

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

Spring Detachment Executive Committee Minutes April 27th, 2013

Saturday, April. 27th, 2013 Commander, Steven L. Meyer (220) called to order the Spring D.E.C., held at State Headquarters, Portage WI. With the proper opening ceremonies.

**Roll Call of Officers**

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

DETACHMENT - COMMANDER	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Robert Ames	(048)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Dan Daily	(434)	E
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Gary Lubich	(121)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Mike Pook	(449)	P
“ - CHAPLAIN	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)	P
“ - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	John Patchin	(385)	ER
“ - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Barry Prindle	(048)	P
“ - 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
DEPARTMENT A.L. - CHAIRMAN	Fred Schutz		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**

Dennis F. Stockfisch, (PNC) David R. Faust (245), Michael L. Lawler (437), Patrick N. Gyskiewicz  
A quorum was reported present by the Detachment Adjutant

**Roll Call of District Chairman**

FIRST DISTRICT – CHAIR	Kevin McClorey	(544)	E
SECOND DISTRICT – CHAIR	Shawn Grothe	(243)	p
THIRD DISTRICT – COMMANDER	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)	P
FOURTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Russell Evanson	(018)	E
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 Gyskiewicz	(093)	-
TWELFTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Rodney Fall	(108)	P

**Guest to the D.E.C.**

Travis Dendler perspective S.A.L. member

**Appointment**

In the absence of Judge Advocate Tom Knox, Commander Steven L. Meyer made the appointment of David R. Faust as acting JA for this meeting.

Motion by Robert Ames (048), seconded by Mike Pook (449), to accept the temporary appointment, motion carried.

## Reading Of the Previous Minutes

Presented by the Assistant Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy (294)

Motion by Mike Pook (449), seconded by Robert Ames (048), to accept the past meeting minutes from the Mid-Winter D.E.C. as published, motion carried.

## Official Correspondence

Presented by the Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437)

Adjutant Lawler noted that many of the items received have been distributed to the proper committee file folders for their review. However there are some items to mention at this point, received notification for certification of VAVS reps selected by the Detachment. Thank you notes from NEF for donations from the Detachment, the Oratorical committee for the Detachments efforts in assisting the program.

## Detachment Officer Reports

### Vice Commanders:

**Vice Commander** –Robert J. Ames (048) Districts 3-7-8 reported no. of Squadrons as of last D.E.C. 35, no. of goose eggs 3, Squadrons at current goal 21, Squadrons at 100% 21, Squadrons at final goal 7, no. of new Squadrons 0, Squadron contacts as of last D.E.C. 1, Reported that he attended board meetings for the Homeless Veterans and Transitional Housing in Janesville 3-26-13 and also a fund raiser meeting 4-25-13. Since the opening of the Caravelle Veterans Services 107 attendees have subscribed and 72 have been success stories placing in permanent jobs, housing facilities and educational efforts.

Squadron 48 has been involved in several funeral ceremonies, participated in Operation Headstone at local cemeteries in the Beloit area along with the Legion and Beloit Fire Dept. this is a program to clean head stones by spray washing with pressure washers. Operation Headstone had a sign developed depicting a soldier and the silhouette of a soldier these are placed in all cemeteries that the program has been accomplished. The Squadron is also pursuing the Josh Dog Program.

**Third District Commander:** Sean Patchin, Sr. reported the 3<sup>rd</sup> district is in first place with over 106%, all but three Squadrons are at 100%. He is setting a challenge to the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Districts that whichever District is in first place at convention the other four Districts would buy dinner for the responsible party Saturday night of the Convention.

Has been keeping up with E-mail contacts, participated in the third District revitalization membership drive, attended American Legion meetings at Cottage Grove to finalize a Squadron Charter, attended the Dane County Council meeting, the 3<sup>rd</sup> District at Darlington and will be attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> District S.A.L. Spring conference meeting May 18<sup>th</sup> in Barneveld.

Motion by Robert J. Ames (048) seconded by Sean Patchin (385) to accept the reports, from discussion Commander Meyer congratulated V.C. Ames, Barry Prindle and Squadron 48 on their selection of programs and finding a niche to bolster community support. Motion carried.

**Vice Commander** – Dan Daily (434) Districts 2-4-6 written report, no. of Squadrons as of last D.E.C. 27, total membership 851, no. of goose eggs 1, total membership 780. Contacted all the Squadrons in his districts by letter, encouraging membership, extending invites to Squadrons to attend the State convention and explaining new ways to perform the Josh Dog program. Sent special letter to Squadron 27 to offer his support to them to bolster their membership and get them to a higher level. He was in attendance at meetings in the 4<sup>th</sup> district.

Motion by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Mike Pook (449), to accept the reports as presented, motion carried.

