

Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Indiana  
Detachment Convention  
Ft. Wayne, IN  
Hosted by Roanoke Squadron 160  
June 21-22, 2008

Commander Alexander called the Convention to order at 9:09 AM. The Color Guard from Frankfort Squadron 12 posted the colors and made a brief presentation to the delegates. SVC Phil Purdy led the pledge, and NVC Sexton led the preamble. Commander Alexander asked Adjutant Bradtmueller for the roll call of Officers and Squadrons which showed the following.

Commander: Duane Alexander  
Northern Vice Commander: Ron Sexton  
Northern Vice Commander: Bob Zimmer  
Southern Vice Commander: Dave Hanson  
Southern Vice Commander: Phil Purdy

Past Detachment Commanders:

Dave Stephens  
Jim Arter  
Terry Slagle  
John Widmann  
George Evans  
Damon Bradtmueller  
Dave Ridenour  
Bob Rodeffer  
Dave Siggers  
Harrell Sorrels  
Mark Tansel  
Rollie Baker  
Mike Pipher  
Mike Sheets

Squadrons:

1  
10  
18  
20  
27  
28  
64  
66  
72  
82  
97  
104  
111  
128  
154  
157

160  
169  
204  
216  
230  
241  
249  
252  
253  
268  
276  
297  
33592  
495  
500

Commander Alexander called for Squadron 12 Color Guard to approach the podium and made them Distinguished Guests of the Convention.

Commander Alexander asked for the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Adjutant Bradtmueller read the minutes. PDC Arter moved to accept the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Tansel. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Rollie Baker. Chairman Baker introduced the following:  
Dave Stephens, Past National Commander  
Kenneth Dowden, Leading Candidate for Department Sgt-at-Arms  
Cherril Threte, 11<sup>th</sup> District President Elect American Legion Auxiliary  
Cindy Alexander, Detachment 1<sup>st</sup> Lady  
Mark Tansel, National Commander's Aide  
Dave Ridenour, National Assistant Adjutant

Commander Alexander called on Credentials Chairman Terry Slagle for his report.

Chairman Slagle reported that there were 39 Squadrons registered, several were late certified, and two were not certified. PDC Siggers made a motion to seat those late certified Squadrons, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 241. Motion passed.

PDC Bradtmueller made a motion to suspend the normal order of business for the purpose of first nominations, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 384. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander asked the Adjutant to read the roll for the following offices.

Sgt.-at-Arms:  
Squadron 1 yields to Squadron 400. Squadron 400 nominates Mike Arend.  
Squadron 406 seconds Mike Arend

Northern Vice Commander:  
Squadron 27 nominates Bob Zimmer.  
Squadron 160 nominates Ron Sexton.  
Squadron 161 seconds both.

Southern Vice Commander:

Squadron 1 yields to Squadron 169. Squadron 169 nominates Brian Hauser.  
Squadron 249 nominates Bill Barnett.  
Squadron 252 seconds both.

Commander:

Squadron 1 yields to Squadron 241. Squadron 241 nominates Gary Gregory.  
Squadron 249 seconds Gary Gregory.

National Executive Committeeman:

Squadron 1 yields to Squadron 82. Squadron 82 nominated Rollie Baker.  
Squadron 97 seconds Rollie Baker.

Alt. National Executive Committeeman:

Squadron 28 nominates Harrell Sorrels.  
Squadron 72 seconds Harrell Sorrels.

PDC Bradtmueller made a motion to resume to the normal order of business, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 1. Motion passed.

PDC Sorrels made a motion to seat the 2 now certified Squadrons, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander called for Committee and Commission reports.

**Athletics:**

Golf Chairman Glenn Nagel reported the following from the Detachment golf tournament;

228 golfers @ \$55.00	\$12,540	
18 hole sponsors @ \$50.00	900	
Skin money	920	
Prize money		\$1,200
18 hole sponsors @\$40.00		720
Balls @ 56 teams		518
Golf caps – 250		500
Legion Pro Shop –golfers		6,800
Totals	\$14,360	\$10,278
Profit	\$4,082	

Unpaid hole sponsors: 3<sup>rd</sup> District, 8<sup>th</sup> District and South Bend Squadron 357 @ \$50 each

Chairman Nagel reminded everyone of the Jim Koutz Campaign 2008 Golf Tournament on August 9, at Kokomo Post 6 golf course.

