

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin

Pre Convention Detachment Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, July 18th 2014

Opening

Call to Order

Friday July 18th, 2014 Detachment Commander Daniel Daily (434) called to order the Pre convention Detachment Executive Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Evergreen room of the Paper Valley Convention Center, Appleton WI.

Posting of the Colors

With the Colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered to the U.S. flag.

Invocation-Invocation was given by Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura (449)

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony

A ceremony honoring our POW/MIA was conducted by Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434), Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura (449), and Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Lubich (121).

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018)

Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble

Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble was led by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243)

Roll Call of Detachment Officers

Taken by Detachment Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437)

Detachment Commander	Daniel Daily	(434)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Seán Patchin Sr.	(385)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Shawn Grothe	(243)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Robert Sirovina	(434)	Excused
Detachment Vice Commander	Robert Breutzmann	(018)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	Braford W. Catura	(449)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Gary F. Lubich	(121)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike A. Kollmansberger	(075)	Present
National Executive Committeeman	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	Present
Alternate NECman	Russell B. Severson	(313)	Excused
Detachment Adjutant	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	Present
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Gary Lee LeRoy	(294)	Present
Detachment Historian	Gary Masnak	(434)	Excused
Detachment Judge Advocate	Chad Lawler	(437)	Excused
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Randy Lenser	(202)	---

Past Detachment Commanders Present

Dennis Stockfisch (406), David Faust (245), Michael L. Lawler (437), Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093), Kelly Powers (121), Kerry D. Severson (245).

Roll Call of District Commanders / Chairman

First District – Chair	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Second District – Chair	Travis Demler	(243)	Present
Third District – Commander	Seán Patchin Sr.	(385)	Present
Fourth District – Chair	Vacant		
Fifth District – Chair	Vacant		
Sixth District – Chair	Robert Krause	(326)	Absent
Seventh District – Chair	Calvin Manske	(116)	Present
Eighth District – Chair	Vacant		
Ninth District – Chair	Vacant		
Tenth District – Chair	Gary Lubich	(121)	Present
Eleventh District – Chair	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(093)	Present
Twelfth District – Chair	Rodney Fall	(108)	Excused

Introduction of Guests

Department Commander Ken Rynes
Convention Chairman Ray Gass Post (038)
Marie Gryskiewicz mother of PNEC man Patrick Gryskiewicz.

Reading of the previous meeting minutes

Motion by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by (PDC) Kelly Powers (121), to accept the minutes from the Spring Detachment Executive Committee as published and distributed. Discussion – none.
Motion carried.

Official Correspondence

Detachment Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437) did not have any new official correspondence to report, items that were received have been distributed to the proper committee for review.

Detachment Officer Reports

Detachment Vice Commander – Seán Patchin Sr. (385) – Districts 3, 7, 10

Detachment Vice Commander Patchin detailed the membership numbers for his Districts. Since the spring DEC he attended both Commander Rynes' and Daily's testimonial dinners, chaired the S.A.L. Third District Spring Conference overseeing and facilitating the election of a new S.A.L. Third District Commander and District First-Vice Commander. Participated in the Setyndemai parade in Stoughton. Met with Seventh District Squadrons to hear their plans to organize.

Along with Detachment Adjutant Lawler attended The American Legion Meeting in Dane encouraging them to sponsor a Squadron also explained to them how to conduct a joint Legion and S.A.L. meeting. Along with Detachment Vice Commander Grothe attended Legion meeting in Pardeeville encouraging them to sponsor a Squadron, in a follow up with the Pardeeville Post 215 Commander he relayed they are not ready to proceed they were going to request info from Department then will discuss the issue again at their August meeting. Contacted the Seventh District Squadrons urging them to send delegates to the Seventh District S.A. L. organizational meeting. Vice Commander Patchin has sent e-mail, made voice mail and phone call contacts to the four goose-egg Squadrons in his area, Black River Falls, French Island, Ontario and 417 LaCrosse with no response from any of them. In discussion at the Seventh District Meeting with (PDC) Michael Wagoner (who pledged his assistance). Mr. Wagoner would talk with the listed Post Commanders at the Department Convention.

S.A.L. Third District Commander Elect Ray Dzeziel (534) has had several conversations with the S.A.L. Advisor and Squadron Commander for Squadron 59 Stoughton regarding their low membership turn –in and is keeping me posted. Squadron First Vice Commander is claiming that their non-renewals are Post and Unit members who do not continue paying for their out-of town sons/grandson now that they are on the Squadron charter. District, Post and Squadron Commanders are skeptical of this explanation. Post and Squadron Commanders are accepting that the Squadron First Vice Commander is unable to do better than 19 paid members (45%) and are unwilling to intervene further. All are still working on the issue to get more members.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Detachment Vice Commander – Shawn Grothe (243) – District 2, 6, 8

