

**Sons Of The American Legion  
Detachment Of Wisconsin**

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Minutes July 20, 2013

Saturday July 20, 2013 Commander, Steven L. Meyer (220) called to order the 45th Annual Convention, held at the Olympia Convention Center in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, with the proper opening ceremonies 9:30 AM.

**Roll Call of Officers**

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

Detachment-Commander	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Robert Ames	(048)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Dan Daily	(434)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Gary Lubich	(121)	E
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Mike Pook	(449)	P
“ - CHAPLAIN	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)	P
“ - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Sean Patchin Jr.	(385)	Ret.
“ - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Barry Prindle	(048)	E
“ - N.E.C. MAN	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P
“ - ALT. N.E.C. MAN	Russell B. Severson	(313)	E
“ - ADJUTANT	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P
“ - ASSISTANT ADJUTANT	Gary Lee LeRoy	(294)	P
“ - HISTORIAN	Stig Meyer	(220)	P
“ - JUDGE ADVOCATE	Thomas A. Knox	(449)	E
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>			
“ A.L. - CHAIRMAN	Fred Schultz		P
“ A.L. - COMMITTEEMAN	Dudley Markham		-
“ A.L. - COMMITTEEMAN	Dennis Wood		-
S.A.L. - LIAISON	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P
S.A.L. - COMMITTEEMAN	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	P

**Past Detachment Commanders Present**

Russell B. Severson (313), (PNC) David Faust (245), Lawrence A Rice (449), Michael L. Lawler (437), Patrick Gryskiewicz (093),

**Roll Call District Chairman**

FIRST DISTRICT – CHAIR	Kevin McClorey	(544)	
SECOND DISTRICT – CHAIR	Shawn Grothe	(243)	P
THIRD DISTRICT – COMMANDER	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)	P
FOURTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Russell Evanson	(018)	P
FIFTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
SIXTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
SEVENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
EIGHTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
NINTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
TENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
ELEVENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(093)	P
TWELFTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Rodney Fall	(108)	P

## **Roll Call of Squadrons**

048 Beloit, 071 Pewaukee, 294 Hartland, 449 Brookfield, 243 Plymouth, 220 Soldiers Grove, 245 Cross Plains, 313 Black Earth, 385 Verona, 437 Mazomanie, 481 Madison, 018 West Allis, 434 Oak Creek, 537 Milwaukee, 406 Milwaukee, 75 Fond du Lac, 093 Tomahawk, 108 Clear Lake.

Based on roll call of Squadrons 17 were present, Adjutant Lawler reported a quorum was present.

## **Guest to the Convention**

**S.A.L. National Vice Commander** –Harold Sorrels from Albany IN (028). escorted by (PNVC) Patrick Gryskiewicz

**S.A.L. Detachment Commander**-Duane Alexander from IN. Vice Commander Sorrels' Aide, escorted by (PNVC) Patrick Gryskiewicz

**Department of Wisconsin Commander**- Wayne Jensen (S.A.L. member)

## **Guests in Order of Appearance**

**Commander**- Wayne Jensen addressed the Detachment bringing greetings from the Department noting the singular importance of the American Legion Family and what that entails which was the support of Service members, Veterans and their families, from all of the factions of the American Legion Family, (Legion, Auxiliary, Jr. Auxiliary, Legion Riders and the Sons of The American Legion) making the Legion Family united in this cause. Commander Jensen thanked the Detachment for their efforts in this cause stating that this keeps America strong.

Commander Steven L. Meyer presented certificate of appreciation the Detachment and a pin on behalf of the National S.A.L. Commander Chris Huntzinger.

Commander Meyer also presented Commander Jensen on behalf of Squadron 220 a \$100 Check for the Comfort Warriors project.

