

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

**2015 FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2015 – Champaign Squadron 24**

CALL TO ORDER

Detachment Commander Geary called the meeting to order at 1252
Post 24 Color Guard presented and posted the Colors
Detachment Chaplain Borgman offered the prayer
4th Division Commander Cavanaugh led the Pledge of Allegiance
Commander Geary did the POW/MIA Ceremony
Detachment Senior Vice Commander Shipley 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; Historian Hunter; Service Officer
Cavanaugh; Sgt-At-Arms Haddick; Commander's Sgt-At-Arms Griffin;
Division Sgt-At-Arms Jarosz (1st), Haddick (2nd), Phelps (4th); Commander's
Aides Cisna & Koop; Sr Vice Aide Phelps; PUFL Stillwell; 1st Division Jr. Vice;
2nd Division Sr & Jr Vices; 3rd Division Commander; 4th Division Commander,
Sr & Jr Vices; 5th Division Commander & Sr Vice; 8th District Commander; 9th
District Commander, Sr & Jr Vices; 10th District Commander & Sr Vice; 11th
District Jr Vice; 12th District Commander; 13th District Commander; 14th
District Commander; 16th District Commander; 18th District Commander;
19th District Commander & Jr Vice; 21st District Commander & Jr Vice; 24th
District Commander; PNC's Stillwell & Cisna; PDC's Jarosz, J. Schultz,
Stillwell, Gummersheimer, B. Schultz, Slevin Sr., Cisna, Tharp, Christie, Ray,
Hunter, Cavanaugh; Advisors from all 5 Divisions.
Adjutant Van Horn announced a quorum.

JUDGE ADVOCATE COMMENTS

Judge Advocate Stillwell discussed rules of making a motion and who is
eligible.

MINUTES OF CONVENTION & DEC MEETINGS

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

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INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Sgt-At-Arms Haddick introduced the Guests. List on file.
Commander Geary asked Sgt-At-Arms to escort Department President Kathy Cisna to the podium. Madam President spoke briefly about the Auxiliary's goals along with the Illinois American Legion Family.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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

DIVISION COMMANDERS REPORT

1st Division Jr. Vice made comments.
2nd Division had no report.
3rd Division Commander made comments.
4th Division Commander made comments.
5th Division Commander made comments.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES – PRESENTATION OF
#1 PINS**

Sr Vice Shipley reported that there are 12 Squadrons that are uncertified and 5 Districts are uncertified.

#1 Pins

Division Winner is 1st Division. Pins awarded to Division Jr Vice.
1st Division – Should be 3rd District then 2nd District, but both are not certified, so awarded to 7th District. Pins given to Division Jr Vice.
2nd Division – 10th District. Pins awarded to District Commander & Sr Vice.
3rd Division – 16th District. Pins awarded to District Commander.
4th Division – 18th District. Pins awarded to District Commander.
5th Division – 23rd District. Pins awarded to Division Sr. Vice.

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

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AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairman Shipley reported the Audit was conducted by Ginoli & Company, as in the past. Auditors found no issue with Detachment books or how we handle funds. It was recommended by them to do quarterly audits. Unless we are directed to by Department, we will not be doing this. Shipley motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Officer asked if there were any questions regarding the printed report. There were none. Reminded everyone to fill out their expense sheets correctly and turn them in in a timely manner. 12th District Commander Bacon motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

STANDING COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism Commission

Chairman Borgman stated Butch Ray attended 2015 Combined Americanism Conference held in Indianapolis Sept 25-27. A "Chaplains Manual" was discussed and one was submitted for review. There has been no change in Flag Alliance. Oratorical is coming up in March. Now is the time to recruit candidates for this, along with Boys State in June. National Emergency Fund (NEF) is the prime objective of our National Commander. The funds are available to every member of the American Legion Family and please consider donating to this. Motion by 8th District Commander Hunter to accept report, with the second, passed.

Children & Youth Commission

Chairman Ray discussed Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) which is a program to help meet basic needs (shelter, food, utilities & medical) of veteran's children when parents are unable to do so. Youth Suicide Prevention was discussed and third leading cause of death among adolescents. CWF awarded \$640,395 in grants to 24 non-profit organizations including Kids In Danger of Chicago (\$15,000), National Children's Cancer Society of St Louis (\$21,000) and ThinkFirst of Naperville (\$21,100). SAL National Commander's CWF Goal is \$400,000. Motion by 9th District Commander Gort to accept the report, with the second, passed.

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Commander turned podium over to Sr Vice Shipley at 1413

Contest Commission

No report.

Finance Commission

Chairman Koop reported that Detachment Commander Geary requested an additional \$777 for expenses due to National President event's because the candidate (now National President) is from Illinois. This was approved out of Overage. Budget meeting is scheduled for February 27th in Bloomington. Budgeted line item for Josh Dogs will purchase 21 Josh Dogs plus an additional 10 dogs. This was approved out of Overage. Motion by 16th District Commander Slevin Sr. to approve the report, with the second, passed.