Detachment Vice Commander Grothe detailed the membership numbers for Districts 2, 6, 8. He attended and helped plan the parade for Memorial Day ceremonies at Plymouth, attended installation of officers in Sheboygan County, Detachment Commander Daily's Testimonial in Oak Creek, Pardeeville Legion Post meeting and the dedication of a new cabin, the improvement to the Chapel and Fountain at Camp American Legion.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), to accept the reports. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Detachment Vice Commander– Robert Sirovina (537) – Districts 1, 4, 5

Detachment Vice Commander Sirovina's report was ready by First District Chair Christopher Sherman (071). He reported the following detailing the membership numbers and cited goals of Squadrons for Districts 1, 4, 5. Made personal contacts and visits, sent out a newsletter to encourage Squadrons to participate in programs such as GI Josh Dog, Child Welfare Foundation and the Americanism coloring contest, send delegates to the Mid-Winter and the State Convention. The Newsletter was also used to promote membership and urge Squadrons to make contacts and collect membership and most important to send it in.

A new squadron was added to the District. Wiley Herda Post and Auxiliary 192 has begun a revitalization and indicated they wish to add a Squadron to their Legion Family. All of the proper steps were completed and the charter application forwarded to Department, both National and Department approved the charter. It has been received and will be presented to post 192 at their next meeting.

One squadron #183, Spahnholtz-Deigman #183, Genoa City, achieved all 9 percentage goals. Congratulations are extended to Commander Don Stenger, Adjutant Tom Sullivan and all the officers and members of 183 for a job well done.

Most of the Squadrons in the Districts met or exceeded goals. There were however a couple that no matter how much communication was made did not make the efforts needed to collect and meet their membership.

Through a joint effort by 1st District Chair Chris Sherman (071) and I Squadron information was updated for 24 of the 29 Squadrons in the 1st, 4th and 5th Districts. We also secured e-mail contacts for 24 of the Squadrons in the Districts. A detailed spread sheet has been attached to the e-mail showing all the contact information.

After being appointed to fill this position for the remaining term of the late Russ Evanson it took a little time to get organized with the very sketchy information available with additional help from Chris Sherman we were able to get a better communication route open with most all of the Squadron in the Districts.

It was a privilege being appointed to complete Russ's term, and it would be an honor to continue to serve the organization next year.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), seconded by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), to accept the reports. Discussion: Detachment Commander Daily made note that Robert Sirovina stepped forward to fill the position after the loss of Russ Evanson and with his dedication to the Legion and S.A.L., through the loss of a friend, has done an excellent job for the remaining term of Russ's office. Motion carried.

Detachment Vice Commander – Robert Breutzmann (018) – District 9, 11, 12

No report at this time.

Detachment Chaplain – Bradford Catura (449)

Detachment Chaplain Brad Catura- reported that in the last three months since the Spring D.E.C. meeting things have been quiet, has only sent out one get well card to Rich Ruland-Membership Chairman and two condolence cards to Gerry Van Oss Department Children and Youth Chair and Ken Jones father-in-law of PDC Bob Batty. Attended the 15th annual Memorial Day event in Shorewood, annual King Day pilgrimage, War Dogs Memorial dedication in Menomonee Falls, visited Squadron 288 Cedarburg during the Strawberry festival and visited the High Ground Memorial Cemetery at Neillsville, recommends and urges that members should try to visit this impressive sight.

Motion by (PDC) Kelly Powers (121), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Detachment Historian – Gary Masnak (434)

Detachment Commander daily noted that Detachment Historian Masnak was excused for a family matter and should be present at tomorrow's meetings.

National Executive Committeeman / Detachment Adjutant – Michael L. Lawler (437)

Michael reported that the National Vice-Commander would be attending later at these proceedings; Alt NEC Patrick Gryskiewicz is picking him up at the airport. National Comm. is impressed with the quality of programs that are coming from the Detachment of Wisconsin particularly the start of the GI Josh Dog. The detachment however is low (50%) in consolidated report form reporting this needs to be improved on. Vice Commanders should stress this to Squadrons. A new helpful tool to the Squadron is MYSAL.ORG which will help with membership reporting. The Detachment is 24th in Nation at 85.4% and 37th in the Nation at 95.56% overall membership with 5 new Squadrons in and some extra work the Triple Nickel award is still within reach. The Detachment is in 7th place in the Central region this could be improved on.

Motion by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by Detachment Vice-Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), to accept the report. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Russell Severson (313)

No report

Detachment Commander – Daniel Daily (434)

Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434) then turned the gavel over to Detachment Vice-Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385). Detachment Vice-Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385) then called on Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434) to give his report.

Commander Daily noted that when he came in there was a great deal dissension among the ranks at different levels this only distracted and created a lot of wasted effort that could be put to better uses, many fires needed to be put out.

Attended the National Convention in Houston where he made many good contacts and made some new friends marched in parade and met the real Josh Dog, 3rd District rejuvenation meeting with Commander Rynes and President Endres, visited Squadron 48 Beloit (048) for awards ceremony, participated in parade at Mazomanie with Squadron 437, Past commanders dinner in LaCrosse, addressed the Auxiliary at their Spring Conference, went to the Commanders conference in Indianapolis, participated in the first JOSH Dog deployment at Camp Douglas, was present at several parades, participated in the second JOSH Dog deployment, toured a VA center and the Poppy

center along with Commander Rynes and President Endres, present for the installation at the Menominee Falls Squadron, attended the Fall, Midwinter, Spring meetings for the Detachment.

