

# Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin

49<sup>th</sup> annual Convention Saturday session, July 15th 2017

## Opening

### Call to Order

Saturday July 15th, 2017 Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) reconvened the 49<sup>th</sup> annual Convention at 9:30am in the Evergreen room at the Appleton Convention Center.

### Posting of the Colors

With colors in place hand salute was rendered.

**Invocation**-Invocation was given by Detachment Chaplain Shawn Grothe (243)

### POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony

A ceremony honoring our POW/MIA was conducted by Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075) Detachment Chaplain Shawn Grothe (243) 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 Ray Dzieciol (059)).

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

Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble was led by Detachment Vice-Commander Allen Watry (038)

### Roll Call of Detachment Officers Detachment

Detachment Commander	Mike A. Kollmansberger	(075)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Robert Sirovina	(537)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Allen Watry	(038)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	Shawn Grothe	(243)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Gary Masnak	(434)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	David Fuller	(209)	Present
National Executive Committeeman	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
Alternate NECman	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(091)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Russell Severson	(313)	-
Past Detachment Commander	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Gary Lubich	(121)	Excused
1st District Commander	Mike Pook (Brad Catura rep)	(449)	Present
3rd District Commander	Ray Dzieciol (Rich Ruland rep)	(534)	Present
6th District Commander	Brian Stenz (mark Lipke rep)	(075)	Present

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

Detachment Judge Advocate	Chad Lawler	(437)	Excused
Detachment Historian	Mark Lipke	(075)	Present
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	Jeff Puddy	(075)	Present

### Past Detachment Commanders Present

David Faust (245), Michael L. Lawler (437), Steven Champeny (209), Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093), Daniel R. Daily (434).

### Roll Call of Squadrons

District	Squad. No.	City
1	071	Pewaukee
1	183	Genoa City
1	209	Orfordville
1	294	Hartland
1	449	Brookfield
2	015	Juneau
2	189	Watertown
2	243	Plymouth
3	059	Stoughton
3	245	Cross Plains
3	437	Mazomanie
3	481	Madison
3	501	Madison
4	018	Milwaukee
4	537	Milwaukee
4	434	Oak Creek
6	075	Fond du Lac
9	038	Appleton
9	106	Seymour
10	053	Eau Claire
11	093	Tomahawk

### Introduction of Guests

**Department Auxiliary President Laurel DuBois-** gave greetings to the Detachment made note the Legion Family is heading in a positive direction in support of the Veteran. All faction continue to keep up the good work.

**Auxiliary National Vice President Diane Duscheck-** (leading candidate for National Legion Aux. president) gave greetings to the Detachment. The Legion Family in all aspects and groups are showing great strides in support of the Veteran and our military. Noted that the Sons of The American Legions numbers for Child Welfare are amazing.

Commander Kollmansberger presented gifts to the ladies.

**Diane Sirovina Aux. member-** made note of the Aux. Fall Forum program has been an effective program and they are extending an invitation to the Detachment members to attend these meetings to learn more.

**S.A.L. National Vice Commander Michal L Lawler and his Wife Janice.**

**Alt. NECman Patrick Gryskiewicz (091) mother Mrs. Gryskiewicz.**

### Convention Committee Reports

**Americanism Chair - Daniel R. Daily (434)** reported short items were discussed

Badger Boys state, Badger Girls state 14 sponsored (\$2860), 314 Color Guard functions, 107 Boy Scouts sponsored, 55 Junior Shooters programs, Flags distributed to Schools 125, 14 flag education programs presented, 24 flag disposal ceremonies, 6894 flags placed at Cemetery's and parades. \$3185 in Scholarship awards, 1138 pints of blood donated, 13917 volunteer hours and a total in donations of \$30430 but only 36 Squadrons turned in a consolidated report.

Motion by Christopher Sherman (071) second by Robert Sirovina (537) to accept the report,  
Discussion none, motion carried.

#### **Americanism Awards**

##### **Blood**

Honorable mention –449 Brookfield– certificate  
Second place –437 Mazomanie– certificate  
First place –018 Milwaukee – **Raymond Faust** – plaque/cert.

##### **Community Service**

Honorable mention – 449 Brookfield - certificate  
Second place –048 Beloit – certificate  
First place –75 Fond Du Lac– **Mary Ann Nelson (M.A.N.)** – plaque/cert.

##### **Americanism**

Honorable mention –449 Brookfield – certificate  
Second place –437 Mazomanie – certificate  
First place –75 Fond Du Lac – **Robert Wilcox** – plaque/cert.

#### **Children and Youth**

Chair – Chris Sherman (071) reported that \$3838 and 240 volunteer hours were submitted for CWF. \$5590 and 1119 volunteer hours were submitted for other Children and Youth programs. There were 231 Dogs distributed at four deployments grand total cost of \$7240. Total in donations and volunteer hours for Children and Youth \$16668 and 1359 hours. New flyers for the GI Josh Dog will be coming out soon.

