

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA
JUNE 21, 2025 – 10:00 AM, Department Headquarters

1. Call to Order

Department Commander Brian Ring called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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 (Absent)
	Jeff Large
	Ed Fontes
	Sam Blumer
	Bob Colin
Department Adjutant	John Derner
Department Finance Officer	Candice Lanning
Department Judge Advocate	Dwight Dinkla
Department Historian	Vacant
Department Chaplain	Cindy Yslas
Department Service Officer	Shane Pankonen
Department Sgt-at-Arms	Tom Ryan (Excused)
Past Department Commanders	Bob Waugh
	Randy Johnson
	Stanley Elliott
1st District Commander	Curtis Goudy
2nd District Commander	Dick Bries
3rd District Commander	Del Shepard
4th District Commander	Cindy Yslas
5th District Commander	Gary Quinlan
6th District Commander	Don De Kock
7th District Commander	Mitch Brahms
8th District Commander	Tony Lile (Excused)
9th District Commander	George Farrell

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

3. Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Bob Waugh motioned to suspend the reading of the minutes and approve as published. Jeff Large seconded. Motion carried.

4. Finance Commission Report

Bob Waugh presented the Finance Commission Report, including the recommendations to the DEC (see attachment). Don De Kock motioned to adopt the finance report. Del Shepard seconded. Motion carried.

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Finance Officer Candice Lanning explained the budget. Department Adjutant John Derner went into more details about a proposed sponsorship package, possible fundraising changes, and the Legionnaire.

5. Resolutions

Resolutions Subcommittee Chair Dennis Soppe presented the three resolutions and recommendations.

Resolution 1

Subject: Department Suicide Prevention Committee

Submitted by: American Legion Post #682, Altoona, Iowa

The committee recommended rejecting this and allowing the committee to remain as an ad hoc committee for another year. Dennis Soppe motioned to reject the resolution. Don De Kock seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2

Subject: Authorization of Consultants for Department Commissions & Committees

Submitted by: PNC Dave Rehbein & Department Adjutant John Derner

The committee recommended approval as amended. Dennis Soppe motioned to approve the amendment. Jeff Large seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 3

Subject: Increase the Number of Oratorical Contestants Eligible to Advance to the County and District Level Contests

Submitted by: American Legion Post #403, Van Meter, Iowa

Sixth District, Department of Iowa

The committee recommended approval as amended. Dennis Soppe motioned to approve the amendment. Cindy Yslas seconded. Motion carried.

6. Department Operating Structure and Personnel Policy

Bob Waugh motioned to approve as amended by Resolution 2. Randy Johnson seconded. Motion carried. The Finance Commission made no changes to the Personnel Policy.

7. 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 Dennis Soppe

Stanley Elliott motioned to receive and file the reports. Sam Blumer seconded. Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda

Bob Waugh motioned to approve the consent agenda (see attached). Randy Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

9. Reports to the DEC

- a. Internal Affairs Commission – Jennifer Rehbein
- b. Training Committee – Sam Johnson
- c. Strategic Planning Committee – Dennis Soppe
- d. Membership Committee – Tim McLaughlin
- e. American Legion Riders Committee – Larry Haitz
- f. Americanism Commission – Jim Kessler
- g. Children & Youth – Cindy Yslas
- h. Community Service – Roger Hopwood
- i. Baseball Committee – *Not read, as chair not present.*

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- j. Oratorical Contest Committee – Bob Waugh
- k. Legislative Commission – Randy Johnson
- l. Marketing Commission – Sam Johnson
- m. Promotions & Revenue Enhancement Committee – Sam Johnson
- n. Media & Communications Committee – Sam Johnson
- o. Health Administration Committee – Janet Grass
- p. American Legion of Iowa Foundation – Brian Ring
- q. Be The One Ad-Hoc – Larry Haitz
- r. Boys State – Brian Ring
- s. Convention Commission – Stanley Elliott: A small group toured Sioux City as a possible convention site.

10. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

11. New Business

- a. Post & Squadron Cancellations/Requests
 - i. Post Cancellation – Post 456 (Rhodes, Dist. 3)
7 members still showing active in the Post. Cannot cancel until Post until all members have been transferred.
 - ii. Post Cancellation – Post 157 (Woodburn, Dist. 5)
Gary Quinlan motioned to cancel the charter. Randy Johnson seconded. Motion carried.
 - iii. Squadron Cancellation – Squadron 371 (Lake Park, Dist. 9)
George Farrell motioned to cancel the charter. Bob Colin seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Bob Colin asked for volunteers for the Boys State PX and the State Fair booth.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, Department Chaplain Cindy Yslas gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THE AMERICAN LEGION OF IOWA
JULY 20, 2025 – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, IOWA B & C

1. Call to Order

Department Commander Darrin Alderson called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. A hand salute was rendered to the colors followed by an invocation given by Department Chaplain Cindy Yslas. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by all.

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
	Ed Fontes
	Gary Quinlan
	Don De Kock
	Ken Fields
Department Adjutant	John Derner
Department Service Officer	Shane Pankonen (Excused)
Past Department Commanders	Stanley Elliott
	Brian Ring, Sr
	Brian Ring
1 st District Commander	Curtis Goudy
2 nd District Commander	Polly Graham
3 rd District Commander	Del Shepard
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: 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 at the last DEC meeting concerning the addition of consultant. Brian Ring, Sr, motioned to ratify the Operating Structure for the coming fiscal year. Stanley Elliott seconded. Motion carried.

4. Appointments by Department Commander

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

Sergeant-at-Arms – Kurt Kollasch
Historian – Steve Dixon
Judge Advocate – Dwight Dinkla
Chaplain – Cindy Yslas
Finance Officer – Candice Lanning
Department Adjutant — John Derner (exp. 2024)
Service Officer – Shane Pankonen (exp. 2026)
DEC Representative on Finance Commission – Dwight Dinkla

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Legionnaires Insurance Trust Director – John Derner

Ad-hoc Committee Appointments

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

Be the One: Whitney Smith McIntosh, Larry Haitz, Cliff Barker

Service Office Fund: Ed Rohner, Randy Johnson, Candice Lanning

Vice Commander District Assignments as follows:

Dick Bries Districts 2 & 3

Ed Fontes District 4

Gary Quinlan District 5 & 1

Don De Kock Districts 6 & 7

Ken Fields Districts 8 & 9

Bob Waugh motioned to ratify the appointments and approve the assignments. Brian Ring, Sr, seconded. Motion carried.

The Commander announced the Commission/Committee Appointments. Brian Ring, Sr, moved to ratify the appointments. Randy Johnson seconded. Motioned carried.

5. National Membership Workshop

Adjutant Derner presented information regarding the upcoming membership workshop.

6. New Business

Department Membership meeting is scheduled for August 16th at 10 a.m.

Commander Alderson provided an overview of goals for the membership committee this year, trying to have both the District Commanders and their membership committee representatives be more active. Goals include having monthly meetings, getting people online, educating members and Posts, recognizing recruiters, being active in the community, and more.

Discussion was had over the role of the Liaison committee and the need to educate liaison on their role.

Samuel Johnson asked that people look into possible corporate sponsors in their area. He asked that people let him know, so the marketing committee can help.

7. Adjournment

With no further business, Department Chaplain Cindy Yslas gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.