

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

**2013 Detachment Convention – Tinley Park, Illinois
June 29, 2013**

Session 1 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Detachment Commander Jimmy Hunter called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. The colors were in place and Commander rendered a hand salute.

Detachment Chaplain Fred Hickem gave the prayer.

8th District Commander Bill Pillman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hunter did the POW/MIA Ceremony.

Detachment Senior Vice Commander Ed Cavanaugh led the Preamble.

READING OF THE CALL TO CONVENTION

Detachment Adjutant Jeffrey Van Horn read the Call to Convention.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Van Horn called roll. The following were present: Commander Hunter, Sr Vice Cavanaugh, NEC Bill Geary, ANEC Denver Phelps, Adjutant Van Horn, Asst Adjutant Tommie Cisna, Finance Officer Bob Tharp, Judge Advocate John Jarosz, Parliamentarian JR Stillwell, Chaplain Fred Hickem, Medical Officer Jerry Griffin, Service Officer Jim Hurt, Sgt-At-Arms Phelps, Sgt-At-Arms Emeritus John Reis Jr., Commander's Sgt-At-Arms JD Strum, Sr Vice Commander's Sgt-At-Arms Paul Haines, Division Sgt-At-Arms Belovicz & Shipley, Commander's Aides Jim Borgman & Hickem, PUFL Admin Stillwell; 4th District, 5th District, 8th District, 9th District, 10th District, 11th District, 12th District, 13th District, 16th District, 18th District, 19th District, 25th District; PNC's Stillwell, Greg Reis & Cisna; PDC's Ray, Schultz, Potempa, Hickem, Slevin Sr., Tharp, Christie, Williamson, Sawicki & Melone; Advisors Lind, Groharing, Phelps & Flanagan; Department Commander Wagner; Department President Sienkiewicz; SAL Secretary Cheryl Hutson.

Department Commander Wagner & President Sienkiewicz spoke and presented Commander Hunter with gifts. As they were being escorted off stage, Hunter stated Commander Wagner forgot to introduce his wife, Jane.

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RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Jarosz presented the rules of the Convention. He stated there were changes that were approved at the 49th Convention. Rules 18, 25, 27 & 28 were revised. The Committee recommends the changes from the 49th Convention to be revised at the 50th Detachment Convention Rules.

Rule 18 should state: 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 Convention delegate badge.

Rule 25 should state: There shall be no food or alcoholic beverages on the Convention floor during Convention Sessions.

Rule 27 should state: 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.

Rule 28 should state: 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, jacket, tie, and Sons of The American Legion cap.

Jarosz motioned to accept his report, with the second, the motion passed.

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CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Credentials Committee Chairman Mike Sawicki read the report.

The Official Delegate Strength of the 50th Detachment Convention, based on the May 31, 2013 membership report, is as follows:

1st District: Membership Delegates – 0; At-Large Delegates – 0; Total Delegates – 0
2nd District: Membership Delegates – 4; At-Large Delegates – 1; Total Delegates – 5
3rd District: Membership Delegates - 3; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 4
4th District: Membership Delegates - 13; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 14
5th District: Membership Delegates - 7; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates – 10
7th District: Membership Delegates - 10; At-Large Delegates - 0; Total Delegates – 10
8th District: Membership Delegates - 42; At-Large Delegates - 6; Total Delegates – 48
9th District: Membership Delegates - 17; At-Large Delegates - 4; Total Delegates – 21
10th District: Membership Delegates - 23; At-Large Delegates - 7; Total Delegates – 30
11th District: Membership Delegates - 40; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates – 43
12th District: Membership Delegates - 42; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates – 45
13th District: Membership Delegates - 10; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 11
14th District: Membership Delegates - 9; At-Large Delegates - 0; Total Delegates – 9
15th District: Membership Delegates - 8; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 9
16th District: Membership Delegates - 38; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates – 40
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 - 66; At-Large Delegates - 13; Total Delegates – 79
20th District: Membership Delegates - 20; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates – 23
21st District: Membership Delegates - 9; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates – 11
22nd District: Membership Delegates - 35; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates – 38
23rd District: Membership Delegates - 54; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 55
24th District: Membership Delegates - 42; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 43
25th District: Membership Delegates - 43; At-Large Delegates - 4; Total Delegates – 47
DETACHMENT TOTAL:
Membership Delegates - 601; At-Large Delegates - 63; Total Delegates - 664

PDC Potempa stated At-Large Delegates must be present. PDC Melone added not only present, but present in the Convention room. Sawicki motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed.

