

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2015, Winchester #442

CALL TO ORDER

Detachment Commander Geary called the meeting to order at 1300 at Winchester American Legion Post 442, Winchester, Illinois.

Colors were in place, hand salute rendered.

Detachment Chaplain Borgman gave a prayer.

Detachment Senior Vice Commander Shipley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commander Geary performed the POW/MIA Ceremony.

5th Division Commander Paul Hayse led the Preamble.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Detachment Adjutant Van Horn called the roll. The following were present: Commander Geary; Sr Vice Shipley; NEC Gummersheimer; ANEC Hunter; Adjutant Van Horn; Asst Adjutant Ray; Finance Officer Tharp; Judge Advocate Stillwell; Parliamentarian Cisna; Chaplain Borgman; Historian Hunter; Service Officer Cavanaugh; Sgt-At-Arms Haddick; Commander's Sgt-At-Arms Griffin; Division Sgt-At-Arms Haddick (2nd), Phelps (4th); Commander's Aides Cisna & Koop; Sr Vice Aide Phelps; 1st Division Jr Vice; 2nd Division Commander & Jr Vice; 3rd Division Commander Slevin Sr.; 4th Division Commander, Sr & Jr Vices; 5th Division Commander and Sr Vice; 8th District Commander; 9th District Commander, Sr & Jr Vices; 10th District Commander & Sr Vice; 12th District Commander; 16th District Commander; 18th District Commander; 19th District Jr Vice; 21st District Commander; 23rd District Commander; 24th District Commander; PNC Stillwell & Cisna; PDC Stillwell, Gummersheimer, Slevin Sr., Cisna, Ciaccio, Tharp, Christie, Ray, Hunter, Cavanaugh; Advisors Phelps & Flanagan.

JUDGE ADVOCATE COMMENTS

Detachment Judge Advocate Stillwell discussed rules of a DEC and who is eligible to make motions, seconds, voting, etc.

MINUTES OF CONVENTION

Motion by Sr Vice Shipley to accept Pre & Post Convention DEC and Convention minutes as printed, with the second, passed.

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2015, Winchester #442

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Sgt-At-Arms Haddick read list of Guests.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Commander Geary appointed 1st Division's Hunter as Chairman of Resolution Committee with 2nd Division's Stander and 5th Division's Trout as members.

DIVISION COMMANDERS REPORT

1st Division Jr Vice Gort, 2nd Division Commander Banialis, 3rd Division Commander Slevin Sr., 4th Division Commander Cavanaugh, and 5th Division Commander Hayse all gave reports on their goals within their respective Division's for the upcoming year.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES

PRESENTATION OF #1 PINS

Sr Vice Shipley gave the Membership Report and presented #1 pins to:

- 1st Division – given to 1st Division Jr Vice Gort
- 4th District – given to 1st Division Jr Vice Gort
- 10th District – given to District Commander Stander & Sr Vice Haddick
- 16th District – given to District Commander Slevin Sr.
- 18th District – given to District Commander Cavanaugh
- 22nd District – not certified

Motion by 5th Division Commander Hayes to accept the report, with the second, passed.

PNC Cisna then presented Commander Geary & Sr Vice Shipley with a National Award.

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2015, Winchester #442

FINANCE REPORT

Detachment Finance Officer Tharp presented the finance report and asked for questions. With none, Sr Vice Shipley motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

STANDING COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism Commission

Chairman Borgman stated the National Americanism Chairman for the following year is Greg "Doc" Gibbs. He complimented Immediate Past National Chaplain Ray for his work the past year. Flag Alliance has no change. Upcoming Oratorical in March needs to start recruiting now. Boys State Director Randy Johnson has been replaced by Chairman Chris Benigno. Start recruiting for Boys State now, numbers has been down. Detachment of Illinois NEF donations were \$3,475 last year. Motion by 8th District Commander Hunter to accept report, with the second, passed.

Children & Youth Commission

Chairman Ray reported on National numbers: \$360,510/CWF; \$70,115/children's hospitals; \$203,997/Special Olympics; \$620,738/C&Y Programs. Detachment numbers: \$13,665/CWF; \$1,910/children's hospitals; \$5,436/Special Olympics; \$9,288/C&Y Programs; 62 Josh Dogs. Ray would like to increase each amount by 10%. CWF deadline for Detachment to submit donations for this membership year is May 31st. Motion by NEC Gummersheimer to accept report, with the second, passed.

Commander turned podium over to Sr Vice Shipley at 1355.

Contest Commission -- No report.

Finance Commission

Chairman Koop reported the 6 programs (CWF, CMN, Josh Dogs, Special Olympics, NEF & GTTY) will receive, with approval of this report, \$737.86 each totaling \$4,427.18 from last year's Overage. The remaining amount is \$7,870.54 left for misc. requests. He also reminded those with budgets to

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2015, Winchester #442

use the expense form and submit receipts with the form. Those done incorrectly will be returned to submitter for correction. Department budgets \$5,700 for mailing and postage from the SAL and usually we go over that amount. This past year, we only went over by \$330.14, the least it's been in a long time. When the Finance Guidelines were revised last year, it included National Convention Delegates and changed the amount allocated to each delegate be the total budget amount divided equally by the delegates. August 2015's convention each delegate received \$428 plus \$20 for parade allowance. Expense forms, along with receipts, must be submitted to receive this allocation.

8th District Commander Hunter motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Detachment Convention Committee

Vice Chairman Koop stated no official report; however June's Detachment Convention went well and congratulated Squadron 208 for hosting. He reminded everyone that the next Detachment Convention will be held in Wauconda at Post 911.