Squadron 66 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed

**Boy's State:**

Chairman Mark Tansel reported that approximately 600 young men from throughout Indiana attended Boy's State. Today is the final day of the event; no final

report is available at this time. PDC Tansel moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

**Americanism:**

Chairman Gary Gregory requested any report forms that may not have been turned in so far. Squadron 409 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Rodeffer. Motion passed.

**Children & Youth:**

Chairman Barry Confer requested all reporting forms be turned in as soon as possible and his Committee members to assist him in the judging. Squadron 241 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Stephens. Motion passed.

**Americanism & Government:**

Chairman Ron Sexton reported that Cambridge City Squadron 169 and Marion Squadron 10 gave the Flag Etiquette teas to elementary students. Cambridge City Squadron 169 also gave the Americanism & Government test to the high school students. NVC Sexton moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

**Child Welfare Foundation:**

Chairman Mike Sundy reported that \$714 worth of merchandise was sold at the conferences; \$1065 was raised from the sale of 356 buttons; and Indiana finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation with donations totaling \$21,494.40. Plaques for the top Squadron and District will be given at Fall Conference and the totals will come from the Consolidated Report Forms. Squadron 268 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 28. Motion passed.

**Community Involvement:**

Chairman Dave Benefiel requested any outstanding report forms. Squadron 27 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 492. Motion passed.

**Junior Shooting Sports:**

Chairman Greg Spalding reported that he attended two meetings of the Department JSS Committee. Both meetings discussed the Knightstown Home Shoot held on November 3, 2007. Also discussed was the Knightstown Team going to Colorado for the National Shoot. Squadron 111 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 297. Motion passed.

**Knightstown Home:**

Chairman Dave Siggers reported that the Commander's project for this year was to purchase a water slide for the swimming pool, replace some outside basketball goals with heavy duty adjustable ones, replace the flagpole at the campgrounds and install a window air conditioner in the caretaker's cabin. The slide and basketball goals have been installed, and the flagpole and air conditioner have been ordered and will be in place by our campout. We raised \$8,787, which was short of our goal but enough for the project. Thanks to everyone who donated.

Legion Day was held on Sunday, September 9, on campus with many SAL members on hand to help run the inflatable games. The SAL was asked to pay the bill for these games, and we did. We will finance the games in the future

The Detachment sponsors the Boy Scouts with an annual donation of \$1,000.

The year saw the JROTC cadets say goodbye to Sgt. Lacy and Lt. Riley, longtime instructors at the Home, and welcome MSG William Henderson and Lt. Decker. Their performances remained top notch.

The annual Christmas party was held on December 21 with Commander Alexander in the role of Santa Claus. I would like to thank the squadrons who donated to this year's Christmas Fund. The American Legion Family sponsored ten of the twelve off campus Christmas parties for the students, and all students had the opportunity to attend at least one of these.

Morton Memorial High School graduation was Saturday, May 24. Eight seniors graduated, 5 boys and 3 girls. The Detachment awarded four \$250 scholarships to deserving seniors. The Past Detachment Commanders presented two \$400 scholarships. I received a thank you letter from Shyne' Fowler. Mr. Wilkinson expressed his sincere thanks to members of the SAL for our generosity and said the graduates are very fortunate to have us as part of the American Legion family helping them achieve their goals of continuing their education.

We will be utilizing the Home's campground for our annual campout on the weekend of September 12-14. Legion Day is September 14.

I would like to thank Commander Alexander for allowing me to serve as chairman this year. PDC Siggers moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Baker. Motion passed.

### **Oratorical:**

Chairman Dave Hanson reported that escorts for the Department Contest were Brian Hauser, Mike Sheets, Bill Barnett and Dave Stephens. This marked our 14<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Department Contest. Also Mark Tansel worked as Prep Room Monitor, and Damon Bradtmueller was the Hall Monitor. Once again the Detachment was well represented at the National Contest. Next year's Department Contest will be March 1 or 8, 2009, and the National Contest is April 17-19, 2009. Squadron 216 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by squadron 160. After discussion about the availability of rooms for the volunteers at the National Contest, the motion passed.

