

# Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin

Detachment Executive Committee Pre Convention Meeting Minutes, July 15th 2016

## Opening

### Call to Order

Friday July 15th, 2016 Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee Pre convention meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Mendota Room of the Madison Marriot West.

### 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 Mike A. Kollmansberger (075), 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	Mike A. Kollmansberger	(075)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Robert Sirovina	(434)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Shawn Grothe	(243)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(059)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	Braford W. Catura	(449)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Gary Masnak	(434)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Breutzmann	(018)	Present
National Executive Committeeman	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
Alternate NECman	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(091)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Russell Severson	(313)	Absent
Past Detachment Commander	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Gary Lubich	(121)	Present
1st District Commander	Mike Pook	(449)	Present
3rd District Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(059)	Present
6th District Commander	Brian Stenz	(075)	Excused

### Roll Call of Detachment Officers (non-Voting)

Detachment Judge Advocate	Chad Lawler	(437)	Excused
Detachment Historian	Mike Bremzer	(075)	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**

National Vice Commander – Dennis Henkemeyer from (Minnesota) Central Region.  
Janice Lawler wife of National Chaplain Michael L. Lawler, Maria Gryskiewicz mother of Alt. NECman Patrick Gryskiewicz, Conner Heiney (437).

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

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059), to accept the minutes from the Spring Executive Committee as published and distributed.  
Discussion – none. Motion carried.

### **Official Correspondence**

Letter was received from Diane Duscheck Candidate for National Auxiliary President thanking the Detachment for their donation to her campaign fund.

### **Detachment Officer Reports**

#### **Detachment Vice Commander – Christopher Sherman (071) District 1, 6, 10**

With the exception of one goose egg Delevan (095) the First District doing well in. Sixth District is doing well Mr. Sherman and Detachment Commander Kollmansberger have been working on this area. Has been attending 1<sup>st</sup> District meetings and Waukesha County Legion meetings, delivered two GI Josh Dogs to Hartland 294, for distribution to a serviceman who will be deployed. Distributed a Hospital Josh Dog to Kurt Sterbins who's daughter was hospitalized. Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059), seconded by 1st District Commander Mike Pook (449), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

#### **Detachment Vice Commander – Shawn Grothe (243) – District 2, 8, 9**

17 out of 26 squadrons were at 100% or better, has 1 goose egg, 2<sup>nd</sup> District is at 102.94%, 8<sup>th</sup> District is at 116.83% and 9<sup>th</sup> District is at 104.15%. attended the Sheboygan County officers installation and Memorial Day Parade and brat fry.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) seconded by 6<sup>th</sup> Districts Commander representative Mike Leavitt (075), to accept Shawn Grothe report, discussion – none. Motion carried.

#### **Detachment Vice Commander – Robert Sirovina (434) – Districts 4, 5, 11**

Written report read by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071), number of Squadrons 16, one new chartered this year, total area membership for 2015 432, current total membership as of 7/8/2015 490, number of Squadrons at 100% or more 10.

#### **Membership in District 4 is 104.85%**

Van Eimeren Kolonka Squadron 27 South Milwaukee was contacted talked with the post Commander who is also the Post Adjutant and Squadron Rep.. He stated that many of the Squadron's members were young and the grandparents who have now passed away used to pay their dues. The whole Post, Squadron, and Auxiliary Unit are having membership issues. They currently have achieved 5 members one more than last year. I will be staying in contact with the post to assist.

Federal Squadron 203, Milwaukee attended one of their meetings along with District President Sue Middlestead and National Central Division Membership Chairman Diana Sirovina. The meeting was a joint meeting of the Post, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion.

Obtained a membership list from Chris at Portage and sent letters to every member on the list. It included a postcard (with return postage) asking if the membership if they wanted to stay in 203 transfer or drop. 3 had bad addresses and were returned, 2 returned the cards and said they were dropping. 5 returned the card along with 2016 dues. Received a phone call that 6 members were paid with Auxiliary dues. Checking the Auxiliary records this

was found to be true and the money was returned to the post, but they never sent in the membership. The Legion District Commander was contacted and will be following up with the Post Adjutant to see why they held the membership.