Returned to Indiana for the Spring Conferences, meeting with Commander Gladden and advise him of the work that has been done with Dr. Land and the Josh Dog program by the Detachment of WI. Serving the deploying veterans and their families. Attended the ground breaking for the first Fischer house in Wisconsin, participated in the third JOSH Dog deployment, went to Presque Isle to install new Charter, Was present for the Chapel and fountain at Camp American Legion, did three more parades in early July, made many appearance's promoting the Sons, had conference calls with National officers monthly and kept in touch with the Detachment officer monthly. Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), to accept the report. Discussion – (PDC) Kerry Severson reminded the Detachment that even before Commander Daily got involved in the Detachment, as a Squadron Commander of (434) helped and gave aide to a stranded Legion/S.A.L. member a long distance trucker from Kentucky who was stranded in Wisconsin and had very little with him and having some medical heart issues, Dan helped him through his stay and made arrangements to get him back home. Motion carried.

Detachment Vice-Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385) then turned the gavel back to Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434).

Commander Daily had one other thing of note that was that Commander Rynes had set a goal \$50,000 for the "Rhinos Run" for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund well coming in to the opening of this convention the total is up to \$56,000. During the ride at one point our own Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) who was on the ride was formally named the Survivor of the Grassy Knoll as he had to lay his bike down to protect him and his passenger (his nephew) from avoiding other bikers who were over a rise and around a sharp turn before they would run into them, no one was hurt.

Guest Comments and Greetings

Convention Chairman – Ray Gass Post 38 Appleton a Navy vet of Viet Nam and dual member greeted the Detachment and welcomed the membership to the convention, noting if there should be any question to seek out guide with shirts and ball caps from Post 38, they should be able to answer most any question or will find an answer, there are continual shuttle busses running between the Post and Convention Center, food and drink available at both locations.

District Chairman Reports

First District -Christopher Sherman (071) reported that this has been a year of learning, meeting some really good people from the S.A.L., Legion and Auxiliary all who gave him a lot assistance and good information about the Legion Family and how to effectively do the job that he was appointed to this past year.

In trying to get the First District organized up and running experienced some setbacks, Squadrons not returning his calls, bad unsubstantiated information and a death in the family. At the end of this term, District 1 is approx. 97% updated with Squadron info and contacts points, this was done with the joint efforts of Vice Commander Robert Sirovina (434) and he extends thanks to Robert.

Did put out a request to Squadrons asking them to report anything they would be doing soon in the future, the following is what was received.

Squadron 544 annual Father day pancake breakfast, participating in Dousman (405) 59th annual Derby Days, Squadron 183 Genoa City Days, Squadron 48 Beloit creating a Josh Dog Program at Beloit Memorial Hospital, Squadron 375 Mukwanago helping with parking during Rhinos Run, cancer shoot at Wern Valley, collecting t shirts, sheets and clothes covers for the vets at the VA center and made donations to the Honor Flight Program.

Attended meetings at Hartland (294), Genoa City (183), Brookfield (446), Orfordville (209) and Twin Lakes (544). Was contacted by additional Squadrons from the First District interested in joining the District organizational

meeting and running for positions.

Squadron 71 member Lester Schultz has contracted liver cancer.

Motion by (PDC) Kelly Powers (121), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), to accept the report. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Convention Committee Verification and Appointments

Americanism- Chairman -Sean Patchin Sr. (385), Members :Mike Pook (449), Mike A. Kollmansberger (075)

Constitutional Amendments Chair–David Faust (245), Members: Bob Ames (048), Mike A. Kollmansberger (075)

Children & Youth Chair – Chris Sherman (071), Members: Bob Ames (048), Robert Breutzmann (018)

Credentials, Resolutions and Rules Chair – David Faust (245), Members: Kelly Powers (121), Shawn Grothe (243)

Finance Chair – Dennis Stockfisch (406), Members: Tom Petrie (189), Mike Pook (449), Gary LeRoy (294)

Legislative Chair - Travis Demler (243), Members: Kerry Severson (245)

Membership Chair – Rich Ruland (481), Members: Robert Breutzmann (018), Gary Lubich (121)

National Security – Chair Gary Kennedy (449)

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chair – Chuck Cook (434)

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Sean Patchin Sr. (385) to Approve the appointments, Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business

New Business

There was no new business.

For the Good of the Sons of the American Legion

There was nothing presented.

Final Announcements

None

Closing

Benediction

A benediction was offered by Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura (449)

Retirement of POW/MIA Empty Chair

Detachment Commander Daily reserved to leave the POW/MIA posted for the next session.

Retirement of the Colors

With the Colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered to the U.S. flag.

Adjournment

With no other business, Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434) declared the Pre-Convention Detachment Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Gary Lee LeRoy (294)