Motion by Allen Watry (038) second by Ray Dzieciol (534) to accept the report,  
Discussion none, motion carried.

#### **Children & Youth Awards**

##### **Excellence Award \$1.00 per member to CWF.**

(048) Beloit, (209) Orfordville, (449) Brookfield, (189) Watertown, (120) West Allis, (437) Mazomanie, (245) Cross Plains, (075) Fond Du Lac, (108) Clear Lake, and (038) Appleton.

##### **Child Welfare Foundation (High per cap)**

Honorable mention –075 Fond Du Lac – certificate  
Second place –437 Mazomanie – certificate  
First place -048 Beloit – **CWF** – plaque

##### **Josh Dog Program (High per cap)**

Honorable mention – 048 Beloit – certificate  
Second place –075 Fond Du Lac– certificate  
First place -437 Mazomanie –**Dale E. Daily** – plaque

##### **Children and Youth (Best)**

Honorable mention –534 McFarland– certificate  
Second place –437 Mazomanie – certificate  
First place –075 Fond Du Lac– **Lillian Priest** – plaque

#### **Finance Chair Tom Petrie (189)**

The audited report was received in June, Accounting is still making changes forming into the Legion Style of book keeping. However a roll over is expected. Noted that officers should turn in for their stipends that are allowed.

Motion by Allen Watry (038) second by Christopher Sherman (071) to accept the report,  
Discussion none, motion carried.

**Constitutional Amendments**-acting chair Michael Lawler (437) out of meeting, Detachment Adjutant noted that there was no business to attend to.

**Membership**

Chairman Rich Ruland reported the Detachment is at 100 Squadrons over 92 Village and Cities. Made note that a lot of work needs to be done the Goose eggs for next year a plan has been developed to attend to the Goose eggs. New Squadrons are 106 Seymour, 364 Winneconne. Potential Squadrons are Bayfield and Theresa. Motion by Christopher Sherman (071) second by Ray Dzieciol (534) to accept the report, Discussion none was noted that Little Chute is a potential Squadron, motion carried.

**Membership Awards**

First Squadron over 110% -305 Johnson Creek– **Jack Keys** – plaque/cert.  
 Greatest percentage membership increase –093 Tomahawk– **Armin Tews** – plaque/cert.

**Legion Birthday / 100 Percent Ribbons / All time High**

Dist.	Squad.	City	Dist.	Squad.	City
1	024	Lake Genva	4	406	Milwaukee
1	048	Beloit	6	070	Oshkosh
1	071	Pewaukee	6	075	Fond du Lac
1	091	Oconomowoc	6	306	Green Lake
1	375	Mukwonago	6	329	Briggsville
1	026	Menomonee Falls	6	366	Princeton
1	494	Caledonia	7	051	West Salem
1	549	Brookfield	7	065	Rome
2	001	Germantown	7	336	Onalaska
2	015	Juneau	8	010	Wausau
2	157	Horicon	8	054	Marshfield
2	243	Plymouth	8	063	Clintonville
2	045	Cedarburg	8	117	Shawano
2	305	Johnson Creek	9	038	Appleton
2	335	Grafton	9	106	Seymour
2	387	Franklin	9	150	Wausaukee
3	059	Stoughton	10	053	Eau Claire
3	054	Monroe	10	080	New Richmond
3	214	Darlington	10	326	Boyd
3	220	Soldiers Grove	10	550	Brackett
3	245	Cross Plains	11	090	Ashland
3	437	Mazomanie	11	093	Tomahawk
3	481	Madison	11	547	Lublin
3	501	Madison	11	480	Presque Isle
4	444	Milwaukee	12	143	Saint Croix Falls
			12	487	Cable

**National Security** – Acting Chair Allen Watry (038) reported Operation Comfort Warriors is a program that could be supported, POW/MIA Advocacy all remains should be retrieved and honored properly with distinction. There are two POW/MIA marches scheduled 2<sup>nd</sup> District Sept 6<sup>th</sup> and the first District Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at 449. For blood drive Wisconsin leads the Nation. There is a fund at the state level for troop Family Support. The Patriot Angles visit retirement home in southern Wis. Seeking out veterans that may not be receiving their benefits however this group charges the veterans, which should be free of charge be warned and look for this. Motion by Christopher Sherman (071) second by Rich Ruland (481) to accept the report,

Discussion none, motion carried.

#### **Awards**

##### **National Emergency Fund**

Honorable mention –108 Clear Lake– certificate

Second place –209 Orfordville– certificate

First place – 437 Mazomanie-**NEF**- plaque

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**- Chair Allen Watry (038) reported that there are to be changes in the VA Veterans unemployment program. The three billion dollar amount is to be was to be transferred to a choice healthcare program the VA unemployment will stay in place with its funds, the Choice healthcare will be started from scratch.

