

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

Fall Detachment Executive Committee Minutes October 26, 2024

Opening

Call to Order

Saturday October 26, 2024 Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee meeting being held at Portage, WI at 12:30 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 Allen Watry (038)

Roll Call of Detachment Officers

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

Detachment Commander	Allen Watry	(038)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Steven R. DuBois	(143)	Excused
Detachment Vice Commander	Christopher Dannenmann	(434)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Jeremy Mason	(015)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Dave Hodgson	(522)	Arrived @ 1310
Detachment Chaplain	John L'Huillier	(434)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Rick Helms	(070)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Present
National Executive Committeeman	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Alternate National Executive Committeeman	Mike Pook	(375)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	David Fuller	(209)	Excused
Past Detachment Commander	Robert Sirovina, Jr.	(434)	Excused
Past Detachment Commander	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
1st District Commander	Randy Timms	(375)	Present
2nd District Commander	Dave Hodgson	(522)	Arrived @ 1310
3rd District Commander	Seán Patchin, Sr.	(385)	Present
4th District Commander	Richard Wojciechowski	(537)	Absent
6th District Commander	John Hoeft II	(234)	Present
9th District Commander	Robert Seide	(038)	Present
10th District Commander	Rick A. Talford	(291)	Absent

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
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Randy Timms	(375)	Present
Department S.A.L. Liaison	Allen Watry	(038)	Present

Introduction of Guests

Guests present were:

- Terry Barrington from Squadron 416 Greendale
- Mark Pape from Squadron 294 Hartland
- Bob Seide from Squadron 38 Appleton and District 9 SAL Commander as appointed by the 9th District American Legion.

Reading of the Previous Minutes

NECman Christopher Sherman (071) motion to accept as posted, 2nd by Jeremy Mason (015). Motion passed

Official Correspondence

Detachment Adjutant David R. Faust (245):

- Thankyou card from WI National Guard (ALF Deployment).
- Thankyou card from Legion for Badger Boys State
- Mayville American Legion, November 9th, 9am-noon, 2nd district Aux. Suicide prevention training. Presented by Curtis Peck. Please register before October 31st
- Freezin for a Reason at War Memorial Center Noon December 6, ending dec 7th. Looking for people to either make a donation, or, participate in the event.

Detachment Officer Reports

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

- Steve talked about membership in the region, the work on forming the 12th District SAL, along with potential new squadrons.

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

1st, 4th and 5th Districts

- Report is attached.
- At this time, only 2 squadron's showing zero members. There is a plan to assist in District 5.
- District 4- reported current standings for District squadrons. Nominations are now open for officer positions.
- Be The One racing team – combined with District 1 SAL at the Milwaukee Mile. Many people asked about be The One. A number of people were veterans but knew nothing about the legion. By the end of the event, over 65 people were signed up for one of the legion programs.
- District 1 – Randy Timms (375) Discussion ongoing with Posts at 399, 102, 188. Elkhorn Post 45 recently submitted their charter application to department and should get approval from National soon.
- District 4 still looking to obtain a leader dog for Marvin Northwaite.
- June 14th – Flag Day. Squadron 434 has taken it over for Oak Creek and it is becoming a very large program.
- December 14 – Wreaths Across America

Detachment Vice Commander – Jeremy Mason (015) Districts (2, 6, 9) along with District Commanders.

- Report is attached.
- Making headway with leadership.
- 5 potential new squadron's in District 2
- District 9 SAL Commander Bob Seide said he is excited about the challenge to visit all 8 squadrons before the years end. Goal to get them more active.
- District 6 SAL Commander John Hoeft, II (234) – 10 squadrons at present. Fall conference tomorrow (10/27). Still looking to add squadrons in counties that have none. Please remember to visit veterans in health care centers.

Challenge to get monies turned in so paid SAL members can be counted as paid. If doing the paperwork the "old" way, it can take 3+ weeks to be fully recorded.

