

**Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin
53rd ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION
Saturday July 16, 2022**

Opening

Call to Order

Saturday July 16, 2022 Detachment Commander David Fuller (209). reconvened the Detachment Convention being held in Green Bay, WI. at 9:12 am.

Posting of the Colors

Invocation

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony.

Blue Star Banner Ceremony

The Pledge of Allegiance

Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble

Welcome by Detachment Commander David Fuller (209)

Roll Call of Detachment Officers

Taken by the Detachment Adjutant David Faust (245). Voting Officers:

Detachment Commander	David Fuller	(209)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Gary Lubich	(121)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Allen Watry	(038)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Rich Ruland	(481)	Excused
Detachment Vice Commander	Steve DuBois	(143)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	John L'Huillier	(434)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Rick Helms	(070)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Ray Dzieciol	(059)	Present
National Executive Committeeman	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Alternate National Executive Committeeman	Patrick Gryskiewicz	(091)	Present
1st District Commander	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
3rd District Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Present
4th District Commander	Christopher Dannenmann	(434)	Present
10th District Commander	Gary Lubich	(121)	Present

Roll Call of Non-Voting Detachment Officers

Detachment Judge Advocate	Christopher Dannenmann	(434)	Present
Detachment Historian	Mike Pook	(449)	Present
Detachment Adjutant	David Faust	(245)	Present
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Jeff Puddy	(075)	Excused

Past Detachment Commanders Present:

- David R. Faust (245)
- Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093)
- Gary F. Lubich (121)
- Christopher Sherman (071)
- Robert Sirovina Jr. (434)

Roll Call of Squadrons

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

Based on none of the elected offices being contested, and no convention resolutions that have been brought forth, Detachment Sgt.-at-Arms Ray Dzieciol (534) made a motion to dispense with reading delegate counts and explaining election procedures and just have a roll call of squadrons present, and it was seconded. Motion passed.

The following Squadrons were present:

District	Squad. No.	City
1	071	Pewaukee
1	209	Orfordville
1	294	Hartland
1	375	Mukwonago
2	015	Juneau
2	189	Watertown
3	245	Cross Plains
3	481	Madison
3	501	Madison
3	534	McFarland
4	416	Greendale
4	434	Oak Creek
4	537	Milwaukee
6	033	Neenah
6	070	Oshkosh
6	075	Fond du Lac
6	234	Omro
9	038	Appleton
9	106	Seymour
10	121	River Falls
11	093	Tomahawk
12	143	Saint Croix Falls

Introduction of Guests

National Executive Committeeman Chris Sherman (071) introduce National Commander Michael Fox (CA). Mr. Fox said hello and will have more remarks later in the day.

Election Balloting

Past Detachment Commander Robert Sirovina, Jr. (434) made a motion to suspend the rules and instruct the Detachment

Adjutant to declare all nominated Detachment Officers and National Convention Delegates as elected, followed by a resumption of the rules. The motion was seconded and passed.

Detachment Adjutant David Faust (245) then declared all nominated Detachment Officers and National Convention Delegates as elected.

Convention Committee Reports and Awards

Americanism

Allen Watry (038) for Mark Pape (294)

Mission: to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism through the teaching and promotion of American values.

- 20+ Badger Boys & Girls State sponsored
- 2,149 hours in Color Guard Appearances
- \$19,867 in value towards Scouting
- \$12,034 supporting Junior Shooters
- \$61,758 for Legion Baseball
- \$8,094 for sports teams
- 2,282 Flags Presented
- 509 Hours of Flag Education Programs
- \$14,055 in value towards Blood Drives
- \$284,968 for Community Service

GRAND TOTAL AMERICANISM

- 28 of 32 Squadrons Reporting
- 18,465 Volunteer Hours and \$48,630 in donations