**S.A.L. National Vice Commander** –Harold Sorrels extended greetings to the Detachment of Wisconsin and its National officers from S.A.L. National Commander Chris Huntzinger. Commander Huntzinger's motto for this year is "Forging our Future Together" the basic principle of this will be Education of the Blue Cappers at the lower levels in regard to training and communication thru-out the organization. The support of Veterans and military service personnel and their families. Commander Huntzinger's project for the year is to be support of the Fisher Houses'.

Vice Commander – Sorrels stated on a personal note of thanks to the Detachment for their great achievements in membership joining the "Membership Bandwagon" by reaching 100% by the convention, retaining a 90.11% renewal rate. For contributing to CWF with a total of \$3396.20, which is \$.95/member. Mr. Sorrels made note that it should be stressed to Squadrons to fill out the consolidated reports, teach others by mentoring and establish one on one with other members and do not to sit on membership cards.

Commander Steven L. Meyer presented certificate of appreciation the Detachment and a pin to V.C. Sorrels.

Commander Meyer also presented Commander Duane Alexander from IN with a state pin.

N.E.C. man Michael Lawler presented Vice Commander Sorrels with a gift basket on behalf of the Detachment of Wisconsin's National officers.

Adjutant Lawler noted that registered delegates along with DEC officers are allowed to make and vote on motions during the Convention sessions. Delegates must have registered the Legion registration table in the lobby and at the S.A.L. at the back of this meeting room. Dual members only need to pay one registration fee.

### **Commission / Committee Reports**

**Americanism**-Mike Pook (449) reported there was no resolution submitted to the committee for review. The Americanism committee recommends a challenge to the Detachment to implement a program to the Squadrons to ensure that the general public understands what the American Flag represents and stands for.

Chairman Mike Pook (449) along with his committee and the Commander Meyer proceeded to present awards.  
Blood

Honorable mention – 481 West Port – certificate  
Second place – 220 Soldiers Grove – certificate  
First place –385 Verona – **Raymond Faust** - plaque

Community Service

Honorable mention –111 Somerset– certificate  
Second place –537 Milwaukee– certificate  
First place –284 Holmen– **Mary Ann Nelson (M.A.N.)** - plaque

Americanism

Honorable mention –437 Mazomanie– certificate  
Second place –108 Clear Lake– certificate  
First place –189 Watertown– **Robert Wilcox** - plaque

Motion by Chuck Cook (434) second by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), to accept the Americanism report, motion passed.

### **Constitutional Amendments**

David Faust (245) reported there was no business to attend to.

**Children and Youth**- Chairman Dan Daily (434) noted there was no report.

Chairman Dan Daily (434) along with Commander Meyer proceeded to present awards.

Child Welfare Foundation

Honorable mention –048 Beloit– certificate  
Second place –189 Watertown– certificate  
First place –111 Somerset– **CWF** - plaque

Children and Youth

Honorable mention –284 Holmen– certificate  
Second place –537 Milwaukee– certificate  
First place –108 Clear Lake– **Lillian Priest** - plaque

Motion by Leigh Rainer (449) second by Brad Catura (449) to accept the Children & Youth Awards, motion carried.

**Finance** – Chairman Dennis F. Stockfisch (406) had no report.

Commander Meyer requested that Mr. Stockfisch present the **Dennis F. Stockfisch Meritorious Award**

The award was presented by Mr. Stockfisch and the recipient was Thomas A. Knox (449) whom was excused from the convention, receiving the award on Mr. Knox's behalf was Leigh Rainer Post (449) he would present it to Tom at a Post or Squadron meeting in Elm-Brook.

**Legislative**- Chairman Russell Evanson (018) No Report

**DEPARTMENT A.L. – CHAIRMAN** Fred Schultz congratulated the Detachment for their achievement in membership, but did note that the following Squadrons achieved better than 135%, (091) Oconomowoc 135%,(449) Elm-Brook 145%, (157) Horicon 148%, (481) Madison 135%, (054) Marshfield 140%, (080) New Richmond 173%, (048) Beloit 138% contributing to the Detachments Success ending at 101.57% Nation- wide. Commander Meyer presented certificate of appreciation and pin to Mr. Schultz.

