

**Sons Of The American Legion  
Detachment of Illinois**

**2023 FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**Genoa Post 337**

**September 30, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- Detachment Commander Mike Vozar called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs.
- The colors were in place, hand salute rendered.
- Detachment Chaplain John Nemanich gave the prayer.
- Detachment Sr Vice Rick Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Commander Vozar led the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Detachment Sgt-At-Arms Glenn Kraemer placed the POW/MIA flag
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander Jeff Haddick led the Preamble.

**ROLL CALL**

Detachment Adjutant Jeff Van Horn called the roll. Only the voting member of the Divisions and Districts are listed.

P = Present, A = Absent, E = Excused, NC = Not Certified

PNC's present: Stillwell

PDC's present: O'Connell, Stillwell, Tharp, Melone, Ray, Hunter, Geary, Shipley, Hayse, Gort, Stander, Trout

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	P/E/A		P/E/A		P/E/A
Commander Vozar	P	2nd Dist NC	NC	15th Dist Cmdr	A
Sr Vice Allen	P	2nd Dist NC	NC	15th Dist Sr	A
NEC Hayse	P	2nd Dist NC	NC	15th Dist Jr	A
ANEC O'Connell	P	3rd Dist Cmdr	P	16th Dist NC	NC
Adjutant Van Horn	P	3rd Dist Sr	P	16th Dist NC	NC
Asst Adjutant Gort	P	3rd Dist Jr	P	16th Dist NC	NC
Finance Officer Stander	P	4th Dist Cmdr	A	17th Dist Cmdr	E
Judge Advocate Trout	P	4th Dist Sr	A	17th Dist Sr	A
Judge Advocate Emeritus Stillwell	P	4th Dist Jr	A	17th Dist Jr	A
Parliamentarian Cisna	E	5th Dist NC		18th Dist Cmdr	P/E/A
Chaplain Nemanich	P	5th Dist NC		18th Dist	
Historian Hollis	P	5th Dist NC		18th Dist Jr	A
Sgt-At-Arms Kraemer	P	7th Dist Cmdr	A	19th Dist Cmdr	P
Cmdr's Sgt-At-Arms Boyd	P	7th Dist Sr	A	19th Dist Sr	E
Sr Vice Sgt-At-Arms McDermott	E	7th Dist Jr	A	19th Dist	
1st Div Sgt-At-Arms Hayse	P	8th Dist Cmdr	P	20th Dist NC	NC
2nd Div Sgt-At Arms Nannini	E	8th Dist Sr	A	20th Dist NC	NC
2nd Div Sgt-At Arms Schuppner	P	8th Dist Jr	A	20th Dist NC	NC
4th Div Sgt-At-Arms Shipley	P	9th Dist Cmdr	P	21st Dist Cmdr	A
4th Div Sgt-At-Arms C. Friedman	E	9th Dist		21st Dist Sr	A
5th Div Sgt-At-Arms Wylie	E	9th Dist Jr	P	21st Dist Jr	A
Cmdr's Aide Schuppner	P	10th Dist Cmdr	A	22nd Dist Cmdr	A
Cmdr's Aide Madson	P	10th Dist Sr	A	22nd Dist Sr	A
Sr Vice Aide Young	E	10th Dist Jr	A	22nd Dist Jr	A
1st Div Cmdr Hunter	P	11th Dist Cmdr	P	23rd Dist Cmdr	P
1st Div Sr Hudson	P	11th Dist Sr	P	23rd Dist Sr	A
2nd Div Cmdr Haddick	P	11th Dist Jr	A	23rd Dist Jr	A
2nd Div Sr Hollis	P	12th Dist Cmdr	P	24th Dist Cmdr	P
2nd Div Jr Bacon	P	12th Dist Sr	P	24th Dist	
3rd Div NOT CERTIFIED	NC	12th Dist Jr	A	24th Dist	
4th Div Cmdr Monroe	P	13th Dist Cmdr	P	25th Dist Cmdr	A
4th Div Sr Friedman	P	13th Dist Sr	A	25th Dist	
4th Div Jr Link	A	13th Dist Jr	A	25th Dist	
5th Div Cmdr Madson	P	14th Dist NC	NC		
5th Div Sr Trout	P	14th Dist NC	NC		
5th Div Wylie	E	14th Dist NC	NC		
1st Division Advisor Stinson	P				
2nd Division Advisor Geary	P				
3rd Division Advisor Davis	A				
4th Division Advisor Reed - VC	P				
5th Division Advisor Flanagan - C	E				

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**JUDGE ADVOCATE COMMENTS**

Detachment Judge Advocate Jeff Trout discussed who is eligible to make motions, etc. during the DEC.

**MINUTES OF DETACHMENT CONVENTION**

Motion by 1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander Hunter to accept the minutes of the Detachment Convention as printed, subject to audit, with second, the motion passes.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Sgt-At-Arms Kraemer introduced the guests.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Commander Vozar appointed 5<sup>th</sup> Division's Trout as Chairman, with 4<sup>th</sup> Division's M. Friedman and 1<sup>st</sup> Division's Stinson as members.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Detachment Finance Officer Phil Stander asked if there were any questions regarding the printed finance report. He then discussed importance of filling out expense report form correctly and timely. Motion by 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander Jacobs to accept, subject to audit, with the second, motion passed.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES & #1 PINS**

Detachment Senior Vice Commander Allen presented the #1 Pins:

He awarded those winners to the following:

Division Winner      1<sup>st</sup> Division at 57.4%

District Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Division            3<sup>rd</sup> District at 90.18%  
2<sup>nd</sup> Division            10<sup>th</sup> District at 53.63%  
3<sup>rd</sup> Division            15<sup>th</sup> District at 40.0%

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4<sup>th</sup> Division            19<sup>th</sup> District at 42.89%  
5<sup>th</sup> Division            23<sup>rd</sup> District at 33.97%

Allen commented about the Committee meeting. Ideas were discussed about different fundraising ideas and membership retention. Also discussed were the uncertified Squadrons.

