

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

Midwinter Detachment Executive Committee Minutes January 14, 2023

Opening

Call to Order

Saturday January 14, 2023 Detachment Commander David Fuller (209) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee meeting being held at Green Bay, WI at 3:00 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 Assistant Adjutant Christopher Sherman (071). Voting Officers:

Detachment Commander	David Fuller	(209)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Allen Watry	(038)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Gary F. Lubich	(121)	Excused
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)	Present
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	Christopher Sherman	(071)	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)	Excused

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)	Excused
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Keith Lovell	(501)	Present

Introduction of Guests

The following guests were introduced:

Department Commander Julie Muhle
Department President Linda Coppock
National Auxiliary President Vickie Koutz (IN)
Department Finance Committeeman Tom Lay
National Vice Commander David J. Mennel (MI)

National President Koutz, Department Commander Muhle, and Department President Coppock gave greetings to the SAL and asked that we continue our work helping the American Legion and their mission.

Department Finance Committeeman Lay answered questions about the SAL monies and our working to improve our budget requests.

Nat. VC Menell is a 23yr member of the Charlton/Polan squadron 233 in lake Orion MI.

Spoke on BE THE ONE and Veterans & Children's Foundation.

Reading of the Previous Minutes

Detachment Chaplin John L'Huillier (434) made a motion to approve the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and passed.

Official Correspondence

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Christopher Sherman (071):

- 82 year member Mike Bennet from squadron (491) Cazenovia sent two cards thanking the Detachment for all they did at National Convention and sent a photo that he was in the Christmas Parade.

Detachment Officer Reports

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

See attached report.

2023 Mind-Winter DEC Report

Vice Commander Watry - Districts 6, 8, 9

Detachment Activities

o Attended Fall District Meetings for:

o 9 th District

o 8 th District

o 6 th District

o Attended a Ripon Squadron meeting with John Hoeft, requested by the Post/Squadron, to help them develop a path forward

o Attended a 6 th District meeting per request of John Hoeft, to provide thoughts on how to move forward with engaging Squadrons and developed an active district

o Supporting new efforts for New Squadrons

o Hortonville – now official

o Freemont – submitting their Charter Request

o Rosholt – should be submitted

o Kingston – working through the process within the Post

o Supported multiple Squadrons request/inquiries including

o Wausau – request regarding forms/new membership forms

- o Mt. Calvary - myLegion.org, Mid-Winter, and general questions
- o Neenah – general questions and Mid-Winter
- o Little Chute – attended meeting, supported fundraiser
- o Wisconsin Rapids – changing of leadership and submitting membership

Other Activities:

- o Squadron Activities
- o Squadron 38 Adjutant – continue to work on membership and monthly communications
- o Attended several Post activities including Army/Navy festivities
- o Working through multiple donations to be completed in January on behalf of the squadron

- o 9 th District Legion Rider Member – ongoing member
- o Working on next Detachment Newsletter – to be published by end of January.
- o Active member of the National Convention Committee – as past Committee Chair

Detachment Vice Commander – Gary F. Lubich (121) Districts (3, 7) along with District Commanders.

No report for seventh district.

10th district report November 1 attended the first Sons of The American Legion meeting in Baldwin Wisconsin
November 5 set an informational booth up in Prescott Legion for the Sons of The American Legion. December 3 set an informational booth up at the Prescott Legion for the Sons of The American Legion

From 3rd District Commander Ray Dzieciol:

3rd Dist has 2 goose eggs yet. It's a yearly thing with the same 2 Squadrons. We do have a couple at 100 %. I made several attempts along with State Commander Fuller and Adj Faust to set up a 3rd Dist meeting, we have found over half have fake contacts or not updated This has been a problem in the past present and future. I've also found out in my many years as 3 Rd Dist commander most of the Squadrons don't want to be bothered so left most of them alone. I've heard it all and then someone went as far to say we had no one that could get on line for information this was very recent and just now have someone 5 years later that knows how to do it Some are and some are not aware I'm stepping down this year and will support anyone that wants the job Our election is to be held 45 days prior to State convention. I thank all of you for everything you have done and we have accomplished too make 3 Rd Dist the best it's able to be.

Detachment Vice Commander – Steven R. DuBois (143) Districts (10, 11, 12) along with District Commanders.

Working with Posts on getting new squadrons and attending squadron meeting in his districts.

Detachment Vice Commander – Christopher Dannenmann (434) Districts (1, 2, 4, 5) along with District Commanders.

Membership Report Date: 01/12/23

County, District, Department / National events attended since the last D.E.C.

Wisc. American Legion College (I&A) Zoom Mtgs. Graduate

Wreaths Across America Woods National Cemetery 12/17/22

Events attended at Squadrons other than your own

Sq. 416 Continuing Membership Development 12/07/22

Notes:

District 2: Working on greater District Squadron participation, potential of one (1) new Squadron {Allenton}. Freez'in-for-a-Reason & Dist. 2 Pin sales as Fund raisers. Spring Conference TBD @ West Bend.

