



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Detachment Executive Committee
Fall Conference
Indianapolis, IN
September 26, 2009

Commander Steven Tansel opened the meeting in due form with a right-hand salute to the colors of our nation at 11:04 AM. Chaplain David Hanson led the prayer. Commander Tansel led the Pledge and the Preamble.

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

Commander:	Steven Tansel
Northern Vice Commander:	Greg Spalding
Northern Vice Commander:	Dan Conkling
Southern Vice Commander:	Raymond Giehll III (EX)
Southern Vice Commander:	Dewey Long
Adjutant:	Damon Bradtmueller
Assistant Adjutant:	James Arter
Assistant Adjutant:	Duane Alexander
Finance Officer:	Raymond Giehll Jr.
Chaplain:	David Hanson
Sgt-at-Arms:	James Naylor
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:	Galen Close
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:	Logan Pipher
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:	Wesley Brock
Judge Advocate:	Terry Slagle
Membership Chairman:	Michael Arend
Public Relations:	Michael Pipher
NEC:	Roland Baker
Alt. NEC:	Harrell Sorrels

District Commanders:

1 st	Robert Bowie	2 nd	John Beal
3 rd	Darin Batten	4 th	Joe Wolff
5 th	Mike Sheets	6 th	James Staggs
7 th	Randy Blake	8 th	Michael Maples (UNEX)
9 th	Cliff Williamson (UNEX)	10 th	Charles Allen
11 th	Chris Carlton		

District Advisors:

6 th	Rodney Strong	7 th	Harold Hensley
9 th	David Mattingly	10 th	Gordon Rayburn
11 th	Duane Alexander		

Past Detachment Commanders:

David Stephens	James Arter Sr.
Raymond Giehll Jr.	Terry Slagle
Damon Bradtmueller	David Ridenour
David Siggers	Harrell Sorrels
Richard Pfeiffer	Mark Tansel
Roland Baker	Mike Sheets
Michael Pipher	Duane Alexander

Commander Tansel asked for a reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. PDC Slagle moved to accept the minutes as mailed, 2nd by PDC D. Stephens. Motion passed.

Commander Tansel then asked Distinguished Guest Chairman Raymond Giehll Jr. for introduction of guests. Chairman Giehll introduced Department Commander Robert Newman. Commander Newman thanked us for our donation to his project and all that we do in our communities. Chairman Giehll then introduced Department Alt. NEC Paul Steward, who introduced Department NEC Darrell Hansel, who then introduced American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill. National Commander Hill thanked us for our donation to the National Relief Fund, stated he was a proud member of the Sons and thanked us for all we do for The American Legion and the veterans. Chairman Giehll then introduced the following: Mark Arneson, National Commander, Sons of The American Legion; Duane Alexander, Department Historian; David Ridenour, National Assistant Adjutant; Damon Bradtmueller, National Public Relations Chairman; Mark Tansel, National Internal Affairs Chairman; David Stephens, Past National Commander, Sons of The American Legion; Greg Williamson, VP of Development for the Riley Foundation; and Robbie Robinson, Department Homeless Veterans Committee Chairman. Chairman Robinson thanked us for our donations to the Homeless Veterans the last two years and asked for our continued support. Commander Tansel introduced Raymond Giehll Jr. as a Past National Commander, Sons of The American Legion.

Commander Tansel asked for Commission reports.

Internal Affairs Commission - Chairman Mike Sheets

Community Involvement: Member Duane Alexander reported that the Committee is reminding Squadrons that they need to not only report the results of their work but also send a note to the webmaster so the event can be placed on the website for other members to see and possibility help out with. Certificates of appreciation, pins and hardhats were presented to our members who participated in the 2009 Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build.

Convention: Chairman Ron Sexton reported that the hotel is confirmed for the Detachment Convention, June 26-27, 2010, and the Squadron is working with the mayor of

Marion to provide city buses for interested members to see the special needs playground Squadron 10 put in along with the War Memorials at the Grant County Courthouse. Post 10 has set up a committee to help the Squadron with what they need. All activities at the Post will be subject to the final convention schedule.

