

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

Mid-Winter Detachment Executive Committee Minutes, January 17th 2015

Opening

Call to Order: Saturday January 17th, 2015 Detachment Commander Gary F. Lubich (121) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee Mid-Winter meeting at 3:00 p.m. at the Ho-Chunk Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo, WI, Upper Dells E.

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 F. Lubich (121) and Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura (449).

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243)

Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble: Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble was led by Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075)

Roll Call of Detachment Voting Officers: Taken by Detachment Adjutant David R. Faust (245)

Detachment Commander	Gary F. Lubich	(121)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Mike A. Kollmansberger	(075)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Shawn Grothe	(243)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Robert Sirovina	(537)	Excused
Detachment Vice Commander	Christopher M. Sherman	(071)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	Bradford 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 National Executive Committeeman	Patrick N. Gryskiewicz	(093)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	Absent
Past Detachment Commander	Russell B. Severson	(313)	Excused
Third District Commander	Ray A. Dzieciol	(534)	Present

Roll Call of Detachment Non-Voting Officers: Taken by Detachment Adjutant David R. Faust (245)

Detachment Adjutant	David R. Faust	(245)	Present
Assistant Detachment Adjutant	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	Present
Assistant Detachment Adjutant	Gary Lee LeRoy	(294)	Present
Detachment Judge Advocate	Chad M. Lawler	(437)	Present
Detachment Historian	Kelly R. Powers	(121)	Present
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Michael F. Wagoner	(052)	Present

Guests to the D.E.C.:

American Legion Past National Executive Committeeman David Gough, introduced, American Legion National Vice Commander-Bill Bryant From Virginia gave greetings to the Detachment.

Wisconsin Department Commander- Robert L. Shappell,

Greeted the Detachment and noted that he is a Legion / S.A.L. dual member in honor of his father a WWII veteran. Asked if anyone knew of the group called the Sons of Union Veterans from the Civil War Era he noted that he had the opportunity to speak at their convention in Milwaukee. Citing the relationship of that organization and the Sons of The American Legion in that the Sons of Union Veterans of The G.A.R. continue on today remembering their forefathers.

Commander Shappell noted that it is his goal is to increase membership in Wisconsin; Wisconsin has not been a number 1 state in membership since 1992 as he is continually reminded by Past Department Commander Ted De Micchi since he was Department Commander in 1992. This would include membership in the S.A.L. also. He thanked the Detachment for their past work and challenged the membership to continue the good work and to grow.

This year there will be a motorcycle run for the Scholarship Legacy Fund named the "Spirit Run" it would be 2 ½ days around the state ending at the King Veterans Home on King Pilgrimage day.

Commander Lubich presented a S.A.L. State Pin to Commander Shappell .

Past National Historian Michael L. Lawler introduced Wisconsin Department Auxiliary President – Teresa Isensee. President Isensee greeted the Detachment and made note that her project for the year is in musical therapy "Raise Your Voice in Song for Our Veterans", some of the events already done have been a concert in Union Groove by the Charming Chimers where donations were made of xylophones, at Littleton a driving reaction tester was donated, got to witness a paralyzed Veteran at the Minnesota VA who was fitted with robotic legs walk for the first time since he was injured. At the king Veterans Home toured the Alzheimer's facility and being surprised at the effect that music has on the patients as a soothing action. At each of the facilities that were visited the administration and staff commented on the fact that they could not do their job serving the veteran without the support of The American Legion Family. Her favorite and most memorable event has been Wreaths Across America laying ceremony at the National Cemetery where 3580 wreaths were laid in 20 minutes, which is endorsed by The American Legion. President Isensee did present Commander Lubich and the Detachment with an award from the 2014 Creative Arts Festival that the Detachment had made a donation too.

Commander Lubich presented a S.A.L. State Pin to President Isensee.

Past Department President – Joan Chwala escort to President Isensee.

Department Vice Commander – Rich Ruland

Past National Commander – David Faust

Past Detachment Commanders – David Faust, Michael Wagoner, Kelly Powers, Dan Daily, Michael L. Lawler

Reading of the previous meeting minutes: Presented by the Assistant Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy (294) Motion by Vice Commander Christopher M. Sherman (071), seconded by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Pook (449), to accept the minutes from the Fall Detachment Executive Committee as published and distributed. Discussion – For the record it was noted by PDC Michael Lawler that the changes to the S.A.L. constitution and by-laws was not ratified by the Legion Department. Motion carried.

