

**Minutes of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF MICHIGAN**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING #2

LOCATION: CAUSEWAY BAY HOTEL LANSING, MI

DATE: June 20, 2009

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. Chaplains' prayer given, Moment of Silence for Departed Comrades, Pledge of Allegiance, Resolution 288 read, Preamble recited and Blue Star resolution read.

OFFICERS:

Commander: Pat Pustay, pres.

Zone 1 Commander: William Sara II, pres.

Zone 2 Commander: Danny Gleason, abs. exc.

Zone 3 Commander: Michael Holley, abs. exc.

Zone 4 Commander: Roger Rockhold, abs. exc.

Zone 5 Commander: Dwaine Verville, pres.

Adjutant: Sandy Lipman, pres.

Asst. Adjutant: Jeremy Bell, pres.

Financial Officer: Chris Dohnal, pres.

Chaplain: Rodney Tolbert, pres.

Historian: Ray Gilbert, abs. exc.

Asst. Historian: John Reich, pres.

Judge Advocate: Skipper Townes, pres.

Sgt-at-Arms: James Cooley, pres.

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: Carmen Chatman, pres.

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: Clayton Maxwell, pres.

N.E.C. Representative: Ron Wyatt, pres.

Alt. N.E.C. Representative: Randy Jackson, pres.

P.D.C. #1: Greg Price, pres.

P.D.C. #2: Andre Svacha, pres.

P.D.C. #3: Randy Jackson, pres.

CHAIRMAN:

Americanism & Awards & Trophies: Russel Merlington, abs.exc

Boys State & Youth Career Law Enforcement: Michael Holley, abs. exc.

Child Welfare, Sal representative to Legion College & all other children committees: John Kailunas, pres.

V A & R: Earl Ruttkofsky, pres.

Make-A-Wish: Danny Poole, pres.

Publication: Joseph Radiger III, abs.exc.

Son of the Year: Victor Fisher, abs. exc.

Membership: Greg Price, pres.

Emergency Relief Fund: Rodney Tolbert, pres.

Legislative: Roger Dees, pres.

Constitution & By-Laws: Lou Scott, abs. exc.

Pin Sales: Terry Fraga, abs. exc.

Asst. Pin Sales: Ray Gilbert, abs. exc.

Public Relations: David Mennel, pres.

Asst. Public Relations: Doug Winkler, abs. exc.

Upper Peninsula: Dwaine Verville, pres.

U.P. Membership: Dennis Larson, abs.exc.

Budget: Chris Dohnal, pres.

Service Officer: James Troost, pres.

Rainbow Connection: Andre Svacha, pres.

Education & Leadership: Rusty Glass, abs. exc.

Special Projects: Mike Holley, abs. exc.

Community Service: Brad Koch, abs.exc.

Re-Connect: Jack Helminski, abs. exc.

Homeland Security: Ron Wyatt, pres.

Past National Commander: Earl Ruttkofsky, pres.

S.A.L. Department Liason: John Shirkey, pres.

Veterans Asst. Service Program: Jeff Meulendyk, pres.

PAST CAPTAINS AND COMMANDERS PRESENT :(excluding the last 3)

Earl Ruttkofsky (1995-1996), Skipper Townes (1996-1997), Sandy Lipman (1998-1999), John Kailunas (2000-2001), Roger Dees (2003-2004), Dan Tyack (2004-2005) and Ron Wyatt (2005-2006).

INRODUCTION OF GUESTS: P.D.C#1 Greg Price introduced this years Junior Auxiliary. Junior President Amanda Jones thanked the D.E.C for helping her reach \$2,000 to her special project. She just attended the graduation last weekend. The highest contributor was Chief Pontiac Jr. Auxiliary for \$455. Disappointed that D.E.C. never sent the \$1000, but did receive the \$200... Jr. President gave P.D.C Greg Price a gift. Gave Detachment a certificate for second highest contribution, the Leroy Puckett award. Amanda Jones than introduced this years new Honorary Junior President Tia Atkins and her new Jr. Auxiliary Officers. Her special project this year is the 30th National Veterans Wheelchair Games. **Motion** made by Sandy Lipman (14) to donate \$500 to Jr. Auxiliary project. Seconded by Troost (179). **Motion** carried. Miss Atkins than challenged Detachment CDR Pustay and other Officers to carry a medallion if caught not wearing it will be a \$5 fine.

Suzanne Knapp addressed the D.E.C and asked for \$10 from the CDR for calling her Susan. Brought greetings from the Legion Auxiliary and appreciates the Detachment for helping raise funds for her special project, which succeed \$9000 after this convention. Also, President informed PDC Price that the Auxiliary won the membership bet. Ray Moore greeted the D.E.C. talked about concerns of Governor Granholm budget cuts, which lead to layoffs of 3 full time DPT. Service Officers. Asks for Detachment to help their Legion Post Service Officers as much as they can to help offset their work load. Also asks to help reject S.B 250 which will cut the budget given to VSO's even further. Service Officer School will be held 1st weekend after Labor Day, please send as many members as possible so than can learn how to help The Department Service Officers as much as they can. Mr. Moore than read aloud the letter written to the Senate concerning S.B. 250.

