



**16<sup>th</sup> District Department of Virginia  
The American Legion  
5474 Camellia Court, Warrenton, VA 20187**

**Web: [www.16dvalegion.org](http://www.16dvalegion.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/alva16th/](https://www.facebook.com/alva16th/)**

TO: 16<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
FROM: 16<sup>th</sup> District Adjutant  
DATE: March 3, 2021  
SUBJ: 2021 District Spring Conference Minutes

The 2021 District Spring Conference was held on February 28, 2021 using a combined in-person and virtual meeting format.

Opening: The Conference was called to order by Commander Terri Puckett.  
Invocation: The invocation was provided by District Chaplain Robert Yowell.  
Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Commander Mark Stein.  
POW/MIA: The POW/MIA Chair Ceremony was conducted by District Sergeant-At-Arms Rick Shultz.  
Preamble: The Legion Preamble was led by Third Vice James Grenier.  
Post Welcome: Post welcome was presented by Post 247 Commander Joanne Smoot. 16<sup>th</sup> District response was provided by Vice Commander Mark Stein.  
Guests Intro: There were no scheduled special guests.  
Legionnaires: Distinguished Legionnaires (Past District/Department Commanders). Present were:

Name	Position(s)
Fred Miller (290)	District Commander – 1992
George Lussier (28)	District Commander – 1996, Department Commander – 2003
John Hess (290)	District Commander – 1999
Bob Brady (247)	District Commander – 2002
Charlie King (293)	District Commander – 2009
David Stein (290)	District Commander – 2010, Department Commander – 2017
Danny Goolsby (330)	District Commander – 2013
Robert Yowell (247)	District Commander – 2015
John Ward (34)	District Commander – 2016
Willie Barr (114)	District Commander – 2017
Sonnie Dickerson (330)	District Commander – 2019

Department: Current Department Officers present were:

Department Northern Region Vice Commander John Ward. Vice Commander Ward congratulated the 16<sup>th</sup> District for being in second place for membership for the

Department. He also congratulated the 3 Posts within the 16<sup>th</sup> District that had achieved 100% membership goal or better to date, Leesburg Post 34, Purcellville Post 293, and Lovettsville Post 1836. Post 10 Oratorical Contestant won the 16<sup>th</sup> District Oratorical and Northern Region Oratorical and will be competing at the Department Oratorical competition.

Department Judge Advocate Dave Stein. No comments provided.

A roll call of officers was completed:

District Position	Name (Post)	Status
Commander	Terri Puckett (34)	Present
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Mark Stein (10)	Present
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Lizzie Fontaine (1836)	Zoom
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice	James Grenier (34)	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Rick Shultz (290)	Present
Chaplain	Robert Yowell (247)	Present
Adjutant	Ziggy Levison (247)	Present
Finance Officer	Bob Brady (247)	Zoom
Historian	Ed Thompson (290)	Absent
Judge Advocate	John Carty (34)	Excused
Service Officer	Steve Botello (10)	Zoom
Americanism	Jim Brock (10)	Absent
Athletic	James Grenier (34)	Present
American Legion Riders	David Flowers (290)	Absent
Blood Donor	Ziggy Levison (247)	Present
Boys State	Robert Yowell (247)	Present
Children & Youth	VACANT	
Constitution & Bylaws	John Hess (290)	Present
Credentials	John Ward (34)	Present
Foreign Relations	Charles King (293)	Absent
JROTC Drill	Danny Goolsby	Zoom
Junior Shooting Sports	Claude Davenport	Present
Legislative	Vacant	
Media & Comm	Ziggy Levison (247)	Present
Membership	Mark Stein (10)	Present
National Security	VACANT	
New Posts	Bob Brady (247)	Zoom
Nominating Committee	John Ward (24)	Present
Oratorical	Terri Puckett (34)	Present
Rehabilitation (VA&R & VAVS)	Steve Botello (10)	Zoom
Resolutions	John Hess (290)	Present
Sons of the American Legion	John Ward (34)	Present
Youth Cadet Law Enforcement	Mark Stein (10)	Present

Post attendance and representation were:

Post	Status	Representative
10	Present	Commander Mark Stein
28	Present	Adjutant George Lussier
34	Present	Commander Bill Sullivan (Zoom)
72	Present	Claude Davenport
114	Absent	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Larry Laws (Zoom)
150	Absent	Absent
247	Present	Commander Joanne Smoot
290	Present	Adjutant Mike Scullin (Zoom)
293	Present	Commander Blaine Anderson (Zoom)
295	Absent	Absent
330	Present	Commander Danny Goolsby
360	Present	Commander Larry Washington (Zoom)
364	Present	Commander Steve Blackstone (Zoom)
1799	Present	Commander David Revill (Zoom)
1836	Present	Commander Lizzie Fonatine (Zoom)
2001	Present	Adjutant Eric Lohmann

Minutes: Motion was made by Post 72 Commander Claude Davenport and Seconded by 16<sup>th</sup> District Third Vice James Grenier to waive the reading of the minutes from the last meeting and accept the minutes as published on the District Website. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Finance: Budget was \$8875.92, Used \$3470.82, Budget Balance \$5404.10, Checking Balance of \$7861.49 with one \$500 check outstanding. Motion made to accept the Finance Officer report subject to audit made by District First Vice Mark Stein and seconded by Post 34 Adjutant John Ward. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The following Committee Chair reports are on file and individual reporting was waived due to the nature of the Virtual Convention:

First Vice – Report available online.

