

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin

Detachment Executive Committee Pre Convention Meeting Minutes, July 17th 2015

Opening

Call to Order

Friday July 17th, 2015 Detachment Commander Gary F. Lubich (121) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee Pre convention 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 Gary Lubich (121), Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura (449), and Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Masnak(434).

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Detachment vice Commander Sean Grothe (243)

Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble

Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble was led by Detachment vice Commander Chris Sherman (71)

Roll Call of Detachment Officers (Voting)

Taken by Detachment Adjutant David Faust (245)

Detachment Commander	Gary F. Lubich	(121)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Mike A. Kollmansberger	(075)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Robert Sirovina	(434)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Shawn Grothe	(243)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	Braford W. Catura	(449)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Gary Masnak	(434)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Pook	(449)	Present
National Executive Committeeman	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
Alternate NECman	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(093)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Steven Meyer	(220)	Absent
Past Detachment Commander	Russell Severson	(313)	Absent
Past Detachment Commander	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
1 st District Commander	Mike Pook	(449)	Present
3 rd District Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Present
6 th District Commander	Brian Stenz	(075)	Absent

Roll Call of Detachment Officers (non-Voting)

Detachment Judge Advocate	Chad Lawler	(437)	Present
Detachment Historian	Kelly Powers	(158)	Excused
Detachment Adjutant	David Faust	(245)	Present
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Gary Lee LeRoy	(294)	Present
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	Present
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Michael Wagoner	(052)	Present

Introduction of Guests

Department Commander – Robert L. Shappell greeted the Detachment membership to the convention and noted he had some items he would like to share, first and foremost Camp American Legion has secured the additional land expansion and volunteers and donations will be needed to develop this secured land to better aide the veterans and camp operations. The American legion has established the first American Legion Post on a college campus in Wisconsin at Concordia College. A relationship has been established with the Army recruiting Battalion for active and reserve Army units which will enhance the recruiting of younger potential military personnel from within the school systems. The Recently started Stars and Stripes shoot with it first event made \$8600 which was given to Camp American Legion. The creator and members of the event have committed to The American Legion to continue support of Camp American Legion with other events in the future.

Department Vice Commander-Rich Ruland, Janice Lawler wife to (PDC) Michael Lawler, Marie Gryskiewicz mother to (PDC) Patrick Gryskiewicz

Reading of the previous meeting minutes

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075), to accept the minutes from the Spring Detachment Executive Committee as published and distributed. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Official Correspondence

None

Detachment Officer Reports

Detachment Vice Commander – Christopher Sherman (071) District 1, 7, 10

May 3rd attended the First District American Legion meeting asking for approval for the formation of the First District Sons of The American Legion structure, after an overwhelming vote the formation of the First District Sons of The American Legion was approved and set in place. There were several Detachment officers present Detachment Commander Gary Lubich, Detachment Adjutant David Faust, Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura, and Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Pook.

May 30th attended a deployment in West Bend along with National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily, Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger, Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Masnak. 30 Josh Dogs were distributed. Attended several installations throughout the Districts.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Detachment Vice Commander – Shawn Grothe (243) – District 2, 11, 12

As of July 9, 2015 10 out of 21 squadrons were at 100% or more. 5 are between 70-99%. 4 are below 70% in membership. I tried to contact the 4 squadrons that are below 70% but did not receive a response. Since the start of this year we have gained two new squadrons which have brought on 42 more members. Stated that this year was a busy year with having family members in and out of the hospital, working and going to school.

In August I volunteered 98 hours in 5 days as security for the Vietnam Traveling wall for the 20th anniversary of the Sheboygan County Veterans Memorial and put in between 5-6 community service hours at a community meal that our church provides. Starting Sometime in September I will be mentoring and working with a military child whose parents recently went through divorce.

After all that Shawn noted he is looking forward to another great year and seeing how we grow throughout it.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) seconded by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434), to accept the reports. Motion carried.

Detachment Vice Commander– Robert Sirovina (537) – Districts 3, 4, 5

Membership 3rd District did an outstanding job of collecting renewals. The District was 107.12% as of the 7/10 report, with all but one Squadron being 100% or more. Congratulations to Commander Ray on a great year.

4th District was 102.80% with only 3 under 100%. Unfortunately 2 of those were contacted repeatedly with not much response. The Post Commander of for 27 said many of their members were young and their dues were paid by grandparents who have now passed away. He said he would be contacting those members individually to try and collect their membership. Squadron 203 was contacted via e-mail, phone calls and letters to the post Commander and adjutant. Neither responded so a registered letter was sent.

Communications: In addition to personal contacts and visits newsletters were sent out to encourage Squadrons to participate in programs such as the GI Josh, Child Welfare Foundation, attending Mid -Winter and the Convention. The newsletter was also directed to promote membership and urge the Squadrons to make contacts and collect memberships and forward them in.

Josh Dog Program: the GI Josh Dog program went great this year. Of the 40 unit we had at home after they were assembled last fall 18 are now on hand. As reported at the Spring DEC, contacts have been made with personnel at the Naval Base in Bangor Washington and have also contacted The American Legion Department of Washington to assist in getting the program established at all Navy Bases in the state of Washington. This is also an opportunity to promote the Legion Family to active duty military and their families in the area.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) seconded by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434), to accept the reports. Motion carried.

Detachment Vice Commander –Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) – District 6, 8, 9

Reported that of the 17 Squadrons within his districts which totals 448 members, 5 Squadrons are 110%, 8 Squadrons 100% or more, one goose egg Squadron (1) new Squadron Green Lake, has leads on 2 new potential Squadron startups.