National Security & Poppy's Commission

Chairman Phelps discussed the lower numbers in military and budget cuts. Iran's nuclear deal. ISIS and their plans on attacks. Europe waiting for US to take on refugees and questions background checks on them all. With Poppy's ... donations were decent this past year and thanked everyone. Motion by 19th District Jr Vice Garrett to accept, with the second, passed.

Legislative Commission

Chairman Griffin reported the Standard Homestead Exemption With Disabilities Act has been improved with increased exemptions amounts for Veterans with disabilities, which can reduce real estate assessments for Veterans up to total elimination of property taxes. There are many positive changes for Veterans involving property tax relief. Check with your local Supervisor of Assessments for details. HB 3425 eliminates the \$10 fee for credit freezes when a member of the military is a target of identity theft and credit scams. A Veteran Suicide Task Force has been created to investigate the causes of Veteran suicides. Ten percent to eighteen percent of returning Veterans are

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2015, Winchester #442

likely to have PTSD, and the risk of suicide is great among those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. On August 7, 2015, State Legislation was passed giving residents of Illinois Veterans Homes the right to appeal expulsion decisions. A Veteran facing expulsion will now be entitled to an independent appeal or hearing.

Motion by 9th District Commander Gort to accept, with the second, passed.

SAL Leadership Training Commission

Chairman Cavanaugh stated there has been no requests for training sessions so far this year, but plans on having at least 3 regional sessions.

Motion by 8th District Commander Hunter to accept, with the second, passed.

Sr Vice Commander Shipley returned podium back to Commander Geary at 1411.

Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Vice Chairman Christie stated Squadron 287 received an award during National Convention for having the best VA&R Program in the Central Region. Chairman Williamson's wife, Patti (the much better half), received a National Award for Volunteer of the Year at Auxiliary National Convention. Veteran remains program will continue. 17 more remains were recently found in a funeral home. Haven Jamboree will be Nov 21-22. Christie listed the VA&R accomplishments for both Detachment and National.

8th District Commander Hunter motioned to accept report, with the second, passed.

Commander's Advisory Committee

Vice Chairman Ray asked how we get certifications on time. The discussion led to better communication, renewal notices and can be better facilitated by email vs. phone or snail mail. Commander Geary requested a Detachment Directory be published. Commander stated he will push for more Squadrons and Districts to submit consolidated reports and mention this during his visits.

Motion by NEC Gummersheimer to accept report, with the second, passed.

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2015, Winchester #442

Public Relations Commission

Chairman Cisna talked about Pledge to Service DVD, PR tool kit DVD, new Squadron flyer, new member flyer and new Junior Shooting flyer, all free. Suggested taking Consolidated Squadron Report form and having it published in local paper. Snapshots of Service still ongoing. National Update will be emailed out; can sign up for it on National's website. Motion by 3rd Division Commander Slevin Sr. to accept report, with the second, passed.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE DONATIONS

The following donations were presented, both by Squadron 911. \$292 for CWF and \$644 for GTTY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received a thank you letter from Sandwich Homeless Run for donation of \$1,867.74. Received a thank you letter from Hines VA for donation. Received a thank you letter from Hines VA Fisher House for donation of \$1,860.50. Received thank you letter from American Legion Endowment Fund for donation of \$1,805.00. Received letter from St Louis Fisher House for donation of \$1,561.00. Received thank you letter from Department C&Y Chairman Cheri Stanton for donation of \$100 to Special Olympics. Received letters from CWF receiving Benefactor Gold for our Heritage Circle Gift Club plaque.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Hunter stated there were only Hospitality Resolutions and all were passed. Hunter (8th District Commander) motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Commander Geary presented Hospitality Plaques to Post Family Members.

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2015, Winchester #442

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT

NEC Gummersheimer discussed National Convention, including National Commander's goals. He motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee/Commission Appointments

Motion by 8th District Commander Hunter to accept printed C/C appointments. With the second, passed. Then motion by 8th District Commander Hunter to accept the additional appointments (3), with the second, passed. Detailed list on file.

Jeff Van Horn for Adjutant

Motion by 5th Division Commander Hayes to accept, with the second, passed.

Bob Tharp for Finance Officer

Motion by Sr Vice to accept, with the second, passed.

Other New Business

Adjutant Van Horn discussed the National Vice Commander position preparing for Illinois's turn. A discussion during National Convention amongst the leadership who were delegates came to the agreement that our Detachment needs to stand behind one person in at least two years before our turn. Those interested in running for NVC need to submit their name and resume to PNC Tommie Cisna before our Detachment Convention in June, 2016. Those names will be reviewed and submitted to Department for consideration. Convention in 2017 the Detachment will vote on a NVC candidate. That that point, the candidate will be asked to attend NEC's and National Convention to get familiar with other members in the Central Region.

**Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Illinois**

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2015, Winchester #442

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SAL

PNC Cisna stated he was proud of the Detachment of Illinois Delegation at National Convention and offered kudos to our own PDC Ray for his Memorial Service at National Convention as National Chaplain.

PDC Ray stated National Auxiliary President Sharon Conatser's Homecoming is Oct 22-25 in Springfield.

PNC Stillwell mentioned the Winter DEC has been changed to Post 24. He also stated there were about 150 people signed up for PUFL's.

ADVISOR'S REMARKS

Chairman Flanagan stated the 3 additional appointments for Committee/Commissions were approved. He stated at upcoming Legion DEC, he will talk to the Legion District Commander's to get them more involved in getting their SAL District's certified.

50 - 50 DRAWING

Sgt-At-Arms conducted the 50-50 drawing. The pot is \$132 with \$66 going to JR Stillwell.

Closing & Benediction

Chaplain Borgman gave a closing prayer.
The colors being in place, a hand salute was rendered.
Commander adjourned DEC at 1513.

Minutes completed by:

Jeffrey J Van Horn
Detachment Adjutant