DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA

JUNE 27, 2026 – 10:00 AM, Department Headquarters

1. **Call to Order**
   Department Commander Darrin Alderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A hand salute was rendered to the colors followed by an invocation given by Richard Echelberger. 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 (Excused)
Alt. NEC	Randy Johnson
Department Vice Commanders	Dick Bries
	Don De Kock
	Ken Fields
	Ed Fontes (Excused)
	Gary Quinlan
Department Adjutant	John Derner
Department Finance Officer	Candice Lanning
Department Judge Advocate	Dwight Dinkla
Department Historian	Steve Dixon
Department Chaplain	Vacant
Department Service Officer	Shane Pankonen
Department Sgt-at-Arms	Kurt Kollasch (Excused)
Past Department Commanders	Randy Johnson
	Stanley Elliott (Excused)
	Brian Ring, Sr
1st District Commander	Curtis Goudy
2nd District Commander	Polly Graham
3rd District Commander	Del Shepard
4th District Commander	James Perry
5th District Commander	Sam Blumer (Excused) – Representative: Lloyd Jones
6th District Commander	Whitney Smith-McIntosh (Absent)
7th District Commander	Mitch Brahms (Excused)
8th District Commander	Tony Lile
9th District Commander	Larry Haitz

   Guest(s) in attendance: incoming District Commanders; staff member Ann Haack; various Commission/Committee Chairs

3. **Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
   Brian Ring motioned to suspend the reading of the minutes and approved as distributed. Don De Kock seconded. Motion carried.

4. **Finance Commission Report**
   Randy Johnson presented the Finance Commission Report, including the recommendations to the DEC (see attachment). Ken Fields motioned to adopt the finance report. Del Shepard seconded. Motion carried.

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Finance Officer Candice Lanning explained the budget, including a difference of $166,000 between last year and this year. Things are already being cut, such as the Iowa Party and the Christmas open house. A dues increase for 2028 is being discussed. Fees for Mid-Winter and Convention will increase to $40. Revenue resources are being worked on, like sweepstakes and creating a 501(c)3 for the Department.

5. **Department Officer Reports**
    a. Department Service Officer – Presented by Shane Pankonen
        i. Shane mentioned working with OIG, which helps with fraud. He also mentioned AI being part of the review process. He also thanked the volunteers that have helped in the office.
    b. Department Adjutant – Presented by John Derner
    c. National Executive Committee Member – Presented by ANEC Randy Johnson
        i. Randy and Dwight Dinkla provided updates on the Richard Star Act work currently happening at the National level. The American Legion currently stands with the legislation, even as the legislation would remove sleep apnea and tinnitus.
        ii. Discussion of how National was planning to repay the money it has borrowed from the restricted fund.

Brian Ring motioned to receive and file the reports. Ken Fields seconded. Motion carried.

6. **Consent Agenda**

No reports on the consent agenda.

7. **Reports to the DEC**
    a. American Legion of Iowa Foundation – Presented by Steve Dixon
    b. American Legion of Iowa Boys State – Presented by Brian Ring
    c. Internal Affairs Commission – Jennifer Rehbein called chairs to present their reports.
        i. Membership Committee – Presented by Bob Colin
        ii. Training Committee – Presented by Ken Fields (amended copy submitted)
            1. Ken mentioned have topping recruiters going to conferences to help educate others.
        iii. SAL Committee – Presented by Gary Quinlan
            1. Sam Johnson reminded the Committee of the SAL's donations to both Girls State and Boys State.
        iv. American Legion Riders Committee – Presented by Larry Haitz for Cliff Barker
    d. Americanism Commission – Jim Kessler called chairs to present their reports.
        i. Community Service – Presented by Roger Hopwood
        ii. Children & Youth – Presented by Polly Graham
            1. Polly let the DEC know that C&Y will be meeting soon to discuss winners for the CPR awards.
        iii. Boy Scout Committee – No one present to report
        iv. Baseball Committee – No one present to report
        v. Oratorical Contest Committee – Presented by Roger Hopwood
        vi. Junior Shooting Sports Committee – No one present to report
    e. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
        i. Health Administration Committee – Presented by Janet Grass
        ii. Veterans Benefits Committee – No one present to report
    f. Legislative Commission – Presented by Randy Johnson
        i. Appreciation was shown to Advocacy Strategies and Nick Laning.
        ii. Currently, work is being done to meet with the gubernatorial candidates.
        iii. The homeownership programs is again open.

g. Marketing Commission – Presented by Sam Johnson
    1. More work is being done to find more sponsors. Also looking into having county VSOs available during veterans breakfasts at HyVee and working with the Scheels in Sioux Falls for an event.
  ii. Promotions & Revenue Enhancement Committee
  iii. Media & Communications Committee

h. Be the One Ad Hoc Committee – Presented by Curt Rosener

1. Resolutions

Resolutions Subcommittee Chair Ken Fields, Past National Commander Dave Rehbein, and Vice Commander Don De Kock presented the resolutions and recommendations.

