamed he would.

PDC John Britt. PDC Britt brings his experience as serving in the Vice Commander positions and then as Department Commander.

PDC and NEC Mike Strauss. NEC Strauss not only bring his experience as Department Commander to the committee, but also brings a knowledge of the interface the Adjutant has with National Headquarters.

PDC and Alt NEC Bob Scherer. Alt NEC Scherer also brings his experience as Department Commander and a knowledge of the interface the Adjutant has with National Headquarters.

The next two recommended committee members are both Past Department Commanders and Past Department Adjutants. The wealth of knowledge both bring to the committee by having served as the Adjutant is immeasurable and will be a vital asset to the committee. Those recommended appointees are PDC and Past Department Adjutant Jim Hawk, and PDC and Past Department Adjutant James Holland.

Rounding out the committee I feel it is important to have a “blue capper”. My recommendation is that we appoint Post 74 Commander Annie Hough-Everage as the final member of the committee. Commander Hough’s personal credentials are impressive, she has served as both a Post Adjutant and Post Commander and she has served on several committees. I am sure that any of you that have dealt with Commander Hough will agree that she is impressive and would be a positive addition to the committee.

So... to recap. I recommend that the DEC appoint a seven-member Adjutant Search Committee with:

Imm PDC Walt Richardson as Chairman  
PDC John Britt, member  
PDC/NEC Mike Strauss, member  
PDC/Alt NEC Bob Scherer, member  
PDC/Past Dept Adj Jim Hawk, member  
PDC/Past Dept Adj James Holland, member  
Post 74 Commander Annie Hough-Everage, member

We need to take politics out of this selection process and focus on finding the best possible individual to fill the Department Adjutant Position. I believe these committee members bring the necessary experience to the committee and they will rise to the challenge before them.  
You have my recommendations. The decision is now yours.

**Vice Cmdr Jarvis: I make a motion, and I’m reading this because I’ve spent a couple weeks writing this, I make a motion that we accept the Commander’s recommendation to establish a seven voting member committee for the Adjutant’s search committee with the following members:**

**Imm PDC Walt Richardson as Chairman**

**PDC Mike Strauss**

**PDC John Britt**

**PDC Bob Scherer**

**Past Dept Adj/Cmdr Jim Hawk**

**Past Dept Adj/Cmdr James Holland**

**Post 74 Cmdr Annie Hough**

**and the Department Adjutant, Nick Diener as an Advisor in a non-voting capacity.**

**Furthermore, the committee will be charged with developing and presenting a plan of action to the DEC for our approval, and then will be charged with implementing it. The Committee will then bring a recommended replacement before the DEC approval. That is my motion.**

**D-4 Cmdr Southworth: I second the motion as read.**

Dept Cmdr Price: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion?

NEC Strauss: Commander, I just want to say thank you for your leadership and I appreciate you listening to the people and stepping down like you did. You have oversight, still, of the committee, and I like the motion and I will be supporting the motion, thank you.

Dept Cmdr Price: Any further discussion?

D-5 Cmdr Smith: If we vote yes, that means we're voting yes for all the members?

Dept Cmdr Price: Correct.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Thank you.

Dept Cmdr Price: Any further discussion? We can do this by voice vote or roll call. Roll Call. Any other discussion before I start this roll call?

**Adjutant Diener called the roll:**

**NEC Strauss: Yes**

**Alt NEC Scherer: Yes**

**Imm PDC Richardson: Yes**

**Department Historian Spurgeon: Yes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr Jarvis: Yes**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr Kvam: Yes**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr Donegan: Yes**

**4<sup>th</sup> Vice Cmdr Rabon:**

**D-1 Cmdr Walton: Yes**

**D-3 Cmdr Lewis: Yes**

**D-4 Cmdr Southworth: Yes**

**D-5 Cmdr Smith: No**

**D-6 Cmdr Burnside: Yes**

**D-7 Cmdr Rucker: Yes**

**D-8 Cmdr Courtney: Yes**

**D-9 Cmdr Comins: Yes**

**D-10 Cmdr Dilleshaw: Yes**

**D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: Yes**

**D-12 Cmdr Davis: Yes**

**D-13 Cmdr Gibson: Yes**

**D-14 Cmdr Brandt: Yes**

**D-15 Cmdr Dorman: Yes**

**D-16 Cmdr Defrehn: Yes**

**D-17 Cmdr Childs: Yes**

**D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: Yes**

**D-20 Cmdr Mills: Yes**

**Dept Adj Diener: 25 yes and one no.**

**Dept Cmdr Price: The motion moves forward.** I do want again, to thank everybody for being here. I was a little concerned with some of the emails as to whether or not we would have a good representation here. We have everybody here but two, so I really appreciate that. It really tells me that you Commanders realize the importance of this and you're here to cast your vote to represent your District, and I appreciate that very much.

Cmdr Price called on District 7 Commander Rucker for the closing prayer and closed the meeting.

For God and Country,

Nick Diener  
Department Adjutant

ND/mm