Other Guests were Department Liaison John Shirkey, Beverly Ruttkofsky and legionnaire John Bower.

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN REPORTS:

Finance-Budget: Chris Dohnal read minutes from finance meeting held June 19th at 3:30p.m. **Motion** made by Dohnal (69) that his report be accepted less the recommendations, seconded by Svacha (351). **Motion** carried. **Motion** made by Troost (179) to donate \$1000 to P.D.C Prices special project MIAP, seconded by Lipman (14). **Motion** carried. **Motion** made by Jackson(14) to donate \$2000 to the VA&R committees Community Scholarship Fund to go to Service Officer School in Higgins Lake, seconded by Verville(17). Discussion ensued. **Motion** carried. **Motion** made by Dohnal (69) to send 3 representatives to the National Children and Youth Conference, they are Rainbow Connection, Make-A-Wish and Child Welfare Chairman, and the cost should not exceed \$300 for each representative, seconded by Dees (216). **Motion** carried.

Motion made by Svacha (351) to accept the minutes as printed, subject to correction, second by Jackson (14). **Motion** carried.

VA&R: Earl Ruttkofsky reported he attended Legion VA&R yesterday. A Patriot Fund has been setup to help veterans that don't fall under the present VA guidelines which the veteran has to have a family to qualify. **Motion** made by Ruttkofsky (34) to donate \$500 to the Patriot Fund,

seconded by Tolbert (49). **Motion** carried.

PUFL: Roger Dees reported the committee is still looking at the program and will hopefully have a report at fall conference. Andre Svacha said if the Detachment is going to take this on they will have to handle all the money. Department has no way of running it with their books. Legion will have to give its blessing to go forward with the program. **Motion** made by Verville (17) to create a standing PUFL committee, seconded by Price (396). **Motion** carried. Committee chairman will be Membership chairman, Earl Ruttkofsky, Dwaine Verville, and John Kailunas.

Veterans Assistance Service Program: Jeff Meulendyk reported this new program to better assist veterans that live in their home and not in a V.A. facility. Some assistance may be building a wheel chair ramp, making a bathroom handicap accessible, etc. Have contacted a person that assist with non profit organizations to raise money. They recommend setting up a trust fund and pulling off the interest annually to assist with the program. Also looking for corporations to donate money to this program. Recommendation was made to make this a sub-committee under VA&R. **Motion** made by Dees (216) to make this VASP a sub-committee under VA&R, seconded by Troost (179). **Motion** carried. Recommendation was also made to rename this program to VETRANS IN HOME SERVICE PROGRAM.

Legislative: Report by Roger Dees was turned into Detachment Adjutant.

Homeland Security: Ron Wyatt reported nothing new until National Convention. Reminded all that is attending have to book rooms thru Department. Forms must be turned in by July 13th.

Make-a-Wish: Danny Poole gave out awards to Grand Haven squadron 28 and Garden City squadron 396. Please contribute to make-a-wish so more wishes can be granted. Sandy and Kim Lipman donated \$25.00 to Danny and Earl for their biggest loser program.

Membership: Greg Price read aloud a letter from Department, stating there will be a \$10.00 blanket bond fee new this year. Your Bond must be paid and form filled out before your 2010 membership cards will be mailed out.

Rainbow Connection: \$1300.00 was donated at the Detachment Convention in Grand Haven. Andre Svacha and Danny Poole manned the pin sales table during convention. Would recommend approaching the Convention Committee before conventions to have a table setup during conventions, rather than trying to setup last minute.

P.D.C#2: Andre Svacha attended the Internal Affairs committee and introduced Greg Price. Also attended the finance committee meeting.

Commander's report: Installed all the new officers at the Rockford squadron. Went to Iron Mountain appreciated their hospitality. Iron Mountain also gave \$25.00 towards his special project. Attended Boys State and explained the SAL program. **Motion** made by Svacha (351) to accept all reports given, seconded by Jackson (14). **Motion** carried.

Sick Call and Relief

Carl Schneider is expected to make it thru the weekend; there is a card at the back table for all to sign. American Legion First Lady's sister passed away this past week. Commander asked P.D.C. Price to get flowers. **Motion** made by Dees (216) to donate the money for flowers, seconded by Svacha (351). **Motion** carried. Mike Krieg duel member also the Legion Past 2nd Zone CDR is in the hospital with heart problems.

