

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment Of Wisconsin
44th Annual Convention Minutes July 20, 2012**

Friday July 20, 2012 Commander, Russell B. Severson (313) called to order the 44th Annual Convention, held at Middleton Wisconsin, with the proper opening ceremonies.

Roll Call of Officers

Taken by the Detachment Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437)

Detachment – Commander	Russell B. Severson (313)	P
“ - Vice Commander	Dean M. Sutcliffe Sr. (437)	A
“ - Vice Commander	Steven L. Meyer (220)	P
“ - Vice Commander	Kevin M. McClorey (544)	E
“ - Vice Commander	Mike Pook (449)	P
“ - Finance Officer	Dennis F. Stockfisch (437)	E
“ - Chaplain	Robert L. Hoffman (117)	E
“ - Assistant Chaplain	Patrick Gryskiewicz (093)	P
“ - Sergeant-at-Arms	Sean Patchin Jr. (385)	E
“ - Sergeant-at-Arms	Dean M. Sutcliffe (437)	E
“ - Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Chris J. Hessil (021)	E
“ - National Executive Committeeman	Kelly R. Powers (158)	E
“ - ALT. National Executive Committeeman	Michael L. Lawler (437)	P
“ - Adjutant	Michael L. Lawler (437)	P
“ - Assistant Adjutant	Gary Lee LeRoy (294)	P
“ - Historian	Jorgen Goderstad (313)	P
“ - Judge Advocate	Thomas A. Knox (449)	E
Department A.L. - Commander	Denise Rohan	E
“ A.L. - Chairman	Robert Danielson	E
“ A.L. - Committeeman	Charles Coleman	E
“ A.L. - Committeeman	Robert Naffier	E
S.A.L. – Liaison	Michael L. Lawler (437)	P
S.A.L. - Committeeman	Russell B. Severson (313)	P
S.A.L. – Committeeman	Gary Lubich (121)	P

Past Detachment Commanders Present

David Faust (245), Michael Lawler (437), Patrick Gryskiewicz (093)

Roll Call of District Chairman

First District – Chair	Gary Myers (294)	
Second District – Chair	Vacant	
Third District – Commander	Sean Patchin Sr. (385)	P
Fourth District – Chair	Russell Evanson (018)	P
Fifth District – Chair	Mike Pook (449)	P
Sixth District – Chair	Vacant	
Seventh District – Chair	Vacant	
Eighth District – Chair	Robert Hoffman (117)	
Ninth District – Chair	Vacant	
Tenth District – Chair	Gary Lubich (121)	P
Eleventh District – Chair	Patrick Gryskiewicz (093)	P
Twelfth District – Chair	Rodney Fall (108)	P

Roll Call of Squadrons

21 Kenosha, 48 Beloit, 294 Hartland, 449 Brookfield, 189 Watertown, 220 Soldiers Grove, 245 Cross Plains, 313 Black Earth, 385 Verona, 437 Mazomanie, 18 Milwaukee, 434 Oak Creek, 284 Holmen, 336 Onalaska, 93 Tomahawk, 108 Clear Lake.

By Squadron a quorum was reported present by Adjutant Lawler

Reading of the Past Pre-D.E.C. Minutes

Motion by David Faust (245), seconded by Steven Meyer (220), to waive the reading of the Pre-DEC minutes and have them published by the Assistant Adjutant for approval at a later date. Motion passed.

Guest to the Convention

American Legion National Commander – Fang Wong escorted by N.E.C. Man David Gough
National CWF Rep -John Mejia
Department Commander – Denise Rohan
Department President – Joan Chwala
Leading Candidate for Department Commander – Wayne Jensen
Convention Corporation President – Phil Ingwell
Oratorical Contest Winner – Emily Willson escorted by Oratorical Chairman Robert Stone
Junior Shooters Sports Chairman – Steve Shanks

Guests in order of appearance

Department Oratorical Chairman- Robert Stone noted some particular details about the Oratorical program in that it is open to high school age students, it is a Nationally run program of the American Legion, it awards \$18000 worth of power scholarships to the winners thru-out the United States and other Countries with Legion Departments, this year is the 75th anniversary of the program, the contests starts at the post level, to county, to district, then regionals and then finally National contest is run. With that said Mr. Stone introduced the state of Wisconsin's winner Emily Willson who was home schooled. Emily greeted the Detachment membership and proceeded to explain her experiences with the Oratorical program, on how she got started progressed and finished up, what she had to do and endure during the process, what she personally, award wise and what benefits she got out of the program competition.

