

2018 FALL DEC SUBMITTED REPORTS

Americanism Agenda Fall DEC, 2018
Salem, IL

09:30 / 10:00

- Chairman's opening remarks
 - Proverbs 20:3
 - Welcome all
 - Commission member changes
 - ALWS results
 - Junior Shooting results
- Religious emphasis – John Nemanich
- Flag Alliance – Tommie Cisna
- Boys State – Jimmy Hunter
- Legacy Scholarship Promoter – Nick Hernan
- Old Business
- Open discussion - guests
- Chairman's closing remarks
 - Recruit for Oratorical and Boys State
 - 4 Chaplains Ceremony
 - Americanism Conference / Fall NEC
 - NEF
 - National Americanism

The meeting came to order at 09:34, there were 4 members present with Tommie Cisna and Niklaus Hernan Excused; Ex-Officio John Nemanich was present and Father

Gummersheimer was excused; there were 7 guests. Copies of the agenda were passed for all in attendance. All members were contacted in advance and were asked to submit reports in advance of the meeting, particularly if they knew they were unable to attend.

- Chairman's opening remarks
 - I'd like to share a verse of scripture I came across that I believe would be appropriate to recite and retain – Proverbs 20:2 tells us – ***It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.***
 - Welcome all to this Commission meeting, as a reminder to all our guests, should any item be brought forth for a vote, the only voices heard will be from the Commission members, but we do respect and invite any input you may have in our discussions
 - I'm looking forward to this new year, all our members are repeating with the exception of the 5th Division. We welcome Commander Hayse as the new 5th Division representative and we are also looking forward to John Nemanich serving as our Chaplain and the Ex-Officio of the Department Religious Emphasis, we are in good hands
 - Resolutions to change all Commission/Committee terms has been changed to end at close of Convention with new terms to commence at close Post Convention DEC after approval were passed at our past convention. Thank you, Jeff Trout and all others, for your assistance with this and a special thank you to JR who lent his invaluable guidance
 - ALWS results
 - Top 8 teams in the Nation are invited to compete in Shelby, NC
 - Games began on Thursday, Aug. 16, and ran through Championship Tuesday on Aug. 21
 - Championship game was available on [ESPNU](#)
 - Wilmington, Del., Post 1 wins the 2018 American Legion World Series championship with a walk off single in the eighth inning at Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C., on Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018.
 - The 2018 American Legion 3-Position Junior Air Rifle Championship was held July 24 – 29, 2018, at the USA Shooting range facility located at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The winners in both the Precision and Sporter category each received a \$5,000.00 college scholarship provided in part by The American Legion and The Sons of the American Legion. The two winners also received an expense paid trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they were honored as part of the Youth Champions Delegation during the 2018 American Legion National Convention August 24 – 28, 2018.
 - A \$1,000.00 college scholarship was awarded to the second-place finishers in both the Sporter and Precision categories.
 - First place for the Precision Shooter award went to first-time competitor Jared Eddy of Georgia
 - First place for Sporter Shooter award went to first-time competitor Bailey Hoenig of Post 865 in Zion, IL – congratulations to them. (FYI - That Post has also sponsored some excellent baseball teams.)

- Religious emphasis – John Nemanich – No report
- Flag Alliance – Tommie Cisna – No Report
- Boys State – Jimmy Hunter
 - Boys State now has online registration
 - Merchandising available at Boys State HQ in Lawson Hall at EIU
- Legacy Scholarship Promoter – Nick Hernan – No report
- Old Business - none
- Open discussion – guests - none
- Chairman’s closing remarks
 - Time to recruit for Oratorical and Boys State, we desperately need help in recruiting for both of these invaluable programs
 - Please consider involvement in 4 Chaplains Ceremony, now is the time to plan and we can lend assistance in starting this ceremony, just ask
 - I am registered and do plan to attend the Americanism Conference in Indianapolis in two weeks as well as the Fall NEC in four weeks; I’ll be happy to report on both at the Winter DEC
 - NEF is very busy assisting those Legion members in need on the left coast due to the devastating wild fires, please consider fund raisers to help replenish those rapidly depleting funds and we know there is already a great need of assistance required on the Atlantic coast due to Florence. There is a new NEF brochure available on the Legion’s website that can be downloaded; this is also one of National Commander Doc Gibbs programs he is promoting.
 - National update
 - I was happy to work with National Commander Danny Smith in preparation of an Excel Spread Sheet that he was kind enough to format with extensive formulas that can be used for any National Commission/Committee for the purpose of judging CSRs in order to identify the top CSR reports Nationally. The final sort is made from the top 40 reports submitted based on hours and dollar entries. I’m very happy and proud to report that Illinois did have 4 Squadrons in the top 40 Nationally. Congratulations to Squadrons 615 of Tinley Park 36th Place, Squadron 647 Roy Mitchell in 28th Place, Squadron 991 Marrs Meyer in 25th Place, and Squadron 36 of Des Plaines tied for 7th place.
 - The Detachment of Illinois submitted 92 CSRs and Nationally, there were 1703 submitted.
 - We are thankful for Commander Danny Smith’s year at the helm of our organization and we welcome National Commander Doc Gibbs. I had

