

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
DEC-3 Muskegon September 27, 2014**

Salute to the Flag

Invocation given by Chaplain W. Ben Warren

Roll Call

Elected Officers:

Commander Harley (Butch) Maxwell, pres

1st Zone Commander Greg Price, pres

2nd Zone Commander Danny Gleason, pres

3rd Zone Commander Carvin Chapman, exc

4th Zone Commander Fred Ruttkofsky, pres

5th Zone Commander Jerry Lynch, pres

Finance Chris Dohnal, pres

Chaplain W Ben Warren, pres

Historian Sandy Lipman, pres

Assistant Historian Earl Miller, pres

SGT at Arms Jeff Dold, pres

Asst SGT at Arms Danny Poole, pres

Asst SGT at Arms Clayton Maxwell exc

NEC David Mennel, pres

ALT NEC Rodney Tolbert, pres

PDC 1 Mike Boughner, pres

PDC 2 Rodney Tolbert, pres

PDC 3 Dwaine Verville, pres

Appointed Officers:

Adjutant Zack Pendell, pres

ASST Adjutant Mike McDonnell, pres

Judge Advocate Skip Townes, pres

Americanism Dominic Merlington, pres

Budget Chris Dohnal, pres

VA & R Earl Ruttkofsky, exc

Membership Mike Boughner, pres

Service Officer Larry Money, pres

Legislative Dwaine Verville, pres

Constitution and By Laws Ron Wyatt, pres

Public Relations Fred Ruttkofsky, pres

Boys State / Youth Career Law Enforcement Mike Holley, pres

Child Welfare Foundation John Kailunas, pres
Make A Wish Jeff Meulendyk, pres
MIAP Greg Price, pres
Homeland Security Dan Tyack, pres
Homeless Vets Rodney Tolbert pres
N.E.F. Chairman Sandy Lipman, pres
Emergency Relief Fund W Ben Warren, pres
Education and Leadership Roger Rockhold, exc
Legionnaire Editor/Publications Sandy Lipman, pres
Son of the Year Victor Fisher, exc
American Legion Rider Chairman Tom Howard, pres
Reconnect Jack Helminski, exc
Awards and Trophies Keith Taylor, pres
Pin Sales Russell Bayliss, pres
Upper Peninsula Membership Bill Germain abs
Upper Peninsula Chairman Dwaine Verville, pres
Past National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky, exc
Past Department Commander Jerry Lynch, pres
SAL Dept. Liaison Tom Cadumes, pres

Past National American Legion Commanders: Tom Cadumes pres

Past National Commanders: Earl Ruttkofsky exc

Past Detachment Commanders: Jack Helminski 1968-69 1969-70 exc, Louis Scott exc , Earl Ruttkofsky 1995-96 exc, Skip Townes 1996-97 pres, Sanford Lipman 1998-99 pres, John Kailunas 1999-2000 pres, Dennis Larson 2000-01 pres, Roger Rockhold 2001-02 exc, Roger Dees 2002-03 exc, Dan Tyak 2003-04 pres, Ron Wyatt 2004-05 pres, Randy Jackson 2006-07 pres, Andre Svacha abs, 2007-08, Greg Price 2008-09 pres, Pat Pustay 2009-10 abs, Dave Mennel 2010-11 pres, Dwaine Verville 2011-2012 pres , Rodney Tolbert 2012-2013 pres and Mike Boughner 2013-2014 pres.

Meeting Convened

Guest's: National Vice Commander Ron Wyatt, American Legion Department Commander Jim Wallace, American Legion Department NEC John Skinner, Leading Candidate for American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett, American Legion Department Americanism Chairman Beverly List

NEC David Mennel installed newly elected Alt. NEC Rodney Tolbert.

State Commander Jim Wallace address the meeting. He spoke about the American Legion, Auxiliary and the SAL working together as a family. His special fund this year is the Patriot Fund which is part of Reconnect that helps all veterans not just wartime veterans.

Motion by Jerry Lynch to dispense with the reading of the minutes as everyone has a copy of them, support Sandy Lipman, **motion carried.**

Committee Reports:

Finance: Copies of 2014-2015 Budget handed out to all Detachment voting members. At the September 26, 2014 Budget meeting there was thirteen members present which represents the entire committee. The Budget was approved. There were a lot of changes to this Budget. Finance officer Chris Dohnal went over all the changes. **Motion** by Rodney Tolbert to approve the 2014-2015 budget, **second** by Chris Dohnal, **motion passed.** We increased the dues this year and our budget does not reflect that, so filling out the paperwork for VA&R should we use the old rate or the new rate? **Motion** by Sandy Lipman to use the new rate, **second** by Rodney Tolbert, **motion passed.**

American Legion Department NEC John Skinner addressed the meeting to introduce Leading Candidate for American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett who is also a member of the SAL.

