

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

Midwinter Executive Committee Minutes January 18th, 2014

Saturday Jan. 18th, 2014 Commander, Daniel Daily (434) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee meeting at the Ho-Chunk Convention Center in Baraboo, WI. with the proper opening ceremonies.

Commander Daniel Daily presented a gift to Adjutant Lawler and his wife Janice for their above and beyond efforts in support of the Detachment of Wisconsin.

Roll Call of Officers

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

DETACHMENT - COMMANDER	Daniel Daily	(434)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Shawn Grothe	(243)	P
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Robert Sirovina	(537)	E
“ - VICE COMMANDER	Robert Breutzmann	(018)	P
“ - CHAPLAIN	Bradford W. Catura	(449)	P
“ - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Gary F. Lubich	(121)	P
“ - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Mike A. Kollmansberger	(075)	P
“ -Ass't SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Walter Fleischmann	(434)	A
“ - 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	Gary Masnak	(434)	P
“ - JUDGE ADVOCATE	Chad Lawler	(437)	P
DEPARTMENT S.A.L. - CHAIRMAN	Randy Lenser	(202)	P
S.A.L. - LIAISON	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	P

Past Detachment Commanders Present

Dennis F. Stockfisch (406), (PNC) David R. Faust (245), Michael L. Lawler (437), Patrick Gryskiewicz (093)

A quorum was reported present by the Detachment Adjutant

Roll Call of District Chairman

FIRST DISTRICT – CHAIR	Christopher Sherman	(071)	P
SECOND DISTRICT – CHAIR	Travis Delmar	(243)	P
THIRD DISTRICT – COMMANDER	Sean Patchin Sr.	(385)	P
FOURTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
FIFTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
SIXTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Robert Krause	(326)	A
SEVENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Calvin Manske	(116)	A
EIGHTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
NINTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Vacant		
TENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Gary Lubich	(121)	P
ELEVENTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(093)	P
TWELFTH DISTRICT – CHAIR	Rodney Fall	(108)	E

Guests to the D.E.C.

Department Commander Ken Rynes (013), Department Auxiliary President Joyce Endres (360), Adams County Commander Post (065) Commander Jim Kitchner, Adjutant (065) Jim LaPointe Appleton Post (038) Commander Jeff Zwicrs. Post or Squadron members in attendance, Russell La Marche (065), Karl Stuvengen (209), Fred Schutz (399), Wayne Pratis (018), Bob Ames (048), Bruce McCormick (434), Laine Musser (439), Don Southworth (469).

Commander Jeff Zwiers Appleton (038) presented some items of interest for the upcoming 2014 Convention being held in Appleton July 17th thru 19th, including "Rhino's Legacy" ride which will end at the Appleton Post (038) on Wed. evening at 7:00pm festivities will start (pig roast, music and fun) everyone is welcome to attend. Convention meetings and sessions would start on Thursday elections will be held on Saturday with closing sessions on Sunday. The 2015 Convention is also scheduled to be held in Appleton.

Reading Of the Previous Minutes

Presented by the Assistant Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy (294)

Motion by Dennis F. Stockfisch (406), seconded by Robert Breutzman (018), to accept the past meeting minutes from the Fall D.E.C. as published and distributed, motion carried.

Official Correspondence

Presented by the Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437)

Adjutant Lawler noted that many of the day to day items received have been distributed to the proper committees for their review, however he did want to share the following item received from National Vice Commander Randy Eicher.

Detachment of Wisconsin I commend you!

Commander Daily, I would like to take this opportunity to commend and the 2013-14 Detachment of Wisconsin officers on the work that has been completed so far this membership year.

Wisconsin has been at or near the top of the membership standings since the drop of the convention gavel in Houston. Your enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to the goals that are in place have taken a back seat to no one.

Commander Gladden has asked me to convey to you his gratitude for your recent purchase of \$5000 worth of Josh Dog kits. Your idea of presenting a Josh kit to each squadron in attendance is both inventive and motivational. Many times our members donate to fundraising programs without ever seeing what the money is being used for. By giving a kit back to those that are participating in this weekend's activities you are giving them the opportunity to see firsthand the positive influence that this item can have for a hospitalized child.

On behalf of Commander Gladden I congratulate you and your officers for truly making a difference.

Keep up the great work that you are doing in Wisconsin and I look forward to visiting with you and your membership later this year.

Having dedicated Detachments like yours makes me very proud to serve as your National Vice Commander.

