Minutes of The American Legion, Department of Virginia Executive Committee Meeting
Saturday, March 14, 2015, Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center

The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Department Commander Gerald Rhoads at 2:30 p.m. The invocation was made by Department Chaplain Dr. Frank Carr prior to the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution. John Hess conducted the POW/MIA ceremony.

Adjutant Dale D. Chapman called the roll. Those present:

**DEPARTMENT OFFICERS:**
Gerald Rhoads, Department Commander; Linden Dixon, Immediate Past Department Commander; Thomas Saunders, NEC; Mike Mitrione, Alternate NEC; Dr. Frank Carr, Department Chaplain; E. B. Reese, Sergeant-at-Arms; Dale D. Chapman, Department Adjutant; Tommy Lee, Department Treasurer; Jim Chapman, Department Judge Advocate; Joe Vaccaro, Department Deputy Judge Advocate; Bob Sussan, Department Historian; Brian Mullican, Department Service Officer

**DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS:**
Robert Cardwell; Alfred Steward; A B Brown

**DISTRICT COMMANDERS:**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:**
Mike Helm, National Commander Dale Barnett, Leading Candidate for National Commander

Commander Rhoads welcomed all attendees and reminded them of the Rules of Order of Business of the Department Executive Committee meeting.

Commander Rhoads then recognized Past Department Commanders in attendance:
- Dale Chapman
- George Blume
- Robert Hannon
- Charlie Powell
- Tom Saunders
- Chic Ferguson
- Les Clevinger
- Bill Bryant
- Brett Reistad

Mike Mitrione; Ron Miluszewski; George Lussier; Linden Dixon; Doug Ramos

The minutes of the last meeting, having been mailed previously, were approved without reading.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**
Commander Rhoads then presented Post 1 and Post 45 with certificates of recognition for excelling in membership.

Commander Rhoads then called upon Department Officers and Chairmen for their reports.

**DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**DEPARTMENT NEC**
Thomas Saunders reported that there will be a possible dues increase next year in membership.

**DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE**
Jim Chapman reported there are six posts under suspension for not having Constitution and Bylaws on file at department headquarters. Post 368 is suspended under investigation; Post 1097 investigation is complete. Post 45 current has no issues; Post 3 currently has no issues, Post 25 is partially resolved; Post 190 is pending investigation and Post 1976 is pending investigation. He stated that the IRS is checking for good standing and non-filing of 990. Bingo license can be pulled. He reported that the post must be incorporated per a briefing from national headquarters. He recommended changes to the Department Constitution and Bylaws.

**DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**
Dale D. Chapman thanked all who participated in the Day on the Hill. He talked on post reporting and deadlines. He stated that the budget request letters would be going out in the mail. He reported that over 220,000 hits have been made on the department web site in just over fourteen months. He thanked John Koker - nak for his hard work on keeping the web page updated. He thanked Bob Sussan for his assistance with keeping the Facebook page up to date.

See MINUTES page 4
In Appreciation

Here it is June 2015; it hardly seems possible that 11 months have transpired since I had the honor of being elected Department Commander of Virginia. What a fantastic journey, a wonderful experience and extreme honor to represent the Department of Virginia.

Sandra and I have traveled across the Commonwealth this year and met so many wonderful members of the American Legion family. The men and women of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders, across the Commonwealth, are what makes the Virginia American Legion family – the best! We are so proud to be a part of this family.

The dedicated Legionnaires that serve as “Chairman” for the many American Legion programs provided by the Department of Virginia have done an outstanding job this year. The Legionnaires who work countless hours to serve their fellow veterans as American Legion Service Officers deserve more than just a “Thank you”. The work you do is so important and to you I extend my heartfelt appreciation. The endeavor to once again make available an American Legion license plate was undertaken this year. Ron Hesson has done a great job as chairman of this undertaking. The first requirement of 450 applications has been met and preparations to meet the second requirement are underway.

In addition to visiting various Post and Districts, I attended numerous events, across the Commonwealth, during the past 11 months, and look forward to additional visits in the coming weeks. I thoroughly enjoyed every visit. Although there is no way I can list them all; I will mention a few: The Department of Virginia ALBB state tournament, meeting the Legion Riders in Grundy, Virginia as they were riding to the National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. (did it rain?), Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery, POW/MIA day and Memorial Day at Virginia War Memorial, Boy Scout day in the eighth district, JROTC State competition, Department Oratorical competition and visits to Veteran Medical Centers.

The dedicated Legionnaires in the Department of Virginia are actively involved in programs for our veterans, our children and youth and programs which promote Americanism. Two great programs, American Legion Boys State of Virginia and Junior Law Cadet will be held during June as the 2014-2015 Legion year comes to a close.

As you recall, when elected, I asked that every legionnaire recruit at least one member, requested that every Post undertake at least one program which promoted patriotism and honor and that every Post submit a positive consolidated post report. Consolidated reports are currently being submitted and the year isn’t quite over, so you still have time to recruit a new member for our great organization!

The dedication and hard work put forth this year by Lewis Field, Department Membership Chairman, is greatly appreciated. Lewis spent countless hours working with Posts and Districts across the Commonwealth. He made himself available to assist, when anyone asked. “Thank You”, Lewis.

