

**Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Michigan  
DEC 3-Boyer Highlands September 21 2013**

Salute to the Flag

Invocation given by Sandy Lipman

Roll Call

**Elected Officers:**

**Commander** Mike Boughner, pres

**1<sup>st</sup> Zone Commander** Victor Fisher, pres

**2<sup>nd</sup> Zone Commander** Jeff Meulendyk, pres

**3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Commander** Harley (Butch) Maxwell, exc

**4<sup>th</sup> Zone Commander** Fred Ruttkofsky, exc

**5<sup>th</sup> Zone Commander** Dwaine Verville, pres

**Finance** Chris Dohnal, pres

**Chaplain** Danny Poole, pres

**Historian** Rodney Tolbert, pres

**Assistant Historian** Danny Gleason, pres

**SGT at Arms** Jeff Dold, pres

**ASST SGT at Arms** Carvin Chapman, pres

**Asst SGT at Arms** Robert Harrington, pres

**NEC ELECT** Greg Price, pres

**ALT NEC ELECT** David Mennel, pres

**PDC 1** Rodney Tolbert, pres

**PDC 2** Dwaine Verville, pres

**PDC 3** David Mennel, pres

**Appointed Officers:**

**Adjutant** Zack Pendell, pres

**ASST Adjutant** Joe Radiger, pres

**Judge Advocate** Louis Scott, exc

**Americanism** Skip Townes, exc

**Budget** Chris Dohnal, pres

**VA & R** Earl Ruttkofsky, pres

**Membership** Dwaine Verville, pres

**Service Officer** Larry Money, pres

**Legislative** Ron Wyatt, exc

**Constitution and By Laws** Jeremy Bell, pres

**Public Relations** Jeff Meulendyk, pres

**Boys State / Youth Career Law Enforcement** Mike Holley, pres

**Child Welfare Foundation** John Kailunas, pres

**Make A Wish** Pete Miller, pres  
**MIAP** Greg Price, pres  
**Homeland Security / Rainbow Connection** Andre Svacha, pres  
**N.E.F. Chairman** Sandy Lipman, pres  
**Emergency Relief Fund** Danny Poole, pres  
**Education and Leadership** Roger Rockhold, exc  
**Legionaire Editor/Publications** Sandy Lipman, pres  
**Son of the Year** Victor Fisher, pres  
**Community Service** Randy Warner, unexc  
**American Legion Rider Chairman** Tom Howard, pres  
**Reconnect** Jack Helminski, pres  
**Awards and Trophies** Dominic Merlington, pres  
**Pin Sales** Russell Bayliss, pres  
**Upper Peninsula Membership** Jerry Lynch, pres  
**Upper Peninsula Chairman** Bill Germain, exc  
**Past National Commander** Earl Ruttkofsky, pres  
**Past Department Commander** Jerry Lynch, pres  
**SAL Dept. Liaison** Tom Cadumes, pres

**Past National American Legion Commanders:** Tom Cadumes

**Past National Commanders:** Earl Ruttkofsky

**Past Detachment Commanders:** Jack Helminski 1968-69, 1969-70, Louis Scott excused, Earl Ruttkofsky 1995-96, Skip Townes 1996-97 excused, Sanford Lipman 1997-98, John Kailunas 2000-01, Roger Rockhold 2002-03 excused, Roger Dees 2003-04 excused, Ron Wyatt 2004-05 excused, Randy Jackson 2006-07 excused, Andre Svacha 2007-08, Greg Price 2008-09, Pat Pustay 2009-10 excused, Dave Mennel 2010-11, Dwaine Verville 2011-12, Rodney Tolbert 2012-13.

Past Department Commander Jerry Lynch introduced the leading candidate for American Legion National Commander Mike Helm. Mike is from the Department of Nebraska and is a dual member, he is grateful for all the Sons do for the American Legion.

Jerry Kelly new Director from Boys State asked for more S.A.L. volunteers for Boys State. He also asked that all districts add 10 more boys to send.

