

**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Wisconsin**

Mid-Winter Detachment Executive Committee Minutes Jan. 16th, 2016

**Opening**

**Call to Order**

Saturday January 16th, 2016 Detachment Commander Mike Kollmansberger (075), called to order the Detachment Executive Committee meeting being held at the Ho-Chunk Hotel and Convention Center, Baraboo, Wisconsin with the proper opening ceremonies at 3:00 PM.

**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 Rev. Braford W. Catura (449).

**POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony**

A ceremony honoring our POW/MIA was conducted by Detachment Commander Kollmansberger (075).

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534).

**Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble**

Reciting of the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was led by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071).

**Roll Call of Detachment Officers by Detachment Adjutant David Faust (245)**

**Voting Officers:**

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	(534)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	Rev. 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	Gary Lubich	(121)	Absent
Past Detachment Commander	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Steven L. Meyer	(220)	Absent
1st District S.A.L. Commander	Mike Pook	(449)	Present
3rd District S.A.L. Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Present
6th District S.A.L. Commander	Brian Stems	(075)	Present

**Roll Call of Non-Voting Detachment Officers**

Detachment Judge Advocate	Atty. Chad Lawler	(437)	Present
Detachment Historian	Tom Powers	(075)	Ex Absent
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)	Excused

### **Guest to the D.E.C.**

Department Alternate National Executive Committeeman Ken Rynes introduced Charles E. Schmidt from the State of Oregon, candidate for National Commander of The American Legion 2016-2017. Mr. Schmidt gave greetings to the Detachment from the State of Oregon Detachment. He noted the Sons of The American Legion around the country is a great asset to the Legion family in the programs that they run. Oregon is proud of the fact that the Sons of The American Legion was established in 1932 in Portland Oregon and was proud that he has 5 grandchildren that are members in Oregon.

Department Americanism Committee Chairman Jerry Lauby spoke to the Detachment noted that he is in awe of the Sons of The American Legion's in the support they give to The American Legion Family in the things they do with programs as throughout the State. Jr Shooter Sports, Josh Dog Program, Oratorical contest in Ripon, A&G Scholarship, Badger Boys State, Legion Baseball, Scouting, County Youth Education and Legion Riders. Also cited the Sons of The American Legion's 10 Ideals and 5 Star Programs.

Department S.A.L. Chairman Michael Wagoner (052) arrived and asked to be recorded as present to roll call.

### **Reading of the Previous Minutes**

Presented by the Detachment Assistant Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy (294)

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) to accept as published the previous Fall DEC meeting minutes, seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534), discussion none, motion carried.

### **Official Correspondence**

Presented by the Detachment Adjutant David Faust (245), there were none to be reported.

### **Detachment Officer Reports**

**Detachment Vice Commander** – Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) (Districts 1-6-10) reported as of the week of January 10, 2016 the First District is at 84.27% with 3 goose eggs. The Squadrons that have not sent in memberships are: Twin Lakes, Somers and Delavan. Sixth District is at 100.27% with Oshkosh needing only 5 more renewals and Briggsville needing 3 more renewals to be at 100%. Tenth District is at 65.83% with 4 goose eggs. I have reached out to these Squadrons and hope they will send in memberships soon.

Attended the First District Christmas Party held at Post 399 Okauchee in December. I also attended the pancake breakfast and meet Santa at Squadron 294 Hartland Post and yes I did ask Santa for some gifts.

Has been working with our Detachment Commander Mike Kollmansberger on contacting squadrons to get their memberships in before the end of year. One major problem that seems to keep arising is Squadrons are not sending in current Officer Report Forms. This brings up another question, how we get the numerous Goose Eggs off our Districts as they are affecting our membership at State and National. I think we as the Detachment should find out how to proceed with removing them. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years and thanks to all the Squadrons that are helping our Veterans.

**First District Sons of The American Legion** – District Commander Mike Pook (449). As a district, we are collecting contact information for the Squadrons. The First District Vice Commander is working on a membership directory of Squadron contacts. This is a slow process and we are working from scratch. Certainly the Detachment Commander's contact information was helpful, but many of the names were past contacts.

On Membership for 17 Squadrons: 3 Squadrons (95, 544, & 552) are Zero Squadrons. Squadron 294 is the only Squadron at 36 %. 6 Squadrons are between 80 and 98%. 6 Squadrons are at 100% or better. As a district for 2016 we sit at 84 %.

Future Projects. A Project that First District will be working on in 2016 is gathering digital pictures. In each community in First District there is some kind of Veteran's Memorial that the Post may have helped to create or is currently maintaining. The First District S.A.L. is asking each Squadron to submit several digital pictures of their Memorial. Also,

please submit a picture of their Post for our on-line records. This project will assist the District First Vice Commander gather names for the District Directory.