John Beck from Milwaukee discussed the redevelopment of the Old Soldiers Home that the city was going take over.

Compromises have been reached with the city that will allow the home to remain a lot of work will need to be done.

It is being looked at a Gold Star Cabin at Camp American Legion to support the family members of a Fallen Veteran.

The State has 23,000 Veteran clients, Department has pushed thru 1.5 billion dollars in benefits.

Motion by Jeremy Mason (015) second by Ron Rilette (183) to accept the report,

Discussion Ron Dehart (071) gave a little more in-depth explanation to the new Choice program, motion carried.

##### **VA&R Awards**

Honorable mention –449 Brookfield – certificate

Second place –537 Milwaukee – certificate

First place –075 Fond Du Lac – **Thomas A. Knox** – plaque

**Detachment Adjutant Faust noted there was no Squadron history book award as none were submitted.**

With 36 Squadrons reporting 7797 volunteer hours achieved donations of \$18714 for a total of 95123 in efforts.

A total economic impact in a dollar amount was calculated at \$994,458.

##### **Best Overall Program**

Honorable Mention-449 Brookfield– certificate

Second place –437 Mazomanie – certificate

Best overall program –075-Fond Du Lac– **Don Priest** – plaque

Detachment Commander Kollmansberger called for a 5 minute break.

Upon the end of the recess Detachment Chaplain-Shawn Grothe (243) requested that a donation bucket be passed around for the Josh Dog Program. Detachment Commander Kollmansberger agreed.

##### **Final Credentials Report**

Detachment Adjutant Faust reviewed the voting strength of the delegates and delegates at large by squadron the tally reported was 45 present would take 23 to elect.

Motion by Tom Petrie (189) second by Patrick Gryskiewicz (091) to accept the credentials report,

Discussion none, motion carried.

##### **Election process Explanation**

Detachment Adjutant Faust explained that ballots would be distributed at the appointed hour, voting members must have their delegate or alternate badges with them. Adjutant Faust explained the balloting form and how to fill it out.

At this point Detachment Adjutant Faust continued on with the nomination of delegates and alt. delegates to the National Convention

##### **Delegates to the National Convention**

Wisconsin by membership is allowed 10 delegates and 12 alt. delegates.

Delegate at large-PNC David Faust (245), NVC Michael Lawler (437)

Outgoing Commander – automatic

In coming Commander- automatic

NEC Man- Dan Daily (434) - automatic

Detachment Adjutant-David Faust (245)

As required the following were submitted by District as delegates and alt. delegates for District 1 & 3:

**First District** – Delegate Brad Catura (449), Alt. Delegate Mike Pook (449).

**Third District** – Delegate Rich Ruland (481) Alt. Delegate Ray Dzieciol (059).

This would leave 5 delegates at large to be nominated from the floor, the following were nominated, Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), Mike Bremser (075), Gary Kennedy (434), Ron Rilette (183), Dave Ruland (481).

#### **Alternate National Delegates to Convention**

The required 8 Alt. delegates to be nominated from the floor, the following were nominated.

David Fuller (209), Ron DeHart (071), Mark Lipke (075), Jason Bratner (053), Chris McEssey

(075), Brad Blazek (106) and Allen Watry (038).

Motion by Ray Dzieciol (059). second by Gary Masnak (434), to close the nominations and elect the nominees by acclamation, motion carried.

### **Special Order of Business Elections 12:00 noon**

Elections Judge noted an update to the voting strength of the delegates and delegates at large by squadron the tally reported was 46 present, would take 24 to elect.

**Elections**-ballots were distributed by the Detachment Sgt.-at Arms and tellers for the following offices and candidates. After the voting was finished the ballots were collected by the election tellers and they retired along with the Elections Judge to another room for tallying.

It was reported that \$427 was raised for the Josh Dog program and (449) Brookfield made a donation of \$350.00 which was included in this amount.

(PDC) (NVC) and many other positions Michael L. Lawler (437) was called to the podium to collect his Squadrons awards. Mr. Lawler was then introduced by Adjutant Faust Mr. Lawler noted that it has been an emotional roller coaster ride over his years with the Sons of The American Legion but that it has been an amazing journey. Extended greeting from the National Commander Jeff Frain. This year's message is Knowledge Power tour, be a super hero sign up three American a strong Legion will only give the Son of the American Legion, Auxiliary And American Legion Riders a boost solidifying the American Legion Family. Fill out the paper work for the Charles Smith pin. National's new Plan book for S.A.L. Squadrons is out in hard copy and or can be found online. Visited the POW/MIA accounting agency noted that is where remains return for testing and identification.

