

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

**2017 SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
March 25, 2017
Franklin Park Squadron 974**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Detachment Commander Shipley at 1305
Colors were in place, hand salute rendered
Detachment Chaplain Trout gave a prayer
Detachment Sr Vice Commander Hayse led the Pledge
Commander Shipley performed the POW/MIA Ceremony
with Detachment Sgt-At-Arms Haddick
1st Division Commander Senese led the Preamble

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Detachment Adjutant Van Horn called the roll. Present were:
Detachment Officers: Commander Shipley; Sr Vice Hayse; ANEC Hunter;
Adjutant Van Horn; Finance Officer Tharp; Judge Advocate Stillwell;
Parliamentarian Cisna; Chaplain Trout; Sgt-At-Arms Haddick; Division Sgt-
At-Arms Halleman (1st), Haddick (2); Commanders Aide Bacon & Phelps; Sr
Vice Aide Trout; Webmaster Sense; PUFL Stillwell; IPDC Geary
Division Officers: 1st Commander, Sr & Jr Vices; 2nd Sr Vice; 3rd Commander
& Sr Vice; 4th Jr Vice; 5th Commander;
District Officers: 3rd Commander; 4th Commander; 7th Commander; 8th
Commander; 9th Commander, Sr & Jr Vices; 10th Commander and Sr Vice;
11th Commander; 12th Commander; 14th Commander; 18th Commander; 19th
Commander; 21st District Jr Vice; 24th Commander
PNC's: Stillwell & Cisna
PDC's: Stillwell, Potempa, Slevin Sr., Tharp, Christie, Slevin Jr., Hunter, and
Cavanaugh;
Advisors: 2nd, 3rd & 4th

JUDGE ADVOCATE COMMENTS

Judge Advocate Still discussed the rules of making a motion.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

See list

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RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Commander appointed 4th Division's Cisna to Chairman, with 1st Division's Pasternak and 4th Division's Mount as members.

DIVISION COMMANDERS REPORT

1st Division Commander, 2nd Division Sr Vice, 3rd Division Commander, and 5th Division Sr Vice all reported on membership and activities within their Divisions.

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

Detachment Sr Vice Shipley gave the membership report and briefly discussed the Charter Actions to be reviewed later in the meeting. He also stated the importance of turning in cards right away and not holding them. He then awarded the membership #1 pins to:

#1 Pins

Division Winner is 4th Division. Pin awarded to Detachment Commander.

1st Division – Winner is 3rd District. Pin awarded to Commander.

2nd Division – 11th District. Pins awarded to Division Sr. Vice.

3rd Division – 14th District. Pin awarded to District Commander.

4th Division – 17th District. Pins awarded to Division Jr Vice.

5th Division – 23rd District. Pins awarded to Division Commander.

Motion by Hayse to accept the Membership report, with the second, passed.

FINANCE REPORT

Detachment Finance Officer Tharp asked if there were any questions regarding the printed finance report. With no questions, IPDC Geary motioned to accept the Finance Report, with the second, passed.

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STANDING COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism Commission

Chairman Borgman reported the following:

- This past December being the 75th Anniversary, it was a no-brainer.
 - Over 15,000 attended the ceremony held on Kilo Pier December 7th
 - Everyone was escorted to their seating area by a sailor, very nice touch
 - The Rear Admiral gave a fantastic speech and his address was followed by the Pacific Fleet Admiral
 - Admiral Harris' speech was one of the best I have ever heard. He talked for over ½ hour and wrapped it up with tying 1941 in with 2001, then brought up the fact that no disrespect to our national anthem would ever be tolerated directly implicating Krappernick, or what his name is
 - The Admiral received a very extended standing ovation
 - The parade in the evening of the 7th was the absolute longest parade I have ever been in and the entire Legion family was represented; National Commander Schmidt, National Commander Frain, National President Davis, and 4 of the 5 SAL RVC's, and yours truly
- The Four Chaplains Sunday was February 5th, always the first Sunday in February
 - I attended two ceremonies that were held right here at Post 974 and a second at Post 208. I was most fortunate to be asked to stand in for the Legion First Division Chaplain who was battling the flu
 - This ceremony was fully scripted by Paul Laws
 - He was gracious enough to share it with me
 - I will share this with our Chaplain, and as well, the Department Chaplain
 - I will also share this with the Sons National Americanism
 - I have yet to hear of any Division (other than the 1st) or any District (other than the 9th) that holds a production of this ceremony. I believe that with this

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script and minimal research on the Legion's website in the "Chaplains How To" manual, it would be relatively simple to be enacted at any Post in this state, or any local community center