For God and Country

Randy Eicher, National Vice Commander

Detachment Officer Reports

Vice Commanders:

Vice Commander – Sean Patchin Sr. (385) Districts 3-7-10 reported, as of the January 9 membership report, there were 1,120 paid members in his area, which is 77.35%, up from 52.07% at the Fall DEC. Of the 37 squadrons, 6 are goose eggs (down from 14), 14 are at the Detachment goal of 95% by New Year's Day, 12 are at 100% or more (up from 4) and 2 squadrons - Squadron 111 (Somerset) and 116 (Coon Valley) at the final goal of 110% or more. He acknowledged 7th District Chair, Cal Manske, for his outstanding work with Squadron 116.

Since the Fall DEC, chaired the SAL 3rd District Fall Conference at Squadron 501 (Madison), attended the welcome reception for the ALA National President in Verona, Dane County Council in McFarland, 3rd District membership meeting in Dodgeville, 3rd District Revitalization in Fennimore, and the Dane County Christmas Party. Made phone calls to squadrons and Posts, as well as speaking in person with 7th & 3rd District post & district officers of the American Legion, and the 7th and 10th District Chairmen. Has been in contact with Detachment Vice Commander Grothe regarding Legion Post 47 Portage sponsoring an SAL squadron as he has been recruiting prospecting members for such a squadron.

Had email correspondence with the former Adjutant of Squadron 129 (Black River Falls) who acknowledged that they have not paid dues in a few years, but have past members who would like to revive their squadron. He

inquired of how much they owe and, as it was near the end of 2013, VC Patchin encouraged him to collect dues and send in 2014 membership cards ASAP. Offered to arrange for him to get 2014 cards if he didn't have any, did not hear back from him over the past month, his squadron is still a goose egg. VC Patchin does not have a telephone number for him. He will continue his efforts.

VC Patchin has left telephone messages for the 1st Vice Commander for Squadron 59 (Stoughton) offering to help them get caught up in membership, also sent him and the squadron commander emails. The commander replied that he is frustrated and is considering resigning and transferring to McFarland. VC Patchin sent another email to the Squadron Commander, Squadron 1st Vice Commander, Post Commander, Post SAL Advisor, 3rd District 1st Vice Commander Mary Lloyd, and 3rd District Legion Commander Rich Ruland. Unfortunately, Squadron 59 remains behind in 3rd District.

VC Patchin met with the Commander and Vice Commander for the Cottage Grove American Legion post as they expressed an interest in sponsoring a squadron a year ago. He reported that the post is not willing to move forward at this time.

VC Patchin spoke with the American Legion 3rd District Commander for Iowa County to follow up on efforts to start a squadron in Mineral Point. He reported that no progress has been made in the past year and they still need 5 more members to start a squadron, but there is still support at the post level. VC Patchin offered to meet with the post to discuss strategies to get the final 5 and he agreed to take my offer to the post.

As a dual member, VC Patchin joined the Dual Members' Club. As the past commander Legion Post 385, he joined the Past Commanders' Club.

Motion by Sean Patchin Sr. (385) seconded by Robert Breutzmann (018) to accept the report, motion carried.

Vice Commander – Shawn Grothe (243) Districts 2-6-8 No Report

Vice Commander –Robert Sirovina (537) Districts 1-4-5 submitted written report, Motion by Gary Lubich (121) to receive and file the report, seconded by Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), motion carried.

Vice Commander – Robert Breutzmann (018) district 9-11-12 No Report

Chaplain – Bradford W. Catura (449) – reported that in the last three months since the Fall Dec he has sent out 2 get well cards, John Mejia NECman from California and Children & Youth Commissioner, Kelly Powers Past Detachment Commander. 4 sympathy cards Violet Kaun mother of Diana Sirovina and life member of Harold A. Todd Unit 537, Lloyd Habermann Past Department Vice Commander and 68 year member of Post 126, Paul Huntzinger father of Past National Commander Chris Huntzinger and William “Bill” Lord Detachment of Delaware Past Commander and NECman. HeDid attended the Blue Star Marker Dedication at Forest Home Cemetery on Nov. 2 2013 and the Honor Flight Mission “Welcome Home Celebration” that same evening.

Motion by Robert Breutzmann (018), seconded by Gary Masnak (434), to accept the report, motion carried.