### **Scholarship:**

Chairman Bob Zimmer announced that Michael Young of Monticello Squadron 81 was this year's scholarship winner. Michael graduated from Lebanon High School and will attend Ivy Tech Community Collage this fall. NVC Zimmer moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. After discussion as to the amount of the scholarship and when the amount would next be raised, it was determined that it was raised from \$500 to \$1,000 in 2006 and the motion passed.

### **Special Olympics:**

Committeeman Ron Sexton reported that the Special Olympics Committee in Marion does not need any help at this time and would let us know in the future. The Special Needs Park in Marion sponsored and built by Marion Squadron 10 is drawing a large crowd daily. NVC Sexton moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander called for a short recess at 10:45 AM.

Commander Alexander reconvened the Convention at 11:00 AM with the following Committee reports.

### **Convention:**

Chairman Mike Sheets stated that the American Legion Family from Robert Wayne Post 160 welcomed everyone to the Detachment Convention and the GREATER Roanoke area. Squadron 160 will hold a BBQ Pork Chop Dinner at the Post from 5-7:30 PM with karaoke to follow. Cedar Lake Squadron 161 will host the 2009 Detachment Convention, and the Committee will be accepting bids for the 2010 Convention at the

Fall Conference. I would like to thank Commander Alexander for letting me serve as Convention Chairman this year. Squadron 160 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 241. Motion passed.

### **Information Technology:**

Committeeman Mike Pipher reported that the committee started the year by adding a new member, Darrin Batten of Mishawaka. The Detachment Executive Committee meeting minutes are now being posted on our web site.

Darrin worked with Detachment Judge Advocate Terry Slagle to place templates of squadron bylaws and constitution online. Many squadrons either have no bylaws or have not updated them in years. The new forms allow squadrons to type in their specific information and print out finished versions of the bylaws and constitution.

Online statistics show use of our Detachment web site continues to grow. Many people from domains outside Indiana are visiting the site regularly and many in-state hits are being recorded, showing extensive use of download capabilities.

There are some activities still needed to keep improving our web presence. Design and implementation of a “thermometer” graphic to denote status level for donations is nearly complete. Individuals are being urged to supply pictures so we can update photographs posted on the site. A major overhaul of the site is due this summer to result in a new look. Squadron 18 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SVC Hanson. Motion passed.

### **Legislative:**

Chairman Kevin Brislen stated that all priorities are still the same as at Spring Conference and are on the Sons National Website ([sal.legion.org](http://sal.legion.org)) except the Education Bill, which is on the President’s desk. The President said he will sign it. With the elections this fall every member needs to get out and vote. It doesn’t matter who you vote for, just vote. Also consider taking a Veteran to the polls so they can vote.

Here is the five step American Legion Immigration Proposal.

- 1, Secure the borders.
- 2, Eliminate job magnet.
- 3, Remove Social Security benefits.
- 4, Provide no amnesty and reduce the number of illegal aliens.
- 5, Screen and track foreign nationals.

Squadron 252 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Siggers. Motion passed.

### **Public Relations:**

Chairman Mike Pipher reported that the first thing the committee did this year was to make many copies of a DVD available to Districts and others. Called “A Conversation with Ray Giehl,” the DVD features an on-camera interview with new National Commander (and Detachment of Indiana member) Raymond Giehl, Jr. He shares his thoughts about the S.A.L., what it has meant to him and his family over the years, and where he hopes it could go in the future.

The committee has spent the year trying to encourage districts, squadrons and members to brag about the good deeds and activities of the Detachment. Various methods of spreading the word have been regularly shared at D.E.C. meetings.

The committee has tried repeatedly to get people to submit pictures depicting activities of the Sons throughout Indiana. Those squadrons doing a good job of public relations have regularly been given a pat on the back. The committee has also tried to keep members abreast of P.R. activities occurring around the country and has pushed for increased membership in the National American Legion Press Association.

At the urging of our committee, the Detachment has purchased an electronic picture frame, which will allow us to load hundreds – perhaps thousands – of photographs that can be displayed any time we set up the Detachment's display stand. This will be especially useful at conferences and conventions.

