



Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Indiana  
Detachment Executive Committee  
Spring Conference  
Indianapolis, IN  
April 4, 2009

Commander Gary Gregory opened the meeting in due form with a right-hand salute to the colors of our nation at 12:30 PM. Acting Chaplain Dave Hanson led the prayer, NVC Zimmer led the Pledge and PDC Pipher led the Preamble.

Commander Gregory called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Roland Baker for introduction of distinguished guests.

Chairman Baker introduced 8<sup>th</sup> District Legion Commander Randy Dooley and Indiana's Leading Candidate for American Legion National Commander Jimmy Koutz. Candidate Koutz presented Commander Gregory with a check for his Commander's project in the amount of \$2,105.33 from the Boonville Legion Family fundraiser. Commander Gregory thanked Boonville for the hospitality and the generous donation. Chairman Baker also introduced the following: Dave Stephens, Past National Commander; Raymond Giehl Jr., Past National Commander; George Evans, National Legislative Commission Chairman; David Ridenour, National Asst. Adjutant; Rodney Strong, Department Southern Vice Commander; and Alescia Johnson, 11<sup>th</sup> District Legion Commander. Commander Johnson passed out certificates of appreciation to our membership that contributed to the 2008 Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build. Chairman Baker introduced Clarence Hill, American Legion Leading Candidate for National Commander. Candidate Hill talked to us about the fact that many in our American Legion Family and our communities do not know of our State and National programs; they just know what happens at the Post level. He encouraged all of us to spread the word of what we do and look to bring in younger members. As a dual member, he is very proud of what we do and asked us to keep up our great work. Chairman Baker introduced Dean Ellingsworth with Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Ellingsworth thanked everyone for the assistance with the Indianapolis Veterans Build. Commander Gregory presented a check for \$1000.00 to HFH on behalf of the Detachment. Chairman Baker introduced James Hinshaw, Chairman of the National Veteran's Memorial located in Buckskin, IN. Mr. Hinshaw stated that the memorial is located in southwest Indiana and passed around information depicting the future look for the memorial and website [www.nationalveteransmemorial.org](http://www.nationalveteransmemorial.org). The goal is to list every person who has served our country. He asked that we spread the word, and any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Chairman Baker introduced Portray Woods from the Indianapolis VA Hospital. Mr. Woods told us about his accident in Iraq and the recovery period he has been going through. Mr. Woods will represent the Indianapolis VA at the National Volunteer Services Awards Conference in Reno, NV. Commander Gregory presented Mr. Woods with a check for \$500.00 on behalf of the Detachment to help cover the expenses of his companion and himself to the Conference.

Commander Gregory called for a roll call of officers. Adjutant Bradtmueller made a roll call of officers, which showed the following in attendance.

Commander:	Gary Gregory
Northern Vice Commander:	Ron Sexton
Northern Vice Commander:	Robert Zimmer
Southern Vice Commander:	Brian Hauser
Southern Vice Commander:	William Barnett
Adjutant:	Damon Bradtmueller
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter
Asst. Adjutant:	Duane Alexander
Finance Officer:	Raymond Giehll Jr.
Chaplain:	Dewey Long (EX)
Historian:	Glenn Nagel
Sgt-at-Arms:	Mike Arend
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:	Galen Close
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:	Logan Pipher (EX)
Judge Advocate:	Terry Slagle
Public Relations:	Mike Pipher
NEC:	Roland Baker
Alt. NEC:	Harrell Sorrels

District Commanders:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Dwayne Alliss
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Dan Conkling
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Darin Batten
4 <sup>th</sup> :	Greg Spalding
5 <sup>th</sup> :	Scott Trainer (UNEX)
6 <sup>th</sup> :	Phil Purdy
7 <sup>th</sup> :	John Ferrand
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Mike Maples
9 <sup>th</sup> :	Brian Hauser
10 <sup>th</sup> :	Charles Allen
11 <sup>th</sup> :	Byron Ratcliffe (UNEX)

District Advisors:

