

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

**2014 Detachment Convention – Mattoon, Illinois  
Session 1 Minutes - June 28, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Detachment Commander Cavanaugh called the Convention to order at 1300 Hours at Lawrence Riddle Post 88, Mattoon, Illinois.  
The Colors were in place, the Commander called to hand salute the colors.  
Detachment Chaplain Borgman gave the prayer.  
19<sup>th</sup> District Commander Friedman led the Pledge.  
The Commander conducted the POW/MIA Ceremony.  
Detachment Senior Vice-Commander Jarosz, Jr. led the Preamble.

**READING OF THE CALL TO CONVENTION**

Detachment Adjutant Van Horn read the Call to Convention.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Detachment Adjutant Van Horn called roll. The following were present: Commander Cavanaugh; Sr Vice-Commander Jarosz; NEC Williamson (arrived late); Adjutant Van Horn; Asst. Adjutant Ray; Finance Officer Tharp; Judge Advocate Stillwell; Chaplain Borgman; Historian Shipley; Medical Officer Friedman; Service Officer Smith III; Sgt-At-Arms Phelps; Commander's Sgt-At-Arms Haines; Sr Vice Sgt-At-Arms Hermes; Division Sgt-At-Arms Belovicz (1<sup>st</sup>), Phelps (4<sup>th</sup>), Haines (4<sup>th</sup>); Commander's Aides Cisna & Hunter; Sr Vice Aide Christie; PUFL Admin Stillwell; Division Commanders Pillman (1<sup>st</sup>), Haberkamp (2<sup>nd</sup>), Strum (4<sup>th</sup>); District's 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>; PNC's Stillwell & Cisna; PDC's Hunter, Stillwell, Slevin Sr., Cisna, Ciaccio, Tharp, Christie, Williamson, Ray; Advisor's Cox (2<sup>nd</sup> Division), Phelps (4<sup>th</sup> Division), Flanagan (5<sup>th</sup> Division); Department Sr Vice-Commander Robards; SAL Secretary Hutson.

The Adjutant declared a Quorum.

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**RULES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Friedman reported the Committee will adopt the same rules from the 50<sup>th</sup> Convention. Friedman motioned to accept, with the second, passed.

**SPECIAL GUEST**

Blake Leitch spoke to the Detachment. He is an Army veteran and Veteran Service Officer for Coles County of the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs. He discussed different opportunities IDVA has, along with some things in Coles County that he has been involved in.

**DIVISION COMMANDER'S REPORT**

1<sup>ST</sup> DIVISION – Commander Pillman reviewed the year and also thanked the Detachment Family for all their support with his son.

4<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION – Commander Strum talked about membership and the drive to improve, moving up from last place to second.

2<sup>ND</sup> DIVISION – Command Haberkamp discussed his year and travels.

5<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION – No report.

3<sup>RD</sup> DIVISION – No report.

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Stillwell reported on the Official Delegate Strength for the 51<sup>st</sup> Detachment Convention, based on the May 30, 2014 membership report:

1<sup>st</sup> District: Membership Delegates – 0; At-Large Delegates – 0; Total Delegates – 0  
2<sup>nd</sup> District: Membership Delegates – 5; At-Large Delegates – 1; Total Delegates – 6  
3<sup>rd</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 4; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 5  
4<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 12; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 13  
5<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 7; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates – 10  
7<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 11; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 12  
8<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 42; At-Large Delegates - 6; Total Delegates – 48  
9<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 16; At-Large Delegates - 5; Total Delegates – 21  
10<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 24; At-Large Delegates - 7; Total Delegates – 31  
11<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 41; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates – 44  
12<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 40; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates – 42  
13<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 9; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 10  
14<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 8; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 9  
15<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 8; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 9  
16<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 32; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates – 34

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17<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 36; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates – 38  
18<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 33; At-Large Delegates - 3; Total Delegates – 36  
19<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 65; At-Large Delegates - 13; Total Delegates – 78  
20<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 18; At-Large Delegates - 4; Total Delegates – 22  
21<sup>st</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 8; At-Large Delegates - 2; Total Delegates – 10  
22<sup>nd</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 29; At-Large Delegates - 5; Total Delegates – 34  
23<sup>rd</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 50; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 51  
24<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 38; At-Large Delegates - 1; Total Delegates – 39  
25<sup>th</sup> District: Membership Delegates - 41; At-Large Delegates - 4; Total Delegates – 45  
DETACHMENT TOTAL:  
Membership Delegates - 578; At-Large Delegates - 70; Total Delegates - 648

Stillwell motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

**DONATIONS**

Commander announced donations at end of reports

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Hunter reported nothing came across the Committee for review.  
Hunter motioned to accept, with the second, passed.

