

**Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Indiana  
Detachment Executive Committee  
Spring Conference  
Indianapolis, IN  
April 5, 2008**

**Commander Alexander opened the meeting in due form with a right-hand salute to the colors of our nation at 11:10 AM. Chaplain Kevin Brislen said an opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Southern Vice Commander Philip Purdy. The Preamble was led by Northern Vice Commander Robert Zimmer.**

**Commander Alexander called for a roll call of officers. Adjutant Bradtmueller made a roll call of officers, which showed the following.**

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>Duane Alexander</b>
<b>Northern Vice Commander:</b>	<b>Ron Sexton</b>
<b>Northern Vice Commander:</b>	<b>Robert Zimmer</b>
<b>Southern Vice Commander:</b>	<b>David Hanson</b>
<b>Southern Vice Commander:</b>	<b>Philip Purdy</b>
<b>Adjutant:</b>	<b>Damon Bradtmueller</b>
<b>Asst. Adjutant:</b>	<b>Mark Tansel</b>
<b>Asst. Adjutant:</b>	<b>James Arter</b>
<b>Asst. Adjutant:</b>	<b>Harrell Sorrels</b>
<b>Asst. Adjutant:</b>	<b>Richard Pfeiffer</b>
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Tansel</b>
<b>Chaplain:</b>	<b>Kevin Brislen</b>
<b>Historian:</b>	<b>Dewey Long</b>
<b>Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	<b>William Robeson</b>
<b>Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	<b>Galen Close</b>
<b>Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	<b>Clarence Glass</b>
<b>Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	<b>Logan Pipher</b>
<b>Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	<b>Mike Arend</b>
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	<b>Terry Slagle</b>
<b>Membership Chairman:</b>	<b>Glenn Nagel</b>
<b>Public Relations:</b>	<b>Mike Pipher</b>
<b>NEC:</b>	<b>David Siggers</b>
<b>Alt. NEC:</b>	<b>Roland Baker</b>

**District Commanders**

<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	<b>Dwayne Alliss</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	<b>Dan Conkling</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup>:</b>	<b>David Benefiel</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Greg Spalding</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Jim Staggs</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>John Ferrand</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>David Stewart</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Brian Hauser</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>William Robeson</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Raymond Giehll III (Ex)</b>

**District Advisors**

<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	<b>Jake Weber</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Don Dapp</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Brent Augspurger</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Rodney Strong</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Harold Hensley</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Dave Mattingly</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Gordon Rayburn</b>
<b>SAL Chairman</b>	<b>Larry Horvath</b>

**Past Detachment Commanders:**

**Cliff Stephens**  
**Dave Stephens**  
**James Arter, Sr.**  
**Terry Slagle**  
**Rodney Strong**  
**George Evans**  
**Damon Bradtmueller**  
**Dave Ridenour**  
**Robert Rodeffer**  
**David Siggers**  
**Harrell Sorrels**  
**Richard Pfeiffer**  
**Mark Tansel**  
**Roland Baker**  
**Mike Pipher**  
**Mike Sheets**

**Commander Alexander called on PDC Mike Sheets to introduce our distinguished guests.**

**PDC Sheets introduced the following: National Vice Commander Central, John Kailunas; National Executive Committeeman, Dave Siggers; Alternate National Executive Committeeman Roland Baker; and National Assistant Adjutant, Dave Ridenour.**

**National Vice Commander Kailunas thanked us for our membership and asked us to always carry applications for recruiting new members to the Legion Family. He reminded everyone to record deeds and donations and fill out the Consolidated Report Form.**

**PDC Sheets then introduced Knightstown Home Superintendent Paul Wilkinson. Superintendent Wilkinson talked about the activities at the Home, encouraged us to subscribe to the home Journal and thanked us for our donations.**

**Commander Alexander asked for the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. PDC Arter moved to accept the minutes with 2007 changed to 2008, seconded by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.**

**Commander Alexander moved onto Commission and Committee reports.**

**Commander Alexander called on Gary Gregory for the Americanism Commission report.**

**Chairman Gregory reported the following.**

**ATHLETICS:**

**The 2008 Golf Tournament is at Kokomo Post 6 golf course on Saturday, May 31. Bids for the 2009 Tournament will go out in the May mailing. The following Districts sponsored holes: 1,1; 2,2; 3,3; 4,4; 5,5; 6,6; 7,7; 8,8; 10,10; and 11,11. The following Squadrons sponsored holes: Pulaski 357, 9; East Chicago 369, 12; North Webster 253, 13; Speedway 500, 14; Beech Grove 276, 15; Griffith 66, 16; and Marion 10, 17. Saturday, August 9, is a fundraiser for Jim Koutz at Kokomo Post 6.**

**POW/MIA:**

**We should go to POW/MIA.com for information on those missing from our Districts.**

**PDC Slagle moved to accept the reports, seconded by PDC Siggers. Motion passed.**

**Commander Alexander called on Barry Confer for the Children & Youth Commission report.**

**Chairman Confer reported the following.**

**CHILDREN & YOUTH:**

**All Vice Commanders and District Commanders need to remind their squadrons to fill and turn in the Consolidated Report Form.**

