

**AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2020**

The Disaster Relief Committee met at Department Headquarters on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 1 pm with the following members present:

Thomas Chambers (1st Div), Vice Chairman Tom Marciciak & Dave Johnson (2nd Div), Chairman Delmar Buske & Denver Phelps (4th Div), Wayne Madsen & Steve Hermanson (5th Div).

Clemente Rodriguez (1st Div), Steve Schlieper & John Gosney (3rd Div) were absent.

Chairman Buske appointed Vice Chairman Tom Marciciak to take the minutes. The Meeting started with a salute to the flag, pledge of allegiance and a short prayer for the success of the meeting.

The first item of business, Chairman Buske went over the members' present contact cell phone numbers and make corrections as required and distributed current National Disaster Relief brochures and forms as needed.

He also brought to the attention of the committee about a 94 year old member of a post in the northern part of the State who lost his entire home down to the foundation. He currently uses a wheelchair to get around and takes care of his daughter who lives in the premises. The Local Post let them live in part of their building until they could make other arrangements for alternative housing.

The Chairman brought up fact that we have been very lucky in Illinois this year, but also mentioned the fact that there have been a large number of hurricanes in the southern part of the US that the American Legion NEF has and is still helping those that need with about \$720K in grants.

He brought up the Commander Roy's Special Project, the Illinois Disaster Relief Fund. These funds will be dedicated to Veterans right here in our own state in their time of need. This could be in addition to the NEF grants from national.

The Illinois Disaster Relief Fund and Department of Illinois Legion College are new “Ad hock Committees” that need to be finalized with timelines, guidelines, emergency funding and funding per person. Members for these new committees are being selected and will be formulated in the near future.

Wayne Madsen asked about a question from last year, when the committee brought up the possibility of members of the Committee be issued some sort of State Police ID to enable us to get in a disaster area. The Chairman mentioned that they do not want to promise any type of badge or ID for this purpose. He also said that it is important that we are able to get into these areas once secured and local support has commenced. We can then do our part and also contact local radio stations, and coordinate with local posts to do our work.

This process worked well in the Washington tornado disaster. Once the ball got rolling, the good news on funds got out. This might also be helpful to grow Membership and NEF program support in these areas.

There was still a need for good quality Magnets for our Vehicles by all members of each Division. The chairman will look into this.

Commander Roy and Sr. Vice Wayne visited the committee. The commander introduced our new graphic artist, Shandi Green replacing Joy Wilson. In addition, he brought up National’s LIT insurance applications and the need to sign up. This is a great free benefit to Legion Members and their families. He also mentioned his new Special Project for the year. The Illinois Disaster Relief Fund. It could be funded if each Post donated \$1.00 per member.

Vice Commander Wayne brought up our Current membership status and programs to recoup the losses from this past year. He highlighted working the 2910 lists, and lists of the 8,000 members that did not renew will be sent to all posts to help. There is a short term incentive offered that if you sign up 4 past renewals, Department will issue that post 1 free membership voucher. He also mentioned that we still have 100 year and current year pins for sale.

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was made by Wayne Madsen and seconded by Dave Johnson. After a salute to the flag, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.