Historian – Gary Masnak (434)-No Report

National Executive Committeeman-Michael Lawler (437) reported all correspondences and items of interest have been distributed to committee's and as the National meetings have not been held as yet there is nothing additional to report. Motion by Robert Breutzmann (018), seconded by Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), to accept the report, motion carried.

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

Department S.A.L. Chairman - Randy Lenser (202) noted that he did report to the Department DEC and the Department Children & Youth Committee about the efforts of the Detachment with the "Josh Dog Program".

Motion by Dennis Stockfisch PDC (406), seconded by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), to accept the report, motion carried.

Commander Daily (434) turned the podium over to Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243) for the purpose of his report.

Commander – Daniel Daily (434) reported he has had a busy year so far with visits to Squadrons, Legion & Auxiliary meetings, Banquets and performing long version of the POW/MIA ceremony on at least three occasions. Estimates that he has put on 5000 miles in his travels pertaining to Detachment business, has stayed in contact with his officers on a regular basis trying to establish and maintain effective communications thru-out the legion Family and to establish a more solid foundation as a unit for the American Legion Family.

Motion by Gary Masnak (434), seconded by Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), to accept the report, motion carried.

Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243) turned the podium back over to Commander Daily (434) to continue with the meeting.

Committee and Commission

Resolution Committee-Chairman David Faust (245) made note there was no business or resolution to attend too.

Programs Committee- Chairman David Faust (245)

Americanism -Chair Sean Patchin Sr. (385)The Americanism Coloring Contest rules were explained, including the age categories, judging process, prizes, and contest timeline. Additionally, Mr. Patchin proposed an additional Americanism sketch contest that could be conducted annually in advance of the coloring contest, with that sketch then being the basis for the coloring contest. There would be additional funding needed for a sketch prize. There was discussion about inviting the coloring contest winners and their families to our Detachment Convention to be awarded their prizes. It was suggested that if they are invited as guests to our convention, we should pay for a night's lodging. Mr. Patchin will forward the appropriate budgetary request to the Finance Commission for consideration.

Distribution of Americanism pamphlets was discussed, two are to be sent to each Squadron with a letter explaining why they were sent and encouraging Squadrons to purchase more and distribute in their communities. Sending these out in a spring mailing so they are received by late April or early May seemed to be the appropriate time.

Children & Youth - Chris Sherman (071) We had a brief discussion on the Josh Dogs and GI Josh Dogs program, which will be presented at a workshop on Saturday afternoon. Detachment Commander Dan Daily said that when he spoke to The American Legion about this program it was very well received.

National Security – Vacant The committee discussed activities that Squadrons can get involved with concerning National Security such as supporting local Jr. ROTC's, Troop and Family Support Network, and Operation Comfort Warriors. Several attendees related instances of Jr. ROTC's they were aware of along with Civil Air Patrol squadrons.

Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation – Chuck Cook (434) The committee discussed activities that Squadrons can get involved with the next few months concerning VAVS such as the February Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, and the Veteran's Assistance Day in May. Detachment Commander Dan Daily mentioned that Camp American Legion is looking for commercial quality exercise equipment, especially elliptical machines and treadmills. Good sources may be local fitness clubs.

Russell J. La Marche (065) started a program a year ago to place, replace and or rehab flag poles in cemeteries he was asking for additional help from other Posts, Squadrons and Auxiliaries in this matter to present the proper respect and honor to those veterans who are laid to Rest at these sites.

Commander Jim Kitchner Post (065) added comments to this effort asking how many Posts closed doors in 2013 (9) and that only (1) new Post was started (065) Rome. This project that was started also started the Post by getting people involved in an idea which was to honor Ryan Larson a fallen Wisconsin Veteran who lost his life overseas. The Post (065) Rome has grown to 30 Legion members, 16 Aux. members, and has eligible AL Riders; soon the Post will be looking at starting a Squadron.

Motion by Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), seconded by Dennis F. Stockfisch (406) to accept the report, motion carried.

Finance - Chairman Dennis F. Stockfisch (406) Committee reviewed the closing of the books and found them to be in order pending confirmation from the auditors. There were a couple of line items that were exceeded for the 2013 year Administrative and the Adjutant however there is still a large sum that is expected to be rolled over. Committee reviewed the Money Market Account and found it to be low as the cost of the "Josh Dog Program" was taken from this account by the Department. Travel Vouchers have been changed to accommodate the changes approved at the last DEC meeting mileage, housing and meals. \$683 was turned over to finance from the basket raffle.

Motion by Bradford W. Catura (449), seconded by Shawn Grothe (243), to accept the report, motion carried.

