

# Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin

50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Saturday Session, July 14th 2018

## Opening

### Call to Order

Saturday July 14th, 2018 Detachment Commander Christopher Sherman (071) reconvened the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Convention at 9:30am in the Thistle room at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

### The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Squadron members Conner Hienie, Riely and Kelvin Lipke .

### Posting of the Colors

With colors in place hand salute was rendered.

Placement of the Blue Star was posted.

**Invocation**-Invocation was given by Detachment 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).

### 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 Commander	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Robert Sirovina	(537)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(059)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Allen Watry	(038)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	David Fuller	(209)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	Shawn Grothe	(243)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Gary Masnak	(434)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Joe Probst	(294)	Absent
National Executive Committeeman	Daniel R. Daily	(434)	Present
Alternate NECman	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(093)	Present
1st District Commander	Joe Probst (Mike Pook rep) (449)	(294)	Present
3rd District Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(059)	Present
4 <sup>th</sup> District Commander	Christopher Dannenmann	(434)	Present
6th District Commander	Mark Lipke	(075)	Present

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

Detachment Judge Advocate	Michael L. Lawler	(437)	Present
Detachment Historian	Joe Bromley	(071)	Present
Detachment Adjutant	David Faust	(245)	Present
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Gary Lee LeRoy	(294)	Present
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Jeff Puddy	(075)	Excused

### **Past Detachment Commanders Present**

David Faust (245) (PNC), Michael L. Lawler (437), Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093), Kelly Powers (158), Daniel R. Daily (434), Gary Lubich (121), Mike Kollmansberger (075).

### **Roll Call of Squadrons by Adjutant David Faust (245).**

District	Squad. No.	City
1	071	Pewaukee
1	209	Orfordville
1	294	Hartland
1	375	Mukwonago
1	449	Brookfield
1	494	Caledonia
2	189	Watertown
2	243	Plymouth
3	059	Stoughton
3	245	Cross Plains
3	437	Mazomanie
3	481	Madison
4	537	Milwaukee
4	434	Oak Creek
6	075	Fond du Lac
9	038	Appleton
10	121	River Falls
11	093	Tomahawk

### **Introduction of Guests**

**American Legion National Commander** – Denise H. Rohan greeted the Detachment noting that it was great to back in Wisconsin her home State and thanked the Detachment membership for all of the support that the S.A.L. has provided to her over the years. Noted that the great job by the Sons of the American Legion for the Josh Dog program in support of Veterans and their Families. On a serious note Commander Rohan shared a statement with the Department Wis. what has been occurring during her term as Nat'l. Commander and she would like to share the issue in short to the rest of Legion Family. In the begging of March she started receiving an ominous threatening E-Mails from some source noting there self as a Legion loyalist, contents ranged from black mail, threats and as far as a death threat this issue has been referred over to the FBI. Commander Rohan noted that a close eye should be kept on E-mails and if anyone should receive any suspect E-Mails from a unknow source please forward them to the National Judge Advocate in Indianapolis For further investigation.

**Past Department Commander**– Al Richards and current American Legion Riders President presented a check to the Detachment in the amount of \$500 for application to the Josh Dog program. Commander Sherman presented Mr. Richards with a Josh Dog challenge coin and State pin.

**Department Aux. President** – Bonnie Jakubezyk gave greetings to the Detachment from the Aux. who have been busy with all there smiles to support member involvement that is encouraged thru out the State. Thanks, were extended to her proud traveling companion Josh D. who has traveled over 13,000 miles promoting the S.A.L. Josh Dog program. The Aux. is proud to have provided to Camp AL a wheel chair limo and the remodeling of Women's quarters in the total amount of \$45,000. President Jakubezyk noted that it was time to settle up on a friendly bet she presented it as (I can't smile I can't grin finding hard to do anything since I can't smile when losing so give me a little smile with this game with a donation to the Josh Dog program). The bet was \$100 for which organization reached the highest membership renewals. Commander Sherman presented President Jakubezyk with a special gift box of fine wine and State pin.

**James Jolly a Korean Vet** which he also belongs to the (USMC) League he will be passing out the detachment awards

later in the day. Mr. Jolly thanked Commander Sherman and Patrick Gryskiewicz (Pat G.) for inviting him to do these honors.