Much work remains to be done in the future. We sorely need to produce a Detachment newsletter on a regular basis, which will require officers and others to constantly submit information, articles, pictures and ideas. We need to increase participation in our membership training seminars, because there is a public relations component contained in it. We need to find new and better ways to communicate with our members, most notably by developing a Detachment-wide email data base, but also through innovative use of our web pages. Squadron 18 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Rodeffer. Motion passed.

### **Information & Training:**

Chairman Terry Slagle reported that the Committee gave a total of six seminars throughout the year. We spent more time on the programs of The American Legion Family, along with the benefits of membership. There was a new benefits program available through National, and it was very well received. The Training Seminars were as follows.

The first Seminar of the new year took place in Kingman at Post 384 on September 15, 2007. It was attended by a total of 7 American Legion Family members from the 6<sup>th</sup> District. Of that total, 5 of them were Sons and the other 2 were Auxiliary members.

The second Seminar took place in Middletown at Post 216 on October 27, 2007. It was attended by a total of 8 American Legion Family members from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Districts. Of that total, 7 were Sons and 1 was an Auxiliary member.

The third Seminar was at Auburn Post 97 on March 22, 2008, and was attended by 10 American Legion Family members from the 4<sup>th</sup> District. There were 8 Sons and 2 Auxiliary members.

The fourth Seminar was at Crown Point Post 20 on April 19, 2008, and was attended by a total of 9 American Legion Family members of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Districts. There were 7 Sons and 2 Auxiliary members.

The fifth Seminar took place at Batesville Post 271 on April 26, 2008, and was attended by a total of 10 American Legion Family members from the 9<sup>th</sup> District. Of that total, 8 were Sons, with 1 Legion and 1 Auxiliary member each.

The last Seminar of the year was at Rochester Post 36 on May 3, 2008. There were 17 American Legion Family members from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Districts. There were 9 Sons, with 5 Legion and 3 Auxiliary members.

The six Seminars hosted a total of 61 members. This is a very small percentage of our membership. We need to do something different in the coming year if we are to continue this program.

We also put on a training program on the Five Star/Ten Ideals along with meeting etiquette for the kids at the SAL Family Campout in September. We must continue to train our members, young and old, as there are numerous and worthwhile programs in The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. Squadron 154 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 104. Motion passed.

### **Homeless Veterans:**

Committeeman Greg Spalding reported that the Department of Indiana is trying to get a list of shelters and assistance groups throughout the state. This is ongoing with the aid of the Legion's Service Officers. Squadron 111 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

## **VA & R:**

Chairman Jim Naylor reported that all 5 VA Medical Centers that we service received their donation from the Detachment. We have not increased that budget line in a number of years and would like to see it increased in the future. To date there have been very few donations to the “Wheels for Rehab” program we started this year. If you have any report forms that need to be turned in, please do so after this session. Squadron 276 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 268. Motion passed.

## **Indiana Veteran’s Home:**

Chairman Jim Arter reported that the three bingos provided lots of fun and enjoyment for all who volunteered. The Legion Family was well represented with a total of 50 Legion, Sons and Auxiliary members, along with Santa Claus and 12 members of the Purdue Circle K Club helping out. With the help of Kevin Gwodz from Waynedale 241, the Balsoma Foundation and Lancaster Bingo, we were able to get a refurbished bingo outfit for no charge at a value of \$3,600. We found out that the new machine was broken before we had a chance to use it and once again Lancaster Bingo picked up, fixed and returned the machine at no cost.

Donations were exceptional and the Committee would like to thank the following: Squadron 18, \$300; Squadron 20, \$400; Squadron 64, \$2,000; Squadron 72, \$100; Squadron 86, \$25; Squadron 89, \$1,000; Squadron 106, \$100; Squadron 111, \$111; Squadron 138, \$50; Squadron 169, \$100; Squadron 230, \$200; Squadron 253, \$50; Squadron 256, \$50; Squadron 261, \$1,576; Squadron 268, \$50; Squadron 330, \$250; Squadron 400, \$10; Squadron 403, \$25; 4<sup>th</sup> District, \$968; 7<sup>th</sup> District, \$100; 11<sup>th</sup> District President Elect, \$5; and a \$50 donation in memory of Glenn Nagel’s mother, totaling \$7,520.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered and helped on the Committee. It was a very successful year and I am sure the Veterans themselves enjoyed all the fun.

