

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

**DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING #3**

**LOCATION: R.S. EASTIN HOTEL ROSEVILLE, MI**

**Date: September 19th, 2008**

All cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate.

Meeting called to order at 8:58 a.m... Chaplains' prayer given, moment of silence for Departed Comrades, Pledge of Allegiance, Resolution 288 read, Preamble recited and Blue Star Resolution read.

**Roll call of Officers:\*= Not Called**

**Commander:** Pat Pustay, pres.  
**Zone 1 Commander:** Will Sari, pres.  
**Zone 2 Commander:** Danny Gleason, pres.  
**Zone 3 Commander:** Michael Holley, pres.  
**Zone 4 Commander:** Roger Rockhold, abs. exc.  
**Zone 5 Commander:** Dwaine Verville, abs. exc.  
**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:** Clayton Maxwell, abs. exc.  
**Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:** Hughie Chatman, pres.  
**N.E.C.Represenative:** Ron Wyatt, pres.  
**Alt. N.E.C.Represenative:** Randy Jackson, pres.  
**P.D.C. # 1:** Greg Price, pres.  
**P.D.C. # 2:** Andre Svacha, pres.  
**P.D.C. # 3:** Randy Jackson, pres.

**Chairmen:**

**Americanism, Awards & Trophies:** Russel Merlington, abs. exc.  
**Boys State & Youth Career Law Enforcement:** Michael Holley, pres.

**Child Welfare, S.A.L representative to Legion College & all other children committees:**

John Kailunas, pres  
VA & R: Earl Ruttkofsky, pres.  
Make-A-Wish: Danny Poole, pres.  
Publication #1: Joe Radiger III, pres.  
Publication #2: Doug Winford, 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, pres.  
Pin Sales: Terry Farga, pres.  
Public Relations: David Mennel, pres.  
Upper Peninsula: Dwaine Verville, abs. exc.  
U.P. Membership: Dennis Larson, abs.exc.  
Budget: Chris Dohnal, pres.  
Service Officer: James Troost, abs. exc.  
Rainbow Connection: Andre Svacha, pres.  
Education & Leadership: Rusty Glass, pres.  
Special Projects: Mike Holley, pres.  
Community Service: Brad Koch, pres.  
Re-Connect: Jack Helminski, pres.  
Homeland Security: Ron Wyatt, pres.  
Past National Commander: Earl Ruttkofsky, pres.  
Veterans Assistance Service Program: Jeff Muelendyk, pres.

S.A.L. Liaison: John Shirkey, pres.

**PAST CAPTAINS AND COMMANDERS :( NOT INCLUDING LAST 3)**

**JACK HELMINSKI (1968-1970), LOU SCOTT Jr. (1971-1972 & 1983-1984), EARL RUTTKOFSKY (1995-1996), SKIPPER TOWNES(1996-1997), SANDY LIPMAN (1998-1999), JOHN KAILUNAS (2000-2001), ROGER DEES(2003-2004), RON WYATT(2006-2007).**

**Motion** made by Dees(216) to accept the minutes as printed subject to correction, seconded by Tolbert(49). Corrections: please number and properly correlate minutes. **Motion** carried.

**Introduction of guests:** American Legion Past National Commander Tom Cadimus introduced American Legion National Leading Candidate from Anchorage, Alaska Jimmy Foster. Mr. Foster brought greetings and informed the D.E.C. he is a dual member, joined the S.A.L at Squadron 389 Riverview while on recruiting assignment with the Army. Spoke on the donations made by the S.A.L to Child Welfare Foundation. Also, wanted to reaffirm the importance of the Legion family and being a dual member if eligible. Please turn in Squadron Consolidated Report. Department Commander Carnie Jackson brought greetings from American Legion and wanted to thank the D.E.C.for all the hard work and dedication. Reported he is also a dual member and wanted to remind that together the Legion family can accomplish anything. Beverly Ruttkofsky and Susan Svacha past first ladies for the Detachment.

