

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

**2012 Detachment Convention - Urbana, Illinois
Session 1 Minutes - June 23, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

Detachment Commander Ray called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

PRESENT THE COLORS

Color Guard from Squadron #24 presented colors.

INVOCATION

Chaplain gave prayer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4th Division Commander Shipley Pledge

POW/MIA CEREMONY

The Commander led the POW/MIA

PREAMBLE

Senior Vice-Commander Hunter led the Preamble

READING OF THE CALL TO CONVENTION

Detachment Adjutant Van Horn read the Convention Call-To-Order

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

The Adjutant conducted roll call – see addendums

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Melone gave the report and recommended changes to the following rules (the additions/amended items in italics):

#18 Nominating speeches shall be limited to three minutes each. No more than two seconding speeches shall be made for each candidate, not to

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exceed two minutes. *All nomination and seconding speeches are limited to only members of The Sons of The American Legion who are official delegates of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment Convention with appropriate Sons of The American Legion cap and Detachment delegate badge.*

#25 There shall be no food or *alcoholic* beverages allowed on the Convention floor during Convention Sessions.

#27 Appropriate attire will be required of all Detachment officers and members of the Detachment who will be addressing the Convention from the podium. Appropriate attire for the above mentioned will consist of: Dress slacks, Collared shirt, Jacket, Tie *and Sons of The American Legion cap.*

#28 Any member of the Detachment who will be approaching the podium for the purpose of making a donation, accepting an award *or any other purposes* shall wear appropriate attire consisting of: Dress slacks, Collared shirt, *and Sons of The American Legion cap.*

Chairman Melone moved to approve the report with a second, passed.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Friedman reported that some delegates of this convention, because of their position(s), could cast more than one vote. However, only one vote by said person would be allowed. Also reminded that members who are voting At-Large must be on the floor for vote to count. The Official Delegate Strength of the 49th Detachment Convention, based on the May 31, 2012 membership report, is as follows:

1 st District:	Membership Delegates – 0; At-Large Delegates – 0; Total Delegates – 0
2 nd District:	Membership Delegates – 3; At-Large Delegates – 2; Total Delegates – 5
3 rd District:	Membership Delegates – 1; At-Large Delegates – 1; Total Delegates – 2
4 th District:	Membership Delegates – 13; At-Large Delegates – 1; Total Delegates – 14
5 th District:	Membership Delegates – 7; At-Large Delegates – 2; Total Delegates – 9
7 th District:	Membership Delegates – 9; At-Large Delegates – 1; Total Delegates – 10
8 th District:	Membership Delegates – 40; At-Large Delegates – 6; Total Delegates – 46
9 th District:	Membership Delegates – 16; At-Large Delegates – 4; Total Delegates – 20
10 th District:	Membership Delegates – 23; At-Large Delegates – 7; Total Delegates – 30
11 th District:	Membership Delegates – 40; At-Large Delegates – 3; Total Delegates – 43
12 th District:	Membership Delegates – 44; At-Large Delegates – 3; Total Delegates – 47
13 th District:	Membership Delegates – 10; At-Large Delegates – 1; Total Delegates – 11
14 th District:	Membership Delegates – 9; At-Large Delegates – 1; Total Delegates – 10

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15th District: Membership Delegates - 8; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates - 9
16th District: Membership Delegates - 36; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates - 38
17th District: Membership Delegates - 31; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates - 32
18th District: Membership Delegates - 35; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates - 37
19th District: Membership Delegates - 73; At-Large Delegates - 12; Total Delegates - 85
20th District: Membership Delegates - 18; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates - 21
21st District: Membership Delegates - 7; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates - 9
22nd District: Membership Delegates - 32; At-Large Delegates - 4; Total Delegates - 36
23rd District: Membership Delegates - 55; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates - 56
24th District: Membership Delegates - 42; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates - 43
25th District: Membership Delegates - 42; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates - 44
DETACHMENT TOTAL:

Membership Delegates - 594; At-Large Delegates - 63; Total Delegates - 657

Friedman moved to accept the report with a second, passed.