This is an ongoing problem and will continue to work on it along with the District Commander, District President and Membership teams. For Squadron 444 tried to contact the Post Adjutant and Commander by phone several times. After there was no response requested a membership list from Portage and sent letters with return postage to all members asking them if they still wanted to be members or not and to pay their dues. Wrote letters to the Post Adjutant and Post Commander asking for their assistance in collecting and submitting the membership. The District Commander was contacted and he contacted the Post Commander. Within a week they submitted all 12 of the memberships plus 2 new ones to make them over goal.

**Membership in District 5 is 108.33%**

General Charles King Squadron 406, Milwaukee: after making several attempts to contact someone from the Squadron with no luck. I was informed that Past Department Commander Wayne Jensen would be handling the membership for them. Shortly after 11 of the 16 memberships were sent in.

**Membership in District 11 is 170.37%**

Wineger Squadron 480, Presque Isle: I made several calls to the number that was listed for the Post with no response. Asked for a roster from Portage and sent a letter to every member with a return postcard. 1 was returned with a bad address. 6 returned the card with dues.

Squadron 90, Ashland: was new this year.

**Communications:**

In addition to personal contacts and some visits, sent out some newsletters to encourage Squadrons to participate in programs such as GI Josh, Child Welfare Foundation and attending the Mid-Winter Convention. Newsletters were also used to promote membership and urge the Squadrons to make contacts and collect membership, most important to send them in.

**GI Josh Update:**

We are still in contact with the Naval Base in Washington, working with the CDC to get the Josh program approved through Fleet and Family Services. We contacted Dr. Lange at Josh Co. and gave the info for the Bangor, WA base and the contact there. It takes a long time to get through channels. We will be visiting out there 7/18 to 7/24 and hope to get in touch with CDC for an update.

Have 17 GI Josh's at his home.

Motion by Detachment Chaplain Bradford W. Catura (449) seconded by 1st District Commander Mike Pook (449) to accept the report, discussion none, Motion carried.

**Detachment Vice Commander –Ray Dzieciol (059)– District 3,7,12**

Reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> District is doing very well, pushing to 105% 2 Squadron are just a few members short.

7<sup>th</sup> District was worked on by members and Sparta has returned resolving the goose eggs in this District.

11<sup>th</sup> District needs some help as Ray admitted he did not get too far into that area.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) seconded by 1st District Commander Mike Pook (449) to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

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

Detachment Chaplain Rev. Bradford Catura- over the past three year stated it has been his privilege as the Detachment Chaplain. As he worked the best he could to bring the love of God to as many Sons of The American Legion members as he could. Now that his time is up, he looks to turning over the office to his worthy successor. He urges everyone to join him praying for God to show him the strength and love needed to carry on with serving as the moral compass of this Detachment.

Further he prays that we might see more Sons of The American Legion members attend the religious services offered on Saturday evening as well as the Sunday morning Memorial Service. After all we are here for God and

Country. So let us all work together on the four Pillars of The American Legion by feeding the Hungry, Giving Drink to The Thirsty, Sheltering the Homeless, Visiting the Sick, Honoring the POW /MIA's, Burying the Dead, Giving money to the Poor. Let all strive to show the Love of our Heavenly Father, through our actions here on earth, Amen.

Condolence Cards were sent to the following, may they rest in peace:

5/19/16 Past National Vice Commander, Erv Van Dyke

5/25/16 Past National Historian, Bobbe Stuvengen

Attended the Funeral of:

5/27/16 Unit 449 Auxiliary member, Judith C. Steinkraus

Also attended the both the Dedication of the Milwaukee VA Fischer House on Saturday April 23, 2016 and the King Day Pilgrimage at the Kings Vet's on Father's Day June 19, 2016.

Motion by 1st District Commander Mike Pook (449) seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059), to accept the report. Discussion – none. Motion carried.

**Detachment Historian –Mike Bremzer (075) No Report (Excused)**

**National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434)** Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) noted that Mr. Daily was escorting National Vice Commander Dennis Henkemeyer at Legion Events and that he would get the time to give his report at a later time.

On his return first off Mr. Daily asked for 7 volunteers to act as guide during the run, walk that is being held by the Legion early Sat. morning.

As the NEC his duties are attend all the National meetings, discuss and vote on issues, resolutions brought before the National Executive meetings. Bring back and keep the Detachment apprised of any changes or issues.