**MEMBERSHIP & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Senior Vice-Commander Jarosz deferred his report until Session 2.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Christie reported that guest speaker, Blake Leitch, joined their meeting and discussed various IDVA projects. Committee discussed Reps and Deps at our Medical Centers and Veteran’s Homes and how to fill the voids. MIAP (Missing In American Project) has Michigan working on legislation to help with the project. Illinois has one Fisher House (located at Hines VA) and there is one at the St. Louis VA. Lovell Federated Medical Center in North Chicago in on the projected list of receiving one. Discussed Veteran’s History Project and the need for more interviewers. Department Convention will have this available. Discussed Gifts To The Yanks raffle and tickets still available. Motion to accept the report, deferring the Gifts To The Yanks Raffle until Sunday by Christie, with the second, passed.

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**AMERICANISM COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Geary reported Boys State was discussed along with Oratorical and Essay Contests. More boys are needed to participate in the program and there are scholarships available. Less than 500 boys attended this past summer. It was discussed that both the Legion & SAL needs to do a better job of recruiting and getting the word out. There have been no changes on the Flag Amendment. Geary motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Ray reported 18 Scholarship applications were reviewed and defers that report until Sunday. CWF Promoter Gort reported \$18,326 in donations this past year, with no funds taken from Detachment Overage Account as in the past. The Detachment will receive the Per Capita Award at National Convention for the Central Region. CMN Promoter Shipley reported 39 Josh Dogs handed out during Lincoln Pilgrimage at St. Johns in Springfield and another 8 at St. Mary's in Kankakee. Motion by Ray to accept the report, with the second, passed.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Officer Tharp briefly discussed the budget passed at the Pre-Convention DEC the night before. Also stated he has Department of Illinois Sweepstakes tickets available for purchase, which will be drawn at Department Convention. Tharp motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Pillman reported on HR4810 (Veteran's Access to Care Act 2014). The bill was introduced June 9, 2014 and was passed on June 10, 2014 on the House Floor. It currently resides on the Senate Floor. The bill would authorize and allow veterans to get medical care outside of the VA; authorize 26 new major medical facilities in 18 states; provides expedited hiring authority to employ more doctors and nurses; improves access and care for victims of Military Sexual Trauma; and will provide in-state tuition for veterans at public colleges and universities. VA 2015 budget proposal calls for increases in out of pocket health care costs and a decrease in basic

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allowances for housing allotments. Veteran's groups see these proposed changes as broken promises by the VA. Pillman motioned to accept the report, with the second, passed.

**NATIONAL SECURITY & POPPIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Phelps discussed talks about teaming up with Iran to fight the Taliban in Iraq. Stated our government has allowed Islamists into our institutions and government to "swing us" towards their beliefs. Stated that in the past 20 years, over 100,000 kids born in the US from parents of illegal aliens. Mentioned that States don't have the authority or manpower to enforce illegal aliens and that the federal government needs to step up and protect our borders.

Discussed how Poppies are still in a decline. Encouraged Squadrons to participate in Poppy Days.

Phelps motioned to accept his report, with the second, passed.

**DONATIONS**

The following donates were received:

Squadron 208 -- \$200 each to CWF, Special Olympics, Legacy Scholarship & Fisher House

First Division -- \$250 to CMN and \$200 to NEF

Squadron 55 -- \$155 each to C&Y and CWF

Squadron 991 -- \$200 each to Legacy Scholarship and NEF

Squadron 974 -- \$100 each to NEF and CWF.

Squadron 690 -- \$250 each to CWF, Legacy Scholarship, Honor Flight, Special Olympics and VA&R

Squadron 615 -- \$615 each to Legacy Scholarship, NEF and GTTY

Squadron 49 -- \$150 to CWF (presented on Sunday)

12<sup>th</sup> District -- \$100 to Boys State (presented Sunday)

Cash donation of \$10 to CWF

Cash donation of \$5 to CMN

Cash donation of \$65 to CWF

Judy Zimmerman donated \$100 to CWF

Marsha Haag donated \$100 to CWF

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**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Gort stated there were only 6 Resolutions, 4 were Hospitality Resolutions and 2 were Candidate Resolutions.

DC01-2014 Hospitality for Post – Adopt  
DC02-2014 Hospitality for Squadron – Adopt  
DC03-2014 Hospitality for Unit – Adopt  
DC04-2014 Hospitality for Chapter – Adopt  
DC05-2014 Commander Candidate – Adopt and place on file  
DC06-2014 Senior Vice Commander Candidate – Adopt and place on file

Motion by Gort to accept the Committee’s recommendations, with the second, passed.