Commander Severson presented a certificate of appreciation and a Detachment pin for Emily's efforts.

Convention Corporation President – Phil Ingwell welcomed the Detachment and its members to the 44th Convention in opening he noted that many home schooled students here in Wisconsin take part in the oratorical contests. Mr. Ingwell noted that his son is an S.A.L. member and is active with the Post and Aux., this morning he was driving one of the golf carts. Mr. Ingwell gave best wishes for a successful Convention and if anyone needed anything or had issues or problem to just contact one of the many workers that were on sight they were wearing the white golf caps.

Junior Shooters Sports Chairman – Steve Shanks was presented a check for \$1200 by Commander Severson on behalf of the Detachment for the Jr. Shooters Sports program. Mr. Shanks noted that the shooting range at Mid-Winter was well used by 140 people some did not do so well and are still complaining about the equipment and some are still taking bragging rights on how well they did. Collin Short National Assistant director was in attendance for this event. Mr. Shanks attended the Jr. Shooters program finals in De Moines IA. They had 29 shooting lanes with computerized scoring. There will be a school for members to take to become instructors in their area and there are scholarships available.

Leading Candidate for Department Commander – Wayne Jensen stated it was a great honor to bring greetings to the Detachment from the American Legion. His motto is to be "perpetuating our legacy thru strong leadership and mentoring" which also lends well to the Sons of the American Legion and as well to the American Legion Auxiliary. One of his mentors from his past had a saying posted on his desk that said "Mission first people always" that he remembers and that is the crux of what makes any organization successful. Mr. Jensen has found this is to be true with the American Legion Family and all of its membership which he is a strong proponent of. From the National Commander down to the post Commander and thru the Legion structure to the blue cap member it takes all to generate the success of the American Legion. Although as he comes from a Squadron (406) which is at this time not so active Mr. Jensen takes great pride in being an S.A.L. member in lasting tribute to the honor of his father's service to his country.

Mr. Jensen turned in membership to the adjutant for his Squadron (406) making them 100%.

American Legion National Commander – Fang Wong gave greetings from the National Organization and also extended thanks to the S.A.L. for their efforts and contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation. To date at the May 31st cut date the S.A.L. had donated \$506,260 for the year. This Past year Mr. Wong bonded very well with his counterparts from the Auxiliary and S.A.L.. He noted that the American Legion Family is bonding very well and this is what makes all of the Legion programs function at their best and this would now include the American Legion Riders who have established the Legacy Fund a strong program over the last few years which aides Veterans families. The Riders are made up all Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members as long as they meet the criteria of the group. Mr. Wong during his travels was once asked by a S.A.L. member from a Detachment what he thought of the Sons of the American Legion he responded to them that the S.A.L. was part of the Legion Family, the gentleman stated that's all he wanted to know.

Commander Severson presented a certificate of appreciation, a Detachment pin and a clock from the Detachment.

Department Commander – Denise Rohan welcomed the Detachment and gave thanks for inviting her to the Detachment Convention, she is proud that her husband Mike, son Nick and grandson Joey are all members of the Wisconsin Sons of the American Legion. Commander Rohan noted that she was originally from Iowa and when she became Commander she made a bet with the Department of Iowa Commander that Wisconsin would surpass them in membership as the trend is progressing Iowa is continuing to edge Wisconsin out and this appears to true for the S.A.L. also, she is hopeful that by the National Convention Wisconsin will prevail. But by watching the reports she could not disregard the fact that the Detachment of Wisconsin is at 106.528% again an all-time high in Membership, retaining a 93% renewal rate, has 5 new Squadrons and she would like to commend and congratulate the Detachment of Wisconsin on an excellent job in winning the Triple Nickel Award. Commander Rohan also could not dismiss the fact that the Detachment of Wisconsin met and exceeded donations to CWF indicating the fact that Detachment of Wisconsin believes in the program of the American Legion and supports the youth of our State. Commander Rohan noted that she was proud that the Detachment was part of the American Legion Family and that everyone Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. are working as a team to make sure that what was fought for will not be forgotten and to make a stronger America now and well into the future.

Commander Severson presented a certificate of appreciation and a clock from the Detachment.

Department President – Joan Chwala brought greetings to the Detachment on behalf of the 26,000 American Legion Auxiliary members from the Department of Wisconsin. President Chwala noted that same as the Detachment of Wisconsin the Aux. has experienced a great year in working some of their programs with great success. She made note that at many of the functions, meetings etc. Pres. Chwala had noticed that the S.A.L. was visible and in attendance providing support for these events. President Chwala was immensely proud that her grandsons were S.A.L. members and suggested that the Detachment should seek out the many Auxiliary members that do have sons to raise the S.A.L. membership even higher.