Participated with the Legacy ride across the state made contacts with 12 other Sons of The American Legion members whom gave good feedback to Mike on what their Squadrons needs are and how the Detachment might support the Squadrons better. Attended meetings for getting the 6th District Sons of The American Legion started. Chaired the Hearts for Hero's ride which was a great success netting \$8000 for the program. Took part in the Spirt ride ending up at King Day event and spoke on behalf of Detachment Commander Lubich. Participated in the Stars and Stripes shoot.

Motion by Detachment Chaplain Braford W. Catura (449), seconded by 3rd District Commander Ray Dzieciol (534), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Detachment Chaplain – Bradford Catura (449)

Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura noted that since the Spring DEC he has attended two funerals 1 July: Geraldine Race Aux. Unit 449 Past President, 6 July: Florance Dearing Aux. Unit 449 member, and has sent out the following cards:

29 April: get well card to Dan Rindt, VA&R Vice Chairman
12 May: Sympathy card to Gary Lee Leroy, Asst. Detachment Adjutant
4 June: Condolence card to Angie Chappell, Department Staff member
4 June: Condolence card to Robert Zukowski, Past Department Commander
7 June: Condolence card to Mike Helm, National American Legion Commander
10 July: Condolence card to Garry Kennedy, Squadron 434 member
10 July: Sympathy card to Kelly Powers, Detachment Historian
16 July:: get well card to Russ Severson, Past Detachment Commander

To recap the past year of his “highlights” Includes the following:

Attending the War Dogs Memorial Dedication June 22, 2014, the Purple Heart Day of Honor August 7, 2014, Presiding Veterans Day Memorial Service Nov. 11, 2014, Protestant Church Service at Mid-Winter Conf. 1/17/15. Co-Presiding the 4 Chaplains Memorial Service at Mid-Winter Conf. 1/18/15. Attending both the Protestant Worship Service and marching in the Detachment Color Guard at King Day June 21, 2015.

Chaplain Catura noted that he is concerned that not enough exposure is given to the tenants (veterans) at the King Facility and other VA Hospitals and urged the membership to visit and have a more one on one relationships with the veterans that are there.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Detachment Historian – Kelly Powers (158) No Report however Commander Lubich noted that Mr. Powers is out of the Hospital and is recovering and getting back into the swing of things slowly.

National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434) This time of year most communications are directed to the National Convention one item to note the Son of The American Legion is in the 16th position at the National parade and then again in the 32nd position with Department of Wisconsin. Mike Helms National Commander wrote a very good article about what our government should be doing this should be read by all and can be found on the website legion.org. The Child Welfare Foundation donations from the The American Legion Families was \$618,896.51 which \$300,000 was donated by the Sons of The American Legion.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Robert Sirovina (434), seconded by 3rd District Commander Ray Dzieciol (534), to accept the report. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Patrick Gryskiewicz (093)

No report

Department S.A.L. Chairman-Michael Wagoner (052)

Thanked the detachment for the get well card that was sent when he had a double bypass operation. The Dues increase proposed by the Detachment was passed by Department. Sec 8 of the constitution and by-laws was also approved this will force any changes that are required may take up to one year to resolve. Noted that some of the other items that may help pass the dues increase were up keep of the Josh dog program, donations to National candidates and increased travel by the officers of the Detachment. Recommended that resolution be pre paired correctly and be concise.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) seconded by Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) to accept the reports. Discussion it has been suggested when in talking about the S.A.L. it We should be referred to as the Sons of The American Legion as the proper branding. Motion carried.

Commander Gary F. Lubich (121) turned the podium over to Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) for the purpose of the Commanders report.

Detachment Commander – Gary F. Lubich (121)

April 25th the spring Sons of The American Legion D.E.C. was held in River Falls after which the Detachment Commanders testimonial was held. Both were well attended.

Attended the 1st and 4th Department District Spring Conferences Attended Department Aux. President Teresa Isensee testimonial dinner May 16th 2015 in Chippewa Falls. May 25th River Falls Memorial day festivities. Attended a unique testimonial dinner for Department Commander Bob Shappell in Port Washington June 6th. June 7th visited the River Falls American Legion golf outing where needed to provide the beans for the event. June 30th made the Clear Lake Parade with the Legion and on July 10th made the River Falls Days Parade. Attended the Pierce County council meeting where he found out the County was looking to start more Squadrons.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071), seconded by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Pook (449) to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) returned the podium over to Detachment Commander Gary F. Lubich (121).

Convention Committee Verification and Appointments

Americanism- Chairman - Mike A. Kollmansberger (075)

Children & Youth Chair – Christopher Sherman (071)

Constitutional Amendments Chair–Chad Lawler (437)

Finance Chair – Tom Petrie (189)

Legislative Chair - Chad Lawler (437)

Membership Chair – Michael L. Lawler (437)

National Security – Sean Patchin (185)

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chair – Chuck Cook (434),

Unfinished Business

There was no new unfinished business

New Business

There was no new business.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion

Detachment Adjutant Faust noted that any donations should be presented with the new form that is on the table in the back of the room in a large envelope to help identify that it is a donation.

Check from Squadron (71) Pewaukee in the amount of \$350.00 for the Josh Dog Program.

Squadron (52) turned in 89 memberships

Squadron (449) turned in 109 memberships

Final Announcements

None

Closing

Benediction

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

Retirement of POW/MIA Empty Chair

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 Gary F. Lubich (121, declared the Pre-Conv. Detachment Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Gary Lee LeRoy (294)