2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Russ Griffin
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Orville Kling
4 <sup>th</sup> :	Don Dapp
6 <sup>th</sup> :	Rodney Strong
7 <sup>th</sup> :	Harold Hensley
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Mike Mattingley
10 <sup>th</sup> :	Gordon Rayburn
11 <sup>th</sup> :	Duane Alexander
SAL Chairman:	Larry Horvath

Past Detachment Commanders:

Clifford Stephens  
David Stephens  
James Arter, Sr.  
Raymond Giehll, Jr.  
Terry Slagle  
Dave Mathews  
Rodney Strong  
George Evans  
Damon Bradtmueller

David Ridenour  
David Siggers  
Harrell Sorrels  
Richard Pfeiffer  
Mark Tansel  
Roland Baker  
Michael Pipher  
Michael Sheets  
Duane Alexander

Commander Gregory asked for the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. PDC Arter moved to accept the minutes as mailed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Tansel. Motion passed.

Commander Gregory called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Baker for an introduction.

Chairman Baker introduced Paul Wilkinson, Superintendent of Knightstown Home. Superintendent Wilkinson stated that he is very proud to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion and went on to say that the Legion Family adopted his family 34 years ago. The battle continues over the Home, and he thanked us for our support to keep the Home open. He stated that adult personal contact is the key to helping the kids and the kids at the Home remember those who care for them. He encouraged us to keep up all the good things we do for everyone.

Commander Gregory, with the help of PDC Alexander and PDC Sheets, presented the charter to Pendleton Squadron 608. Lt. Tim Nickels accepted the charter on behalf of the membership.

Commander Gregory called for Commission and Committee reports.

Americanism Commission Chairman Steve Tansel led the Americanism Commission report.

Athletics:

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Detachment Golf Tournament will be at the Phil Harris Golf Course in Linton, IN, on Saturday, June 6. The cost is \$55.00 per player, and tee times are 7–9 AM and 12–2 PM. The skins game is \$20.00 per team. Breakfast will be available. Next year's outing will be Saturday, June 5, 2010. Hole sponsors are as follows: 1-1<sup>st</sup> District; ; 2-2<sup>nd</sup> District; 3-3<sup>rd</sup> District; 4-4<sup>th</sup> District; 5-5<sup>th</sup> District; 6-6<sup>th</sup> District; 7-7<sup>th</sup> District; 8-8<sup>th</sup> District; 9-9<sup>th</sup> District; 10-10<sup>th</sup> District; 11-11<sup>th</sup> District; 13-Squadron 253; 15-Squadron 276; and 16-Squadron 279. Holes 12, 14, 17 and 18 are open.

Hoosier Boy's State:

Hoosier Boy's State is now at Tri-State University in Angola, IN, and will be held June 13–20. Everyone is encouraged to ask the Legion District Boy's State Representatives if they need any help. 10<sup>th</sup> DC Allen moved to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SVC Hauser. Motion passed

Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Duane Alexander led the Internal Affairs report.

#### Legislative:

Legislative Chairman George Evans stated that on the state level the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home has changed its sights from permanent funding to a one-year stay of execution. A bill has passed both houses denying the Governor the ability to close Knightstown Home. On the national level the Flag Amendment is held up in Committee's on both sides of Congress with little hope of movement. The President has backed down on trying to force civilian insurance companies to pay for claims by military veterans with service-related injuries. The American Legion Family has faced reality and decided that mandatory funding for the VA system will never happen. The new focus will be on Advance Appropriations for VA Medical Care and trying to place advance funding in the budget for the next fiscal year. Again, The American Legion calls on Congress to accept responsibility as outlined by the U.S. Constitution when it comes to illegal immigration. The American Legion Family will continue to 1) closely monitor the timely implementation of the new benefits of the Post-9/11 GI bill, 2) work to improve the timeliness and accuracy of the VA disability claims, 3) remain committed to the provisions of Resolution 169 to support the troops, support the President and support the Congress in the Global War on Terrorism, and 4) support fully funding and increasing the size of the Armed Forces.