Sr Vice Commander Allen motioned to accept the report, with the second, passes.

**DIVISION COMMANDER'S REPORTS**

1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander Hunter reported on what's going on with Division.

2<sup>nd</sup> No Report.

3<sup>rd</sup> Division – not certified.

4<sup>th</sup> Division Commander Monroe reported on what's going on with Division. He also mentioned that 9 Squadrons are already over 100% and the 18<sup>th</sup> District is making a "comeback" with new leadership.

5<sup>th</sup> Division Commander Madson reported on what's going on with Division. He also mentioned he is doing a monthly email newsletter.

**STANDING COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE AT END OF THE MINUTES***

***Americanism Commission***

Commission Chairman Hayse delivered the report, which is in the DEC packet.

***Children & Youth Commission***

Chairman Hollis delivered his report which is at the end of the minutes

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***Finance Commission***

Chairman Trout delivered his report which is at the end of the minutes. Also discussed before the DEC is a bill from the Auxiliary for the Convention "trinkets" that the new Family leadership handed out during the reception. Commander Vojar was presented with a bill for \$408.14, which needed to be paid. 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander Jacobs motioned that this come out of overage, with the second, passed.

***National Security***

Chairman O'Connell delivered the report which is at the end of the minutes.

***Legislative Commission***

Member Glenn Kraemer delivered the report which is at the end of the minutes. Kraemer also encouraged anyone to come over to the Sgt-At-Arms table to sign up for Voter's Voice.

***Leadership & Training Commission***

Member Phil Stander delivered the report which is at the end of the minutes.

***Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission***

National VA&R Chairman Williamson read the report which is at the end of the minutes. Williamson stated he did this first Zoom meeting to show the new Chairman, Wade Hudson, how to officiate the meeting and deliver the report.

***Public Relations Commission***

Member Phil Stander gave the report which is at the end of the minutes

***Commander's Advisory***

Committee Chairman Trout gave the report which is at the end of the minutes.

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Motion by 24<sup>th</sup> District Commander Trout to accept all reports, with the second, passes.

***COMMISSION/COMMITTEE DONATIONS***

Squadron 911 - \$200 to Lake County Honor Flight  
FINE - \$5 from Mark Friedman to Honor Flight Chicago  
Squadron 690 - \$200 to Honor Flight  
Greg & Karen Jacobs - \$40 to Lake County Honor Flight  
Squadron 974 - \$200 to Honor Flight Chicago  
Squadron 122 - \$100 to CWF

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you note from Unit 550 for their GTTY winnings.  
Thank you from Jarek Slavin for his Scholarship.  
Thank you notes from National for our donations to: CWF, VCF, Legacy Scholarship, NEF and OCW.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Chairman Trout stated the only Resolutions were the Hospitality ones to the Post Family. Trout motioned that they are approved and placed on file, with the second, passes. Hospitality Resolutions were presented to Post 337 Family Officers.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT**

NEC Hayse read a letter from National Commander JR Hall.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Jeff Van Horn for Adjutant** -- Motion by 24<sup>th</sup> District Commander Trout to accept, with the second from 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander Malone, passed.

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**COMMANDER'S REPORT**

Commander Vozar thanked everyone for their confidence in electing him. He reviewed his projects and the importance of not only getting new members, but retaining.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE SAL**

- NEC Paul Hayse is doing a FFFH after the DEC at local cemetery. See him after meeting.
- Bill Geary emphasized "beyond the four walls."
- Butch Ray stated he has CWF socks for sale. He also mentioned the Detachment trying to get gift cards for gas, food, etc. for families at Fischer House, etc. He also mentioned some fundraising events coming up for Pam Ray.
- Jeff Trout reminded everyone that Caravan info will be coming out shortly.
- JR Stillwell recently saw PDC Tim Donovan and he wished the Detachment greetings.
- National Convention Committee reports are at the end of the minutes.

**ADVISOR'S REMARKS**

None.

**50 – 50 DRAWING**

Sgt-At-Arms Kraemer conducted the 50-50. Sr Vice Rick Allen won \$85 and donated it to Honor Flight.

**Closing & Benediction**

Nemanich said a prayer.  
Sgt-At-Arms removed the POW/MIA flag.  
The Colors were in place, a hand salute was rendered.  
Commander Vozar adjourned the meeting at 1450.