American Legion Department Americanism Chairman Beverly List addressed the meeting. The Americanism Committee is going to be putting together a best practices guide on Americanism and community service programs throughout the Department of Michigan. A form will be in the next four Legionnaire's and there will also be a link to go to to fill out the form. On this form will be questions on what you did for community service, how you did it and how much money you raised. The first zone to return fifty percent of the forms will receive a gift from Beverly.

Sick Call & Relief: Chaplin W Ben Warren announced the passing of several SAL and Legion members.

Historian/Publications: Sandy Lipman passed around the rough draft of the SAL's article for the upcoming SAL newsletter. The new SAL youth handbook has been approved by National. Sandy talked about the N.E.F. which is one of the National Commander's special projects.

Make a Wish: Jeff Meulendyk reported \$7159.35 in donations this year to date. More donations are still coming in.

Service Officer: Larry Money stated that he attended the Service Officer School this year.

Homeless Vets: Rodney Tolbert asked for any donations either money or clothing to give to the thousands of homeless vets to help keep them warm this winter.

Membership: Mike Boughner stated that the SAL has their own remittance forms for this year. Membership reports were handed out to the zone commanders. The officers list will be updated next week. A 100 percent membership ribbon will only be given to a Post when the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL have 100 percent membership.

Children & Youth: John Kailunas stated that the Legion is having a problem with their dictionary program and is looking for help. The tabs for tots program has been falling by the wayside. John asked that all the Squadrons help the program out. Any Squadron that has donated one dollar per member to the Child Welfare Foundation is entitled to a banner. They will not just send it out you have to tell them at the end of the fiscal year how much you donated to receive the banner.

American Legion Riders: Tom Howard thanked the Detachment for their generous donation to the Legacy Scholarship Fund, just under nine million dollars has been raised this year in Michigan alone. Michigan is ranked number two behind California in scholarships given out. The normal scholarship given out per child is \$2200.00.

MIAP: Greg Price stated that the Detroit Veterans Parade is November 8, 2014, staging starts at 0900 at the VVA on Woodard and ends at Comerica Park. Greg thanked Commander Butch for installing the SAL 16th District officers. There were six veterans interned at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Of the two hundred deceased bodies that were in the Detroit morgue, thirteen were veterans which were interned at Great Lakes Cemetery in Holly, Mi. Greg stated that he was appointed to the National VA&R Committee for the next two years.

Commander Butch spoke about all the events he attended and all the places he has been since the last DEC meeting.

Motion by Chris Dohnal to accept all committee reports as presented, **second** Rodney Tolbert, **motion passed.**

National Vice Commander Ron Wyatt addressed the meeting. He stated that National Commander Mike Moss set a goal of 370,000 members by May 1, 2015. Michigan is at 37th place overall.

The call for Mid-Winter Conference is in Flint, MI February 13-15 at the Holiday Inn.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: Motion made by Rodney Tolbert to reimburse Tom Howard for the cost of a Detachment Plaque for the late Ray Gibson who started the Riders Grab & Run program: \$80.00 and the cost of six PTSD books cost: \$16.00, **supported, motion passed.**

Correspondence: none

Good of the Sons: Past Commander Mike Boughner on behalf of VA&R chairman Earl Ruttkofsky presented an award to Pete Miller for volunteer of the year. Sandy Lipman read endorsement letters for Carvin Chapman for Detachment Commander for 2016-2017. **Motion** by Mike Boughner to donate \$100 to help in purchasing back packs for Girls State. **Motion amended** by Sandy Lipman to donate \$250,

second Jerry Lynch, **motion passed**. The first **motion as amended** was **supported** by Rodney Tolbert **motion passed**.

Department Adjutant Pat Lafferty is retiring this year. The department would like to put on a going out party for him sometime in March. **Motion** by Mike Boughner to donate \$1000.00 to Department to help finance this party with gift, **second** Rodney Tolbert, **motion passed**. National Commander Mike Moss's home coming is in Golden, CO March 20-22, 2015.

Auxiliary Junior President Ciara Brown addressed the meeting. She presented Commander Butch with her pin and bracelet. She stated that her special project this year is Rainbow Connection, she also introduced her officers. Commander Butch donated \$20.00 to Ciara's special project. **Motion** made by Mike Boughner that Commander Butch wears that bracelet everywhere he goes throughout his entire term and if he is caught without it he has to donate \$5.00 to Ciara's special project, **second** by Earl Miller, **motion passed**.

No further business

Closing prayer given by Chaplin W Ben Warren

Meeting Adjourned