



Department Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 3, 2025



The Department Executive Committee meeting was held on December 3, 2025 at The American Legion Department of South Carolina.

Department Adj Bob Renner

NEC Jim Hawk

Alt NEC Cecil Phillips

Imm PDC Bruce Donegan

Department Historian Vacant

Dept 1st Vice Cmdr Jack Lonergan

Dept 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr Patricia Dandy

Dept 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Jerome Childs

Dept 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Cmdr Lou Morse

D-1 Cmdr Darlene Walton

D-4 Cmdr Tom Myers

D-5 Cmdr Bonita Wells

D-7 Cmdr John Galloway

D-8 Cmdr Harry Malpass

D-9 Cmdr John Comins

D-11 Cmdr Mike Cook

D-13 Cmdr Rick Gibson

D-14 Cmdr Terry Greenfield

D-16 Cmdr Mark Dorsey

D-17 Cmdr Winston Boddie

D-18 Cmdr Larry Pouncy

D-19 Cmdr Charlie Strickland

Dept Sgt-at-Arms Kevin Joy

PDC Bob Scherer

PDC Jim Kvam

PDC John Britt

PDC Jim Jarvis

**Absent**

Department Commander Jim Rabon

D-1 Cmdr Darlene Walton

D-2 Cmdr Dana Richardson

D-6 Cmdr Orval Mills

Assist

D10 Cmdr Joe Tracy

D-12 Cmdr AL Hough – Everage

D-15 Cmdr Richard Dorman

D-20 Cmdr David Kenner

Department Chaplain Clarence Shuford

**Also Present:**

Tom Yarborough, Dept Finance Cmte

M. Grace, Dept Executive Director

Sabrina Kennedy, Dept Administrative

Department First Vice Commander Lonergan opened the meeting in the Department Commander's absence and called on NEC Hawk for the invocation. Vice Commander Lonergan read Resolution 288, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to The American Legion, and called on Adjutant Bob Renner to call the Roll. Adjutant Renner called the roll and announced there was a quorum to conduct business.

**Vice Commander Lonergan** welcomed Terry Greenfield, the new District 14 Commander, to the meeting, and then **asked for a motion to approve the previous Executive Committee minutes, a motion was made by District 19 Cmdr Strickland, a**

**second was made by District 8 Commander Malpass All present voted in favor of approving the minutes.**

Adjutant Renner said because a motion was not made at the November 2, 2025 Department Executive Committee meeting to approve the approve the finance committee report, that should be done and suggested a separate motion be made to approve the 11-2-25 Finance Report.

**Vice Commander Lonergan asked for a motion to approve the finance report from the 11-2-25 meeting. D-4 Cmdr Myers made a motion to approve, a second was made by D-13 Cmdr Gibson, all present voted in favor of the motion, none opposed, motion passed.**

Vice Commander Lonergan called on Department Finance Chairman Tom Yarborough for the presentation of the budget. Chairman Yarborough introduced the members of the finance committee. He said the members who attend the finance meetings are the finance committee, the Department Commander, the Department Adjutant and Acting Adjutant, Internal Affairs Commission Chairman and full time staff. During the meeting any of those folks are authorized to speak, ask questions, and offer any kind of input. However, the finance committee has final approval, at least two of the three have to approve. He stated that during the period of discussion, he may refer questions to the full time staff or the other committee members.

We're talking primarily of the differences between the budgets that were presented on 11-2-25 and the budgets presented today for final approval.

Sons of The American Legion is first, that budget is almost exactly the same, the only difference is we had recommended a dues increase. Originally they had put the dues income in for the entire year. Because the increase wouldn't go into effect until July 1, 2026, we made that change for that dues increase. Chairman Yarborough stated the finance committee recommends approval of the SAL budget.

**D-4 Commander Myers made a motion to approve the SAL 2026 budget. D-13 Commander Gibson made a second. There being no discussion, all present voted in favor of approving the SAL 2026 budget, none opposed, the SAL 2026 budget was approved.**

**Chairman Yarborough moved to the ALRSC budget, he said there was no significant change and stated the finance committee recommends approval. District 14 Commander Greenfield made a motion to approve, D-8 Commander Malpass made a second, there being no discussion, all present voted in favor the ALRSC 2026 budget, none opposed. The ALRSC 2026 budget was approved.**

Chairman Yarborough moved to the Americanism budget. At the bottom, when students are awarded scholarships, that student have five years to claim that scholarship. That creates a liability for the Department to reserve those monies to assure those funds are available when the student requests payment within years. Our policy is to make the check payable to the school, not to the students. Chairman Yarborough stated the finance committee recommended approval. PDC Bob Scherer made the motion to approve the 2026 Americanism budget as presented, a second was made by Imm PDC Donegan. D-

13 Commander Gibson asked on the outstanding, is that automatically returned back to the school if it's sent for the student? Or do you have to request the funds back from the school?