“Thank You” to the Department Vice-Commanders: A. B Brown, Al Steward, Robert Cardwell and the District Commanders who were elected to serve with me this year. These gentlemen worked diligently in their endeavor to achieve.

I wish to extend my heartfelt “thank you” to every Virginia Legionnaire for your honorable service to your country and for your continued service to your community as a member of the American Legion. Everything we ultimately accomplish as an organization begins at the Post level. Membership is the foundation on which stands; the four pillars of our organization and your continuous membership is the vital ingredient to assure that this foundation remains strong. Thank you for being a Virginia Legionnaire.

Again, I express my sincere “Thank you” for your support while serving as Department Commander, Department of Virginia. You, members of the American Legion family, have made this a year of treasured memories that will last forever.

Let’s Talk National Convention

I have received a few phone calls and emails regarding the situation in Baltimore. Below is a response I received from our National Organization regarding the upcoming convention. You have to remember the bid for this convention was approved five years ago. I have the statement below which has some updates from the city officials and the Visit Baltimore office. There are no new press releases, however please visit this link to the new online Meeting Planner Toolkit. All of our available videos are in this folder in 1080 HD. There are some additional video testimonials from two citywide conventions last week and a few messages from our Customer Advisory Board.

Given recent events in certain parts of our city and the way those events have been reported, we understand your need for additional information.

It is true that Baltimore has had an unfortunate uptick in certain crimes. Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts recently sent out a letter to local community leaders stating, in part, that this “has been particularly prevalent in neighborhoods historically impacted by violent crime.” His letter went on to outline a multi-level strategy aimed at improving police/community relations in those neighborhoods, enhance the visibility of patrol officers and upgrade police officer training.

Our tourism districts and Inner Harbor areas are not among the neighborhoods he is referencing. Nonetheless, the Baltimore police department and the many businesses and organizations serving the downtown area have taken numerous steps over the years to enhance security. These include but are not limited to:

- An expanded Police foot patrol presence in the downtown and Inner Harbor areas
- Downtown Baltimore Guides, all of whom are radio equipped and who patrol the streets and provide visitor assistance – including escorting visitors to their downtown destinations if requested
- Our Public Safety Coalition, which is a network of public and private security teams in downtown who work together to develop strategies related to public safety
- A city-wide network of closed circuit cameras that are monitored around the clock

Baltimore is a great American city with a diverse culture and history and amenities that ensure our visitors will have a unique and positive experience. But, like many American cities, Baltimore is facing significant challenges. Those challenges did not arise overnight, nor do they have simple solutions. In the wake of recent events, we are coming together as One Baltimore to address them.

Your attendees can feel secure in knowing that they will have a great time as they visit in our wonderful downtown and Inner Harbor area. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Greetings My Legion Family

What a wonderful year this has been. We should give thanks to God for bringing us this far. So many of our fellow Legionnaires have gone on before us, and one day we’ll have to go that way also. But have you ever wondered what it’s going to be like on the other side when we shall see God face to face for ourselves. 1st Corinthians 13:12 tells us, “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”

What God has for us on the other side may not be totally clear to all of us that believe in Him and in His heavenly Kingdom that He has prepared for those who love Him and follow in His way. 1st Corinthians 2:9 tells us “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

Outside of what’s written in the Bible, Paul is telling us that we can’t imagine all the things God has for us, it’s like looking through a glass darkly.

The Apostle Paul also realized that complete understanding will not be achieved until we see God face to face. At that time we will not only achieve complete maturity, but also perfect knowledge.

His advice to us is to keep our eyes on the goal of running for God and winning. Ecclesiastes 9:11 tells us “the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

I hope to see you at Department Convention in Roanoke this July. May God’s Blessings be with you until we meet again.