Official Correspondence: Presented by the Adjutant David R. Faust (245)
Reported there were no new official correspondence to report.

Detachment Officer Reports

Detachment Vice Commander – Christopher M. Sherman (071) – Districts 1, 7, 10

Reported as for districts 1-7-10 he would be continuing to work on contacting those squadrons that are goose eggs. Currently there are a total of 19 (goose Eggs) that are not paid as of the last report on 1-16-14. Pewaukee has turned in 18 membership renewals. Was asked by Squadrons 552 Somers, 544 Twin Lakes to attend their functions. Josh dogs were given out to the 115th fighter wing who were deploying in December just before Christmas – 52 total. Thanks to Dan Daily and Gary Masnak for assisting in this effort. Bob Ames has photos of children who received Hospital Josh Dogs from Beloit. He will continue to get more squadrons to get their info up to date with State.

Motion by Detachment Chaplain Bradford W. Catura (449), seconded by Detachment Alt. N.E.C. man Patrick N. Gyskiewicz (093), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

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

Reported Number of Squadrons as of last D.E.C. (21), Total area membership as of last D.E.C. (337), Number of “Goose Egg” Squadrons (3), Number of Squadrons at current goal (4), Number of Squadrons at 100% or more (3), Number of Squadrons at Final goal (3), Number of new Squadrons as of last D.E.C. (1), Contacts made to your Squadrons since last D.E.C. (5). Events attended since last D.E.C., Sheboygan County Vets Banquet (1Day)

Our Squadron (243) will try to organizing a Legion Family Clean the World Event. I have contact a family friend who is on the board of directors to get more information on the program. The Clean the World program would be counted towards our community service hours.

Will be calling Goose Egg Squadrons within the next two weeks to see why they are goose eggs.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander. Shawn Grothe (243), seconded by Detachment Chaplain Bradford W. Catura (449), to accept the reports. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Detachment Vice Commander – Robert Sirovina (434) – Districts 3, 4, 5

Reported two newsletters have been sent to all Squadrons in 3rd, 4th and 5th Districts so far this year, with a third in process as of this writing. Unfortunately, having inaccurate or incomplete Squadron is still an issue. I included the Squadron Information Form with the first newsletter and some have been returned so information is being updated.

Newsletters include information on the Commander’s goals for the year, upcoming events, and of course membership. I have also made a request that every Squadron makes a big effort to update their Constitution and By Laws this year. I have received a couple calls with questions so far.

Assisted Chris Sherman and Mike Lawler in assembling and packing G I Josh at the Pewaukee Post 71. I took home 40 with me that day and 20 have been purchased so far. I have received a few calls asking for info on G I Josh and am waiting for return calls on when they will be purchased.

Membership: I want to congratulate 3rd District Commander Ray Dzieciol on being the first and only District in Wisconsin to be over goal, 103.20% as of the January 9th report. Ten of the 14 Squadrons are over goal, with the rest being close. 4th District is also doing well at 92.52% with only one Squadron that has not submitted memberships. I have made several attempts to contact them with no response so far. 5th District is only at 66.10% so contacts will be made with those Squadrons.

Citations and CWF 100% ribbons from State Convention have been distribute to those that won them.

Will continue to make contacts with Squadrons as necessary, especially those that are not meeting the published membership goals and also plans on attending the District Legion meetings and other Squadron meetings as my work schedule permits.

Motion by Detachment Chaplain Bradford W. Catura (449), seconded by Detachment National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434), to accept the reports. It was asked by Seán Patchin, Sr. (385) that the Third District Commander’s report be included.

Third District Commander – Ray Dzieciol

Third District is the #1 district in the Detachment. There are no goose eggs as of 1/8/15, two squadrons are at 110% - Verona was the first in the Detachment to reach 110% and Stoughton is the no. 1 Squadron in the Detachment at 189%. Of the 14 Squadrons 10 are at 100%, five are above 105%. As a whole the third District is at 103.2% with 710 members, they are 13 members short of every Squadron being at above 100%.

Since the last D.E.C., attended two meetings of the Dane County Council and the Dane County American Legion Christmas party. Meetings of Post and Squadron 59 at Stoughton. Researched and resolved an issue with Squadron 59 not turning in membership. Chaired the Third District Fall Conference, volunteered for the fourth year at the Christmas dinner sponsored by Stoughton American Legion and VFW, 350 free meal were served to the Community. Attended the Post 59 New Year's eve party.

