



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Detachment Executive Committee
Fall Conference
Indianapolis, IN
October 11, 2008

Commander Gary Gregory opened the meeting in due form with a right-hand salute to the colors of our nation at 12:05 PM. Commander Gregory called for a roll call of officers. Assistant Adjutant James Arter made a roll call of officers, which showed the following in attendance.

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|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |
| Finance Officer: | Steve Tansel (EX) |
| Chaplain: | Dewey Long |
| Historian: | Glenn Nagel |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Mike Arend |
| Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: | Galen Close |
| Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: | Logan Pipher |
| Judge Advocate: | Terry Slagle |
| Public Relations: | Mike Pipher |
| NEC: | Roland Baker |
| Alt. NEC: | Harrell Sorrels |

District Commanders:

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

District Advisors:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 st : | Larry Horvath |
| 2 nd : | Russ Griffin |
| 3 rd : | Orville Kling |
| 4 th : | Don Dapp |
| 5 th : | Brent Augspurger |
| 6 th : | Rodney Strong |
| 7 th : | George Freeman |
| 10 th : | Gordon Rayburn |
| 11 th : | Duane Alexander |

Past Detachment Commanders:

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| Clifford Stephens | David Ridenour |
| David Stephens | Robert Rodeffer |
| James Arter, Sr. | David Siggers |
| Terry Slagle | Harrell Sorrels |
| John Widmann | Mark Tansel |
| Charles Newman | Roland Baker |
| Rodney Strong | Michael Pipher |
| George Evans | Michael Sheets |
| Damon Bradtmueller | Duane Alexander |

Commander Gregory asked for the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. PDC Slagle moved to accept the minutes as mailed, 2nd by PDC Siggers. Motion passed.

Commander Gregory called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Roland Baker for introductions.

Chairman Baker introduced Department Auxiliary President Shirley Firkins. President Firkins thanked us for all our support and invited our younger members to join the Junior Auxiliary for a meeting at Department Headquarters.

Chairman Baker introduced Department Commander Ralph Tolan. Commander Tolan thanked us for all we do and announced that Department Sgt-at-Arms Kenny Dowden had a heart attack and was in the hospital doing OK.

Chairman Baker introduced Department SAL Committee Chairman Larry Horvath. Department Chairman Horvath stated that he was happy to be our chairman again this year.

Chairman Baker introduced Michelle Rice from Hemophilia of Indiana. Ms. Rice announced that they would be selling poinsettias this year; however, the area is limited. She thanked Bob Rodeffer and North Webster Squadron 253 for their assistance at the Hemophilia Summer Camp.

Chairman Baker introduced Past National Commander David Stephens and Paul Wilkinson, Knightstown Home Superintendent. Superintendent Wilkinson thanked us for the assistance at Legion Day and everything we do for the Home.

Commander Gregory entertained a motion to accept his Committee and Commission appointments as passed out. PDC Arter moved to accept the appointments, 2nd by PDC Alexander. Motion passed.

Commander Gregory called for Commission and Committee reports.

Americanism Commission member David Hanson gave the Americanism Commission report.

Athletics: There are three bids for the annual golf tournament, Kokomo, Plymouth and Franklin. Discussion followed on the bid forms, how they were sent out, and when they were turned in. A representative from Kokomo was there and said they would like to host the tourney again in 2009. A decision will be made at Mid-Winter Conference.

Americanism & Government: Cambridge City Squadron 169 and Marion Squadron 10 gave the Flag Education test. Albany Squadron 167 gave the Americanism & Government test. We need more Squadrons to step forward and help their Posts with the A&G program. PDC Siggers moved to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd by PDC Pipher. Motion passed.

Children & Youth Commission member Kellis Allen gave the Children & Youth Commission report.

Child Welfare Foundation: We would like to see a \$1.00 donation per member from each Squadron. Look into the promotion of a CWF lapel pin. Donations are listed on the donations page at the end of the minutes.

Junior Shooting Sports: The Annual Knightstown Shoot is to be held on November 22 at 8:00 AM. The Griffith, Indiana, Isaac Walton League is offering their shooting range to local Legion Posts if they want to start a Jr. Shooting team. Anyone interested in becoming a certified shooting coach should let Department JJS Chairman Ida Jewel know by Spring Conference.

Oratorical: District Chairmen need to contact their Legion District Chairmen to see what the Sons can do to help them. District Contests will start in January, and the Zone Contest will be in February. The Department Contest will be on March 1, 2009, and the National Contest will be on April 18, 2009. If you want to volunteer to help at the Department Contest, let Oratorical Chairman David Hanson know at Mid-Winter Conference.

