

# Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin

Spring Detachment Executive Committee Meeting Minutes April 26, 2014

## Opening

### Call to Order

Saturday, April 26, 2014 Detachment Commander Daniel Daily (434) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee meeting at Post 434 in Oak Creek, WI at 12:33 p.m.

### 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	(537)	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)	Present
Detachment Adjutant	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	Present
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Gary Lee LeRoy	(294)	Excused
Detachment Historian	Gary Masnak	(434)	Present
Detachment Judge Advocate	Chad M. Lawler	(437)	Excused
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Randy Lenser	(202)	Excused

### **Past Detachment Commanders Present**

Dennis Stockfisch (406), David Faust (245), Michael L. Lawler (437), Kelly Powers (158), Russell Severson (313).

### **Roll Call of District Commanders / Chairman**

First District – Chair	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Second District – Chair	Travis Demlar	(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)	Excused
Twelfth District – Chair	Rodney Fall	(108)	Excused

### **Introduction of Guests**

The following guests were recognized: Steve Breen (071), Judy Breutzmann (018), Jim Wilhelms (075), Ed Ciechanowski (434)

### **Reading of the previous meeting minutes**

Motion by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), to accept the minutes from the Winter Detachment Executive Committee as published and distributed. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

### **Official Correspondence**

Detachment Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437) No official correspondence to report. Adjutant Lawler reminded the officers of the cost to the Detachment for returned mail, and the lost opportunity when the appropriate people do not receive our mail. Detachment Vice Commander Robert Sirovina (537) and First District Chairman Christopher Sherman (071) did an outstanding job in contacting squadrons and getting correct contact information. Michael also reminded Squadrons to report their new officers to their Post, County, and District.

## **Detachment Officer Reports**

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

Seán detailed the membership numbers for his Districts. Since the Mid-Winter Conference, he attended the Third District Oratorical in Marshall, the Department Oratorical Finals at Ripon College, and the George Washington Luncheon sponsored by Milwaukee County Council. Along with several other Detachment Officers he attended the 32nd Brigade deployment where the SAL gave out 62 GI-Josh dogs to the children, which were funded from the Third District American Legion Family led by the SAL. Seán has been in contact with several Posts that have interest in starting a new Squadron or revitalizing existing Squadrons. He has also been sharing experiences and information about 3<sup>rd</sup> District with others considering forming Districts. Vice Commander Patchin attended and brought greetings to 7th District and 3rd District American Legion Spring Conferences. In addition to the above, he has kept in email communication with the squadrons in my districts, as well as Legion officers and members, regarding membership.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), to accept the reports. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

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

Shawn detailed the membership numbers for the region of Districts 2, 6, 8. He attended the Mid-Winter Conference, the 2nd District Conference, and the 6th District Conference. He attended Post 243 POW/MIA Remembrance Day program at city hall and the Past Commanders Dinner at his Post. He will be Attending Sheboygan County Youth Government Day next week.

**Second District Chairman – Travis Demler (243)**

Travis detailed the membership numbers for 2<sup>nd</sup> District, and reported that he had attended the Mid-Winter Conference and the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Legion Conference.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243), seconded by Past Detachment Commander Kelly Powers (158), to accept the reports. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

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

Vice Commander Sirovina's report detailed the membership numbers for the Squadrons in his Districts. Of the 27 Squadrons in the three districts, he and First District Chairman Chris Sherman have received updated information from 20 of them. The spreadsheet with all the info will be sent to the Commander and Adjutant. Chris has done an outstanding job of working on this project. Bob, along with Commander Dan Daily, and First District Chairman Chris attended a meeting at Menomonee Falls Post 328 to officially present their charter and install their Commander. Wiley Herda Post 192 signed a charter application and it will be ready for submission shortly. Monthly newsletters are sent to all Squadrons in First, Fourth and Fifth Districts. Donations to the Josh Dogs and Child Welfare Foundation were suggested.

