



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Detachment Executive Committee
Mid-Winter Conference
Indianapolis, IN
January 10, 2009

Commander Gary Gregory opened the meeting in due form with a right-hand salute to the colors of our nation at 11:06 AM. Chaplain Long led the prayer, NVC Sexton led the Pledge and SVC Hauser led the Preamble. 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 Giehl Jr.
Chaplain:	Dewey Long
Historian:	Glenn Nagel
Sgt-at-Arms:	Mike Arend (EX)
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
<u>District Commanders:</u>	
1 st :	Dwayne Alliss
2 nd :	Dan Conkling (EX)
3 rd :	Darin Batten
4 th :	Greg Spalding
5 th :	Scott Trainer (UNEX)
6 th :	Phil Purdy (EX)
7 th :	John Ferrand (EX)
8 th :	Mike Maples (UNEX)
9 th :	Brian Hauser
10 th :	Charles Allen
11 th :	Byron Ratcliffe (UNEX)

District Advisors:

1 st :	Jake Weber
4 th :	Don Dapp
6 th :	Rodney Strong
10 th :	Gordon Rayburn
11 th :	Duane Alexander
SAL Chairman:	Larry Horvath

Past Detachment Commanders:

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

Commander Gregory asked for the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. PDC Arter moved to accept the minutes as mailed with the correction of PDC Sheets not present, 2nd by PDC Slagle. PDC Strong stated he had not received the minutes and David Hanson asked to be added to the distribution list. Motion passed.

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

Chairman Baker introduced National Vice Commander Central Dennis Blue (MN), Past National Commanders David Stephens and Raymond Giehll, Jr. and National Asst. Adjutant David Ridenour.

Commander Gregory called for Commission and Committee reports.

Americanism Commission Chairman Steve Tansel led the Americanism Commission report.

Athletics: Chairman Dewey Long reported that there was some confusion about the June 6 date that was given on the bid form. Typically we hold the golf outing on the Saturday after Memorial Day, which would be May 30. After discussion from the membership, it was decided to award the 2009 Golf Tournament to the Phil Harris course in Linton on June 6. Next year's outing will be on Saturday, June 5, 2010.

POW-MIA: Chairman William Barnett reminded the membership of the www.powmia.com website for finding information and other related websites. He also reminded us that U.S. citizens and free people everywhere owe a great debt of gratitude to all military service personnel, especially POWs/MIAs/KIAs. Always remember that freedom is not free; thank a veteran whenever you have the opportunity.

Americanism & Government: Chairman Ron Sexton reported that February is Flag Education and Testing Month for 4th grade students. Go back and ask your Post A&G Chairman how you can help. Information is also available on the American Legion national website www.legion.org.

Americanism Chairman Tansel reminded everyone of the importance of the Citizens Flag Alliance and our dedication to protect our Flag and that the Pledge of Allegiance is a reminder to protect the rights of the people, to honor their Flag and those who serve under it. PDC Slagle made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd by PDC D. Stephens. Motion passed.

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

Knightstown Home: Chairman Dave Siggers reported that the current enrollment was 117 students with 18 seniors and the Christmas Party and Program was a big success. Recreation is in full swing and the students are participating in the following activities; Dance Revolution, Line Soccer, Dodge Ball, Basketball, Indoor Softball, Wiffle Ball, Swimming Aerobics and Pickle Ball. This year we have achieved the highest percentage of student participation, far greater than the last few years. The JROTC Rifle Team is 7 and 0 and qualified for the regional tournament in Ohio. The Morton High Basketball Team is off to a 2 and 3 start with hopes for improvement, the Junior High Team is undefeated and the Girls Basketball Team is 0 and something, but having fun. The Student Council put some very good community service projects together including ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, sending cards to the US troops, awards for the support staff and a blanket drive for the poor and homeless. Future dates are the Military Ball, February 7; Prom, April 25; Senior Dinner, May 22; and Graduation, May 23 at 10 AM. The Committee was informed that the Indiana State Board of Health wants to close the Home at the end of the current school year. The Committee encourages everyone to attend the Department Knightstown Committee meeting later this afternoon. Cambridge City Squadron 169 donated pillows to the young boys division, the Legion 3rd District donated a 42" flat screen TV to Division 18, and the 3rd District SAL donated \$850. Knightstown Home Superintendent Paul Wilkinson said he could not express how much he has appreciated the support of the SAL and the rest of the Legion Family over his 34 years at the Home. The Detachment thanked him for his help with everything at the Home.