Commander Boughner read a resignation letter from Judge Advocate Louis Scott which was accepted.

Commander Boughner appointed Andre Svacha as Judge Advocate for the remainder of the 2013-14 term.

A motion to approve the minutes, subject to corrections by Dwaine Verville was supported by Jack Helminski. Motion carried.

**Chris Dohnal** reported on budget committee budget proposed. Motion to accept budget by Chris Dohnal support by Dwaine Verville Motion passed. A motion made by Chris Dohnal and supported by Jeff Meulendyk to buy the Adjutant a printer not to exceed \$750.00, with Chris Dohnal to buy the printer. Motion passed.

**Jack Helminski Reconnect:** Reported that ACO Hardware for the past 3 years have donated \$20,000 per year to reconnect wounded warrior project. This year they invited Chairman Jerry Tanner and Department commander Ray Moore and handed them a check for \$50,284.00. From Memorial Day- 4th of July ACO has donation jars at cashiers. Jack asked Legion family to go to their local ACO and ask them to hand out pamphlets about reconnect/wounded warrior project. ACO gives 15% discount to veterans. Red Cross and the VA have directed veterans to reconnect program. The past 4 years reconnect have on average received 500 requests a year. Family Video has donated over 6000 DVD's to service men and woman overseas. The area that collected the most is the Jackson/Chelsea area around \$400.00.

**Sandy Lipman** reported on publications Newsletter had some kinks Sandy Lipman and Commander Boughner have them resolved them they will send a proof to us for any corrections to be done and sent back to them. The Deadline dates for the November/December issue need to be turned in by November 3rd and sent to Department no later than November 5th. March issue 90 days prior to our Detachment Convention. This is the issue that needs Convention materials put into this issue. The Deadline is January 26th sent to Department no later than February 1st. Please send in articles and pictures to let the Legion family who we are and what we do. Sandy also reported on NEF so far we have donated \$1,345.00 Sandy reported that he put out a challenge but has not heard from any of the squadrons as of yet. Please go to your squadrons, districts and posts for donations. So far donations are as follows \$1000.00 from Detachment \$100.00 from squadron 374, \$250.00 from 4th District, \$25.00 from Sandy Lipman and \$20.00 from cash donations. Please help ongoing emergency are going on in the country. Please get any articles to sandy Lipman as soon as possible.

**Dwaine Verville Membership:** Reported on a new Squadron in Trout Lake. We have 3 more 100% Squadrons; Squadron 192, Squadron 410 and Squadron 354 have stickers for their boards.

Greg Price mentioned that John Kerestan National Adjutant is looking for Pictures from us to show at National level what the S.A.L. does he also talked about POW/MIA recognition day September 20th there are still 83,000 unaccounted service members missing that served from WWII to the Gulf war. Greg also talked about the 75%-25% IRS audit of the Legion. Greg also talked about the Consolidated Reports and anybody interested in National appointments he has the forms to fill out. The National Commander and Vice Commander both have been invited to the Winter Conference and our State Convention.

**Greg Price MIAP:** Greg price got a letter from the National commander asking him to sit on a national committee on MIAP. Greg Price talked to Graft funeral home they have 4 cremations so far for Memorial Day. The Gentleman that wrote the law that gave us the opportunity to get veterans off the shelves is going to be the commander for the Dearborn Allied veterans council is in charge of it if you want to get involved.

Alisa Champion introduced auxiliary Jr officers that were with her 1st vice: Ciara Brown, 2nd vice: Sabrina Kovacs, Chaplain: Sabrina Townes, Sgt-At-Arms: Emma Damouth, Ast Sgt-At-Arms: Lea Daniels, Americanism: Alexis Champion and Music: Mackenzie Townes. Her special project for the year is Child help USA is more than 50 years old started in 1959. Alisa gave Commander Boughner a bracelet from Child help USA.

Commander Ray Moore addressed the body bringing greetings from the Department. He thanked them for all they do. He said that he is a dual member. He wants PR to the community to let them know who

we are so they may want to join. He spoke about training people that wish to move up to a higher level, so they know what is involved in the office they may want to advance to.

