

## DEPARTMENT INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

September 26, 2008

The meeting of the Department Internal Affairs Committee was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Chairman David Buist at the Valley Plaza Hotel in Midland, Michigan. The following people were present:

**MEMBERS:** Chairman David Buist, Pat Smith, Robert Mayrand, and Leonard White. Ernie Ingles was excused.

**GUESTS:** 20

Motion by Smith, seconded by White, to make Mayrand the Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

Motion by Mayrand, seconded by Smith, to make White the Secretary. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussed Resolution 1 re: employee participation in advocating candidacy rule and the differing opinion letter from National Judge Advocate, Phil Onderdonk. This issue has been brought to light because a Department employee is married to a Department Commander candidate. Motion made by White, supported by Smith, to recommend that the DEC rescind Resolution 1. Motion carried.

Discussed ruling that District Commander/Alternates cannot serve on any Standing Committee. It's getting hard to fill all positions. After much discussion, there was a motion by Smith, supported by Mayrand that issue be tabled. Motion carried.

Discussed what to call Alternates. When amendment was passed at Convention to change Committeeman to Commander, no ruling was made on what to call Alternates. Finance Committee recommended changing to Vice Commander. Several ideas were tossed around. Motion was made by Smith, seconded by White, to do an amendment, changing "Alternates" to "Alternate District Commander". Motion carried.

Talked about the Calls for annual convention and conferences and dates of notice in the Legionnaire and website. Make uniform. Also discussed mailing notices. Motion by White, supported by Smith, to table until Winter Conference as some research is necessary. Motion carried.

Talked about changes made in the 40 & 8. They now take all veterans and have broken away from the Legion. Motion by Smith, supported by Mayrand, to remove all 40 & 8

and 20 & 4 references from Department Constitution and Bylaws. Amendment will be written. Motion carried.

Discussed request from Finance Chairman, Randy Browne, to review Article VII of Department Bylaws regarding Commander's duties. Change wording from "The Commander shall be reimbursed for his necessary actual travel expenses while in the performance of the duties of his office and, in addition, shall receive a salary as shall be fixed by the Finance/Personnel Committee, subject to approval of the Department Executive Committee" **be removed and replaced with:** "The Commander shall be reimbursed up to the budget allowance for his/her necessary actual travel expenses while in performance of the duties of his/her office, with any additional funding to be determined by the Finance/Personnel Committee subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee." Motion by Smith, supported by White, to approve the proposed amendment. Motion carried.

Chairman Buist read a letter submitted by Past Department Commander William Miller regarding committees and subcommittees. Motion by Smith, supported by White, to take Bill's suggestions under advisement. Motion carried.

Discussed S.A.L. Constitution and Bylaws submission. Chairman Buist recommended that they change a few words for housekeeping purposes, as procedurally everything was done correctly. Motion to approve by Smith, seconded by Mayrand. Motion carried.

Discussed Resolution 08-7-C, One Man, One Vote in Private, which had been returned to Internal Affairs after State Convention in June. Several questions were posed. It was decided that a substantial amount of answers need to be obtained. Motion by Smith, seconded by White, to table the issue until Winter Conference.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this committee. It was moved by Smith, supported by White, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David Buist, Chairman

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