**First District Chairman – Christopher Sherman (071)**

First District Chairman Christopher Sherman (071) mentioned the First District organizational meeting originally scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> will need to be rescheduled due to a death in the family. He and Bob Ames have been in contact with most of the First District squadrons. Squadron 449 had a raffle to raise money for the veterans Honor Flight all went very well. Squadron 71 attended a ceremony at Kirkland Crossing in Pewaukee honoring Ernie Daufenback a WWII veteran for 50 years of continuous service. Squadron 375 Adjutant Louis Anich received the Post Commanders Award for countless hours devoted to the post. At Squadron 382, Craig Hulce was installed as the first Squadron Commander. As Detachment Children & Youth Chairman he distributed GI Josh dogs at deployments in Camp Douglas and Fort McCoy.

Motion by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243), to accept the reports. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

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

Bob has been reaching out to people in his Districts. He attended Easter events at the VA and at a local school. He also had two submissions for the Americanism Coloring Contest.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406) to accept the reports. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

**Detachment Chaplain – Bradford Catura (449)**

See attached report given as written. Brad further added that he is now an ordained minister in the Christian National Church. He also would like to consider having a chaplain's workshop at convention.

Motion by Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura (449), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

**Detachment Historian – Gary Masnak (434)**

Gary stated that he has attended several events with Detachment Commander Dan Daily, but unfortunately his camera ate his pictures. He would appreciate any pictures that others could send to him.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

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

NEC Lawler reported on the GI Josh dog distributions at various deployments. The Spring NEC meeting May 2-3-4, 2014 in Indianapolis. Detachment Convention is July 18-20 in Appleton. Registration forms are in the packets that were distributed. National Convention is in Charlotte, NC August 22-24. Districts 1, 3, 7 are eligible to select their own delegate and alternate delegate to the National Convention. Guests will need to register as well. Michael talked about the MySAL.org website and encouraged more squadrons to establish an account. Consolidated Report forms are due May 31<sup>st</sup> and can be filled out online. See [www.wisal.org](http://www.wisal.org) for the link. 2015 Membership cards will be distributed at the King Day Pilgrimage again this year. Completing a Consolidated Report form and updating the Squadron Officers form are both required to obtain your 2015 Membership cards. Concerning membership, we are now 27<sup>th</sup> nationally, 6<sup>th</sup> of 8 in the Central region, and only at 81% retention. We clearly have more work to do on membership.

Motion by Past Detachment Commander Kelly Powers (158), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Breutzmann (018), to accept the report. Discussion – there were some questions concerning the distribution of membership cards. Michael responded that he will work with Department HQ's to double-check the distribution plan. Motion carried.

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

In addition to echoing the comments of NECman Michael L. Lawler (437) Russ added that he will be attending the NEC meeting next weekend in Indianapolis, where he will complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final segment of the National Management Institute. Russell encouraged anyone that is able to attend to go to an NEC meeting, it will be a great experience.

Motion by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Lubich (121), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385) to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

**Department S.A.L. Chairman – Randy Lenser (116)**

Randy was not present and did not submit a 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 mentioned that our membership is good, but it is not great. We just need to work a little harder at membership and we can be great again. The GI Josh Dog program is going phenomenally well. It is being unbelievably well received by the rest of the Legion Family. We've spent about \$10,000 on the dogs so far. Coming up just prior to State Convention is Department Commander Rynes' Legacy Run. He encouraged Squadrons to bring donations to the various stops on the run. You can get the schedule from the Department's website at [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org). Commander Daily talked about some of the revitalization events that have been taking place, and how the Legion is not only welcoming us, but helping us. This is a great organization, but we can make it better. He has been proud to serve and represent us. He has put on about 7,000 miles so far this year.

Motion by Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434), seconded by Past Detachment Commander Kelly Powers (158), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried. Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385) then turned the gavel back to Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434).

## **Committee and Commission Reports**

### **Resolutions Committee – David Faust (245)**

There were no resolutions.

### **Programs Committee – David Faust (245)**

Programs Committee meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman David Faust (245). All program chairmen were present, as were many guests.