- Rick Helms (070) – Oshkosh event – Travelling Viet Nam Wall. Legion family in District 6 supports this event. Approximately 1500 people came to visit the "wall". This year they had a Huey helicopter with two Viet Nam pilots. It was on display near the Wall so people could see/touch/feel it. Pictures will be given to the SAL Historian for publication and all to see.

Detachment Vice Commander – Dave Hodgson (522) Districts (3, 7, 8) along with District Commanders.

- Dave Hodgson (522) – roughly 4 months since taking over this position. Attended convention in Appleton. Various squadron visits. August Freezing for a Reason, various other events. Sep – district meetings. Focus on the mission! The mission is so important to the life of the Legion family units. We're here to honor the veterans and their service to this country. Everyone must choose where/how they wish to participate to support this mission. (Be seen, Be heard, Be gone)
- Sean Patchin (385) – 3rd District – report is attached. The 3rd District is number 1 in membership at this time. About 70% renewal. Working with Detachment Vice Commander Hodgson. 313 Black Earth and 101 Shullsburg are excelling at membership renewals. Thank you to them. District 3 is asking all units/squadrons/Riders to donate to ALF. At present, collected about \$1300.00. Presented a check from Squadron 437 for ALF \$300.00

Detachment Chaplain – John L'Huillier (434)

Sent cards and correspondence to Legion family members.

Attended Legion family funerals and memorials.

Participated in community and Legion family events and contributed as a volunteer.

Detachment Historian – Mike Pook (375)

Mike's – report was submitted electronically. Mike raised a question. Shall he keep creating the history book as in the past, or, create the book that meets the National Competition Requirements? Some of the National requirements make the book(s) more difficult to assemble. However, it also appears the National Commission may be re-evaluating the criteria for the books. David Faust suggested we write resolution(s) to ask national to adhere to Wisconsin's book procedure and presentation.

National Executive Committeeman – Christopher Sherman (071)

Chris did not have anything to report at this time as he was unable to attend the Fall NEC meeting.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Mike Pook (375)

- See attached report.
- Mike – When making a donation, please make sure you put something in the memo field. Without this, no one knows why the money was given, nor what program it is intended for?
- Training – There are many programs at higher levels within the SAL, but how can we get this training down to the squadron levels?
- FYI - NEC holds many ZOOM meeting and much is accomplished there.
- Children & Youth Academy is going to continue. Victory Garden program where veterans and children come together in gardening.
- NEC training for new members of the NEC – Mike attended and found it quite useful.
- Regional Training is being organized which would include SAL members.
- Media and public commission – how to get the word out? Going to align the SAL with the Legion so we're all on the same platform.
- Millennium newsletter – Working on having better access. At present must be a member of MY LEGION.ORG. Discussing various ways in which to improve distribution.

- David Faust (245) – “Well done Mike”! Being throw into the fray without previous exposure is difficult and Mike did a great job.

Department S.A.L. Liaison – Allen Watry (038)

See attached report from the Fall Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Wisconsin.

Accepting Officer Reports.

With no questions or objections, the reports from all the officers were received and filed.

Detachment Commander – Allen Watry (038)

- Everything on behalf of the SAL, was accepted by Department. We also got permission to replace the SAL logo on the building at Portage.
- Biggest message from Adjutant Julie Mulie was for everyone to get engaged! Please look for opportunities to be involved with your post and community.
- Many Kudos from around the State about the SAL. Keep doing what you’re doing!

Motion by Chris Sherman (071), 2nd by Mike Pook (375) to accept the Commander s report(s). Passed.

Committee and Commission Reports

Chris Dannenmann ran the program committees today.

Programs Committee – Gary F. Lubich (121)

Chris Dannenmann (434)mlead discussion

Americanism – Shawn D. McCrary (075)

Shawn was not present.