**Membership – Chairman Shawn Grothe (243) no report**

Chairman Shawn Grothe (243) along with Commander Meyer proceeded to present awards.

**100% 30 days prior to Convention**

(024) Lake Geneva, (048) Beloit, (071) Pewaukee, (091) Oconomowoc, (183) Genoa City,(196) Delafield, (294) Hartland, (449) Brookfield, (544) Twin Lakes, (552) Somers, (001) Germantown, (015) Juneau, (062) Columbus, (067) Lake Mills, (157) Horicon, (243) Plymouth, (271) Poynette, (347) Lormira, (387) Franklin, (522) Hubertus, (059) Stoughton, (084) Monroe,(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, (018) Milwaukee, (027) South Milwaukee, (120) West Allis, (180) Bay View, (203) Milwaukee, (444) Milwaukee, (537) Milwaukee, (406) Milwaukee, (075) Fond Du Lac, (360) Princeton, (052) LaCrosse, (073) Neilsville (115) Elroy, (155) Westby, (172) North Freedom, (273) Grand Marsh, (284) Holmen, (336) Onalaska, (010) Wausau, (054) Marshfield, (063) Clintonville, (339) Almond, (38) Appleton, (60) Kimberly, (080) New Richmond, (111) Somerset, (121) River Falls, (158) Maiden Rock, (168) Glenwood City (326) Boyd, (93) Tomahawk, (457) Lublin.

**All Time High Squadrons 2013**

(018) Milwaukee, (063) Clintonville, (071) Pewaukee, (080) New Richmond, (093) Tomahawk, (111) Somerset, (121) River Falls, (151) Madison, (180) Bay View, (196) Delafield, (220) Soldiers Grove, (245) Cross Plains, (284) Holmen, (294) Hartland, (313) Black Earth, (481) Madison, (537) Harold Todd, (544) Twin Lakes, (552) Somers.

**Third District Commander** Sean Patchin Sr. awarded an additional citation to 481 Madison from the Third District for their outstanding increase in membership.

First Squadron over 110% - 552 Somers – **Jack Key** – plaques

Greatest percentage membership increase – 080 New Richmond – **Armin Tews** – plaque

**National Security**-Sean Patchin Sr. (385) No report

Chairman Sean Patchin Sr. (385) along with Commander Meyer proceeded to present awards.

National Emergency Fund

Honorable mention – 108 Clear Lake – certificate

Second place –209 Orfordsville– certificate

First place – 437 Mazomanie-**NEF**- plaque

**Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation**- Rodney Fall (108) reported the committee discussed the new VA&R program entitled “Move Out for Fitness” which is an out-reach fitness program for Veterans administered to Posts. Discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Viet Nam War it is suggested to visit the web site for this event. The Zablocki VA has a new green house for Veterans on site and volunteers are needed to finish off the project.

Chairman Rodney Fall (108) along with Commander Meyer proceeded to present awards.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Honorable mention – 111 Somerset – certificate

Second place – 189 Watertown – certificate

First place –537 Milwaukee – **Thomas A. Knox** plaque

**Commanders Project – Camp American Legion**

Honorable mention– 108 Clear Lake - certificate  
Second place – 060 Kimberly – certificate  
First place – 294 Hartland – **Commanders** plaque

Motion by Dennis Stockfisch (406) second by Lawrence Rice (449) to accept the VA&R and Awards, motion carried.

**Best Overall Program**

Second place – 189 Watertown - certificate  
Best overall program – 537 Milwaukee – **Don Priest** – plaque

**Special Order of Business**

**Final Credentials Report**

(PNC) David Faust (245) Elections Judge/Credentials chairman reviewed the voting strength of the delegates and delegates at large by squadron the tally reported was 43 present would take 22 to elect.

Motion by David Faust (245) second by Robert Bruetzmann (018) to accept the Credentials report, motion passed.

(PNC) David Faust (245) Elections Judge allowed each Candidate the allotted amount of time if they wished to make final comments before the ballots would be passed out.