#### **Americanism – Seán Patchin Sr. (385)**

Seán spoke about the Americanism Coloring Contest with submissions due by May 26<sup>th</sup>. The information is available on our website at [www.wisal.org](http://www.wisal.org), it has been emailed out to squadrons, and it has been distributed at various meetings. The Sketch Contest will kickoff at our Detachment Convention, with the winner receiving \$100.00 at the Mid-Winter Conference. There will be two budget requests submitted for housing for the winners at both Convention and Mid-Winter.

Several Detachment Officers assisted with the Department Oratorical Contest this past February in Ripon. We will again be sponsoring the gavels for Badger Boys State in June (14-21) at Ripon.

May 24<sup>th</sup> Squadron 385 in Verona will be conducting an Americanism and Government test with cash prizes for the three highest scores.

#### **Children & Youth – Christopher Sherman (071)**

Chris talked about the GI Josh Dogs programs and the various deployments where they were distributed. In addition to the deployments that we have attended, more Dogs have been distributed through the National Guard. So far about 300 GI Josh Dogs have been distributed. Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434) said we are getting calls from Legion Posts who know someone that has been deployed but not at a time when the dogs were distributed. They are asking for dogs so they can deliver them to those families.

We also have about 50 copies of a children's book that have been donated by the author. The book is titled *The Island Treasure Hunt*. This book will be reviewed to determine an appropriate venue for distribution.

While working with the GI Josh Dog program, Chris has been approached by the Auxiliary about distributing a book and stuffed animal about "Klinger: A Story of Honor and Hope." This is a story of a young horse who dreams of fame on the race track. However, after having to leave his family and start a new life, he soon finds that fame is not necessary and discovers fulfillment in honoring fallen heroes and bringing comfort to

their families by serving as a Caisson horse at Arlington National Cemetery. It is designed to be given to children of fallen service members. Chris will look into how we can determine a way to obtain and distribute these as well.

Child Welfare Foundation donations are at \$944.20. Our goal is \$3,671.00.

**National Security – Garry Kennedy (449)**

Please continue support of the Troop and Family Support Network, and for Operation Comfort Warriors.

**Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation – Chuck Cook (434)**

Chuck stated that volunteers are always needed at the hospitals, and drivers are needed to transport patients to and from their appointments.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the groundbreaking ceremony for the Fisher House in Milwaukee.

Bradford Catura (449) explained the Move Out Program managed by Dr. Whittle at the Zablocki VA Hospital. This is a free, low impact workout program being hosted at various Legion Posts. The program pays for approximately \$300.00 of workout equipment, DVD projector, scale, weights, starter books, pedometers.

May 18<sup>th</sup> is National Veteran's Assistance Day. Squadrons can be planning to do something for a veteran in the community.

Seán Patchin Sr. (385) said Camp American Legion will be dedicating the new Chapel and Water Fountain on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Programs Committee meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), to accept the reports. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

**Finance Commission – Dennis Stockfisch (406)**

The Finance Commission meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Chairman Dennis Stockfisch (406). Also present was Mike Pook (449). Excused were Tom Petrie (189), Gary Lee LeRoy (294) and Patrick Gryskiewicz (093). Guests present were Steve Breen (071), Calvin Manski (116), and Bradford Catura (449).

The Commission reviewed 2014 year-to-date reports and noted three areas that were already over budget: allowance for Detachment Commander, allowance for Detachment Adjutant, and allowance for Other Detachment Officers. There was discussion about expanding the allowance for several officers in future years' budgets. Dennis explained the status of our Money Market account.

**Ad-hoc Scholarship Committee – Tom Petrie (189)**

Tom was not present and there was not a report submitted.

The Finance Commission meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Motion by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385) to accept the reports with separate action on requests from Americanism. Discussion – A question

was asked if the Detachment Sponsorship of a scholarship for Jr. Shooting Sports had begun. Mike Kollmansberger (075) responded his can look into that, but to his knowledge it has not happened yet. Motion carried.

