

Minutes of the 20 July 2025 Department Meeting

The meeting was called to order by DC Mark Weiss at 11:07. Department Officer of the Day Sid Garbeil opened the altar, DC Weiss led the Department in the pledge of allegiance, then Department Chaplain Ethan Gross read the classic opening prayer.

Department JVC Don Schenk introduced guests Jim and Susan Walker, representing the Farmington-Farmington Hills Optimists Club. Jim is also a veteran and member of VVA, VFW, and The American Legion. Susan is also in the Legion's Auxiliary.

Susan spoke about the Optimist Club and their 12 November 2025 meeting, where our Department JVC Don Schenk has agreed to speak about the WWII Ritchie Boys. Jim spoke about the need for all veterans to see a Veteran Service Officer, to ensure that they get all of the benefits due them.

Department SVC Bill Glogower introduced Rabbi Dan Horwitz, representing Jewish National Fund (JNF). Rabbi Dan spoke about his career changes that eventually led him to JNF then went into origins and evolution of JNF services – from Tzedakah boxes (proceeds were used to purchase land in Palestine), to planting trees, to their myriad of current services in Israel. He noted that the land purchased by JNF in the 40 years prior to 1948 mapped directly to the borders set by the U.N. When Israel was established.

Motion to accept minutes of the prior meeting was made and unanimously passed.

Department Quartermaster Mark Segel provided a verbal summary of 2024-25, which was “in balance”, and said our 2025-26 budget was also “in balance” (although significantly less: approx \$20,000 in 2024-25 versus approx \$11,000 in 2025-26). Motion to accept the Quartermaster report was made and unanimously passed.

SVC Glogower spoke about programming. August 24th meeting we will hear about Jews in Comics, with an emphasis on Superman.

JVC Schenk reviewed the National Membership meeting that he attended last week. He said we should expect some (perhaps unpleasant) changes after the coming National Convention.

All three Posts summarized their meetings prior to this Department meeting. Of note, Post 510 is planning to make significant charitable donation decisions next meeting.

Old business:

- DC Weiss summarized the past June 29 Shoot, Shmooze, & BBQ event. It was a success; it met its goal of increasing membership. DC Weiss mentioned that a guest in the Post 474 meeting had said he didn't read the Detroit Jewish News (DJN), so he didn't know about the event. DC Weiss suggested perhaps Temple & Synagogue posters for the next similar event, in addition to DJN advertisement.
- DC Weiss summarized the Oak Park July 4th parade. Dr. Ed Adler, who fell and bruised his face at the end of the parade, is OK. DC Weiss said that we made a critical mistake by

letting the police car set our pace for the length of the parade. The car went too fast the entire parade route. In the future, we will pay more attention to the pace and walk at a more reasonable pace.

- JWVMHA dissolution is proceeding. Artwork that we had not previously been able to dispose of has been accepted by the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Marc Manson has driven it to D.C. And delivered it to the museum. Paperwork still remains to be done for the dissolution to be final.
- Kaye Foundation Scholarship status: The IRS has approved the foundation's 501c3 status. Next step is a meeting of the Foundation officers to design application forms and decide on criteria. Tentatively set for September 7. DC Weiss noted that 135 member Sid Lichter has volunteered to serve on foundation's scholarship approval committee.

New business:

- DC Weiss discussed the recent JWV Department Commanders ZOOM:
 - NC Ginsburg wants all Posts to be within a Department. He is aware of about 10 veterans that want to start a Post in Indianapolis, IN and he asked if Department of Michigan would accept that Post. DC Weiss wondered if that would work. He expressed concern that if we accept a Post in Indiana, JWV National might use that to try to consolidate Departments of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio into Michigan and call it Department of the Great Lakes.
 - NVC Stevens, who is from Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma (T.A.L.O.) has a grand plan to consolidate current Departments into 11 super Departments, covering all 50 states, Israel, and all U.S. Territories. He wants to do that to balance the political power that Departments of New York, Massachusetts, and Maryland currently have. DC Weiss expressed concern that “dead” Posts in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota would have to be closed-up by us if they were moved into our department.
 - DC Weiss urged our Posts to “get as many delegates as they are allowed” to sign up for ZOOMing the National Convention. All Convention times in the schedule are Pacific Time Zone.
 - DC Weiss moved to upcoming events. About September 14, a recently-identified WWII casualty will be buried at Beth El Memorial Cemetery, where his family is. More info to follow – but please plan to be available as Honor Guard for that funeral!
 - Next meeting will be at Zekelman H.C. On August 24th.

Chaplain Gross read the closing prayer, Officer of the Day Garbeil closed the altar, DC Weiss led us in salute to the nation. Meeting was adjourned at 12:29.

Mark Weiss, Commander
JWV Department of Michigan