Oratorical: Chairman Dave Hanson reported that the Department Oratorical Contest will be on Sunday, March 8. Duane Alexander, David Stephens, William Barnett and Ron Sexton will be escorts and Damon Bradtmueller will be an Alternate. Mike Sheets will be the Prep Room Monitor. The National Contest is on Saturday, April 18. If you are working and need a room, you need to see Committee Chairman Hanson. National is still looking for help. Be sure to return your worker's form to National.

Child Welfare Foundation: Chairman Duane Alexander reported that donations from Indiana were down and our goal is still \$1.00 per member. The Committee is still looking into the possibility of a lapel pin. Donations will be on the donation page.

Children's Miracle Network: National Commander Thomas Cisna has requested that each Detachment purchase and donate 50 Josh Dogs this year. For information you can go to www.joshandfriends.com.

Junior Shooting Sports: Chairman Greg Spalding reported that the Shoot at Knightstown Home for November 22, 2008, was cancelled due to a conflict at the Home. The Shoot was to be rescheduled, but no date has been set at this time.

Scholarship: Chairman Bob Zimmer reported that to date no applications have been turned in. PDC Pipher asked that the online application be updated.

10th DC Allen moved to accept the Children & Youth Commission reports, 2nd by PDC D. Stephens. Motion passed.

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

Convention: Chairman Mike Sheets stated that Cedar Lake Squadron 261 presented a proposal for the 2009 Detachment Convention to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, IN. The Committee asked if the number of rooms could be reduced to 25 rooms per night. This would result in a possible change in the cost of the meeting room. The Committee requested that bids for the 2010 Convention be presented at Spring Conference for finalization at this year's Detachment Convention. A motion was made and passed to follow this same procedure for all future Conventions. The current criteria include the following:

- *Meeting room for 100 persons, theater style
- *25 rooms for 2 nights
- *Rooms prices under \$100.00
- *Hospitality room
- *Within a reasonable drive to the sponsoring Squadron's Post home so they can benefit from the Convention
- *Afternoon or evening meal (\$6--\$8) and activity for comradeship.

The Committee will ask the Finance Committee if it could possibly subsidize the room rate this year by only \$20.00 per night. This would bring the proposed \$119.00 room rate to \$99.00. The Committee needs to know how many rooms are used each year so that changes can be made when needed. A motion was made and passed to accept the Cedar Lake proposal with 25 rooms blocked. The sponsoring Squadron may have activities outside the Convention, and the Committee would like those activities included in the Convention packet.

Religious Emphasis: Chaplain Dewey Long requested the names of our members that have passed on to Squadron Everlasting.

Campout: Chairman Dave Siggers reported that a motion was made and passed that the Campout be held on July 24–26, 2009. Due to the possible closing of Knightstown Home, we may need to find an alternate site to host the Campout. Future Campouts will be up for bid starting with this year if the Home is closed. If you would like to host a Campout, send your proposal to the Adjutant or bring your proposal to Spring Conference. A decision will be made at that time.

Public Relations: Chairman Mike Pipher reported that Alt. NEC Sorrels wants to use a short story and photo of Asst. Sgt. at Arms Logan Pipher about his experiences at the National Special Olympics in his National Children & Youth Commission online report in February. We have received several positive comments this weekend about the use of the electronic photo frame in the SAL display. Our Squadrons are doing a poor job of promoting themselves. How do we improve? Do we produce a newsletter in hard copy or online? We need to create an email address list to help us pass along information and create more visits to our website.

Information Technology: Committee member Mike Pipher stated that the donations graphics were ready to go and asked that the Adjutant update the donations totals. Many new photos are now online with lots of room still available. A new stats report stated that we have consistent visits to our website with June the largest month for activity. Look into the possibility of the expansion of our site to include podcasting and blogging. A link to National Leadership and Management manuals will be provided for easy availability, and work is in progress towards compiling and using email addresses.