Information & Training: Chairman Duane Alexander stated that a minimum of 25 members are needed for a Squadron to host a seminar. If any Squadron would like to do so, they need to contact the Chairman or the Adjutant.

Information Technology: Chairman Darin Batten thanked last year's Chairman Bill Pipher for all his hard work and dedication in developing our current website. We are now getting regular updates. If you would like anything added to promote your events, send an original file to darin@themighty3rd.org or mail a copy to Darin Batten, 323 S. 8th Street Apt. 1, Goshen, IN 46528. The Committee is requesting e-mail and website addresses for addition to our website. We also have a blog section on the website for those members who wish to discuss upcoming events and activities.

Legislative: Chairman Dan Conkling reported that Congress passed a bill that declared September 16 as American Legion Day. There is a scam going around that targets Veterans who use the VA system for medical care. Advanced medical funding has cleared a major hurdle in Congress. Also, The American Legion National Commander's testimony to Congress is in the folder.

Public Relations: IA Commission Chairman Mike Sheets reported that the website is being updated on a regular basis, and we need to use it more. Promote your Squadrons' activities via the Internet, newspapers, radio and TV.

Campout: Acting Chairman Chris Carlton reported the opinion of the Committee that the Campout is a vital part of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Indiana, not just for the father/son aspect, but for the whole family. The Committee believes that the Campout should take place after the school year and before the Detachment Convention. The Campout should not and will not coincide with the Detachment Convention but will be a separate event. The Committee would like for Squadrons to make a bid to hold and host a Campout at their Post home. This will be a good starting point as the Committee searches for a possible permanent location. The Committee knows that finding a permanent location will take time. By rotating among Squadrons in the interim, the host Squadrons will benefit. The Committee has a bid from Fortville Squadron 391 and recommends that they host the 2010 Campout. 7th DC Blake moved to have Fortville Squadron 391 host the 2010 Campout, 2nd by PDC Arter. Motion passed. After discussion, it was determined that the time period between the end of school and the Detachment Convention was not reasonable. 3rd DC Batten moved that we hold the Campout on the last full weekend in July each year, 2nd by PDC Giehl. Motion passed. The 2010 Campout will be July 23-25.

Membership: Chairman Michael Arend reported that there is the possibility of 8 new Squadrons being organized so far this year. We still have too many Squadrons that are not certified and on "O". The District Commanders need to target those Squadrons to see

what assistance they need. We also need to work on our retention. Over the last 5 years we have signed up 22,544 new members but have realized a gain of only 500 members. PDC Sheets moved to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2nd by PDC D. Stephens. Motion passed.

Rehabilitation Commission - Chairman Dwayne Alliss

Homeless Veterans: Chairman Kevin Brislen will attend the Department Homeless Veterans Committee meeting and report back later.

Indiana Veterans Home: Chairman James Arter reminded everyone of the Bingo dates, October 17, December 12 and January 6. The games start at 1:30 pm and end at 3:30 pm. Please be there at 12:30 to help in setting up the room. We need more volunteers for our Bingos to be successful. We can always use more prizes to give away. Just bring them with you.

VAVS: PDC Jim Arter reported that the National Veterans Memorial in Buckskin, IN, is looking for volunteers and donations. The goal is to register every person who served in the military as a permanent record. The Committee requests that the Finance Commission look into the possibility of an annual donation. So far most donations have come from states other than Indiana.

PDC Slagle moved to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd by PDC Sheets. Motion passed.