**Second District Commander:** Shawn Grothe (243) sent letters to the 14 Squadrons in the District and had one returned with incorrect address, sent out letters to local businesses asking to place CWF canister at their locations a meeting is being set up to discuss the validity of this issue, and letters to Squadrons asking to confirm members DOB hopefully to get the info to accomplish the PUFL issue. The formation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District structure is being investigated for completion and he will be attending the Memorial Day services at 243.

Motion by Sean Patchin Sr. (385) seconded by Robert Ames (048) to accept the report, motion carried.

**Fourth District Commander:** Russell Evanson (018) by submitted written report that the War Memorial in Milwaukee has made progress in the arbitration between the Art Museum and the War Memorial authorities currently waiting for the County Board to approve the arbitration points. Further info can be found on the VCRJC Veterans Community Relations Team website. Basically both parties would be responsible for shared repairs.

*Report was received one day after D.E.C. was held from Commander Meyer and was not approved.*

**Vice Commander** – Gary Lubich (121) district 10-11-12, no. of Squadrons as of last D.E.C. 12, , no. of goose eggs 1, Squadrons at current goal 10, Squadrons at 100% 10, Squadrons at final goal 10, no. of new Squadrons 1, Squadron contacts as of last D.E.C. 1. Reported that he was in attendance at the Baldwin Legion 12/20/13 to discuss start-up of a Squadron.

**Twelfth District Commander:** Rodney Fall (108) has finally been in contact with the (snowbird) person in charge of the Grantsburg Squadron membership and is working with him to get them off the goose egg list.

Motion by Gary Lubich (121), seconded by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), to accept the reports, motion carried.

**Vice Commander** – Mike Pook (449) district 1-5-9 no. of goose eggs 2, Squadrons at current goal 10, Squadrons at 100% 10, no. of new Squadrons 1, Squadron contacts as of last D.E.C. 7. Reported, that he was in attendance Waukesha County Legion Meeting and the first District American Legion Riders meeting. Has been helping out with the confirmation of the Menomonee Falls Squadron, noting that this has been a group effort to get them in. The Ninth District is well on its way to establishing officer structure by the election of a District Commander and a constitution and by-laws are being hammered out.

Motion made by Mike Pook (449) seconded by Robert Ames (048), to accept the report, motion carried.

**Chaplain** – Sean Patchin Sr. (385) – reported that get well cards were sent to Past Department Comm. James Reigel, Dept. Comm. Wayne Jensen, PNC JR Stillwell, Eugene Gryskiewicz father to PNVC Patrick Gryskiewicz, Donald Lawler father to Past Detachment Comm. / Adj. Michael Lawler and Gerald Van Oss husband of Past Department President Andrea Page & S.A.L. Advisor for Squadron 51.

Cards of Sympathy was sent to 8<sup>th</sup> District President Lorrie Barber on the passing of Portage County Commander Lou LaCroix.

Made Hospital visitation at the Madison VA to visit Donald Lawler father to Past Detachment Comm. / Adj. Micheal Lawler and Gerald Van Oss husband of Past Department President Andrea Page & S.A.L. Advisor for Squadron 51.

Met with the American Legion Department Chaplain to discuss his resignation, American Legion Daine County Chaplain to discuss collaboration with the S.A.L., Offered the Invocation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> District revitalization celebration at Barneveld and met with American Legion Commander Wayne Jensen who asked Chaplain Patchin to offer the invocation at the Commander's Testimonial dinner on 4/27/2013.

Motion by Sean Patchin Sr. (385) seconded by Bob Ames (048), to accept the report as submitted, motion carried.

**Historian** – Stig Meyer Districts 1-12 reported by written report Total area membership 3352, no. of Squadrons as of last D.E.C. 96, no. of goose eggs 5, Squadrons at current goal 67, Squadrons at 100% 53, Squadrons at final goal 21, no. of new Squadrons 1, Reported that he attended Vernon County American Legion Banquet at Post 116 Coon Valley, 3<sup>rd</sup> District revitalization at Prairie DuChien and the Squadron formation meeting at Cottage Grove Post 248.

Motion by Mike Pook (449), seconded by Robert Ames (048), to accept the report, motion carried.

**National Executive Committeeman**-Michael Lawler (437) attended the Legion Mid-winter Americanism Commission representing the S.A.L. chairman Fred Schult in his absence. Developed and implemented the Detachment Americanism Resources Presentation. Big thanks go out to Dan Daily, Russ Evanson, PNC Faust and the many others who worked at the station. Made many trips back and forth from home to Headquarters working on Mid-winter, convention details and Squadron membership irregularities.

Mr. Lawler was asked to coordinate the first ever electronic tabulation for the Oratorical Contest, while doing so made several contacts on behalf of the Detachment supporting American Legion Baseball.