Mr. Lawler noted he met a recovering veteran who does wood working as therapy Mr. Lawler was given a POW/MIA carved wooden plaque from the veteran and he wished to pass on to Detachment Assistant Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy for his known dedication to the POW/MIA organization services and support.

Detachment Commander Kollmansberger (075) turned the podium over to the elections Judge Rich Ruland (481) for the purpose of the election results.

**Commander** – (1 required) Christopher Sherman (071).

**Chaplain** – (1 Required) Shawn Grothe (243).

**Vice Commanders**- (4 Required) - Robert Sirovina (537), Ray Dzieciol (534), Allen Watry (038), David Fuller (209).

**Sergeant-At-Arms**- (2 Req'd.) - Gary Masnak (434), Joseph M. Probst (294).

Motion by Gary Masnak (434), second by Ray Dzieciol (534), to have the ballots destroyed, discussion none, motion carried.

Detachment Commander Kollmansberger called for recess until 2:00pm.  
Detachment Commander Kollmansberger reconvened the Saturday session at 2:00pm.

Detachment Commander Kollmansberger and Detachment Adjutant Faust passed out his last term Detachment Officers year pins and year bars.

Detachment Vice Commander Christopher Sherman (071)-year/ bar  
Detachment Vice Commander Robert Sirovina (434)-year/ bar  
Detachment Vice Commander Allen Watry (038)- pin  
Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059)-year/ bar  
Detachment Chaplain- Shawn Grothe (243)-pin  
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Masnak (434)-year/bar  
National Executive Committeeman Daniel R. Daily (434)-year/bar  
Alternate NECman Patrick Gryskiewicz (091)- year/bar  
Detachment Historian Mark Lipke (075)-pin  
Detachment Assistant Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy (294)-year bar  
Detachment Assistant Adjutant Michael L. Lawler (437)- year bar  
Detachment Commander Mike A. Kollmansberger (075)- year bar

### **New Business**

Ray Dzieciol (534) asked if there were plans in place yet for the Detachment 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Detachment Commander Kollmansberger said there would be something done.

Ray Dzieciol (534) also asked that a travel budget could be set for visitations to Squadrons, or perspective Squadrons, or for revitalization Squadrons. It was noted that the new budget is due in Sept this issue could be settled at the post DEC Sunday.

### **Installations of New Officers**

Detachment Commander Kollmansberger turned the podium over to S.A.L. National Vice Commander Michael L. Lawler (437) (WI) for the purpose of administering and installing the newly elected Detachment officers.

S.A.L. National Vice Commander Michael L. Lawler (437) (WI) returned the podium to Detachment Commander Kollmansberger for the purpose to end of the Convention, who made his final remarks; it has been an exciting two years, the programs that were installed and envisioned for his term was not an overnight success it was felt that these would be a four to five plan but from the response that was received it has been a good start. He noted that he very proud of all his officers that made the items get started. Asked that the work be continued and the new officers continue to work for the New Commander Chris Sherman.

Detachment Commander Kollmansberger's Detachment Vice Commanders for his term presented him a \$200 gift card.

New Detachment Commander Chris Sherman (075) made some remarks he does realize plans were made and he knows that it going to a while and time. We have the people that are doing very well and are a great officer group in place. He can't wait for the new year to continue the progress and keep moving forward.

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

Squadron Membership Was turned in:  
Clintonville (063) 18 members for 2018  
Brookfield (449) 10 members for 2018  
Orfordville (209) 10 members for 2018

Detachment Commander Kollmansberger gave out a small gift to those first time Squadrons to attend Convention. It was questioned and asked if gifts would be handed out for the 100<sup>th</sup> Convention attendance. Detachment Commander Kollmansberger asked the body who has attended 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years or more.

S.A.L. National Vice Commander Michael L. Lawler (437) (WI) noted of an experience he had while addressing the American Legion which was a no prouder moment that he had and or the Legion that with one third reporting the Sons of The American Legion have donated over \$994,000 in the state of Wis. And this was found to be amazing to the Legion.

Detachment Chaplain Shawn Grothe (243) announced that the memorial service practice would be this evening at 6:00 pm and the service would be at 8:00 am and he asked for a show of hands of the volunteers.

Allen Watry (038) Appleton announced that Baseball would be played at 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:00 there are shuttles to the Post field.

Detachment Adjutant Faust noted the Past Commanders Club will be at Post (038) at 7:00pm there are shuttles. Post DEC will start at 9:00am Sun.

## **Closing**

### **Benediction**

A benediction was offered by Detachment Chaplain Shawn Grothe (243)

### **Retirement of POW/MIA Empty Chair**

The POW/MIA Empty Chair cover was retired by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms, Gary Masnak (434)

### **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 Detachment Convention closed.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant  
Gary Lee Leroy (294)