Dist. 2 - Fox Lake 521: 22 members

- Hubertus 522: Membership drive is strong. 77 members

Dist. 4 – 416: Reorganized the Leadership with the help & support of the Post. Finalizing Fund Raising program(s). Squadron is back on track with 28 members (233.33%)

- 434: St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage

- 180: Disbanded

Dist. 4: Dick Wojciechowski (Sq. 527) appointed as District Commander Pro Tem.

Election of new slate of Officers and appointed Officers to be sent out District wide.

Normal election protocols in place. Election to be held in May of 2023 and Installation in June. The Terms of Office will follow the normal election schedule.

Districts 1,2,4,5 numbers in your area – Goal TOTAL 1,626

Number of Squadrons in your area as of last D.E.C. 44

Total area membership as of the last D.E.C. 1,361

Number of "Goose Egg" Squadrons in your area 3

Number of Squadrons at current goal 39

Number of Squadrons at 100% or more 13

Number of Squadrons at Final goal 10

Number of new Squadrons as of last D.E.C. 1

Contacts made to your Squadrons since last D.E.C. 8

Dist. 5 – 406: No Response. 0.0%

Membership average = 62.17%

40/8: Performed the duties as Master of Ceremonies at the Testimonial Dinner for the Grand Chef de Gare, John Edelblute & Grand Cabane President, Barbara Dotzauer. 22 October 2022 in Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

Detachment Chaplain – John L'Huillier (434)

Has sent cards out per Commander's phone calls.

Detachment Historian – Mike Pook (375)

Working on the next SAL book and will work with VC Dannemann on resolution on Historian Book.

National Executive Committeeman – Christopher Sherman (071)

Spoke about resolutions at National Conference and what is happening at National.

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

No Report

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

Mr. Lovell asked that we continue helping the Legion where we can and looks forward to working with the Detachment Officers.

Detachment Commander – David Fuller (209)

1) Attended the Fall Department D.E.C. in Portage with Adjutant David Faust. The Sons were well received and thanked for our presence.

2) Completed articles for the Legionnaire about the Sons and our goals as well as an article on our A.L.F. program.

3) Met with the author and designer of a book to complement A.L.F.

4) Attended Zoom meeting as they were scheduled. (I personally would like this to become the standard for our meetings)

5) Went to Portage to once again put our property in the proper place in our office. (We still need to do inventory of our supplies for reorder.)

- 6) Attend a special zoom meeting with Department Commander Julie Muhle and a limited number of others about some district issues. After the meeting I called and talked to Julie about the District in question. I told Julie that my feeling was that those issues should have come to the Commander of the Sons first so that we could resolve the issue. Julie agreed with me and that the proper chain of command had not been followed. I had been working with the District Commander for two months about these issues and a plan was in place to resolve them. I believe that our District Commanders and Detachment Vice Commanders do a very good job at handling issues from within.
- 7) I had an opportunity to speak with our Department liaison about the same subject and he agreed with me and will follow up on it.
- 8) Membership, LOOK AT IT GO, this and the development of new Squadrons is all you need to see to know about the dedication of the Squadron and District Commanders and Officers. These Officers are well supported by the Detachment Vice Commanders as well, and it shows, great job to all.
- 9) I was asked if I could create a guideline on creating a fundraiser, I have completed it and it is available through our Training Officer.
- 10) Met with Department Adjutant Nathan Gear about upcoming possibilities for the Sons organization.

This report is respectfully submitted by
Commander Dave Fuller

VC Robert Sirovina Jr. (434) made a motion to approve the Detachment Officer reports as given and submitted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Committee and Commission Reports

Detachment Subcommittee on Resolutions – Detachment Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman Christopher Dannenmann (434) gave his report.

Programs Committee – Steven R. DuBois (143)

Americanism – Mark Pape (294)

Americanism Report For Winter Conference 2023

The Sons of The American Legion Squad #294 Hartland WI will be having their 4 th annual “Operation Homeless Veterans” sleep out on February 10 th , 11 th and 12 th at our Post 294 in Hartland at 231 Goodwin Avenue. We try to bring real awareness to our country’s homeless veteran problem by sleeping outside in February in cardboard boxes and tents.

We also raise funds by donations, fundraising, silent auctions and raffles. In addition we also run food drives, clothing drives and accept anything that can be used to transition a homeless veteran to having a roof over their head. The two organizations we support are: Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative and the Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin. Our 1st year we raised \$20,000, our 2nd year we raised \$40,000 and our 3rd year we raised \$55,000. All of the funds we raised we split evenly between the two organizations that we support. We are looking forward to a very successful 4th event.

