MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING OF
July 29th, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL - TEAMS

1. Call to Order 6:00 P.M.
   Department Chairman Emans opened the meeting of the Department Legislative Commission at 6:00 P.M.

2. Salute the colors – The Colors were saluted

3. Invocation – Invocation was given by Kurt Emans, 2nd District Chairman

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Roll Call: Jacob Brault, Legislative & National Security Coordinator

   Members present:

   William Billings, 1st District Chairman- PRESENT
   Kurt Emans, 2nd District Chairman- PRESENT
   John Dugan, 3rd District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
   Ronald Chapman, 4th District Chairman- PRESENT
   Gary Mitchell, 5th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
   Christopher Miller, 6th District Chairman- PRESENT
   Emmett Gregory, 7th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
   Jerry Collins, 8th District Chairman- PRESENT
   Joyce Hannum, 9th District Chairman- PRESENT
   Robert Withrow, 10th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
   Richard Smathers, 11th District Chairman- PRESENT
   Suzette Heller, 12th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
   Bert Boyd Sr, 13th District Chairman- PRESENT
   14th District Chairman- VACANT

   Guests Present:

   Jacob Brault, Legislative & National Security Coordinator

6. Approval of previous minutes

   Rick Smathers, 11th District motions, seconded by Joyce Hannum, 9th District approve minutes of the prior meeting.

   MOTION PASSED

7. Unfinished Business-
   - **a.** Chairman Emans informed the commission on HB 299 which raises the Memorial Day expense reimbursement from $500 to $1,000 per organization.

8. New Business –
   - **a.** Approval of Commission Rules,

Commission discussed the proposed rules for the legislative Commission.

Christopher Miller, 6th District motions, seconded by Rick Smather, 11th District to approve the commission rules as presented.

MOTION PASSED

b. Take Care of American Veterans Act (TCAVA)

Coordinator Brault gave information regarding the TCAVA Bill and the impacts and benefits it could have on current and future Veterans. Coordinator Brault also informed the Commission of Nationals views and the Departments view of "The American Legion Department of Ohio stands by each resolution that has been adopted by the National Executive Committee or by the National Convention floor".

Discussion was had on potential outcomes from the bill and how more cuts of Veterans programs and losing money from cuts will only be a detriment to the Veteran community. More discussion was had pertaining to the potential outcomes if this bill does or does not pass.

9. Good of the Legion –

a. Additional Veterans Home Study,

Coordinator Brault gave information regarding the current plan for a new Veterans home in central Ohio in regards to funding availability and using state budget then being reimbursed by the Fed.

Commission discussed the potential for the federal government not reimbursing the state for the Veterans home.

Rick Smathers, 11th District motions, seconded Christopher Miller, 6th District to have Coordinator Brault lobby the legislature for state funding for and additional Ohio veterans home with reimbursement from Fed.

Joyce Hannum, 9th District made note to ensure minutes were read properly to DEC for proper voting.

MOTION PASSED

b. Legislative Update,

Coordinator Brault gave an update on current bills floating through the statehouse and a projection on the upcoming lame duck session.

c. Of the Year Awards Reminder,

Coordinator Brault gave the Commission a reminder of due dates for "Of the Year Awards" are due to Department HQ no later than September 15th, Coordinator Brault also requested all districts submit for award.

Discussion was had on the process for awarding the Legislator of the year

Joyce Hannum, 9th District stated that if the award is not presented at department mid-winter convention why bother doing the work.

Rick Smathers, 11th District noted that the winning District should be involved in the awarding process.

Joyce Hannum, 9th District made note of no cover page for legislator of the year and how a cover page could make the process easier and less likely for the nomination to be lost.

10. Benediction – Kurt Emans, 2nd District Chairman gave the Benediction.

11. Adjourned- Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.