

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

DETACHMENT CONVENTION MEETING

LOCATION: GRAND HAVEN, MI

Date: June 5th, 2009

All cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. Chaplains' prayer given, moment of silence for Departed Comrades, Pledge of Allegiance, Resolution 288 read, Preamble recited and Blue Star Resolution read.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Mike Hasset appreciated all the members who were able to come out to this Detachment Convention. Thanked all who helped organized and setup with great appreciation. Introduction was made for Mike Smith past Coast Guard Commander of Grand Haven. Mr. Smith gave a history of Port Grand Haven and some of his travels through the surrounding area. Appreciates the Detachment holding a Convention in Grand Haven. Discussed also the importance of having the Coast Guard in Grand Haven and making it Coast Guard City.

Memorial Service: Chaplain Rodney Tolbert held the memorial service of members who have passed on during the year 2008-2009. Past Detachment Commander Lou Scott reported that Past Detachment Commander Brad Melvin (1972-1973) passed away this year and his name was not called during the memorial service.

Roll call of Officers:*= Not Called

Commander: Greg Price, pres.
Zone 1 Commander: Will Sari, pres.
Zone 2 Commander: Tom Johnson, abs. exc.
Zone 3 Commander: David Mennel, pres.
Zone 4 Commander: Roger Rockhold, pres.
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, pres.
Asst. Historian: Pat Pustay, pres.
Judge Advocate: Skipper Townes, pres.
Sgt-at-Arms: Danny Poole, pres.
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: Kevin Svacha, pres.

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: James Cooley, pres.
N.E.C.Representative: Ron Wyatt, pres.
Alt. N.E.C.Representative: Randy Jackson, pres.
P.D.C. # 1: Andre Svacha, pres.
P.D.C. # 2: Randy Jackson, pres.
P.D.C. # 3: Ron Wyatt, pres.

Chairmen:

Americaism, Awards & Trophies: Russel Merlington, pres.
Boys State & Youth Career Law Enforcement: Michael Holley, abs. exc.
Child Welfare, S.A.L representative to Legion College & all other children committees:
John Kailunas, pres
VA & R: Dan Tyack, abs. exc.
Make-A-Wish: Danny Poole, pres.
Publication #1: Joe Radiger III, pres.
Son of the Year: Victor Fisher, pres.
Membership: Allan Liebau, abs. exc.
Emergency Relief Fund: Rodney Tolbert, pres.
Legislative: Roger Dees, pres.
Constitution & By-Laws: Lou Scott, pres.
Pin Sales: Ray Gilbert, pres.
Public Relations: Tom Johnson, pres.
Co-Public Relations: Sandy Lipman, pres.
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: Dan Wall, abs. exc.
Special Projects: Mike Holley, abs. exc.
Community Service: Andre Svacha II, abs. exc.
Re-Connect: Jack Helminski, pres.
Homeland Security: Ron Wyatt, pres.
S.A.L. Liaison: John Shirkey, pres.
Past National Commander: Earl Ruttkofsky, pres.

PAST CAPTAINS AND COMMANDERS :(NOT INCLUDING LAST 3)

JACK HELMINSKI (1968-1970), LOU SCOTT Jr. (1971-1972 & 1983-1984), RUSSELL MERLINGTON(1986-1987), EARL RUTTKOFSKY (1995-1996), SKIPPER TOWNES(1996-1997), SANDY LIPMAN (1998-1999), JOHN KAILUNAS (2000-2001), ROGER ROCKHOLD (2002-2003), ROGER DEES(2003-2004) and DANIEL TYACK(2004-2005).

Detachment Adjutant read official call for annual Detachment Convention and purpose for holding an convention.

Detachment Convention Rules were than read aloud by Detachment Adjutant.

Introduction of Guests: American Legion Department Commander William Anderson and First Lady Donna Anderson. A.L. Auxilary President Suzanne Knapp. S.A.L National Central Zone CDR. Dennis Bleu from Minnesota and his wife Laura. National candidate for Central Zone CDR Dennis Thiewald

from Iowa and his wife Connie. Leading candidate for National CDR Mark Artisen from Georgia. Past National CDR Earl Ruttkofsky and his wife Beverly. Past Auxillary President Brenda Dees. Past Department CDR Jerry Lynch and his wife Judy.

Motion made by Dees(216) to accept the standing rules of the convention, seconded by Wyatt(568). **Motion** carried.