Proposed program in planning stages set for Tuesday May 3, 2016 at Post 449 on Children and Youth. Meet at 6 pm for social time. Target audience is First District American Legion and Sons to be hosted by Squadron 449. More details to follow. After the Detachment meeting on Saturday of Mid-Winter, the First District Commander will be available to meet with any First District S.A.L. members for a meet and greet. We can talk about the present and the future of First District Sons of the American Legion, First District SAL Commander will only be attending the Mid-Winter conference on Saturday January 16, 2016 during the daytime hours only.

#### Contacts

First District SAL Commander contacted the following

Squadrons: (8)	First District American Legion Posts: (5)
21 Kenosha	8 Waukesha
71 Pewaukee	399 Okauchee
91 Oconomowoc	405 Dousman
171 Union Grove	494 Caledonia
183 Genoa City	495 Sussex
209 Orfordsville	
375 Mukwonago	
449 Elm Brook	

Attended The American Legion First District Fall Conference.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434), to accept the report, second by Detachment Chaplain Rev. Bradford W. Catura (449), motion carried.

**Detachment Vice Commander** – Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243) (Districts 2-8-9) reported 10 Squadrons at current or above, 3 at final goal. There are 13 below goal and there are still 4 goose eggs.

Attended Veterans Day program, filled in for a Legionnaire at two military funerals. Sent Christmas cards to veterans in care facilities, sent Christmas cards to service personnel overseas.

Service activities help decorate at church, prepared and served a community meal and mentored 2 middle school students. Will be helping with the 2<sup>nd</sup> District fun bowl.

Motion by Detachment Chaplain Rev Bradford W. Catura (449), to accept the report, second by Detachment Vice Commander Chris Sherman (071), discussion none, motion carried.

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

Two newsletters have been sent to all Squadrons in 4th, 5th and 11th Districts so far this year, next one going out in February. Unfortunately, having inaccurate or incomplete Squadron is still an issue. Some were returned with bad addresses so I re-sent them to the Post Commanders and Adjutants. In addition to the ones that are mailed there are 30 that are emailed.

Membership: Of the 15 Squadrons in 4th, 5th and 11th Districts 5 are at or over 100%. A few others are close. There are still 4 that have not sent in anything.

- Squadron 27 (4) South Milwaukee: I have been in contact with the Post Commander and he said he would be bringing memberships to Mid-Winter.
- Squadron 203 (4) Milwaukee: There will be a meeting with the Post and Auxiliary and I will be going along to see what can be done with the Squadron.
- Squadron 444 (4) Milwaukee: Left phone messages and got no return calls so far. Will be sending another letter next week to the Post.
- Squadron 406 (5) Milwaukee: Past Department Commander Wayne Jensen is now working with them and has sent in several so far.
- Squadron 480 (11) Presque Isle: Phone calls not returned. Letter will be sent to Post Commander.

Note: Squadron 547 Abramowicz-Kaczmarczyk-Cwikla (Post 547) in 11th District is actually in Lublin. The Squadron Commanders mailing address in Withee.

The GI Josh program continues with our connection at the Naval Bases in Washington. Our daughter is working with the people at the daycare center and helps answer their questions as needed.

I will continue to make membership contacts with those Squadrons that are not making goals. I will also attend events as my work schedule permits.

Motion by Detachment Chaplain Rev Bradford W. Catura (449), to accept the report, second by Detachment Vice Commander Chris Sherman (071), discussion none, motion carried.

**Detachment Vice Commander** – Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534) (Districts 3-7-12) Ashland (90) should be 20 members, has been working closely with his Squadron (59). Made note that communications have improved among the Detachment members and officers and commented on how well the Mid-Winter Conference has been put together and run.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434) to accept the report, second by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Masnak (434) motion carried.

**Detachment Chaplain** – Detachment Chaplain Rev. Bradford W. Catura (449) reported:

In the past six months since meeting at Convention in Appleton, sent out condolence cards to the following: may they rest in peace.

Carrol Barnett, wife of Past Department Commander and Past Department Adjutant Rick Barnett

Bill Spencer, Past Department Chaplain

Marty Czarnecki, Past Department Sgt-at-Arms

John Grothe, Past Department Sgt-at-Arms

George Buchanan, Department Historian

Recently attended three funerals

David Baldwin, Veteran and creator of the Milwaukee Safe House and big supporter of Veterans

Marilynn Brown, wife of Past Post 449 Commander George Brown and an Auxiliary member

Kenneth Lamster, Past Post 449 Commander and a friend of the Sons of The American Legion

Attended Veterans Day program, performed his first wedding at Post (449) for a dual member and his new wife, did service at the Zablocki VA facility

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534) for acceptance of the report, seconded by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Robert Breutzmann (018) discussion none motion carried.

