

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

Pre-Convention Detachment Executive Committee Minutes July 21, 2023

Opening

Call to Order

Friday July 21, 2023 Detachment Commander David Fuller (209) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee meeting being held at Rothschild, WI at 1:30 pm.

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	Allen Watry	(038)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Gary F. Lubich	(121)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Steven R. DuBois	(143)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Christopher Dannenmann	(434)	Present
Detachment Chaplain	John L'Huillier	(434)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Rick Helms	(070)	Excused
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Excused
National Executive Committeeman	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Alternate National Executive Committeeman	Patrick N. Gryskiewicz	(093)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Robert Sirovina, Jr.	(434)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Mike A. Kollmansberger	(075)	Absent
1st District Commander	Randy Timms	(375)	Present
2nd District Commander	Jeremy Mason	(015)	Present
3rd District Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Excused
4th District Commander	Richard Wojciechowski	(537)	Present
6th District Commander	John Hoeft II	(234)	Present
10th District Commander	Gary F. Lubich	(121)	Present

Roll Call of Non-Voting Detachment Officers

Detachment Judge Advocate	Christopher Dannenmann	(434)	Present
Detachment Historian	Mike Pook	(375)	Present
Detachment Adjutant	David R. Faust	(245)	Present
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Keith Lovell	(501)	Present

Introduction of Guests

The following guests were introduced:

- Steve Conto of Plymouth American Legion Post 243 was introduced to speak about efforts he has spearheaded to properly take care of unclaimed remains of deceased veterans. Squadron 209 of Orfordville has been supporting Steve's efforts.

Reading of the Previous Minutes

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Christopher Sherman (071). Allen Watry (038) made a motion to approve the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and passed.

Official Correspondence

Detachment Adjutant David R. Faust (245):

- Adjutant Faust read a handwritten thank you card from Dan Seehafer, candidate for National Commander of The American Legion 2023-2024 thanking the Detachment for our donation to his campaign.

Detachment Officer Reports

Detachment Vice Commander – Allen Watry (038) Districts (6, 8, 9) along with District Commanders.

Detachment Activities

- Attended Detachment Spring DEC
- Attended 2nd, 6th, 8th Legion Spring Conferences in person and video into 10th while at 2nd
- Supporting Squadrons
 - Hortonville – Officer Installation (July 10th)
 - Fond Du Lac – Officer Installation (July 12th)
 - St. Nazianz request for info on starting a squadron (May)
 - John Hoeft's efforts for info on starting a squadron in Stockbridge
- Guest Speaker at Little Chute Memorial Day Parade/Program
- Attending/support the Summer Convention Planning Meetings as the SAL 8th District Representative (as this is not a formed district with a commander), will continue to provide input to them regarding Convention Planning.
- Attended the Joint Testimonials at Romy's
- Attended Manawa Rodeo Veterans Evening with many Legionnaires (June 30th)
- Attended several Squadron Fundraisers including
 - Oshkosh Bray Fry – Memorial Day
 - Hartland Brat Fry – July 1st, part of July 4th weekend
- Supported CSR at 100% effort in Portage May31st

Other Activities:

- Squadron Activities
 - Squadron 38 Adjutant – continue to work on membership and monthly communications
 - Gathering final information for CSRs
 - Submitted Squadron/Officer Information Forms.
- 9th District Legion Rider Member – ongoing member
 - Led Appleton Memorial Day Parade
 - Rode in Appleton Flag Day Parade

- Published Detachment Spring Newsletter and working on Summer Newsletter
- Completed NMI Training (all 3 sessions)
- Attended Spring NEC Weekend
 - Natl Convention Committee Meeting
 - NMI III
 - Spring NEC Meeting

Detachment Vice Commander – Gary F. Lubich (121) Districts (3, 7) along with District Commanders. Gary Lubich reported on the membership numbers for Districts 3 and 7, along with the many activities he attended.

Detachment Vice Commander – Steven R. DuBois (143) Districts (10, 11, 12) along with District Commanders. Steven DuBois reported on the membership numbers for Districts 10, 11 and 12 along with the many activities he attended.

Detachment Vice Commander – Christopher Dannenmann (434) Districts (1, 2, 4, 5) along with District Commanders. Christopher Dannenmann reported on the membership numbers for Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5 along with the many activities he attended.

Randy Timms (375) gave the following report for District 1.

Since being appointed District 1 Commander in mid-May of this year, I have attempted to speak with and/or visit squadrons throughout the District. I must confess I feel I'm already behind as there are many yet to visit.

That said, I have tracked my hours and as of this writing, I have spent roughly 126 hours working on behalf of the S.A.L. and District 1 since the beginning of this year.

In addition to my appointment, I appointed Michael Hellquist as my Vice Commander. I've had several conversations about filling the positions of District Adjutant, Historian, Chaplain and 2nd Vice Commander. Those positions remain unfilled. While I understand a District doesn't need a 2nd Vice Commander, it is my intention to appointment men who will take the responsibility of squadron growth seriously and develop others to step up to additional responsibilities as opportunities present themselves. We can do this by bringing more men into the process and teaching the leadership skills needed.

At the present time, District 1 reports 17 active squadrons. Of those, 11 are at or above 100.00% membership. Two squadrons are at 250.00% or more. (Congratulations to Kenosha 21 and Silver Lake 293). Total membership stands at 802 with an anticipated goal of 763.