From the Pulpit
Frank Carr
Department Chaplain

Post Everlasting

DORN, GEORGE M (242)
DORR, EDWARD C (86)
DRESSLER, WILLIAM M SR (4)
DUNCAN, ANDREW L (311)
DUNNAVANT, EZRA L (147)
DYER, ROBERT L (182)
EDDY, GARY (330)
EDWARDS, CLARENCE (368)
ELLIK, MICHAEL L (8)
EPPEPERSON, EDWARD E (147)
FARMER, JOHN G (6)
FIGURACION, EUGENE W (148)
FINLEY, RICHARD G (12)
FITCHETT, RUSSELL A (82)
FLEENOR, LAWRENCE J (141)
FORAN, FRED C (12)
FREDERICK, LEONARD L (327)
FULTZ, ELWOOD L (201)
GEORGE, KENNETH L (141)
GETTSY, WILLIAM J (125)
GILES, VERNON (242)
GOCHENOUR, HARRY (199)
GOCHENOUR, LEE (199)
GOLD, FRANK (199)
GOOCH, THOMAS (290)
GORDON, LEONARD P (222)
GOODEN, BOBBY W (222)
GRANEY, FRANK (188)
GUBLER, DENNIS K (88)
GUPTON, PRENTICE V (8)
HAIRSTON, RANDOLPH (29)
HAIRSTON, ROBERT L JR (29)
HALL, JOHN K (68)
HALL, CLEVE E (79)
HALL, JOHN D (8)
HALL, W C (21)
HARRIS, SAMUEL (194)
HAUENSTEIN, IVAN (79)
HAYSPELL, JAMES E (79)
HENDERSO, WALTER C JR (325)
HENDRICK, FREDERICK E (146)
HEPNER, WILLIAM (199)
HEBERT, CHAIN (340)
HILL, WILLIAM O JR (330)
HILLARY, ASHYB T (21)
HILLARY, ROBERT T (21)
HORN, RICHARD O (215)
HUGHES, CHARLES E (180)
HUGHES, RAYMOND (34)
HUNDLEY, LUTHER H (42)
HUNLEY, JACK W (9)
JACKSON, ROBERT W (280)
JAMES, JOHN P (85)
JEFFRIES, ROBERT R SR (290)
JENKINS, FLOYD E (52)
JENSEN, ALRED J (86)
JONES, EDSEL C (9)
JONES, HAROLD D (201)
JORDAN, KENNETH H (83)
KELLY, FRANK H (177)
KING, DONALD A (148)
KOPPENHAVER, ANDREW A (21)
KOSSLER, WILLIAM F (75)
LAGASSE, PHILIP (49)
LAMBERG, STEPHEN J (125)
LAMMA, BOBBY F (13)
LANE, MICHAEL D (164)
LANSFORD, JOHN A (146)
LASKOWSKI, HENRY A (1992)
LEE, WILLIAM G (148)
LEVY, JOSEPH P (325)
LEVIS, WILLIAM O (91)
LITTLEJOHN, LEROY W (110)
LLOYD, ROGER G (156)
LOVING, ELMER H JR (274)
LOWE, WAYNE K (164)
LUCAS, WILLIAM R (327)
MACK, JOEL C (78)
MADAGAN, WILLIAM “PISTOL” (21)
MARRION, ROBERT (135)
MARSH, WARNER G (84)
MARRSH, MARSH M (232)
MARRSH, RICHARD E (82)
MCHARL, ROBERT T (325)
MATKINS, HARLIN W (176)
MCBRIDE, FRANK O (3)
MCCOURR, GEORGE D (340)
MCDONALD, GEORGE B JR (311)
MOLANAHAN, JAMES C (148)
MEEMS, WILL A (6)
MINNIS, JOHN W JR (330)
MICHELL, THOMAS F SR (361)
MONTNEY, CLIFFORD M (49)
MORTER, JAMES L (110)
MOTLEY, GALEN D (232)
MURPHY, FRANCIS (141)
NASHON, BELT (56)
NEWLAND, JEFF (256)
NEWMAN, TON B (86)
NEYMAN, RUSSELL L (340)
NICKEL, ARLIN W (401)
OMEARA, CLARENCE (72)
O’QUINN, RANDY (164)
PAINTER, BRUCE A (21)
PATTON, W.C. JR (12)
PERRY, LONNIE J (72)
PHENCIE, CHARLES K (141)
PLEVA, THADDEUS (141)
PLOWMAN, ELLIS (199)
PROKOPovich, JOHN T (3)
PUCKETT, KENNETH E (13)
PULLIAM, ROBERT N (9)
PYLE, ALBERT L (215)
RAY, STANFORD (149)
RECTOR, LLOYD M (245)
REED, WILLIAM A (162)
RENSHAW, ROGER D (330)
REYNOLDS, NORMAN L (320)
RICHARDS, WILLIAM C (3)
RORBACK, WILLIAM J (104)
SALES, ROBERT L (274)
SALLEE, HARVEY J (368)
SAUNDERS, JOHN D (125)
SCHAEFFER, KENNETH M (180)
SEMEPEL, MANUEL G (42)
SHADE, KENNETH N (148)
SHARP, WILLIAM T (290)
SHELTON, IRA M (325)
SIMPLE, PAUL (4)
SMITH, FRANKLIN H (8)
SMITH, WALTER (199)
SOUTH, MASON T (83)
SPENCE, BILLY G (245)
SPITLER, JAMES R (274)
STAMLER, ARTHUR (199)
STEPHENSON, ROY T (13)
STINNETT, MARSHALL (126)
STOLLINGS, JENNINGS P (53)
STOOITS, ALTON W (274)
STURMS, JAMES (141)

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DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
Dr. Frank Carr stated that he has visited the various VA hospitals throughout the state.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER
Tommy Lee stated the department is within budget and following directions from the Department Finance Committee and the Department Executive Committee.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER
Brian Mullican turned in a written report that stated a report was given on a book titled “The Courage to Remember-PTSD-From Trauma to Triumph” by Dr. Dexter Tenni who is a WWII veteran. He also reported that as of March 24, 2015 the state will not accept VA Forms 526, 526D, 527 and 534 they have been replaced by VA Forms 526EZ, 527EZ, and 534EZ. All informal claims will be filed using VA Form 21-4966. (23 present)

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN
No Report.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE
Thomas Saunders reported that the Distinguished Service Award was discussed and the five drill team judges seconded by Mike Mitrione. Motion carried. The certified service officers were discussed, there was a total of thirteen; Mike Mitrione made a motion to present certificates to all thirteen certified service officers; seconded by Bob Hannon, motion carried. (7 present).