the pleasure to work with Doc for the one year that he Chaired Americanism and wish him well. This year again, it might appear that the Americanism Commission would be a stepping stone as we have a new Chairman, Don Hall from Baltimore. I am no longer the Vice-Chairman, the former Chairman, Gerald Hammerschmidt resumes that position, as he deservedly should, but the remained of our Commission remains in tact and we look forward to working with Don Hall and continue our work.

With no further business to come before this Commission there was a motion to adjourn and after a second and no discussion the motion passed and we adjourned at 10:01.

DETACHMENT CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT

FALL DEC 15 SEPTEMBER 2018, SALEN, IL

The American Legion's Americanism Commission, under which the Children & Youth Committee is now established, continues to foster and enrich the lives of young men and women – a responsibility it has been upholding for decades.

Detachment Children & Youth Fundraising Goals

A reminder that the fundraising goals for the Detachment this year are easily obtainable.

We are striving once again to make a total donation to all C & Y and other Legion programs that is **10%** larger than the total donations made during the past membership year!

Keep pushing these programs and making those donations!

Our local squadrons typically raise and donate an average of \$25,000 – \$30,000 per year for all Children & Youth programs; and have done so consistently for the last decade. Together with your added support and contribution, we can begin topping that number and expanding our outreach to additional areas of need.

Our 2017-2018 numbers were AWESOME! \$8,546.00 to CWF, \$5,565.00 to Special Olympics, \$3,000.00 to the Children's Miracle Network, \$1,005.00 to Josh Dogs, \$600.00 to Operation Military Kids, and \$11,836.00 to all other C & Y programs and charities! A grand total of \$30,552.00 in donations to help children everywhere!

Illinois, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Donations may include the following:

- The American Legion Child Welfare Fund
- Sons of the American Legion, Detachment. of IL – SAL Scholarship Fund

- "Josh Dogs"
- Children's Miracle Network Hospitals
 - Special Olympics
 - Boy & Girl Scout Troops
 - Premier Boys State and Illini Girls State



Annual Detachment CMN Hospital Tour

Just a reminder that our 13th annual tour of the CMN wings of St. John's Children's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois will take place once again on February 11th. We will be inviting National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs as well as the The American Legion National Commander Brett Reisted and The National American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan to attend this event. Keep watch for further details.

This concludes my report.

Respectively submitted:

Harl "Butch" Ray,
Detachment C & Y Chairman 2018-2019

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION 1st Division

TO: Detachment Commander Eugene Gort
Detachment Sr. Vice Commander Phil Stander

TOPIC: Activity Report for the 1st Division

DATE: September 15th, 2018

FROM: Kevin O'Connell, 1st Division Commander

The following is the current status on membership of the 1st Division as of this date. Overall, the Division is moving along, however needs to pick up the pace. Below are the stats so far

Last year's paid membership – 2,360

This year paid membership – 1,234

There are 41 Squadrons in the 1st Division

3 Squadrons are already at 100%

7 Squadrons are at or above 75%

5 Squadrons are at or above 50%

Division Officers are in the process of working with District and Squadron Commanders to boast those numbers
Commander Gort, and Sr. Vice Commander, and myself went to Tattler Post #973, they voted on having a new Squadron
The 1st Division is planning a project that will take place on October 27th at the Worth American Legion Post #991. It will be between 10:00am and 2:00pm. We will be offering free flu shots for Veterans, and conducting a blood drive. There will also be blood pressure screening, as well as other free medical exams.
Our next meeting will be on September 29th beginning at 11:00am at Tinley Park American Legion Post #615
We are planning again this year some fund raising, there will be a Chicago Wolves Hockey Game, Date to be announced, as well as a White Sox Game next season.