The Commander announced that all donations will be accepted after all the reports are given.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Borgman reported on a resolution passed at the Spring NEC, NEC 3-S12 titled Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 48: Star Spangled Banner. The Resolution is how the American Legion encourages and recommends the playing of the National Anthem at all sporting events.

Chaplin Matt Musil reported on Religious Emphasis and the importance of the Chaplin's Cross and asked that all to emphasize nominations.

Tommie Cisna reported on Flag Alliance reported on the American Flag as a symbol. Read a quote from President Obama that was made on Flag Day this past month. Cisna talked about SJ Res. 19 Flag Protection Amendment with 36 Sponsors (31 R, 5 D in support) and HJ Res. 13 Flag Protection Amendment 87 (76 R, 11 D in support)

Chairman Borgman then talked about the Consolidated Report and the importance of all Squadrons to get this report in by the cut-off date.

Chairman Borgman read a letter from National American Legion thanking the Detachment for their \$800 donation to the NEF. He presented a banner for the flag to the Sgt-At-Arms.

Borgman motioned to accept the report with a second, passed.

The Commander then dedicated this Convention in honor of his father and made him a Distinguished Guest.

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The Commander presented Past Department Commander Clay Lofton, his father-in-law, a plaque for his efforts and support of the Sons of The American Legion. Past Commander Lofton spoke a few words of praise.

The Commander welcomed Reginald Booker and Steve Emling of the Manteno Veteran's Home and Anna Veteran's Home, respectfully to the podium. Mr. Booker spoke highly of the American Legion, stating he is a member of the Manteno Post. He thanked the SAL for the support of all the Veteran's Homes in Illinois. Mr. Booker presented the Commander with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Emling spoke and also thanked the SAL for all their support. Spoke of all the history he experiences in talking with residents of his facility. Senior Vice-Commander Hunter gave both an application to the SAL.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Slevin Sr. reported that Phil Shipley requested a donation of \$2,000 for the Children's Miracle Network and \$2,000 for Toby The Tire program to come from the overage account. Committee voted to accept Shipley's recommendation for the 2012 year.

CWF Promoter Carl Stratton asked for the CAT members to in front of the podium: Ray Chelmowski, Tommie Cisna, Jimmy Hunter, Sara Stratton, Mark Melone, Phil Shipley, Ed Hudson, Garrett Slevin Jr., to be presented awards for raising funds. The Detachment raised \$24,001 for CWF for the reporting year after breaking the goal of \$15,000 then \$20,000. The National goal of \$400,000 was met and passed to \$550,000. \$107.56 was raised during Stratton's report. Stated the 2012-13 forms for the flag banners are available.

Stratton motioned that the Detachment donate \$5,000 out of the Overage Account to CWF to start the year off with a second from Slevin Jr. PDC Sawicki asked if we have the money and stated that our programs need to be self-sufficient and we need to stop draining the Overage Account. Finance Officer Tharp stated there is a bill from Department between \$5,000 - 6,000 coming, plus \$2,000 for CMN and \$2,000 for Toby The Tire. Tharp stated there is money, however donations like this will drain the Overage Account and in two to three years the account will be broke. He suggested raising the funds first then come at the end of the year asking for more. NEC Geary asked if there is a policy to go to the Finance Commission first.

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PDC Melone stated this is a Detachment Convention and there is no Finance Commission during Convention and that donations are to be via motions or Resolutions and vote. PDC Stillwell amends the motion to refer this to the standing commission of Children and Youth and bring to a DEC with a second by Geary, the amendment to the motion passed. The original motion amended passed to go back to standing commission.

Chairman Slevin Sr moved to accept his report as given with a second, passed.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Officer Tharp asked if there were any questions on the balance sheet (addendum). There were none. Friedman motioned to accept the report with a second, passed.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Jarosz reported on The House of Representatives passed legislation May 31 to fund military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal 2013.