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Commander announced all donations will be accepted at the end of all Convention Committee reports.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Borgman reported 6 District's had nominations for Chaplain's Cross. NEF paid out \$425k to Sandy victims. \$200k to Oklahoma disaster. He then discussed all the areas Americanism covers within our Legion Family. Cisna gave a brief update on Flag Alliance, stating nothing has really changed with current bills. Borgman motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Ray reported that CWF donations were \$30,427.13, a \$2 per capita based on membership which is 4th in the Nation. Shipley presented CWF awards to Garrett, Cisna, Ray, Hunter, Melone, Hudson, Gierach and himself. Ray then stated Scholarship winners will be announced on Sunday. Ray motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Officer Tharp asked if there were any questions regarding the printed balance sheet or budget for 2013-14. None were asked. Finance Chairman Cisna then approached. Stated there was a request presented to the Finance Commission for the Detachment to give \$750 to both JR Stillwell and Jimmy Hunter to attend The First Annual Sons of The American Legion Hall of Fame Gala Awards and Banquet in Pasadena, CA on November 2, 2013. PNC Stillwell will be inducted into the Hall of Fame and Hunter will attend as a representative of Illinois. Commander Hunter asked Commission to reimburse \$377.31 in expenses that went over his budget. Stated PDC Williamson mentioned Jr. Auxiliary member Kristy Krigbaun will be attending National Convention in hopes of being appointed National Jr. Auxiliary President and looking for donations to help cover expenses. The "hat" was passed. Cisna motioned to accept entire Finance Report, including the dollar amount requests, with the second, passed.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Jarosz gave report. Stated Dual Member Sylvester Hendricks asked for a Resolution that all meetings above Squadron level be held in handicap accessible Legion Halls/centers. Was discussed in length and tabled for Fall DEC to discuss and report. Reported Senate Immigration Reform Bill S744 was introduced this past week and Legion Legislative staff was reviewing its contents. Economic Division is reviewing in-state tuition legislation sponsored by Veterans Affairs Chairman Sanders (VT) and Ranking member Burr (NC). The Legion submitted testimony on this legislation on June 5th. President Obama signed into Public Law PL113-12 the Stolen Valor Act of 2013 where it makes it a crime to knowingly benefit from false statements about receiving certain military awards and decorations. Jarosz motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed. Then Jarosz asked Commander Hunter for a point of personal privilege and thanked everyone for the opportunity and honor to work all of our members.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Phelps discussed cuts in the military and attitudes of American's as freedoms are slowly seem to be disappearing. He discussed illegal immigration and how the country seems to bow down to the wants and requests of illegal immigrants. Discussed POW/MIA and process involved of identifying the remains and the fact that there are still many missing. Asked everyone to promote Police School next summer, along with helping out with Poppy Distribution. Phelps motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Stillwell stated there was no report.

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MEMBERSHIP & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Senior Vice Commander Cavanaugh reported 43 cards have been turned in so far. Currently rankings are: 1st – 1st Division with 104.47%; 2nd – 3rd Division with 102.12%; 3rd – 5th Division with 100.42%; 4th – 2nd Division with 98.64%; 5th – 4th Division with 96.53%. Stated there was a lengthy discussion on education of Squadron officers and to improve attendance at DEC's and Convention. Reported 11 new Squadrons for the year. Mentioned Roanoke Squadron was literally underwater from flooding and managed to turn in 29 cards. Stated Membership Awards will be given out on Sunday. Cavanaugh motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Williamson reported a discussion on Commander Hunter's two VA&R projects, Wounded Warrior Project and Honor Flight. For Love & Art items arrived with Danville receiving theirs and the 4 other VAMC & Manteno will receive theirs shortly. VAVS rep/dep is still needed and volunteers are definitely needed at facilities, including those with CDL's. Help Hospital Veterans is looking for arts and crafts kits, along with woodworking kits for bird houses, jewelry boxes, etc. Gifts To Yanks Report will be given on Sunday. Williamson motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

DONATIONS

The Commander then asked for all those with donations to come forward and present. The following were accepted:

Detachment: \$100 to Gifts To The Yanks, \$655.57 for WWP (from Commander's homecoming)

1st Division: \$100—NEF, \$250—CWF, \$250—CMN

8th District: \$100—CWF, \$100—NEF

911: \$100—Honor Flight, \$100—Special Olympics, \$80—GTTY

55: \$155—VA&R, \$155—CWF, \$155—C&Y

690: \$100—VA&R, \$100—NEF, \$50—CMN

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208: \$150—CMN, \$150—WWP, \$150—Special Olympics, \$150—NEF,
\$150--CWF
IPDC Ray: \$20--CWF

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Hickem reported on the following Resolutions.