Motion made by Svacha(351) to accept the minutes of the previous convention as printed with corrections as needed, seconded by Jackson(14). **Motion** carried.

Instruction were given out for rules and deadlines for the following committees:

Ray Gilbert - Historian, turn in history books by opening of convention in the morning June 6th to room 224.

Victor Fisher - Son of the Year, nominations for Son of the Year deadline will be by noon tomorrow turn in to room 120 or 203 by than. Judges will be Pat Pustay, Roger Dees and Ray Gilbert winner will be decided by picnic and will have 2 awards this year, 1 under the age of 18 and 1 over the age of 18.

Russel Merlington - Amercanism, report form should be turned in tomorrow. Rifle shoot will be held tomorrow soon as its setup at Post 28 upstairs from 1-4p.m.. Maurice L. Michael award should also be turned in tomorrow. Same format as before the Zone CDR's will judge both awards.

John Kailunas - Child Welfare, form should be filled out by tomorrow. Also any contributions made at this convention will go on next years report.

Dan Tyack - VA&R, will be judged at the same time as Amercanism award by Jackson, Svacha and Tyack.

Good of the Sons: Jeff Muelendyk will head the National Veterans Assistance Day and CDR Price wanted to suggest all Squadrons be involved and support this important day. CDR Price than awarded Jeff Muelendyk received an award for his outstanding work to assist veterans on this day. Ron Wyatt reported any officers not having his bear donate \$5.00 toward CWF. 4th and 5th district will have an hospitality room #303. Squadron 396 will have an hospitality room #203 and Son of the year award should not have your name and squadron # on the form. 18th district hospitality room #100. CDR Price donated \$10.00 for starting the D.E.C. meeting late. Mike Madison reported there will be live entertainment at the Post tonite. Tomorrow's picnic will begin right after the meetings close tomorrow. Boarding for the boat trip will begin at 4:30 p.m. right across the street from the post. Also, tomorrow night there will be karaoke at the post. Candidates for National office should see Chris Dohnal at the end of the meeting.

Chaplains prayer was given. Convention suspended at 8:16 p.m. Until Saturday June 6th at 8:30a.m..

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DETACHMENT CONVENTION MEETING

LOCATION: GRAND HAVEN, MI

Date: June 6TH, 2009

All cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate.

Meeting called to order at 8:33 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: Greg Price, pres.
Zone 1 Commander: Will Sari, pres.
Zone 2 Commander: Tom Johnson, pres.
Zone 3 Commander: David Mennel, pres.
Zone 4 Commander: Roger Rockhold, pres.
Zone 5 Commander: Dwaine Verville, pres.
Adjutant: Sandy Lipman, pres.
Asst. Adjutant: Jeremy Bell, pres.
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Chaplain: Rodney Tolbert, pres.
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Judge Advocate: Skipper Townes, pres.
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Upper Peninsula: Dwaine Verville, pres.
U.P. Membership: Dennis Larson, abs.exc.
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ROLL CALL OF SQUADRONS :(PRESENT)

Squadrons: 006, 014, 017, 028, 034, 042, 043, 047, 049, 052, 069, 102, 108, 127, 141, 143, 154, 159 asked to be excused, 170, 179, 192, 204, 216, 224, 230, 232, 233, 235, 245, 253, 254, 287, 294, 298, 300, 305, 325, 331, 345, 351, 362, 364, 365, 370, 374, 375, 377, 381, 396, 404, 409, 455, 491, 514, 550, and 568 squadrons present