Represented the Detachment at the Salute to the Hospitalized Veterans in Madison and has been rectified as a VAVS Representative.

Presented information about the Sons to the meeting at Post 328 Cottage Grove to help organize a Squadron. Commander Meyer and Historian Stig Meyer were in the audience.

Participated in the Opening day of the State Legion bowling tournament at Plover representing the Detachment with his wife Janice, Ray Lawler and Pat Gryskiewicz and bowled with his Squadron team for a total of nine games that day.

Worked with Bob Seide of Squadron 38 Appleton in the ninth District to aide them in the formation of a S.A.L. District structure.

Along with his wife Janice organized and worked an informational display at the State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Women's Veterans Fundraiser.

Assisted in the Third District Revitalization along with 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander Sean Patchin.

Motion by Robert Ames (048), seconded by Dennis Stockfisch (406) to accept the report, motion carried.

**Alternate National Executive Committeeman**-Russell B. Severson (313) no report

**Department A.L. Chairman**- Fred Schutz had no formal report but would like everyone to take a petition back to their Post to fill out in support of the creation a new postage stamp relating to the POW/MIA Forever.

Commander Steven Meyer (220) turned the podium over to Vice Commander Mike Pook (449) for the purpose of his report.

**Commander** – Steven L. Meyer (220) districts 1-12 reported no. of Squadrons as of last D.E.C. 96, total membership 3352, no. of goose eggs 5, Squadrons at current goal 67, Squadrons at 100% 53, Squadrons at final goal 21, no. of new Squadrons 1, Squadron contacts as of last D.E.C. 0. Attended American Legion Family Pot Luck dinner Richland Center Post 13, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Legion meeting Ridgeway Post 257, Fundraise Waunakee Post 481, 3<sup>rd</sup> District revitalization Fenimore Post 184, 3rd District revitalization Prairie DuChien three meetings, 3rd District revitalization open house Barneveld Post 433, Crawford County/Richland Center Post 13, Camp American Legion cabin 14 work detail, Crawford County Legion meeting Eastman Post 252 and Squadron formation meeting Cottage Grove Post 248.

Motion by Steven L. Meyer (220), seconded by Robert Ames (048), to accept the report, motion carried.

Vice Commander Mike Pook (449) turned the podium back over to Commander Steven Meyer (220) to continue with the meeting.

### **District Commander or Chairman Reports**

*Reports for District Chairman or Commanders were given under the respective Vice Commanders Report previously.*

### **Committee and Commission**

**Resolution Committee**-Chairman David Faust (245) noted there were three resolutions presented DEC-04-01-13 titled S.A.L. Products made in the USA (under National Security), DEC-04-02-13 titled Support Squadron 355 Grafton for Camp American Legion Cabin (under VAR) and DEC-04-03-13 titled Increase Scholarship Award (under Finance). The Resolutions were shared with the Detachment members.

Motion by Michael Lawler (437), seconded by Robert Ames (048), to accept the report with separate action to be taken on each resolutions, motion carried.

**Programs Committee**- Chairman David Faust (245) reported that:

**Americanism** chair Mike Pook has received art work from Sean Patchin Sr. that can be used for the Americanism Coloring Contest.

**Children & Youth** chair Dan Daily (434) by written report is promoting the Josh Dog Program; Barry Prindle (048) stated that Beloit is currently establishing the Josh Dog Program in local hospitals in the Beloit area.

**National Security** chair Sean Patchin Sr. proposed resolution (DEC-04-01-13) S.A.L. Products made in the USA. The committee made some final wording changes and recommended to forward the resolution to the Detachment.

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation** chair Rodney Fall (108) National Veterans Assistance day is May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Viet Nam war 50<sup>th</sup> commemoration anniversary began in 2012 and runs thru 2025 more information may be obtained at [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com). Honor Flights are still in operation there has been a movie made about them and it is recommended the Squadrons obtain a copy to share, more info can be obtained at [www.honorflightthemovie.com](http://www.honorflightthemovie.com).

Chairman Faust noted that the Madison Mallards baseball team is dedicating their game on July 5<sup>th</sup> as Military Appreciation Night. Drafts of the programs planning calendar has been distributed and members are asked to review and comment.

Motion by David Faust (245), seconded by Gary Lubich (121), to accept the report with separate action to be taken on resolutions, motion carried.

**DEC-04-01-13** Motion by Bob Ames (048), seconded by Dennis Stockfisch (406), for acceptance of resolution DEC-04-01-13, motion carried.

**DEC-04-02-13** Motion by Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), for acceptance of resolution DEC-04-02-13, motion carried.