DC01-2013 Candidate Resolution – Bruno T Williamson endorsement for National Executive Committeeman – Accept and place on file.

DC02-2013 Candidate Resolution – John Jarosz, Jr. endorsement for Detachment Senior Vice Commander – Accept and place on file.

DC04-2103 Candidate Resolution – Father Gary P Gummersheimer endorsement for Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Accept and place on file.

Chairman Hickem then yielded the floor to 19th District Commander Tommie Cisna for purposes of reading Resolution DC03-2013.

DC03-2013 National Chaplain – Harl “Butch” Ray endorsement for National Chaplain and to be forwarded to National Office of The Sons of American Legion for favorable consideration – Cisna motions to accept and forward on to National, with the second, motion passed.

DC05-2013 Title Resolution – Mark E Melone to receive title of Detachment Adjutant Emeritus – Reject Resolution.

Hickem motions to accept report as given. 11th District Commander Phil Banialis requested that DC05-2013 be voted upon alone and discussed before a vote is made. Hickem withdrew his motion and then motioned to accept the report on DC01-2013, DC02-2013, DC03-2013 and DC04-2013, with the second, motion passed.

A discussion opened up regarding DC05-2013. It was discussed that the Melone did do a good job as Detachment Adjutant during his tenure but to bestow this title upon him is not necessary. There have been plenty of past

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Detachment Adjutants who have also done a good job before Melone held the position. It was stated that the Detachment owes Melone their gratitude and thanks for his service. Melone then commented that the Resolution started at his Squadron without his knowledge and moved up through the District then Division levels. He did not ask for this Resolution and the fact that he knows he did a good job and has received kudos for his work is satisfaction to him. Hickem motioned to reject Resolution DC05-2013, with the second, the motion passed by a majority vote.

REPORT FROM THE NEC

NEC Bill Geary thanked the Detachment for allowing him to serve for 4 years as ANEC and NEC. Mentioned National Convention in August and encouraged anyone interested in being involved on a National level to let the appropriate Detachment Officer's know. Geary motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed.

**RANDY EICHER, LEADING CANDIDATE FOR
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER-CENTRAL**

Commander Hunter asked all Past NVC's to escort Randy Eicher (OH) to the stage for comments. Past NVC Tommie Cisna introduced Randy Eicher to the Detachment. Randy talked about his SAL "career" and spoke of many of the different programs. He stated if elected, he wanted to push membership, especially the renewals. He thanked the Detachment for the invitation to attend our Convention and hoped to see many of us in Houston for National Convention. Past NVC Potempa motioned that the Detachment endorse Randy Eicher for his candidacy as National Vice Commander-Central, with the second, the motion passed.

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JOE GLADDEN, LEADING CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER

Commander Hunter asked that all the Past National Commander's escort Joe Gladden (MD) to the stage for comments. PNC Stillwell introduced Joe Gladden to the Detachment, commenting on watching him "grow" within the SAL on a National level. Joe talked about himself and his eligibility and how he got involved with the SAL. He discussed his "career" within the organization, from a Squadron level to National. He expressed his concentrations if elected National Commander. Joe thanked the Detachment for the invitation and thanked his golf partners from Friday. PNC Stillwell motioned that the Detachment endorse Joe Gladden for his candidacy as National Commander, with the second, the motion passed.

HARRELL SORRELS, NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER-CENTRAL

Commander Hunter asked all Past NVC's to escort National Vice Commander-Center Harrell Sorrells (IN) to the stage for comments. Past NVC Fred Hickem introduced Harrell Sorrells to the Detachment. Harrell brought greetings from the National Commander. He congratulated the Detachment on all of our accomplishments, especially on CWF and new Squadrons. He thanked everyone for supporting not only himself, but the National Commander this past year. He appreciated the invitation to our Convention and hoped to see many in Houston in August.

SESSION 1 WRAP-UP

Commander made announcements regarding National Convention, the bowling tournament, Saturday night's activities at Post 615 and the Memorial Service Sunday morning.

Commander rendered a hand salute to the flag.

Session ended at 3:56 PM

Minutes prepared by Detachment Adjutant Jeffrey Van Horn.