Information & Training: Any Squadron that would like to host a training seminar should contact Adjutant Bradtmueller for the criteria.

Donations are listed on the donations page.

PDC Alexander moved to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2nd by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

Commander Gregory called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Roland Baker for an introduction. Chairman Roland Baker introduced Kevin Porter, Principal of Morton Memorial at Knightstown Home.

The Rehabilitation Commission report was led by Chairman James Naylor.

Indiana Veterans Home: Chairman Jim Arter reported that the Committee discussed the October Bingo, which had 22 Legion Family members and 3 members of the Purdue Circle K Club doing a community service project help 85 residents play about 90 games of bingo. All prizes were given away along with \$300.00 worth of T-shirts and sweatshirts donated by Waynedale Post and Squadron 241. Everyone had a wonderful time, and the residents said that they look forward to our Bingos. That makes the whole thing that much more enjoyable and gratifying and reaffirms that we are doing a good thing. The Committee next discussed the December Bingo that had 36 Legion Family members help about 90 residents play 70 games of bingo. Santa was also there to help the players and pass out Christmas envelopes. Santa proceeded to the resident hall to visit the residents who were not able to attend the Bingo party. Before the Bingo, Chairman Arter received \$300.00 from Bloomington Squadron 18, \$100.00 from Bloomfield Squadron 196, 100 Christmas stockings filled with sugar-free candy donated by Bloomfield 196 Jr. Auxiliary and younger Sons, \$100.00 from Crawfordsville Squadron 72, \$250 from New Haven Squadron 330 and \$200.00 from Martinsville Squadron 230. Everyone had a wonderful time, and the next Bingo will be on February 7. The Committee reviewed this year's IVH budget and will request the same for 2009-2010, 3 bingos at \$1,900.00 each and \$700.00 for the Close of Books meal for a total of \$6,400.00. The Committee learned that the Home needed an E1 Resistance System Arm Cycle # EM 31876 at a cost of \$1,014.00 and a 335 Cycle Table Platform # EM 3732 at a cost of \$934.00 for a total of \$1,948.00. Both items are from the Alimed catalog. The funds will come from the IVH restricted fund. Donations are listed on the donations page.

Homeless Veterans: Chairman Maurice King reported work on a plan of action, hopefully to be in place by Spring Conference. New Albany Squadron 28 donated \$1,000 to the Homeless Veterans Christmas Tree at the VA Medical Center in Louisville, KY, for the purchase of clothing for homeless veterans. The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Seminar in Chicago is March 10-11, 2009.

Rehabilitation: Chairman Jim Naylor reported that only the Ft. Wayne VA has requested their \$500 donation from the Detachment. Bulletins and information from the VA and the Corporation for Supportive Housing were placed in the Rehab folder for everyone to review. The committee would like to thank National VA & R Commission Central area representative Mark Tansel for passing information sent from the National Organization. PDC Slagle moved to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd by PDC Alexander. Motion passed.

PDC Siggers made a motion that the Detachment match the donation to PDC Rodeffer's family that we gave to PDC Hubler's family, 2nd by PDC Pipher. Motion passed.

Membership: Chairman Kirk Rewerts reported that 2889 cards had been turned in so far and the final report will be available after 2 PM. Chairman Rewerts thanked everyone for keeping membership ahead of last year. The final report is below.

<u>Place</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>
1	2	75.88%
2	7	69.17%
3	3	68.76%
4	8	68.35%
5	1	66.06%
6	6	66.05%
7	11	64.91%
8	4	64.87%
9	5	63.55%
10	10	59.32%
11	9	58.98%

PDC Arter moved to accept the report, 2nd by PDC Alexander. Motion passed.