Unfinished Business

Officers list was corrected with the following: correct spelling is Jeff Meulendyk. Randy Jackson email is rajaxn@wowway.com. Ron Wyatt squadron is 568. National Meeting calls are David Mennel on VA&R, Pat Pustay on Americanism, Earl Ruttkofsky on VA&R, Randy Jackson on Internal Affairs, Greg Price on Membership, Skip Townes on Constitution and By-Laws, Ron Wyatt on Children & Youth also Child Welfare Foundation and Roger Dees on Legislative. Still have openings for Finance and Credentials. Andre Svacha will try to attend Finance. Certificates will be given out to all squadrons that turned into Consolidated Post Reports. On the CPR reports on the bottom line other donations: items not listed were 1,364 visits \$1943.00 donated to Americanism. Child Welfare Foundation \$11,505.00 with 1,060 hours. Special Olympics 2,330 hours. Children's Miracle Network 300 hours. Make-a-Wish \$56,963.00 with 957 hours.

Eagle award will be given to Mike Holley to put on at the Department Headquarters. Past Commanders pictures are on the wall in the basement of Department Headquarters. Roger Dees and John Kailunas have not signed their picture along with Jack Helminski and Roger Rockhold. Pictures not up are Skip Townes, Ron and Russ Merlington. Commander Pustay has the 1st R.A.T. rats will hopefully be given out by fall conference to present to National Commander.

Ron Wyatt asked what happened to the flag that was purchased for Robert Hove that was supposed to be raffled off. Records will be checked.

New Business

Commander's call is for the Children & Youth conference in Indianapolis. They are Child Welfare, Rainbow Connection and Make-a-Wish. Conference is Sept 18th thru 20th. All officers and chairmen are called to the Fall Conference. An extra day will be given to the PUFL committee. Chris Dohnal requested to have a budget meeting Friday during Fall Conference. National Conference all calls will be mailed out which are your national appointments and officers. Greg Price asked to go down an extra earlier to put packets together before membership arrives to check in. Officers are called not confined to how long they stay but their budget is set at \$1200.00. Andre Svacha reported he went down a day earlier and when he checked with Department he had to repay the amount over \$1200.00.

Ron Wyatt reported at Spring N.E.C. names were turned in for National appointments but will be named at Convention.

Special Guests Junior Miss Poppy Elizabeth Jenkins gave a brief history of Departments Poppy program. Senior Miss Poppy Alexis Champion also gave a history of Poppy program. Both thanked the S.A.L for their continued support.

Motion made by Wyatt(568) to accept Danny Poole and John Kailunas for National appointments, seconded by Svacha(351). **Motion** carried.

Correspondence

Josh Hoffman House will be holding a cook out for volunteers on Saturday July 18th from 2p.m. till 12a.m. down in Hillsdale. Reservations must be made by July 10th. Josh Hoffman had a family outing at the Michigan Adventures near the Muskegon area where he was not given entry, even though his finance' was inside. The Grand Rapids press didn't give Michigan's Adventure a good name by denying a service member in uniform entry into there park.

Proposed change was made by Boys State program. Also, with the 5 zone members also a change will be made to add a S.A.L. member to the committee.

Detachment of Kentucky Tom Riffle asked all S.A.L. to attend National Convention in

Louisville, KY. Reported on activities that will be put on during convention. Has planned a golf outing and is asking all detachments to sponsor a hole with a donation of \$130.00 to help with Child Welfare Foundation, trying to raise \$20,000. Reservations are also being accepted for dinner and dance to be held Friday August 6th; proceeds will be donated to the Children & Youth program. Souvenir pin order form is now available, will be available when you arrive at Convention or will be mailed out after Convention closes. Proceeds will go to the John Keys Scholarship Foundation to assist veterans and S.A.L. members go to receive their secondary education. You can contact him at tomriffel@att.net or (270)726-9399. Sandy Lipman has all forms with him.

Chaplain has a memorial service tomorrow so is called to this convention 1 more day.

Good of the Sons

Motion made by Jackson (14) to sponsor a hole by Detachment at National Convention for \$130. Seconded by Tolbert (49). **Motion** carried. David Mennel read a letter dated June 11th, 2009 endorsing Danny Poole for the office of Detachment Chaplain for the year 2010-2011. Greg Price was contacted by a representative from Ronald McDonald House in Detroit for the American Legion to donate a room to help with paint and other essentials. Also asking for memoriborlia to put up in this room. Greg Price has ordered 3 Past Commanders Pins will give the adjutant the extra pins. The Detachment Officers and Chairman that are present at the convention will be presented at the American Legion assembly at 9:30 a.m. on June 20th. Afterwards will be presented to the Department Auxiliary. All asked to wear a suit and a tie. Commander Pustay appreciates all for helping out sell pins in the absents of the pin sales chairman.

Closing ceremonies:

Chaplain led us in prayer, Commander's message. The Colors of our Nation being in place right hand salute was rendered.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.



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