

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

Saturday July 21, 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**

Detachment Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437) called the roll.

Detachment-Commander	Russell B. Severson	(313)	P
" - Vice Commander	Dean M. Sutcliffe Sr.	(437)	E
" - Vice Commander	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	P
" - Vice Commander	Kevin M. McClorey	(544)	A
" - 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)	P
" - Sergeant-At-Arms	Dean M. Sutcliffe	(437)	E
" - Assistant Sgt.-At-Arms	Chris J. Hessil )	(021)	P
" - Assistant Sgt.-At-Arms	Barry Prindle	(048)	P
" - N.E.C. Man	Kelly R. Powers	(158)	A
" - Alt. N.E.C. Man	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P
" - Adjutant	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P
" - Assistant Adjutant	Gary Lee LeRoy	(294)	P
" - Historian	Jorgen Goderstad	(313)	A
" - 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)	E

**Past Detachment Commanders Present**

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

**Roll Call 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)	
Twelfth District – Chair	Rodney Fall (108)	P

**Roll Call of Squadrons**

(021) Kenosha, (048) Beloit, (294) Hartland, (449) Brookfield, (189) Watertown, (245) Cross Plains, (385) Verona, (437) Mazomanie, (018) Milwaukee, (434) Oak Creek, (108) Clear Lake,

Based on roll call of Squadrons the Adjutant reported a quorum was present.

**Reading of Friday's Minutes**

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

## Guest to the Convention

**S.A.L. National Vice Commander** – John Sansoucie escorted by (PNVC) Patrick Gryskiewicz  
**National Child Welfare Foundation Rep** – John Mejia escorted by (PNVC) Patrick Gryskiewicz  
**Leading Candidate for Department President** – Diana Sirovina escorted by (PNP) Jan Palermacher Ryan  
**Legion Riders State President** – Bob Lloyd  
**Honorary Junior President** – Caitlin Rosemeyer escorted by Junior Activities Chairman Anna Rosemeyer and Caitlan Preslie  
**Badger Girls State Governor** – Kate Wehrman escorted by BGS Director Dee Woolf and BGS Chairman Jeannine Conrad  
**Miss Poppy** – Ellen Rathe escorted by Poppy Chairman Barb Ludka

## Guests in Order of Appearance

**Miss Poppy** – Ellen Rathe greeted the Detachment related that she was proud to serve as Miss Poppy this past year. Being involved in the many events and functions that support veterans in many different ways, from family support to fund raisers. Ellen introduced her father Bruce and sister Anna.

Commander Severson presented certificate of appreciation and Detachment pin.

**Badger Girls State Governor** – Kate Wehrman greeted the Detachment and stated that it was one of the many honors that she has experienced this past year, taking part in the Badger Girls State program though was one of the most beneficial to her and becoming Governor was extra special. It was great to experience the meeting of new and old friends, learning about government procedures and functions and working together as a team in those efforts to get to an acceptable resolve of an issue. This same effort was used in the teaching of patriotism and ideals of the United States which gave her and others who attended BGS a better understanding in America and its government and the Veterans organizations such as the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. The program united the youth of our country, to strengthen their resolve to carry on into the future to contribute to a strong America.

Commander Severson presented certificate of appreciation and Detachment pin.

**Leading Candidate for Department President** – Diana Sirovina thanked the Detachment for inviting her to the Convention and stated that she had a special connection to the S.A.L.; her Husband is currently the Squadron Commander for 537 Milwaukee and well knows of what goes on with the Squadron and Detachment of the Sons of the American Legion. Diana is very pleased and proud of the thing the S.A.L. accomplishes for young people, Veterans and their families, wished the Detachment a successful Convention.

Commander Severson presented Detachment state pin.

**Honorary Junior President** – Caitlin Rosemeyer member of unit 118 has been an active member within her Auxiliary and Jr. Unit her membership comes through her grandfather. A project last year as she served as a Vice-President she raised \$350 for the High Ground at Neillsville which was used to supply books for the library at the High Ground. Caitlin's project for her year as Junior President will be the Douglas Legacy Farm which is a retreat for Veterans coping with PTSD.