Fortunately Wisconsin and the other Detachments in the Central region has a National Vice Commander from the Central region (Dennis Henkemeyer) who has been proactive in doing most of the work keeping the NEC people informed.

**Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Patrick Gryskiewicz (093)**

No report

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

Mr. Wagoner commented on the fact that he was impressed on how the Detachment has stepped up and supported the programs that are being run by the Detachment and extended the challenge to keep up the good work up and continue to be visible to the Legion with Detachment.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059) seconded Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) to accept the report. Discussion none, Motion carried.

**1st District Commander-Mike Pook (449)** noted that membership is not only up to one person it has to be a joint effort of all Sons of The American Legion to put in the collective effort to secure new or renewal membership. First District held a road rally there were not many contestants but the event was considered a success considering the publicity and organization of the event and considers the future event will improve.

Upcoming event will be the installation of 1<sup>st</sup> District officers on Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Mukwonago Post 375. This will be an installation with the District Sons of The American Legion, District Legion, District Auxiliary and District Legion Riders.

Announced that the Moving Wall will be at Germantown (001) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, they are asking for help with round the clock guards and set up.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059) to accept the report. Discussion – Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) gave kudos to the all the members that help to get the First District organized and set up, Motion carried.

**6th District Commander** - Mike Levitt (075) representing for the Commander noted that the district is going on a push focusing on Green Lake and Fond Du Lac.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) seconded by 1st District Commander Mike Pook (449) to accept the report. Discussion none, Motion carried.

Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) turned the podium over to Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243) for the purpose of the Commanders report.

**Detachment Commander** – Mike A. Kollmansberger (075)

One goal that has been almost achieved except for final approval by Department is the restructure the Constitution and By Laws. The new website has been launched it still needs some final touches but it out there for use.

Membership for this year has been rocking – first in renewals and good improvement in new members.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071), to accept the report. Discussion none, Motion carried.

Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243) returned the podium over to Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075).

## **Convention Committee Verification and Appointments**

**Americanism- Chairman** - Daniel R. Daily (434)

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

**Constitutional Amendments Chair**–Michael Lawler (437)

**Convention Credentials Resolutions and Rules** – Ed Ciechanowski (434 )

**Finance Chair** – Tom Petrie (189)

**Legislative Chair** – Allen Watry (038)

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

**National Security** – Ray Dzieciol (059)

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chair** – Jim Wilhelms (075)

## **Unfinished Business**

It was asked by the Finance chair (Tom Petrie) if the new computer has been secured that was budgeted for the assistant Adjutant , Detachment Adjutant Faust said that it had not been secured as yet. Mr. Petrie warned that if this was not done under this budget year the funds would be lost to roll over.

## **New Business**

It was asked by the Detachment Adjutant that the Detachment approve the purchase of new flag poles, harnesses, stands, eagles and or spears for the Detachment colors.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071), seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059), to secure the equipment that is needed. Discussion it was noted that a Blue Star banner also be secured, it was resolved that cost for these items be investigated and that this purchase of equipment be brought fourth, the request was tabled to the Post DEC meeting to be held on Sunday for final vote.

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

With a visit to Kewaskum by Detachment Chaplain Rev. Bradford Catura and 1<sup>st</sup> District S.A.L. Commander Mike Pook at the Legion brat fry and much conversation with the post Commander in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District this post has

become a potential and high interest for the creation of a Sons of The American Legion Squadron, follow up info should be sent.

Protestant services will be held Fri and Sat. evening, the Memorial Service is Sunday Moring at 8:00 am and as usual volunteers are needed for collections and passing out programs.

Sean Patchin noted that on Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> the Operation Badger Base will be held in conjunction with Harley Davidson, Ho-Chunk, American Legion Family and VFW, this is a salute and recognition to all veterans who have severed. The Moving Viet-Nam wall will also be at the event. Volunteers are needed if you can show please do.

## **Final Announcements**

There will be a workshop after today's sessions pertaining to the eligibility of S.A.L. membership.

Tonight at 8:00 pm there will be a sing along doing the National Anthem from the lobby and balconies of the Hotel this is a challenge by the National President and could give the S.A.L. good exposure should we have many members attend. This will be videotaped.

## **Closing**

### **Benediction**

A benediction was offered by Detachment Chaplain Rev. 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 Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) declared the Pre-Conv. Detachment Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant  
Gary Lee LeRoy (294)