RAYMOND FAUST PLAQUE for Best Blood Program

Honorable Mention Squadron 60 Kimberly

2nd Place Squadron 234 Omro

1st Place Squadron 243 Plymouth with \$5,905 in value

MARY ANN NELSON PLAQUE Best Community Services Program

Honorable Mention Squadron 38 Appleton

2nd Place Squadron 501 Madison

1st Place Squadron 243 Plymouth with 1,280 hours and \$5,639

ROBERT WILCOX PLAQUE Best Americanism Program

Honorable Mention Squadron 294 Hartland

2nd Place Squadron 537 Milwaukee

1st Place Squadron 243 Plymouth with \$2,275 value per member

Detachment Finance Chair Tom Petrie (189) made a motion to accept the Convention Americanism Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Children and Youth

Robert Sirovina, Jr. (434)

Mission: to support programs and activities that are dedicated to the well-being of the children and youth of Wisconsin.

Squadrons contribute to:

- Child Welfare Foundation
- Special Olympics
- Ronald McDonald Houses
- Children’s Organ Transplant Association
- Veteran’s Children Foundation
- \$6,116 in donations to other Children & Youth programs and 289 Volunteer Hours

Operation A.L.F.

- Acquired 1,000 dogs
- Inquiries from several Detachments and Auxiliary Departments. Shipped dogs to:
 - Washington
 - Connecticut
 - New York
 - Iowa
- Donations of \$2,500,
 - including \$750 from 4th District Riders.
- Deployments:
 - Madison
 - Prairie du Chien
 - Milwaukee 128th Refueling wing – twice
 - Appleton
- Sent individual dogs on request to children of deploying service members
- Over 300 Operation A.L.F. dogs distributed

GRAND TOTAL CHILDREN & YOUTH

- 17 of 32 Squadrons Reporting
- 442 Volunteer Hours and \$7,821 in donations

Squadrons with \$1.00 or more per capita:

Dist.	Squadron	Dist.	Squadron
1	209 Orfordville	4	434 Oak Creek
1	294 Hartland	9	38 Appleton
2	243 Plymouth	9	106 Seymour

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION Highest Per Capita Donations

Honorable Mention Squadron 434 Oak Creek
2nd Place Squadron 294 Hartland
1st Place Squadron 106 Seymour with \$5.88 per member

LILLIAN PRIEST PLAQUE Best Children and Youth Program

Honorable Mention Squadron 106 Seymour
2nd Place Squadron 294 Hartland
1st Place Squadron 494 Caledonia with \$192.71 value per member

Detachment Vice Commander Allen Watry (038) made a motion to accept the Convention Children and Youth Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Constitutional Amendments

Christopher Dannenmann (434)

There were no Constitutional Amendments and therefore no report.

Finance

Tom Petrie (189)

Finance Chairman Petrie mentioned we have a balance of approximately \$7,000.00, but is expecting around \$2,000.00 yet for stipends and expenses related to this convention.

Detachment Historian Mike Pook (375) made a motion to accept the Convention Finance Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Legislative

Steven R. DuBois (143)

The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 117th Congress, 2nd Session

VA Healthcare Modernization

- Ensuring VA is equipped to meet the unique needs of a diverse veteran population.
- Requires that VA fully leverage all healthcare modalities.
- Ensure a seamless transition between them.
- Modernizing electronic health records.
- While the means by which care delivery may change, VA should continue to deliver the best care anywhere to our nation's veterans.

Suicide Prevention & Peer Support

- Studies show that peer support is beneficial.
- The Legion has its own peer support program known as "Buddy Checks".
- The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation requiring VA to establish a national Buddy Check Week to encourage veterans to reach out to those they served with.
- The American Legion also encourages legislation to establish a peer-support program that would offer grants to place peer-support specialists in local posts of veteran's service organizations.

Address Toxic Exposure & Burn Pits

- A very high percentage of veterans have been exposed to airborne toxic hazards.
- Fighting for service-connected disability benefits for those exposed to a variety of toxic substances.
- The American Legion led PACT act created legislation that
 - (1) creates a list of presumptive illnesses based on scientific evidence,
 - (2) requires VA to presume exposure for veterans deployed to areas with known environmental hazards
 - (3) mandates VA toxic exposure studies.

Improve Healthcare for Women Veterans

- We have an obligation to women, the fastest-growing veteran demographic.
- Many do not enroll in VA healthcare due to lack of gender-specific services.