Knightstown Home: Legion Day at Knightstown Home was a success even though the weather did not cooperate. The Sons donated the price of the inflatable games (approx. \$1,700.00) and the Home netted \$6,800.00. The students have been very busy. Building trades is replacing sidewalks, finishing the house on Pearl Street, and renovating Division 9. The veterinary students are exploring the anatomy and physiology of fish caught from the lake. The broadcasting students are scheduled to tour eight Indianapolis radio stations. The 2nd District hosted kids at their annual trip to Indiana Beach and others enjoyed canoe trips, cookouts, putt-putt, bowling, rock climbing and laser tag. All the items on the Commander's project for 2007-2008 have been completed. Commander Gregory's new project is a joint venture with Department Commander Tolan and Department President Firkins to remodel Division 9 and replace the furniture. The treadmill (\$2,500.00) and the elliptical cycle (\$1,500.00) in the SAL weight room also needs to be replaced. If a Squadron or District would like to donate these items, let Knightstown Home Chairman David Siggers know. Sometime in the future, we will be working towards replacing the bridge at the campground. Hot items needed in the level store are liquid laundry detergent, low top white socks, body lotion and shampoo. The Committee would like to request the annual donation of \$1,000.00 for the Boy Scouts.

Scholarship: The Committee requested that the applications be updated for 2008-2009. 10th DC Allen moved to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd by PDC Rodeffer. Motion passed.

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

Campout: The Campout was held on September 12-14 at the Knightstown Home Campground. Participation doubled this year, and 11 Squadrons and 6 Districts were represented. Thanks to Middletown 216 Color Guard for their participation in the Flag Disposal Ceremony. Discussion was held on how to increase attendance in the future. We are looking to possibly moving the date to the end of July when school is not in session. Another possibility is that the campout could be moved to another location. A decision will be determined at Mid-Winter Conference. A motion was made to move the Campout date and then tabled until Mid-Winter Conference.

Convention: Cedar Lake Squadron 261 is waiting on hotel information and will give a detailed report at Mid-Winter Conference.

Public Relations: There are many untold stories of our members contributing time and effort to the success of this organization. We need to gather together those stories and disseminate them in an effort to help people better understand the Sons. On the national website there is a "Tool Box" section that gives examples of successful activities from around the country. You can submit your stories and obtain ideas for future activities for your Squadron. It is important to be visible in

your communities. Don't forget to invite local officials, and don't forget to send follow-up thank-you notes to participants.

Community Involvement: Bloomfield Squadron 196 reported that they gave \$300.00 to the local National Guard Family Readiness Group. Plymouth Squadron 27 reported that they gave \$1,500.00 to the 40&8 Nurses Scholarship; \$250.00 to a fundraiser for a domestic abuse shelter; \$100.00 to a family whose daughter was receiving a kidney transplant; \$100.00 to a Hospice Center; \$100.00 to a local Neighborhood Center; and \$100.00 to the United Way. South Bend Squadron 357 held a benefit for the spouses of employees who had passed away. They donated in excess of \$3,000.00. The Committee would like to report more of the work the Sons do. Just let us know.

Information Technology: The website has undergone a major facelift, and graphics for the donations thermometer have been submitted. There is a new photo section, and we need to fill it up. Squadrons in the north should send your photos to Darin Batten at darin@sal.mishawaka161.org and the Squadrons in the south to Mike Pipher at mpipher@indiana.edu. The Detachment of New York's website www.ny.legion.org/sal is a great example of how to utilize websites for better use. We need to follow their lead in obtaining e-mail addresses submitted. Once we have that in place, we will have many more options on how we distribute information. With so many phones having Internet access and video capabilities, we could also place pod casts on our site for viewing. From the first of the year to just before our meeting, we had 4,637 unique visitors, 8,185 total visitors, 77,392 pages and 179,631 hits. This shows that we are attracting viewers and the possibility for attracting more.

Information & Training: Any District wishing to host a training session will need to contact Adjutant Damon Bradtmueller for details about attendance.

Legislative: Make sure you VOTE. PDC Alexander moved to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2nd by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Rehabilitation Commission Chairman James Naylor gave the Rehabilitation Commission report.

POW-MIA: National POW-MIA Recognition Day was Friday, September 19, and one of six days a year that Congress mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW-MIA Flag. More information can be found at www.powmia.com.

VAVS: We still need a representative at the Louisville VA.

Rehabilitation: The Fort Wayne VA representative requested the annual \$500 donation.

Indiana Veteran's Home: The bingo dates at the home are October 25, 2008, December 13, 2008, and February 7, 2009. The Committee moved and passed a motion to purchase 3 Brodar Peddle Chairs at \$981.00 each, for a total of \$2943.00. At the Legion IVH Committee meeting, it was reported that the Home is now under the control of the State Veteran's Affairs Committee. The SVAC is reviewing the procedures and practices at the Home and looking into getting Pyle Hall back into operation. The Home was under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Health.

Homeless Veterans: The following was reported after the DEC meeting by Maurice King, Chairman of our Homeless Veterans Committee. The Detachment Homeless Veterans Committee attended the Department Homeless Committee meeting led by Chairman Robbie Robinson. It was noted in the minutes that the Sons donated \$1,000.00 to the Committee last spring. Included in the handouts was the Department Proposed Course of Action. (attached at the end of the minutes) The Department Homeless Veterans Committee also passed a motion to have a canned food drive at Mid-Winter Conference. The Wheels for Rehab program has been tabled at this time. PDC Arter moved to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd by PDC Pipher. Motion passed.