Thomas Saunders then presented certificates to Chic Ferguson for his many years as the Sons of the American Legion Committee Chairman; Fred Miller for his many years as Color Guard Chairman, Brian Mullican, Norman Jean Newman and Rita Chandler for their dedication to the Department Service Officer Program.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE
Dave Stein turned in a written report that stated the importance of post reporting and filling out the consolidated report was covered. Discussion held on flag protection. A discussion was held on the American Legion License Plate project. There were five essays for the Middle School Essay contest. 1st place was Elizabeth Reid (Post 56), 2nd place was Ellen Phillips (Post 320) and 3rd place was Laura Estep (Post 199). (33 present)

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE
Tommy Whitlow turned in a written report that stated Ray Turner reported that a Department Bowling Tournament has not been held this year due to conflicts with host post, but there is a plan to have one in the fall. James Robinson, Golf Sub-Committee chair reported that department spring golf tournament will be held April 10-12, 2015 at Ingleside Golf Course in Staunton. Fred Miller, Softball Sub-Committee chair reported very little interest in softball. The committee will look into ways to re-vitalize program. Jim Grier, Football sub-committee chair reported on new rule changes, discussed possible rule changes for 2015 and possible changes to State Tournament format. The senior state tournament will be held at Spotsylvania County High School July 27-31, 2015; the junior state tournament will be held by Leesburg Post 34 August 4-10, 2015. (29 present)

BOYS STATE COMMITTEE
Bill Stramm turned in a written report that stated the 2015 highlights: Radford University July 21-27, 2015 letters to schools and posts to go out soon, cost is $400 per boy. The committee would like 800 boys. A.D. Carter is chief counselor. There is a need for counselors. All counselors and staff must do background check on website. Ike Kelley reported that the Samsung Scholarship is online it must be completed online and certified by high school. Linden Dixon stated that letters to school and posts going out same week. Application is online and an electronic copy of letters is available for schools. Internal Affairs to review constitution and bylaws and rules. A statement was made that the delegate tax was raised from $1 to $5. (40 present)

CONVENTION AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Ron Miluszewski made a motion to approve the contract for Virginia Beach Resort Hotel, March, 2017 at $928/night; seconded; approved. He reported that day care was discussed to attract younger members and their families. Al Steward presented a proposal from a Helping Hand that works with veteran’s children. They require a child and VBRCC does not have the space needed to hold childcare. Ceci Doss also reported on the 100th Anniversary convention. (17 present)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE
Rick Oertel turned in a written report that stated a change in the status of the National Committee on Children & Youth now falls under Americanism Commission but still remains one of the Four Pillars. The Temperance chair voted on the Assistant Chairman and the Children & Youth narrative were discussed in detail. It was noted that 165 support requests and 40 TFAs had been received by March 9 since July 2014. A total of $16,448.25 in aid to families was approved by national. (16 present)

FOREIGN RELATIONS SUB COMMITTEE
Tom Queck turned in a written report that stated a news article was read regarding Letter to Iran signed by GOP Congressman. The POW/MIA table was discussed. (11 present)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Dan Dellinger called John Kokernak, Director Leadership College to the podium for his report. John stated that the college is August 7-9, 2015 at the Double Tree Koger Center with registration staying at $70. The program will be similar to last years with national staff coming in for ALEI and LEAD training. Dan then called Jimmy Jones, Chairman of Legion Riders to the podium. Jimmy reported that there are 36 chapters with 988 members. The charter for Post 186 was presented. Plaques were distributed for the Legacy Run and reporting was discussed. Dan made a motion that the actions of the Internal Affairs committee become the action of the Department Executive Committee, seconded and approved.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Brett Reistad turned in a written report that stated a summary of our legislative initiatives with the 2015 Virginia General Assembly was provided. Of a total of six initiatives we shared with the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC), five achieved success either by adoption on Governor McAuliffe’s budget or through legislation by the General Assembly. The JLC will begin to shape a legislative agenda for the 2016 General Assembly. Point papers were distributed and legislative priorities of the America Legion for the 114th Congress were also distributed. A briefing was given on the Washington Legislative Conference and the need to continue communication with our congressmen. (17 present)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Lewis Field turned in a written report that stated congrats were offered to the five drill team judges seconded by Guy Jones, Chairman of Legion Riders to the podium. Jimmy reported that there are 36 chapters with 988 members. The charter for Post 186 was presented. Plaques were distributed for the Legacy Run and reporting was discussed. Dan made a motion that the actions of the Internal Affairs committee become the action of the Department Executive Committee, seconded and approved.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE
Dorlis Todman turned in a written report that stated National Security issues were discussed: ISIS, Internet Security, and Immigration, 1 military pay cap, Ebola and the aftermath, active duty troops and their family. Post members were able to share what national security activities or programs they were doing. (21 present)

LAW & ORDER COMMITTEE
Phil Dunn turned in a written report that stated the Youth Enforcement Cadet Program was discussed with a run-down of deadlines, disk availability, website updates and form download update. The deadline for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was extended to April 15, 2015. Discussion held on Department LEO and Fire Fighter, EMS packet content. (25 present)