Minutes completed by:

Jeffrey Van Horn  
Detachment Adjutant



## **DETACHMENT OF ILLINOIS**

**2023 Fall DEC**

**September 30, 2023**

**American Legion Post 337**

**Genoa, Illinois**

**Mike Vozar, Commander**

**Jeffrey Van Horn, Adjutant**



**Sons Of The American Legion  
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**2023 FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER Detachment Commander	
POST THE COLORS	Legislative Commission
INVOCATION Detachment Chaplain	S.A.L. Leadership Training Commission
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Host Division Commander	Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission GTTY Promoter Poppy Promoter VE&E Promoter VAVS Promoter
POW/MIA CEREMONY Detachment Commander Detachment Sgt-At-Arms	
PREAMBLE Detachment Senior Vice Commander	Public Relations Commission Convention Board of Managers Commander's Advisory Committee
ROLL CALL Detachment Adjutant	All Donations to Commissions & Committees
JUDGE ADVOCATE COMMENTS Judge Advocate	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	CORRESPONDENCE
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS Detachment Sgt-at-Arms	NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT NEC or ANEC
APPOINT RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE Detachment Commander	NEW BUSINESS Appointments Adjutant
FINANCE REPORT Detachment Finance Officer	FOR THE GOOD OF THE S.A.L. Guests Remarks PUFL Administrator Remarks National Convention Reports Other items
MEMBERSHIP REPORT & ACTIVITIES Presentation of #1 Pin's Detachment Senior Vice-Commander	
STANDING COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES Americanism Commission Boys State Promoter Flag Alliance Promoter Contest Promoter Legacy Scholarship Promoter Children & Youth Commission Child Welfare Promoter Finance Commission National Security Commission Police School Promoter	ADVISOR's REMARKS 50-50 DRAWING CLOSING Detachment Commander BENEDICTION Detachment Chaplain RETIRE THE COLORS ADJOURN Detachment Commander

Sign up for the Detachment email list. Send email to  
[SALJeffVH@gmail.com](mailto:SALJeffVH@gmail.com) and request to be put on the email list.  
Please include your Squadron, District or Division title.  
Membership Report is updated weekly and posted on website at  
[www.SALIllinois.org](http://www.SALIllinois.org)

# Children & Youth Report

The Fall Detachment Children and Youth Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by the Chairman Bill Hollis. Roll Call was held, and the following members were present for the meeting:

Chairman: Bill Hollis – Present

Vice Chairman: Butch Ray – Excused

Member: Eugene Gort – Present

Member: Garrett Slevin, Sr. – Absent

Member: Larry Miller – Absent

Promoter: Phil Stander – Present

## **Guests**

ANEC – Kevin O’Connell

Detachment Commander – Mike Vozar

Detachment Sr. Vice Commander – Rick Allen

Detachment Adjutant – Jeff Van Horn

## **Goals For The Upcoming Year**

The committee discussed various ideas for the upcoming year such as a new color for the “Stand Up for Kids” CWF sock program, promoting the scholarship programs more in the 2023-2024 year, mini-golf tournament by Division.

## **Old Business**

Update of “Stand Up for Kids” Sock program – Phil stated that there were a very limited number of pairs left. No other updates available.

Mini Golf Tournament by Division would possibly be on the same day and it would foster comradery between Divisions, Districts, and members. We will discuss this more at the Fall DEC.

It was discussed to have various members write articles related to the Detachment website and various e-blasts. The Committee will be talking to the Division Commanders to help with this.

## **New Business**

The Goal for the Detachment is still \$1.00 per member for CWF. CWF will be selling Cell Phone Charging Cables, Cooking Aprons, Baseball Caps, and Polo Shirts to raise money.

## **Guest Comments**

There were none.

## **For The Good of The Sons**

There were none.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

The Americanism Commission met via zoom September 7th at 7:02pm Central time. Present were past Detachment Commander Kevin O'Connell out of First Division, Tommie Cisna Vice Chairman out of Fourth Division, and Paul Hayse out of Fifth Division.

Also attending were Detachment Commander Mike Vozar, Sr. Vice Commander Rick Allen, Phil Stander, Eugene Gort, Adjutant Jeff Van Horn, and Bill Hollis. Excused was John Nemanich with him sending his report to Chairman Hayse.

Chairman Hayse gave the opening prayer and gave opening remarks.

Under religious emphasis John wanted to remind everyone if they hear of anyone who is sick or has passed, please let me know, so I can send a card. All I need is a name and address. I can even send a "Thinking of You" card, if someone is just having a rough time. Thanks!

Under flag alliance Tommie Cisna said there was no movement.

Mike Vozar reported that Boys State was successful this year with 190 citizens attending. Mike also noted the price for attending has gone up to \$400.00.

Chairman Hayse said the winners of the Junior Shooting National Champions were Sporter Charles Branton from South Carolina. Precision, Jacob Wisman from West Virginia. The competition was won on the last shot by .3 points. Each winner received a \$5000.00 scholarship.

The American Legion World Series Baseball has come to a close playing from August 10th through August 15th in Shelby North Carolina. The final game was between League City Texas Post 554 and Lincoln Nebraska Post 3. Lincoln City won the game by 1-0 and became the first Texas team to win the title in its 96th year history. Only 4 American Legion World Series Championship games have ended in a 1-0 score. 1931 South Chicago IL and Columbia South Carolina in 14 innings, 1967 Tuscaloosa Alabama and NorthBrook IL, 2018 Wilmington DE and Las Vegas NV in 8 innings with it being the first season with 7 innings.

American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues. Today the program registers more than 5400 teams in all 50 States including Canada and Puerto Rico.

Under Legacy Scholarship Phil Stander reported the last Saturday in April is National American Legion family day. The Legion Riders will now be raising money for the Veterans and Childrens Foundation. Phil also said JR Hall stated to become a Four Pillar Squadron you must pay one dollar per member, have a blood drive, send someone to Boys State, and participate in Comfort Warrior.