- We urge Congress to fully implement recently passed VA pilot programs for women.
- We encourage expansion of child and newborn care services at VA.

Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

- National Guard and Reserve accrue GI Bill benefits when called to federal active duty.
- If activated under state orders, no benefits accrue.
- We believe every day in uniform counts and benefits should always accrue.

Concurrent Receipt

- 42,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for both DoD retirement pay and disability compensation from the VA.
- If disability rating less than 50%, retirement pay is reduced by VA compensation.
- Forces many retirees to forfeit retirement pay to get full VA compensation.
- We urge Congress to allow disabled veterans to concurrently receive retirement pay and disability compensation.

GI Bill for Honorable Service

- For most VA benefits, a veteran's character of discharge or service must be "under honorable conditions."
- However, education benefits require an "honorable discharge."
- We urge Congress to allow access to VA educational assistance to veterans with general under honorable conditions discharges

Citizenship for Honorable Service

- Many immigrant veterans are deported after discharge if they did not acquire citizenship while serving.
- Naturalization through military service should be ensured prior to discharge.
- We also support providing expedited citizenship applications and the resources to complete the applications to deported honorably-discharged veterans.

Pay the Coast Guard

- U.S. Coast Guard must work without pay during government shutdown.
- The only military branch to do so, because they are not DoD but Homeland Security.
- Congress needs to protect Coast Guard personnel same as other military branches.

Protect the American Flag

- Amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag.
- Further, pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021.

Past Detachment Commander Robert Sirovina, Jr. (434) made a motion to accept the Convention Legislative Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Membership

Rich Ruland (481)

Membership status:

- We have 112 Squadrons in 108 Different Cities and Villages
- We are in 52 of 72 Counties
- We are in all 12 Districts
- We are at 4,024 Total Members for 102.81% of goal
- National Goal is 3,914
- New All Time High!

100 % Membership

- 76 Squadrons

- 10 Districts

All Time High Membership

- 25 Squadrons
- In 10 Districts

Renewals

- Renewal Rate 90.75%
- 77 Squadrons with 90+% Renewal Rate

Squadron Triple Nickel Requires:

- 5 new members
- 85% or better renewals
- 105% or better total membership
- We had 19 Squadrons achieve this.

Central Region

- Wisconsin is in 3rd place behind Michigan and Iowa.

ONLINE RENEWAL STATUS

- This will be turned on for ALL squadrons.
- We must have current Squadron Info.
- Without it, only Detachment and National per capita portions will be collected. The squadron will be out any monies they collect above that.
- Of our 112 squadrons, only 53 have updated their info in the last 18 months.
- That leaves 56 + 3 (new) with outdated info.
- We have 8 squadrons whose last update was sometime prior to 2011.
- Without updated info, Department won't know where to send the membership dues either.
- <https://wisal.org/squadron-info/>

JACK KEY PLAQUE First Squadron to reach 110%

Squadron 143 Saint Croix Falls – 10/21/2021 – Currently at 117%

ARMIN TEWS PLAQUE GREATEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE

Honorable Mention Squadron 36 West Bend – 142 %

2nd Place Squadron 93 Tomahawk – 145 %

1st Place Squadron 21 Kenosha – 150 %

Squadron Membership Awards – 100% Squadrons

B = 100% by Legion Birthday (March 15-17); A = All Time High; 5 = Triple Nickel (5 New, 85% Renew, 105%

Dist. Squadron B (BD) A (ATH) 5 (555)

- 1 21 Kenosha ^{B 5}
- 1 24 Lake Geneva ⁵
- 1 48 Beloit ^B
- 1 71 Pewaukee
- 1 91 Oconomowoc
- 1 196 Delafield ^B

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin
Detachment Convention Saturday July 16, 2022