NEW POST/DMS COMMITTEE
Vice Chairman John Kokernak turned in a written report that stated a discussion was held on new post and revitalization. Eastern and Northern Regions conducted revitalizations. The 16th District has a new post in the works. (26 present)

ORATORICAL COMMITTEE
Teresa Wahl reported that Jonathan Corbin won the Oratorical Contest. Her written report stated that a letter is being prepared for the schools in two parts. First one to go out in the summer. A resolution was discussed on hearing impaired. The national final round will be on April 12, 2015. (24 present)

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Buck Owen turned in a written report that stated Harv Ayers presented a Power Point presentation regarding: what is a brand, how are perceptions formed, impact of perception on influence, impact of influence on post morale, programs and recruiting. The role of the website and media with comments by John Kokernak was made. Ron Hesson gave a report on the License Plate project. He stated there are time restraints but the need to get 450 applications in as soon as possible. Currently at 54% of the goal. Buck and Harv reported on the 100th Anniversary. (21 present)

IROTC DRILL TEAM SUB-COMMITTEE
Robert Cardwell turned in a written report that stated 1st place was Patrick Henry High School (175), 2nd place was Prince George High School (120) and 3rd place was Heritage High School (16). The report also stated that the competition was completed with a lunch buffet this year affording everyone the opportunity to depart to their destinations. (10 present)
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JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM
No Report.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
Willie Ransom submitted a report that stated the main topic of discussion was ways to improve access to VA care, support for the veteran with special needs and Heroes to Home Town. (31 present).

Les Clevinger submitted a report that stated the budget for 2015-2016 was approved. The upcoming slates of officers were recommended: Richard Pregnall, Commander; David Tuck, Vice Commander; Willie Morgan, Vice Commander; Richard Cunningham, Vice Commander; Robert Borkovich, Alternate NEC; Linwood Moore, NEC. A motion was made to approve recommended officers; seconded, approved. Several questions were asked about the Detachment Officers and Administrative Fees and other funds. (14 present)

BOY SCOUTS SUB COMMITTEE
Lowell Badgley turned in a written report that stated the Eagle Scout Scholarship Nomination form was discussed. The 2015 form is now changed in Section D – Religious Award. Discussion held on getting the word out and promoting this contest. The American Legion and Scouting Square Knot Award was discussed. (10 present).

VAY'S COMMITTEE
Margaret Fields turned in a written report that stated Earl Pierce reported attending monthly town meetings with the Director of Hampton VAMC. Some concerns are making sure patients receive a timely appointment or use their choice card. It was asked to be sure to report volunteer hours. (12 present).

WOMEN'S OUTREACH SUB COMMITTEE
Rita Chandler reported that since October, 2014 38 women have been interviewed with 9 claims filed. Hampton VAMC to visit women who had sexual assaults. She made a Roanoke visit to the VAMC. In Northern VA she interacted with 327 women.

Commander Rhoads introduced Mike Helm, National Commander for a brief talk. Commander Rhoads then introduced Dale Barnett, Leading Candidate for National Commander for brief remarks.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
Willie Ransom submitted a report that stated the main topic of discussion was ways to improve access to VA care, support for the veteran with special needs and Heroes to Home Town. (31 present).

S.A.L.
Les Clevinger submitted a report that stated the budget for 2015-2016 was approved. The upcoming slates of officers were recommended: Richard Pregnall, Commander; David Tuck, Vice Commander; Willie Morgan, Vice Commander; Richard Cunningham, Vice Commander; Robert Borkovich, Alternate NEC; Linwood Moore, NEC. A motion was made to approve recommended officers; seconded, approved. Several questions were asked about the Detachment Officers and Administrative Fees and other funds. (14 present)

PURPOSE
The Annual Department Convention, as the legislative body of the Department of Virginia, is called for the following purposes: to set the programs of the Department; to amend the Constitution and By-laws; to elect a Commander, Department Vice Commanders, Department Chaplain, and Department Sergeant-at-Arms; to elect Delegates and Alternates to the NINETY-SEVENTH National Convention; to elect, in alternate years, a National Executive Committee, and an Alternate National Executive Committee, and to transact such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION
(As set forth in the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Virginia, Inc.)

ARTICLE IV, Sec. 2. "In the Department Convention, each Post shall be entitled to two votes and to an additional vote for each fifty members whose annual dues have been received by the Department Headquarters fifteen (15) days prior to the opening of said Convention; but no Post shall be entitled to representation in the Convention which shall not have paid Department and National dues for at least fifteen members nor shall any Post be entitled to representation therein which shall not have paid Department Headquarters prior to the Convention all Department and National dues collected by it during the current or preceding year, or any other sums by it to the Department."

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
A meeting of the Department Executive Committee, as now constituted, is hereby called and will be held in Room A, 2nd Floor of the Sheraton at 7:00 PM on July 17, 2015.

A meeting of the new Department Executive Committee will be held in Salons 1-3 of the Sheraton on Sunday, July 19, 2015 immediately after the Religious Service.

DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE
A meeting of the Department Finance Committee, as now constituted, is hereby called by director of the Committee of the Finance Committee and will be held in Conference Theater of the Sheraton, at 9:00 AM, Friday, July 17, 2015, for the purpose of finalizing preparation of a budget for consideration of the Convention Finance Committee, and such other business as it may properly consider.

HOUSING
A registration fee of $8.00 per person for Legionnaires and guests is required and must accompany all requests for reservations. Registration and Reservation Fomr are distributed at the Spring Convention and were published in the Virginia Legionnaire May/June issue.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES
In conformity with the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of Department Conventions of the Department of Virginia, Inc., Convention Committees are called for organization in advance of the opening session in the Convention City, with subsequent meetings as called by the Chairman.

Each Convention Committee shall elect a permanent Chairman and Secretary. Each Post is entitled to one vote in each Convention Committee.

The following Convention Committees will meet at 1:00 PM, Friday, July 17, 2015:

- Americanism – Salons A-C
- Children and Youth – Salons D
- Constitution and By-laws – Salons E-F
- Finance – Conference Theater
- Resolution of County – Salons G
- Resolution of State – Salons H
- Resolutions – Salons J
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Salons 2-3

The Convention Committee on Legislation will meet at 3:00 PM, Friday, July 17, 2015 in the Conference Theater.

The Resolutions Assignment Committee will meet in Salon 1 and the Credentials Committee will meet in Salon 4 at 9:00 AM, Friday, July 17, 2015.

EACH POST DELEGATION CHAIRMAN shall designate a Delegate or Alternate from his Post to serve on each of the Convention Committees, and shall notify such Delegates and Alternates of the time and place of each Convention Committee meeting.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN
Americanism – Dave Stein
Children and Youth – Richard Ostial
Constitution and By-laws – Jim Chapin
Finance – Charlie Powell
National Security – Delores Hodman
Legislation – Brett Rasted
Resolutions – Jim Chapman
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Willie Ransom

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
In conformance with the Uniform Code of Procedures for the Organization of Department Conventions, the Department Commander has appointed the following Administrative Committee Chairman:

- Credentials Chairman – John Pokornak (53)
- Resolutions Assignment – Thomas Saunders, (29)

CREDENTIALS
A Credential Certificate has been sent to each Post Adjutant to be filled out in duplicate. The original (white copy) MUST be mailed to reach Department Headquarters, 1700 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23228, on or before June 19th. Failure to do so will jeopardize the voting qualification of the Post. The duplicate (yellow copy) shall be given to the POST DELEGATION CHAIRMAN, who shall bring it to the Department Convention.

Department Headquarters will provide each POST Adjutant with 10-15 official CREDENTIALS regardless of the number of Delegates and Alternates to which a Post may be authorized.

Each delegate and alternate MUST turn into the Department Headquarters office the credential card upon arrival in order that the delegate's Post may be qualified to vote in the convention proceedings.

To expedite preparation of the official voting roll, each Post is urged to have at least one Delegate or Alternate present or his/her Credential Card to the Department Headquarters Office on Thursday, July 16, or early Friday, July 17.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS
1. Posts should elect their Delegates and Alternates on the basis of two votes per Post, plus one additional vote for each 50 members whose annual dues have been paid to Department Headquarters on or before June 19. One Delegate or Alternate may be elected for each vote to which the Post is entitled.
2. Immediately upon election of Delegates and Alternates, with one designated as Delegation Chairman, the Post Adjutant shall complete the Credential Certificate, mailing the original (WHITE) to Department Headquarters on or before June 19 and giving the duplicate (YELLOW) to the Post Delegation Chairman.
3. The Post Adjutant will mail, immediately, to each Delegate and Alternate, a Credential Card, which shall be turned in at the Convention by such Delegate or Alternate.
4. The Post Delegation Chairman shall designate a Delegate or an Alternate to represent the Post on each Convention Committee advising him of the time and place of such meeting.
5. The Post Adjutant shall provide the Post Delegation Chairman with a copy of the UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE, which includes the Permanent Organization of the Department Convention.
6. A detailed program will be provided at the REGISTRATION DESK upon arrival at the Department Convention.

ATTENDANCE: WHITE – New Post Adjutant; YELLOW – Returning Post Adjutant

July 16-19, 2015
July 17, 2015
Moneta, VA - The American Legion Post #62, Smith Mountain Lake, has recently received and placed on the grounds of the Moneta/SML Library a memorial stone and plaque. The memorial is dedicated to all U.S. veterans of all eras. A formal dedication of the memorial was held 11:00 AM on Friday May 15, 2015. Remarks were by public officials and American Legion representatives.

On February 1 the Mill-Campbell-Baker Post #22 of Luray held a memorial service to honor The Four Chaplains. Pictured here is Sgt.-at-Arms Robert Knight lighting the third of candles, each honoring the memory of one of the Chaplains.

Mechanicsville American Legion Post 175 Honor Guard placed a wreath at the Hanover Veterans Memorial (Wayside Park). The wreath was placed in memory of the fall of the Philippines and the Bataan Death March in April 1942 to the Japanese at the start of World War II.

1st Vice Christovich unveils plaque of the names of those Post 10 Legionnaires who have transferred to Post Everlasting.

