

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

DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE MEETING #4

LOCATION: LEXINGTON HOTEL LANSING, MI

Date: FEBRUARY 20TH, 2010

All cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate.

Meeting called to order at 9:58 a.m. Chaplains' prayer given, moment of silence for Departed Comrades, Pledge of Allegiance, Resolution 288 read, Preamble recited and Blue Star Resolution read.

Dennis Thiebold S.A.L National Central Zone Vice Commander was escorted to the head Table.

Roll call of Officers:*= Not Called

Commander: Pat Pustay, pres.
Zone 1 Commander: Will Sari II, pres.
Zone 2 Commander: Danny Gleason, pres.
Zone 3 Commander: Michael Holley, pres.
Zone 4 Commander: Roger Rockhold, pres.
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, resigned.
Asst. Historian: John Reich, pres.
Judge Advocate: Skipper Townes, pres.
Sgt-at-Arms: James Cooley, pres.
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: Clayton Maxwell, 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: Russell 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 _____, abs. exc.
VA & R: **Earl Ruttkofsky** _____, pres.
Make-A-Wish: **Danny Poole** _____, pres.
Publication #1: **Jeff Muelendyk** _____, pres.
Publication #2: **Joe Hollemon** _____, pres.
Son of the Year: **Victor Fisher** _____, pres.
Membership: **Greg Price** _____, pres.
Emergency Relief Fund: **Rodney Tolbert** _____, pres.
Legislative: **Roger Dees** _____, pres.
Constitution & By-Laws: **Skipper Townes** _____, pres.
Pin Sales: **Terry Farga** _____, abs. exc.
Asst. Pin Sales: **Ray Gilbert** _____, abs. exc.
Public Relations: **David Mennel** _____, pres.
Asst. Public Relations: **Doug Winkler** _____, abs unexc.
Upper Peninsula: **Dwaine Verville** _____, abs. exc.
U.P. Membership: **Dennis Larson** _____, abs.unexc.
Budget: **Chris Dohnal** _____, pres.
Service Officer: **Tony Licari** _____, pres.
Rainbow Connection: **Andre Svacha** _____, pres.
Education & Leadership: **Rusty Glass** _____, pres.
Special Projects: **Michael Holley** _____, pres.
Community Service: **Brad Koch** _____, abs exc.
Re-Connect: **Jack Helminski** _____, pres.
Homeland Security: **Ron Wyatt** _____, pres.
A.L.P.H.A Committee: **Jeff Muelendyk** _____, pres.
S.A.L Department Liaison: **John Shirkey** _____, pres.
Past National Commander: **Earl Ruttkofsky** _____, pres.

PAST CAPTAINS AND COMMANDERS :(NOT INCLUDING LAST 3)

JACK HELMINSKI (1968-1970), EARL RUTTKOFKY (1995-1996), SKIPPER TOWNES(1996-1997), SANDY LIPMAN (1998-1999), ROGER ROCKHOLD (2002-2003), ROGER DEES(2003-2004),Ron Wyatt(2005-2006).

Introduction of guests: James Morris National Vice Commander American Legion brought greetings from National. Thanked the Detachment for the hard work and dedication for Child Welfare and all programs American Legion promotes. American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Chairman Claire Webb spoke on the new look of the Poppy Emblem. Asking the S.A.L members to be more involved with the Poppy program. Pass the hat was suggested by Helminski(364) for donations to the Poppy program (\$140.00). Department Commander Carnie Jackson brought greetings from The American Legion and thanked the Detachment for all the hard work and dedication to the American Legion and promotion of The Legion Family. Dick Gatama Squadron 269 brought some fundraisers his squadron is having. In 2008 Bath Legion Post burned down 269 raised \$5000 to help rebuild the post. 2009 free bike helmets thru raffle tickets sold for local students, \$1600 was raised for 200 helmets. Currently raising funds for Haslett food bank in Lansing. Bowling event is planned to rent an alley, \$2000 was raised. Commander Pustay was presented a new gavel.

Minutes from previous D.E.C #3: Motion made by Dees(216) to accept minutes of last D.E.C with

corrections. Second by?? **Corrections** Jackson (14) artesian name spelled wrong. Publications-Joe Radiger name spelled wrong. **Motion** carried. Last Detachment Convention in Grand Haven were passed out for purposes of corrections. **Motion** made by Helminski(364) to accept minutes from Detachment Convention in Grand Haven. Seconded by Dees(216). Correction made by Jackson and Price. **Motion** carried.

Membership: Detachment has made 75% goal. Greg Price has talked to National seems goal has gone up considerably. Please don't hold on to membership cards, return them to Department ASAP.

Leading Candidate for Department Commander Bill Haffeman addressed the D.E.C... Thanked the Detachment and squadrons for all the hard work they do, especially with Boys State. Looks forward to working with the Detachment if elected. Earl Ruttkofsky asked Bill if he can find help through Squadrons in the U.P. at the Detachment level.