The bill H.R.5854 would provide VA with a fiscal 2013 budget of about \$146 billion, 10 % more than its current budget. The Senate Committee on Appropriations approved its own version of the FY 2013 military construction/VA funding bill May 22, which is now awaiting full Senate consideration. Once the Senate passes its version, a House-Senate conference committee will resolve differences between the versions.

The effectiveness of a new technology for handling veterans' disability claims was challenged by The American Legion at a June 19 congressional hearing that focused on the Department of Veterans Affairs efforts to improve its claims process. In 2010, VA announced its goals of achieving 98% accuracy in claims processing with no claim pending more than 125 days. As of June 11 more than 910,000 claims are pending and almost 600,000 of them have been in the system for more than 125 days. The program is titled (VBMS) Veterans Benefits Management System.

The American Legion testified at a June 21 House hearing showing its support for several bills, including one that would require states to adjust

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their licensing/certification standards to accommodate military standards. Certifications for nursing assistant certified nursing assistant, registered nurses and commercial driver's licenses would be affected. H.R. 4155, the Helping Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans Return to Employment at Home Act, would remove some obstacles faced by job-seeking veterans whose military training and experience is not widely recognized by civilian agencies.

Veterans who are dissatisfied with the way their fiduciaries are handling their finances will be able to appeal those appointments if Congress passes legislation that was discussed at a June 20 House hearing in Washington D.C. The Veterans Fiduciary Reform Act of 2012 would provide guidelines for investigation financial fraud and procedures for veterans to recommend their own fiduciaries.

He also reported the 2013 Washington Conference will be held February 24-27 at the Washington Hilton.

Jarosz motioned to accept his report with a second, passed.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Phelps reported that everyone needs to vote. That we need a government for the people. To secure the borders to the south. A lot more is going on in National Security than Afghanistan. Leaked secrets out of DC, immigration, jobs and production going everywhere but to the U.S. Stated we need a government that will do something for the people and not themselves. Stated that there are still over 1,700 unaccounted for from Vietnam era alone and the process is moving very slowly to account for these soldiers. Asked that we work on candidate(s) for Police School as we did not have any this past year. Chairman Phelps motioned to accept his report, seconded and passed.

MEMBERSHIP & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Senior Vice-Commander Hunter reported that a discussion of activities and the importance of promoting the events within the Division, District and community. Also encouraged website use. Consolidated Reports were discussed and as of today, only 34 of 253 reports have been turned in. Reported Detachment is at 100.56% with 14,780 members. Congratulated 2nd Division for 13 continuous years of 100%, and Squadron 683 & 911 for

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23 years in a row for all-time highs. Stated all awards to be handed out are from the May 31st membership report. Our Detachment Close of Books is Thursday, June 28th. National Convention delegate strength is July 26th. Hunter motioned to accept his report with a second, First Division Commander Borgman asked if Senior Vice-Commander is going to process the two Illinois VA Home Representatives cards he is paying for will be this year or next year and what District? Hunter stated they will go to the nearest Squadron where they are located. Motion passed.

National Security Chairman Phelps amended his report by stating President Obama gave a speech at the Vietnam Memorial on Memorial Day. A 15-minute speech closed the Memorial down for 7-hours.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Cavanaugh reported Yorkville Post raised \$16,000, a Wounded Warrior Project, with one event. Commander Ray talked to the Committee about Ride2Recovery. 15% of all service members are female which has doubled over the last 30-years. A booklet called *Guide For Female Veterans* is now available.

Resolution DC12-03C titled *Resolution To Support and Donate to the Octave Chanute Museum in Rantoul, IL* of a \$250 donation out of Detachment Overage Account for support in the Detachment's first Ride2Recovery Honor Ride on April 28, 2012 was adopted in Committee.

Resolution DC12-04C titled *Resolution to Support and Donate to the For Love & Art project* of \$2,500 for art books out of Detachment Overage Account to be placed in the state's VA Homes was adopted in Committee.

Resolution DC12-S01 titled *Hines VA Medical Center Golf Cart* of \$3,200 out of Detachment Overage Account for an electric golf cart to be presented to Hines VA Medical Center was adopted in Committee.

