



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
8th DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

09 Aug. 2016 1900hrs River Bar & Supper Club, Amherst, WI

The meeting was called to order by 8th District Commander Jim Young at 1900 hours followed by a salute to the colors. The Acting Chaplain led a prayer; Commander Young led the POW/MIA Ceremony, Vice Commander Jaeger led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commander Young led the recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.

A roll call of officers was completed. Those present included Commander Young, 2nd Vice Commander Balz, 3rd Vice Commander Jaeger, Adjutant Herminath, Historian Pope, Sgt-at-Arms Klotzbuecher, Sgt-at-Arms Sonnentag, Acting Waushara County Commander Krofta, and Waupaca County Commander Pope. Those excused included 1st Vice Commander Fregien, Finance Officer Jensen, and Judge Advocate Gorst. Those absent included Chaplain Theama and the Commanders of Marathon, Portage, Shawano, and Wood Counties.

District Commander Young introduced the guests, including two past Department Vice Commanders and the current 8th District Auxiliary President.

The Adjutant read the minutes of the two Caucuses held at the recent Department Convention in Middleton, WI. Motions were made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Finance Officer Jensen could not attend the meeting, but informed District Commander Young that a finance report was in the mail.

Commander Young read a resignation letter from former 2nd Vice Commander Pat Borchardt.

Commander Young passed out Department Committee Reports to 8th District Department Committee members. The reports were to be held and presented at the 2016 8th District Fall Conference. Commander Young said he would mail the reports to 8th District Officers who were either excused or absent.

Commander Young asked for the names and addresses of the Legionnaires on sick call so the District could send out get well cards. A get well card will be sent to the Wozniak family.

Commander Young then asked for any unfinished business. The subject of the 2016 8th District Fall Conference was raised. Vice Commander Jim Young reported that Bean City was booked up at the time, but Crystal Falls was open on October 15. In order to keep the price down to \$20, lunch and breakfast will be simpler than in the past. The facility is large enough to host both the Legion and Auxiliary meetings. A motion was made and seconded to award the Fall Conference to New London. The motion passed. A short discussion of the value of having a joint Fall Conference ensued and, while it is not mandated in either State Constitution, both Legion and Auxiliary benefit from meeting and working together.

Commander Young announced that Ron Miller has been appointed Vice Chairman of the Department Hospital Committee for the coming year.

A question was asked about the location of the 8th District 2017 Spring Conference. It was mentioned that the 2017 Spring Conference would be sponsored by the Manawa Post and held at Bear Lake.

Commander Young then handed out 3 Blood Donor awards along with a 100% Post membership award.

Department Membership Committee Chairman Darla Porter then gave an extensive report on membership. She focused on Legion-sponsored websites like mylegion.org and encouraged all Legion officers and members to check them out. She said next year's 8th District goal is 4,798 members and Department's goal is 56,739. The membership goal dates have also been moved forward to encourage members to sign up earlier in the year. She then outlined the awards related to membership during the coming year. Darla emphasized the importance of Wisconsin being at 100% when Denise Rohan becomes National Commander of The American Legion. She added that membership teams from national would visit Wisconsin and visit Districts 8, 9, and 10. They will visit the 10th District in Eau Claire first on October 23rd. The Department and National Commanders will be there for a reception and organizational meeting. On the 24th, they will carry out a District Revitalization at Eau Claire. The 8th District will be the next District, and on the 24th the Department and National Commanders will visit Wausau. They will also visit Marshfield and Shawano on the 24th. Later on, Department also plans to carry out revitalizations in the Madison and Milwaukee areas as well.

Commander Young mentioned that he had a number of brochures containing membership application for the Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL. Several Legionnaires asked for copies of the pamphlet.

Commander Young stressed that our County Councils have to meet on a regular basis, he suggested at least every other month, in order to keep informed on Legion plans and programs. Most of our failing County Councils are simply not meeting on a regular basis, several meet only once or twice a year. This is one of our (8th District's) greatest challenges to membership and one that we have to address immediately.

A spirited and valuable exchange of membership recruitment stories and experiences followed. Despite many difficulties, most recruitment efforts were judged to be effective and well received by the veterans contacted. Many veterans received the invitation to join positively and left a positive impression on the Legionnaires who participated in the recruitment process. It was stressed that newly-recruited members needed continued support and encouragement by post members to grow in their dedication and service to The American Legion.

Being no further business, a closing prayer was offered by the Acting Chaplain, the POW/MIA flag was removed from the empty chair followed by a salute to the colors.

Commander Young adjourned the meeting at 2100 hrs.

Arien Herminath
8th District Adjutant