- 1 209 Orfordville^B
- 1 294 Hartland^{B 5}
- 1 375 Mukwonago^{B A}
- 1 494 Caledonia^B
- 1 544 Twin Lakes^B
- 2 1 Germantown^B
- 2 15 Juneau^{B A}
- 2 36 West Bend^{B A 5}
- 2 145 Random Lake^A
- 2 157 Horicon
- 2 189 Watertown^B
- 2 215 Pardeeville^A
- 2 270 Theresa^{B A}
- 2 271 Poynette^B
- 2 288 Cedarburg⁵
- 2 355 Grafton^B
- 2 387 Franklin
- 2 522 Hubertus^{B A}
- 3 59 Stoughton^{B 5}
- 3 84 Monroe^B
- 3 151 Madison
- 3 214 Darlington^{B A}
- 3 313 Black Earth^{B A}
- 3 333 Sun Prairie
- 3 385 Verona^B
- 3 481 Madison^{B A}
- 3 491 Cazenovia^{A 5}
- 3 501 Madison^{B 5}
- 3 534 McFarland^{B 5}
- 4 27 South Milwaukee^B
- 4 120 West Allis^A
- 4 180 Milwaukee^B
- 4 192 Franklin^B
- 4 416 Greendale
- 4 434 Oak Creek^B
- 4 537 Milwaukee^{B 5}
- 6 33 Neenah^A
- 6 43 Ripon^{B A}
- 6 70 Oshkosh
- 6 75 Fond du Lac
- 6 234 Omro
- 6 306 Green Lake
- 6 366 Princeton^B
- 6 454 Mt. Calvary^{B A 5}
- 7 51 West Salem^A
- 7 52 La Crosse^{B 5}
- 7 115 Elroy^B
- 7 116 Coon Valley^{B A 5}
- 7 172 North Freedom^B

7	336 Onalaska
8	10 Wausau
8	54 Marshfield ^{A 5}
8	339 Almond
8	442 Wisconsin Rapids ^B
9	11 Green Bay ^B
9	38 Appleton ^{B A 5}
9	44 Wabeno
9	60 Kimberly ^B
9	106 Seymour ^{B A}
9	258 Little Chute ^{B A 5}
9	538 Carlton ^{B A 5}
10	53 Eau Claire
10	98 Cumberland ^A
10	121 River Falls ^B
10	168 Glenwood City ^B
10	291 Augusta ^{B A}
10	324 Osseo ^{B A}
10	326 Boyd ^{B A}
10	550 Brackett ^{B A}
11	93 Tomahawk ^{B A 5}
11	547 Lublin ⁵
12	12 Spooner ^A
12	108 Clear Lake ^B
12	143 Saint Croix Falls ^B

The following Districts Achieved Triple Nickel status:

Averaged 5 new members per squadron

District achieved 85% or more renewals

District achieved 105% or greater of goal

- District 1 – 105 New, 91.16% Renewal, 105.35%
- District 10 – 61 New, 92.31% Renewal, 111.86%
- District 11 – 20 New, 88.46% Renewal, 107.69%
- District 12 – 51 New, 88.12% Renewal, 138.61%

The following Detachment Vice Commanders Achieved Triple Nickel status:

Averaged 5 new members per squadron

Achieved 85% or more renewals

Achieved 105% or greater of goal

Steven R. DuBois – District 10, 11, 12

130 New, 90.72% Renewal, 115.86%

JOHN E. WEBSTER MEMBERSHIP SERVICE AWARD

For the member who obtains the most new or re- instated members over the last year as of May 31

Shawn Wilkerson Community Squadron 375 Mukwonago For recruiting 23 new members and reinstating 2 previous members

Jon McRary (075) made a motion to accept the Convention Membership Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

National Security

Allen Watry (038)

Mission: to manage program areas such as Civil Defense & Emergency Preparedness, Family Support Network, Foreign Relations, Operation Comfort Warriors, POW/MIA advocacy, Temporary Financial Assistance, and Troop Support.

There was no significant reporting amongst National Security items in the consolidated reports.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Squadrons with \$1.00 or more per capita:

Dist.	Squadron
1	209 Orfordville
2	243 Plymouth

National Emergency Fund Highest Per Capita Contributions

Honorable Mention Squadron 313 Black Earth

2nd Place Squadron 209 Orfordville

1st Place Squadron 243 Plymouth with \$1.32 per member

Detachment Historian Mike Pook (375) made a motion to accept the Convention National Security Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Veterans Employment & Education

Ray Dzieciol (534) for Joe Probst (294)

Mission: to honor the service of those who have gone before us by supporting programs for veterans in Wisconsin.