Scott Silverthorne, Mayor of the City of Fairfax, VA, proclaims May 24 through 30, 2015 as “American Legion Post 177 Week” in recognition of their 70th Anniversary and numerous accomplishments. In attendance are Earl Seay, Historian; John Price, Past Cmdr; Mayor Silverthorne; Michael Kimlick, Cmrd; Anthony Osborne, Pst Cmrd; Jeff White, Cmrd elect.

American Legion Post 65 sponsored a raffle for a 32” flat screen TV and held the drawing on Saturday, Feb. 14, at First Baptist Church. Quincy Mays from Warfield was the winner. Participating in the drawing were: first row, from left, Clinton McMillan, Jordan Williams and his mother Kashina Williams, and Russell Blackwell; second row, George Colbert, Charles Mays, Richard Coleman, William Jones, Jr. And Donnie Jackson; third row, ark Green and Geroy Wilkins. After the drawing Jordan said he drew his own ticket but put it back and drew again. (Sylvia Allen/Brunswick Times-Gazette

The members of American Legion Post 79 of South Hill have established 2 veterans scholarships at Southern Virginia Community College in honor of Legionnaires William M. “Bunky” Warren and Jack M. Rainey, long time veteran and community supporters. The scholarships will be available to honorably discharged veterans attending SVCC. Pictured at the ceremony recently held at Post 79 are the sponsors for the scholarships: Almalyse “Lea” Warren (L) and Billie Rainey (R). Also present were Mary Jane Elkins, Dean of Institutional Advancement for SVCC’s Christanna Campus and Tom Queck, Post 79 Commander. (Photo and text by Paul Doucette)
Appreciation Dinner for Manassas Area World War II Veterans

On Sunday February 22, 2015, The Robert McMaugh Memorial American Legion Post 10 and The Francis Cannon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7589 hosted an appreciation dinner for the Manassas area World War II Veterans and their guests. Approximately twenty Veterans and their families attend the event to commemorate their service and the 70th Anniversary of the end of the war. Virginia House of Representative Delegates Jackson Miller and Richard Anderson as well as Manassas City High School Chorus started the dinner with the National Anthem. The event was also attended by students from Osbourn High School Community Action Athletes who assisted the veterans and acted as servers during the evening. Entertainment was provided by the Tap Dancing team “Step Sisters” who danced to several 1940s dance tunes and brought smiles and memories back to the veterans and the audience.

Speakers reminded the audience it was the WW II generation of veterans that saved the world for Democracy. They also reminded attendees that WW II Veterans were not only the fathers, mothers, grandparents, teachers, and coaches of the present generation of Americans but also the role models for the core values that made our nation great. It was stated that the debt owed this group of aging Veterans was one that every citizen shared in, and our country has an obligation never to take their legacy of freedom for granted.

Post 55 hosts its first Four Chaplains Ceremony. Pictured (L to R): Glenn Hyatt, Commander Post 55; Tommy Lee, Adjutant Post 55; Ron Curlings, District 12 Commander; Donell Johnson, Sgt at Arms, Post 55.

Mechanicsville Lions Club President Gene Renkar (R) presents Mechanicsville American Legion Post 175 Legionnaire Boys State Committee member Harold Padgett and Auxiliary Girls State Chairman Betty Flippo with checks for the Virginia AL Boys State and the ALA Girls State programs. The American Legion Boys/Girls State programs offer rising seniors a week long opportunity in June to become familiar with local and state governments. The program is recognized nationally and many colleges and universities give special consideration to students with this experience. Rising seniors from Hanover County are eligible for this program sponsored by Post 175. The Ashland American Legion Post 206 and the Henry Clay Garden Club also financially support this program.

Two hard working service officers, (L to R) Betty Hendrick and Norma Jean Newman
You are eligible for LegionCare: $5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or $1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect, and will continue through August 31, 2021. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

For immediate coverage, enroll online at www.TheLiT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare

Cut out this section and mail it in today to enroll in LegionCare.

Have you filled out all the above information?

Please mail to: Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720

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Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A written by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The American Legion, with current year’s dues paid, could be eligible for the $5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

Rita Chandler shown assisting a veteran with his claim.

Norma Jean Newman (L) is shown with participants at a claims clinic.

American Legion Post 325 held their annual Post Everlasting service recently at the Post home. The Post Everlasting service is a tribute to those Post members who deceased in the past year. It is a tribute not only to the members but to their families as well. Shown are the Post 325 Honor guard: Richard Gunn, Lee Cox, Hal Williams Sgt. at Arms, Kenny Fitzgerald Post 325 Commander, Ken Powell, Don Mitchell Vice Commander, Lee Mayberry, Allen Culley, Daryl Mills, Barry Meadows Squadron 325, Jack Sink Vice Commander, and Harold Yates Post Chaplain.
Directions For The Submission Of An Urgent Burial Request

1. COMPLETE STANDARD FORM 180

2. HAVE THE STANDARD FORM 180 SKINCHED BY THE VETERAN'S NEXT OF KIN

3. MAKE SURE THAT YOU SPECIFICALLY REQUEST AN "UNDELETED" REPORT OF SEPARATION

4. ON THE COVER LETTER, PLEASE WRITE

   URGENT - BURIAL
   ATTN: CUSTOMER SERVICE

   *Please include a small note about your situation and the time and date of the burial if available.

