

**DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION COMMITTEE  
June 19, 2009**

The Department Membership Convention Committee was called to order by Membership Chairman, Tim Hernandez, at 0830, in Ballroom I of the Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing, Michigan, on Friday, June 19, 2009.

The following committee members were present:

- Tim Hernandez, Membership Chairman
- Bill Hafeman, U.P. Membership Director

It was moved by Terry Montgomery, 17<sup>th</sup> District Commander and supported by Tim Rollin of the 18<sup>th</sup> District to make Tim Hernandez permanent Chairman. Vote taken, motion carried.

It was moved by Don Hatfield, 1<sup>st</sup> Zone Commander and supported by Barney Regnier of the 4<sup>th</sup> District to make Bill Hafeman permanent Secretary. Vote taken, motion carried.

There were 18 Legionnaires in attendance and 13 Membership Committee Credential Cards turned in.

Roll Call of Districts was taken by Secretary Hafeman with the following Districts present:

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	and 18 <sup>th</sup>					

Roll Call of Zones was taken by Secretary Hafeman with the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> Zone Commanders in attendance.

Chairman Hernandez declared we had a quorum.

The minutes of the June 20, 2008, Department Membership Convention Committee meeting held at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids Michigan were read by Chairman Hernandez. There was a motion by Keith Tyler of the 5<sup>th</sup> District and supported by George Jingles of the 9<sup>th</sup> District to approve the minutes as read. Vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Hernandez talked about the upcoming 2010 census and the re-districting of the Michigan Congressional districts that most likely will occur. It has been suggested that perhaps a future Commander may want to consider forming a committee to study the feasibility of the American Legion realigning our districts at that time also.

Motion was made by Tim Rollin of the 18<sup>th</sup> District and supported by George Jingles of the 9<sup>th</sup> District to approve Chairman Hernandez's Membership Committee Final Report as printed the June issue of the *Michigan Legionnaire*. Vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Hernandez gave a report on DMS and explained how National's new DMS program works. The throughput of membership items from national is down considerably this year. Last year there were 11,600 items of membership information sent out. This year there has only been 3,300 items mailed out. This is substantial drop due possibly to several reasons; 1- our declining membership, 2- National's new DMS program and last but not least, one positive aspect is that our Post 225 membership ranks has been whittled down substantially thus we are now seeing fewer *Request for Transfer to a Local Post* slips.

The latest National Membership Report was reviewed by Chairman Hernandez. He stated that as of June 8, 2009 we find Michigan is in 13th place in the nation. This is the collective results of everyone's effort in membership. We were in 16<sup>th</sup> place as of the April 30, 2009 National report so thanks to all for your cooperation. Chairman Hernandez reported that we are in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Central Region race. One disturbing item reported was that nationally we are down over 250,000 members from this time last year. We have until July 29, 2009, to continue to work on membership to achieve our department 100% goal on the national level.

Also discussed was the feasibility of using credit cards to pay membership dues, multi-year membership plans and lengthening the PUFL payment plan. National is looking into these and may pilot a few of these ideas in selected states.

Chairman Hernandez encouraged everyone to continue to pursue renewals and a discussion was held on recruiting and retaining membership at our Posts and sharing ideas that work.

Chairman Hernandez expressed his thanks asked those present to pass on his gratitude to everyone for their efforts in membership this year. All recognition and accolades belong to the Posts and the blue cap Legionnaires who worked so hard to meet their membership goals.

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Barney Regnier of the 4<sup>th</sup> District and supported by Mike Trickey, 5<sup>th</sup> Zone Commander to adjourn at 0935. Vote taken, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Hernandez  
Membership Chairman