Commander Pustay reported due to the illness of James Troost's mom, he has to step down as Detachment Service Officer. Entertain the motion for Tony Licari to replace James Troost as Service Officer. **Motion**

made by Svacha(351) to have Tony Licari replace James Troost as Detachment Service Officer, seconded by Jackson(14). **Motion** carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance Report:** Budget report handed out to all D.E.C. members. Chris Dohnal read the budget report aloud. The +/- means the difference in the budget from the previous year. Page 4 5024 and 5020 stationary, postage and handling to members always running short so increase was made to hopefully reflect amount. 5025 membership awards for the chairman were also increased to \$1000.00. 5003 sponsorship to Boys State, Girls State and Student Trooper program was increased from \$1000.00 to \$1800.00, \$600.00 for each program. VAVS donating to all 7 facilities going from \$1100.00 per facility to \$1500.00 for a total donation of \$10,500 with an increase of \$2800.00. 5033 Children's Miracle Network will be changed to the Service Officers Schools Scholarship Endowment Fund with an increase of \$4700.50. Page 5 mileage increase and possible hotel room increase. Changed to \$300.00 for 4 D.E.C. meetings Legion and S.A.L Conventions. Page 6 total of all Detachment officers expenses increase to \$1200.00. Committee expenses 5011 Detachment travel business expenses have increased \$124.50. Washington National Conference, we are now sending 3 people Commander, Legislative and VA&R with an increase of \$1250.00 for a total of \$3750.00. Publications and Public Relations have increased by \$1000.00. 5035 Noe15 for National Children & Youth Conference for the Rainbow Connection, Make-A-Wish and Child Welfare chairman line item is at maximum. Page 7 Note 1 Contract with the Hotel for Conventions that is what the Detachment Officers will be reimbursed at. Surcharges will be their responsibility to pay. Page 9 Brief summaries will be changed to Note B. Commanders approval of 2 nights and preidium will be paid. **Motion** made by Price(396) to accept Finance Report, seconded by Svacha(351). **Motion** carried.

**Boys State:** John Nelson reported he is a dual member of squadron 216. Wanted to thank the Detachment for all their help and donations made. Hoping that still more posts and squadrons are more active. Discussed the Boys State importance to young men. Price is still \$310.00 and held at Northwood University. Hoping to grow membership so they can move back to Michigan State University. Only 7 boys were sponsored by Squadrons. Hoping more S.A.L members would also volunteer more time with the program. **Motion** made by Dees(216) that the Detachment sponsor 2 boys to Boys State, 2 girls to Girls State and 2 students to Student Trooper program, seconded by Tolbert(49). **Motion** carried. Boys State made the change and the Legion D.E.C will vote on it today a S.A.L member will have a seat on the Boys State committee. The committee is also looking at using school buses that hold 72 kids rather than the luxury buses that cost \$1000.00 to save money.

American Legion Department President Judy Lynch introduced National President from New Mexico Unit 72 Rita. National President greeted the D.E.C... President spoke on her theme reconnect and energize, with reconnect she spoke of her sons and grandsons all belong to the S.A.L and daughter belongs to the juniors. Oldest son was able to get Intel to donate to the New Mexico Boys State program also his company gave him community service time will at national convention and helping with Boys State. She spoke on membership for the entire Legion Family, also the importance of serving and being involved with your community. Please donate any household items to Artensia Wynn the 1st District President to help Veterans transition from the hospital to civilian life. There was an incident at the VA that a female Veteran was denied a claim because she had her child with her because she couldn't afford daycare, so National President is working to a daycare center in all the VA facilities with volunteers helping, so this doesn't ever happen again. Detachment Commander gave President a pin and a R.A.T to make her a part of his R.A.T patrol also to Department President Judy Lynch. Department President spoke on her special project homeless veterans. She spoke on an incident in Washington D.C. with veterans waiting for a truck to come by so they can eat.

**Reconnect:** Jack Helminski spoke about Detroit Tigers having veterans from MI at the ball games and letting them come on the field so they can be introduced by name, rank, branch of service and unit. If you want a veteran to be recognized let the Tigers know three weeks ahead of time. Also if u help any veteran please note it on your C.P.R reports.

**Membership:** Greg Price spoke on the new bond that all squadrons have to pay for, \$10.00. Still have 4 squadrons that never sent in dues from last year. There is a conflict with Department membership and National, Greg and Sandy Lipman will be looking into this. Joe Laefner spoke on a squadron turning in their charter in the 18th District.