- Motion carried.

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

Reported Number of Squadrons as of last D.E.C. (16), Total area membership as of last D.E.C. (244), Number of "Goose Egg" Squadrons (4), Number of Squadrons at current goal (4), Number of Squadrons at 100% or more (3), Number of Squadrons at Final goal (3), Number of new Squadrons as of last D.E.C. (0), Contacts made to your Squadrons since last D.E.C. (7).

Events attended since last D.E.C., 6th District conference, Fond du Lac, Winnebago and Calumet County meetings. Motion by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Pook (449), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher M. Sherman (071), to accept the reports. Discussion - Motion carried.

Detachment Chaplain – Bradford Catura (449)

Reported that in the last months since the Fall D.E.C. meeting, He has sent out two get well cards to Past S.A.L. Chairman Robert Curly Danielson and Clifford Smith Asst. Detachment Adj. from Mass., one condolence card to the family of Jim Holler PDVC also attending the funeral.

Met with the Department Chaplain Julia Atkinson to prepare for the 4 Chaplains Memorial Service at this Mid-Winter conference, S.A.L. members are urged to attend the event, Chaplain Catura would also be conducting the Protestant Service on Saturday Evening at this Mid-Winter.

Motion by Detachment Chaplain Bradford Catura (449), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

Detachment Historian – Kelly R. Powers (121)

Reported that he had the opportunity to Sub as Santa Claus for Robert Curly Danielson at a pancake with Santa Breakfast where Commander Lubich also escorted him as an Elf. Has been busy the first Quarter of the year escorting the Commander around from place to place

Motion by Detachment Alt. N.E.C. man (PNVC) Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093), seconded by (PDC) Michael L. Lawler (437), to accept the reports. Discussion - Motion carried.

National Executive Committeeman - Daniel R. Daily (434)

Reported Past National Vice Commander Thomas Wigmore (Massachusetts) has gone thru tests and two brain tumors were found. Prognosis is good but please keeps him in your prayers.

Final membership for 2014: 358,009 up .5 % with 1839 more members, renewal rate or retention is at 88.44%

This is good and at a high but continues to need to be addressed at the squadron levels. Get to your squadrons and continue to stress the importance of retention. Help them to come up with ideas to keep members coming back.

Wisconsin finished 40th nationally in membership with 98.509 percent and seventh in the central region.

Although these numbers seem bad or low keep in mind you made almost 99%. You all did a great job last year and me proud to have been your leader.

This year let's continue to keep up the good work and if we work a little harder on retention and getting new squadrons on board, we are sure to get the triple nickel for Commander Lubich.

Recommendations are to: As NEC it is my job to recommend individuals who show an interest and meet certain qualifications, to get appointments to National commissions or committees. If you have an interest, see me and see if you meet the qualifications.

Update on Josh program: Baby Josh is still in the works but at this time far too expensive to get.

An alternative is to reach out to your squadrons and get them to purchase small stuffed dogs to bring along to deployments. This then allows us to have something for the families that have multiple children and also give something to others who ask for dogs and are not being deployed. An example would be of the beanie baby type. This would also give us something to give out during a non-deployment situation such as a base family picnic or gathering. Don't limit your visits to military installations to deployments only. Get a hold of family readiness people and offer to come it for other functions. All our service people are important, make them feel like it.

I have purchased 200 hand held pups to use as a type of calling card. Use them when you go to visit squadrons or Posts to promote the Detachment. They cannot be used in the Josh dog box because of patent infringement but can be handed out to remind people that our Detachment is the Josh Dog program.

We recently gave 50 dogs, 30 hand held dogs and a bag of stuffed animals at the 115th air wing in Madison. They were very happy with all items and invited us back in summer to meet more of the troops.

Motion by N.E.C. man Daniel R. Daily (434), seconded by Detachment Vice-Commander Christopher M. Sherman (071), to accept the report. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

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

Reported that he did attend the Americanism committee meeting and learned a couple of issues the Detachment will need to funnel information thru the Detachment Adjutant and himself to the Department Adjutant. Also it was asked if the Detachment was still going to support Jr. Shooters Sport's program. It was noted by (PDA) Michael L. Lawler (437) for the record that the Jr. Shooters Sports programs is supported by the Detachment thru \$1000.00 in scholarships.