National Security & Poppy's

Chairman Phelps discussed Police School in June. A total of 83,086 troops have been unaccounted for as of August 12, 2015. Poppies typically start up around March and continue through May. Please help with the program. Nothing much has changed with National Security since the Fall DEC report. Motion by 8th District Commander Hunter to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Legislative Commission

Chairman Griffin reported the following legislation was discussed: HR 1338 – Dignified Internment of our Veterans Act of 2015 – Requires the Dept. Of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study and report back to Congress on the problem of unclaimed remains of deceased veterans and also places a \$2 million cap on Fiscal Year 2016 bonuses for VA senior executives. HR 1384 – This bill honors Veterans, retired National Guard and Reserve personnel who have served 20 years and do not meet the full requirements for Veteran status under Title 38, United States Code. Both bills await consideration by the Senate. Statistics from the Vietnam War were shared reminding us of the huge sacrifice made by those who served during that war. Motion by

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13th District Commander Griffin to accept his report, with the second, passed.

Senior Vice Shipley turned podium over to Commander Geary at 1424.

SAL Leadership Training Commission

Chairman Cavanaugh discussed upcoming training sessions (5 Squadrons have requested this). He stated there is a session scheduled December 19th. 18th District Commander Cavanaugh motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed.

Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Vice Chairman Christie discussed Dreams of Veterans – giving terminally ill veterans and their families the fulfillment of a final dream. National VA&R Commission is promoting this programs: increasing VAVS reps and deps at National level; Fisher House; Legion VA&R programs – Soldiers Wish, Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), and the Endowment Fund. Hines VA Fisher House Wish list: groceries, store gift cards, frozen entrees, snacks, juices, toiletries, soaps, etc. Contact local Fisher Houses for their wish lists. GTTY Raffle will be starting up around February or March so watch your mailboxes for raffle tickets. Motion by 9th District Commander Gort to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Commander's Advisory Committee

Chairman Jarosz stated that Commander Geary requested a Detachment Directory be published at the Fall DEC, this was completed. The Committee recognized the Detachment is exceeding National Membership Goals and congratulated Commander & Senior Vice for this. There was a discussion about having non-certified Districts and Squadrons to be placed on bottom of the membership report and to ask Department if this could happen, regardless of their membership percentage. Adjutant Van Horn stated that this would most likely not happen because it is very hard to change the report as it is. Advisor Flanagan discussed the possibility of combining Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Conventions. Motion by IPDC Jarosz to accept the report, with the second, passed.

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Detachment Convention Committee

Chairman Koop stated there will be bowling and golf at the Convention. Hotel accommodations are being looked at, as well as a shuttle service. More information will be available at the Spring DEC. Motion by 8th District Commander Hunter to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Public Relations Commission

Chairman Cisna thanked all those who showed up at DEC and commented "15,000 members and we are the ones that decide what happens." Discussed PR Toolkit CD available from National. Encouraged as much PR as possible. Boys State candidate? PR it. Consolidated Report? PR it. Snapshots of Service, send in pictures wearing your SAL cap (forms on website). Motion by 16th District Commander Slevin to accept the report, with the second, passed.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE DONATIONS

The following had donations:

Squadron 974, each for \$200 totaling \$800, to NEF, Legacy Scholarship, CWF & Boys State
Squadron 911 with \$330 to CWF, \$100 to CMN, \$200 to NEF
Squadron 308 with \$100 to NEF and \$100 to CWF
Squadron 296 with \$200 to CWF
Squadron 25 with \$100 to CWF
Squadron 690 with \$225 to NEF in care of Roger Klass

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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CORRESPONDENCE

Squadron 330 member Joey Sawicki sent a letter thanking the Detachment for his Scholarship. Joey is going to Purdue University and son of Past Detachment Commander Mike Sawicki.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Gort reported the only Resolutions were the hospitality ones, which were accepted. Motion by 9th District Commander Gort to accept the report, with the second, passed.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT

NEC Gummersheimer reported that Butch Ray was appointed to the newly formed National Commission, National Veterans Education Commission. Motion by 8th District Commander Hunter to accept the report, with the second, passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Squadron 24 member JR Stillwell presented a t-shirt to Commander Geary.

Commander Geary appointed John Nemanich and Mike Rials to the PR Commission to finish out the rest of the year for open slots. The Advisory Committee approved these appointments. Motion by 16th District Commander to accept the appointments, with the second, passed.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SAL

PDC Gary Slatterlee is in the hospital.

PUFL Administrator commented that a PUFL membership makes a wonderful Christmas present.

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ADVISOR'S REMARKS

Chairman Flanagan stated that the two appointments were approved. Also briefly discussed the possibility of combining the Legion Family Conventions.

50 – 50 DRAWING

Sgt-At-Arms pulled the 50-50 winner. Past Detachment Commander Hunter won \$72.50 (pot was \$145) and he donated \$50 to NEF.

Closing & Benediction

Commander Geary asked if any further business and there was none.
Chaplain Borgman gave a closing prayer.
The colors being in place, a hand salute was rendered.
Commander adjourned DEC at 1518.

Minutes completed by:

Jeffrey J Van Horn
Detachment Adjutant