Chairman Hayse reported Flying Flags For Heroes on September 3rd 1,014,824 had been placed.

The CSR report has Illinois in 9th place 50.7% reporting, good job Illinois! The CPR report has Illinois at 73.2% and in the top 20.

There was no old business. under new business/ open discussion, Kevin O'Connell remarked we should present a plaque at Convention for the squadron that places the most flags on graves. Kevin also said we should have more local news reported.

Chairman Hayse gave closing remarks and gave closing prayer.

The Commission convened at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted Paul Hayse Chairman Americanism Committee.

Detachment VAVS Report

Fall DEC

September 30,2023

Genoa, IL.

**FEDERAL VAMC's**

We currently have 4 of our 5 VAMC's with a certified SAL representative.

**Marion VA**; Rep – Jeff Trout; Dep Chris School

**Illiana VA** – Rep – Bruno Williamson; Dep Phil Shipley

**Jessie Brown VA** – Rep – Derrick Stinson

**Edward Hines VA** – Rep – John Nemanich

**Cpt John Lovell Federated VA** – Wade Hudson (paperwork has been submitted)

After the representative or deputy receives a letter from our certifying officer that you have been accepted at that hospital; it is up to you to contact the Volunteer Service Chief at that medical center. So that you can go through your training and background checks. **If you do not** VACO will not recognize you at that facility & that effects our position at the National Advisory Committee (NAC).

**STATE VA HOMES**

**Anna** – N Main St.; Anna, Il

**LaSalle** – O'Conner Ave; LaSalle, Il

**Manteno** – rep - Jimmy Hunter Veterans Dr; Manteno, Il

**Quincy** – N 12<sup>th</sup> St, Quincy, Il

**Chicago** – opened in 2022. Oak Park Ave; Chicago, Il

Respectfully Submitted

Bruno "T" Williamson

Detachment VAVS Liaison

Fall D.E.C.

September30,2023

Genoa, IL

### **Veterans Employment & Education Report**

The National VEE commission at the National Convention in Charlotte presented a resolution to have the commissions brochure accepted and put both into print and on line for download. This resolution passed and will hopefully be available soon. **Evan Glendinning** from the Detachment of Virginia was the recipient of the Marvin Nay award.

The National Commission is also working on having a presentation at NEC on the VA S.A.V.E.training.(**S**igns,**A**sk,**V**alidate,**E**ncourage); Pact Act & Estimated Time of Separation – Sponsorship (ETS -SP) & Be the One. This is something that we could do at a DEC's or districts could also do with the SAVE training.

This is still a relatively new commission and we need to work with our TAL counterparts to learn more about this commission. As SONS we do a lot for VEE that you may not realize we are volunteering and donating at job fairs, volunteering with homeless veterans with standdowns and donations to those events. Or working at veterans' shelters. All this falls under VEE.

Respectfully Submitted

Bruno "T" Williamson

Detachment VEE Liaison

**Commander's Advisory**  
**17 September 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Chairman Jeff Trout, Vice Chairman Kevin O'Connell and committee member Wayne Madson were present. Also present were special guests Bill Flanagan, Commander Mike Vozar, Senior Vice Commander Rick Allen, Jeff Van Horn and Matt Christie.

The main topic of conversation for the Committee was discussing ideas of possible ways to raise funds for the Detachment. Wayne Madson had several ideas including possible raffles. His examples were a 30 day calendar raffle or a 50/50 cash raffle with a 3 level payout. Chairman Trout mentioned leading candidate for National Commander, Joseph Navarrete is holding a yearlong calendar raffle. Wayne feels that with a 30 day raffle you can have larger daily payouts and so may be able to sell more tickets. Commander Vozar asked if raffling a specific item would be more enticing such as an automobile or a UTV if we could find a dealer that might donate such an item. Adjutant Van Horn voiced his concern that people get burned out quickly with constant requests to purchase a raffle ticket. There was general agreement that this is a valid concern and so Chairman Trout mentioned the possibility of some type of event that could be held but no ideas were forthcoming at this time. The Committee agreed that we should continue to look for ideas and get something together in time to start no later than Detachment Convention in July of 2024.

Chairman Trout stated that he will meet with the Department Adjutant later this week to discuss how the Detachment can increase participation in the American Legion Family sweepstakes that are held during the Lincoln Pilgrimage and the Legion Family State convention. Also, what the Detachment can do to begin participating in the American Legion Department of Illinois gun raffle.

When the Committee members were asked if they had anything for Commander Vozar, Kevin O'Connell commented on the great job he has been doing in being everywhere and keeping the face of the Detachment out there. Wayne Madson had concerns about the scheduling of events throughout the year as scheduling conflicts have affected the turn out for Commander Vozar's homecoming. It was mentioned that unfortunately there is little that can be done but we should try to help our leading and trailing candidates with possible back

**Commander's Advisory**  
**17 September 2023**

up dates and locations in the future. Wayne then commented that the Commander has done an excellent job to this point. In an effort to look ahead Chairman Trout looked at the calendar between now and our next DEC to make sure Commander Vozar is aware of any upcoming events. The committee suggested that the only major events being NEC in Indianapolis, Veterans Day and the Haven Jamboree that the Commander and Senior Vice should get together and work out a schedule to make Division and District meetings. There are several training sessions and revitalizations coming up in the next two months they could also attend.