**Detachment Historian** – Detachment Historian Tom Powers (075) none.

Detachment Commander Kollmansberger said he was contacted by Mr. Powers asking that he be allowed to resign due to medical reasons. Detachment Commander Kollmansberger would appoint a new Detachment Historian later.

**National Executive Committeeman** – National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434) had no report, however Detachment Commander Kollmansberger asked him to present an issue that has arose. At the National level and throughout the country Detachments received a letter written by an unknown author (presumably a Sons of The American Legion member) and the origin is unknown. The letter was very derogatory and defaming to important and dedicated Sons of The American Legion members at the National level. If any members received such a letter tear it up and forget it. Mr. Daily suggested not to use this kind of tactic. If things should not go your way work out your issues amicably by following the chain of command and expressing your concerns.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) to accept his report, second by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534) motion carried.

**Alternate National Executive Committeeman** – Alternate National Executive Committeeman Patrick Gryskiewicz (091) had no report.

**Department S.A.L. Chairman** – Department S.A.L. Chairman Michael Wagoner (052) stated that being around numerous Legion meetings, classes he noticed a great presence from the Sons of The American Legion from the Detachment and Squadrons and he has had many fine comments from Legion personnel about the Detachment and its members he asked that the good work be kept up and for members to stay positive in what they do.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434) to accept the report, second by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534) motion carried.

Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) turned the gavel over to Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) for the purpose of his report.

**Detachment Commander** – Detachment Kollmansberger stated the he was proud of all his officers and members and noted that the detachment is making headway particularly in membership and to keep up the momentum. There are a lot of good things happening in the Detachment such as the improvement of the communications. More improvements such as Squadrons that require help should be revitalized and goose egg Squadrons attended too.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434) to accept the report, second by Detachment Chaplain Rev. Braford W. Catura (449) motion carried.

Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) turned the gavel back over to Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075).

#### **Detachment Committee and Commission Reports**

**Detachment Resolution Committee** – Detachment Resolutions Chairman Atty. Chad Lawler (437) reported there were no resolutions to report on.

**Detachment Programs Committee** – Detachment Programs Committee Chairman Christopher Sherman (071) reported:

**Detachment Americanism** – Detachment Americanism Chairman Dan Daily (434) noted that there are two resolution pending with the Legion that will affect the Sons of The American Legion the first is pertaining to the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws which is been revised to align with that of the Legion so that all are on the same page and format and the selection of Districts or Regions. It has been decided to send the resolution to Policy and Procedures to iron out the issue of District or Regions. Department S.A.L. Chairman Michael Wagoner (052) noted that the policy and procedures has referred this issue to an ad-hoc committee of Detachment and Department officers to work out the details. It is recommended that the Detachment and squadrons still keep trying to establish Districts so when the issue is resolved we would be ready to go.

The seconded resolution was the endorsement of Michael L. Lawler for the office of National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. This was resoundingly approved by the Department.

There is money under the budget set for the coloring contest it is suggested that this be moved and renamed for use under the Americanism programs.

Motion by Daniel R. Daily (434) to have these funds moved to the Americanism committee, Ray Dzieciol (534), discussion none, motion carried.

**Detachment Children and Youth** – Detachment Children and Youth Chairman Daniel R. Daily (434) had some additional comments at the National level of the Sons of the American Legion the goal is to surpass \$9,000,000 being donated to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534), to accept the reports, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> District S.A.L. Commander Mike Pook (449), discussion none, motion carried.

**Detachment National Security** – Detachment National Security Chairman Bruce McCormick (434) had no report.

**Detachment Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation** – Acting Detachment Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman Rich Ruland (481) noted that he has been appointed as the Department Camp American Legion Chairman. An engineering company has been secured to scope out the new land acquired by Camp in regards to trails and locations for hunting blinds for the handicapped. There are some issues to resolve in regard to having weapons at camp for hunting such as guns and bows. There are plans being made to remodel the main building to update it, fixing of some of the road and drive structures and securing a larger walk in cooler. These projects are going to take some time any assistance that be given will be appreciated. There are some providers and companies on board to supply food and dairy products to Camp. Camp is free to veterans in the state of Wisconsin. The Legion sweepstakes helps to support Camp but additional help and donations will be welcome with the large new projects and upgrades.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434), to accept the report, second by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534) discussion none, motion carried.

**Detachment Internal Affairs** – Acting Detachment Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Christopher Sherman (071) called on the following member chairman.