5. FAX THE REQUEST TO: 314-801-0764

6. PLEASE PROVIDE A RETURN FAX NUMBER (IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE SEPARATION DOCUMENT FAXED)

7. SUBMIT PROOF OF DEATH

   a. (OBITUARY, LETTER FROM FUNERAL DIRECTOR, DEATH CERTIFICATE)

   *This form is available at http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site.*

   The following is considered as Next of Kin: un-married spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son and daughter. Individuals not listed may request information releasable under Freedom of Information Act. ***For security purposes, we will not accept request via e-mail.

   If you are a veteran, or a deceased veteran's next of kin, the easiest way to submit your request is online at http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

   You may also submit a Standard Form 180 for this request. You can download a copy of the Standard Form 180 from our web site, http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html.

   You can send a written request that includes the above information. That request can be faxed or mailed.

   FAX: (314) 801-5915

   URGENT FAX: (314) 801-0764

   Or

   National Personnel Records Center
   (Military Personnel Records)
   1 Archives Drive
   St. Louis, MO 63138

   Thanks

   Customer Service Representative
   National Personnel Records Center
   1-NVRB/USDA/Core/Forms/standard-form-180.pdf
Legion Rider’s nostalgic journey one for the history books

By Andrea Dickerson

For Dr. E Bruce Heilman, his 6,000-mile motorcycle trek began at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia and ended in Washington, D.C., just in time to observe Memorial Day. His 34-day trip spanned 20 states across the United States - all for a meaningful mission.

“The purpose was for me to go shouting, ‘The British are coming!’” Heilman said. “But more importantly, they are coming to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.”

Heilman, a World War II Marine Corps veteran and champion of World War II advocacy, believes that veterans from all generations deserve to be recognized - especially during monumental occasions like Memorial Day.

“To go beyond World War II and apply our appreciation, commendation and celebration to veterans of all wars,” he said. “This is for all you Marines, sailors, Army and Air Force. The world needs to take note that these are the people that have made our democracy what it is. That democracy does not sustain itself ... it is because of the veterans that signed on the dotted line and were willing to die for our country. Freedom isn’t free – it’s worth dying for.”

During his journey, the Marine found solace and comfort in American Legion Riders from posts across the county who jumped on their bikes, riding along as far as they could with him and providing assistance during less-than-desirable riding conditions. “During my trip I learned more about The American Legion and the Legion Riders than you can ever imagine,” said Heilman. Sometimes the Riders accompanied him from state to state, and a few stuck with him throughout the ride. A few of those Riders and others from different posts joined the Marine while he led their detail through the Memorial Day parade along the National Mall. This marked the first time Legion Riders actively participated in the prestigious event.

“They knew exactly where I was going no matter the state or city,” Heilman said. “They paved the way. They were hospitable. (They were) mostly young former military who thought it was a good thing to help me do what I was doing.”

Though the trip was long and treacherous, the 88-year-old Marine said he stayed busy and stopped often to visit high schools and colleges. He also met fellow World War II vets who were also stationed in Okinawa during the conflict.

“I made sure I reminded the country – people of all ages – what WWII was all about,” Heilman said. “I was able to do a lot of talking and a lot of riding. I got to portray from one who didn’t know it. We were able to sustain the battle, and we believed in ourselves.”

Heilman, a member of Maj. Charles A. Ransom American Legion Post 186 in Midlothian, Va., said the cross-country opportunity meant the world to him. Along the way, he took a moment to reflect on the battle buddies he lost on Iwo Jima.

“There is a reality to war and willingness to die for a country that is so free and so giving,” he said. “I flunked out of high school, then served four years in the military. When I came back I got the G.I. Bill and later ended up as a university president. Something like this could only happen in the United States. I’m willing to fight for that kind of stuff. That’s why I did it.”

Never putting the credit all on himself, Heilman selflessly kept the spectators that came out to mark the occasion and remember the fallen in the back of his mind.

“I thought about the people that come out to celebrate the veterans on Memorial Day,” he said. “They line up out in the sun to applaud, and from their hearts really express their appreciation for the people that serve in the military.”

Young military members from Fort Lee visited the Virginian retirement facility in February where John J. Wicker, Jr. Post 1 recruited some into the American Legion and three lady veterans into the Virginia American Legion Auxiliary.
Highlights From The Spring Conference, VA Beach

Department Adjutant Dale Chapman introducing the head table guests at the banquet during the Spring Conference.

Attendees at the spring conference Department Executive Committee Meeting.

Norma Jean Newman being presented a plaque in appreciation of her work as a service officer from Department Commander Rhoads.

Department Commander Rhoads presenting National Commander Mike Helm The Virginia Cup as a memento of his visit to Virginia.

Commander Rhoads presenting a plaque to Rita Chandler for her efforts as a service officer.

Long time Legionnaire Fred Miller receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for his honor guard efforts from Commander Rhoads.

Department Commander Rhoads presenting Clyde “Chic” Ferguson a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years as advisor to the Sons. Assisting Commander Rhoads is NEC Thomas Saunders.