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POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Reference: 2023 Officer’s Guide and Manual of Ceremonies

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WHAT IS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE?

- Government & Management of Post
- Specific items entrusted to The Executive Committee
- Meets regularly or as Commander deems necessary

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- In some cases, assists in hiring Post employees
- Authorizing & approving all expenditures
- Hearing reports of Post Committee Chairpersons
- Providing business oversight over Post affairs

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- “Delegation of these functions to the Executive Committee is in no way intended to usurp the powers of the Membership through regular Post meetings.”

- “Rather, this allows the routine business affairs of the Post to be handled outside of Post meetings.”

- “Committee reports and other issues of general interest to the Members should be handled during Post meetings.”

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WHAT IT'S NOT USED FOR

- Conducting Post Trials
- A means to harass or intimidate Post Members
- Override Post Membership decisions or desires
- Neglect written Post Bylaws
- Purchase or loan Post property or equipment without specific Membership approval
- Conduct personal business via this committee

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WHAT IT'S NOT USED FOR

- Determine participation or contributions to activities inside or outside the Post without Membership approval
- Determine participation or support of any and all political related events since The American Legion is an apolitical Veteran's organization
- Perpetual Members serving on the Executive Committee that remain there for the purpose of specific groups maintaining "control" over a Post

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- WHAT IT CAN BE USED FOR
- To make emergency purchases for the Post provided it is a specific amount of money previously approved and documented in writing and voted upon from the Membership
- Suspend a Member from the Social Quarters if he/she is an immediate and documented threat to the other Membership or Post; However a Post Trial must occur if this takes place
- Address all Post concerns to the Commander and Membership regarding security, operations, logistics, finance, administration, employee and rentals etc.

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- PAST ISSUES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT
- A District Commander using the position to conduct Post Trials using the Executive Committee as Judge & Jury
- A Post that kept it's Executive Committee in place so long that they were "running" the Post NO matter who was elected Commander
- An Executive Committee that was attempting to obtain monetary benefits for their services
- One Executive Committee was engaged in personally selecting Post leadership on a yearly basis

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- PAST ISSUES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT
- An Executive Committee who paid an outside organization for services NOT approved by the Membership
- Hiring Post employees NOT properly vetted who were “fired” from previous employment over financial issues; in the majority of cases they were friends or family members
- Conducting so-called “secret meetings” and NOT reporting them via Minutes
- Using the positions on the Executive Committee as a “regal perch” from which to conduct Post business

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BOTTOM LINE?

“The main purpose of the Executive Committee is to “steer” the Post in the direction that follows the policies, procedures and standards of The American Legion. It should be composed of mature, experienced and insightful Legionaries whose goal is to follow the FOUR PILLARS of our organization by providing thoughtful leadership”.

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- CONSIDER THIS FOR YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- Who is on your Post's Executive Committee?
- How often do they meet?
- Minutes are MANDATORY
- Executive Committee Members are NOT above other Post Members
- Executive Committee is NOT the final decision makers- Post Membership is the final decision ALWAYS

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QUESTIONS???