**VA&R:** Earl Ruttkofsky spoke on needing volunteers in the Ann Arbor VA facility. The last 7 years S.A.L has donated \$15,000,000 to the VA&R program. Have 2 names that want to volunteer at the Jacobetti Home they are Bill Smith and John Swanson from Little Lake. Their names will be turned into Ron Pearson so they can be certified. Senate and house has passed a bill making September 16th officially American Legion Day. Bill Sloan is here from National who organizes the Legacy ride so if u want to talk to him to help get part of the ride thru MI.

**Alt. N.E.C:** Randy Jackson reported he attended National Convention. Went to the Internal Affairs meetings, 9 resolutions were presented. One was Pat Shay who was inline as National leading candidate passed away earlier this year was made a honary Past National Commander. Also attended all meetings, witnessed 2009-2010 Mark Artesan from Georgia being sworn in. Central Zone Commander Dennis Theibold from Minnesota. Louise Downs gave the invocation during the swearing in.

**N.E.C:** Operation Proud Sons, 350,000 members with \$500,000 to C.W.F. New membership reward is the triple nickel, wants every Detachment to retain 85% of current membership, 105% membership goal and charter 5 new squadrons. Slogan this year is molded in excellence embodied by tradition. National appointments Roger Dees- legislative thru 2011, Sandy Lipman-PR thru 2011, Dan Poole-Asst.Sgt-at-Arms this year. **Homeland Security** up and running at National level should have more info at fall N.E.C. Don't forget [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) that has pamphlets to handout at schools and squadrons. C.W.F is over \$4,000,000...Greg Price, Randy Jackson and John Kailunas were presented coins from C.W.F... Sandy Lipman was presented the Grass Roots Award.

**Publication:** Joe Ratiger apologized for the paper being out late, but his mom passed away August 2nd. Paper is done and turned in to Roxanne should be receiving it shortly. Deadline for hardcopy is the first week of October. Monthly web updates isn't being done due to lack of reports turned in.

**Service officer:** Tony Licari reported last weekend attended Service Officers School. District and Squadron service officer's are asked to help the Legion District and Post service officers. The Legion has lossed 3 Department service officer and 3 have retired and been hired as contract workers. Jeremy Bell noted their is a face book page under Michigan Legion VA&R asks for all to join in forums and discussions to help service officers with how to fill out VA forms and other questions on how to help veterans.

**VETERANS ASSISTANCE SERVICE PROGRAM:** Jeff Muelendyk attended National Convention to present ALPHA (American Legion Personal Home Assistance) program to National. Still in the process of setting the program up. Their are 2 other grants ALPHA is trying to attach to before they fund to help veterans. Special adapted housing grant eligible to service connected veterans can get \$60,000 or 50% of building or adapting a home to a veteran's disability. Home improvement and structural alteration eligible for service connected veterans \$4100.00 and non-service connected veterans \$1200.00. Want the veterans to apply for these programs 1st before approaching the Detachment. Every S.A.L member asked to help volunteer, volunteering will go under VA&R. Of the 212 squadrons that were sent information 13

squadrons have responded and \$1,411.00 has been donated. ALPHA set a goal of \$19,427.00 of donations. American Legion has given their blessing as the Detachments own program. National VA&R chairman wants to adopt this program as a VA&R tool. This is the pilot program asking all to help make it successful. Squadron 364 donated \$100, Squadron 396 donated \$150, 4th District donated \$200 and Squadron 568 donated \$200 to the program.

**Child Welfare:** John Kailunas reported Detachment of MI donated over \$15,000 with a \$1.00 per member goal was not made. John asks for all squadrons that send their money in to National to let him know of their contributions so he can keep track of donations so squadrons can be recognized.

**Commanders Report:** Attended National Convention and Service Officers School last weekend. ALPHA program Commander has worked on 5 projects with 161 hrs donated. **Motion** made by Roger Dees(216) that the Detachment reimburse Jeff Muelendyk for his expenses while attending National Convention, seconded by Jack Helminski(364). **Motion** carried. **Motion** made by Sandy Lipman(Detachment Adjutant) to accept all reports given, seconded by Randy Jackson(P.D.C#3). **Motion** carried. Commander than passed out R.A.T.'s to most of the D.E.C...