#### Campout:

Campout Chairman David Siggers reported that the dates for the Campout are July 24-26, 2009. With the possibility of the closing of Knightstown Home, we will need an alternate site to hold the Campout. At Mid-Winter Conference the Committee asked that Squadrons submit bids, and to date none have come forward.

#### Convention:

Convention Chairman Mike Sheets stated that the Convention Committee reviewed the Convention package and a motion was made and passed to accept the package. The Adjutant was asked to change 8 AM to 9 AM on Saturday, add that all times are Central Time, and send a copy of all fliers to our webmaster. The Committee received one bid for next year from Marion Squadron 10.

#### Information Technology:

Acting Chairman Mike Pipher reported that our donation graphics are up and running on the website. He also turned in the latest stats from our website, which show that we receive an average of 37 visits, 300 pages viewed and 950 hits per day. We have 650 unique visitors who use our site monthly, many of which come from Department's home page. RSS enabling, need everyone to send in E-mail addresses. We average about one E-mail question per day.

#### Public Relations:

Chairman Mike Pipher stated that the Committee reviewed the Mid-Winter Conference notes for follow-up and would like articles from the Commission and Committee Chairmen for an electronic newsletter. 3<sup>rd</sup> DC Batten issued a challenge to the other Districts to match the \$1,500.00 they raised for IVH. PDC Alexander moved to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Sheets. Motion passed.

Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Jim Naylor led the Rehabilitation Commission report.

The Rehabilitation Committee stated that the representatives from four VA Hospitals be sent their \$500.00 donation from the Detachment. The Committee passed a motion to purchase four TR2 chairs with lap buddy for the Indianapolis VA with the funds to come from the Veteran's Assistance area of the budget. The Committee also passed a motion to assist the USS Indianapolis Survivors and sponsor their reunion dinner in June at a cost of approximately \$500.00. This donation will also come from the Veteran's Assistance area of the budget. Don't forget that May is National Veteran's Assistance Day. Pick a day and do something to help our Veterans. A motion was made by PDC Giehl to table the Rehabilitation Commission report subject to the approval of the Finance Commission, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Tansel.

#### Indiana Veteran's Home:

IVH Chairman Jim Arter reported that 15 Legion Family members helped 80 residents play 70 games of Bingo. Everyone had a wonderful time, and all our prizes were won. This was the last Bingo of the year, so we will have to start gearing up for the 2009-2010 year. It has been another rewarding year for everyone who helped and participated. All the residents had fun and are already waiting for October to come and start all over again. The Committee is looking forward to next year, and the Bingo dates should be known by Close of Books. After attending the Department IVH meeting, it was learned that the home has around 275 residents at this time and a capacity for 450. The facilities are being upgraded with a fire protection sprinkler system in every room. There is also plenty of room for domicile residents (independent living quarters), and the sewer and flooding problems are being corrected. Thanks to everyone for the donations of time and money this year.

#### VAVS:

VAVS Chairman Jim Staggs stated that we now have a representative for the Louisville VA awaiting approval. He stated that four of the VA Hospitals we service have requested their \$500.00 donations from the Detachment.

#### Homeless Veterans:

Homeless Veterans Committee Chairman Maurice King reported that Commander Gregory on behalf of the Detachment donated \$1000.00 to the Department Homeless Veteran's Committee. PDC Arter moved to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Slagle. Motion passed.

Children & Youth Commission Chairman Kellis Allen led the Children & Youth Commission report.

C&Y Commission Chairman Kellis Allen reminded everyone of the Josh Dog program and that National Commander Tommie Cisna wants every Detachment to provide 200 Dogs to CMN Hospitals in their area. The National Children & Youth Conference will be September 19-20, 2009, in Indianapolis.

### Special Olympics:

Special Olympics Chairman Wes Brock reported that The American Legion is now involved and donations are needed.

### Children's Miracle Network:

CMN Chairman Mike Arend reported that after an apology was sent to The American Legion we are now back onboard with CMN and The American Legion will continue to be a corporate sponsor.

### Americanism & Government:

A&G Chairman Ron Sexton reminded everyone that November is A&G testing month, and we need to be contacting schools now to seat up a date for testing. Six winners will receive \$1000.00 scholarships, one boy and one girl from grades 10, 11 and 12. We need to start promoting these programs, as there is little participation. These are programs that not only help our youth but are great public relations tools also. Having only two or three Squadrons participating is not acceptable.

### Junior Shooting Sports:

Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Greg Spalding reported that there will be a shooting instructors' class held in October at a cost of \$60.00. A minimum of 10 instructors is required. Those interested should contact Ida Jewel at 765-732-3867. There were 28 shooters at the Knightstown Shoot held in January. That shoot was rescheduled from November, and the top shooter was from Knightstown Home.

### Knightstown Home:

Knightstown Home Committee member Bill Robeson reported business as usual for the staff and students at the Home, as the Indiana Department of Health tries to close the facility after graduation in May. The students have been very active enjoying various Legion Posts, the water slide and outside basketball courts. Graduation is Saturday, May 23, at 10:00 AM. All 18 seniors are graduating, and the Detachment is providing four \$250.00 scholarships along with four \$250.00 scholarships from the Past Detachment Commanders. The Committee would like to thank everyone who sent letters and e-mails in an effort to keep the Home funded. Superintendent Wilkinson says, "It is my sincere hope that the Indiana Soldier's and Sailor's Children's Home will be around for a long time. Friends like you have made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of Indiana children. You should be very proud of the work you have done on behalf of the students who have had the privilege to call ISSCH their HOME".

### Oratorical:

Chairman Dave Hanson thanked Mark Tansel, William Barnett, Duane Alexander, Dave Stephens, Ron Sexton and Damon Bradtmueller for their help at the Department Oratorical Contest. If you are working the National Oratorical contest on April 18 and need a room, please see David after the meeting. PDC Sorrels made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

PDC Arter made a motion to change the Detachment Children & Youth Award to the Robert "Smurf" Rodeffer Memorial Children & Youth Award, beginning with the 2009 Detachment Convention, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Siggers. Motion passed.

It became apparent that there was not a Child Welfare Foundation report. PDC D. Stephens reported that he had CWF Challenge Coins if anyone was interested. PDC Pipher made a motion to amend the Children & Youth report to reflect the CWF report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by 3<sup>rd</sup> DC Batten. Motion passed.

PDC Giehll moved to un-table and accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Pipher.

Finance Commission:

Finance Commission Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr. reported that the following budget requests were presented to the Finance Commission: 1. \$600.00 for the purchase of four TR2 chairs with lap buddy for the Indianapolis VA. Funding will come from the Veteran's Assistance line in the budget. 2) \$500.00 to sponsor a dinner for the USS Indianapolis Survivors at this year's reunion in June. Donation will come from the Veteran's Assistance line in the budget. 3) Request that the remaining donations to the VA Hospitals where we have representatives be made and have the checks mailed to the representatives for presentation to the Hospitals. All presentations were approved by the Commission. The Commission also talked about the possibility of giving the proceeds of the Knightstown Home Fund to the graduating seniors this year. After much discussion, it was decided to wait until the fate of the Home was determined. The Commission would also like a plaque made for presentation to Knightstown Home Superintendent Paul Wilkinson for his dedication to the Home for the past 34 years. PDC Giehll moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Membership:

Membership Chairman Kirk Rewerts reported that the Detachment was at 90.23% with 829 cards turned in for a total of 32,392 members. The following is the unofficial membership report for April 4, 2009.

Place	District	Percentage
1	2	95.18%
2	7	94.25%
3	6	93.07%
4	8	92.67%
5	3	91.21%
6	5	90.61%
7	11	88.75%
8	4	87.76%
9	1	86.29%
10	9	86.29%
11	10	82.71%

May 13, 2009. is the deadline for preprinted cards, and Close of Books is Sunday, June 10, 2009. PDC Sheets moved to accept the Membership report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Pipher. Motion passed.