Introduction of guests: Danny Poole presented Detachment Commander Greg Price his gavel. Director of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Thomas Arbach, thanked all the support from the Detachment membership. Currently have 750 beds available with 30 beds empty. Still asks for volunteers and donations they are needed and much appreciated. Commander Price was than given a watch from both the Grand Rapids home and Jacobetti home for his hard work helping veterans. **Motion** made by Lipman(14) to donate \$1000.00, \$500 going to Grand Rapids home and \$500 going to Jacobetti home, seconded by Gilbert(409). **Motion** carried. Louise Downes "DESERT ANGEL" greeted the membership and thanked the S.A.L membership for all their hard work and countless hours volunteering to help load boxes. Spoke about an email from soldier in Afghanistan name is Greg from Muskegon and wanted something from MI, Louise asks if any squadron would help and send something to Greg it would be appreciated. Maj. David Sanford received the Four Chaplains Award and asked for soccer balls in Iraq for the kids there. Commander Price spoke about a packing party at Garden City and all the volunteers helping. Louise read a letter from a Marine, asked his parents for size 32 box shorts, wet wipes, socks...etc.. Letter thanked the Desert Angel for the package and said he would not have made it through without God on his side asked for our law makers to make the choice. In closing Louise says she proud of everyone helping and proud to be an American. Squadron 179 received an email asking for help sending packages out, 179 contacted Mike Alexander for help, Mike helped without hesitation. Louise also asked for everybody to buy American and especially MI products. Squadron 6?? donated dust covers to be shipped. Ron Wyatt thanked Desert Angel for all of her hard work. **Motion** made by Wyatt(568) to donate \$1000.00 to Desert Angel, seconded by Tolbert(49). **Motion** carried. Sandy Lipman donated \$100 in the name of his late father, Fisher 396 donated \$200 from Garden City Squadron 396. Louise noted that each box mailed costs \$12.00 each, they just mailed out girl scout cookies in 500 boxes. Ron Wyatt N.E.C approached the podium for purposes of introduction. Leading National Chaplain Candidate for 2009-2010 Den "Spanky" Vanhotten Jr..from Squadron 535 in Ohio with 20 years in the S.A.L. Spanky thanked Detachment of MI

and Desert Angel, and asks for support in his candidacy. Talked about today being "D" Day and what it meant to him personally. Read a poem concerning a soldier and a deck of cards with how God represents the cards. Asks us all to pray for all our troops abroad and at home. Introduced Rob Brewer as also National committee person and driving buddy. Leading National Central Zone Commander Candidate from Iowa Squadron 27 Dennis L. Theohold. Thanked the members of MI for all their hard work, spoke on MI having 20,000 members and Iowa having 2600 and having a chance for Iowa grow. Thanked his wife Connie for helping him. Discussed 3 issues from N.E.C, 1 being membership, 2 reporting what your Squadron has done on the C.P.R reports. Central Zone Commander Dennis Bleu from Coon Rapids Squadron 334 Minnesota, thanked his wife Laura. Reported there shouldnt be any reason why all Squadrons in MI didnt turn in there Consolidated Reports. Need to go out and serve our community with that membership will grow. Concern with PUFL in Minnesota last 2 years have done it with blessing from American Legion but have to run it yourself. Commander read a USA Today article concerning Veterans with Brain injury only 8% receiving VA healthcare. Thanked MI for the hospitality. Commander Price spoke on his Special Project MIAP where veterans are cremated and their remains are not claimed, it gets the urns off the shelf and given proper respects are done. Currently have it in the House of Representatives as H.B. 276.

10:19 a.m. short 10 minute resess.

Budget Report: Finance Officer gave a report on the 2008-2009 year. All Squadron Commander were given a Budget report. Changes on page 3 were due to membership and lack of pin sales. Page 5 increase by \$2000 note 15 on Commanders budget. Mileage was increased from \$.30 to \$.35 a mile. Page 6 travel and membership notes 13 and 15 were added. Note 14 concerns National Officers travel and reimbursement. Earl Ruttkofsky reminded all in attendance that this memberships money, if you have questions please ask. Note 12 National Officer Candidancy fund per resolution 03004-S, states a reserve account with a maximum of \$30,000 has been meet. No more money will be transferred to this account.

Motion made by Dohnal(69) that his reported be adopted subject to audit, seconded by Wyatt(568).

Motion carried.

Detachment Convention Rules read by Adjutant Sandy Lipman and Judge Advocate. Judge Advocate Skipper Townes reported all Zone Commanders have your delegate counts for Zone Caucuses. They also have the entire list of all persons running for a Detachment and National office. Adjutant Lipman asks each Zone to keep accurate notes just in case there are any questions.

10:50 a.m. meeting resessed for Zone Caucuses.

Motion made by Svacha(351) to suspend rule #18 of the convention rules for purposes of announcing newly elected officers from the Zone Caucuse, seconded by Helminski(364). **Motion** carried.

Zone 1 Will Sari, Zone 2 Danny Gleason, Zone 3 Mike Holley, Zone 4 Roger Rockhold and Zone 5 Dwaine Verville.

Motion made by Svacha(351) to reinstate rule #18 of the convention rules for the remainder of the convention, seconded by Jackson(14). **Motion** carried.