Motion by Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385) to approve the budget requests from Americanism. Discussion – there were many questions about the cost of inviting winners to Convention or Mid-Winter as compared to the cost of the awards. There were also questions about acting on a request for 2015 when a budget for 2015 has not yet been proposed. Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385) then offered to withdraw the budget requests and his second on the motion. Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch (406) then withdrew his motion. No further action was taken.

### **Internal Affairs Commission – Russell Severson (313)**

The Internal Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Russell Severson (313) at 10:10 a.m. Membership Chair Rich Ruland (481) was excused. All other Chairmen were present along with many guests.

#### **Legislative – Travis Demler (243)**

Travis had no report.

#### **Membership – Rich Ruland (481)**

Certificates for Squadrons that achieved 100% by the Legion Birthday were distributed. Polo shirts for Squadrons that were 100% by Veteran's Day were also distributed. Overall our membership is at 3,309 or 91.33%. We need 314 more members to achieve 100%. We have one new Squadron since our last meeting which is Melrose (439). There were reports from several Officers about several Posts that have an interest in starting a Squadron. They are Marathon City, Portage, Pardeeville, Dane, Oostburg, Port Washington.

#### **Officer Development & Policy – David Faust (245)**

Our Constitution and By-Laws are being reviewed by an ad-hoc subcommittee of the Department Policy Committee and may be subject to change as a result. Anyone wishing to run for Detachment Office please see Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Lubich for a copy of the Officer Candidate Resume Form and turn them in to David Faust (245).

#### **Public Relations – Shawn Grothe (243)**

We are close to having a blog set up on our website. Seán Patchin Sr. (385) mentioned the Department Facebook Photo Contest. See the Department website for more information. Michael Lawler (437) talked about the Snapshots in Service photo contest, with information available on the National website at [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons). A question was asked about our Social Media Policy. It was decided that since we do not have one, such a policy should be developed. Shawn Grothe (243) will get information about any Social Media Policy that Department might have.

#### **Ad-hoc Website Sub-committee – David Faust (245)**

Work has begun on re-organization of the Detachment website.

The Internal Affairs Commission meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Motion by Alternate National Executive Committeeman Russell Severson (313), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243) to accept the reports. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

## **Concluding Business**

### **Resolutions, Motions, and Petitions**

There were no resolutions, motions, or petitions.

### **Unfinished Business**

Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434) announced that Gary Lubich (121) has submitted his resignation as Tenth District Chairman. Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Alternate National Executive Committeeman Russell Severson (313), to accept his resignation . Discussion – none. Motion carried.

### **Appointments**

Detachment Commander Dan Daily (434) made the following appointments:

- Garry Kennedy (449) as the Deputy VAVS Representative at the Zablocki VA Hospital.
- Chuck Cook (434) as the Fourth District S.A.L. Chairman.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Seán Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243), to accept the appointments. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

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

Several memberships were turned in and donations to various programs were received.

Vern Bartels (075), a longtime proponent of the S.A.L. has suffered a serious heart attack.

Detachment Judge Advocate Chad Lawler's (437) wife recently gave birth to a son named Reid.

Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Lubich (121) said his Squadron will not have their annual spaghetti dinner this year but will instead have a brat fry with an OctoberFest celebration.

### **Final Announcements**

Robert Breutzmann (018) announced his candidacy for Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms.

Shawn Grothe (243) announced his candidacy for Detachment Vice Commander.

Christopher Sherman (071) announced his candidacy for Detachment Vice Commander.

Gary Lubich (121) announced his candidacy for Detachment Vice Commander

Seán Patchin Sr. (385) announced his candidacy for Detachment Commander

Bradford Catura (449) announced his candidacy for Detachment Chaplain

Travis Demler (243) announced his candidacy for Detachment Vice Commander

Russell Severson (313) announced his candidacy for National Executive Committeeman

## **Closing**

### **Benediction**

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

### **Retirement of POW/MIA Empty Chair**

The POW/MIA Empty Chair cover was retired by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Lubich (121)

### **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 Spring Detachment Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