Exec. Director Grace stated they are not refunded; these are the scholarships that haven't been claimed. The student has five years from the time they graduate from high school to request their money. So this is still outstanding from what we owe but has not been claimed.

D-13 Commander Gibson: Since you sent to the school, the student doesn't use the scholarship money.

Exec. Director Grace: That's only happened once in the 20 years since I've been here. The school refunded the money to the Department because the student withdrew, and the same student requested the funds to be sent to a different school.

D-4 Commander Myers: It gets sent to the Bursar's office and if there's any money left over, it usually does get paid to the student.

Exec. Director Grace: We write a letter specifically what it can be used for, it is not given to the student.

**Vice Cmdr Lonergan asked if there was any further discussion, there being none, all present voted in favor of the motion to approve the Americanism 2026 budget, no one opposed. The Americanism 2026 budget was approved.**

**Chairman Yarborough reviewed the 2026 Law Cadet budget; we ask that the Districts to encourage the post to send students and said the finance committee recommends the budget be approved. A motion was made by District 13 Commander Gibson to approve the 2026 Nathan M. Wolfe Law Cadet budget, a second was made by PDC Scherer. There being no discussion, all present approved the motion, none opposed, the 2026 Law Cadet budget was passed.**

Chairman Yarborough stated that after the presentation of the preliminary budget on 11-2-25, the Department Adjutant reached out to him to state the membership numbers had been re-worked and asked Chairman Yarborough to come in and look at them. Chairman Yarborough said the budget was re-worked, some expenses added in and some eliminated to balance the budget. That proposed budget was sent out to the entire committee and everyone that participated at the committee meetings and received feedback. Everything highlighted in yellow is different than what was presented on 11-2-25. Washington Conference, and Commander project was added back in.

The next thing is the DEC reimbursement, what we ended up with was what you see there, is the District Commanders at \$500.00 each, the Vice Commanders at \$1500.00 each, and the Chaplain and Judge Advocate at \$750.00 each. We previously had the NEC and Alt NEC in there, but we eliminated them and the Historian also. A car will be purchased in 2026 from savings if necessary. We may be able to delay that until 2027 but if we do it in 2026, we would need approval now. The same thing with IT expense, we have a server that is very old, we didn't want to take that out of current revenue. If we have to purpose

the car and IT upgrades but understand it will come out of savings. Chairman Yarborough stated the finance committee recommends approval of the budget. **District 4 Commander Myers made a motion to accept the General Fund budget as read. A second was made by D-19 Commander Strickland.** Vice Commander Lonergan asked for discussion.

D-4 Commander Myers asked if the leftover revenue from this year is automatically moved into savings. Chairman Yarborough answered that is the continuing fund balance, it's the revenue that's left after the expenses. D-1 Commander Walton asked why VEAC was being cut. Chairman Yarborough stated the recommendation from Jim Jarvis was \$2,500, and the VEAC currently has \$16,000 in their bank account.

Vice Commander Lonergan: Just because it's in the budget, correct me if I'm wrong, if we have expenses that exceed that, we can request funds?

Chairman Yarborough: Yes.

D-18 Commander Pouncy: My question is, why are we cutting the District Commanders budget to \$500.00? And the Vice Commanders, you haven't cut theirs and theirs is \$1500.00? The District Commanders, they work, and you're cutting us but you're not cutting the Vice Commanders.

Vice Commander Lonergan: I'll answer that question for you. The original package that was put out, I wrote it (in 2024) at your request, had the District Commanders at \$500.00, the Vice Commanders at \$1500.00, the NEC (and Alt NEC) and the Chaplain at \$750.00. We removed the NEC (and Alt NEC) at the last finance meeting (November 19<sup>th</sup>), we added the JA because of the amount of travel he's been doing. But, we're not actually cutting District Commanders to \$500.00, we're keeping them the way it was approved last year. The way it was approved last year when we wrote this package was District Commanders \$500.00.