Children & Youth Commission - Chairman Kellis Allen

Children's Miracle Network/Riley: Chairman Kirk Rewerts introduced Greg Williamson, VP of Development for the Riley Foundation and our newest member. Mr. Williamson said it was very interesting learning about what we do as an organization for our veterans, our communities and Riley Hospital, the only CMN Hospital in Indiana. He requested that we send all our donations directly to Riley for proper credit and appreciation. Riley will forward all donation information to CMN so that the Legion Family receives its due credit. Chairman Rewerts stated that a representative will be happy to attend any District meeting and will participate at functions when requested. Upon request, donations to Riley can be made for a specific area or for the area most in need. The Committee requests that the Riley icon page be updated and icons sold at \$1.00 each. Chairman Rewerts then asked PDC Giehll to present SVC Raymond Giehll III's project of Josh Dogs for presentation at children's hospitals. A flyer will be placed in the mass mailing with pricing information. A special fund will be set up so that we can purchase all the Josh Dogs at once to be presented to the hospitals this spring. PDC Giehll then auctioned off a Josh Dog, which the 7th District won with a bid of \$100.00. The 10th District challenged all the other Districts to donate \$100.00 or purchase 6 Josh Dogs.

Child Welfare Foundation: Chairman James Naylor reported that the Detachment goal is \$25,000.00 this year, and with everyone's participation it is very achievable. The Committee is having a 50/50 at this Conference, and will raffle a GPS unit at the Mid-Winter Conference. Available this year is a 100% ribbon for every Squadron that donates at least \$1.00 per member. Chairman Naylor can be contacted at poohbr64@juno.com.

Special Olympics: Chairman Westley Brock reported that Terre Haute will host the Special Olympic Games with dates to be announced later.

Knightstown Home: Chairman Bill Robeson stated that there were 7 applications for the Boy Scout trailer, and a winning troop was chosen and announced. During the meeting it was recommended that the winner's name not be revealed further until we have possession of the trailer.

Oratorical: Chairman Chris Carlton reported that the Department Oratorical contest will be held at Department Headquarters on March 7, 2010, at 1:00 PM. Contest certification forms must be returned to Department Headquarters no later than December 14, 2009. Anyone who would like to volunteer for the Department contest can contact Chairman Carlton.

Junior Shooting Sports: Acting Chairman David Ridenour reported that JSS is a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards and Competitive Shooting. You can find more information on the American Legion web site at www.legion.org/programs/youthprograms/shooting. The 20th Annual National Championship will be held on August 3-10, 2010, in Colorado Springs, CO. The champions in both the Basic Marksmanship and Competitive Shooting categories will receive \$2,500.00 college scholarships from the Sons of The American Legion.

PDC Sheets moved to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd by PDC Pipher. Motion passed.

Americanism Commission - Chairman Glenn Nagel

Athletics: Chairman Dewey Long reported that no bids have been returned for the 2010 Golf Tournament and requested that the Adjutant place another bid application in the next mass mailing. The tournament will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2010.

Americanism: Chairman Glenn Nagel stated that every Squadron should keep a monthly report of what they do for an accurate year-end report.

Hoosier Boys State: Chairman Greg Spalding reported that Hoosier Boys State was well attended this year and that the Department would like for each Post to sponsor at least one more boy. The goal for 2010 is to have 625 attendees. This would be a great time for Squadrons to step up and help their Posts with sponsorship. There was a lot of positive input about the change to Trine University in Angola. Trine will now be offering a \$2,000.00 scholarship. There was discussion about changing the time frame from Sunday to Sunday. Applications are ready and the schools have been notified for 2010.

Religious Emphasis: Chaplain David Hanson stated that he wants to establish an award that would reward Squadrons for their efforts towards religious emphasis.

PDC Alexander moved to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd by NVC Conkling. Motion passed.

Finance: Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr. reported that the Commission had received 5 requests.