## **Convention Committee Reports and Awards**

**Americanism Chair** – Kelly Powers (158) reported items that were discussed and achieved by the Squadrons and the Detachment Badger Boys state 29 sponsored, Badger Girls state 20 sponsored total amount combined (\$4780). 355 Color Guard functions, 57 Boy Scouts units sponsored. Sponsored 4 American Legion baseball teams thru out the state in the amount of (\$3320), Flags presentations to Schools 261, 22 flag education programs presented, 96 flag disposal ceremonies, 6008 flags placed at Cemetery's and parades, \$7225 to the National Emergency Fund, 1296 pints of blood donated, 25 of 50 Squadrons reporting for community service in the amount of 18,655 volunteer hours and a total in donations of \$19,784, with only 50 Squadrons reporting and turning in a consolidated reports out of 103 squadrons, the grand of total volunteer and donations is \$41,468 donated time and monies.

### **Americanism Awards**

#### **Best Blood**

Honorable mention –63 Clintonville– certificate

Second place –75 Fond du Lac– certificate

First place –189 Watertown – **Raymond Faust** – plaque/cert. (1020 pints)

#### **Best Community Service**

Honorable mention – 449 Brookfield - certificate

Second place –537 Milwaukee – certificate

First place –48 Beloit– **Mary Ann Nelson (M.A.N.)** – plaque/cert. (7,500 hours)

#### **Best Americanism**

Honorable mention –537 Milwaukee – certificate

Second place –75 Fond du Lac – certificate

First place –48 Beloit – **Robert Wilcox** – plaque/cert. (580 dollars & hours per member)

Motion by Christopher Dannenmann (434), second by Joe Bromley (071) to accept the report,

Discussion none, motion carried.

### **Children and Youth**

Chair – Daniel R. Daily (434) reported the primary program this year has been the “Josh Dogs” and it has been successful with donations and volunteer support, Mike Kalsbeek (243) made up a flyer to seek donations for Josh noting what Josh Dogs was about when and why the program started to seek donation in his area. National Emergency Fund \$3,782 was donated and 247 hours of volunteer time was achieved. These numbers came from the 50 consolidated reports. Josh Dogs 10 Squadrons gave \$1.00 per member achieved 511 Josh Dogs totaling \$26,820 for the Josh Dog program. With other C&Y programs at \$4085 and 751 volunteer hours total for all C&Y programs in volunteer hours and donations ended at \$34,648.

### **Children & Youth Awards**

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

(048) Beloit, (183) Genoa City, (209) Orfordville, (449) Brookfield, (189) Watertown, (059) Stoughton, (120) West Allis, (075) Fond Du Lac, (038) Appleton, (108) Clear Lake.

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

Honorable mention – (183) Genoa City – certificate

Second place – (075) Fond du Lac – certificate

First place – (189) Watertown – **CWF** – plaque (\$26.00 per member)

#### **Josh Dog Program**

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

(048) Beloit, (183) Genoa City, (209) Orfordville, (449) Brookfield, (015) Juneau, (189) Watertown, (059) Stoughton, (075) Fond du Lac, (038) Appleton, (108) Clear Lake.

### **Dale E. Daily Plaque**

#### **Highest Per Capita Donations to Josh Dogs**

Honorable mention – (075) Fond du Lac – certificate

Second place – (434) Oak Creek (\$121.72 per member & (12,172 total) – certificate

First place – (192) Franklin – **Danial E. Daily** – plaque

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

Honorable mention – (192) Franklin – certificate

Second place – (075) Fond Du Lac – certificate

First place – (434) Oak Creek – **Lillian Priest** – plaque

Motion by Kelly Powers (158) second by Ray Dzieciol (534) to accept the report,

Discussion none, motion carried.

**Constitutional Amendments** - chair Michael Lawler (437) noted that there was no business to attend to.

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

The audit report is still being worked on for 2017, However a roll over is expected. It is being asked by the Finance Committee that at the D.E.C. meetings the Finance session be pushed back to allow time for other committees to request their budget needs.