Motion by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Pook (449), seconded by Detachment Alternate National Executive Committeeman Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093), to accept the report. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093)

No report

Detachment Commander – Gary F. Lubich (121)

Detachment Commander Gary Lubich (121) then turned the gavel over to Detachment Vice-Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075), Detachment Vice-Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) then called on Detachment Commander Gary Lubich (121) to give his report.

Commander Lubich noted that the fall and start of the winter months has been quite however he did attend the Third District fall conference at Verona, the 10th District County meeting in River Falls. During this time he was selling raffle tickets for his post at the local store and met a lady who said her husband was just deployed He made reference to the Josh Dog program and secured some Dogs for the family the lady was very grateful.

Motion by (PDC) Kelly Powers (158), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher M. Sherman (071), to accept the report. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Vice-Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) returned the gavel and podium to Commander Gary Lubich (121).

Committee and Commission Reports

Resolutions Committee-Chad M. Lawler (437) there was no resolutions presented any report.

Programs Committee-Kelly R. Powers (121)

Americanism-Chairman Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) reported the Jr. Shooting Sports will hold meeting on Sat. morning. A Jr. Shooting Sports clinic will be held at Post 449 March 7th 2015. There has been request that the S.A.L. man and provide informational tables at BBS & BGS the committee will investigate and plan this issue farther.

Children & Youth-Chairman Christopher M. Sherman (071) reported 230 Josh Dogs have been received for the 2015 year at a cost of \$6000 which still needs to be paid. There were 52 left from last year which went to the 115th air wing deployment. (335) Grafton ordered 10 Josh Dogs. There are production issues with the new Puppy Josh Dogs however in the interim it is being suggested that members might find small stuffed animals as a substitute for the puppies. Josh Dogs are \$35.00 the puppies should they become available would be \$10.00 each with a min. of 1200 per order.

Bob Ames has pictures of Beloit's Hospital first Josh Dog recipient. David Faust noted the CWF donations are at \$85 of the 2.1% goal. Mike Kollmansberger (075) noted that checks for Josh Dogs when sent in should be on the paid to line (Josh Dogs S.A.L.) and note Josh Dogs (xx) on the memo line.

Kelly powers challenged the members present to match his \$5.00 donation to CWF and passed the hat, \$131.00 was raised from the members.

National Security- Bob Ames reported that the member of the year award is being revised and the POW/MIA stamp is still in the works.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation-Chuck Cook Absent no report

Motion by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Pook (449), seconded by Detachment vice Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) to accept the Program Committee reports. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Finance Commission- Tom Petrie (189)

Discussed the upcoming budget year and that he and Detachment Adjutant Faust will be working with Department Adjutant Kurtz to reconcile our budgets..

There are two scholarships one for one is our original for education and one set aside for Jr. Shooters Sports. Fundraising is to come under the scrutiny of the Finance commission should any committee has any ideas they are to present them to the commission. There is a need to have a new sheet made up for donations to be submitted to the commission for tracking and disbursement of funds.

Under this year's budget the new procedure is that members will only receive a stipend per called meetings, there will be no more millage or meals. To receive the stipend you must be in attendance a new sign in sheet has been developed.

The next few years will be a growing experience in regard to the Finances until they are put into order.

Motion by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Pook (449), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Chris Sherman (071) to accept the report. From discussion it was pointed out that when finance or anyone turns monies over to the department finance a receipt should be secured after it is counted by Department individuals so that it is accounted for. Motion carried.

Internal Affairs Commission- Michael Lawler (437)

Legislative-Travis Delmar (243) no report

Membership-Michael L. Lawler (437) reported the Detachment is 9th in the nation for retention and overall membership, Wisconsin is 3rd in the Central Region and the Central Region is 3rd in the nation. Squadrons are urged to sign up for www.MySAL.org to better manage their membership. Membership reports can be accessed on the Legion website, www.wilegion.org under members, also use the transmittal form and membership data forms.

Project 24- Michael L. Lawler (437) new squadrons 550 Bracket, 487 Cable, 192 Franklin and there are many other inquiries it is very feasible for the Detachment to seek and get the Triple Nickel award.