Constitution & By Laws: Lou Scott yields to Judge Advocate Skip Townes. Skip Townes reminded all S.A.L members they are allowed to make a motion or second a motion at any time or bring issues to the floor they deem necessary. Amendements to the Constituion & By Laws and standing rules. Resoultions were passed at last Detachment Convention and is in the hands of Internal Affairs with the American Legion. **Motion** made by Lou Scott(235) that amendments be adopted as printed, second by ????. Jeff Muelendyk asked if Amendement 13 also read for District (if applicable) dues, Skip Townes reported that not all districts are formed. **Motion** carried. All delegates from each squadron are asked to form at the back of the room to vote on the last motion. All squardons voted yes on the last motion.

Copy of all reports are in the book the Detachment Adjutant compiled.

VA&R: Dan Tyack reported on the bill brought by Representative Bill Pulner that awarded all POW's to receive the purple heart medal that died in captivity thru starvation, torture and other means. Bill passed in 2006 was for POW's that were killed by their captors while in captivity. Department of Defense has implemented this by October 2008. Dan Tyack ask if anybodys knows of someone dieing during captivity please contact the DOD to receive their Purple Heart. Dan Tyack read a letter from a veteran during a doctors visit at a local V.A.. he was asked 3 questions concerning his state of mind and aggression, if he would of answered yes to any of these questions, he would have been reported to Homeland Security and lost his CCW, Obama administration considers veterans with aggression issues to be threats to our nation.

Publications: Joe Ratiger has sent out 4 hard copy newsletter and 2 web newsletter. Please report to the publication chairman any reports and your squadron activites to him if you would like them to be in the newsletter.

N.E.C: Discussion at National concerning changes to committees. Community service will be part of Amercanism. Homeland Security will be a stan alone commission committee. Fema has books and other literature to pass out concerning homeland security please go on webite and order some. Homeland security isnt just for terriosm but also for natural disasters. Resoution was passed at last National spring conference concerning flu's, please get involved with your community and schools to pass out information. C.W.F final report is donations from last year \$332,425.93. This years goal was \$332,000 donations surpessed our goal with \$343,976.89 which met 2 goals. 100% of the donations go out in grants. Over \$4,000,000 has been donated since this program started in 1987. List of top 10 donations made by each Detachments were read MI came in 8th position with donations totaling \$14,612.10. Goal was \$1.15 per member but only \$.75 per member was donated. Please turn in all reports to John Kailunas so he can report it to Detachment. Resoution was made to have a S.A.L emblem at the National Convention. Emblem was showed for the National Commanders banquet at the Spring convention. National Convention will be in Louisville, Ky from August 21-27. Please go thru Department for room reservations.

Reconnect: Jack Helminski is a line item on your C.P.R reports but also please report what your squadrons have done for any returning veterans to Jack also. H.B. 250 was discussed and ask for your support to get your Representatives and Senators to defeat this bill.

C.W.F: report is on file. Donations were made. Commander was fined for his cell phone going off \$20.00. Donation made by Squadron 233. Squadron made 2 donations both to C.W.F and Fisher house. Tecumseh squadron 34 donated \$100 to C.W.F and \$100 to Fisher house. Squadron 216 has an annual golf outing with a donation of \$3,567.22 to C.W.F.. Copies of checks were given to John Kailunas and behalf of the Lipman family a \$100 donation in memory of Sandy's dad. Also a donation for Commanders project \$100 from the Lipman family in memory of his dad.

Rainbow Connection: Money thats donated is kept in MI. Andre Svacha read a letter from the Director from Rainbow Connection concerning especially of a donation made to Jessica an 18 year old in Dearborn. Picture and plaque were showin and will be posted at Department Headquarters.

Make-a-Wish: Certificate of appreciatioion was presented to squadrons 6 Holland, 233 Lake Orion, 49 South Haven, 298 Battle Creek and 253 Royal Oak. Plaques were also awarded to squadrons 6 Holland and 298 Battle Creek with a donation of \$13,000. Battle Creek has a car and truck show strictly for Make-a-Wish this year is August 8th. Donations were than made: Squadron 216 \$400.00 Make-a-Wish, 396 Garden City \$200 Make-a-Wish and \$200 Rainbow Connection, 18th District \$50.00 for biggest

loser \$100 for Commanders project and \$500 for Make-a-Wish, Squadron 28 split proceeds from their Vegas night \$1000 to Rainbow Connection, Squadron 34 Tecumseh \$100 Make-a-Wiah and \$100 Rainbow Connection and Lipman family \$100 Make-a-Wish.