Motion by Mike Pook (449), second by Christopher Dannenmann (434) to accept the report,

Discussion none, motion carried.

**Legislative** – Chad Lawler (437) in the absence of Chad, Adjutant Faust noted the following key priorities that the American Legion Family is working on and looking for support.

V.A. suicide prevention efforts.

Limit the outsourcing of the V.A. activities and unify the V.A. programs.

In support of fully funding of National Defense.

Would like to see the V.A. move towards lifetime electronic medical records for the Veteran in cooperation with the Dept. of Defense for older records.

Pushing for the reclassification of cannabis for the purpose of medical research needs.

The institution of gender specific needs for women Vets within the V.A. system.

Keep up the Veterans Educational benefits.

Provide mandatory end of service health exams for reservists

Motion by Brad Catura (449), second by Ray Dzieciol (534) to accept the Legislative report,

Discussion none, motion carried.

#### **Membership**

Chairman Rich Ruland reported that this year a lot of Squadrons are moving forward and getting there name out there.

There have been two new Squadrons (364) Winneconne and (194) Cazenovia. The state has 101 Squadrons within the 12 Districts and 72 counties total membership is at 3649 for 100.41% from last year, 108% of the National goal with at 3646 members. 100% membership 65 out of 101 Squadrons at 64%, 7 out 12 Districts is 58%, all time membership 26 Squadrons at 26%, 10 Districts at 83.3%. Renewal rate was 90.49%.

#### **Membership Awards**

First Squadron to reach 110% - **Jack Keys** plaque

Squadron (15) Juneau

Greatest percentage membership increase - **Armin Tews** plaque

Squadron (116) Coon Valley (180%)

**Membership – 100% & All Time High**

Dist.	Squadron + (BD) * ATH	Dist.	Squadron + (BD) * ATH
1	024 Lake Geneva	4	203 Milwaukee +
1	048 Beloit +	4	416 Greendale
1	071 Pewaukee + *	4	434 Oak Creek + *
1	091 Oconomowoc +	6	070 Oshkosh
1	171 Union Grove	6	329 Briggsville +
1	196 Delafield +	7	051 West Salem
1	209 Orfordville	7	065 Rome + *
1	375 Mukwonago + *	7	073 Neillsville +
1	494 Caledonia + *	7	100 Sparta
1	544 Twin Lakes	7	115 Elroy +
2	001 Germantown	7	116 Coon Valley + *
2	015 Juneau + *	7	118 Thorp
2	062 Columbus +	8	054 Marshfield +
2	157 Horicon *	8	063 Clintonville + *
2	243 Plymouth	8	117 Shawano
2	288 Cedarburg	8	339 Almond +
2	347 Lomira	9	011 Green Bay
2	335 Grafton + *	9	038 Appleton + *
2	387 Franklin + *	9	044 Wabeno +
2	522 Hubertus +	9	060 Kimberly + *
3	059 Stoughton + *	9	106 Seymour *
3	084 Monroe + *	10	080 New Richmond +
3	151 Madison	10	111 Somerset +
3	214 Darlington + *	10	121 River Falls
3	220 Soldiers Grove +	10	158 Maiden Rock
3	245 Cross Plains	10	326 Boyd *
3	313 Black Earth +	10	558 Brackett + *
3	433 Barneveld +	11	090 Ashland + *
3	437 Mazomanie + *	11	093 Tomahawk +
3	481 Madison +	11	480 Presque Isle + *
4	027 South Milwaukee +	11	547 Lublin +
4	120 West Allis + *	12	185 Grantsburg
4	192 Franklin +		

+ = 100% by Legion Birthday in March

\* = All Time High

Motion by Kelly Powers (121) second by Tom Petrie (189) to accept the report,  
 Discussion none, motion carried.

**National Security** – Acting Chair Allen Watry (038) noted key efforts that where continuing Operation Comfort Warriors is a program that supports returned Vets that are in treatment at a V. A. POW/MIA Advocacy all remains should be retrieved and honored properly with distinction. Troop Support is the Josh Dog program in support of deploying troops and their families. The National Law Enforcement Academy for the second year went very well and are looking for expansion next year. The Missile Defense Fund is being considered to be refunded for protection of the country. Under Homeland Security which considers Military, Law Enforcement, Fire Departments in your communities please help them

out and support them. FEMA is considering and forced to reducing services without additional help and funding, the Legion is looking into how they can help.