**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION:**

**Donations to date are \$4634.00. 365 Club buttons are still on sale. Merchandise is on sale at the table in the lobby.**

**CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK:**

**Riley pins are available for \$5.00 each.**

**BOYS STATE:**

**Boys State is June 9-16 at Indiana State University. See your Post about Squadrons sponsoring a boy at \$300 per student. Contact Susan Long at Department Headquarters, 317-630 -1300, with any questions.**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

**Bloomfield Squadron 196 held a fundraiser and raised over \$1000 for a local troop. Congressman Joe Donely held a Veterans Information Seminar hosted at Plymouth Post 27.**

**KNIGHTSTOWN HOME:**

The seniors just returned from Washington, DC. Jackson Hall 3 and 4 were recently remolded, and the girls are enjoying the new dorms. Current enrollment is 122 students, and 9 are seniors. Graduation is May 24 at 10:00 AM. Commander's projects at the home this year are: water slide for the swimming pool; replace the basketball goals; replace the flagpole; and install a window air conditioner at the campground.

**JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS:**

5 JROTC Cadets from Knightstown Home participated in the Shoot Off at Colorado Springs, CO.

**SCHOLARSHIP:**

We currently have \$22,234 in the Scholarship Fund. Applications should be sent to Bob Zimmer, 802 E. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Warsaw, IN 46582.

PDC Arter moved to accept the reports, seconded by PDC Sheets. Motion passed.

All donations are on the donations page.

Commander Alexander called on James Naylor for the Rehabilitation Commission report.

Chairman Naylor reported the following.

**HOMELESS VETERANS:**

On June 23-25, 2008, the National Coalition for the Homeless Veterans Conference will be held in Washington, DC. Also discussed was the Stand Down for the Homeless Veterans 2008 Program being held by the VA Medical Center, 800 Zorn Avenue, Louisville, KY. There is a need for donations to purchase clothing and personal items for these homeless veterans. Donations for this project should be directed to General Post Fund (GPF) 525. The Committee members will be attending the Legion Homeless Veterans Committee meeting to see how we can help.

**VAVS:**

A representative is needed for the Louisville Medical Center.

**INDIANA VETERANS HOME:**

The February Bingo had 85 residents play about 70 Bingos with 17 Legion Family Members along with 12 members of the Circle K Club from Purdue. The newly donated Bingo machine was somehow knocked over and doesn't work. Chairman Arter will contact Lancaster Bingo about getting it fixed. The 2008-2009 Bingo dates are October 11, December 13 and February 7, 2009. The Committee moved to purchase 3 wide recliners for \$900 each, totaling \$2700.00. Funds will come from the Detachment IVH Fund.

**REHABILITATION:**

All of the VA Medical Centers we service have requested their \$500 donations. The Wheels for Rehab program is off and running, and flyers will be sent in the mass mailing. The wheelchair we chose will hold up to 300 pounds and weighs about 80 pounds. The MSRP is \$4,895, and we can purchase it for \$1,619. We need applicants and donations.

PDC D. Stephens moved to accept the reports, seconded by PDC Sheets. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander called on Mike Sheets for the Internal Affairs Commission reports.

Chairman Sheets reported the following.

**CONVENTION:**

The Detachment Convention will be on June 20-22, hosted by Roanoke Squadron 160. The Convention will take place at the Comfort Suites Hotel, at the northwest corner of I-69 and US 24. Rooms are \$89.00 per night with up to 4 persons per room. The Convention schedule was passed and will be in the mass mailing along with registration and housing information. Schedule highlights are: Pre-Convention DEC on Friday, June 20, at 7:00 PM; Detachment Memorial Service 30 minutes after the close of the Pre-Convention DEC; start of Convention on Saturday, June 21, at 9:00 AM; reconvening on Sunday, June 22, at 9:00 AM; Post-Convention DEC 30 minutes after the close of Convention; and Detachment Organizational Meeting 10 minutes after the Post-Convention DEC.

#### **LEGISLATIVE:**

The Capitol switchboard numbers are 1-800-851-6437, 1-800-828-0498 and 1-800-614-2803. Ask for the office you wish to speak to and you then can request a transfer to another office.

The following are Legislative Priorities Bills.

- 1) Post 9-11 Veterans Education Assistance Act, S.B. 22, to modernize Veterans Education benefits
- 2) Protect the Pledge of Allegiance, H.R. 2409
- 3) VA Backlog Reduction Act, H.R. 1435
- 4) VA Long Term Care, S.B. 1044
- 5) Veterans Prescription Drug Assistance
- 6) Reduce the Age for Military Retirement Pay, S. B. 1245
- 7) Protect Military Children
- 8) POW Benefit, S.B. 848 and H.R. 1197
- 9) Veterans Health Care Funding, H.R. 2514
- 10) Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Act
- 11) Violence Against Children Act, S.B. 1296
- 12) Public Record Open to End Child Tragedy Protection Act

All of these bills are explained on the Legislative web page. Keep in contact with your Senators and Representatives to encourage support for these bills.