- John Edelblute IV (434)– Veterans Day coming. Please participate.
- The Oratorical Contest is last Saturday in March. Important if you can help your local district. Many roles are required. Try to find candidates. 5-7 minute presentation followed by 3-5 minutes on pre-selected topics. The pre-selected are on-line now. Scholarships are awarded.
- From scouting – John is always looking for eagle scouts. Must be 18 or under. Have them submit what they have done. Must have the religious emphasis award badge to qualify. Must have a parent who is American legion. There is also the Square Knot award. Available to any Legion Family member after meeting the requirements. Flag Education is also important. Please consider going to your local schools and teaching children about the flag. John is happy to assist in getting groups up to speed on this activity.

Steve Dubois (143)–

- Attended the Legion Rider State meeting
- Wreaths across America – always accepting donations. “Reach Across America.org” December 14th is date this year.
- Check with your local schools to see if they invite veterans in to celebrate Veterans Day with students.
- June 8-14th is Badger Boys. At UW-Eau Claire. Scholarships are available for posts/units/squadron’s that cannot afford to send a student. This is a fantastic bonding experience for all the children.
- Jan 2-Mar 1 WAALECA applications will be accepted from January 2, through March 1st. The event will be the week of June 23rd. Chris Sherman (071) was our representative in 2024. It was a great experience. Very intense schedules each day. Many facets of law enforcement are taught. 2024 had 39 students and 37 said they wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement.

- Bob Seide – Baseball. 210 teams in Wisconsin in 5 divisions. (5th largest State in Nation) Played at AmFam Field in Milwaukee for all-star game. Players 18 yrs or older will be required to have back-ground checks per National. Softball had 16 teams this year. These teams are primarily located in the western side of Wisconsin. Trying to push for more growth throughout the State.
- Allen Watry (038)– A&G testing – March 3-14 available. Shooting sports – insurance requirements and finding a location to shoot/practice – these tend to be costly. Legion wants to grow this program but be aware of these concerns. NRA may be able to assist with some equipment/costs.
- Chris Dannenmann (434) District 4/5 will have Legion Riders in Veterans Day parade in Milwaukee.

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

- David Faust (245) read some comments from Bob’s report in his absence. Discussion about deployments. Please don’t post our involvement with a deployment on social media unless or until you see others making comments. David Faust (245) handed out a document that is also on our web site concerning how we should handle this issue. Deployment Protocols.
- 2 Deployments so far have gone well. About 350 ALF dogs were given to Children. There will be more deployments. We are asked to adhere closely to their strict security protocols. Typically we are only provide 1-2 weeks notice.
- Randy Timms (375) Explained our history and involvement with the Badger Youth Camp. Asked for consideration for moving forward and whether this should become a regular part of the SAL programs. Currently camp runs only 3 or 4 days and can accommodate 100-150 children. The long-term goal is to accommodate 150-200 children and run Camp twice per summer in 2 different locations. In so doing, more families will be able to access this program.

National Security – John Edelblute, IV (434)

- John Edelblute, IV (434) – Be aware that firefighters and police are becoming reluctant to select one person for volunteer of the year awards as they work as a team and want to avoid issues between staff. “Active Duty Service Member” award is being considered and would stay at department.
- Legislator of the Year is another award to support.
- American Red Cross looking for donations of blood. Appleton hosting a blood drive soon.
- “Troop and Family Support” needs funding help. Culvers is a great place to help with fund raising activities.
- POW/MIA – Mid-Winter will have a program to explain how these identifications are happening. See the attachment.
- 211 Contact Center is considering getting the Legion involved for non-emergency support.

Veteran’s Affairs & Rehabilitation – William R. Olcott (258)

- Chris Sherman – New England Manufacturing sells grave markers. It is a veteran owned company. Many cemeteries are seeing damaged markers from lawn mowers and age. But WWII markers are becoming harder to acquire. nemfg.com/grave-markers Reminder that CVSO’s should be supplying flags.
- Allen Watry (038)– SAL members can become REP/DEP
- Camp American Legion 100th year celebration. June 14, 2025

Finance Commission – Tom Petrie (189)

- Tom Petrie (189)– Tom has the financials from Lisa at Department . Expenses are \$8066.0 with income of \$588.00.00. But, keep in mind this represents a timing issue due to when books close. ALF also showing negative balance, but there are funds.
- Foundation account was closed. Tom Lay has confirmed our Reserve account has \$43,000 total funds. \$16,000 of that is dedicated for the ALF Program.
- \$8800.00 (approx.) recently spent on ALF dogs.