### **National Emergency Fund Awards**

Squadrons with \$1.00 or more per capita:

Dist	Squadron
1	209 Orfordville
1	449 Brookfield
6	75 Fond du Lac
12	108 Clear Lake

### **National Emergency Fund Highest Per Capita Contributions**

Honorable Mention: Squadron 108 Clear Lake

2nd Place: Squadron 449 Brookfield

1st Place: Squadron 75 Fond du Lac (\$104.44 per member)

Motion by Christopher Dannenmann (434) second by Mike Pook (449) to accept the report,

Discussion none, motion carried.

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation-** Chair Robert Sirovina Jr. (537) relinquished the floor to the Detachment Judge Advocate (PDC) (PNVC) Michael Lawler (437) noted that the amazing things that the Detachment does every day as Sons of the American Legion has a huge impact and is found out little by little. In talking with General Dunbar particularly what is done with the Josh Dog program makes such a difference. There is a list in the back of wishes for the V.A. needs, it is time to certify new or re certified members to the V.A. system as Reps or Depts there are three candidate's in place to be certified for the positions, Robert Sirovina (537) @ Zablocke, Patrick Gryskiewicz (091) @ Tahoma and Michael Lawler (437) @ William Neal son Madison.

Motion by Christopher Dannenmann (434), second by Rich Ruland (481), to accept the V.A. Reps and Depts, Discussion- it was asked if there were any other openings that can be filled it was noted as yes any hospital in state and Assoc. Reps at Minneapolis Mn, Iron Mt. Mi and Hind Ill. It was noted there are a lot of rules to be followed and a program and class to be selected as a volunteer, motion carried.

VA Volunteer hours were reported this year at 1,791 hours, 475 of visits total of \$7,240, 26 out of 49 squadrons reporting 3929 volunteer hours and \$30,934.

### **VA&R Awards Best Rehabilitation Program**

Honorable mention – (449) Brookfield – certificate

Second place – (434) Oak Creek – certificate

First place – (294) Hartland – **Thomas A. Knox** – plaque

Motion by Mike Pook (449) second by Ray Dzieciol (059) to accept the report,

Discussion none, motion carried.

**Best Overall Program** – presented by Commander Sherman he noted that there were 26,504 volunteer hours and donations were in the amount of \$24,562 out of 50 Squadrons reporting. Total accomplishments by the S.A.L. from Wisconsin is 51,337 volunteer hours and a total of \$131,351 in donations.

Honorable Mention-449 Brookfield– certificate

Second place – (434) Oak Creek – certificate

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

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

#### **Credentials Report**

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 Christopher Dannenmann (434) second by (PDC) Kelly Powers (121) to accept the credentials report, discussion none, motion carried.

### **Election process Explanation**

Would be voting for Detachment Commander, four Vice Commanders, Chaplain, two Sgt.-at-Arms, NEC man and Alt. NEC man. Adjutant Faust explained that ballots would be distributed at the appointed hour by the Sgt.-at-Arms and Election tellers, voting members must have their delegate or alternate badges with them, Voting will be at 12:00 fill out ballots as distributed and collected by the Sgt.-at-Arms or tellers.

After ballots were collected Commander Sherman called for recess for lunch and to give the elections committee time to tally the results of voting until Return to session at 1:00 PM.

Commander Sherman (071) turned the podium over to the elections Judge after the break to Christopher Dannenmann (434) for the purpose of the election results.

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

**Vice Commanders**- (4 Required) - Robert Sirovina Jr. (434), Allen Watry (038), David Fuller (209), Rich Ruland (),

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

**Sergeant-At-Arms**- (2 Req'd.) – Mark Lipke (045), Ray Dzieciol (059).

**National Executive Committee Man** - Patrick Gryskiewicz (091).

**Alt. National Executive Committee Man** – Kelly Powers (158).

Motion by Dan Daily (434), second by Ray Dzieciol (059), to have the ballots destroyed, discussion none, motion carried.