- Anyone with interest only has to ask and the assistance will be provided please send requests to jaborgman9@gmail.com.
- The Sons National Americanism Commission has written a resolution to show proper respect to flag/anthem and expulsion for those that don't, this is being encouraged to be in place for all Detachments. This was fashioned after Legion Resolution 20; I have adjusted that resolution for our Detachment.
- I would like to get each member of this Commission engaged in our business at hand, we are here to perform a function, not to simply sit in meetings
 - Perhaps random special presentation by members detailing a segment of Americanism
 - On a National level, we write articles, perhaps on this level we can offer special 5 to 10 minute presentations at each DEC
- We need to report Sons projects, fund-raisers, and involvement in Americanism undertakings to National; I want to challenge each Commission member to identify and report those activities, I'll be happy to pass your reports along. Please submit a brief 1 or 2 paragraph description along with photos, if possible
- The National Americanism and Chaplains Calendar has been posted on the National website courtesy of the Sons National Americanism Commission. I need each Commission member to research and report items of note that should be listed on a Detachment/Department Americanism and Chaplains Calendar; please email your thoughts and I will prepare an Illinois version

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Children & Youth Commission

Vice Chairman Slevin, Sr. reported:

Knowledge to share with your squadrons and communities:

- March is National Reading Awareness Month- more than ½ the children in this country – 13 million will not hear a bedtime story tonight. We can help change that. www.readaloud.org it only takes 15 minutes
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month- since 1983 by presidential proclamation April was declared child abuse prevention month. In 2014 646,261 children were abused, 1,580 died. For more information on what you can do visit the National Child Traumatic Stress Network www.nctsnet.org

The American Legion has celebrated April as Children & Youth Month since 1938, and this year will be no different. That's why I am asking Squadrons to plan events in your communities. April is the perfect time of the year to demonstrate that The American Legion Family is committed to its community, and especially its children.

Post families can host a child or youth themed community event (Children's Award ceremony), invite a subject matter expert to present at a meeting (Children's Miracle Network – CMN, Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA), collaborate on a project with a local school (collecting donations for Children's Home); or any number of other activities.

Children represent the future of our nation and it is up to us to equip them with knowledge, leadership skills and a commitment to service that they will use as productive adult citizens of the United States."

More information is available through publications available from the National office of The American Legion.

The purpose of the Children and Youth Committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:

- Assume care and protection for children of Veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concerns for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible. AND
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

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Category 1: Family Emphasis

Programs include, but not limited to: Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance. Both programs assist the financial situations of the child in the home directly.

Category 2: Child Safety

Programs include: Gateway Drugs: harmful effects of drugs; Warning signs: suicide; Halloween Safety: warning of personal safety; Missing Children: identification programs to help ID children that have gone missing for whatever reason.

Category 3: Children's Charities

Programs that are handled through National Headquarters are The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation that issues grant for educational and research studies on children health concern: diabetes, sickle cell, and cancer just to name a few; and The American Legion Endowment Fund: money available to assist Veterans and their families to adjust while struggling to return to a normal life, which started back in 1925.

There are a great deal of things that, we as members of The American Legion Family, can do ourselves for the children of this country.

Children and Youth month is APRIL. Please try and carry out an activity of some kind.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy...,

"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."

They are our future.

Motion by 3rd Division Commander Slevin, Sr. to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Commander Shipley turned the podium over to Sr Vice Commander Hayse at 1401.

Contest Commission

No report.

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Finance Commission

Vice Chairman Christie stated they reviewed the proposed budget and asked if anyone had questions. Detachment Adjutant Van Horn requested \$40 from overage to cover the cost of printing and mailing the National Commander's Planning Guide. There was a reminder that Committee & Commission members have a stipend to attend DEC's. Use line item # 01007 on the expense form. 3rd Division Commander Slevin, Sr. motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

National Security & Poppy's

Chairman Phelps discussed the new "sheriff" in town and if he will get his wall built and if the judges will allow the banning of six countries traveling to the US. Also, the buildup of the military is being considered. No new changes in searching for POW/MIA's, but the search continues. Police School in June. Most Posts will be doing Poppy Days in the next couple months. Please help if possible! Support NEF. Members are eligible for \$3,000 in disaster relief. Motion by IPDC Geary to accept report, with the second, passed.

Legislative Commission

Commission Member Foltyn reported the following:
PASSED COMMITTEE:

HR 369 Eliminating the Sunset Date of the Choice Act -- The VA is in dire need of wholesale reform, but veterans receiving care through the Choice Program should be allowed to continue that care until the funds promised under the Choice Program have been used.