Internal Affairs Commission – Jeremy Mason (015)

Jeremy Mason lead discussion

Legislative – Steven R. DuBois (143)

- Allen Watry (038)– Storm The Hill in Madison – plans unfolding and more will be coming.
- Washington Conference may present an opportunity to lay wreath at Arlington.

Membership – David Fuller (209)

- PDC Fuller was excused. Chris Sherman – Detachment of Wisconsin stands at 2nd place (Nationally) as of this date. 126 squadrons in Wisconsin, 12 are at all-time high.
- The first Charter for 2024-2025 has been submitted to National. (Elkhorn Squadron 45, District 1).
- Triple Nickel Award is based on 105% of past year membership at the end of the year.
- Detachment goal is based on a National applied increase based on August 1st membership of the previous year.
- Important to have squadrons validate membership before they are signed up.
- Various discussions about a variety of membership comments.

Officer Development & Policy – Christopher Sherman (071)

- Chris Sherman (071) – Mid-Winter (Saturday morning) – any ideas for training, let Chris know. Starting and Managing a Squadron may be good topics.
- Raffles will also be discussed. SAL operates under the POST license. Ask Squadron's to participate.
- Chis Dannenmann (434) – stress leadership succession. Important to develop the “bench” so there is a natural progression.
- Allen Watry (038)– Managing a squadron – another important topic for squadron leadership.

Public Relations – Ray Dzieciol (534)

- Ray Dzieciol – developing a new learning tool. Jeremy Mason – It is about the SAL and our journey. Will be on an audio loop thumb drive and used for recruitment.
- Mistakes are being made with definition of who is qualified to be a SAL member. Although there is a definition of qualifications, it is ultimately up to the squadron and their post as to how they will accept a new member. The rules are fixed and should be adhered to, however the squadron is under the post, not the detachment and enforcement must come from them.
- Allen Watry (038) –Should SAL have a pop-up banner? Consider a table top pop-up banner?

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

No report at this time.

Detachment Subcommittee on Resolutions – Detachment Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman Christopher Dannenmann (434) – nothing at this time.

With no questions or objections the reports from the commissions and committees were received and filed.

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

- Motion by Chris Sherman (071) to begin a Badger Youth Camp sub-committee under Children & Youth. 2nd By Jeremy Mason (015). Passed.
- Motion to accept the ALF deployment and pre-deployment documents as handed out earlier today as our official position on this issue. Motion by Chris Sherman (071), 2nd by Chris Dannenmann (434) to accept. Passed
- Chris Sherman (071) motioned to create 6 copies of an SAL pop-up banner to be distributed to four Legion Vice Commanders, one for HQ and one for the Commander, along with a backdrop step and repeat banner for Detachment meetings, with the total costs not to exceed \$3,000.00. Rick Helms (070) second. There was discussion if we should also include banners for ALF & Badger Youth Camp. Amended to create proposal for which banners are needed. Both Chris Sherman (071) and Rick Helms (070) approved amendment. Further discussion – Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Appointments

Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) made the following appointments:

- Badger Youth Camp Chair – Randy Timms.
- Chris Sherman (071) motion and 2nd by Chris Dannenmann (434) 2nd. Passed

New Business

- Tom Petrie – please let him know if you are not getting your reimbursement from National.
- Mike Pook (375) motioned to increase the allowance for gifts for each National Guests from \$25.00 to \$50.00. 2nd Ray Dzieciol (534). Discussion followed. Motion Passed (although not currently in the budget, there are funds to cover this under administrative expenses according to Tom Petrie)
- David Hodgson (522) – Request Only - Can District Commanders ask their squadrons to make a \$100.00 donation for the Freezin For A Reason event.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion

- Chris Sherman (071)– Donations for ALF. It's amazing what we can do with simple word of mouth! Chris went to two meetings and collected \$3,500.00 after speaking for a total of 4 minutes! District 1 Legion has given \$500.00 and the Auxiliary at Unit 71 has given \$250.00. Squadron 71 is planning to send \$250.00. PLEASE ask for donations! It's very easy and very successful!
- Past National Vice Commander Patrick Gryskiewicz (093) – Mid-Winter basket raffle – More help to run table is needed. ALF will be the recipient of this effort. Table set-up Friday morning. Pat will set this up.