Motion made by Lou Scott(235) to accept all reports both written and read, seconded by Squadron 351. **Motion** carried.

Forms for awards are on michiganlegion.org or will be mailed out in February with the newsletter. Squadron 28 representative gave a report on the schedule of events for the remainder of the day picnic, boat ride and karaoke at the post tonite.

Good of the Sons: Hospitality room put on by 16th district room 203. 18th district room 100. 4th and 5th district in room 303.

Chaplain lead us in prayer. Meeting suspended at 12:36p.m. Until Sunday June 7th at 8:30a.m.

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DETACHMENT CONVENTION MEETING

LOCATION: GRAND HAVEN,MI

Date: June 7th, 2009

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Meeting reconvened at 8:34 a.m. Chaplains' prayer given, moment of silence for Departed Comrades, Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of Officers:*= Not Called

Commander: Greg Price, pres.

Zone 1 Commander: Will Sari, pres.

Zone 2 Commander: Tom Johnson, abs. exc.

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ROLL CALL OF SQUADRONS :(PRESENT)

Squadrons: 006, 014, 017, 028, 034, 042, 043, 047, 049, 051, 069, 102, 108, 127, 141, 143, 154, 159, 170, 179, 192, 204, 216, 224, 230, 232, 233, 235, 245, 253, 254, 287, 294, 298, 300, 305, 325, 331, 345, 351, 362, 364, 365, 370, 374, 375, 381, 396, 404, 409, 459, 491, 514, 550, and 568 squadron delegation count made. 53 squadrons with 298 delegation votes.

Introduction of Guests: American Legion Department Commander Bill Anderson, brought greetings from Department. Thinks its a good idea for having a under and over 18 son of the year and wish more younger members would attend. Commander believes S.A.L should never merge with the Legions convention. Thanks the S.A.L for all the hard work and deication in support of the Legion Convention. Detachment Commander presented Commander Anderson a jacket. American Legion Department Auxilary President Suzanne Knapp, brought greetings from the Auxilary. Introduced her mother Sandy Knapp. President spoke about a bet between the family with membership Auxilary is at 98.508%, Legion 94.73% and SAL at 94.48%. the bet was the losers had 2 go into a dunk tank at Department convention. President spoke on her special project Operation Military KIDs, have \$8000 donated so far hopefully will have more by Department Convention. Commander Price presented President Knapp a jacket. Commander Price introduced the first lady Juanita Price. S.A.L Liason John Shirkey thanked the Detachment for all the hard work and making his job easy. N.E.C Ron Wyatt introduced from Georgia, Squadron 1 Atlanta leading candidate for S.A.L. National Commander Mark Artesian. Main goal is to get donations totaling \$500,000 to C.W.F.. appreciates the hospitatilty put forward by all members of the Detachment. Reminds with the exception of 1994 the S.A.L has been the top contributor to C.W.F. 2nd goal is the VA we do not excel with this VAVS out of 196 facilites we only have 40 covered. Only 1 in the state of MI which is Iron Mountain. Last year S.A.L donated 11,862 hours at VA facilites and the Legion donated 909,480 hours. Mr. Artesian spoke of a personal experience with taking his dad to a VA facility in Atlanta, was not a good experience and stress's the importance of S.A.L being involved at VA facilities. Has a motto for 2010 and thats 10 for 10, asking all detachments to start 10 new squadrons, 110% membership and a 90% renewal rate. If approved by the Legion any Detachment that reaches that goal will receive \$1000. Or the triple nickel, 5 new squadrons 105% membership and 85% renewal rate Detachment will receive \$555. Spoke on the Obama administration bailing out billions of dollars but trying to pass a health care reform that would make wounded veterans pay for their own health care. Mr. Artesian wants to have a special award called the SON THAT SHINES, with that his first unofficial receipent is Don Nelson. Cerificate was than given to Don Nelson from the Department of Veterans Affairs for his countless hours and years of volunteer work there. A plaque was than awarded to Don Nelson from Stitt Squadron 232 for membership. Commander Price than read a letter from the Detachment Commander in Georgia who has a granddaughter in MI diagnosed with cancer and at Motts hospital in Ann Arbor thanking him for presenting a Josh Dog to this young girl on his behalf. 3rd Saturday in May is set up for a S.A.L to help a veteran day which is also Armed Forces day. Lyle Shanks from the 4th district was introduced.