NVC search committee liaison Matt Christie said that the last meeting was held back before National Convention and he thinks the next meeting will be in October at the NEC. Currently the committee has recommended 1) Steve Honigfort – OH 2) Phil Stander – IL 3) Chris Sherman – MI.

Bill Flanagan let everyone know that the American Legion SAL Advisory committee members are Bill Flanagan- Chairman, Bill Reed- Vice Chairman, John Davis, Bill Geary and Derrick Stinson.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

**Finance**  
**17 September 2023**

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm. Committee members present was Chairman- Jeff Trout, and Gerald Boyd. Special guests were Phil Stander, Bill Flanagan, Mike Vozar, Rick Allen, Jeff Van Horn, Kevin O'Connell and Wayne Madson. Due to a lack of a quorum no action could be taken but the meeting continued.

On 7 August, 2023 it was brought to the attention of the Finance Committee that Commander Vozar was asked to settle the bill for the American Legion Family reception that is held on the Saturday of our Legion Family State convention. While there is no budget line for this event it had been previously agreed upon that we do cover one-third of the cost. The total bill was \$1224.32 and Commander Vozar approached the committee asking for reimbursement of \$408.14. Jimmy Hunter made a motion to reimburse Commander Vozar \$408.14 from overage. Jerry Boyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved so Chairman Trout instructed the Finance Officer, Bob Tharp, to disburse the funds.

Wayne Madson addressed the committee about his leadership and training budget. He presented the schedule for Division training with dates and locations. Due to hotel stays and driving distances he is asking for approval of an additional \$835. Although the Committee could not act on this request at this time much discussion was made on how to mitigate these costs now and in the future. It was mentioned that once the training is completed maybe the Training Committee could spend the rest of the year working on a training guide so that Division reps could do the training and there would not be as much cost involved. Kevin O'Connell said that he appreciates everything Wayne is doing and since he is bringing the training session to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division he would reach out to the Division leadership to see if they could cover his room. Jerry Boyd offered to do the same for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division as well.

Finance Officer, Phil Stander updated everyone on his progress. The transition of accounts from Bob Tharp to Phil has been completed. He has started processing checks to be mailed. He is planning to build a history of the Edward Jones account to assist the Finance Commission in determining what to do with those funds as far as investment. There is still a Busey CD that will not mature



**Finance**  
**17 September 2023**

until January 2024. Phil has also asked that the expense form be updated to require an email address and phone number. He then reminded everyone that when someone comes to the committee asking for funds from overage they need to present some idea of how that money can be put back. He also suggested that if a committee knows they will need more funding they could hold their own fundraiser without requesting it from overage.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.



Jeff Van Horn &lt;saljeffvh@gmail.com&gt;

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**Re: Commission Zoom Meeting Reports**

1 message

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**Squadron Commander** <salsquadron991@yahoo.com>  
To: Jeff Van Horn <saljeffvh@gmail.com>

Sat, Sep 16, 2023 at 11:52 AM

Sons of The American Legion - Detachment of Illinois - Legislative Committee Meeting - REPORT  
Held Via ZOOM - September 14 , 2023 - 7:00PM

Called to order by Chairman Glenn Kraemer

**Attendees:**

Glenn Kraemer - C

Wayne Madson - VC

Michael Vozar - Detachment Commander

Kevin O'Connell - Immediate PDC., ANEC

Jeff Trout - PDC

Jeff Van Horn - Detachment Adjutant

Mark Friedman

Rick Allen

Wade Hudson (guest)

Phil Shipley - AWOL

Glenn Kraemer began the meeting discussing a current US Senate Bill - VA Emergency Transportation Access Act. This Bill bars the VA from reducing rates paid to medical transportation providers, particularly affecting rural areas. Emphasis was put on contacting representatives to support this Bill.

An overview of the Legion.org website Legislative Page was conducted. Main topics covered involved ensuring Legion members focus on contacting representatives to let it be known we want Congress to properly fund the VA and provide proper oversight to spending and personnel, mental health needs, VA modernization, continued oversight of PACT Act implementation and protection of veterans from predatory actors (lawyers, scams, etc.)

The current American Legion Legislative Agenda was briefly discussed. Items like supporting Afghan Allies, Military quality of life (child care, health care, housing & pay), pay for Coast Guard during government shutdowns and updating the US Flag Code are all being actively promoted by our Legion representatives in D.C.

Additional links on the Legion.org website were discussed. Members were encouraged to print out copies of the "Legislative Handbook" and "National Commander's Testimony" to Congress from March 2023 to be distributed at each Post for Legion Family Membership to read and share. These are both excellent documents to share what The American Legion is doing in Washington D.C. and how each Legion Family Member throughout the Detachment of Illinois and nation can assist with these efforts.

Kraemer reminded everyone to review the Geo. B. Evans Grassroots Legislative Advocate Award program. The Detachment of Illinois needs to identify SAL members who actively make contact with congressional

representatives to advocate for Legion-friendly programs. We should be able to nominate one or more members to the National Convention for award consideration. Wayne Madson stated the National Convention had eight nominations as a goal for 2023 and received only five nationally. It was mentioned that the same SAL member from California that won the award two years in a row may have also been the recipient this past year.

Madson also reminded the committee that a government shutdown is possible on October 1, 2023 and that promoting pay for Coast Guard members is essential.