**Bud Hansberger Leadership college** addressed the body he spoke about the upcoming classes in Escanaba on October 5th, Wilwin, Travers City on October 19th , PawPaw on November 2nd , Joe Louis on Nov 12th , Grand Haven on November 17th and Port Huron on January 25th. All Legion families are invited.

Department President Sandra Snyder brought greetings from the Auxiliary her goal is the same as Department Commander Moore's PR. Her special project is Freedom center which formed about 3 years ago by Veterans from Delta airlines.

**Pete Miller Make A Wish Chairman:** Pete has a new Cell phone number that will be adjusted on the officers list. He reported that the donations for 2013 are \$20,698.97 he is not sure if this figure is totally accurate some donations are not on his list. He is trying to get a more accurate account of donations.

**Mark Sutton** addressed the body about the Legionarie he is looking for articles of, "Why am I a Son." What would make someone give up a weekend for the S.A.L? What feeds your soul?

**Tom Howard Legion Rider Chairman:** Tom reported on the Legion Rider web site some of the web site is not functional right now but they are working on it. He had a questionnaire on what people would like to see on the website. He talked about a tri-fold pamphlet that National was producing then they stopped printing them Tom went to Department and was told that they would budget it in they then were told from National that they would print them and give them for free. Tom presented a check for \$250.00 for Wilwin from a group from post 42.

**Andre Svacha** spoke about national security meeting report has been submitted.

**Earl Ruttkofsky VA&R Chairman:** Earl reported that we have all reps in place. He has heard from almost all of them they have reported what they have done with the money that they have received. The incoming National Commander stressed working VA projects. Try to go to the VA Hospitals work for the Veterans. Earl also gave a report on WilWinn in place of Ron Wyatt Earl talked about all the improvements that have been done. The National Commander's special project is Operation Comfort Warriors he ask Earl what they needed at Wilwin they are donating a massage chair valued at \$1500.00. Earl also talked about that they need a Landline for emergency also they need internet for the veterans motion by Dwaine Verville 2nd by : Jack Helminski to pay for the phone and internet for 1 year at \$100.00 per Month a total of \$1200.00 discussion was held motion passed. Earl also talked about getting donations for Direct TV for the bill of about \$170.00 per Month. Handicap access was also discussed.

**Danny Poole Sick call and Relief:** Skipper Townes had surgery. Margo Lebou Al's wife had stints put in. Lou Overly Dual member had gallbladder surgery. Bill Germain UP Chairman has a broken arm. Danny thanked the Detachment for their support for him for National Chaplain. Danny reported on N.E.F. nobody has requested for assistance. Danny gave a rep report on Detroit. He read a letter from MDREF (Metro Detroit research education foundation) on \$1042.00 donation.

Motion by Jeff Meulendyk 2nd by Dwaine Verville to accept all reports as presented, passed.

**Unfinished Business:** Jeff Meulendyk talked about the contract for 2015 convention Squadron 259 he presented the contract. Motion was made by Dwaine Verville supported by Rodney Tolbert to accept the contract. Passed

Commander put out the call for Mid-Winter Tour in the UP for Jeff Meulendyk and a call for Washington for Ron Wyatt if he can make it and also for the VA Chairman Earl Ruttkofsky.

**Correspondence:** Endorsement from Lapeer Squadron 16 for Ben Warren for Detachment Chaplain 2014-2015. 16th District tour September 28th 10th District tour October 5th

**Good of the Sons:** Andre Svacha presented Commander Boughner a penguin hat. Bev Ruttkofsky said she is ordering shirts for national convention again if you want one get with her the cost is \$40.00 two ways to get them wait for the next meeting or if you want them mailed it is \$5.00 extra. Chris Dohnal talked about the Detachment credit cards all things put on these credit cards need to be vouchered out.

Benediction by Danny Poole

Salute flag

DEC 3 Adjourned