Officer Development & Policy- Michael L. Lawler (437) Reported the Detachment is currently working on Constitution & By-Laws and in addition the Squadrons are urged to format and send in their Constitution & By-Laws to the detachment for approval and filing into a database.

Public Relations- Sean Grothe (243) reported that there are forms for the Snap Shots of Service program, CWF awards, and membership recruitment. Squadrons are urged to send articles to the National Update and Badger Legionnaire marking their Squadron Achievements and receiving the awards they are due.

There was a discussion on formed Districts and how they assist in developing upcoming officers.

Motion by Alternate National Executive Committeeman (PDC) Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093), Detachment vice Commander Christopher M. Sherman (071) seconded by to accept the report. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Conclusion of Business

Resolutions, Motions & Petitions- Chad M. Lawler (437) None

Appointments- Commander Lubich (121) appointed Kelly Powers (121) chair for the 2015 Convention Credentials, Resolutions & Rules Committee and Gary Kennedy as member.

Motion by Detachment vice Commander Christopher M. Sherman (071), seconded by (PDC) Michael L. Lawler (437) to accept the report. Discussion –none. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

There was no new unfinished business

New Business

Tom Petrie Finance Chair noted that the following officers would receive the new stipend: Commander, (4) Vice Commanders, Chaplain, (2) Sgt.-At-Arms, N.E.C man & Alt. N.E.C. man, Adjutant, (2) Assist. Adj., Judge Advocate, Historian, Department S.A.L. Chairman, Finance Chair, (4) Finance commission members, Internal Affairs Chair, Membership Chair, Legislative Chair, Policy & Officer Development Chair, Public Relations Chair. Make sure to fill out the new form and turn it in to the finance chair before leaving. If members are on more than one committee / commission they only will receive on stipend.

Motion by (PDC) Kelly Powers (121) Seconded by Vice Commander Chris Sherman (071) to include (1) District Commander in the stipend outlay, Discussion–none. Motion carried.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion

Membership turned in – (335 Grafton) 68, (294 Hartland) 5, (071 Pewaukee) 18, (018 Milwaukee) 1, (075 Fond du Lac) 10.

Mid-Winter Basket Raffle-netted \$943 for Camp American Legion.

Commander Lubich commended Third District Commander Ray Dzieciol for his work done in the Third District

Candidacy Announcements- Seán Patchin, Sr. (385) for office of Detachment Commander, also Robert Ames (048) for office of Detachment Commander.

Final Announcements

A resounding Thank you for Janice Lawler was expressed by the Membership for her devotion and helpfulness in running the Raffle Table event.

Adjutant Faust

- Pointed out that with the transitional changes with the Constitution & By-Laws and the Detachment Financial Structure that these are positive changes for the growing development of the Detachment. Also the development of the Districts is strongly recommended and envisions that these growing issues will make the Detachment even stronger in the future.
- Noted that new membership cards when issued and are bundled with the Legion Post cards they could be picked up at King during the King Pilgrimage, if not secured there they will filter down with the Post cards to the District Commanders then to the County commanders then to the posts.

- Complemented the membership on several positive actions that he noticed at this Mid-Winter meeting and events. Such as members stepping up as escorts at the oratorical program, the Josh Dog program run by the Detachment, support of the Jr. Sports Shooters program.
- Noted that in the future information will be coming fourth for the campaign of Michael Lawler for National S.A.L. Commander, for now a fine line needs to adhere to in the campaign for commander. Currently Michael has been endorsed to be appointed as national Chaplain at the convention in Baltimore in 2015 and is in position for National vice Commander in 2016, these hurdles need to be done first. Then the detachment would work more diligently on the campaign for the National Commandership. Wisconsin does not want to sound pretentious about the commandership campaign as this could be damaging to the campaign so it should be for now low key until further notice and other hurdles are achieved.
- Tomorrow R-E-L-A-X

Commander Lubich (121) passed out small gifts to his Detachment vice Commanders & Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms.

Department S.A.L. Chairman Michael F. Wagoner (052) – Noted that the Legion Bowling tournament starts March 21st in Milwaukee Bay View at Motion View lanes and reminded the Commander that he should have a team in place.

Last Word

Closing Ceremonies

Benediction

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

Retirement of POW/MIA Empty Chair

Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Pook (449) POW/MIA Empty Chair cover

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 Detachment Mid-Winter Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant

Gary Lee LeRoy (294)