“Voter Voice” was discussed. All members are encouraged to bring a laptop computer to their Post, Squadron and Aux. meetings to have members sign up for updates in the “Legislative Action Center”. The American Legion is looking to double users this year.

Kraemer discussed the availability of grant money with national, state and local government that can be directed to Veteran Memorial Monuments and related needs. Contacting the proper representatives with specific needs can result in grant money being issued to local AL Posts and community groups looking to fund new projects, as well as maintenance of existing monuments.

Chairman Kraemer asked for any other business to come before the Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45PM.

On Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 07:08:27 PM CDT, Jeff Van Horn <[saljeffvh@gmail.com](mailto:saljeffvh@gmail.com)> wrote:

Just a reminder:

Have your reports submitted to me by Sept 16th, unless we talked specifically about extending it. I need to get as much of the reports together that weekend for printing.

--

Jeff~  
Jeffrey J. Van Horn  
Detachment Adjutant  
**Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Illinois**  
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**National Finance Commission Member**



Jeff Van Horn &lt;saljeffvh@gmail.com&gt;

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## SAL Leadership and Training Report

1 message

**Wayne** <madsonwsr@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 2:49 PM

To: Jeff Van Horn &lt;SALJeffVH@gmail.com&gt;

Sunday September 10th at 7pm SAL Leadership and Training Committee meet via zoom. Following people where present

1st Division Glen Kramer A

2nd Division Bill Hollis

3rd Division Larry Miller

4th Division Tommie Cisna P VC

5th Division Wayne Madson P C

Adjutant Jeff Van Horn P

Sr Vice Rick Allen P

Commander Mike Vozar P

Non- Members Present

Phil Stander

Wade Hudson

Kevin O'Connell

Main topic was our training dates coming up in each Division. We went over items for discussion on the training material. Was seeing who was available to assist with training at each Division. The times are the same at each stop, 10 am to 2pm with lunch provided. If possible please have people RSVP with me for a head count for lunch. The goal is minimum of 20 people at each Division. Please need EVERYONE to help spread the word and encourage Squadrons to attend. The following are dates and locations for each Division.

Division 4 Sep 24 Post 287 Rantoul

Division 5 Oct 14 Post 141 Mount Vernon

Division 3 Oct 21 Post 136 Monmouth

Division 2 Oct 28 Post 491 McHenry

Division 1 Oct 29 Post 991 Worth

If you're unable to attend and like to have another date set for your District or Squadron please contact me or a member of this committee.

Wayne Madson  
Chairman  
SAL Leadership and Training

For God and Country

Wayne Madson  
Commander  
5th Division  
Detachment of Illinois  
618-806-1408

## **National Security Committee**

**(Zoom)**

**Meeting Date** – September 5, 2023

**Time** – 7:00pm

**Members Present:** Kevin O’Connell, Wayne Madson, Zach Van Horn

**Guest Present:** Jeff Van Horn, Phil Stander, Rick Allen, Mike Vozar

The discussion began talking about the current state of the immigration problem facing our Nation. The current open border policy has no real controls in place which directly affects our National Security. So far the Department of Homeland Security has identified 146 individuals who have entered and found to be on the terrorist watch list. Human trafficking is at an all time high. The Mexican Cartel is exploiting those wanting to cross the border by charging them safe passage fees. The Cartel is also using them as mules transporting drugs across the border. Until there are restrictions put in place the problem will continue.

Domestic extremist groups are still active such as BLM and the Proud Boys. Other groups are emerging forming along political or racial lines. The F.B.I. has been monitoring the situation.

On the international stage, China and Russia are forming an alliance. North Korea is making efforts to support Russia as well. The current situation in the War between Russia and Ukraine continues. Ukraine has made some progress, however the battle continues. The United States continues to supply Ukraine with money and weapons.

China is still threatening Taiwon with military warships close to the borders, Missile launches into the sea nearby, as well as Military aircraft doing fly overs.

**The Meeting concluded at 7:30pm**

## PR Commission

The PR Commission met on September, 10, 2023, at 6:30am. In attendance was Commission members Eugene Gort, Bill Hollis, Sergio Senese, Tommie Cisna, and Larry Miller, along with guest Jeff Van Horn, Kevin O'Connell, Phil Stander, and Rick Allen. We discussed turning our email blast into a monthly newsletter. We will have our Commission members contribute articles, along with the Commander, Sr. Vice, and hopefully members from other committees and commissions. We plan on beginning this in October. To expand our reach we plan on incorporating officers from all districts, divisions, and squadrons onto our email list. We also discussed the website, and are having the members look over it and report to webmaster Senes on what we need to update. The meeting conclude at 7pm.

## **Detachment of Illinois**

### **VA&R Zoom meeting**

**September 14,2023**

Meeting was called to order at 1945 hrs by National VA&R Chairman Bruno “T” Williamson.

Acting chair AC) called roll; 1<sup>st</sup> Div Wade Hudson Chairman *present*; 2<sup>nd</sup> Div – vacant; 3<sup>rd</sup> Div – Bill Seeward absent; 4th Div Harl Ray vice chair *present*; 5<sup>th</sup> Div – Jeff Trout *present*.

#### **Old Business**

**Past Chairman Ray** spoke on the Veterans Children’s Foundation (VCF) & Be the One (BTO).

#### **New Business**

**AC Williamson** – Reported on the National Convention VA&R meeting in Charlotte, NC.

**Honor Flight** – this is Commander Vozar’s program for the year & this is a VA&R program. Cmdr Vozar spoke about the program.

**Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW)** – this is National Cmdr J.R. Halls VA&R program

**National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF)** – this is national VA&R chairman Williamson’s VA&R program.

#### **Detachment VA&R Liasson’s**

**Service Officer** -vacant

**Gift To Yanks** – Jimmy Hunter – absent

**Veterans Employment & Education** – Bruno Williamson gave a brief report about what is going on at the national level. (adj has report)

**Poppy** – Wayne Madson gave a brief report.

**Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS)** – Bruno Williamson gave a brief report on the status of our rep/deps at our 5 Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VAMC’s) & our 4 State VA Homes (adj has that report)

There was some general discussion and Q & A afterwards.

Meeting Adjourned at 2030 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Bruno “T” Williamson

National VA&R Chairman





# **National Convention Committee Reports**



## Sons of The American Legion

Americanism Convention Committee meeting minutes  
51<sup>st</sup> National Convention Friday, August 25, 2023  
Charlotte Convention Center Room 201, Sections A-B

Chairman Casey called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

Opening ceremony:

- Salute Colors
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- POW-MIA Empty Chair
- Blue Star banner
- Preamble

Roll Call of members:

Commission Members present.

- Vice Chair – Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS)
- Paul Hayse (IL)
- Robert Neel (NE)
- Keith Murdough (NH) excused.
- Joseph Lohman (MD) excused. In attendance at Commander's Training.

Detachment Representatives (See attached)

Purpose of meeting:

The Americanism Convention Committee meets to select award recipients and address any last-minute Americanism issues as it relates to the convention. Appointments for the Convention Committee serve until the adjournment of this meeting. Anyone wishing to assist with the judging of the Community Affairs Scrapbooks is asked to attend the 10:00 AM meeting for selection of recipients.

Americanism Resolution was read. (See attached)

Visitation by trailing candidate for S.A.L. National Commander, Joseph Navarette

Year in review: CSR Americanism totals for 2022-2023

- Donations: \$3,493,375 (+1,180,405 from the previous year)
- Hours: 1,732,019 for a total value of \$55,000,000
- Boys State Donations: \$198,857.38
- Flags presented (all events) as recorded on CSRs: 363,777

Chairman Casey talked about the “Americanism Action Alerts” Discussed how the Commission tried to improve communication and education of our membership. An example was provided to pass around the room.

Other business: Thank you and recognition of the standing Americanism Commission members that served this past year.

The National Historian addressed the group regarding potential changes to the scoring criteria for history books. The Sons of The American Legion look to fall in line with the scoring criteria utilized by The American Legion.

For the good of the Sons: Looking forward to the 2023-2024 program year. New goals will be laid out during the Fall NEC. Action Alerts will continue. Chairman Casey asked for information for each Detachment Commander, Adjutant, and Americanism Chairman.

Chairman Casey thanked everyone in attendance and released members from their duties as Americanism Convention Committee members.

Benediction, Salute to the Colors, and the meeting was adjourned.

SAL National Convention  
Committee Meeting  
Constitution and Amendments

The Constitution and Amendments Committee meeting for the SAL National Convention was called to order at 11:30 AM, Friday August 25, 2023 in Room 205, Section B at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Ned Fox (CA) was elected Chairman of the committee. Chris Cook (OK) acted as scribe.

A roll call was made and it was determined a quorum present.

There was a discussion on a resolution to request the Legion designate \$250,000 from the SAL reserve fund to the Child Welfare Foundation. The SAL reserve fund is capped at \$750,000 and has grown beyond that amount. The SAL has no control over those funds, but in an effort to bring the fund below the established cap, the SAL may ask the national American Legion organization to designate a recipient for the amount requested funds from the reserve account to bring the fund below the cap.

Resolution #7 to amend Article 10 of the SAL National Constitution to change the wording in Section 2. In the discussion it was remarked that National organization doesn't set a "dues," but rather a "per capita." Annual dues is set by the detachments, not national. There was additional discussion regarding changing the numbering of the remaining Sections. The committee recommended approval of the change.

Meeting adjourned around noon.

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Action on the convention floor:

Had to go through Americanism. Approved the resolution to request \$250,000 of the Reserve Fund to be donated to the CWF to be forwarded to The American Legion for their action. This is a recommendation and requires The American Legion approval.

The resolution to amend Article 10 of the SAL National Constitution to change the wording and section numbering was passed. This is a recommendation and requires The American Legion approval.

Report respectfully submitted:

Larry Miller  
Delegate to the National Convention  
Constitution and Amendment Committee

# **Children and Youth National Convention**

## **Committee Report**

**Chairman Noble called the meeting to order at 9 am on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Chairman Noble discussed the monthly zoom meeting and the importance of Detachment Children and Youth Chairman attending these meetings and taking the info back to their Detachments.**

**The National Children and Youth Academy is once again going to do the ten ideals for those that did not take it last year and will add the 5-star program. After the attendees complete everything, they will receive a certificate, one of the two metals and a 5-star pin. All children attending will also receive a T-shirt. Auxiliary Juniors are also welcome.**

**A goal of the committee is to provide thumb drives with the Academy program and Documents for Detachments to have their own academy.**