Gifts-To-The-Yanks Promoter Christie asked to have Department Gifts-To-The-Yanks Chairman Ron Umdenstock to speak to the delegation. Umdenstock reported total SAL donations for 2011-12 were \$9,486.06 and Illinois' total donations were \$150,357.82. He thanked the SAL for their hard work and contributions. Mentioned he has items he is selling to raise funds at a table outside the convention hall. He presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Squadron #23 from Department Commander David Hicks

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and GTTY Chairman Ron Umdenstock for their contributions. He then presented Commander Ray with a Certificate of Appreciation. He mentioned the donation cut-off is in April, so any donations made after April go on the following year's count. Christie mentioned tickets are left for the raffle to be drawn on Sunday. He also thanked Steger Funeral Home for donating 25,000 raffle tickets every year.

Chairman Cavanaugh motioned to accept his report, minus the Gift-To-The-Yanks final report to be finished on Sunday. The motion was seconded. Commander Ray reminded everyone approving this motion would approve the Resolutions and the money requests. PDC Hickem amended the motion to accept the report without the Resolutions and send them back to the VA&R Commission, PDC Melone suggested approving the report as given with sending the Resolutions back to the maker, Hickem so-moved, Melone seconded the amendment, passed. The amended motion was seconded and passed.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Stillwell stated no changes and motioned to approve the report with a second, passed.

DONATIONS

Scott Geib, \$65, Ride2Recovery	Squadron 55, \$155, Children & Youth
Squadron 208, \$150, Special Olympics	1 st Division, \$500, CMN
Squadron 208, \$150, NEF	1 st Division, \$100, NEF
Squadron 208, \$150, CWF	1 st Division, \$100, R2R
Squadron 208, \$150, R2R	Squadron 489, \$100, GTTY
Squadron 55, \$155, VA&R	Squadron 1278, \$100, R2R
Squadron 55, \$155, CWF	

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Hickem reported on Resolutions DC12-01C and DC12-02C, both candidate Resolutions for James T. Hunter as Detachment Commander and Ed Cavanaugh as Detachment Senior Vice-Commander, respectfully. The Committee recommends accepting the both and placing on file. Hickem so moved to accept both Resolutions and place on file with a second. PDC

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Melone recommended the Committee send both Resolutions back to the Adjutant for proper identification and complete their report on Sunday morning. Hickem withdrew his original motion and motioned to complete the report on Sunday morning with a second, passed.

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER, JOHN SANSOUCIE

Past National Vice-Commanders Hickem & Cisna, along with NEC Geary escorted National Vice Commander John Sansoucie of Missouri to the podium. Geary read Sansoucie's bio then introduced the NVC. Sansoucie talked about National Commander Robert's goals. Congratulated the Detachment on CWF donations. Emphasized importance of renewals. He spoke of communication and how easy it is to get caught up in email, texting, and social media and miss the simple way of picking up the phone and talking to members. He feels when you sign up a member; touch base with them in the future with them. He challenged each of us to go home, make a phone call to one member who hasn't renewed and get them to renew their membership.

Commander Ray informed NVC Sansoucie of our 90% renewal rate.

SESSION 1 WRAP-UP

Commander read a couple of reminders from the Adjutant:

If you wish to be a delegate at the National Convention in Indianapolis August 24 - 26, you need to fill out the nomination form at the back table.

The bowling tournament will start at 4:30 at Arrowhead Lanes, 1401 North McKinley in Champaign.

Urbana Post 71 is holding a Ribeye Steak Dinner from 4:00 to 7:00 PM for \$10. Their address is 107 North Broadway in Urbana.

The Chaplain would like to remind everyone the Detachment Memorial Service will be between 8:30 - 9:30 AM at Mt Hope Mausoleum, 611 East Pennsylvania, Champaign.

Commander reminded everyone Session Two will start PROMPTLY at 10:00 AM tomorrow.

Senior Vice-Commander commented on Yorkville's recent fundraiser for a veteran and raising \$16,000 at the event.

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Colors were in place and hand saluted.

Session 1 ended at 3:20PM.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey Van Horn, Detachment Adjutant.