Squadrons contribute to:

- VAVS Representatives and Deputies at Hospitals
- VA Hospital Visits
- National Veterans Assistance Day
- Operation Comfort Warrior
- Fisher House
- 4,044 hours and \$133,758 in other VA&R projects

GRAND TOTAL VA & R and VE & E

- 14 of 32 Squadrons Reporting
- 4,436 Volunteer Hours and \$137,987

THOMAS A. KNOX PLAQUE Best VA & R Program

Honorable Mention Squadron 196 Delafield

2nd Place Squadron 209 Orfordville

1st Place Squadron 294 Hartland

Detachment Historian Mike Pook (375) made a motion to accept the Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Veterans Employment & Education Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Detachment Commander's Project

Detachment Commander David Fuller (209)

Homeless Veterans

This year's Detachment Commander's Project was to raise awareness and funds to support homeless veterans.

- Several squadrons stepped up with this effort.
- Notably was Squadron 294 of Hartland who held their 3rd annual February sleepout.
- Also, Squadron 209 of Orfordville staged a Freezin' for a Reason event in similar style a short time after.
- Combined, these two squadrons raised over \$100,000 for homeless veterans.
- In addition, both collected box trucks full of food, clothing, and shelter items.

HOMELESS VETERANS Highest Per Capita Donations

Honorable Mention Squadron 36 West Bend

2nd Place Squadron 209 Orfordville

1st Place Squadron 294 Hartland with \$829.27 per member

Overall Program

Detachment Commander David Fuller (209)

We had:

- Other Volunteer hours of 16,532
- Other Donations for \$15,667
- 32 Squadrons Reporting

GRAND TOTAL OVERALL

- 39,875 Volunteer Hours and \$210,106 in donations

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT: 1,404,363

DON PRIEST PLAQUE Best Overall Programs and Activities

Honorable Mention Squadron 209 Orfordville

2nd Place Squadron 294 Hartland

1st Place Squadron 243 Plymouth

Special Awards

2022 CONVENTION HOSTS

Squadron 60 Kimberly Squadron 11 Green Bay

FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

Color Guard Squadron 258 Little Chute

Bugler Michael Kalsbeek Squadron 243 Plymouth

Master Organizer Allen Watry Squadron 38 Appleton

Remarks by National Commander Michael Fox

National Commander Michael Fox (CA) made remarks to the convention. He thanked us for the Flying Flags for Heroes event we held on Friday. He made mention of the organization's goals and the importance of the contribution of each member, each piece of the puzzle. He congratulated us on a successful convention and thanked us for our hospitality.

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

None to report

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Installation of Detachment Officers and District Commanders

The installation of the 2022-2023 Detachment Officers and District Commanders was performed by National Commander Michael Fox (CA).

Remarks by Detachment Commander David Fuller

Detachment Commander Fuller outlined our goals for 2022-2023. He stated that these goals are going to require all of us to work together to achieve them.

Work with The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The American Legion Riders on program and projects to benefit:

- Our veterans
- Active duty military
- Their families and communities

Raise funds for our charitable projects:

- \$1.00 per member for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)
- \$1.00 per member for the Commander's Project for Vets Roll

Membership:

- 105% Membership total.
- Retain 90% or more of our current members.
- Charter or reactivate 5 squadrons

Consolidated Reports:

Have all squadrons submit a consolidated report.

Commander Fuller has every confidence in us to do this!

For the Good of Sons of the American Legion

Post #9 of Wisconsin Rapids donated \$20.00 to Operation A.L.F.

Closing Ceremony

Benediction

Retirement of the POW/MIA Chair Cover

Commanders Charge

Retirement of the Colors

Adjournment

With no other business, Detachment Commander David Fuller (209) declared the 2022 Detachment Convention adjourned at 1:12 pm.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Christopher Sherman (071)