Detachment Leadership Commission Report

Unfortunately the Detachment trainings I announced previously did not happen. The Gentleman who originally wanted all of Tazewell County trained, and changed to just his squadron, has changed again. He is so positive about having a training. He transferred posts because his squadron would not agree on a date for training. He is now attempting to convince his new squadron to have a training. I am still communicating with the Squadron Commander of Potomac Post, Jeff Hoskins. It is difficult for them to make a decision because of planting season and vacations. But we will continue to discuss it I submitted several dates for them to choose from.
Meanwhile the Department of Illinois Leadership Committee is very upset with the Sons. Because of their lack of interest in the trainings. Out of all of those who attend the trainings, not even 10% are SAL. And 90% of them are Duel members. Department Leadership is blaming the Detachment Officers for the lack of participation. I took issue with that. And explained it is the post officers who are responsible for mentoring and educating the Sons. It states in the officers manual that a committee of Legion Officers will be appointed to mentor and educate the SAL Squadron. I said if they did not or can not do this. They must insist the Sons attend the Department trainings.
I told them instead of sending letters, to have the Division Commanders to direct the District Commanders to speak to the Post Commanders. And explain the Post Officers responsibilities of educating and mentoring the Sons. When Jimmy Hunter and myself were Detachment Officers, we started several new squadrons. When we delivered their charters, we gave them a officers training. And just to show you should never assume. I felt confident those training were sufficient. I discovered I was wrong. One of the squadrons we started was Manteno. The one I belong to now. I was amazed when I joined. Their education level had gone from eighth grade to Kindergarten. I told them we were not having meetings. We were having gatherings. It has taken me two years to get them back on track. They resisted the whole time. I invited the Post Commander and Sr. Vice Commander to attend one of our meetings. They were amazed at what they saw. But was their response we will have to correct this. No instead they looked at me and said you have a lot of work to do. So I have determined the post officers have no idea they are supposed to be monitoring the SAL actions. This started out as a children's organization. And you don't just let children run amuck. You make sure they are learning correctly. But even adults need instruction. It don't come naturally.

All of us here can help by convincing the squadron members to attend the Department trainings. Or by contacting Jimmy Hunter or Myself to set up a training. Our contact information is in every Detachment mailing.

Just because they have been doing it wrong for so long. That don't make it right.

Respectfully submitted

Ed Cavanaugh
Detachment Leadership Chairman

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Finance Commission Report 09/15/2018

Presented at the D.E.C. Meeting in Salem, IL

Convened at _11:00 am_____ and adjourned at ____11:40 am_____

The Finance Commission met and discussed the meeting call pay procedure. We did update the wording to clarify who is eligible. We changed the second paragraph to include Division Officers if they are on a Committee or Commission. We also added the Commander and Senior Vice Commander Aides and Sergeant-At-Arms to be included if they are not on a committee or commission. We will continue this procedure through the years 2018-2019. Once my report is approved these changes will take effect at the next D.E.C. meeting. We also made donations to the following programs: National Commander Campaign - \$500.00, Scholarship - \$1000.00, CWF - \$6220.85, CMN - \$650.00, GTTY - \$13,241.00, NEF - \$4,764.00, Special Olympics - \$350.00, Fisher House - \$400.00, Legacy Scholarship - \$211.00, Operation Comfort Warrior - \$750.00, Honor Flight - \$150.00, National Endowment Fund - \$150.00. We also paid out \$1,350.00 in the meeting call pay procedure.

Commander Eugene Gort submitted a quote for \$586.42 for shirts. There was a motion to approve and a second and it was passed. He also submitted a proposal for setting up an e-mail contact list through Constant Contact. The price is \$20.00 an month for the basic package and \$45.00 a month for the enhanced. There is also a free 60 day trial. We suggested we try the free trial and determine after that determine if we should continue. We are authorizing a trial of 6 months at \$45.00 a month to see how well it works. Money is to be taken out of overage. There was a motion to approve and a second and it was passed. We were also informed that there will be certain Detachment members that will need to attend two Convention Committee meetings. We will need to approve expenses at that time. This is one change that has occurred due to the

Convention being moved and combined with the Legion and Auxiliary. This is also one item that will need to be discussed at the next budget meeting.