D-18 Commander Pouncy: I thought that it was asked for us...they added the mileage and everything and you came in and changed it.

Vice Commander Lonergan: No, sir.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: Oh, you didn't change it?

Vice Commander Lonergan: No, didn't change it. That was the budget proposal, and the budget proposals went back and forth.

Exec. Director Grace: The last budget that was given to you on 11-2-25 had \$750.00 across the board for everybody. So that meant an increase of \$250.00 for the District Commanders and the Vice Commanders would be reduced as well (from \$1500.00 to \$750.00).

D-18 Commander Pouncy: It's not reduced.

Exec. Director Grace: It would be reduced from \$1500.00 to \$750.00 in the budget that you received on 11-2-25.

D-18 Commander Pouncy: I'm saying the Vice Commanders, they get \$1500.00,

Vice Commander Lonergan: We travel a lot.

D-18 Commander Pouncy: We travel a lot too. You cut me but you didn't cut you, it's unfair. You cut me but you don't cut you. It's unfair. You cut me!

Vice Commander Lonergan: We didn't cut you; we kept it the same way

Vice Commander Morse: We didn't cut you; nothing was cut. You were getting nothing before.

Vice Commander Lonergan: And you were getting nothing before.

D-18 Commander Pouncy: You're right, nobody was getting anything before, until I brought it to the floor, and Mickey said we'll look into it. And that's what it was, it's not fair.

D-4 Commander Myers: Maybe I'm misunderstanding this, in 2025, we got nothing at all. It was proposed and it was approved we get \$500.00 Then in the 11-2 budget it was increased to \$750.00 as a proposal.

Vice Commander Lonergan: Correct.

D-4 Commander Myers: Now, after review by the committee, it was reduced back to \$500.00. So nothing has really changed.

Vice Commander Lonergan: The only thing that has changed is the NEC (and Alt) have been removed, and the JA has been added.

Exec Director Grace: For years and years, the DEC had a stipend and when we (the Department) had financial difficulties, the enter DEC, and the staff, agreed, no salary increases and they did away with the DEC stipend, for many, many years, until we got back on our feet. And then last year, Jack did do a proposal to raise that back to where it was in 2008, and here again, I proposed to the finance committee that the District Commanders be raised back up \$750.00 because \$500.00 doesn't take them anywhere.

Department Finance Chairman Yarborough: A motion has to come from the floor to change it.

Vice Commander Lonergan: Ok, Jim Jarvis has a comment.

PDC Jarvis: Going back to VEAC,. I think we're in good shape, and we have some more sponsorship.

Vice Commander Lonergan: I have two more sponsors as well. A motion can be made from the floor?

Department Finance Chairman Yarborough: This is the DEC budget so a motion can be made from the floor to make any modifications to the budget.

Vice Commander Lonergan: This is the DEC budget so a motion can be made from the floor to make any modifications to the budget.

D-1 Commander Walton: I want to make a motion that we approve it.

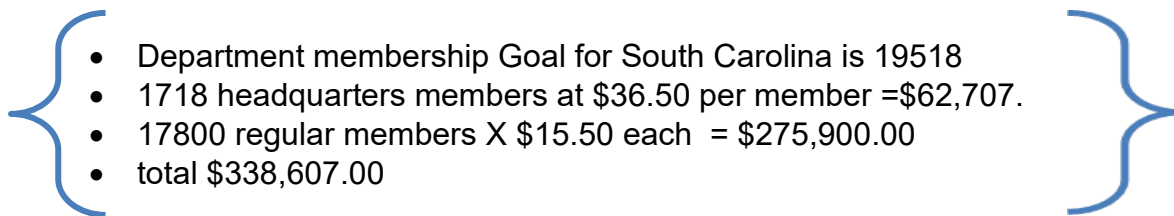
**Vice Commander Lonergan: We had that motion, anybody else? We had a motion, we had a second, we had discussion, all in favor say aye, opposed same sign, all voted in favor with the exception of one, who voted nay. Motion to approved 2026 General Fund budget approved.**

Department Finance Chairman Yarborough stated that the staff had revised the membership numbers, and he ask the Department Adjutant to explain what we could expect from membership in 2026.

Department Adjutant Renner: Thank you, Mr. Commander. When we looked at the numbers for membership income for the Headquarters and the income that had not been received for October and November. We just got the check from National for October, and that was \$38,425.00. Last year for November we received \$31,188.00, and for December we received \$44,771.00. We anticipate we'll get more for November and December, and we won't know that until we actually get the check.