Resolution 1

Subject: Darrin Alderson Endorsement for National Commander
Submitted by: Harry L. Anderson Post #34, The American Legion, Department of Iowa Fifth District, The American Legion, Department of Iowa

Resolution 2

Subject: Brian D. Ring, Sr., Endorsement for National Vice Commander
Submitted by: Harvey T. Rimel Post #141, The American Legion, Department of Iowa Seventh District, The American Legion, Department of Iowa

The committee recommended approving resolutions 1 and 2. Ken Fields motioned to approve. Dick Bries seconded. Motioned carried.

Resolution 3

Subject: Establish Department Be The One Committee
Submitted by: Ames Post #37, The American Legion, Department of Iowa

The committee recommended approving resolution 3. Ken Fields motioned to approve. Brian Ring seconded. Motioned carried.

2. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

3. New Business

a. Post & Squadron Cancellations/Requests
  i. Post Cancellation – Post 738 (Waterloo, Dist. 3)
  Del Shepard motioned to cancel the charter. Ken Fields seconded. Motion carried.
  ii. Post Cancellation – Post 153 (Nashua, Dist. 4)
  Jim Perry motioned to cancel the charter. Brian Ring seconded. Motion carried.
  iii. Post Cancellation – Post 219 (Arlington, Dist. 4)
  Jim Perry motioned to cancel the charter. Dick Bries seconded. Motion carried.
  iv. Post Cancellation – Post 338 (Rockford, Dist. 4)
  Jim Perry motioned to cancel the charter. Don De Kock seconded. Motion carried.
  v. Post Cancellation – Post 387 (Marble Rock, Dist. 4)
  Jim Perry motioned to cancel the charter. Gary Quinlan seconded. Motion carried.
  vi. Post Cancellation – Post 498 (Alta, Dist. 9)
  Larry Haitz motioned to cancel the charter. Brian Ring seconded. Motion carried.

4. Adjournment

With no further business, Richard Echelberger gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA

JULY 19, 2026 – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, IOWA B & C

1. **Call to Order**

   Department Commander De Kock called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m. A hand salute was rendered to the colors followed by an invocation given by Department Chaplain Richard Echelberger. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by all.

2. **Roll Call**

   Department Adjutant John Derner read the roll call:

Department Commander	Don De Kock
NEC	Bob Waugh
Alt. NEC	Randy Johnson
Department Vice Commanders	Curtis Goudy
	Fritz Kies
	Tony Lile
	Gary Quinlan
	Curt Rosener
Department Adjutant	John Derner
Department Service Officer	Shane Pankonen (Excused)
Past Department Commanders	Stanley Elliott
	Brian Ring, Sr
	Darrin Alderson (Excused)
1st District Commander	Kandice Miller (Excused)
2nd District Commander	Polly Graham
3rd District Commander	Richard Echelberger
4th District Commander	James Perry
5th District Commander	Sam Blumer
6th District Commander	Anthony Perdue
7th District Commander	Mitch Brahms
8th District Commander	Ruth Trecker
9th District Commander	Larry Haitz

   Guest(s) in attendance: Staff member Ann Haack, various Commission/Committee Chairs appointees

3. **Adoption of Operating Structure**

   Department Adjutant Derner informed the DEC that some changes had been made to the Operating Structure, specifically in regard to adding the Be The One Committee. Brian Ring, Sr, motioned to adopt the Operating Structure. Stanley Elliott seconded. Motion carried.

4. **Appointments by Department Commander**

   The commander announced appointments of Department officers (see attachments):

   Sergeant-at-Arms – Sam Blumer
   Historian – Steve Dixon
   Judge Advocate – Dwight Dinkla
   Chaplain – Richard Echelberger
   Finance Officer – Candice Lanning
   Department Adjutant — John Derner (exp. 2027)
   Service Officer – Shane Pankonen (exp. 2029)
   DEC Representative on Finance Commission – Dwight Dinkla

Legionnaires Insurance Trust Director – John Derner

Vice Commander District Assignments as follows:

Curtis Goudy	Districts 1 & 2
Gary Quinlan	Districts 5 & 7
Curt Rosener	District 6
Tony Lile	Districts 8 & 9
Fritz Kies	Districts 3 & 4

Tony Lile motioned to ratify the appointments of Department Officers and the Vice Commander assignments. Stan Elliott seconded. Motion carried.

Ad-hoc Committee Appointments

Operating Structure: John Derner, Dwight Dinkla, Candice Lanning, Randy Johnson, Gina Lile

Brian Ring, Sr, motioned to ratify the ad-hoc appointments. Larry Haitz seconded. Motion carried. Discussion of an ad-hoc committee to revise the roles of the Vice Commanders was had, but more will be brought before the DEC an another meeting.

The Commander presented the Commission/Committee appointments. Curtis Goudy moved to ratify the Commission/Committee appointments. Brian Ring, Sr, seconded. Motioned carried.

5. **National Membership Workshop**
   Adjutant Derner presented information regarding the upcoming membership workshop.

6. **New Business**
   Commander De Kock mentioned that the Membership Committee and he will work together on the coming year.

7. **Adjournment**
   With no further business, Department Chaplain Richard Echelberger gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.