

The commander shall then give three raps of the gavel, and all who are present shall stand at attention.

Commander: “With the colors of our nation in place, hand salute”

Commander: “All members/guests in attendance shall remain standing with their cap removed and placed over the heart from the opening prayer, through the POW/MIA ceremony, and concluding with the Pledge of Allegiance.”

Commander: “The chaplain will now offer prayer.”

Chaplain: “Almighty God, Father of all mankind and Judge over nations, we pray Thee to guide our work in this meeting and in all our days. Send Thy peace to our nation and to all nations. Hasten the fulfillment of Thy promise of peace that shall have no end.

“We pray for those who serve the people and guard the public welfare, that by Thy blessing they may be enabled to discharge their duties honestly and well. We pray for our comrades that by Thy help they may observe the strictest justice, keep alight the fires of freedom, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy, and preserve untarnished our loyalty to our country and to Thee. Finally, O God of mercy, we ask Thy blessing and comfort for those comrades who are suffering mental and physical disability. Cheer them and bring them the blessings of health and happiness. Amen.”

Commander: A POW/MIA empty chair is to be placed at all official meetings of The American Legion, as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in the defense of liberty and a full accounting of those still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to the vital endeavor. *At this time, lets observe a moment of silence in honor of all our POW/MIA’s.*

Commander: *The Sgt at Arms will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Commander: “Everyone will re-cover.”

Please follow me in reciting The American Legion Preamble of our Constitution:

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

“To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; “To maintain law and order; “To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; “To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all Wars; “To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; “To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; “To make right the master of might; “To promote peace and good will on earth; “To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; “To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

The commander seats members with one rap of the gavel.

Commander: “I now declare this _____ Meeting regularly convened.”

Roll Call / Minutes / Correspondence Received

***Make sure if your meetings are being recorded that you announce it at the beginning of your meeting.**

Introduction of Post Officers / Guests:

Commander

Vice Commander

Vice Commander

Adjutant

Finance

Chaplain

Historian

Sgt-At-Arms

Service Officer

Judge Advocate

Past National Officers – Clarence Hill

District Commanders:

1st Shelby Windham

2nd Doyle Combs

3rd Stuart Scott

4th Doug Hockenbury

5th Miguel Garcia

6th Peter Gregory

7th Rick Orzechowski

8th John Rauh

9th Rico Thomas
11th Toni Sutherland
12th Bruce Thurber
13th Eric E Lloyd
14th Thomas Frank
15th Brian “Randy” Holeyfield
16th Eric Nestler
17th Jim Bowers

District Vice Commanders:

Department Chairs:

Area Commanders:

Northern Area Commander – Lena Heredia-Perez
Central Area Commander – Robert “Bob” Matheson
Eastern Area Commander – Joe Marcheggiani
Southern Area Commander – Johny Castro
Southwestern Area Commander – Harold “Bud” Boyer
Western Area Commander – Sonny Decker

Department Judge Advocate – David Pleasanton
Department Asst. Judge Advocate – Omer “Gene” Smith
Department Finance Officer - Shirley Douglas
Department Adjutant – Bruce Comer
Department Service Officer – Michael White
National Executive Committee Alternate Chair – Jerry Brandt
National Executive Committee Chair – Jim Ramos
Department Historian – Edward Lewis
Department Chaplain – Barry Roberts
Department Sgt-At-Arms – Les Martin
Department 2nd Vice Commander – Jessica Moore
Department – 1st Vice Commander – Chris Hamrick
Department Commander – Michael Raymond

Sons of The American Legion NEC Member – Bill Kelly

Opening Remarks

Chairman/Committee Reports

Post Service Officer’s Report

Unfinished Business

Initiation of New Members

New Business to include but not limited to Finance Report, Membership Report, Commander’s Report / Upcoming Events

Business for Good of the Legion

Commander: “Is there any further business to come before the meeting? If not, the chaplain will lead us in prayer.”

The commander gives three raps of the gavel, and the membership rises, uncovers and stands in silence.

Chaplain: “Our Heavenly Father, we deem this a fitting time to pay our respects to our departed comrades. As we stand with bowed heads in reverence to them, let us remember the good deeds they accomplished. Let us revere them as good soldiers who fought the good fight in a just cause. Let us silently pray for peace, the peace that passes all understanding. And let us in mind and soul consecrate our hearts and lives to the real America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, the America worth fighting for. As we stand in silence to our departed comrades, may we sincerely say, ‘May their souls rest in peace.’ Let us also remember the POWs and the MIAs still unaccounted for from the wars and conflicts. Amen.”

Commander: “Cover.”

Commander: “Sergeant-at-arm will recover the POW/MIA flag.”

“Till we meet again let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of The American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy. The color bearers will retire the flag of our country.”

As the color bearers retrieve the colors, the commander shall give the command to salute.

Commander: “Hand salute.” **Commander:** “I now declare this meeting of _____, The American Legion, Department of Florida adjourned.”