1. (VAVS) Donate \$2,000.00 to the National Veterans Memorial in Buckskin, IN, with funds to be taken from the Veterans Assistance line of the budget. After discussion a motion was made by PDC Alexander to table the request, 2nd by PDC Arter. Motion passed.
2. (C&Y) Transfer \$500.00 from the Knightstown Home fund to the Josh Dog project. PDC Pipher moved to accept the proposal, 2nd by PDC Arter. Motion passed.
3. (CMN) Spend \$375.00 from the CMN budget to print 25 copies of the Riley icons and send them to each Squadron. PDC Arter moved to accept the proposal, 2nd by SAA Naylor. Motion passed.
4. (RE) Requested \$75.00 for an award to the Squadron that promotes Religious Emphasis the best and also create a line item in next year's budget. PDC Siggers moved to accept the proposal, 2nd by NVC Conkling. Motion passed.
5. (VAVS) Purchase 3 flagpoles (National, POW-MIA and Organization) for the Marriott Veterans Memorial if the Marriott will go along with the idea. If accepted, a cost will be presented at the Mid-Winter Conference.

A motion was made by PDC Giehll to accept the Finance Commission report, 2nd by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

Resolutions: Chairman Richard Pfeiffer read resolutions for the following to be made a matter of record: Harrell Sorrels for National Executive Committeeman 2010-2012 and Richard Pfeiffer for Alternate National Executive Committeeman 2010-2012.

PDC Pfeiffer moved to accept his report, 2nd by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

Old Business: Plaques were presented to Cedar Lake Squadron 261, Cedar Lake Post 261 and Cedar Lake Unit 261 for hosting the 2009 Detachment Convention. The George Evans Memorial Americanism Trophies were presented to the following Squadrons.

1 st place	Plymouth Squadron 27
2 nd place	Kingman Squadron 348
3 rd place	North Webster 253

New Business: A discussion was brought up concerning how delegates are chosen for National Convention. We have to pay for our full delegate strength, and at this time we do not have enough members to fill all positions. Therefore any member who requests to be a delegate is accepted. If in the future we have the personnel to fill all our spots, guidelines will be established at that time.

Sick Call:

George Evans

Phil Purdy

Goods: National Commander Mark Arneson (GA) talked about the need to replenish the National Emergency Fund. Living in the Atlanta, GA area, he has firsthand knowledge of the devastation a flood can have on a community and what \$1,500.00 can do for the

recipient. "Operation Proud Son" and 350,000 members is something we can achieve if we try. Here are three ways. First is Ten for Ten. Find ten Posts that need Squadrons. Indiana is second in the nation in the Squadron/Post ratio at 73%. Second is 105% membership, and third is 85% retention. Commander Arneson shared his thoughts about "A Son that Shines" and how efforts towards the Child Welfare Foundation and our VAVS programs can make a difference in our communities and towards our Veterans and thanked us for what we do for both. To read all about the Commander's thoughts, go to www.sal.legion.org and follow the links. Commander Tansel presented Commander Arneson a check for \$2,000.00 for the Child Welfare Foundation. Immediate Past Detachment Membership Chairman Kirk Rewerts awarded the 2008-2009 Membership jackets to the following winners.

Jim Sprinkle - Kenneth Shultz Top Recruiter Award

Phil Purdy - Top District Commander

James Staggs - Top District Membership Chairman

- ~ The Commander is to create a Committee to promote the Five Star and Ten Ideals program.
- ~ 11th District Dart and Cornhole tournament will be at Post 64 on October 19.
- ~ PDC Tansel made a motion for the Detachment to purchase a table at the Veterans Day Dinner on November 11th, 2nd by PDC Alexander. Motion passed.
- ~ The Adjutant is to look into delegate pay for the National Convention in Louisville, KY.
- ~ The membership was enlightened that Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, KY is a CMN affiliate and would like some Josh Dogs to go there. It was decided that any Squadron that wishes its donation to go to this hospital needs to specify that wish.

With no further business to come before this meeting, Commander Tansel called on Chaplain Hanson for a closing prayer. Following the prayer Commander Tansel ordered a right-hand salute to the Flag of our nation, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.