Commander Severson presented certificate of appreciation and Detachment state pin.

**Legion Riders State President** – Bob Lloyd greeted the detachment and noted that the American Legion Riders are running a Sweepstake to help support the Legacy Scholarships and the program. It has a \$1000 top prize the donation cost is \$25.00. There will be a ride from Niagara Falls to Indianapolis National Convention to also help fund the program.

Commander Severson presented certificate of appreciation and a clock.

## Special Order of Business

### Final Credentials Report

David Faust (245) Elections/Credentials chairman reviewed the voting strength of the delegates and delegates at large by squadron the tally reported was 33 present would take 17 to elect.

### Elections

It was noted by the Chairman that there were no contested positions for officers of the Detachment, the slate of officers would stand as below.

**Commander** – Steven Meyer (220)

**Vice Commanders (4 Required)** – Mike Pook (449), Dan Daily (434), Gary Lubich (), Robert J. Ames (048)

**Chaplain** – Sean Patchin Sr. (385)

**Sergeant-At-Arms (2 Req'd.)** – John Patchin (385), Barry Prindle (048)

National Executive Committeeman – Michael L. Lawler (437)

**Alternate** National Executive Committeeman – Russell Severson (313)

Motion by Rodney Fall (108), Cal Johnson (048), to cast a vote to elect the above Officers by Acclamation, seconded by motion passed.

### Delegates to the National Convention

Adjutant Lawler Acting for Chairman (PNC) David Faust explained that based on the Detachment's membership of 3525 the Detachment was allowed a total of 10 delegates to the National Convention plus one at large for a total of 11. Automatically the incoming Detachment commander Steven Meyer (220), outgoing Commander Russell Severson (313), Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437) and current National Executive Committeeman Michael L. Lawler (437) would be expected to attend. The following districts are allowed to place delegates each based on their membership, district (1) (3) (7), the delegate at large is Past National Commander David Faust (245).

The following were submitted by District as delegates:

1<sup>st</sup> Tom Knox (449), 3<sup>rd</sup> Sean Patchin Sr. (385) 7<sup>th</sup> none presented.

This would leave 5 delegates to be nominated from the floor, the following were nominated, Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), Gary Kennedy (449), Joseph McCormick (220), Tom Petrie (189), Robert Ames (048).

The following were submitted by District as alternate delegates:

1st None presented, 3<sup>rd</sup> Rich Ruland (481) 7th none presented.

This would leave 9 alternate delegates to be nominated from the floor, the following were nominated, Gary Lee LeRoy (294), Dave Ruland (481), Rodney Fall (108), Chris Hessil (021), Dan Daily (434), Russ Evanson (018), Mike Pook (449), Paul Heit (038), Derrick Olson (284).

Motion by Michael Lawler (437), seconded by Mark Wood (108), to close the nominations, motion passed.  
Motion by (PNC) David Faust (245) seconded by Tom Petrie (189), to cast a vote to elect the above delegates and alternate delegates by Acclamation, motion passed.

With the elections concluded, chairman Faust thanked the tellers and returned the podium to Commander Russell Severson.

### Commission / Committee Reports

*Awards were handed out after perspective Report*

**Americanism**-Michael Lawler (437) reported discussed ways to get the Squadrons more involved in the Americanism programs such as the Oratorical Contest, Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State and to get their consolidated report forms filed at the end of the year. Reviewed several resolutions from The American Legion pertaining to A.L. Baseball and the NASA public relations, recommending the S.A.L. should support these resolutions. Recommended that Detachment officers should encourage the Squadrons to take part in the Five Star program. Noted that the Detachment coloring contest is being responded to by members and has grown since its inception a few years ago with many entries this past year, however the info needs to get further down into the Squadrons.