Announcements:

- Candidate Applications received from Randy Timms for Detachment Vice Commander and from Chris Dannenmann for Detachment Commander.
- Will likely have a National Vice Commander at Mid-Winter – Harl “Butch” Ray from Illinois.
- Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) handed out a document reminding us of the Four Rules of the American Legion Program.
- If you are having an issue within the squadron or district, do not send complaints to National or Department. It must be satisfied within the squadron and/or Post.

Closing

Benediction

Retirement of the POW/MIA Chair Cover

Commander's Charge

Retirement of the Colors

Adjournment

With no other business, Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) declared the Spring Detachment Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Randy Timms, (375) Detachment Assistant Adjutant

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION-DETACHMENT OF WISCONSIN

FALL DEC REPORT 10-26-24 CHILDREN & YOUTH PDC BOB SIROVINA, CHAIRMAN

Operation A.L.F.

- Shipments:
 - SAL Squadron 209, Colorado Springs, CO. 1 CASE \$300
 - ALA Unit 501, Madison, WI, 1 case \$300, being returned, did not mean to order dogs, just donate
 - ALA Unit 196, Delafield, WI 1 case \$300

- Donations
 - SAL Squadron 501, Madison, WI, \$300
 - TAL Post 501, Madison, WI, \$300
 - ALA Unit 245, Cross Plains, WI, \$50
 - ALA Jefferson County Council, \$50

- Pre-deployment ceremonies
 - September 28th, Volk Field, large group, approximately 325 A.L.F. dogs given out
 - October 13th, Chippewa Falls HS, small group
 - See attached for deployment information

- Misc. Operation A.L.F. Information
 - The Auxiliary is allowing us to use their discounted shipping program, big savings on our outbound shipping costs
 - Example 1 case shipped to Hubertus, WI, walked into USPS, cost \$38.53, with using the ALA account we paid \$21.44
 - August 10, received partial shipment, 520 dogs
 - August 12, drove to Portage to receive remainder of shipment, re-pack trailer, inventory cartons. All cartons are now numbered. There is an inventory list in the trailer. Any cartons removed from the trailer need to be noted on the inventory with date, name of person removing them, and where they are being used.
 - Due to the possibility of increased program activity, requested pricing & availability for another shipment.

Other Activities

- Attended National Convention in New Orleans
- Attended ALA National President's Cocktail Reception before ALA States Dinner
- Participated in Post 434 Honor Guard for several funerals

- Represented Commander Watry at ALA Central Division National Vice President visit. Gave Mrs. RoseMarie Hauck an A.L.F. and 2 for her great-granddaughters because their Mom was deploying
- I have been certified to serve as the SAL Representative at Zablocki VAMC. With the new policies in place, this is an open-ended appointment.



Vice Commander Mason's Report

Good Progress on Membership for District 2, 6, 9 at roughly 50% at our stated goal of 50% by Oct 1 but will miss our goal of 75% BY Nov1

Overview

Working on cultivating squadrons in Mayville and Montello with several meetings related to formation. Continuing to expand the leadership teams for district 6 and 9 to round out the communication and scale.

Events and Activities

July

- American Legion Squadron 15 Meeting
- American Legion Post 15 Meeting

August

- American Legion Squadron 15 Meeting
- American Legion Post 15 Meeting

September

- American Legion Squadron 15 Meeting
- American Legion Post 15 Meeting
- Detachment Conference call

October

- American Legion Squadron 15 Meeting
- American Legion Post 15 Meeting
- District 2 SAL conference
- DEC Meeting Portage

Progress and Achievements

- Keep supporting the American Legion Family

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. St. Alban".