**A resolution out of Wisconsin to make the Alf dogs a national program endorsed by the American Legion Family.**

**Corn hole games were created for the academy with a second set of boards to be raffled off and funds go to VCF. Extra shirts will be available for sale and those funds will also go to VCF.**

**CWF Chairman Mark Nave brought greetings and reported on this year's success. Merchandise for the upcoming year from the CWF will be a Red CWF apron for \$25, a CWF phone battery for \$10, a CWF Polo shirt for \$50 and a baseball cap for \$20.**

**Chairman Noble asked any first-time attendees to stand and be recognized and welcomed them to the National Convention he also thanked the committee for all the hard work throughout the year.**

**The Legacy run starting next year will raise money for the VCF as the Legacy Scholarship has become self-sufficient.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am**

I attended my first National American Legion Convention in August. This was the 51<sup>st</sup> National Convention for the Sons of the American Legion in Charlotte, NC. On Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> we had a membership discussion about the Triple Nickle Program. The requirements per state are: 5 new squadron charters, 95% retention, and 105% membership. There were 5 states that won this award.

We broke a record on membership for the year 2022-2023. This year, 2023-2024, we are looking at setting another record. It will take the support from all the members, squadrons, districts, divisions and detachment. With your support we will be available to achieve a new record. If each member is able to go out and find a new member we would be able to double our membership.

Sr. Vice-Commander

Rick Allen

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**  
**2023**  
**CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Chairman Harold E. Thompson Jr. called the Credentials Convention committee, to order on August 25, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. for the purpose of taking the necessary committee action on convention resolution none was presented.

There is possible of 898 delegates and 100 delegates-at-large for total 998 possible delegate's votes from 53 Detachment. On Friday we had 50 Detachment registrations with 985 delegates, 22 alternates and 108 guests. We have 3 Detachment that did not registration DC, Philippines and Utah as of Friday morning. At the close of registration Saturday we had \_\_\_ Detachment with \_\_\_ delegates, \_\_\_ alternates, and \_\_\_ guests at the 51<sup>th</sup> National Convention.

Member attending the credentials committee meeting was Chairman Harold E Thompson Jr. NE; Robert Crevelli, CA; Michael Cotton, DE; Ed Sheubrooks, FL; Jimmy Hunter, IL; James Naylor, IN; Matthew Krupco, KS; Michael Brison, MD; William Murphy, MA; Robert Phillips Jr., NJ; Robert Avery, NY; Dennis Albright, OH; and Tyler Vanice, VA.

When The American Legion National Judge Advocate went through and brought our Constitution and Bylaws up to date with The American Legion according to Resolutions No. 28 from May 5-6, 1938. There were several change made and Approved by The American Legion NEC on October 2022.

One change was in Constitution Article VII (7) National Executive Committee Section 3 which read:  
**Members of the National Executive Committee shall be delegates to the National Convention with a vote, which vote shall be exercised with their respective Detachments, except that the National Commander shall be exercised only in their capacity as chair of the National Convention.**

Also the American Legion National Executive Committee May 4-5, 2022 had a Resolution No 8 National Convention Registration Fee. The Resolution said to raise the Registration Fee by \$10.00, which raised it from \$25.00 to \$35.00.

With no further business HAROLD THOMPSON moved to closed meeting. Seconded by JIMMY HUNTER Meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM, August 25, 2023.

Credential Chairman Harold E Thompson Jr. As a dully elected Delegate to 51<sup>TH</sup> National Convention Sons of The American Legion, I move for the accepted of my report.

Resolution 1 triple nickel nothing changes just set a date that they've been using all along  
Motion Jeff V. Second Steve H. Passed unanimously.

Resolution 2 250k for VCF from restricted reserve.  
Funds available  
Motion Gary N. Second Dave Hanson passed unanimously.

Resolution 4 No action

Resolution 5 No action

Resolution 7 Annual dues and per capita  
Motion Jeff V. Second Greg P. Passed unanimously

Resolutions 8,9 and 10 endorsements for the same individual. No action





Jeff Van Horn &lt;saljeffvh@gmail.com&gt;

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## Internal Affairs Report

1 message

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**Wayne** <madsonwsr@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 2:15 PM

To: Jeff Van Horn &lt;SALJeffVH@gmail.com&gt;

Internal Affairs Committee meet August 25 at 9am at the National Convention in Charlotte, NC

The following items were discussed. The Committee has 2 goals to try to make members more involved.

1. Keep members more engaged, Improve ways of notifying new National appointees. After Fall NEC make appointees official at that time.
2. NEC meetings more fun to engage. Change times so be less downtimes. Work closer with emblem sales with SAL welcome kits. Put SAL on YouTube. Send out welcome letters from Detachment and National for new members.

Put Legion family day on CSR was discussed.

Have a SAL training day.

Following resolutions was voted on and passed in committee.

- 4) Add homeless veterans to CSR. VA&R report encourage Squadrons help homeless veterans.
  - 5) Add troops and family support to VA&R own line on CSR.
  - 6) Have 51st SAL convention in memory of Father Gary Gummersheimer.
- Following resolutions were received and filed.
- 8) Endorse Christopher L. Cook from Oklahoma for any appointed National Office as needed.
  - 9) Endorse Christopher Shawborn from Oklahoma for any appointed office at National.
  - 10) Christopher L. Cook for National Commander for the future from Oklahoma Squadron 337.

Wayne Madson

For God and Country

Wayne Madson  
Commander  
5th Division  
Detachment of Illinois  
618-806-1408