Department Commander – Ken Rynes addressed and greeted the Detachment noting that this Mid-Winter turnout is very good, Department is expecting 250+ at this evenings banquet for Guy Gruters a 5 year POW in Vietnam. The 2014 "Rhino's Run" in support of Camp American Legion will start July 13 at Portage travel to Appleton ending up at the start of the State Convention July 16 the goal is to raise \$50,000. Commander Rynes also noted that as an AL rider the support of the Legacy Scholarship Ride is important and dear to his heart. Cited that the Detachment, has done great work and that they should continue to do so working together with the Legion and Auxiliary.

Detachment Commander Daily offered his and the Detachments services and support to Commander Rynes in distributing the Josh Dog Program to Post and Squadrons while the supply lasts.

Department Auxiliary President – Joyce Endres also addressed and greeted the Detachment noting that the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders as a family unit need to get out to the communities and let them know what we are all about and the programs that the Legion Administers such as Scholarships, Badger Boys/Girls State, Oratorical, Scouting in the support of the veterans, active military and their families of this country who have served and sacrificed so much for all of us in defense of United State of America. Mrs. Endres theme for the year is "Share Your Life Gems of Service", Share Your Life refers to honoring of veterans who served so that we can be here today, and Gems of Service refers to the sharing of organ donations to continue life for others.

Internal Affairs- Russell Severson (313) Report by Shawn Grothe (243) acting chair
Review Minutes of Last Meeting

Motion made a seconded to refrain from reading them.

Reports from Chairs

Legislative - vacant

Membership- Rich Ruland (481) reported on project 24, Detachment currently has 22 Counties left to fill with Squadrons. Contact Rich to resolve any problems with establishing Squadrons in the remaining counties. Send monthly reports to the Membership chair and Adj.

Officer Development & Policy - David Faust (245) Looking at changes to the Constitution and By-Laws with Adjutant Lawler, Judge Advocate Chad Lawler and AL Reps. Resolution from the AL is on the pallet: to allow the S.A.L. to choose their own Legionnaire Rep for the Americanism Committee.

Public Relations - Shawn Grothe (243) Review of the S.A.L. website for improvements, he will be in contact with the AL PR chairman for assistance, creation of a S.A.L. Blog, Events can be put on the AL website for now, committee urges the use of social media such as radio, newsprint ect..

Motion by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), seconded by Bradford W. Catura (449), to accept the report, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Appointments – Commander Daily recommended the following appointments:

National Security Chair – Gary Kennedy (449)

Legislative Chair - Travis Delmar (243)

Motion by Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), seconded by Sean Patchin Sr. (385), to accept the appointments, motion carried.

New Business

Americanism - Chairman Sean Patchin Sr. (385) noted that a resolution will be drafted to create the position of Website Webmaster to Administer the Detachment website to improve the quality of the site.

For the Good of Sons of the American Legion

Membership - turned in to the Detachment

Gary Lubich Squadron (121) (4) new (9) renewals (1) transfer

Gary LeRoy Squadron (294) (2) new

Donations

From Squadron (209) NEF \$100, CWF \$100

Announcements

- Tom Petrie (189) member of the finance committee urged officers to fill out vouchers and turn them in.
- Adj. Lawler noted that the following Squadrons would receive 100% membership shirts Squadron 111, 44, 552, 60, 108, 21, 75, 294, 406, 183, 313, 172, 437, 84, 143, 171, 444
- Salute to Veterans will be in Feb around Valentine's Day weekend.
- Oratorical regionals and finals will be Feb. 15th at Ripon Collage.
- Legion Bowling tournament starts in March 15th in Watertown, Commander and Adjutants teams need to filled this event is open S.A.L. and Auxiliary.
- County Youth Government days usually held in spring and fall Squadrons are urged to get involved.
- Commander Daily suggested that the Spring D.E.C. be held at Camp American Legion the middle of April, details and schedule needs to be ironed out. Motion made by Shawn Grothe (243), seconded by Robert Breutzmann (018) to consider and further investigate holding the D.E.C. at Camp AL, motion carried.
- Commander Daily reminded everyone to support camp, and help locate equipment for Camp AL (IE (5) elliptical machines and (5) tread miles) and to take this request back to the Squadrons for their help on this issue.

Closing prayer by Chaplain Bradford W. Catura (449)

With no other business Commander Daily (434) closed the Fall D.E.C. meeting with the proper closing ceremonies.

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