**Finance-Officer** Dennis Stockfisch (406) reported the commission reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting and nothing needed to be brought forward. Reviewed the 2012 ending budget which has not come to resolve as yet as it is still under the audit and Department has not released the final figures for Dec. this should be resolved at the Department D.E.C. in May then the figures would be released and the Detachment finances can be closed. From the records of the finance officer a roll over is expected. The money market account was reviewed and found to be stable. This year's budget is tracking well and the money market fund is very stable however some of the funds in the money market have been earmarked for various programs. There were no requests for funds presented to the commission. It was discussed that the scholarship should be increased to the amount of \$2000 a resolution was drafted to do so for the D.E.C. approval.

Motion by Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by Mike Pook (449), to accept the report with separate action to be taken on resolution, from discussion it was resolved that a committee be formed to review the Scholarship rules and format of applications motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lawler (437), seconded by Mike Pook (449), to form a Scholarship committee consisting of Tom Petrie (189), Shawn Grothe (243) and Chris Sherman (071) to review the Scholarship rules and format of applications motion carried.

**DEC-04-03-13** Motion by Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by Bob Ames (048), for acceptance of resolution DEC-04-03-13, motion carried.

**Internal Affairs-** Chairman David Faust (245).

**Legislative** – no report

**Membership** – membership was discussed in length with members present and Department Adj. Kurtz, formal actions have been developed to deal with the remaining Goose Eggs. Discussed program 24 and how to deal with lost members and their retention value, it is estimated that the Detachment louse's approx. 500 members per year. 2014 membership cards will be first available for distribution June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Department King Day Events.

**Officer Development & Policy** – Chairman David Faust (245) noted there were no proposed changes to policies or any of the governing documents at this time.

**Public Relations** – As a side note for the Scholarship one applicant was received but did not qualify per the judging, there was also one received 19 days late and could not be considered for judging.

American Legion Department Adjutant David Kurtz spoke to the body citing the need for good, regular, communications from the upper level to the lower levels thru-out the Family organization, Legion, Auxiliary, Jr. Aux. and Sons of the American Legion urging to get County and District levels structured where they do not exist.

Relayed changes taking place at Camp American Legion and the possibility that Grafton Squadron 355 is in position to sponsor a newly acquired cabin.

Spoke of the changing demographics of our veterans and active service military, emphasizing the need for the S.A.L. to continue to grow stronger.

### **New Business**

It was with great sadness that Adjutant Lawler reported, due to the lingering goose eggs and failure of the membership team, vice commanders, and district chairmen to respond to the commander's requests to address these issues, on Wednesday April 24, 2013 Commander Meyer relegated his duties of overseeing the vice commanders and the membership program to the Adjutant.

Adjutant Lawler reported that he was reluctant to just rush in and that just like any emergency responder, he will not be going in to this train wreck, burning building without knowing what has been attempted before. He called upon the vice commanders to report what contacts they have had with the offending squadron, the sponsoring post. This knowledge will allow him to formulate an action plan to maximize results and limit collateral damage. With the absence of Membership Chair Ruland, Adjutant Lawler would hold off implementing this until Rich had a chance to respond.

Adjutant Lawler noted the Sgt.-At Arms John Patchin has tendered his resignation, consolidated report forms are due by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the State Convention is being held in Oconomowoc, WI. July 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2013, Squadrons should be urged to submit items for the Convention year book to gain exposure, Registration forms are available and the delegate

certification forms should be out soon. Adjutant Lawler asked PNC David Faust if there was anything else to add for Convention notes at this time PNC Faust noted that candidates running for an office should make Shure to fill out the proper candidate form and return to him or the Adjutants office.

The following have announced candidacy for an office:

DETACHMENT - COMMANDER	Steven L. Meyer	(220)
DETACHMENT - COMMANDER	Dan Daily	(434)
DETACHMENT - COMMANDER	Mike Pook	(449)
DETACH. - VICE COMMANDER	Kevin McClorey	(544)
DETACH. - CHAPLAIN	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)
DETACH. - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Gary Lubich	(121)
DETACH. - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Barry Prindle	(048)

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

Adjutant Lawler received a thank you note from the Third District Commander thanking him for his assistance in the revitalization efforts.

The National Convention will be held in Houston TX.

The following Squadron made Donations for various Programs:

(121) River Falls	\$50.00	CAMP A.L.
	\$50.00	CWF
	\$50.00	NEF
(048) Beloit	\$21.50	CWF
(449) Brookfield	\$235.00	CWF

Gary Lubich suggested that Commander Meyer call for a moment of silence in tribute to the passing of Country singer / song writer and Veteran George Jones.

With no other business Commander Steven Meyer (220) closed the D.E.C. meeting with the proper closing ceremonies.

Respectfully submitted by the Detachment Assistant Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy (294)