Service Officer: Tony Licari has attended Department Service Officer School in Higgins Lake, 18th District Service Officer School and UAW Region 1 School. Tony has left packets in the back of the room in regards to various VA documents and service and non-service compensation & pension.

Reconnect: Jack Helminski is asking for all reports be turned into him a.s.a.p. so he can make his report to Department.

A.L.P.H.A. Program: So far with 5,720 members have donated \$7000 to the A.L.P.H.A program that's \$1.25 per member. Has just completed its first project with a veteran in Colbert thru Rodney Tolbert. Replaced a full furnace system. Second project is in Grand Rapids area has replaced the roof but still have interior damage to repair. Thru mustard seed foundation will be completing that stage soon. All request forms are on the Department website to download. If you have any questions please contact Jeff Muelendyk. Please don't forget May 15th is Veterans assistance day.

Publication report is now due March 15th due to just taking on the job. Thanks to Joe Holloman and Brad Koch for their assistance putting out the newsletter.

Community Service: Grand Valley State WGSU broadcasting with the Whitecaps are putting a program together at a Whitecaps game its called LZ Michigan on July 3rd to give Vietnam Veterans a proper welcome home. Estimated \$100,000 to \$150,000 to put this on. Blue Angels are expected to do a fly over. This will be an all day event with speakers and a lot of vendors go to LZ MI.org for more info. Minimum donation is \$1500. Looking for any volunteers to help make this a wonderful event and put the S.A.L. forward.

Son of the Year: Please turn in Son of the Year nominations as soon as you can, not a lot has been turned in so far. This year will also have 2 awards 1 for over 18 years old and 1 for 18 and under. Asking for all districts to please submit a name. If you need any help with filling out the forms please contact Victor Fisher at his email address victorsal396@sbcglobal.net or on Facebook. Next week a letter will be going out to every district commander to help support the program.

Make-a-Wish: Since Fall conference has received several donations. Dexter Squadron donated \$5000 to Make-a-Wish of Michigan. Plaques were presented to Berkley Squadron 374, Wyandotte 217, and Grand Rapids 349. Please make sure all donations to Make-a-Wish go thru Danny Poole with Detachment. Grandville Squadron donated \$15,000. Battle Creek Squadron made a donation of \$14,000.

N.E.C Representative: Past Commanders held a meeting yesterday due to National asking for names for National appointments. 6 names were submitted for National appointments and checking eligibility at the National level. New criteria states have to be in to National by March 1st. with a letter or email from N.E.C. Representative. You can email Ron Wyatt at wyatt0506@comcast.net. Final report for

membership reports 2009 were handed out to the head table also will be in the next newsletter.
Homeland Security: still haven't received anything from National.

VA&R: report was turned into Adjutant. Earl Ruttkofsky gave special thanks to Greg Price for his exceptional work with the MIAP program and getting it passed thru state legislature.

Detachment Convention report: Tecumseh squadron 34 will host the Detachment Convention in Dundee. Brochures are in the back of the room with all the activities planned. Trains are going to be running from the post, meeting hall and picnic area. A hospitality room is not really going to be convenient because of the hotel being family oriented and not going to have room to store beds. The waterpark at the hotel will be open at \$14.95 per person.

Motion made by Rockhold(404) to suspend meeting for a 10 minute break. Seconded by Dees(216).
Motion carried at 11:45a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1200p.m.

Department American Legion Auxiliary President Judy Lynch brought greetings from the Auxiliary. Thanked the hard work of Detachment Commander Pat Pustay. President asked for Detachment to help with her special project Homeless Veterans. She spoke on homeless veterans all over the State and is disappointed with the VA for not helping homeless veterans but rather refer them to a social worker or a local shelter. National Central Zone Vice President of The American Legion Auxiliary Norma Swanson, Leroy Hill Unit 19 Kansas was introduced. President brought greetings from National thanked the generosity of the S.A.L on all levels. Allen Liebau(409) recommended a pass the hat be offered to go towards Presidents special project. **Motion** made by Dees(216) to donate \$500 to Presidents Judy Lynch's special project. Seconded by Price(396). **Motion** carried. President Judy Lynch than introduced N.E.C Representative of the Central Zone Suzanne Knapp.

Detachment Convention for 2012 will be held at the Comfort Suites in Houghton Lake. Rooms will be \$89.00; Hospitality rooms will be \$119.00. Boat ride is being planned for \$20.00. Everything will be conducted right on site. Full breakfast will be served. Roger Rockhold reported his 13 year old granddaughter had her hair cut and donated it to Locs for Love. Rifle shoot will be conducted on site in a large conference room.

Skipper Townes asks on behalf of Russell Merlington. To have all chairman that need awards to contact Russell as soon as possible or they will not be ordered due to last year the extra awards that were ordered but not used.