In closing I want to remind everyone of the bingo dates for the upcoming year of 2008-2009. They are October 25 and December 13, 2008, and February 7, 2009. PDC Arter moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

## **POW—MIA:**

Chairman Bill Barnett reported that there are still 1532 soldiers Missing in Action from Indiana. National POW—Mia day is September 19. Do something so others are not forgotten. As long as there are wars, this will be ongoing. Squadron 249 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 241. Motion passed.

## **VAVS:**

Chairman Jim Staggs thanked the VA Medical Center representatives for their work this year and reminded us that we still need a representative at the Louisville Center. Squadron 384 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

## **Campout:**

Chairman Dave Siggers reported that the 2007 Campout was held at the Knightstown Home Campground located near Charlottesville on September 7-9. It is a great facility. We had 16 registered family members, including 2 woman and 2 girls. We had our normal number of games and enjoyed great food. We are hoping for a better turnout this year.

The 2008 Campout will be held at the same place on the same weekend as Legion Day at the Home. The dates are September 12-14. We will basically follow the same format as last year. We will delegate Districts and Squadrons to do the cooking and

cleanup. The Campout packets will be sent out in July; please participate. PDC Siggers moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC D. Stephens. Motion passed.

**Resolutions:**

Committeeman Terry Slagle read a resolution to change the Detachment Convention to the same date and location as the Department Convention. PDC Tansel moved to vote on the resolution, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 249. A vote to amend the Detachment Constitution to accept the resolution was defeated. PDC Slagle moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC D. Stephens. Motion passed.

**Finance:**

Finance Officer Steve Tansel reported that the 2008-2009 budget was presented to the Department Finance Committee and was accepted as presented. Squadron 500 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 268. Motion passed.

**Membership:**

Membership Chairman Glenn Nagel reported that we closed our books on June 8 with 35,261 members or 98.09% of our goal for the year. The COB Membership report showed the following:

Place	District	% of Goal
1 <sup>st</sup>	2	103.23%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9	101.74%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1	99.82%
4 <sup>th</sup>	10	99.43%
5 <sup>th</sup>	5	99.32%
6 <sup>th</sup>	6	97.17%
7 <sup>th</sup>	11	96.92%
8 <sup>th</sup>	4	96.90%
9 <sup>th</sup>	3	96.54%
10 <sup>th</sup>	7	94.41%
11 <sup>th</sup>	8	93.14%

We needed 687 cards or a fraction over 2 cards per Squadron to make goal. I would like to thank everyone for their efforts this past year. Squadron 66 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 249. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander then called for the following:

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Judge Advocate Terry Slagle stated that we needed to amend the Detachment Constitution Article 2, Section 2 to read: Section 2. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Indiana, shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor the promotion of the candidacy of any person or group seeking public office or preferment.

PDC Slagle moved to accept the Detachment Constitution change, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron 249. Motion passed.

Judge Advocate Slagle also asked to be made a matter of record the need to show proof of eligibility for all offices starting with District Commander and any higher office starting in 2009. PDC Slagle moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

**Goods:**

PDC Dave Stephens talked about the ways “we are paid” for our involvement in our organization. Find your niche and work towards the betterment of our Veterans and the children of our nation.

After dinner there will be entertainment at Roanoke Post 160.

PDC Tansel reminded everyone of the crisis in southern Indiana and the Detachment involvement. Copies of the memo sent to all Squadrons will be passed out in the morning.

Detachment Sgt.-at-Arms Bill Robeson assisted Commander Alexander in placing the NEF ribbon on the Detachment Colors.

Department Adjutant Steve Short’s mother is ill; please keep her in your prayers.

NEC Dave Siggers is looking for Committee members to serve at National Convention.

Adjutant Bradtmueller reminded the Commission and Committee Chairmen about report forms for judging.

The Detachment Golf Tournament for Jim Koutz is August 9 at Kokomo.