Unfinished Business: Motion made by Victor Fisher(396) that 2 plaques be awarded in the years to come for a under 18 and a over 18 Son of the Year Award, seconded by Jack Helminski(364). **Motion** carried. 2010 Detachment convention is in Dundee. **Motion** made by Squadron 245 to accept the contract to hold the convention in Dundee in 2010, seconded by Rodney Tolbert(49). **Motion** carried. 2011 the 18th district has put in a bid to hold Detachment Convention at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Novi, with a room rate of \$99. Golf outing will be planned for saturday afternoon during the picnic. Shuttle buses will be running from the hotel to the post with the rifle shoot also at the post. Roger Dees reported that the rate was not in accordance with the contract of \$89, will be voted on at the next convention. 2012 Detachment Convention has a bid in by Squadrons 404 and 245 at Houghton Lake at the Quality Inn with a rate of \$89 for rooms. **Motion** made by Roger Dees(216) to accept the contract for the 2012 Convention in Houghton Lake, seconded by Andre Svacha(351). **Motion** carried. **Motion** made by Randy Jackson(14) to amend the room rate not to exceed \$99 in the Detachment Convention contract, seconded by Victor Fisher(396). Discussion: Andre Svacha asked the Finance Officer if the officers allowance will be higher

due to the increase in room rate. Chris Dohnal said the answer is no due to mileage has already been increased and Legion Finance committee has to approve it. **Motion** carried. **Motion** made by Squadron 245 to accept the contract for the 18th District to host the 2011 Detachment Convention, seconded by Rodney Tolbert(49). **Motion** carried. James Troost stated that when he was the VAVS rep. at Grand Rapids when a check was made to them it went to the general fund to put out at the committee discretion. Mr. Troost recommends sending the donation to the American Legion VAVS rep. so there will be better use and accounting of where the donations are going to. Commander Price recommends in the memo section of your check you can ear mark to go to a specific area of the hospital.

10:13 ten minute break, 10:29 meeting reconvened.

New Business: Jerry Lynch reported his squadron 43 in Stephson is the only one with a fire engine. Spoke on Governors executive order that cut 25% of benefits to VSO's and H.B 250 and how the bill should be defeated. Asks for the Detachment to write a letter to the Governors office on how it was a bad decision to cut the funds to VSO's funding by 24%. Also a letter to the House of Representatives with especialy Senator Garcia on how H.B 250 does not benefit veterans of this state and will only hender their benefits with having a county counselor or having to hire a lawyer to file a claim with the VA for a fee. **Motion** made by Jerry Lynch(43) that 2 letters be written, 1 to Governors office and 1 to the House of Representatives, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and other Representatives with emphasis on defeating H.B. 250, seconded by Squadron 179. **Motion** carried. Mike Madson thanked his committee for all their hard work in making this a successful convention. Squadron 28 made donations to C.W.F \$19.50 bail money for the penguin, \$250 to Make-a-Wish from raffle money and \$250 to the Commanders project MIAP. Andre Svacha and Randy Jackso received C.W.F pins for their hard work and support when they served as Detachment Commander.

Motion made by Roger Dees(216) to suspend the meeting for purposes of elections, seconded by Jeff Muelendyk 179. **Motion** carried. Detachment Adjutant Sandy Lipman read the rules for the election of officers with ballot and color. Election officers are John Shirkey, Roger Webster and Mark Madson. **Motion** made by Rodney Tlbert(49) to accept the Commanders appointment of election officers, seconded by Ray Gilbert(409). **Motion** carried. Letter was read by the Adjutant from Tom Johnson withdrawling him from running for Detachment Commander. Andre Svacha asked the Commander to instruct the Adjutant to cast 1 unanimous ballot for any office running unopposed. Scott Kelly 5th district Commander from Squadron 28, nominated Pat Pustay for Detachment Commander. Rodney Tolbert supported the nomination. Adjutant cast 1 vote to elect Pat Pustay as Commander.

4th District Commander nominates Rodney Tolbert for Detachment Chaplain. Squadron 351 supported the nomination. Adjutant cast 1 vote to elect Rodney Tolbert as Chaplain.