**REPORT FROM THE NEC**

Detachment Adjutant Van Horn read NEC Williamson’s report:

TAL PR Committee is now going to be Media Communications and Children & Youth Commission is moving to the Americanism Commission and will become a committee. TAL is looking to restructure the SAL for 2015.

**PR**

**My SAL:** Just like My TAL, the Sons now have the ability at the squadron level to View & Edit Squadron Membership Information, make squadron inquiries, download and print rosters/ reports and work with membership data. Squadron Adjutants need to fill out a short form, have the post adjutant sign it and then it needs to be mailed to the National Headquarters and after they verify the information, you will be emailed with further info to set up your squadron account. As of the end of March 446 squadrons have enrolled.

**“Snapshots of Service”:** the response has been good but; pictures have been slow to get to national. If you are taking pics of events of one the 4 pillars get those to the NEC and he will submit.

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**C & Y**

**CWF:** The \$6 million mark was reached, and the \$6 million man was the Detachment of Florida.

**CAT's:** The Children Action Teams year will coincide with the CWF year, currently the program has 800 members.

**Youth handbook:** the C & Y Commission voted to accept the book with a few revisions and it to go to print in June.

**Americanism**

**LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP:** National Cmdr. Gladden's project has raised over \$57,000 as of the Spring NEC.

**Saluting America Foundation:** project that Colorado is taking on that provides education that generates a greater sense of Patriotism and teaches sacrifices made by those in our military service. Google Saluting America Foundation for more information.

**Legislative**

**National Chairman Lee** continued to ask that members contact their politicians on issues important to the Legion Family by any means necessary.

**Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness**

Are you prepared? Are you ready? That's that guy talks about. The citizens Corp program was discussed and how it will help neighborhoods be safer and to be prepared for emergencies. Ready.gov also has a program neighbors helping neighbors. Fema.gov is another source of info they have training videos, certification program and info on America's prepare-a-thon.

**V.A. & R.**

**M.I.A.P.:** (Missing In America Project), more Detachments are getting involved; our own PDC Hunter who is on the commission has contacted some of our elected officials regarding MIAP. [www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us) is the web site and you can go to you tube to see videos to promote there project.

**Fisher House:** continue to support the houses with monies and volunteer time.

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**Reps/Depts:** nationally will still have only about 1/3 of the VA Hospitals covered across the country.

This is the cliff notes version of the NEC. If you want a copy of the minutes I can email them to you.

**Membership**

**Nationally:** As of June 24<sup>th</sup> we are at 345,624 members and are at 97.039 %

**Detachment:** The Detachment as of June 24<sup>th</sup> is at 14,075 and are at 94.059% which puts us 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation, and unfortunately we are last in the central division.

Van Horn motioned to accept the submitted report by NEC Williamson, with the second, passed.

PDC Hunter asked the Commander for a moment of personal privilege. Commander granted it to Hunter. Hunter introduced Cheryl Hutson, SAL Secretary.

**RANDY EICHER**  
**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER-CENTRAL**

PNC/PNVC Cisna introduced our National Vice Commander, Randy Eicher (OH). Randy brought greetings from National Commander Gladden and spoke about National issues. He discussed membership within the Sons and retention. Talked about Commander Gladden's Legacy Scholarship quest.

**RON WYATT (MI), LEADING CANDIDATE**  
**FOR NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER**

PNC Stillwell introduced the Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander-Central, Ron Wyatt (MI). Ron discussed his SAL history and goals, if elected, for the upcoming year.



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**SESSION 1 WRAP-UP**

Commander announced that the Detachment Adjutant wants to remind those who you wish to be a delegate at the National Convention in Charlotte August 22 – 24, you need to fill out the nomination form at the back table.

The picnic will start at 4:30 PM and last until midnight right here. Cisna stated the food will be available around 5:00 PM. There will also be face painting, balloon artist and a band from 8:00 PM until Midnight.

If you're interested in bowling, please see a member of Squadron 88 and they can make arrangements for you. This is not a Detachment Bowling Tournament, however.

The Detachment Chaplain would like to remind everyone the Detachment Memorial Service will be between 8:30 – 9:30 AM at Veteran's Monument, located in Peterson Park, 500 Broadway Avenue, Mattoon.

The Commander called the delegation to render a hand salute and put the convention in recess until 10:00 AM, Sunday.

Session ended at 1509

Minutes prepared by:

Jeffrey J Van Horn  
Detachment Adjutant