

Technology Meeting October 17, 2020

Technology Committee met at Department Headquarters

Kurt Lepinski - 1st Division
Carter Corsello - 2d Division
Ronald Payne - 3d Division (Chairman)
Michael Monroe - 4th Division (Vice Chariman) - excused
Larry Miller sitting in for Glenn Gindler 5th Division

Open meeting at 1:00 pm
Pledge
Prayer

Corsello brought up if there were any changes being made to within the divisions to district and division bylaws to accommodate electronic meeting and voting. He reported that the 12th District changed their bylaws at their October meeting to accommodate voting and representation. They now can use Zoom or other platforms to have attend remotely district meetings and vote.

There was a discussion that the Department should look into having a Department Zoom account that they can allow Divisions and Districts utilize. The concept is the Divisions would get the code from Department prior to meetings. This would centralize and standardize avoiding multiple accounts or inconsistent borrowed accounts from someone's work.

Discussed data integrity with mylegion.org. This is the third meeting in a row the committee discussed data integrity. There is still a desire to be able to mark the mylegion.org entry for email as blank. Member Corsello has called National several times over past three years and the mylegion.org team steadfastly refuses to discuss this option and simply states they will not do that. The committee firmly believes that the accuracy of our mylegion.org data for our posts is important to better know the post and post members. You cannot appeal to membership if you don't know the branch, age, war era, or address of that membership. The committee recommend the Department emphasize data accuracy in their interactions.

Mylegion.org - A healthy discussion about using mylegion.org to process memberships is a means to pull the posts forward to increase efficiencies at all levels of the American Legion. Using mylegion.org saves time and money at every level. If even half of the posts used mylegion.org, the savings in paper shuffles at post and department would be substantial. The cost savings for posts and department would be significant in postage and labor to process membership. We must change the paradigm from the older members don't know how to do that so we will not push it, to you must use mylegion.org and project an image that the American Legion is a forward thinking organization. It was stressed by committee that they understood that there are posts that would not be able to adapt. The emphasis though should be that the standard is to use it. Not using mylegion.org to process memberships is the standard. The committee recommend the Department Leadership adjust the emphasis in revitalizations and caravan drives to "turn in membership cards." This reinforces to stay the same. The committee members know there are capable posts that don't use mylegion.org because they want the recognition from department that they turned in cards at the meeting. This mindset in the committee's opinion is holding us back from presenting the image of a modern forward thinking organization. There is nothing wrong with revitalizations and caravans. The committee recommends evaluating the programs to reward those that use mylegion.org. This will have a far reaching core positive effect.

Discussed: Each Division should monitor their usage rates of mylegion.org. The committee will request a breakdown from Department mylegion.org usage to process membership and start to evaluate within each Division.

Department had asked the committee to specifically discuss Legion YouTube ideas. They had listed eight initial thoughts:

1. Department HQ Tour
2. Poppy production
3. 100 mile challenge
4. Caravan pre-drive and Caravan
5. Monthly events / newsletter moment
6. Training/types
7. Officer interviews
8. Legion programs.

The committee recommends the department focus on spotlighting programs and what a Posts do. An idea was tossed around about having at least one short video about each Legion program and also a Post Spotlight. There are different ways to do the post spotlight. One way is a 1 minute commercial and another is a long format. Both can be done. The Long format is really for the Posts themselves to promote what they do in the community.

There were no visitors

The meeting adjourned at 1415