

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

Spring Detachment Executive Committee Minutes April 27, 2024

Opening

Call to Order

Saturday April 27, 2024 Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) called to order the Detachment Executive Committee meeting being held at Portage, WI at 12:34 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)	Excused
Detachment Vice Commander	Jeremy Mason	(015)	Excused
Detachment Vice Commander	Rich Ruland	(481)	Absent
Detachment Chaplain	John L'Huillier	(434)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Rick Helms	(070)	Excused
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Present
National Executive Committeeman	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Alternate National Executive Committeeman	Patrick N. Gryskiewicz	(093)	Absent
Past Detachment Commander	David Fuller	(209)	Excused
Past Detachment Commander	Robert Sirovina, Jr.	(434)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
1st District Commander	Randy Timms	(375)	Excused
2nd District Commander	Dave Hodgson	(522)	Present
3rd District Commander	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Present
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)	Excused
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)	Excused
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Michael A. Hellquist	(021)	Absent

Introduction of Guests

The following guests were introduced:

- Richard Bennett from Squadron 491 Cazenovia, an 84 year member of the SAL. Mr. Bennett was happy to be there and see everyone. He had a history book from some of the earlier days of the SAL. He also was present at the first National Convention in Chicago in 1972 and at the 50th National Convention in Milwaukee in 2022. Richard's eligibility it through his father's service in WWI.

Reading of the Previous Minutes

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Christopher Sherman (071).

Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Ray Dzieciol (534) made a motion to approve the minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Detachment Historian Mike Pook (375) and passed.

Official Correspondence

Detachment Adjutant David R. Faust (245):

- There was no correspondence to report.

Detachment Officer Reports

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

I have been attending the Osceola post and assisting with providing information for their SAL. They are still awaiting their charter. Still working on getting a SAL squadron in Superior to send in their charter paperwork I have high hopes we will get it in this spring. The 12th District Commander is from Superior and I will prod him into action on my return. If we have enough new squadrons for this year's Triple Nickle award we can bring on the squadron after June. I attended the 10th District meeting this past weekend. I picked up some new ideas for my post and SAL squadron to try. The PCC would like to invite the SAL Commander to attend the State Dance/PCC party. We would be happy to accept any door prize gifts.

That's all for now. Steven DuBois.

Detachment Vice Commander – Christopher Dannenmann (434) Districts (1, 3, 4, 5) along with District Commanders. See attached report.

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

No report from Jeremy Mason. District 2 Commander David Hodges reported that all squadrons in the district will be at 100%, and the district is doing very well. He ran down some of the district statistics. District 6 Commander John Hoeft II also discussed district membership statistics.

Detachment Vice Commander – Rich Ruland (481) Districts (7, 8) along with District Commanders.

No report.

Detachment Chaplain – John L'Huillier (434)

SAL Chaplain's Report – April 27, 2024

- 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.
- Attended SAL 4th District Spring Conference in March 2024.

Detachment Historian – Mike Pook (375)

I am working on this years' history book. I have it updated through March. I have reached out to District Commanders to get a list of their officers and am attempting to create a page for each district. As always, please send any pictures and stories to me.

National Executive Committeeman – Christopher Sherman (071)

See attached report.

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

No report.

Department S.A.L. Chairman – Michael A. Hellquist (021)

No report.

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

Detachment Commander – Allen Watry (038)

Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) turned the chair over to Detachment Historian Mike Pook (038), who then called on Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) for his report.

Commander Watry reported he has been very busy since Midwinter conference. He has attended five different district conferences and all but the 11th district will be covered this year. He attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage in February in Springfield IL, the Department Oratorical Contest, the 6th District Americanism banquet, and many squadron events.

Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Ray Dzieciol (534) made a motion to approve the Detachment Commander's reports as given and submitted. The motion was seconded by Detachment Chaplain John L'Huillier (434) and passed.

Committee and Commission Reports

Programs Committee – Gary F. Lubich (121)

Americanism – Mark Pape (294)

There was a roundtable discussion on activities from several squadrons in attendance.

Squadron 294 Hartland is donating a new flag to the school, which has a 3 x 5 flag on large pole. The Squadron is donating size appropriate flag. May 30 – June 2nd – they are sponsoring the Wall that Heals. It will be displayed and attended to 24 hours / day.

Several squadrons reported on planned Memorial Day activities which often included partnering with local Scout troops for assistance in placing the flags at cemeteries prior to Memorial Day. A common theme included parades and community activities.