Motion by Michael Lawler (437) second by Mike Pook (449), to accept the Americanism report, motion passed.  
John Mejia presented certificates of completion for the Five Star Program presented on Friday to the following members: Tom Petrie, Russell Evanson, Barry Prindle, Bob Ames, Emeil, Jim Schwantis, Mark Wood, Rodney Fall, John Patchin, Sean Patchin Sr., Sean Patchin Jr., Dan Daily, Joseph McCormick, Kenneth McCormick, Steven Meyer, Russell Severson, Michael Lawler, Gary Leroy and David Faust.

#### Americanism

First place – 313 Black Earth – Robert Wilcox - plaque  
Second place – 048 Beloit – certificate  
Honorable mention – 108 Clear Lake – certificate

#### Blood

First place – 313 Black Earth – Raymond Faust - plaque  
Second place – 048 Beloit – certificate  
Honorable mention – 385 Verona – certificate

#### Community Service

First place – 537 Milwaukee – Mary Ann Nelson (M.A.N.) - plaque  
Second place – 189 Watertown – certificate  
Honorable mention – 048 Beloit – certificate

#### National Emergency Fund

First place – 336 Onalaska  
Second place – 437 Mazomanie – certificate  
Honorable mention – 121 River Falls – certificate

**Constitutional Amendments**-David Faust (245) reported the committee recommends the approval of DC.01.12 presented earlier and to be voted on later.

Motion by David Faust (245) second by Cal Johnson (048), to accept the Constitutional Amendments report, motion passed.

**Credentials, Resolutions and Rules** – David Faust (245) reported there were no changes to the uniform code of procedures, the resolution DC.01.12 being presented was in proper form.

Motion by David Faust (245), second by Steven Meyer (220), to accept the Credentials, Resolutions and Rules report, motion passed.

**Legislative** – Russ Evanson (018) reported that reviewed resolutions from Department and recommended support of the resolutions by the Detachment.

Motion by Russ Evanson (018) second by Steven Meyer (220), to accept the Legislative report, motion passed.

**Children and Youth**- Tom Petrie (189) reported that it is recommended to promote 100% per capita Banner, the memorial plaque for CWF donations of \$300, there is a new CWF video available for Squadrons to use.

Motion by Tom Petrie (189) second by Sean Patchin Sr. (385) to accept the Children & Youth report, motion passed.

Child Welfare Foundation

First place –111 Somerset– CWF - plaque

Second place –189 Watertown– certificate

Honorable mention –481 Madison– certificate

Children and Youth

First place –537 Milwaukee– Lillian Priest - plaque

Second place –52 Lacrosse– certificate

Honorable mention –336 Onalaska– certificate

**Finance** -Tom Petrie (189) reported that the committee reviewed the General and Money Market Accounts both are in good shape. Discussed and recommend the mailing label fund raiser campaign which would be addressed later during the Convention.

Motion by Tom Petrie (189) second by Steve Meyer (220), to accept the Finance report, motion passed.

**National Security**-Sean Patchin Sr. (385) reported the committee discussed Legion resolutions and recommend that the S.A.L. support the resolution in support of funding for NASA.

Motion by Steve Meyer (220) second by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), to accept the National Security report, motion passed.

**Commanders Project** – Jr. Shooter Sports

First place – 220 Soldiers Grove

Second place – 121 River Falls – certificate

Honorable mention – 437 Mazomanie – certificate

Best overall program – **537 Milwaukee** – Don Priest – plaque

Second place – 313 Black Earth

Second place – 48 Beloit – certificate

**Membership** – Chairman Steven Meyer (220) reported the committee discussed ways to help the Squadrons that are less than 100% and reviewed various forms.

Motion by Steven Meyer (220) seconded by Dan Daily (434), to accept the Membership report, motion passed.