Third District Commander's Report for Fall Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

I was installed as Third District Commander at our Detachment Convention in July. Since that time, I attended the Green County American Legion Family Picnic and the Third District American Legion Family Picnic, presenting 2024 squadron awards at each. I chaired our Fall Conference. I also attended and addressed the Legion Third District Fall Conference where I was asked to place the POW/MIA banner on the Empty Chair. In addition to initiating a weekly email updating the district and squadron leadership in Third District on the progress of our squadrons and any other pertinent information, I've been submitting articles to be published in the monthly Third District and Dane County newsletters. I've also submitted photos and articles to the Badger Legionnaire promoting accomplishments of Third District squadrons, which were published in the most recent issue. My vice-commanders and I have worked hard eliminating all goose eggs and are still working hard to help our squadrons get to 100%. We are currently over 75% with seven squadrons over 100%. Third District also enjoys a 93.7% renewal rate thus far, which means 556 of our 606 members for 2025 are renewals. Among my district's squadrons, two have outstanding membership accomplishments for 2025: Squadron 313 (Black Earth) was the first squadron in the Detachment to reach 100% and Squadron 105 (Shullsburg) is currently #1 in the Detachment at over 221%. My First Vice-Commander and I, along with Detachment Vice-Commander Hodgson, will be at the American Legion Post 170 in Mineral Point on the 30th for a public presentation on the Sons. They and Post 97 in Dodgeville hope to charter a squadron soon and have asked for our help. I have thus far coordinated donations to the Detachment A.L.F. Dog Program of nearly \$1,400. I recruited a new dual member for Post & Squadron 501 and will be attending the first meeting of his new post and squadron with him next month. Also next month I will be attending the Lafayette County Youth Government Day to explain the S.A.L. to the youth attending and I will be attending a meeting of Squadron 481 to present their 2024 awards. I will also be attending Veterans Day events in Verona.

Fall DEC Officer Report
Commander Watry
July-Sept 2024

Travel/Appearances:

- 15 appearances via 10 trips.
- Drove 2200 miles, 300 hours accumulated "being on trips"
- Includes Natl, Detachment, and District events.

Natl Level Activities:

- Attended Natl Convention in New Orleans in August
- Continue to be a Scribe/Adjutant for the Natl Convention Committee
- Attended the Central Region Quarterly Zoom Meeting

State Level:

- Led Detachment Convention Meeting (3) in July
- Provided remarks at the Legion Convention (2x)
- Provided remarks at the Auxiliary Convention (2x)
- Attended/participated in 2 Rider Events
 - o Rider Picnic
 - o Fall Ride to Camp
- Attended 3 District Level Meetings
 - o Legion 7th & 8th District Fall Meetings
 - o Gold Start Mothers in Rothchild
- Supported the ALF Program at 1 Deployment and supporting Program Chair Sirovina.
- Many other efforts including Zoom Meetings, phone calls, some tech support, tracking membership packets, and other administrative items.

District Level:

- Attended Lena Dairyfest Parade – Rider
- Helping with process to form 9th and 12th districts

Local Level:

- Continue to serve as Adjutant for Squadron 38
- Continue to support Post activities/meetings.

Legion Department DEC Key Notes and discussions

By Detachment Commander Allen Watry

Americanism Committee:

- A&G Testing will be March 3-14, 2025. Encourage High School Students to participate for scholarships, it is an online test
- Badger Boys
 - o Planning already started for 2025 Session, being held June 8-14th
 - o Sponsorship packets recently set out
 - o 2024 had 702 citizens for Wi, 13385 at Boys Nation
- Baseball
 - o Solid year for Baseball and Softball
 - o Planning already started for both for 2025
- Scouting
 - o Eagle Scout of the Year Submissions due to Headquarters on/before March 1st, 2025
- Oratorical
 - o Have a system in place to have 12 contestants for regionals, even if a district does not have a contestant
 - o Regionals/State will be at Ripon College on March 29th
- Jr Sporting
 - o Teams should be working on plans for practices and competition
 - o Discussions around the costs, especially the insurance and places to shoot
- Walleca
 - o A great session again this year.
 - o Due to timing, 2025 will occur in June
 - o Trying to figure out how to fill the open spots, complications with Boys vs Girls. Had a full slate of Boys this year, did not fill out all the Girls slts
- Riders
 - o Continue to support other programs and promote Americanism
 - o Planning ongoing for the Cruise for a Cause in 2025
- SAL
 - o All required reports/items were presented and accepted.
 - o IA will be doing a review of SAL and Riders C&B this fall, has been provided to them
 - o Discussion around how to take our Convention Elections and Appts directly to the DEC so it can happen at the Legion Post Convention DEC. Motion was approved to have IA review this.

Other Committee Reports/Discussions

- Media/Communications
 - o There is a lot of energy in Media/Communications to get the word out
 - Billboards around the state for key weekends like the NFL Draft, IndyCar Racing, EAA, other
 - o Radio and other outlets, how to get into the Community activities/awareness spots for smaller local stations
 - o Traveling banners – should the SAL have some, other groups also looking to add to the (6) which have already been created
 - o Really has ties to many other groups to work together
- Membership
 - o Looking for ways to get a booth at Trade Shows/Organizations which has a veteran following. Ties into the banners which have been developed
 - o Need to continue to drive activities in local communities
 - o Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL are towards the top for 2025 Membership
- Finance
 - o Continuing to work on Books reconciliation, now current through July 2024
 - o Still relying on Fundraising to meet budgets for all programs. It is important we are all helping with Fundraising activities.
 - o Reminder about the Capital Improvement Plans/Requirements for large expenditures

Headquarter Notes

- MidWinter Conference
 - o Jan 16-19th
 - o Registration and Housing is open on the web site
 - o Please promote, including a Freezing for a Reason on Thurs Night.
 - o SAL will have (2) Classes Sat Morning
 - Starting a Squadron
 - Squadron Management
 - o Encouraging all to attend the following on Sat afternoon/evening
 - UW-Madison MIA Recovery & Identification Presentation
 - Celebrate your Heritage Banquet.
- Upcoming Dates
 - o WALLECA Application dates – Jan 2nd through Mar 1st 2025
 - o Awards applications due
 - Non Americanism – May 1st
 - Americanism – June 1st
 - o CPR/CSRs due – June 1st
 - o Convention – July 16th-20th in Green Bay (Hyatt Regency)
 - o Camp American Legion 100th Birthday – June 11th, more to come on it.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Department Adjutants & Department Judge Advocates

DATE: 8/13/2024



Four Rules of an American Legion Program

Whether a program is chartered by a post, department or national, it is incumbent on The American Legion that we control the actions of that program to best meet the needs of our organization, provide oversight and protect the brand. Therefore, when a body sets up a program, whether it's a Sons of The American Legion squadron or an American Legion Riders chapter, the program itself must be answerable to the body which chartered it.

Rule #1 – “Leadership” – All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization after each selection, or as needed.

Rule #2 – “Rules” – All bylaws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and approval prior to use.

Rule #3 – “Reports” – The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities reports; (b) quarterly financial reports; (c) an annual financial statement; and (d) any additional report(s) requested by the parent organization.

Rule #4 – “Controls” – The parent organization may provide the program with the employer identification number (EIN) and the tax-exemption status with the necessary financial controls over their usage. All program financial accounts must have a minimum of two (2) parental signatories appointed by the parent organization.

“Parent Organization” denotes an American Legion organization level as it relates to the program at the post, district, department and/or the national organization.

This will alleviate confusion and problems that sometimes occur when a program initiated in good faith by a parent organization gradually falls out of favor and begins to act as an independent body without answering to the parent affiliate. Any programs that use the name “American Legion” must follow these four rules so that national does not have to enforce intellectual property rights against a subsidiary organization using our name.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Seavey".

Mark C. Seavey, J.D.
National Judge Advocate