(PNC) David Faust (245) Elections Judge asked that as Shawn Grothe was running for an office he should be removed as an Elections teller and asked for volunteers to replace Shawn, Wayne Fretus Commander Squadron (018) volunteered to take his place as teller.

**Elections**-ballots were distributed for the following.

**Commander** – (1 Required) Dan Daily (434), Mike Pook (449)

**Vice Commanders (4 Required)** – Bob Bruetzman (018), Sean Patchin Sr. (385), Russell Evanson (018), Shawn Grothe (243)

**Sergeant-At-Arms (2 Req'd.)** – Gary Lubich (221), Barry Prindle (048)

**Chaplain – (1 Required)** Brad Catura (449)

Ballots were collected during the tabulation of election ballots (PNC) David Faust (245) elections Judge preceded with the selection of:

**Delegates to the National Convention**

Chairman (PNC) David Faust (245) explained that based on the Detachment's membership of 3016 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 (new elect) outgoing Commander Steven Meyer (220), 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> Mike Pook (449), 3<sup>rd</sup> Stig Meyer (220) 7<sup>th</sup> none presented.

This would leave 5 delegates to be nominated from the floor, the following were nominated, Gail Helser (449), Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), Dan Daily (434), Rich Ruland (481), Russell Severson (313).

**Alternate Delegates:** The following were submitted by District as alternate delegates:

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

This would leave 9 alternate delegates to be nominated from the floor, the following were nominated, Cal Johnson (048), Shawn Grothe (043), Dennis Stockfisch (406), Gary Masnak (), Lawrence Rice (449), Gary Lee LeRoy (294), Ron Faust (245), Kerry Severson (245).

Motion by Mike Pook (449), seconded by Lawrence Rice (449), to close the nominations, motion carried.

Motion by Mike Pook (449), seconded by Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), to cast a vote to elect the above delegates and alternate delegates by Acclamation, motion carried.

**Election Results** - With the results of the balloted Election (PNC) David Faust (245) Elections Judge announced the following elected officers:

Commander – Dan Daily (434)

Vice Commanders – Bob Bruetzman (018), Sean Patchin Sr. (385), Russell Evanson (018), Shawn Grothe (243)

Sergeant-At-Arms– Gary Lubich (221), Barry Prindle (048)

Chaplain –Brad Catura (449)

Motion by Chuck Cook (434), seconded by Gary Masnak (434), to destroy all ballots, motion carried.

With the elections concluded, Elections Judge (PNC) David Faust thanked the tellers and returned the podium to Commander Steven L. Meyer.

Commander Meyer called for recess at 11:45 AM for the purpose of lunch and for those whom wished to attend Governor Walkers address on the Legion Convention floor at noon. S.A.L. sessions would resume at 12:45 PM.

Commander Steven L. Meyer reconvened the Convention at 1:00 pm.

**Roll Call of Officers**

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

Detachment-Commander	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Robert Ames	(048)	E
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Dan Daily	(434)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Gary Lubich	(121)	E
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Mike Pook	(449)	P
“ - CHAPLAIN	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)	P
“ - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Sean Patchin Jr.	(385)	Ret.
“ - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Barry Prindle	(048)	E
“ - N.E.C. MAN	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P
“ - ALT. N.E.C. MAN	Russell B. Severson	(313)	P
“ - ADJUTANT	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P
“ - ASSISTANT ADJUTANT	Gary Lee LeRoy	(294)	P
“ - HISTORIAN	Stig Meyer	(220)	P
“ - JUDGE ADVOCATE	Thomas A. Knox	(449)	E
DEPARTMENT			
“ A.L. - CHAIRMAN	Fred Schultz		E
“ A.L. - COMMITTEEMAN	Dudley Markham		-
“ A.L. - COMMITTEEMAN	Dennis Wood		-
S.A.L. - LIAISON	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P
S.A.L. - COMMITTEEMAN	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	P