Commander's report: Commander restarted Lake Linden Squadron 19 will on the U.P. Tour. Also reported a Veterans wish list from the U.P... Reported his many travels and benefits he has attended since Fall conference. Has also restarted Hastings Squadron 45. Has attended many District meetings and also Commanders school at National. Discussion ensued concerning a proper time and place to hold a class on filing out year end reports with emphasis on the C.P.R... As of this meeting Commander has traveled more than 3500 miles.

Finance Report: Report has been turned in to Adjutant. Chris Dohnal has a question concerning how to include the Commanders Committee at Fall Conference. Chris says the only way he sees it only D.E.C members will get the extra day all others will only get mileage. Verbiage will be changed to suit this case. Checks have not been received to Boys State or Student Trooper. Chris is looking into this because they have been issued.

Motion made by Lipman(14) to accept all reports both verbal and written. Seconded by Dees(216).

Motion carried.

Sick Call and Relief: Russell Merlington has an abscessed tooth. Ray Gilbert has had heart problems in and out of Oakwood Hospital are reason for him stepping down as Detachment Historian. Squadron Commander 404 Gene Kelly has had triple bypass hospital. Past Detachment Commander Smolinski healing after his bout with cancer and broke his back pulling weeds also is healing. Pete Miller 3rd District stint was put in and is fighting diabetes. 568 did a ceremony for 1 of their members that passed away earlier this year.

National S.A.L. Central Zone Vice Commander Dennis Thiebold brought greetings from National Commander and appreciates all the generosity shown to him by this Detachment. Vice Commander Spoke on National Commander's incentive on renewing and recruiting S.A.L members. Appreciates the hard work done by the A.L.P.H.A program and spoke on a project he worked on back in Iowa. Greg Price was than applauded for its efforts on getting 5245 and 5246 the M.I.A.P project passed through. February 10th Central Zone was in first place, Feb 15th slipped to 2nd by .03%, but as of Feb. 19th Central Zone is back in 1st place. National has Detachment of MI at 15,768 members, Detachment is showing 16,562. Commander will be looking into this. Stressed the importance of turning in Squadrons C.P.R reports. At the Iowa Detachment Mid Winter Conference they have kids bused to various locations during meetings so they will still be around before and after meetings, 54 kids were signed up.

Official Call of Officers: April 2nd at Caledonia program for homeless veterans if you want to attend. Danny Gleason called to 3rd District meeting. Squadron 179 having an early bird dinner on March 20th. Junior Auxiliary having a Convention on March 20th at Wayne 111 asked for Will Sari to attend. Post 164 Millington has turned in their Squadron Charter. Commander has asked what to do with it, suggested turning into archives at Department headquarters. 3 new Squadrons have been started this year. Cairo, Mackinaw Island and Lake Linden. Jeff Muelendyk has been excused from Legion Convention to help in Mackinaw Island. Skipper Townes has asked John Shirkey to talk with the Legion to speak on the issue of a new Squadron being started in Ecorse and the problems that had happened in the past. Greg Price and David Mennel are called to American Legion Education and Leadership class at Department Headquarters April 17th. Ron Wyatt and Earl Ruttkofsky are called to National Commanders Testimonial dinner. **Motion** made by Dees(216) to donate \$100 to the National Commander as a gift. Seconded by Rockhold(404). **Motion** carried. **Motion** made by Rockhold(404) to send 2 members to the National Commanders dinner and reimbursed mileage, lodging and meals. Seconded by Helminski(364). **Motion** carried.

Ray Gilbert's letter of resignation has been accepted and Commanders has appointed John Reich to assume Historian position. The Asst. Historian position is now vacant.

Correspondence: Chief Pontiac Squadron 377 endorses Chris Gilchrest for the office of Detachment Historian, also Carvin Chapman for the office of Detachment Sgt-at-Arms for 2010-2011. Utica Squadron 351 has endorsed Andre Svacha for the office of Alt. N.E.C. Representative for 2010-2011. Cedar Springs Squadron 287 has endorsed James Cooley for the office of Detachment Sgt-at-Arms for 2010-2011. Garden City Squadron 396 has endorsed Greg Price for the office of Alt. N.E.C. Representative for 2010-2011. Legislation website is available contact Sandy Lipman for the address. Pepsi Challenge has 10 days left to have \$250,000 project Comfort Warrior be awarded if they are voted.

Good of the Sons: **Motion** made by Roger Dees(216) a challenge be made to all Squadrons send a boy to Boys State or if they cant send a boy at least send money to Detachment to sponsor a boy, and at the end of the year a Squadrons name be pulled and their money reimbursed to them. Seconded by Helminski(364). **Motion** carried. Rusty Glass will be holding a class after the D.E.C meeting on filing out the C.P.R report. M.I.A.P program spoke on by Greg Price. Will hopefully be passed at least a week

before Memorial Day, rather than July 1st which is on the document.

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 1:45p.m.

Good of the Sons: