

Colorado American Legion Progress Report

January 28, 2025

A special convention of The American Legion in Colorado was held January 24-25 in Fort Collins. Approximately 150 Legionnaires attended to receive and consider the final draft of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. Approving a new Constitution and Bylaws would allow them to take the first step toward regaining official Department status through restoration of the Department charter.

The group of Legionnaires considered two readings of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws and made changes and adjustments as desired. A secret ballot vote on the second day saw that final draft approved nearly unanimously with only one NO vote cast.

Following that approval, the group went on to elect the slate of officers as determined in the Constitution and Bylaws. Those officers were installed and have begun the process of organizing for the restoration of the charter. The officers elected will be listed on the Colorado website.

The new Constitution and Bylaws is undergoing proofreading by a group of three Colorado Legionnaires led by the National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey and Ken George of the NJA's office. When that process is complete, the new Constitution and Bylaws will be posted on the Colorado American Legion website.

What does this mean? The charter is not restored. There are still several steps to be taken for that to happen. For now these new officers are becoming involved in the programs of Colorado and setting their priorities. One of the first objectives will be to identify candidates to fill the vacancies in the Executive Committee that were not filled in the election due to the lack of candidates.

What are the next steps? In order for restoration of the charter, the National Executive Committee must vote in favor. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be created with the Colorado leadership and National Headquarters as signatories. That MOU will address areas of common concern and oversight.

Can a timeline be stated for the restoration of the charter? Not at this time. The organization of the new Executive Committee is critical right now. They held a initial organizational meeting in Ft Collins immediately following the

close of the special convention and began work. Our committee will continue to work with them during this organizational period.

Our committee wants to thank each Legionnaire that attended the special convention and contributed to the work done to create the new governing documents. Every Legionnaire in Colorado owes them a debt of thanks. They are the true leaders of Colorado during this restoration period. They came together and have started the building of a new American Legion in Colorado. Every Colorado Legionnaire owes them their thanks.

David K. Rehbein

PNC, Reorganization Committee