Victor Fisher Squadron 396 nominates Ray Gilbert for Detachment Historian. Jack Helminski squadron 364 supported the nomination. Adjutant cast 1 vote to elect Ray Gilbert as Historian.

Don Nelson squadron 232 nominates Chris Dohnal for Detachment Finance Officer. Andre Svacha squadron 351 supported the nomination. Adjutant cast 1 vote elect Chris Dohnal as Finance Officer.

Skipper Townes squadron 287 nominates James Cooley for Detachment Sgt-at-Arms. Scott Kelly squadron 28 supported the nomination. Adjutant cast 1 vote to elect James Cooley as Sgt-at-Arms.

Motion made by Andre Svacha(351) to reconvene the regular meeting, seconded by ???. **Motion** carried. Earl Ruttkofsky sat in for the 4th Zone Commander.

Amercanism awards were presented. Rifle shoot mixed group Clayton Maxwell under 16, tie Dolly Steele and Matthew West. 20 -45 3rd place Chris Putman, 2nd place Dan Scilowen and 1st place Kevin Svacha. 45 and up 3rd place Ed Lambert, 2nd place David Mennel and 1st place Skip Townes. Amercanism award goes to Squadron 287. Reese L. Michael award goes to Squadron 287.

Son of the Year award to Kevin Cook Squadron 377 Chief Pontiac.

Commander read a letter concerning Greg Smith from Ida Squadron 574 and his hard work while having downs syndrome. Commander Price than awarded a plaque to Greg Smith.

Historian book award was presented to South Haven Squadron 49. Scrapbook award to Holland Squadron 6.

VA&R awards Most donations Squadron 377 Chief Pontiac donated \$5800, Squadron 287 Cedar Springs most hours donated 1497. Dan Tyack donated \$100 from his Squadron 143 to Make-a-Wish. Russel Merlington asks if VA&R is only giving out 2 awards why his he buying 5 awards. Will be brought up in Lansing at the next D.E.C meeting. 16th District donated \$51 to C.W.F.. Squadron 396 donated \$150 to Commanders project MIAP. Detachment also donated \$1000 to CWF in Indianapolis.

Commander Price spoke on his committe MIAP and a bill currently in the house to have the infortmation of cremains being released.

Newly Elected Detachment Commander Pat Pustay made his appointments: Adjutant Sandy Lipman, Asst. Adjutant Jeremy Bell, Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Carmen Chatman and Clayton Maxwell, Judge Advocate Skip Townes, Boys State Mike Holley, Trophies & Awards Russel Merlington, Child Welfare John Kailunas, VA&R Earl Ruttfosky, Make-a-Wish Danny Poole, Rainbow Connection Andre Svacha, Public Relations Dave Mennel, Co-Public Rerlations Doug Winkler, Son of the Year Victor Fisher, Membership Greg Price, Emergency and Relief Rodney Tolbert, Legislative Roger Dees, Constitution & By Laws Lou Scott,

Homeland Security Ron Wyatt, Budget Chris Dohnal, Service Officer James Troost, Publications Joe Ratiger III, Education & Leadership Rusty Glass, Special Projects Mike Holley, Community Service Greg Cook, Reconnect Jack Helminski and Asst. Historian John Wright. **Motion** made by Andre Svacha(351) to accept all the new appointments and officers, seconded by ???. **Motion** carried. Past Department Commander Roger Webster was introduced. Veterans Assistance Service Program Jeff Muelendyk.

Commander Price presented a gift to his sister Lucy.

Sandy Knapp thanked the Detachment for sponsoring 2 girls to Girls State.

Commander Price than spoke on his year and thanked all the squadrons he visited, officers that served with him and the hospitality that was shown to him all over the state by the Legion family.

Good of the Sons: Lake Orion Squadron 233 proudly endorses David Mennel for the office of Detachment Commander 2010-2011. Squadron 305 supports the nomination. 2 night stay over tickets at the Days Inn, in Gran Haven was donated by Mark Artesian for a raffle drawing anybody with infortmation please forward to Commander Price.

Meeting suspended for 10 minutes to set up the hall for installation of officers 12:04 p.m.

12:18 p.m. new officers were sworn in.

Meeting reconvened at 12:39 p.m. by new Detachment Commander Pat Pustay.

There will be a short meeting after the close of this convention for all Detachment Officers.

Closing Ceremonies:

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:44p.m.

