

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA
February 13, 2026 – 1:00 PM, Airport Holiday Inn

1. Call to Order

Department Commander Darrin Alderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A hand salute was rendered to the colors followed by an invocation given by Whitney Smith-McIntosh. 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	Darrin Alderson
NEC	Bob Waugh
Alt. NEC	Randy Johnson
Department Vice Commanders	Dick Bries
	Don De Kock
	Ken Fields (Excused)
	Ed Fontes
	Gary Quinlan
Department Adjutant	John Derner
Department Finance Officer	Candice Lanning
Department Judge Advocate	Dwight Dinkla
Department Historian	Steve Dixon
Department Chaplain	Cindy Yslas (Excused)
Department Service Officer	Shane Pankonen
Department Sgt-at-Arms	Kurt Kollasch (Excused)
Past Department Commanders	Randy Johnson
	Stanley Elliott
	Brian Ring, Sr
1 st District Commander	Curtis Goudy
2 nd District Commander	Polly Graham
3 rd District Commander	Del Shepard (Excused)
4 th District Commander	James Perry
5 th District Commander	Sam Blumer
6 th District Commander	Whitney Smith-McIntosh
7 th District Commander	Mitch Brahms
8 th District Commander	Tony Lile
9 th District Commander	Larry Haitz

Guest(s) in attendance: Various Commission/Committee Chairs, staff member Ann Haack

3. Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Whitney Smith-McIntosh motioned to forgo the reading of the previous minutes. Brian Ring seconded. Motion carried.

4. Finance Commission Report

Randy Johnson presented the Finance Commission Report and recommendations (see attachment). Finance Officer Candice Lanning presented more information from the commission, such as fundraising and revenue being down (\$9,000 and \$28,000, respectively); looking to cut expenses, such as removing mileage and per

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diem, splitting room rates, and having no Iowa party at Convention; and the need to set a strategic plan for each committee to work towards set goals.

5. Resolutions

The Resolutions Subcommittee presented the following.

Legion Resolutions

- a. Resolution 1
Subject: Legionnaire of the Year Post Certification
Submitted by: American Legion Post #37, Ames, Iowa
Bob Waugh motioned to adopt the resolution. Brian Ring seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Resolution 2
Subject: Designation of Staff Sergeant Edgar Torres-Tovar VA Clinic
Submitted by: John Derner, Department Adjutant
Bob Waugh motioned to adopt the resolution. Stanley Elliott seconded. Committee discussed whether there were any guidelines for how hospitals are named. Motion rejected.
- c. Resolution 3
Subject: Designation of Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard VA Clinic
Submitted by: John Derner, Department Adjutant
Bob Waugh motioned to adopt the resolution. Motion failed for a lack of second.
- d. Resolution 4
Subject: Formation of a 501(c)(3) Corporation
Submitted by: Department Marketing Commission
Bob Waugh motioned to adopt the resolution. Don De Kock seconded. Motion carried.

SAL Resolutions

- e. Resolution 2025-1
Title: Suicide Prevention Committee
Origin: Sons of the American Legion Squadron #37
Bob Waugh motioned to refer the resolution back to the SAL for further study. Don De Kock seconded. Motion carried.
- f. Resolution 2025-2
Title: Detachment of Iowa Squadron Closure
Origin: Michael Monserud, Detachment Parliamentarian
Bob Waugh motioned to refer the resolution back to the SAL for further study. Randy Johnson seconded. Motion carried.
- g. Resolution 2025-3
Title: Detachment of Iowa New Squadron Charter
Origin: Michael Monserud, Detachment Parliamentarian
Bob Waugh motioned to reject the resolution. Brian Ring seconded. Motion carried.
- h. Resolution 2025-1
Title: Sons of the American Legion Detachment Travel
Origin: Michael Monserud, Detachment Parliamentarian

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Bob Waugh motioned to refer the resolution back to the SAL for further study. Stanley Elliott seconded. Motion carried.

i. Resolution 2025-2

Title: Wreaths Across American Squadron Donations

Origin: Cliff Barker, Steve Malmquist, Brian Kessler

Bob Waugh motioned to refer the resolution back to the SAL for further study. Dick Bries seconded.

Motion carried.

6. Department Officer Reports

- a. Department Service Officer – Presented by Shane Pankonen.
- b. Department Adjutant – Presented by John Derner.
- c. National Executive Committee Member – Presented by Bob Waugh.

7. Reports to the DEC

- a. Convention Commission – Presented by Brian Ring, Sr.
Brian Ring motioned to adopt the report. Bob Waugh seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Internal Affairs Commission – Jennifer Rehbein asked the committee chairs to present reports.
 - i. Training Committee – Presented by Jennifer Rehbein.
 - ii. Membership Committee – Presented by Bob Colin.
 - 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.Larry Haitz motioned to approve the new templates for the ALR Constitution and Bylaws. Whitney Smith-McIntosh seconded. Motion carried.
- c. Americanism Commission – Jim Kessler asked the committee chairs to present reports.
 - i. Community Service Committee – Submitted by Roger Hopwood.
 - ii. Children & Youth – Presented by Polly Graham, including the results of the 5th Grade Flag Essay.
 - iii. Boy Scout – Submitted by Bill Greenleaf.
 - iv. Baseball – Presented by Jim Kessler.
 - v. Oratorical Contest Committee – No one present to report.
 - vi. Junior Shooting Sports Committee – Presented by Gary Palas.
- d. National Affairs – No one present to report.
- e. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Presented by Tom Ryan.
 - i. Veterans Benefits Committee – Submitted by Jerry Hansen.
 - ii. Health Administration Committee – Submitted by Janet Grass.
- f. Legislative Commission – Presented by Don De Kock.
- g. Marketing Commission – Presented by Sam Johnson.

Brian Ring motioned to receive and file all reports. Stanley Elliott seconded. Motion carried.

8. Be the One Ad Hoc Committee – Presented by Whitney Smith McIntosh.

9. American Legion of Iowa Foundation – Presented by Steve Dixon.

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10. 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.

11. Unfinished Business

None presented.

12. New Business

- a. Appointments to fill vacancies.
 - i. Brian Ring motioned to approve the resignation of Cindy Yslas as chaplain. Don De Kock seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Post/Squadron Cancellations
 - i. Squadron 0735, Hiawatha
Polly Graham motioned to cancel the charter. Brian Ring seconded. Motion carried.

13. Adjournment

With no further business, Whitney Smith-McIntosh gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.