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

Wisconsin by membership of 3850+ is allowed 11 delegates for a total of 12.

Delegate at large-PNC David Faust (245)

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 6 delegates at large to be nominated from the floor, the following were nominated, Amon O'Coner (437) Gary Lubich (121), Kelly Powers (121), Patrick Gryskiewicz (093), John Lhuillier (434), Joe Bromley (071).

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

The required 9 Alt. delegates to be nominated from the floor, the following were nominated.

Allen Watry (038). David Fuller (209) Rich Ruland (), Gary Masnak (434), Mike Bomber (075), Gary Lee LeRoy (294),

Motion by Allen Watry (038). second by Mike Pook (449), to close the nominations and elect the nominees by acclamation, motion carried.

### **Awards to outgoing officers**

Commander Sherman and Adjutant Faust passed out the last term Detachment Officers year pins and year bars.

Detachment Vice Commander Robert Sirovina (434)-year/ bar

Detachment Vice Commander Ray Dzieciol (059)-year/ bar

Detachment Vice Commander Allen Watry (038)- year/ bar

Detachment Vice Commander David Fuller (209) Ribbon and year bar

Detachment Chaplain- Shawn Grothe (243) year/bar

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 Assistant Judge Advocate Michael L. Lawler (437)- year bar

Detachment Historian Joe Bromley (071) Ribbon and year bar

Detachment Adjutant David Faust (245) year bar  
Detachment Assistant Adjutant Gary Lee LeRoy (294)-year bar  
Detachment Commander Christopher Sherman (071)- Ribbon and year/ bar

## **New Business**

### **Installations of New Officers**

Commander Sherman turned the podium over to (S.A.L.) National Vice Commander Central Region Michael L. Lawler (437) (PDC) (Wis.) for the purpose of administrating and installing the newly elected Detachment officers. (S.A.L.) National Vice Commander Central Region Michael L. Lawler (437) (PDC) (Wis.) returned the podium to Commander Sherman for the purpose to end of the Convention.

New Commander Chris Sherman (075) made some remarks as we have new Squadrons going on line it is not totally impossible to achieve the Triple Nickel award with some additional work and getting the membership in. Keep up the work with the Josh Dog program which is still will be his commanders project.

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

Michael Lawler noted donations to the Josh Dog program \$55 Mary Meanee, \$50 & \$55 Ramona Schellman, \$40 Arlene Detroit for a total of \$300.00. Squadron (449) Lee Rainer Comm. presented a check to the Josh Dog program in the amount of \$3500 to Danial Daily (PDC) (434) and the Detachment. Squadron (209) David Fuller presented a check to the Josh Dog fund in the amount of \$1675. Rich Ruland ( ) noted that the 3rd District donated \$100 to, this was confirmed the Finance chairman Tom Petrie (189). Squadron (537) donated \$300 to the Josh Dog program.

### **Final Announcements**

Gary Lubich (121) (PDC) noted that July 28<sup>th</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup> annual John Dretch memorial run is to held and all proceeds are to be earmarked for the Detachment Josh Dog program.

Mark Lipke (075) reminded the membership about the open house to be held at the new Post 70. Noted that if you try to google the address it sends you to the old Post location. The new post address location is 1332 Spruce St.. A new certificate award has been established "Current Longest Running Member Award" this has been signed by Commander Sherman (071) and Historian Joe Bromley (071). The award was presented to Adjutant David Faust (245) (PNC) (PDC) with some 52 years of service.

Shawn Grothe (243) noted volunteers are needed at the Memorial Service to do ushering and the offerings (8 vol needed) practice will be at 6:30 Sat. after church. Memorial Service be there at 7:30 Sunday Morning. Christopher Sherman (071), Mark Lipke (075), Kelly Powers (158), Allen Watry (038), Patrick Gryskiewicz (091), Gary Lubich (121), Joe Bromley (071), Michael L. Lawler (437).

Adjutant Faust noted the Post DEC will be 9:00 am Sun., Past Commanders dinner at Post 70 at 7:00 pm.

## **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 Christopher Sherman (071) declared the Detachment Convention meeting closed.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant  
Gary Lee Leroy (294)