Second Vice – Report available online. Looking forward to Spring Visits

Third Vice – Report available online.

Sergeant At Arms – Report available online. Nothing to add.

Chaplain – Report available online. Received 4 notices of transition to Post Everlasting – Victor Rollins (10), Jerry Wood (247), Robert Lee Bowen (364), Chuck Colgan (10). Chaplain Yowell read the Veterans Retreat certificate for all 4. Certificates presented to Post representatives. Reminder, if you have a Legionnaire that transfers to Post Everlasting, please make sure the Chaplain is notified as soon as possible.

Adjutant – Report available online. The large brown envelope has been sent from Department, so please be on the lookout for this package which contains all of your reports that need to be filed. We will be having an Adjutant's Call with all Post Adjutants and Commanders in late March to go over all reporting requirements.

Historian – No report.

Service Officer – Report available online. COVID has really impacted the Service Officer program. All face-to-face contact with Veterans by Service Officers was prohibited. Took the opportunity to reach out to all Service Officers and conducted training through National. Need to make sure Post Service Officer contact information is sent to Steve Botello to make sure they get the training needed.

Americanism – No report.

Athletic – No report. Baseball will be a go this year. Legion will have a World Series event but may not have fans at the games. Everything is posted on valedionbaseball.com. Don't know how many teams but he will follow-up with the Posts. Background checks, must go online to complete the background check and take the Adult Abuse Training online.

American Legion Riders – No report. Drive and Ride event will be held. Make sure the Adjutant knows if you want us to visit your local cemetery.

Blood Donor – Report available online. Only one report from Post 247.

Boys State – Report available online. Every Post Commander should have already received their letter from Department. There will be a limited number of participants and there will be no bus this year for the 16<sup>th</sup> District.

Children and Youth – No report

Constitution and Bylaws – No report. Old Business will cover the update.

Credentials – No report required at this time.

Foreign Relations – Report available online. Nothing to add.

JROTC Drill – Report available online. Nothing to add.

Youth Cadet and Law Enforcement – Report available online. We are limited to an average of 2 candidates per District at this time and we have submitted our 2 candidates. There will be 30 cadets and 5 counselors.

Junior Shooting Sports – Report available online. Nothing to add.

Legislative – Vacant.

Media and Comm – Report available online. Complaints are being received about email not being received. Please get with your online provider to make sure the email is not being blocked for SPAM. We have verified your carrier is receiving the mail. Looking for volunteers to take over Media and Comm. Department is working on Digital Transformation.

Membership – Report available online. Nothing to add.

National Security – No report. Nothing to add.

New Posts – No report. Nothing to add.

Nominations – Meeting will be held after Conference to take nominations and recommendations. Really need to get a new Adjutant.

Oratorical – Report available online. Nothing to add.

Rehabilitation (VA&R & VAVS) – Report available online (combined under Service Officer Report).

Resolutions – No report. Recommended By-Law changes addressed under old business.  
Sons of the American Legion – No report. Keep the current SAL Commander in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from medical treatment.

Old Business – Bylaws Updates. The committee has not met and the Resolutions Chair is looking for assistance. A request for volunteers was made to help. Several members volunteered to assist with helping to address the suggested changes.

New Business – No new business was presented to the Commander prior to the Convention to be recognized.

Good of the Legion:

John Ward reminded all of the Department Conference being held on March 6 at 9 AM. Department Oratorical will be at 11 AM at Colonial Heights and the National Commander will be in attendance.

Robert Yowell reminded all that he needs to know in advance of transfers to Post Everlasting.

Lizzie Fontaine – Honor Flight on Saturday May 15. Please contact Lizzie Fontaine for additional information. More details can be found at: <https://www.honorflight-tov.org>

Joanne Smoot - Post 247 will be hosting blood drives on March 19 and April 9 at Post 247.

Commander Puckett – We will be participating in Operation Comfort Warrior grant presentation to local Warrior Retreat with Post 1799.

Victor Graulau – SAL Detachment Spring Conference will be held 12:30 on March 6.

Commander Puckett provided closing remarks thanking all for the hard work they had done this year to make the District highly successful. We are coming into the end of the year and need to try to meet our membership numbers and she looks forward to us returning to first place in Department. Recommended working the Post 141 list to transfer members to your Post. Buddy checks need to be more personal in nature. Please try to get all your reports in early and make sure you send a copy to the District Adjutant.

The closing benediction was given by Chaplain Robert Yowell.

The Conference was then closed by Commander John Puckett.