- By eliminating the sunset date of the Choice Act, Congress is ensuring veterans have certainty and continuity of care while we work with the Trump administration to develop a strategic plan that addresses the need for a veteran-centric, coordinated network of care that utilizes the strengths of both VA and community health providers.

- H.R. 369 makes good on the promise that Congress has made to our veterans and will allow for the continued progress toward comprehensive VA reform.

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H.R. 1379: "To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the entitlement to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs for members of the Armed Forces awarded the Purple Heart."

PASSED HOUSE

H.R. 1259: The VA Accountability First Act of 2017 -- The VA Accountability First Act of 2017, introduced by Chairman Phil Roe, M.D., would provide the VA Secretary increased flexibility to remove, demote, or suspend any VA employee, including Senior Executive Service employees, for performance or misconduct.

H.R. 1367: To improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire and retain physicians and other employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. This legislation, introduced by Health Chairman Brad Wenstrup, would establish a recruiting database to make high-quality potential employees aware of positions at VA and create opportunities for career training and advancement for current VA employees through fellowship positions and a promotional track for technical experts.

H.R. 1181: Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act. The Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act, introduced by Chairman Phil Roe, M.D., would prohibit VA from considering any beneficiary who is assisted by a fiduciary as "mentally defective" without a magistrate or judicial authority ruling that the beneficiary is a danger to themselves or others.

H.R. 244, 974 & 27 all concerning veteran employment

Motion by 12th District Commander Schober to accept report, with the second, passed.

SAL Leadership Training Commission

Commission Member Stander stated his Commission is more than happy to go out and do training for Squadron's and Districts. Also stated the National Commander's Planning Guide is being handed out and/or mailed to all Squadron's and Districts. 10th District Commander Stander motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Sr Vice Hayse returned podium to Commander Shipley at 1426.

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Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Vice Chairman Christie stated discussion about program A Soldier's Journey Home where homes are built for severely injured members of the Armed Forces. The next home will be built in Spring Grove, IL starting May 11th. Info on the table for those interested. Commission also discussed Veteran's Employment & Education Commission's submitted report (this is a new National Commission). The report:

The VE&E Commission is a new Commission within the Sons of The American Legion, having just completed our first year in 2015-2016. This Commission mirrors a commission with the same name in The American Legion, formally called the "Economics Commission".

The Mission Statement of our Commission is to:

"Assist the American Legion in ensuring that America's Veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families."

The Veterans Employment & Education Commission is requesting that all Detachments form their own VE&E Committees and then request that their Districts and Squadrons do the same. These Committees can then assist us by going online and finding local job fairs being held in your Divisions, Districts, and communities. Then take this info, as well as info received from National HQ, and place it on our websites and Facebook pages and in our newsletters. You can also print out fliers that advertise these job fairs and post them on the bulletin board at our Posts and in other locations around our communities where local Veterans will see them.

Knowledge to share with your squadrons and communities:

The main focus this year for the VEEC is to promote awareness of the following topics...

Veterans Employment

The promotion of all hiring and job fairs specifically geared towards assisting Veterans in finding employment.

Veterans Homelessness

To assist in getting information out on how to best combat Veteran Homelessness and to spread awareness on all programs to assist our Vets with finding a place to call their own.

Veterans Education

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Specifically, the credentialing of Military experience into civilian jobs, licenses, etc.

More information is available through publications available from the National office of The American Legion.

Motion by IPDC Geary to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Commander's Advisory Committee

Committee Member Slevin, Sr. stated nothing new came before the Committee. Motion by Slevin, Sr. to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Detachment Convention Committee

Chairman Trout reported everything is pretty much set for convention. Hotel is Best Western in Monticello. There will be an unofficial golf get together Friday morning in Farmer City. Bowling will be Saturday in Monticello. Commander's Homecoming will be Friday night at Convention Hotel after DEC. Memorial Service will be held walking distance from Post. Motion by 5th Division Commander Trout to accept report, with the second, passed.