**Sick Call and Relief:** Dave and Anita Mennel were involved in a motorcycle accident. Margo Liebau had back surgery. Madonna Rockhold is having kidney failure. Dwaine Verville is having lung problems. Mike Krieg is back in the hospital. Jim Troost mother is in failing health. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

**Unfinished Business:** Convention committee members from squadron 34 reported progress is being made for Detachment Convention. Hotel Reservations can be made online as well as Convention Reservation, flyers were being passed. Earl Ruttkofsky had a talk with Steve German chairman of Internal Affairs concerning him and his committee coming to Dundee to see how the Detachment puts on its Convention and how it runs.

**Commanders Call:** Rusty Glass(417) to Leadership College in Department HQ on April 17th from 9a.m. to 4 p.m... U.P Conference will be Dwaine Verville on October 10th and another Detachment Officer due to the Commander being called to Indianapolis. Saturday November 7th will be the 4th Annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade will form up at 10:30a.m. at V.V.A #9 at the corner of Woodward & Temple with a 12:00p.m. Step off there is a website for all wishing to attend [www.metrodetvetcoalition.t35.com](http://www.metrodetvetcoalition.t35.com). Forms and updates will be available all are asked to attend. 16th District American Legion banquet is February 12th tickets are \$17.00 the deadline for tickets is February 4th please contact Jack Helminski to order tickets. Will be at Allen Park 409 cocktails start at 5p.m... American Legion Riders 15th Anniversary dinner and dance will be held at Stitt Post in Dearborn Heights on Saturday October 3rd. April 17th will be the Commanders Testimonial dinner at Caledonia Post 305 dinner will be at 5:30p.m. Mid Winter Conference will be held at the Lexington Hotel in Lansing with the Legislative on Wednesday and the Banquet held on Friday.

**Correspondence:** Department Auxiliary Girls State chairman Brenda Dees sends thanks to the Detachment for sponsoring 2 girls. Letters read from Caitlyn McManner and Olivia Sampson girl's state graduates. Squadron 351 endorses Andre Svacha for Alt. N.E.C for the years 2010-2012. 4th District endorses Rodney Tolbert for 2nd Zone Commander for the year 2010-2011. Leadership College information was received. U.P Fall Conference is in Reno post 21 in Stanbo on October 10th. Letter from American Legion Adjutant Pat Lafferty that the National Commander and President will not be attending mid winter conference due to scheduling conflicts. One response was made from the letter that was sent out to our Senators and Governor it was Randy Richardville from district 17 a member of Monroe Squadron and gave his views on this bill.

Grass Roots Lobbyists Award was presented to Sandy Lipman.

**Good of the Sons:** Dwaine Verville has a name to replace Dennis Larson as U.P. membership chairman and the Commander will be pursuing that. Certificate of Achievement was presented to Jeff Muelendyk, Pat Pustay, Rodney Tolbert and Ron Wyatt. Make-a-Wish foundation got a donation of \$14,000 from Squadron 298 car show. Many pictures are available to view from various events the Detachment was involved in. \$4,500 was donated by John Kailunas Son for the Support Our Troops sign at Metro Airport in Romulus. Motion made by Jack Helminski(364) that a letter of Appreciation be made to John A. Kailunas II for his donation, seconded by Tolbert(49). Motion carried. Marquette Squadron is putting in a bid for the 2013 Detachment Convention. Greg Price stated a check was reimbursed to Marl Artisan for the room in Grand Haven wasn't sure if he was going to cash it. **Motion** made by Earl Ruttkofsky(P.N.C.) to reimburse Greg Price \$200 for the reimbursement check, seconded by Andre Svacha(P.D.C.3). **Motion** carried. Squadron 396 donated \$100.00 to Rainbow Connection. PUFL program was discussed by Commander Pustay. Examples and handouts are available. Andre Svacha reported past Detachment Commander David Crissman (1984-1985) passed away and a prayer should be made for him. **Motion** made by Roger Dees(216) to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rodney Tolbert(49). **Motion** carried.

**Closing Ceremonies:** Chaplain led us in prayer, Commander's message. The colors of our nation being in place right hand salute were rendered.

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:01p.m.**