NEC Hawk: It was stated at 11/19/25 finance meeting, that the Department gets \$15.50 a member, that is true.

But for Headquarters members, the Department gets \$36.50 a member and National gets their cut first. Does everyone understand? It should go down to the Post level, so they understand. So it's two sources of income at two different amounts, for a total number

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- Department membership Goal for South Carolina is 19518
  - 1718 headquarters members at \$36.50 per member = \$62,707.
  - 17800 regular members X \$15.50 each = \$275,900.00
  - total \$338,607.00

Finance Chairman Yarborough concluded the finance report and Vice Commander called on Department Adjutant Renner for technical motions & announcements. Adjutant Renner called on NEC Hawk for an update on Sumter Post 15.

**NEC Hawk said the first thing everyone should do is put January 10, 2026, on your calendar**, the hearing and trial will be in this room. The room will be laid out for the proceedings, this is as per your instructions of suspension, cancellation or revoking Post 15 Charter. Second thing is there is one more court order that has been approved, due to thanksgiving and that break, there has been a delay. That will be six court orders, that had to be done and to give the oversight committee their instructions. It's coming to a head, I've told ya'll since May and before, it's a slow process and we've had delays because we've had to court six different times. The Confidential Investigative Committee has met

and put all the evidence together by exhibit and they will be presenting the case along with the Judge Advocate before the Judge.

Vice Commander Lonergan to explain the procedures. Adjutant Hawk explained the Department had been through several trials, including here at Department Headquarters including and it went to federal court, and we won every stipulation in federal court. Can anyone guess why?

NEC Hawk stated we won because we followed the Constitution & Bylaws to the hilt, National, and the Department. And that's our bible, ladies & gentlemen, we've got to follow the Constitution & Bylaws. I know it's a pain in the butt at times; we have misunderstandings, attitudes, and stuff going on, that's human nature now. But that is our bible, on the Post level, the Department level and National. Leading up to that, for the trial, the E-board is the jury. And there will be a judge presiding and the judge rules. We will present our case, they will present their case, back and forth like you see on tv, prosecutor and defense and then closing statements etc. This will be a little different than what you're accustomed to, it's more in detail. You have to follow the same thing on the post level, you've got to have a judge, you've got to have your presenters and your defense. If it's comes to us then ya'll are the jury again and both sides have to present. As far as ya'll are involved, ya'll are the jury, except for Kevin, John Palmer, and Joe, they will be the presenters, and Cody will be presenting y'all's case, which is the Department's case, against Post 15, based on the evidence that was presented and that we have, and they will defend it right here. As far as witnesses go, we're going to take care of that. If somebody brings witnesses from both sides, we'll have to deal with that. That's a legal issue.

Question asked who is the Judge? NEC Hawk answered that it one of our Assistant Judge Advocates, Stephen Lewis. Cody recused himself from that.

D-18 Commander Pouncy said it could be an all day thing. NEC Hawk agreed so be prepared, and it is possible it could be continued. He asked if there were any questions?

D-7 Commander Galloway asked if it was a requirement to attend. NEC Hawk answered that the hearing is scheduled for a Saturday, you're a member of the E-Board, you need to be here. Ya'll voted for this, we're doing our job as a Department, we didn't ask for this, it was put on us and we're doing our due diligence as a Department and you're the Board of Directors that make the decision.

D-13 Commander Gibson asked what the objective was for the entire proceeding? Is it to resolve the issue?

NEC Hawk answered the status that the DEC would be going to, as far as what the National Judge Advocate said when he was here, suspend or cancel, that's your deliberation and you're called to come back in. You can put stipulations on it, which we've done with a Post that we suspended five years. So this is nothing new in South Carolina. You just don't want to have it every day.

Vice Commander Lonergan called Adjutant Renner for Miscellaneous Business, Technical Motions & Announcements.

Department Adjutant Renner reminded everyone to turn in their reimbursement requests by December 15<sup>th</sup> so they could be processed by the end of the year.

The next DEC meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2026 to accommodate everyone who said they couldn't attend on a weekday.

The next item of business is the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of South Carolina Rules of the Detachment Executive Committee.

Vice Commander Lonergan stated the document was reviewed by the Department Constitution & Bylaws Sub-Committee, it was approved with changes, and now it needs to be reviewed and approved by the American Legion Department Executive Committee. A motion was made by D-4 Commander Myers, a second was made by D-13 Commander Gibson. Vice Commander Lonergan asked for discussion.