Resolutions: Two resolutions were read, one for Steve Tansel for Detachment Commander and one to create the Detachment of Indiana Disaster Relief Fund. PDC Bradtmueller moved to accept the report, 2nd by PDC D. Stephens.

Sick Call: James Staggs father, Raymond, suffered a heart attack and is in the Danville VA. David Depoy of Carmel Squadron 151 is at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Unfinished Business: PDC Tansel donated \$20.00 towards the Commander's Project. Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build will be November 1. See PDC Alexander for details. Junior PDC Alexander passed out Certificates of Appreciation. PDC Alexander also presented to the membership the Atwood-Beyea-York, National Sons of The American Legion Americanism Trophy for best Detachment which we received at National Convention.

PDC Tansel introduced the Sons of The American Legion National Commander Thomas Cisna, National Historian Michael Lawler and the Aide to the National Commander Butch Ray. Commander Cisna brought greetings from the National Organization, and thanked the Detachment of Indiana for the hard work we do. Commander Cisna talked about his goal to have 2,500 Josh Dogs given this year to Children's Hospitals and his commitment to VA&R and the National Veterans Assistance Day. Commander Gregory gave each of them his Commander's pin and our Detachment Membership pin.

Membership: Membership Chairman Kirk Rewerts stated that we had 1,528 cards turned in. The unofficial report is as follows.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| 1 st place: | 1 st District | 42% |
| 2 nd place: | 11 th District | 40% |
| 3 rd place: | 2 nd District | 37% |
| 4 th place: | 3 rd District | 33% |
| 5 th place: | 4 th District | 29% |
| 6 th place: | 6 th District | 25% |
| 7 th place: | 5 th District | 25% |
| 8 th place: | 7 th District | 24% |
| 9 th place: | 10 th District | 24% |
| 10 th place: | 8 th District | 23% |
| 11 th place: | 9 th District | 17% |

SVC Hauser moved to accept the Membership report, 2nd by PDC D. Stephens. Motion passed.

New Business: Adjutant Bradtmueller read a letter of resignation from Finance Officer Steve Tansel. PDC Alexander moved to accept the resignation, 2nd by PDC Arter. Motion passed. PDC Sorrels moved to nominate Raymond Giehll Jr. for the remainder of the Finance Officer's term, 2nd by PDC Widmann. Judge Advocate Slagle instructed the membership on the voting procedures. With only one candidate, PDC Tansel moved for the Adjutant to cast one majority vote for Raymond Giehll Jr. for Finance Officer, 2nd by PDC Widmann. Motion passed. Adjutant Bradtmueller cast one majority vote for Raymond Giehll Jr., Finance Officer.

Correspondence: Adjutant Bradtmueller read a thank you card from Galen Close.

Good of The Sons of The American Legion: PDC Widmann asked that everyone look around. No kids. PDC D. Stephens asked each Squadron to help their members with their membership if needed. He also asked for sponsorship of the Legion Race Car that included the 4 in 1 lotion incentive for our troops. PDC Alexander requested Commander Gregory appoint a Committee to research a permanent Detachment shirt. Commander Gregory appointed 3rd DC Batten to chair the Committee. PDC Evans voiced his concerns over the details or lack thereof for the upcoming Detachment Convention to be hosted by Cedar Lake Squadron 261. Discussion followed and it was determined that the 1st District would oversee the details.

With no future business to come before this Conference, Commander Gregory called on Chaplain Long 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 2:50 PM.

Fall Conference 2008

| Donations | Amount | Type | Donated to |
|---|----------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Rochester Squadron 36 | \$50.00 | Ck 1556 | Commander's Project |
| 6th District Byron Ratcliff, 11th Dist. Cmdr. | \$50.00 | Ck 1003 | Indiana Disaster Relief Fund |
| Mark Tansel Pass the hat | \$20.00 | Cash | CWF Commander's Project |
| | <u>\$97.00</u> | Cash | CWF |
| | \$317.00 | | |

PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION

Department of Indiana Homeless Veterans Committee

When addressing the needs of organizations that provide a service for homeless veterans.

To help expedite the process of aiding organizations that provide support to homeless veterans.

Said organizations should be in the tax-exempt mode, or in the process of acquiring 501(c) status.

With regard to providing financial aid to aforementioned organizations this can be achieved without circumventing the process of how we presently conduct our affairs.

There are two excellent tools available that the committee can utilize to resolve these concerns and yet remain within the framework of the Department of Indiana Homeless Veterans Committee:

1. Non-Precedent Setting
2. Administrative

Hopefully this proposed course of action will allow for better money management and assisting those needing assistance.

H. Robbie Robinson, Homeless Veterans Chairman