I have entertained conversations with New Berlin, East Troy and Elkhorn about starting a Squadron at their Post. Elkhorn and East Troy have shown interest at this point. The gentleman leading the charge in Elkhorn has been quite ill recently, so their efforts have waned a bit, but they did file their charter and are awaiting confirmation. East Troy is in the process of a significant renovation of their Post and I feel this subject will be back on the front burner when that process draws to a close.

One task I have challenged Squadrons with was to clean military headstones in their local cemeteries. Mukwonago 375 took on this project and proceeded to clean a number of them. Orfordville has also committed to the program. The results are fantastic and I believe this represents a wonderful program for each community and shines a positive light on SAL in general.

In January I met (online) JD Engelhardt, Lead Wisconsin Child and Youth Program Coordinator – Contractor Dynamic Systems Technology, Inc, Wisconsin Army National Guard. JD explained the Badger Youth Camp to me as we discussed funding needs of the program.

Suffice it to say, I began to develop a program I felt would be a useful tool for the 100-150 children attending camp. JD agreed and the dye was cast! Over the months, I was able to recruit David Fuller, Chris Sherman, Chris Dannemann, YiaYia Wishke and her grandson Alexander, to be speakers/actors and conduct a “play” which introduced the campers to Betsy Ross and how our flag came into being, how TAPS was begun and the significant meaning behind it, as well as a demonstration of proper folding of the American Flag. We were joined “on-stage” by John (the hammer) Hoeft and his son John – both SAL members in Omro. YiaYia, together with the Hammer, did a superb job during a Q&A session for all the campers.

By all accounts, the children (all of military parents) truly enjoyed the presentation, and, at this point, we believe we will be invited back next year to present again.

I look forward to learning more about the needs within the District how I might be able to assist.

Detachment Chaplain – John L'Huillier (434)

- Sent cards and correspondence to Legion family members.
- Attended Legion family funerals and memorials.
- Performed committal funeral service for American Legion member Robert Sirovina, Sr. on May 19.
- Delivered Flag Day speech at the City of Oak Creek Stars on the Square event and unserviceable flag ceremony on June 14.

Detachment Historian – Mike Pook (375)

Mike Pook reported on the history books being prepared to send to National, and reiterated the need for people to send him pictures of events.

National Executive Committeeman – Christopher Sherman (071)

Christopher Sherman brought greetings on behalf of National Commander Chris Carlton, and gave updates on activities at the coming National Convention in Charlotte as well as the Fall NEC in October in Indianapolis.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (093)

No report.

Department S.A.L. Chairman – Keith Lovell (501)

No report.

Detachment Commander – David Fuller (209)

This report will be shorter than usual as I wish to comment in open session as to most of my activities.

At The Department D.E.C. I was able to present a check to the Dan Seehafer campaign on behalf of The Detachment of Wisconsin. Dan made mention of how happy he is with the support of Sons of Wisconsin.

I had two reasons to be at the Department D.E.C. one was because I am part of the Fundraising Committee. It was decided at our meeting that the Departments 7th District Commander and myself will try to put together a Freezin event for Mid-Winter. The second reason was to deliver the first of two deliveries from 209s Freezin event to Camp American Legion. We delivered approximately 2000 lbs of chicken and 240 lbs of cheese.

I have been speaking with Tomahawk, Holmen, and Rome about some of the difficulties they are having. All three are working thru their issues and are moving forward.

I have had two people offer to toss money into the ring to get membership to 105%, I truly do thank them for their support however I declined the offers because as we have found it to be the membership problem resurfaces again the next year. I would however rather solve this problem through a more active Membership Committee.

To end my last Commanders report I would like to thank all of the Detachment Officers for their sacrifice's so that the Detachment can continue to grow. I truly feel blessed to have had your support for the last two years.

The Detachment was well represented at the joint Testimonial at Romys Nightingales in Black Creek. I think we all enjoyed a good time.

Chris Dannenmann (434) made a motion to approve the Detachment Officer reports as given and submitted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

Resolutions presented, and attached, were:

Resolution DC-2023-01 Add Troop Family Support to Consolidated Squadron Reports

Resolution DC-2023-02 Add Homeless Veterans to Consolidated Squadron Reports

Resolution DC-2023-03 Align Triple Nickel Award with Membership Target Dates

Motion by Steven DuBois and seconded to refer these resolutions to the appropriate Detachment Convention Committees with a recommendation for adoption by the Detachment Convention. Motion was passed.

Unfinished Business

Tom Lay, Vice Chairman of the Department Finance Committee, gave an update on efforts reorganize and improve financial handling and reporting. At this time the Detachment has \$29,399.60 in our restricted account.

Appointments

Detachment Commander David Fuller (209) announced the following Convention Committee Chairmen:

- Americanism – Mark Edelblute IV (434)
- Children and Youth – Robert Sirovina, Jr. (434)
- Constitutional Amendments – Christopher Dannenmann (434)
- Finance – Tom Petrie (189)
- Legislative – Steven R. DuBois (143)
- Membership – Jeremy Mason (015)
- National Security – Allen Watry (038)
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Seán Patchin, Sr. (215)

Motion by Robert Sirovina, Jr. (434) to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Business

There was not any new business presented.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion

No business for the Good of the Sons of The American Legion was presented.

Closing

Benediction

Retirement of the POW/MIA Chair Cover

Commander's Charge

Retirement of the Colors

Adjournment

With no other business, Detachment Commander David Fuller (209) declared the Pre-Convention Detachment Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Christopher Sherman (071)