Resolutions:

Resolutions Chairman Richard Pfeiffer read resolutions for James Naylor for Sgt.-at-Arms and Darin Batten for 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander to be made a matter of record. Chairman Pfeiffer reminded all that all members running for Detachment offices must turn in their resolutions with proof of eligibility. PDC Pfeiffer moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Scholarship:

No applications have been received at this time.

Special Committee on Detachment Shirts:

Chairman Darin Batten reported that after careful and deliberate consideration of the proposal of having one Detachment shirt design for a multi-year period, given issues with product durability, availability in subsequent years, and the tradition of the Detachment, the Committee recommended that we not adopt a multi-year shirt. 3<sup>rd</sup> DC Batten moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Tansel. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Correspondence: None

Sick Call:

Jim Grepke

Goods:

\*PDC D. Stephens stated that he made a video in support of Knightstown Home and gave copies to Department.

\*The Annual Blue Stat Banner Celebration is May 16, at O'Reilly Raceway Park. You can register active military at [www.hebluestar.org](http://www.hebluestar.org).

\*Indiana Senate Appropriations Committee meeting is April 9 at 9 AM in room 431 of the State Capitol Building.

\*PDC Sheets made a motion to pull the charter of Squadron 177, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Slagle. Motion passed.

\*On June 25, 2009, Indianapolis Mayor Ballard will honor all Korean War Veterans in Indiana at the Indiana War Memorial at 1 PM.

\*National Veterans Assistance Day is Saturday May 13, 2009. If that day will not work for your Squadron, pick another date and do something for our Veterans. There is still a need for mandatory spending for the VA system.

\*11<sup>th</sup> District Dart and Cornhole tournament will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at Speedway Post 500. Doors open at noon.

\*The Homecoming for Department Commander Ralph Tolan is April 25, 2009, at Speedway Post 500. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Contact Jane Holmes if you need tickets.

\*The Homecoming for Department President Shirley Firkins is May 17, 2009, at Linton Post 22 from 2—5 PM.

\* Detachment Commander Gary Gregory's Homecoming is Saturday, May 30, 2009, at Leo Post 409. Tickets are \$10 per person.

With no future business to come before this Conference, Commander Gregory called on Acting Chaplain Hanson for a closing prayer. Following the prayer, Commander Gregory ordered a right-hand salute to the Flag of our nation, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Donations:	Spring Conference	Year to Date
<u>Detachment Disaster Fund</u>		
Churubusco Squadron 157	\$ 50	
Bluffton Squadron 111	<u>\$100</u>	
	\$150	\$2,600
<u>Child Welfare Foundation</u>		
10th District	\$100	
Wheatfield Squadron 406	\$500	
Cambridge City Squadron 169	\$100	
4 <sup>th</sup> District	\$903	
Cedar Lake Squadron 261	\$261	
South Haven Squadron 502	\$502	
New Albany Squadron 28	\$500	
Kingman Squadron 384	\$100	
Evansville Squadron 265	<u>\$100</u>	
	\$2,966	\$4,374
<u>Commanders Project/ Knightstown Home</u>		
4 <sup>th</sup> District	\$1,215	
Bluffton Squadron 111	\$100	
6 <sup>th</sup> District	\$200	
Booneville Fund Raiser	\$2,105.33	
6 <sup>th</sup> District	<u>\$200</u>	
	\$3,820.33	\$11,615.33
<u>Indiana Veteran's Home</u>		
6 <sup>th</sup> District	\$200	
4 <sup>th</sup> District	\$250	
Bluffton Squadron 111	\$100	
Cedar Lake Squadron 261	\$261	
Wheatfield Squadron 409	\$159	
Cambridge City Squadron 169	\$100	
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	<u>\$1,500</u>	
	\$2,570	\$4,881
<u>Habitat for Humanity</u>		
6 <sup>th</sup> District	\$200	
Detachment	<u>\$1,000</u>	
	\$1,200	\$1,200
<u>Rehab</u>		
4 <sup>th</sup> District	\$250	\$250
<u>Homeless Veterans</u>		
6 <sup>th</sup> District	\$200	
Detachment	<u>\$1,000</u>	
	\$1,200	\$1,200