(NVC) John Sansoucie presented the 100% ribbons to Squadrons (21) Kenosha, (48) Beloit, (71) Pewaukee, (91) Oconomowoc, 171 Union Grove, (183) Genoa City,(196) Delafield, (294) Hartland, (375) Mukwonago, (405) Dousman, (449) Brookfield, (544) Twin Lakes, 552) Somers, (1) Germantown, (15) Juneau, (67) Lake Mills, (157) Horicon, (243) Plymouth, (288) Cedarburg, (305) Johnsons Creek, (355) Grafton, (387) Franklin, (151) Madison, (214) Darlington, (220) Soldiers Grove, (245) Cross Plains, (313) Black Earth, (333) Sun Prairie, (433) Barneveld, (437) Mazomanie, (481) Madison, (501) Madison, (534) McFarland, (18) Milwaukee, (120) Tanner Paull, (180) Bay View, (203) Federal, (416) Greendale, (444) F. D. Roosevelt, (537) Harold Todd, (23) Cudworth, (75) Fond Du Lac, (329) Briggsville, (51) West Salem, (52) LaCrosse, (100) Sparta, (115) Elroy, (116) Coon Valley, (118) Thorp, (138) Viroqua, (172) North Freedom, (273) Grand Marsh, (284) Holmen, (336) Onalaska, (417) French Island, (467) Ontario, (54) Marshfield, (63) Clintonville, (117) Shawano, (38) Appleton, (60) Kimberly, (538) Carlton, (53) Eau Claire, (80) New Richmond, (111) Somerset, (121) River Falls, (326) Boyd, (93) Tomahawk, (108) Clear Lake, (143) St. Croix Falls.

(NVC) John Sansoucie presented the All Time High to Squadrons (71) Pewaukee, (91), (171) Union Grove, (196) Delafield, (294) Hartland, (375) Mukwonago, (544) Twin Lakes, (552) Somers, (305) Johnsons Creek, (355) Grafton, (151) Madison, (214) Darlington, (220) Soldiers Grove, (313) Black Earth, (534) McFarland, (18) Milwaukee, (180) Bay View, (537) Harold Todd, (329) Briggsville, (116) Coon Valley, (284) Holmen, (60) Kimberly, (80) New Richmond, (111) Somerset, (93) Tomahawk, (108) Clear Lake.

Greatest percentage membership increase – 53 Eau Claire – Armin Tews – plaque  
First Squadron over 110% - 180 Milwaukee – Jack Keys – plaque  
The Son that Shines Award – Rich Ruland (481)

**Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation-** Patrick Gryskiewicz reported the bench plaque was placed at the Veterans Cemetery, some of the VA reps are not attending but the deputy reps are covering. He himself is a driver for the VA and finds it very rewarding.

Motion by Patrick Gryskiewicz (093) seconded by Steven Meyer (220) to accept the VA&R report, motion passed.

**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**

First place –355 Grafton – Thomas A. Knox plaque  
Second place – 537 Milwaukee – certificate  
Honorable mention – 63 Clintonville – certificate

Commander Severson called for recess at 11:30 am for the purpose of lunch and attending the return of the Honor Ride bikers.

Commander Severson reconvened the Convention at 1:00 pm.

**Roll Call of Officers**

Detachment Assist. Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy (294) called the roll.

Detachment-Commander	Russell B. Severson	(313)	P
“ - Vice Commander	Dean M. Sutcliffe Sr.	(437)	E
“ - Vice Commander	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	P
“ - Vice Commander	Kevin M. McClorey	(544)	A
“ - Vice Commander	Mike Pook	(449)	P
“ - Finance Officer	Dennis F. Stockfisch	(437)	E
“ - Chaplain	Robert L. Hoffman	(117)	E
“ - Assistant Chaplain	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(093)	E
“ - Sergeant-At-Arms	Sean Patchin Jr.	(385)	E
“ - Sergeant-At-Arms	Dean M. Sutcliffe	(437)	E
“ - Assistant Sgt.-At-Arms	Chris J. Hessil )	(021)	P
“ - Assistant Sgt.-At-Arms	Barry Prindle	(048)	P
“ - N.E.C. Man	Kelly R. Powers	(158)	A
“ - Alt. N.E.C. Man	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	E
“ - Adjutant	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	E
“ - 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)	E
S.A.L. - Committeeman	Russell B. Severson	(313)	P
S.A.L. - Committeeman			