Question was asked if the Detachment has Districts. Exec. Director Grace answers in the affirmative with the caveat that the positions are vacant because the Detachment doesn't have enough people to take the position. She said she had talked with the SAL about that and asked them if they were going to keep Districts in their Detachment Constitution and Bylaws.

Vice Commander Lonergan: So, by their Constitution and Bylaws, they have districts, we have to go with the Constitution and Bylaws. He asked if there was any other discussion, there being none, he asked all in favor to say aye, all opposed with the same sign. All present voted in favor of approving the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of South Carolina Executive Committee Rules.

Department Adjutant Renner: If ya'll remember back in the November DEC meeting. Commander Rabon made a statement that he was going to give his Vice Commanders oversight of the Districts. Adjutant Renner stated he did some research in the Department Constitution & Bylaws, and it doesn't say that anywhere. So, I went to our Judge Advocate and asked him for an opinion. He was aware of the Commander's comments, and he agrees with our interpretation. It's not in our Constitution and Bylaws; the Commander cannot give them oversight. He read from Cody's opinion: "With that being said, I do think the vice commanders can be involved and assist the district commanders, but the district commanders would still be the lead" I just want to clarify that and pass that on to you so there's no confusion about the duties of the Vice Commanders and the District Commanders.

Vice Commander Lonergan: You said everything. Before we close we have to talk about membership. We talk a lot about standings amongst District Commanders and I'm talking about standings with District Commanders with your own post membership. It's a little friendly competition; we have friendly competition amongst the top five District Commanders. When I was District Commander, at every meeting we talked smack about our membership, and it made us better. The Department is down a little bit from last year, so we need to do better. He asked everyone to check their DMS listing if you transfer them they could towards your membership this year.

Exec. Director Grace asked Vice Commander Lonergan to talk about the delinquent post report adding that the numbers don't look like they've moved.

Vice Commander Lonergan said all the posts that have less than 15 members. Last year we voted in the DEC that any post that did not make their membership by March 1st, we said we would take procedures to revoke charters, we didn't say we would, but we said we'd take the procedures to revoke charters. It was decided to allow those posts to go to the Department Convention, but I don't think it's going to be done that way this year. **(see excerpt from March 8, 2025 DEC minutes below)**

- **Vice Cmdr Lonergan: I make a motion that we give these posts that are delinquent until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March to have their dues paid up to the minimum of 15 members or we start the process of pulling their charter.**
- **D-16 Cmdr Defrehn: I second that motion.**
- **Dept Cmdr Donegan: No problem. Motion's been made and seconded, any other questions and that? All in favor of the motion, say aye? Opposed? Carried.**

Exec. Director Grace: All the posts that that the DEC voted to cancel made their membership by the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, except one.

Vice Commander Lonergan added that the Membership Chairman had reached out to the Districts about revitalization, adding that nothing says it has to be the Membership Team that does it, District Commanders can do it as well.

He ended the meeting to remind everyone to send their member data forms directly to National.

Oratorical Chairman Scherer asked if he was supposed to stop using the word Quadrant. Vice Commander Lonergan made the statement that for the purpose of the contests, it is still Quadrants. It says it in the Oratorical Guide.

Department Oratorical Chairman stated that it's not in there anymore, it was all revised.

Vice Commander Lonergan reminded everyone about the program he does at Lake Wateree, it begins January 30<sup>th</sup>. He said he has eight cabins reserved, there's a two night minimum for those and there's a cost to those. . If anyone would like to attend, please let him know.

District 13 Commander Gibson reminded everyone there are still Rifle Raffle tickets available.

Vice Commander Lonergan asked everyone when the tickets are sold, please reiterate that anyone that wins gets a gift card they can use to get the rifle they win or they can use the card for an equal value of anything at Sportsman's Warehouse. He said that gift card is good in Columbia, South Carolina only.

Exec. Director Grace added that if the weapon was not available when the winner went to the Columbia store to pick it up, then the store would ship the weapon to a store to a close to where the winner lives so they wouldn't have to make two trips to Columbia.

NEC Hawk reminded everyone to look in their packet to review the handout from the National Executive Committee. It keeps us abreast of what the Legion office in Washington is doing.

Vice Commander Lonergan called on NEC Hawk for the benediction, asked for a salute to the flag and closed the meeting.

For God and Country,

Bob Renner  
Department Adjutant

BR/mg