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

The Public Relations Committee requested an electronic picture frame for the Detachment display. If you work on a website or newsletter, you should join NALPA.

#### **INFORMATION & TRAINING:**

The third training session was held at Auburn Post 97 on March 22, and ten Legion Family members attended. Upcoming seminars are April 19 at Crown Point, April 26 at Batesville and May 3 at Rochester.

#### **SQUADRON EXPANSION:**

Possible new Squadrons are at Hamilton 467 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, Attica 52 in the 6<sup>th</sup>, Tennyson 463 in the 8<sup>th</sup> and possibly a new Post and Squadron at Hamilton in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Remove Squadron 4 in the 11<sup>th</sup> from the roll.

PDC Sheets moved to accept his reports, seconded by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.

Commander Alexander called on Richard Pfeiffer for the Resolutions report.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

Chairman Pfeiffer read resolutions for Brian Houser for Southern Vice Commander.

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

**Commander Alexander called on Glenn Nagel for the Membership report.**

**MEMBERSHIP:**

**Chairman Nagel reported we are at 89.64% and need 3725 more cards to reach our goal. Close of Books is on June 9 at the Indiana Veteran's Home. The 6<sup>th</sup> District is holding a Drive Around on April 19. The cutoff date for preprinted cards is May 7.**

**PDC Slagle moved to accept the report, seconded by PDC Sorrels. Motion passed.**

**SICK CALL:**

**PDC Chuck Newmann**

**Chaplain Brislen requested lists from all Squadrons of the members who moved on to Squadron Everlasting. His E-mail address is [cbrislen@ameritech.net](mailto:cbrislen@ameritech.net) .**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Thank you letters were received from the Danville VA and from Tommie Cisna, Leading Candidate for National Commander. PDC Dave Ridenour thanked all for their support the last six months.**

**GOODS:**

**\*PDC Tansel reminded everyone of the National Veterans Assistance Day on Saturday, May 17. Do something for a Veteran or a Veteran's family.**

**\*PDC Tansel presented a photo to Commander Alexander.**

**\*Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Logan Pipher presented \$1.00 from a fine he collected.**

**\* PDC D. Stephens reminded everyone of the Hendricks County Blue Star Salute at ORP on Saturday, May 17.**

**\*This year's Legacy Run will leave from Post 64. Get a group and wave flags on the overpasses as they pass under. Donations of \$1,000 or more will be placed on the website and linked back.**

**\* Detachment will sponsor a hole at the fundraiser for Jim Koutz.**

**\*May 10<sup>th</sup> is Commander Alexander's Homecoming at Post 495 from 6-10. Dress is casual. RSVP by May 1.**

**\*Darin Brattin created a fill-in-the-blanks form to assist all Squadrons in creating or updating their Squadron Constitution and By-Laws.**

**\*Pass out donation forms to businesses in your area.**

**With no further business to come before this meeting, Commander Alexander asked Chaplain Brislen for a closing prayer. Commander Alexander ordered a salute to the colors of our nation, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM.**

**Spring Conference Donations 2008**

<b>Squadron</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Totals</b>
	7	Child Welfare Foundation	\$100.00	
	2	Child Welfare Foundation	\$300.00	
Bluffton Squadron 111	4	Child Welfare Foundation	\$111.00	
	4	Child Welfare Foundation	\$250.00	
Lincoln Squadron 82	4	Child Welfare Foundation	\$500.00	
Pass the Hat			<u>\$148.00</u>	
			\$1,409.00	\$1,409.00
	7	Children's Miracle Network	\$100.00	
Bluffton Squadron 111	4	Children's Miracle Network	\$111.00	
Leo Squadron 409	4	Children's Miracle Network	<u>\$300.00</u>	
			\$511.00	\$511.00
	7	Knightstown Home	\$100.00	
	4	Knightstown Home	\$250.00	
Cambridge City Squadron 169	10	Knightstown Home	\$200.00	
Bluffton Squadron 111	4	Knightstown Home	<u>\$111.00</u>	
			\$661.00	\$661.00
Beech Grove Squadron 276	11	Scholarship Fund	\$50.00	\$50.00
Annie Hall	6	Special Olympics	\$5.00	\$5.00
	7	Habatat for Humanity	\$200.00	\$200.00
	7	Homeless Veterans	\$100.00	\$100.00
	4	Rehabilitation	\$200.00	
Bluffton Squadron 111	4	Rehabilitation	<u>\$111.00</u>	
			\$311.00	\$311.00
	4	Indiana Veteran's Home	\$968.00	
Cambridge City Squadron 169	10	Indiana Veteran's Home	<u>\$100.00</u>	
			\$1,068.00	\$1,068.00
	4	Wheels for Rehab	\$250.00	<u>\$250.00</u>

**Totals**

**\$3,156.00**