

MINUTES
DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
DELAWARE, OHIO

Call to Order

Chairman Ken LaVoy called the Department Finance Committee meeting to order at 10:00 am Monday, November 18, 2024.

Roll Call

Members present:

Department Commander AJ Whatley; Department Treasurer Holly Lewis; Finance Chairman Ken LaVoy; Dean Boyers; Member John Life, Member

Guests Present:

John Robinson, Department Adjutant, Vice; Rebecca Corbin, Fiscal Secretary

The Finance Committee started by discussing and reviewing account balances to determine which are restricted or unrestricted and how they can be used. The aim was to gain clarity on the accounts and their usage.

A review of various funds, including Buckeye Boys State, scholarships, and investment strategies. Emphasis on restricted and non-restricted funds and potential reallocation for programs like Legion baseball.

The Committee reviewed the employee insurance plans, including dental, long-term, and short-term disability, and discussed potential changes to save costs while maintaining coverage.

Employee Salary Adjustments

This is a proposal for a 2.5% COLA increase for employees, with specific adjustments for certain positions to comply with labor laws.

Dean Boyers, the member, moved to approve the employee salary adjustments, seconded by Ken LaVoy, Chairman.

MOTION PASSED

The Committee reviewed the budget versus actual financials for 2024-2025, covering various income sources and expenses. Based on current performance, adjustments to future budgets were considered.

Emblem sales are currently at 6%, and they are expected to increase once hats are purchased. Membership shirts don't go under emblem sales. There is a discussion about selling hats, name tags, and other items at the Midwinter event.

Dean Boyers recommended to the Committee that districts order Vice Commander's Caps without a 1st or 2nd on them so the caps will last for 2 years.

Holly Lewis, the Treasurer, motioned to have only 'Vice Commander' on District caps, seconded by Dean Boyers, the member.

MOTION PASSED

There was a discussion about whether to continue designing and purchasing commander's ties since the cost is rising. Boyers suggested rotating between different tie colors each year.

John Life moved to stop special ordering Commander ties and use past commander ties, seconded by Holly Lewis.

MOTION PASSED

The team discussed the commander's pins and coins budget, noting that revenue from these items should be categorized appropriately.

The Americanism trip to Washington needs to focus on its costs and the potential need for auxiliary support. The budget was exceeded, and the necessity of auxiliary contributions was emphasized.

The meeting addressed the high costs associated with baseball, particularly hotel costs for tournaments. Suggestions were made to have districts or posts cover these expenses. The finance committee will schedule a meeting with the Baseball committee.

The meeting discussed budget overruns, particularly hotel expenses and baseball supplies. The need for a precise categorization of expenses was emphasized to ensure clarity.

There was a discussion about the low returns on CDs and the decision to reinvest them before interest rates dropped. Blake Farmer from TSG Advice Partners will be invited to a future finance meeting to provide updates on investments.

The Committee discussed the policy for providing vehicles to commanders, including options for vehicle rotation, mileage limits, and budget considerations. It also discussed the need for American-made cars and specific vehicle types. The Committee is considering a two-year rotation with a maximum of 60,000 miles for cars and increasing the budget from \$25,000 to \$40,000. A resolution will be proposed to the DEC.

Discuss potential cost-saving measures, including changing the auditing and tax service provider from Ray and Associates to Whalen and hiring Nancy as a 1099 contractor.

There was a discussion of the new employee handbook and the performance of the HR service provider. Plans for future training sessions on sexual harassment and workplace bullying were mentioned.

Meeting Adjourn- Salute colors