Gary Gregory, Leading Candidate for Detachment Commander, reminded everyone about next year’s shirt information.

With no further business, Commander Alexander ordered a salute to the Colors of our Nation, and the Convention went into recess at 12:45 PM.

The Convention was reconvened at 9:10 AM with a right salute to the Colors of our Nation. SVC Dave Hanson led the pledge, and SVC Phil Purdy led the preamble.

Commander Alexander asked Adjutant Bradtmueller for a roll call of Officers and Squadrons. Adjutant Bradtmueller read the roll and everything was the same except that now present were Squadrons 49 and 161 and not present was Squadron 157.

Commander Alexander called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Rollie Baker for introductions. Chairman Baker introduced:

Thomas Somerville, Department Commander

Ralph Tolan, Leading Candidate for Department Commander

Nancy Leighty, Past Department President

Dick Tonkel, Past Department Commander

Ron Kiser, Past 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander

Dave Ritenour, Past Department Sgt.-at-Arms

Kenneth Dowden, Leading Candidate for Department Sgt.-at-Arms

Steve McClure, Post 160 Commander

Janet Sheets, Unit 160 President

Dave Stephens, Past National Commander

Dave Ridenour, National Assistant Adjutant

George Evans, National Legislative Chairman

Cherril Threte, 11<sup>th</sup> District President Elect

It was pointed out that Chairman Baker is also National Historian.

Commander Alexander called for a credential report.

Chairman Terry Slagle reported that there were 42 Squadrons with 591 delegates and 19 at large delegates.

PDC Slagle moved to suspend the normal order of business for the purpose of nominations, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander called for the roll of Squadrons for the purpose of nominations. The roll showed no new nominations.

PDC Bradtmueller moved to return to the normal order of business, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Widmann. Motion passed.

PDC Arter moved to suspend the normal order of business for the purpose of elections, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

PDC Arter moved to have the Adjutant cast one majority ballot for all unopposed offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

Adjutant Bradtmueller cast one majority ballot for Mike Arend, Sgt-at-Arms; Bill Barnett and Brian Hauser, Southern Vice Commanders; Ron Sexton and Bob Zimmer, Northern Vice Commanders; Gary Gregory, Commander; Harrell Sorrels, Alt. National Executive Committeeman and Rollie Baker, National Executive Committeeman.

Commander Alexander congratulated the newly elected officers.

PDC Bradtmueller moved to return to the normal order of business, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Baker for introductions. Chairman Baker introduced Shirley Firkins, department President Elect and Peggy Hensley, Past 7<sup>th</sup> District President.

Commander Alexander asked Department Commander Thomas Somerville to approach the podium. Commander Somerville addressed the delegates and thanked us for our contributions to the veterans and the children of our nation. He also congratulated Commander Alexander on his successful year.

Commander Alexander thanked Commander Somerville and made him a Distinguished Guest of the convention.

; Commander Alexander called for Committee and Commission final reports.

### **Americanism:**

Chairman Gary Gregory reported that there were 104 reports turned in that totaled 76,737 hours donated and \$116,350.97 dollars donated. Commander Alexander and George B. Evans presented the George Evans Memorial Trophy to the following Squadrons.

1<sup>st</sup> Place       Waynedale Squadron 241

2<sup>nd</sup> Place       Plymouth Squadron 27

3<sup>rd</sup> Place       Speedway Squadron 500

Squadron 409 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 154. Motion passed.

### **Children & Youth:**

Chairman Barry Confer reported that we donated 10211 hours of service and \$72,504.00, which included the following

Child Welfare Foundation       \$13,097

Special Olympics               \$ 900

Children's Miracle Network       \$ 9,343

Knightstown Home \$ 5,361  
Other Programs \$45,303

Commander Alexander presented the Children & Youth trophy to the following Squadrons.

1<sup>st</sup> Place Plymouth Squadron 27  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Speedway Squadron 500  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Auburn Squadron 97

Squadron 241 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 111. Motion passed.

### **Rehabilitation:**

Chairman Jim Naylor reported that we donated 39,139 hours of service, made 15,179 visitations to VA Medical Centers; Veterans Homes and nursing homes and donated \$82,304.