Finance: Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr. reported that the IVH Committee requested their budget remain the same as last year. A motion was made and passed to supplement this year's Detachment Convention housing charge by \$20.00 to reduce the price to \$99.00 per night. PDC Giehll moved to accept his report, 2nd by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Resolutions: Chairman Richard Pfeiffer read a resolution from Indianapolis Squadron 128 that the Detachment adopt the new Indiana insignia on all new Detachment covers. There was discussion on how to adapt an old cover and who owned the rights to the new insignia. PDC Pfeiffer moved to accept the resolution, 2nd by PDC Giehll. Motion passed. Chairman Pfeiffer then read the following resolutions to be made a matter of record: Dewey Long for Southern Vice Commander, Greg Spalding for Northern Vice Commander, Raymond Giehll, III for Southern Vice Commander, and Westley Brock for Sgt.-at Arms. Chairman Pfeiffer then read a resolution from the Detachment of Indiana opposing the closing of the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home in Knightstown, IN. PDC Pfeiffer moved to accept the resolution, 2nd by PDC Arter. Motion passed. Commander Gregory appointed the following to a temporary Committee to follow and recommend plans of action to assist in keeping the Knightstown Home open: Chairman Duane Alexander and members Mike Sheets, David Stephens, Kellis Allen, David Siggers, Dewey Long and Damon Bradtmueller. PDC Slagle moved to accept the appointments, 2nd by PDC Pipher. Motion passed. Chairman Pfeiffer reminded everyone that all candidates for District Commander and higher must submit their eligibility with their resolution and signatures of their Squadron Commander and

Adjutant, Post Commander and Adjutant, SAL District Commander and Adjutant, and the Legion District Commander and Adjutant. PDC Pfeiffer moved to accept his report, 2nd by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

Boys State: Chairman Chris Carlton stated that Boy's State has moved to Tri-State University in Angola, IN. Enrollment is diminishing; there is a need to work with schools to increase enrollment. There is a Boy's State/Girl's State DVD available through National Headquarters. PDC Arter moved to accept the report, 2nd by 3rd DC Battin. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

The Adjutant read a thank you card from Galen Close. The Adjutant received a book and letter about the Oklahoma American Legion Children's Home. It will be at the next Conference for everyone to look at.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Commander Gregory stated that Children & Youth Commission Chairman Barry Confer resigned. Commander Gregory asked that Kellis Allen be appointed to fill the remainder of 2008-2009 term. PDC Giehl moved to accept the appointment, 2nd by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Goods:

*National Vice Commander Dennis Blue (MN) brought greetings on behalf of the National Organization. He thanked us for our membership and all we do for the projects of the Sons of The American Legion and reminded us of National Commander Thomas Cisna's Josh Dog project.

*Welcome Home Heroes Celebration for Indiana's troops that returned from duty overseas is January 31 at Lucas Oil Stadium.

*Chris Carlton and Steve Tansel led the 11th District project that adopted 4 families who had a family member serving overseas for Christmas.

*A request was made to publish the DEC minutes sooner.

*PDC Alexander stated that Habitat for Humanity thanked everyone for their work on this year's Veteran's Build and that there would be another next year.

*Marion Post 10 will host a welcome home celebration for the Grant County troops on January 24.

*Bloomington Post 18 will host a welcome home celebration for the Monroe County troops on February 8.

*Steve Tansel reminded us that National Guard and Reserve service personnel are taken away from their jobs and families. Many families suffer over two months without income, especially the lower ranks. We need to ask them what they need!

*Commander Gregory announced that his Homecoming will be on Saturday, May 30.

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 1:25 PM.

Donations received at Mid-Winter Conference

Child Welfare Foundation

Crown Point Squadron 20	\$200.00	
Cedar Lake Squadron 261	<u>\$261.00</u>	\$461.00

Indiana Disaster Relief Fund

Bloomfield Squadron 196	\$100.00	
New Albany Squadron 28	\$100.00	
Speedway Squadron 500	\$500.00	
Martinsville Squadron 230	\$250.00	
Mishawaka Squadron 161	\$100.00	
Gaston Squadron 387	\$100.00	
Nappanee Squadron 154	\$100.00	
Bloomington Squadron 18	\$100.00	
Indianapolis Squadron 128	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	\$1,400.00

National Relief Fund

Martinsville Squadron 230	\$250.00	
Bloomfield Squadron 196	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	\$300.00

Indiana Veterans Home

Speedway Squadron 500	\$1,550.00	
Crown Point Squadron 20	\$500.00	
Cedar Lake Squadron 261	<u>\$261.00</u>	<u>\$2,311.00</u>
		\$4,372.00