We were also not able to donate our 6% of overage to the programs we are designated to due to the fact that once everything was paid our checking account went under \$20,000.00. We need to keep that amount in our checking account per our guidelines.

This concludes my report.

George E. Koop
Finance Commission Chairman

PR Report

Public Relations for The Sons is an important task that all members should be involved in.

The Consolidated Report Form, (CSR) that all Squadrons should fill out at the end of the year is quick look at what The Squadron has accomplished throughout the year. Please promote because, "This is who we are" Let's bring those numbers up this year.

At all functions that The Sons are volunteering at, you should be wearing your cover. Other suggestions could be, shirts with Our emblem or ball caps, something that designates that you are a Proud Son taking time to volunteer.

Make sure to take time to let your Post and your Unit know that you are here to help with activities and are willing to help promote PR within The Post and community.

There is no such thing as "We didn't do anything during the year" or "We don't want to blow our own horn"

A Squadron will always make a difference in your community.

We need to promote and educate our communities on what we do.
Most importantly, we need to fill out Our Consolidated Report Forms

V.A. & R. Minutes Fall D.E.C, September 15,2018 Salem, IL

Commission: Chair - Bruno Williamson (P),Vice-Jimmy Hunter (P); George Koop (P); Kev in Williams (A); Chris Schoo (P). GTY Liaison - Matt Christie (P), Service Officer - Ed Cav anaugh (P); and multiple guests.

The meeting opened at 1030 hrs. and closed at 1100 hrs

1) VAVS - Illinois VAMC's (veterans affairs medical centers)- Jessie Brown we are still w aiting on confirmation on Derrick Stinson; Hines - is vacant, we thought a gentleman na med Ricardo Fernandez was our Rep but the VA has no record of him ever volunteering t here or doing the paperwork to be a rep; James Lovell Federated - Bill Geary, they nobo dy down as a deputy rep and in talks with George Koop he would rather not be the depu

ty; Illiana - Ed Cavanaugh, like Derrick I'm still waiting on my paperwork; Marion - Donnie Houghland.

So as of right now Illinois has 3 confirmed the VAVS reps.

In the meeting guest Jim Borghman had said that Ricardo wants to be the Rep at Hines and has been frustrated that this has not happened as of yet. I asked Jim to send me his contact info and I would get that process started. He also suggested that we have the VAVS reps submit a report to me explaining what is happening at their respective VAMC's. I told the membership that this was something we did years ago and had quit doing and I would re institute it. I also informed the commission that I was resubmitting Derrick's application as well as mine for deputy rep at Illiana.

The membership was also told that Nationally we are at a crisis when it comes to our representation on the NAC (national advisory committee). We must maintain representation at a minimum of 25 VAMC's or we will lose our right to vote and would probably be removed from the Executive Board of the NAC. So Illinois we must get Representatives in all of our VAMC's.

2) Fisher House - Hines VA and Jefferson Barracks St Louis VAMC we need to continue these 2 houses that support our Veterans and their families in Illinois.

3) NVCAF (national veterans creative arts festival) - The festival runs from October 29 to November 4 in Des Moines, Ia. The stage show is Sunday November 4 and tickets are free. The show is pretty amazing and it shows what the arts can do for our veterans therapy and rehabilitation. You can Google NVCAF and can get info for the tickets. Even though it is free, you MUST have a ticket to get into the auditorium.

4) GTY (gifts to yanks) - Matt Christie will continue to oversee the program

5) OCW (operation comfort warrior) - Legion program providing comfort items to veterans and active duty.

6) Guitars 4 Veterans - this is a relatively new program that has 80 chapters in 40 states. As we have seen with NVCAF (3 above) the arts and in this case music helps with therapy and rehabilitation for our veterans. The program donates acoustic guitars and also provides lessons for them. there is a G4V chapter in Hines, IL.

Respectfully Submitted

Bruno "T" Williamson

Detachment V. A. & R Chairman

"Together Making a Difference"