Hartland Squad #294 is also building a camp store at Camp American Legion. This past year we got the building constructed, we did the foundation, the floor, the walls and the roof. We sided the building, put a tin roof on, got the front deck built and the windows and door installed. We plan on getting the inside finished and operational this coming spring and summer.

The county oratorical contest will be held January 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Mukwonago, WI.

Children & Youth – Robert Sirovina, Jr. (434)

Operation A.L.F.

- Shipments:

- S Della Vecchia, ALA Unit 72, Southington, CT-1 case + \$100 donation for shipping-\$340.00
 - R Fitzgerald, SAL Manchester, CT-1 case-\$250.00
 - M Lambert, ALA Metamora, IL-1 case-\$250.00
 - S Griffin, ALA Unit 232 Rockton, IL-1 case \$250.00
 - K Hinshaw, ALA National HQ-for National Museum display
 - K Taylor, SAL Squadron 209, Colorado Springs, CO-10 dogs-\$100.00
 - N Shepard, ALA Unit 60, Berkeley Springs, WV-1 case-\$250.00
 - K Taylor, SAL Squadron 209, Colorado Springs, CO-2 cases-\$500.00
 - D Weible, TAL North Dakota, sent 2 for his Mid Winter to show
- Donations:
 - ALA Unit 263-WI-\$263.00
 - ALR 4th & 5th District-\$750.00
 - SAL Squadron 196-WI-\$100.00
 - In memory of Robert Sirovina Sr-\$420.00
 - 4th District Commander Linda Pfeiffer secured a donation of \$2000 from the William & Carla Haney Family Foundation for the Operation A.L.F. program
 - Article published on www.legion.org/sons website 10/12/22, attached
 - ALA is featuring Operation A.L.F. in National Mission Trainings, 5 sessions around the country

Deployments:

- September 30, 2022, Miller Theater, downtown Milwaukee. 260+ deployed, distributed 310 A.L.F.
- John L'Huillier, Chris Dannenmann & Bob Sirovina attended. ALA President Linda Coppock also attended.

Notes:

- SAL Squadron 434 is having their annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner & Reuben Sandwiches on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th
- Gun Raffle tickets available, \$10 ea, 3/\$25

National Security – Allen Watry (038)

2023 MidWinter Wisconsin S.A.L. Detachment DEC

The following is a summary of key National Security Items which the American Legion Family note as critical items which are being closely monitored. Many include links which are links to articles about these topics on the Legion National Security Web Page. This is very similar to the starter report for Summer Convention as most continue to be concerns.

- North Korea/China/Taiwan
 - [Kim Jong Un orders 'exponential' expansion of North Korea's nuclear arsenal \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asia/kim-jong-un-orders-exponential-expansion-north-korea-nuclear-arsenal-n1234567)
 - [North Korea fires 3 missiles amid tensions over drone flights \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asia/north-korea-fires-3-missiles-amid-tensions-over-drone-flights-n1234568)
 - [Chinese fighter jet flies within feet of U.S. military plane \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asia/chinese-fighter-jet-flies-within-feet-of-u.s.-military-plane-n1234569)
 - [Austin to China's defense chief: US concerned about 'increasingly dangerous behavior' in Indo-Pacific | The American Legion](https://www.theamericanlegion.org/news/austin-to-china-s-defense-chief-us-concerned-about-increasingly-dangerous-behavior-in-indo-pacific)
 - [A 'space coalition of the willing' to counter Russian, Chinese threats | The American Legion](https://www.theamericanlegion.org/news/a-space-coalition-of-the-willing-to-counter-russian-chinese-threats)
- Russia/Ukraine
 - [Zelenskyy and Putin promise victory in contrasting New Year speeches \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/europe/zelenskyy-and-putin-promise-victory-in-contrasting-new-year-speeches-n1234570)
 - [Russia is providing 'unprecedented' military support to Iran in exchange for drones, officials say \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/europe/russia-is-providing-unprecedented-military-support-to-iran-in-exchange-for-drones-officials-say-n1234571)

- [NATO countries pitching in on fast-track preparation of air defense system for Ukraine, Milley says | The American Legion](#)
- Middle East
 - [NYC machete attacker expressed militant support for Islam, officials say \(nbcnews.com\)](#)
 - [Major aid groups suspend work in Afghanistan AS Taliban bar women \(nbcnews.com\)](#)
- Inside the US
 - [Migrants in limbo at the border shelter in desperate conditions \(nbcnews.com\)](#)
 - [Veterans Service Recognition Act passes House | The American Legion](#)
 - [Big year for Legion blood donations | The American Legion](#)

Reminder of several Legion awards to promote within our local areas. Please work with your local Posts to identify and submit any local candidates for these awards:

- WALLECA (Law Enforcement Academy)
- Law Enforcement Person of the Year
- First Responder Person of the Year
- Fire Fighter of the Year
- Eagle Scout of the Year
- Blood Donor Programs

A great resources to keep up to date on National Security Items is the Legion National Security Web Page. The Web Address is <https://www.legion.org/security>

Veteran’s Affairs & Rehabilitation – Joe Probst (294)

See attached
 No Report

VC Steven DuBois (143) made a motion to approve the Programs Committee report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Finance Commission – Tom Petrie (189)

Convention Pins Financials		
Expenditures	Total	\$3,045
	Purchase of Pins	\$3,045
Income (turned in)	Total	2710
	Sales of Pins, Cashier Check #1	2160
	Sales of Pins, other checks #1	150
	Sales of Pins, Cashier Check #2	340
	Sales of Pins, other checks #2	60
Income not turned in	Total	330
	3 people with start bag of 20 pins (\$100/ea)	300
	Cash in hand	30
Net	Gain/Losses (including outstanding cash)	(\$5)
Pin Summary	Pins Purchased	2250
	Display Case - Portage	1

	Convention Delegates	932
	Distinguished Guests/Dignitaries	240
	Sold	647
	Remaining	430

Internal Affairs Commission – Mike Pook (375)

Legislative – Steven R. DuBois (143)

Membership – Jeremy Mason (015)

See latest membership report [2023 Membership 2023-01-12](#)

Officer Development & Policy – Christopher Sherman (071)

Working with Detachment Commander Fuller and Allen Watry on training for Convention.

Public Relations – Ray Dzieciol (534)

Good afternoon we Sons again as we have done for many years, had a very successful free Holiday/Christmas Dinner is on Christmas day. We served just over 400 with deliveries and carry outs. This meal is a joint effort with The American Legion family and VFW. If it were not for the community donations, we would have a hard time pulling this off and all the volunteers not all them are part of the family or VFW but without them again doubt this would happen. National convention was educational and informative. I now see more clear how things are run and how much is involved in elections and so on. I met many different people from different states. The guys out of Carolina were awesome. I sat down and chatted with the next State Legion Commander. He is not eligible to be a Son but he's a huge supporter of us and thanks us for all we do. ALF dog is a huge topic amongst all states. Believe it or not they like our program. Thank you Mike and Allen for all the pictures and information. The newsletter is really helpful for me to get information out.

Convention Credentials, Resolutions, and Rules – Jeremy Mason (015)

No report.

VC Steven DuBois (143) made a motion to approve the Internal Affairs Commission report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

Resolutions presented, and attached, were DEC 2023-01 Annual Squadron Membership Goals Sgt.Arms. Rick Helms (070)made a motion to accept resolution. The motion was seconded and passed.

Unfinished Business

NONE

Appointments

NONE

New Business

Linda Phifer gave us a \$2000.00 check for the ALF program.

Motion made by VC Robert Sirovina Jr. to purchase a plaque for Linda for all the donations she has made to the SAL.

NEC Sherman made a motion to purchase a plaque . The motion was seconded and passed.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion

Barneveld squadron (433) turned in 16 memberships.

PDC Robert Sirovina Jr. received a Recruitment Ribbon from National and a 100% Ribbon for 2021.

Commander Fuller received a 100% Ribbon for 2022 .

Jeremy Mason (015) and Seán Patchin (215) announced they would be running for Detachment Vice Commander.

Received \$977.00 from basket raffle to go to Vets Roll.

4th District meeting to be held at Post 416 and voting for officers.

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 Spring Detachment Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Christopher Sherman (071)

Resolution

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF WISCONSIN

Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

Date: January 14, 2023

Resolution No: DEC-2023-01

Title: Annual Squadron Membership Goals

Whereas: The Wisconsin Sons of The American Legion is a volunteer program of The Wisconsin American Legion; and

Whereas: each of the twelve (12) Wisconsin American Legion District includes membership reports from the active Wisconsin American Legion Posts within each District; and

Whereas: the majority of the (12) Wisconsin American Legion Districts have at least one active squadron within each district; and

Whereas: each active squadron reports membership in Good Standing to the Detachment of Wisconsin; and

Whereas: the Detachment of Wisconsin establishes a membership goal for the following fiscal year (FY) based on total Squadron Membership in Good Standing; and

Whereas: the total membership in good standing is based upon paid Squadron dues regardless of their active status or deceased; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

Resolved: by the Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin assembled on the on this, the 14th day of January 2023 in the City of Green Bay, Wisconsin, that The Wisconsin Detachment of the Sons of The American Legion will establish membership goals for the following fiscal year (FY) based on active membership of the previous fiscal year (FY); and BE IT FURTHER

Resolved: that all deceased members and their number(s) shall be reflected in a reduction of Squadron Membership Goal for the following (consecutive) fiscal year (FY).

- END -