**Past Detachment Commanders Present**

(PNC) David Faust (245), Patrick Gryskiewicz (093),

#### Roll Call District Chairman

First District - Chair	Gary Myers (294)	
Second District - Chair	Vacant	
Third District - Commander	Sean Patchin Sr. (385)	
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)	
Eleventh District - Chair	Patrick Gryskiewicz (093)	P
Twelfth District – Chair	Rodney Fall (108)	P

#### Roll Call of Squadrons

(021) Kenosha, (048) Beloit, (294) Hartland, (449) Brookfield, (189) Watertown, 220 Soldiers Grove, (245) Cross Plains, (313) Black Earth, (385) Verona, (437) Mazomanie, (481) Madison, (018) Milwaukee, (434) Oak Creek, (284) Holmen, (336) Onalaska, (38) Appleton, (093) Tomahawk, (108) Clear Lake,

Based on roll call of Squadrons the Assist. Adjutant reported a quorum was present.

#### Unfinished Business

##### Credentials, Resolutions and Rules

Chairman (PNC) David Faust presented resolution DC.01.12 for final approval by the Detachment body, explanations were given and no further discussion was needed.

Motion by David Faust (245) seconded by Steven Meyer (220), to adopt the resolution, motion passed.

#### New Business

**Installations of New Officers** National Vice Commander John Sansoucie installed of newly elected Detachment officers.

**Convention Work Shop (Children’s Action Team CATS Program)** John Mejia presented and administrated the CATS certification program to members of the Detachment.

Commander Severson presented Mr. Mejia certificate of appreciation and a clock for his contributions to the Detachment Convention.

**National Vice Commander Central Region John Sansoucie** brought greeting from National Commander congratulating the Detachment on the 106% in membership and made note that his concerns for the year is commitment from our members to stay on track and focused when dealing in matters of concern to all levels of the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Family. To take more effort in communications between all factions utilizing such venues as phone, e-mail, face book, publications and any other methods that will keep communications open and information flowing.

Commander Severson presented Mr. Sansoucie certificate of appreciation and a clock for his contributions to the Detachment Convention.

#### Retiring Commanders Speech

Past Commander Russell Severson expressed thanks to all of his officers elected or appointed, all committee chairmen and members who served for their contribution and work this past year. He was looking forward to severing the Detachment as Alternate National Executive Committeeman to National.

#### Newly Elected Commanders Speech

Commander Steven Meyer made note that he was looking forward to a great year but it would take maximum efforts from all of the new officers, members of the Detachment and Squadrons at all levels to achieve what needs to be done.

#### For The Good of the Sons of the American Legion

Mike Pook (449) shared that this past year his Squadron offered its membership some incentive plans to pay their dues, 3 years for \$25.00 and 2 years for \$18.00 and this seems to help.

Mr. Pook presented John Sansoucie with a small gift of a Clements Sausage and presented Pens to (PDC) Russell Severson and Commander elect Steven Meyer.

Membership was turned in from Hartland (294) 18, Twin Lakes (544) 12, Milwaukee (406) 100%, Holmen (284) 54, Beloit (048) 6, Clear Lake (108) 23.

There will be a church service from 5:00-6:00 Sat. in Salons D & E. Also the usher volunteers practice is at 6:30 in the Michigan room.

The Legion PCC will be 7:00 in the Wisconsin room.

Memorial service on Sunday 8:00 A.M. in the Michigan room.

Post-Convention D.E.C. meeting at 9:00 A.M., Immediately following will be the Officer Development workshop, all officers are required to attend.

Officers should remind the Squadrons to make sure membership address is correct.

There are American Legion Family discounts available to all members of Legion, Aux. and S.A.L. brochures on the table in back of the room, take some and distribute them to the Squadrons.

With no other business Commander Severson closed the 44<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention with the proper closing ceremonies.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant  
Gary Lee LeRoy