Oak Creek – 3rd Year working with City of Oak Creek to hold a flag disposal ceremony in June on Flag Day. Detachment Chaplain John L'Huillier will give the keynote speech. Honor guard doing volley. Legion band. 128th has been invited. Invite kids to deposit flags into the burning barrel. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts participating as well. Ceremony will take place at the Drexel Town Square in Oak Creek.

Cazenovia Squadron 491 adopted a portion of Highway V and gives scholarships to Weston Schools. They also host a Soup & Sandwich supper and typically raise raise \$800 - \$900.

Squadron 234 Omro hosts an Americanism Banquet. Squadron inspects and repairs all the flags on Main Street.

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

Operation A.L.F.

- Shipments:
 - Bea Roeschadl, ALA Unit 67, Lake Mills, WI, 7 A.L.F. for kids of deployed parents
 - Ken Taylor, SAL Squadron 209, Colorado Springs, CO, 1 case \$300
 - Janet Boss, ALA Unit 218, Hayward, WI, 1 case \$300
 - Russ Hansetter, SAL Squadron 106, Seymour, WI 1 case \$300
 - Adam Klapperick, TAL Post 509. Rosholt, WI, 1 case \$300
- Donations
 - Joan Erickson, ALA Unit 461, Dunbar, WI, \$250
 - Julie Knapp, ALA Unit 263, New London, WI, \$320
- New shipment
 - Requested & received purchase order for 1,000 more A.L.F.
 - 1ST shipment arrived at Portage 11/16 for 769 dogs
 - 2nd shipment arrived at Milwaukee 1/2 for 231 dogs
- Misc. Operation A.L.F. Information
 - The Auxiliary is allowing us to use their discounted shipping program, big savings on our outbound shipping costs
 - Asked supplier about drop-shipping for orders, not something they would do
 - Talked to supplier on pricing again, we are receiving best discount
- North Dakota American Legion is really taking off with this program and Chairman Sirovina has put them in touch with the supplier to have them make future purchases direct from there.
- There were discussions about potential deployments coming up, and the protocols for them. Those are purposely omitted from these minutes since this document will be posted on the Detachment website.

Other Activities

- Attended 4th SAL District meeting
- Attended meeting at Squadron 537
- Participated in Post 434 Honor Guard for 14 funerals
- Attended SAL National Convention in Charlotte, NC
- Attended Auxiliary National President's Homecoming in Fairbanks, AK
- Participated in ALA Christmas Gift Shop wrapping day & delivery to Post Office
- Attended dinner for ALA Central Division National Vice President

Child Welfare Foundation donations are due by May 31st to count for the '23-'24 year.

Squadron 375 reports on the \$1,000.00 scholarship they give for someone obtaining training related to being a first responder. If that person continues their education the following year, the Squadron will give another \$1,000.00 towards that.

Badger Youth Camp – this year starts on June 22, 2024 and is expanded to five days. Donations made to Badger Youth Camp totaled \$5,525.00 recently. It costs \$225.00 to send a kid to the camp, which is put on by the Wisconsin National Guard and is open to children who depend on a service members. It creates connections to other military children in the community. Looking to get 200 youth to attend. There can be some difficult

moments for children who have lost their service member. The Detachment will have several representatives at this again.

National Security – John Hoeft II (234)

Blood drives are squadron activities that can be considered in support of National Security.

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

VAVS Representatives.

- Bob Sirovina Jr. is getting reinstated at Zablocki
- Michael Lawler continues to server in Middleton
- Discussed various volunteer roles and responsibilities.

There is a Veteran van at Oshkosh that needs another driver.

SAL Members can participate with Post Honor Guards.

Homeless veterans has been a focus of several squadrons.

No Next of Kin (NNOK) ride is June 1st starting Mukwonago. Squadron 294 Hartland has donated \$1,000.00 for NNOK program and Post 294 Hartland has also donated \$1,000.00.

Camp American Legion – squadrons can sponsor a veteran – donate to camp. Squadron 375 Mukwonago ahs donated \$5k to fixtures for one of the cabins in the camp.

Finance Commission – Tom Petrie (189)

Chairman Petrie gave a verbal report on the state of our finances and had documents for review. They will not be included in the minutes as published on the website.

Internal Affairs Commission – Jeremy Mason (015)

Legislative – Steven R. DuBois (143)

General discussion to encourage the use of Voter Voice, and via MyLegion.org sign up for the legislative reports from National.