Commander Alexander and Dave Stephens presented the David P. Stephens Rehabilitation Trophy to the following Squadrons.

1<sup>st</sup> Place Griffith Squadron 66  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place West Lafayette Squadron 492  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Fort Wayne Squadron 82

Squadron 276 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 384. Motion passed.

### **Community Service:**

Acting Chairman Byron Ratcliffe reported that we donated 49,328 hours of service and \$225,442.41.

Commander Alexander and Sandy Hubler presented the Norman Hubler Memorial Community Service Trophy to the following Squadrons.

1<sup>st</sup> Place Kingman Squadron 384  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Plymouth Squadron 27  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speedway Squadron 500

Squadron 249 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

### **Membership:**

Chairman Glenn Nagel reported membership awards were won by the following Squadrons.

1<sup>st</sup> to Reach Goal  
Category 5 Lafayette Squadron 11  
Category 4 Orland Squadron 423  
Category 3 Elberfeld Squadron 351  
Category 2 Rockville Squadron 48  
Category 1 Lake Village Squadron 375

Highest Number of Cards over Goal  
Category 5 Crawfordsville Squadron 72  
Category 4 Brownsburg Squadron 331  
Category 3 Wanatah Squadron 403  
Category 2 Fishers Squadron 470  
Category 1 New Harmony Squadron 370

Highest % of Cards over Goal  
Category 5 Seymour Squadron 89  
Category 4 Portage Squadron 260  
Category 3 Farmland Squadron 353  
Category 2 Knightstown Squadron 152

Category 1

Schererville Squadron 485

Kenneth Shultz Top Recruiter Award

James Sprinkle, Galveston Squadron 415

Highest Number of Cards over Goal

2<sup>nd</sup> District

Squadron 66 moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 18. Motion passed.

**Distinguished Service:**

Chairman Mike Sheets reported that the following members were winners of the Gordon Rayburn Distinguished Service Award.

Mark Tansel

Dave Ridenour

Fred Vining

Brad Dineus

PDC Sheets moved to accept his report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 249. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander turned the podium over to NVC Ron Sexton.

NVC Sexton called Commander Alexander to the podium for his final report.

Commander Alexander thanked the membership for their hard work this past year and challenged them to work equally as hard in the future.

PDC D. Stephens moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Tansel. Motion passed.

NVC Sexton turned the podium back to Commander Alexander who called his wife Cindy to the podium. Commander Alexander made 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Cindy a Distinguished Guest of the Convention.

**Sick Call:**

Bill McClure is in St. Francis hospital with a mild stroke.

Past Department President Louise Lloyd had a heart attack

Commander Alexander asked for moment of silence for fallen comrades Clarence Glass and Jim Gootee.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Goods:**

PDC Mike Sheets thanked everyone for their visitations to Roanoke Post 160.

PDC Dave Stephens thanked Commander Alexander, Convention Chairman Mike Sheets and Adjutant Bradtmueller for the success of the Convention.

The USS Indianapolis Convention is in Indianapolis this July, and donations are wanted.

PDC Bradtmueller moved to suspend the normal order of business for the purpose of the installation ceremony, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Squadron 241. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander called for a 10 minute recess for installation setup.

Past Department Commander Dick Tonkel led the installation team, assisted by Ron Kiser at Chaplain and Gary Gerardo at Sgt-at-Arms.

Past Department Commander Tonkel installed the officers.

Commander Gregory's wife Sherill presented him with his cover.

Commander Gregory addressed the Convention.

Commander Gregory made his wife a Distinguished Guest of the Convention.

Commander Gregory made the installation team Distinguished Guests.

Commander Gregory called for Ralph Tolan, Leading Candidate for Department Commander, and President Elect Shirley Firkins to approach the podium. Each gave a brief address. Commander Gregory made both of them Distinguished Guests.

Commander Alexander returned to the podium, and his wife Cindy presented him with his Past Detachment Commander's cover.

PDC Ridenour moved to return to the normal order of business, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Evans. Motion passed.

With no future business to come before the Convention, Commander Alexander called on Chaplain Brislen for the closing prayer. Chaplain Brislen said the closing prayer. With a right hand salute to the colors of our nation the Convention was closed at 11:50 AM.