### Past Detachment Commanders Present

Russell B. Severson (313), (PNC) David Faust (245), Michael L. Lawler (437), Patrick Gryskiewicz (093)

### Roll Call District Commanders or Chairman

FIRST DISTRICT – CHAIR	Kevin McClorey	(544)	
SECOND DISTRICT – CHAIR	Shawn Grothe	(243)	P
THIRD DISTRICT – COMMANDER	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)	P
FOURTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Russell Evanson	(018)	P
FIFTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
SIXTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
SEVENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
EIGHTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
NINTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
TENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
ELEVENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(093)	P
TWELFTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Rodney Fall	(108)	P

### Roll Call of Squadrons

071 Pewaukee, 294 Hartland, 449 Brookfield, 243 Plymouth, 220 Soldiers Grove, 245 Cross Plains, 313 Black Earth, 385 Verona, 437 Mazomanie, 481 Madison, 018 Milwaukee, 434 Oak Creek, 537 Milwaukee, 075 Fond du Lac, 093 Tomahawk, 108 Clear Lake.

Based on roll call of Squadrons 16 were present, Adjutant Lawler reported a quorum was present.

### Credentials, Resolutions and Rules

Chairman (PNC) David Faust (245) suggested that as there are no resolutions to attend to so the report could be dispensed with at the desecration of the Commander so granted by Commander Meyer.

### Unfinished Business – None

### New Business

It was asked that the “Hat” be passed around for donations to the “Fischer House Program”.

Motion by Chuck Cook (434), seconded by Matthew Michels (075), to pass the “Hat” to start fund for the Detachment to distribute at a later date, motion carried.

### Retiring Commanders Speech

Commander Steven L. Meyer expressed his appreciation and thanks to all of his officers elected or appointed, all committee chairmen and members who served for their contribution and work this past year. Challenged, the new officers to do the same for the new Commander elect Dan Daily. Commander Meyer distributed past officer ribbons and year bars to his officers for their service this past year.

VICE COMMANDER	Robert Ames	(048)	Ribbon
VICE COMMANDER	Dan Daily	(434)	Ribbon
VICE COMMANDER	Gary Lubich	(121)	Ribbon
VICE COMMANDER	Mike Pook	(449)	Ribbon

### Installations of New Officers

National Vice Commander Harold Sorrels administrated and installed the newly elected Detachment officers.

### **Newly Elected Commanders Speech**

Commander Dan Daily welcomed everyone to a new year, noting that by the hard work over the years by the Sons of the American Legion becoming a force to be reckoned with and the passing of a resolution to take the Sons of the American Legion more directly under the Department of the American Legion the Sons of the American Legion are truly part of the American Legion Family.

Reporting by the Squadrons will be a key item that needs to be stressed to the lower levels by the Detachment

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

Mike Pook (449) made note that a joint hospitality room (208) 7:00 to 12:00 PM will be put on by Post/Squadron 449 this evening stop by and enjoy some food and drinks.

The Detachment PCC breakfast will not be held this year due to time constraints, a conference call will be set up in the future to discuss some items.

Church service 8:00 AM Sunday morning, also the usher volunteers practice is at 6:30 this evening in the Olympia center suites A&B room. There will be religious services at 5:00 to 6:00 tonight in Wisconsin A&C, Legion Past Commanders club will be held at 7:00 in Olympia A&C, everyone is welcome remember to dress appropriately there is a \$5.00 cover.

Post-Convention D.E.C. meeting at 9:00 A.M. Sunday All new officers are expected to be in attendance, directly after this session the officers development session will be held.

Membership was turned in from Black Earth (313) one more than last year, Hartland (294) 10, La Crosse (52) 37, Elm Brook (449) 22, Mazomanie (437) 16, Clear Lake (108) 25 and Soldiers Grove (220) 45 100%.

With no other business Commander Steven L. Meyer (220) closed the 45<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention with the proper closing ceremonies.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant  
Gary Lee LeRoy