Public Relations Commission

Chairman Cisna discussed ways of promoting your Squadron and Post. Submit press releases, with photos if possible wearing your cap. Lots of PR items available from National. Motion by 3rd Division Commander Slevin, Sr. to accept the report, with the second, passed.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE DONATIONS

Squadron 911, \$100 to Josh Dogs Squadron 911, \$300 to CWF
Squadron 911, \$100 to Scholarship Squadron 911, \$111 to Legacy
Squadron 911, \$100 to Special Olympics Squadron 911, \$200 to NEF
Squadron 703, \$1000 to CWF

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

St John's, Springfield, a thank you note.
Children's Hospital, Peoria, a thank you note

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Cisna reported the only Resolution, besides the Hospitality ones, was from Americanism Commission and recommend sending to Detachment Convention. The Hospitality Resolutions were accepted. 3rd Division Commander Slevin, Sr. motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

Commander Shipley instructed the Sgt-At-Arms to bring members of the Post Family to the podium for presentation. Commander presented the Post Commander, an Auxiliary member, and Squadron Jr. Vice Commander with plaques and certificates of appreciation for hosting the DEC.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT

With the NEC & ANEC not present, no report was given. The Past National Vice Commanders escorted National Vice Commander Michael Lawler (WI) to the podium. Vice Commander Lawler discussed National Commander's programs, where our region falls membership wise, etc.

Commander instructed Sgt-At-Arms to escort the PNVC's & NVC from podium.

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NEW BUSINESS

Charter Actions

Adjutant Van Horn presented the Charter Actions, stating the options were to recommend canceling a Squadron or extending a Squadron until the Pre-Convention DEC. The decisions made here will be reviewed at Department DEC in April for approval of our recommendations. If approved, the extended Squadrons will have final decision (pending Dept. approval) at the Pre-Con DEC.

The following Squadrons are **NOT CERTIFIED**

11 th District, Squadron 391 Lombard	2017 – 13 cards	2016 – 14 cards
21 st District, Squadron 257 Stonington	2017 – 0 cards	2016 – 12 cards

The following Squadrons have **10 MEMBERS OR LESS**

5 th District, Squadron 623 Paul Revere	2017 – 0 cards	2016 – 13 cards
11 th District, Squadron 52 Romeoville	2017 – 9 cards	2016 – 11 cards
11 th District, Squadron 1271 Sugar Grove	2017 – 0 cards	2016 – 10 cards
12 th District, Squadron 796 Coal City	2017 – 0 cards	2016 – 11 cards
12 th District, Squadron 1010 Kingston	2017 – cards	2016 – 10 cards
15 th District, Squadron 417 Cambridge	2017 – 0 cards	2016 – 14 cards
16 th District, Squadron 382 Delavan	2017 – 1 cards	2016 – 20 cards
20 th District, Squadron 1038 Kane	2017 – 6 cards	2016 – 27 cards
21 st District, Squadron 257 Stonington	2017 – 0 cards	2016 – 12 cards
22 nd District, Squadron 214 Bethalto	2017 – 0 cards	2016 – 21 cards
22 nd District, Squadron 937 Smithton	2017 – 9 cards	2016 – 10 cards

23rd District, Squadron 460 Ramsey. 2017 – 8 cards. Post turned in Squadron Charter

Motion by 2nd Division Sr Vice Bacon to send the recommendations to Department DEC to extend all to Pre-Convention DEC, except Squadron 460, which recommend cancelling as the Post turned in the Squadron's Charter, with the by 5th Division Commander Trout, passed.

Other New Business

9th District's Paul Laws discussed Soldier's Journey Home program, as discussed in VA&R Commission meeting and report. He stated it takes 10 days to build a home, from start to finish. Flyers are on the table. IPDC Geary motioned the Detachment donate \$500, from Overage, to the program, with the second, passed.

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FOR THE GOOD OF THE SAL

9th District Jr Vice Commander O'Donnell mentioned Wall That Heals will start in McHenry and motorcade to Des Plaines VFW on Route 14 in the Fall, 2017.

PUFL Admin stated more lifetime membership applications are coming in.

NVC Lawler fined \$20 for phone call during meeting. PDC Cisna fined \$10. Both went to Legacy Scholarship Fund.

GTTY Promoter Christie mentioned raffle tickets will be hitting Legion Family mailboxes within the next week or so.

ADVISOR'S REMARKS

Advisor Geary stated the 1st Division has a Senior Vice Candidate and 2nd Division as a ANEC Candidate.

50 – 50 DRAWING

Sgt-At-Arms conducted the drawing. Jeff Trout won \$85, with \$86 going to the Detachment. Trout donated \$50 to CWF.

Closing, Benediction & Adjournment

No other business was brought forward.
Chaplain Trout gave a prayer.
Sgt-At-Arms Haddick retrieved the POW/MIA flag.
A hand salute was rendered at the colors in place.
Commander ended the meeting at 1552.

Minutes completed by:

Jeffrey J Van Horn
Detachment Adjutant