**Detachment Legislative** – Detachment Legislative Chair Atty. Chad Lawler (437) there are bills being sent to Veterans Military affairs for legislation the sessions will end in April if not passed they will go dormant; some of importance are Veterans Grant Program, Veterans in State tuition, Logos for Veterans owned businesses and Veterans Remains.

**Detachment Membership** – Acting Detachment Membership Chair Rich Ruland commented the membership is doing well but we still have 10 goose eggs through the State these need to be worked on to revitalize and find out there issues and it is important to keep up and start new Squadrons.

**Detachment Officer Development and Policy** – Detachment Officer Development and Policy Chair Michael L. Lawler (437) if a member is running for an office you are required to fill out the officer's candidate form. These forms can be obtained from the Detachment Adjutant and or online wisal.org. Everyone in attendance at the Sons of The American Legion training session has passed the first step and the attendance at the many Department sessions is another step forward.

**Detachment Public Relations** – Acting Detachment Public Relations Chair Michael L. Lawler (437) stressed that when a Squadron has an event take pictures write articles do flyers and advertise it in a positive manner and send in and reports to the Detachment Adjutant, newspapers, the Badger Legionnaire and include the event on the consolidated report form. Also remember to send in forms for passed away members when needed.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434) to accept the Detachment Internal Affairs Commission report, seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534), discussion none, motion carried.

**Detachment Finance Commission** – Detachment Finance Commission Chairman Tom Petrie (189) reported that from last years the Detachment stayed in the black and should experience a rollover of funds the latest budget has been approved by Department and the stipends for officers will be continued. The Officers/members of the Detachment who are allowed the stipends are as follows Detachment Commander, Detachment Vice Commanders, Detachment Chaplain, Detachment Sergeant-at Arms, Detachment Historian, Detachment Judge Advocate, Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Assistant Adjutants, S.A.L. District Commanders, NEC man, Alt NEC man, Detachment Finance chair and all Detachment Committee chairs under Programs however if a member holds more than one position he will only be paid for one position. The Detachment basket raffle netted \$1037 for the Detachment Commanders project it was turned into Department with the proper paper work.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) to accept the Detachment Finance Commission report, second by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Masnak (434), discussion: it was asked if communication and reporting between the Detachment and the Department Finances has improved. Chairman Petrie (189) noted they are getting better but there still improvements to be made, motion carried.

**Resolutions, Motions and Petitions** – Detachment Resolutions Chairman Atty. Chad Lawler (437) none

## **Unfinished Business**

**Appointments.** Detachment Commander Kollmansberger (075) asked for and made the following appointments

**Convention Credentials Resolutions and Rules Chair** – Atty. Chad Lawler (437) accepted.

Motion by Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (534), for acceptance of the appointment, seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) discussion none, motion carried.

**Detachment Membership Chair** – Rich Ruland (481) accepted.

**Detachment Historian** – Mike Bremzer (075) accepted.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434) for acceptance of the appointment, seconded by Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) discussion none, motion carried.

## **New Business**

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437) reminded the membership that if member is running for an officer position that member needs to fill out and send in the Officers Candidate Form to the Detachment Adjutant.

Detachment Chaplain Rev. Braford W. Catura (449) announced that there will be church services Saturday evening in Salon E and Sunday morning the Four Chaplains Service will be held

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

Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071) complimented the increase of Squadrons present at this Mid-Winter conference.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman-Patrick Gyskiewicz (091) asked to approach the podium for the purpose of a presentation to Detachment Commander Kollmansberger. Detachment Commander Kollmansberger was presented Harley Davidson figurine salt and pepper shakers.

Squadron Commander Troy Ludtke (294) requested to approach the podium for the purpose for a presenting a \$1,000.00 donation to Detachment Commander Kollmansberger's Project "Camp Hometown Heros".

Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Grothe (243) turned in donations from his Squadron as follows: \$50.00 Detachment Commander's Project, \$20.00 Josh Dog Program, \$10.00 Child Welfare Foundation, \$10.00 National Emergency Fund and \$10.00 Denise Rohan's Campaign

Department S.A.L. Chairman-Micheal Wagoner (052) requested that all voting Detachment Officers remain behind after the close of the D.E.C. for the purpose of a short special meeting.

## **Closing**

Closing comments by Detachment Commander Kollmansberger he thanked all his officers, guests, Legion Members and the new Squadrons that were present, the donations for his Detachment Commanders project, the membership stepping up and taking in the many classes and committee meetings that were available from Department and the Detachment. Noting that his expectations for this Mid-Winter were blown out of the water or greatly exceeded.

With no other business Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) closed the Mid-Winter D.E.C. meeting with the proper closing ceremonies at 5:01 p.m.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant  
Gary Lee LeRoy (294)