Membership – David Fuller (209)

General discussion concerning membership statistics. Welcome to five new Squadrons:

- Squadron 221 Osceola
- Squadron 269 Cushing
- Squadron 370 Wild Rose
- Squadron 431 Three Lakes
- Squadron 477 St. Nazianz

Wisconsin is just 92 members shy of reaching Triple Nickel status.

There was discussion about a letter that could be sent to Posts that have SAL Squadrons attached about the Squadron. Commander Watry and Adjutant Faust will work together on this idea.

Officer Development & Policy – Christopher Sherman (071)

General discussion about training that would be beneficial to squadrons and officers. For officers, some guidance on talking points and common phrases to use when addressing The American Legion will be developed for the Sunday training session at convention.

For squadrons, information on how to navigate the Detachment website and the resources available there would be helpful to do on the Friday afternoon or evening time frame.

Public Relations – Ray Dzieciol (534)

General discussion encouraging all squadrons to get involved with their communities. Detachment Historian Mike Pook mentioned that using photo's is a great way to show a community what you're doing.

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

No report other than recommending we adopt the current Uniform Code of Procedures to be the rules for the 2024 Detachment Convention.

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

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

National Executive Committeeman Christopher Sherman (071) made a motion to do adopt the current Uniform Code of Procedure as the rules for the 2024 Detachment Convention. The motion was seconded by Detachment Historian Mike Pook (375) and passed.

Resolution DEC-24-04 was read by National Executive Committeeman Christopher Sherman (071) for Resolutions Chairman Chris Dannemann. Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) called for a motion to adopt or reject. Since no motion was forthcoming, Detachment Commander Watry declared the matter closed.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business

Appointments

There were no appointments to be made.

New Business

Detachment Chaplain John L'Huillier (434) made a motion to authorize the purchase and installation of a new SAL emblem for the front of the Headquarters Building to replace the very faded emblem currently being displayed, for an amount not to exceed \$2000.00. The motion was seconded by Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Ray Dzieciol (534) and passed.

There was discussion about the inventory of Operation A.L.F. dogs and when it might be appropriate to order more of them, but nothing actionable was decided.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion and Announcements

Detachment Commander Allen Watry (071) discussed the Be the One campaign and how it is changing lives. In regards to appointments, Commander Watry talked about the openings that will come up at Detachment Convention in July, along with anyone that has a desire to serve on a Legion committee should let Commander Watry know.

Commander Watry mentioned Stu's Cruise – Legion Riders ride to raise funds for a new storage facility at Camp American Legion.

The joint testimonial dinner for the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders in May 18th at La Sure's in Oshkosh.

The following donations were presented:

- \$1,000.00 to Operation A.L.F. by Squadron 375 Mukwonago
- \$1,065.00 to the Child Welfare Foundation by Squadron 375 Mukwonago.
- \$1,000.00 to the Wisconsin American Legion Hospital Fund by Squadron 294 Hartland.

Mike Pook (375) announced his candidacy for Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Mark Pape (294) talked about the history of their Freezin' for a Reason event to raise awareness, funds, and supplies for homeless veterans. It began 5 years ago with a goal of raising \$5,000.00. They raised \$20,000.00 that first year, and it has grown since, with 2024 raising over \$100,000.00 in cash and two box trucks full of supplies, all of which was given to homeless veterans. Squadron 294 Hartland has also provided assistance to getting similar events started in Hubertus, Orfordsville, Fond du Lac, and La Crosse.

6TH District Commander John Hoeft II mentioned how the Legion family has been there for him and his father as they deal with his father's health issues.

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 1:47 pm.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Christopher Sherman (071)



Vice Commanders Report

Districts - 1, 3, 4, 5

Name: Christopher Dannenmann

Date: 21 January 2024 – 27 April 2024

110% Goal - Membership Report Date: 04/11/24

Districts 1,3,4,5 numbers in your area – Goal TOTAL	1,854
Number of Squadrons in your area as of last D.E.C.	41
Total area membership as of the last D.E.C.	1,792
Number of “Goose Egg” Squadrons in your area	1
Number of Squadrons at current goal (110%)	7
Number of Squadrons at 100% or more	21
Number of Squadrons at Final goal	21
Number of new Squadrons as of last D.E.C.	0
Contacts made to your Squadrons since last D.E.C.	60+

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

NVC Robert Bristo – Central Region – Quarterly Conference Call	Ongoing
WALCAA Constitution & Bylaws Committee	Updated
Detachment Officers Monthly Zoom Call	Ongoing
Districts 1, 3, 4 & 5 District Commander’s Call & E-mail conversations	Ongoing
<i>Lions Club Leader Dog for Blue Brigade Recipient Marvin Northway</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Applied and Accepted to SAL University Pilot Program	03/12/2024
Visitation for John Edelblute, III, Father of John Edelblute, IV	03/15/2024

Notes:

Badger Youth Camp, July 21-22, 2024, Wautoma, WI

C&Y Education Program: SAL Pillars, Ideals, Flag Education, History, Honor, Duty, Service, Commitment to God and Country, Veterans Q&A, Veterans experiences, stories, and lessons learned.