Commander Severson presented a certificate of appreciation and a clock from the Detachment.

Credentials / Resolutions & Rules

Chairman David Faust reported there were copies of the Uniform Code of the Convention on the table in the back of the room and he would not read them unless anyone requested so, there were no takers a request for motion was asked for approval of the Uniform Code.

Motion by David Faust (245) seconded by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), to approve the published Code, motion passed.

Chairman David Faust reported there was one resolution DC.01.2012 to attend to in regard to the elimination of the D. E. C. Constitution By-Laws Commission the resolution was read to the body and recommended to Constitution By-Laws Commission. Form discussion it was asked that further simplified explanation be presented, it was further explained by Chairman Faust noting that the D. E. C. Constitution By-Laws Commission was redundant under the new policy and rules established prior to this Convention and took a vote at this meeting to clean it up.

Let the minutes reflect Squadron 481 Madison is present.

Convention Committee Appointments

Commander Severson made the following appointments:

Americanism – Chair Michael Lawler (437) accepted, Steve Meyer (220) accepted, Barry Prindle (048) accepted
Constitutional Amendments – Chair David Faust (245) accepted, Gary LeRoy (294) accepted, Sean Patchin Jr. (385) accepted
Children and Youth – Chair Tom Petrie (189) accepted, Mark Wood (108) accepted, Joe McCormick (220) accepted
Credentials Resolutions and Rules – Chair David Faust (245) accepted, Gary LeRoy (294) accepted, Cal Johnson (048) accepted
Finance – Chair Tom Petrie (189) accepted, Gary LeRoy (294) accepted, Michael Lawler (437) accepted
Legislative – Chair Russell Evanson (018) accepted, Dan Daily (434) accepted, Barry Prindle (048) accepted
Membership – Chair Steve Meyer (220) accepted, Rich Ruland (481) accepted, Chris Hessil (021) accepted
National Security – Chair Sean Patchin Sr. (385) accepted, Jim Schwantis (449) accepted, Tom Petrie (189) accepted

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Chair Patrick Greyskiewicz (093) accepted, Rodney Fall (108) accepted, Bob Ames (048) accepted.

Motion by Steve Meyer (220) seconded by Bob Ames (048), to approve the appointments, motion passed.

Commander Severson appointed the following:

Elections judge David Faust (245) accepted, teller 1 Jim Schwantis (449) accepted, teller 2 Barry Prindle (048) accepted.

Motion by Cal Johnson (048) seconded by Mike Pook (449) to approve the appointments, motion passed.

Nomination of Candidates for Detachment Office and Election Procedures

Election judge David Faust explained the nominations procedure the requirements are Detachment Commander, (4) Vice Commanders, Chaplain, (2) Sgt.-at-Arms, National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman. There will be no nominations during the Saturday Session. Nomination speeches are accepted limited to 5 min.; seconding speeches are limited to 3 min. Each nominee must write the required resume for posting Saturday prior to the Election and self-nominations are allowed.

Campaigning is allowed, materials are only allowed that can fit on a members chair, no free standing or hand held items are allowed or can signs be posted in the meeting room, they are allowed to be posted outside of the room in the hall and pamphlets are to be handed out outside of the meeting room.

Elections judge and tellers have been appointed, uncontested offices can be elected by acclamation; contested offices shall be elected by majority vote by ballot. With no question to be addressed Judge David Faust called for nominations.

The following have announced candidacy for office:

Steve Meyer (220) for Detachment Commander, judge called for other nominations none presented, closed nomination.

Mike Pook (449) for Detachment Vice Commander Bob Bruetzman (018) for Detachment Vice Commander Gary Lubich (121) for Detachment Vice Commander, judge called for other nominations Dan Daily (434) for Detachment Vice Commander, Robert Ames (048) for Detach. Vice Comm., with no others nominations were closed.

Sean Patchin Sr. (385) for Detachment Chaplain, judge called for other nominations none presented, closed nomination.

John Patchin (385) for Detachment Sgt.-at-Arms, judge called for other nominations Barry Prindle (048) for Detachment Sgt.-at-Arms, closed nomination.

Michael Lawler (437) for National Executive Committeeman, judge called for other nominations none presented, closed nomination.