Lions Clubs International, Leader Dog for the Blind (leaderdog.org)

The Oak Creek Lions Club, and I, have been working with Blue Brigade Jacket Recipient and Past 4th District Finance Officer Marvin Northway, his son and care givers to apply for and process through Marvin for a Leader Dog since he lost his sight last year. The challenge of blindness is being met by Marvin’s courage and tenacity. We hope to have acceptance in the near months. Marvin sends his greetings and wishes for a successful DEC.

Detachment Logo Embroidery

Embroidery is available once we have an order for over 25 shirts. It has been suggested that they all be French Blue and /or Red. Minimum quantity of 25 shirts. **You supply the shirt.** Logo over the left breast and your name over the right breast. Both 1st Dist. Commander Randy Timms and I are wearing examples of this embroidery. This is for embroidery only. Cost = \$22 per garment, paid in advance.



Vice Commanders Report

Districts - 1, 3, 4, 5

Dist. 1: (93.60%)

- 021 Kenosha – 129.17%
- Possible New Squadron(s): Elkhorn (045), Walworth (102), East Troy (188) Okauchee Lake (399)
- Hartland Sq. 294 Cmdr. Mark: Pape “Freez’n for-a-reason Event at Mid-Winter (Dist. 7) Sponsored by La Crosse (052)
- Menomonee Falls Sq. 382 Leadership change in progress
- 04/06/2024 District 1 Spring Conference, 71 - Pewaukee, WI. Approved corrections and changes to the District 1 C&BL. C&BL were sent up to Department for ratification and adoption. The new District Officers were sworn in for 2024-2026.
 - A resolution was proposed by Michael Hellquist for continuing training at the District level. I suggested that it be written and submitted at the Spring DEC for consideration of adoption at the Convention (**see attached**).

Dist. 3: (104.95%)

- 10/16/2023 Fall (Video/Google/Zoom) Conference
- 084 Monroe – 105.56%
- 105 Schullsberg – 280.00%
- 220 Soldiers Grove – 127.27%
- 245 Cross Plains – 103.45%
- 313 Black Earth – 106.06%
- 385 Verona – 128.57%
- 433 Barneveld 106.67%
- 481 Madison – 102.45%
- 501 Madison – 108.11%
- 534 McFarland – 114.00%
- 04/20/2024 Legion District 3 Spring Conference – Fennimore, WI

Dist. 4: (85.36%)

- Shooting Sports will be the District Commander’s Project.
- Shooting Sports committee appointments will be from Squadrons 537, 416 and 434. Details to follow.
- 03/02/2024 District 4 Spring Conference.
- 03/17/2024 Squadron 424 Oak Creek St. Patrick’s Day Celebration
- 04/13/2024 Blue Brigade Jacket Ceremony for Marvin Northway 416 Greendale, WI. Michael Hellquist, a Blue Brigade Jacket recipient this year, was also present.
- No contact or movement on Squadron 18 Milwaukee. Not so much as one word.

Dist. 5: (20.00%)

- **406:** Reinstated w/ two (2) members renewed online for FY 2023-2024
- **Contact:** Gary Saunders, 6610 McHenry Street, Burlington, WI 53105-8711
gsauncog@gmail.com (414) 531-0464

Membership average = 96.66%



Vice Commanders Report

Districts - 1, 3, 4, 5

09/10/2023 Submitted: SAL Resolution ____ - Fall NEC 2023

Title: Endorsement of Christopher Sherman (WI) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Wisconsin

09/10/2023 Submitted: SAL Resolution ____ - Fall NEC 2023

Title: Endorsement of Allen Watry (WI) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Wisconsin

01/20/2024 SAL Resolution DEC-24-01 - Midwinter Conference

Title: Changes to Constitution and Bylaws 2024

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission of the Detachment Executive Committee

01/20/2024 SAL Resolution DEC-24-02 -Midwinter Conference

Title: One Hundred Percent Squadron Membership Pin

Origin: Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Dannenmann, DVC

21 April 2024

Attachment: Continuing Education