Russell Severson (313) for Alternate **National Executive Committeeman**, judge called for other nominations none presented, closed nomination

Elections judge David Faust called for nomination speeches, the following made speeches:

Steven Meyer (220) for **Commander** was first he thanked the Detachment officers and squadrons for attending this Convention and the support that he received over the past year as a Vice Commander. Should he be elected for Commander he would have some large shoes to fill matching the efforts accomplished by Commander Severson and that he would receive the same amount or more support from the new nominees for office of the Detachment in the coming year.

Mike Pook (449) for **Vice Commander** has held many offices in his Squadron and has been the Commander of 449 Brookfield for the last 7 years, he has held Several District positions, Detachment offices, committee Chairs or member and established relationships with many Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members over the years. Mike philosophy is that these many relationships will be beneficial to him as a Vice Commander and the Detachment in his work as a Vice Commander

Dan Daily (434) for **Vice Commander** is currently Squadron Commander of (434) Oak Creek and has been for 4 years, he belongs to the district four American Legion Riders. Years ago when his brother a Viet Nam vet returned home with cancer being exposed to Agent Orange. The American Legion post 434 went way above and beyond to assist his brother and family. This is when Dan decided he needed to get involved with the American Legion however he could and he was directed to a man that the Detachment knows well Don Priest who welcomed Dan into the fold and now Mr. Daily considers Mr. Priest as one of his main mentors. Over the years Mr. Daily has established relationships that would be beneficial in his performance of the office of Vice Commander.

Bob Ames (048) for **Vice Commander** noted that he was a Vice Commander in the year 2009-2011 and has held committee appointments with the Detachment and is no stranger to the operations of the office of Vice Commander and or the Detachment. He is looking forward to re kindling the fire and put fourth his efforts to support the Detachment, Districts, Counties and Squadrons.

Sean Patchin Sr. (385) for **Chaplain** has grown up with a strong back ground in his local church, has taught bible studies to his peers while a teenager, served as a chaplain while in the Army, worked in social services, was Commander of his American Legion Post at Verona, served as the first elected Commander of the Third District S.A.L. and is currently a S.A.L Third District Vice Commander he is looking forward to assisting in the spiritual needs of the Detachment.

John Patchin (385) for **Sgt.-at-Arms** is looking forward to the learning experience.

Barry Prindle (048) for **Sgt.-at-Arms** is in his second year as Squadron Commander, has held most of the offices of the within the Squadron, has been a Sgt.-at-Arm for the Detachment in the past but had to take a sabbatical from the Detachment for family and personal reasons and now it is time to return.

Michael Lawler (437) for **National Executive Committeeman** is a 24 year S.A.L. member has served in many of the Squadron, Detachment and National level offices he will be the guy that takes concerns of the Detachment to National and also will return information to the detachment from National.

Russell Severson (313) for Alternate. **National Executive Committeeman** has been attending functions at National level the past few years and is currently engaged in the NMI school. He has enjoyed his time at the National level partaking in many of the functions and committees that he attended and would be glad to cover for the **National Executive Committeeman** should the need arise to keep the Detachment informed.

National Convention Delegates Explanation

Commander Severson called on David Faust to explain the National Delegate structure Mr. Faust reported the following based

On the Detachment membership of 3525 Wisconsin is allotted ten delegates (three as a detachment plus one for each 500 members) plus one at large. At large is the Past National Commander David Faust, there are four automatic delegates allowed, the incoming and outgoing Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant and the National Executive Committeeman. Three Districts are allowed to assign their delegates and alternate delegate for 500 or more in membership they are District 1, 3, 7 this would leave 3 delegates and 7 alt. delegates to be elected from the floor. Mr. Faust noted that this nomination would be held during the Saturday Convention session.

Workshop Five Point Program

National CWF Rep -John Mejia administered and presented the workshop to members of the Detachment.

Announcements

Adjutant Lawler noted that anyone that will be attending the National Convention will need to see him before leaving this weekend to transfer important information to him to forward to National.

Point of Order: Bob Ames (048) noted that as Barry Prindle (048) was running for an office in the Detachment by rule it was incorrect for him to be appointed earlier as a teller for the elections and should be replaced by the Commander.

Commander Severson appointed Rodney Fall (108) as Election Teller, he accepted.

Motion by Mike Pook (449), seconded by Steve Meyer (220), to approve the appointment of Rodney Fall (108) as a elections teller replacing Barry Prindle, motion passed.

With no other business Commander Severson Recessed the Session until Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M...

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Gary Lee LeRoy