

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

**2023 FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Department Headquarters
December 9, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

- Detachment Commander appointed Mark Friedman as meeting Sgt-At-Arms.
- 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 4th Division Commander Mike Monroe led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Commander Vozar led the POW/MIA Ceremony. The flag was in place.
- Detachment Sr Vice Commander Rick Allen 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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Judge Advocate Emeritus Stillwell	P	4th Dist Jr	A	17th Dist Jr	A
Parliamentarian Cisna	E	5th Dist NC		18th Dist Cmdr	P
Chaplain Nemanich	P	5th Dist NC		18th Dist	
Historian Hollis	P	5th Dist NC		18th Dist Jr	A
Sgt-At-Arms Kraemer	E	7th Dist Cmdr	A	19th Dist Cmdr	P
Cmdr's Sgt-At-Arms Boyd	E	7th Dist Sr	A	19th Dist Sr	P
Sr Vice Sgt-At-Arms McDermott	A	7th Dist Jr	A	19th Dist	
1st Div Sgt-At-Arms Hayse	A	8th Dist Cmdr	E	20th Dist NC	NC
2nd Div Sgt-At Arms Nannini	P	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	E	21st Dist Cmdr	P
4th Div Sgt-At-Arms C. Friedman	P	9th Dist		21st Dist Sr	A
5th Div Sgt-At-Arms Wylie	P	9th Dist Jr	P	21st Dist Jr	A
Cmdr's Aide Schuppner	E	10th Dist Cmdr	P	22nd Dist Cmdr	A
Cmdr's Aide Madson	P	10th Dist Sr	P	22nd Dist Sr	P
Sr Vice Aide Young	P	10th Dist Jr		22nd Dist Jr	A
1st Div Cmdr Hunter	P	11th Dist Cmdr	A	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	E	24th Dist Cmdr	P
2nd Div Jr Bacon	A	12th Dist Sr	A	24th Dist	
3rd Div Cmdr Garrett Slevin Sr	P	12th Dist Jr	A	24th Dist	
4th Div Cmdr Monroe	P	13th Dist Cmdr	P	25th Dist Cmdr	E
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	P	14th Dist NC	NC		
1st Division Advisor Stinson	E				
2nd Division Advisor Geary	E				
3rd Division Advisor Davis	E				
4th Division Advisor Reed - VC	E				
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 FALL DEC

Motion by NEC Hayse to accept the minutes of the Fall DEC as printed, subject to audit, with second, the motion passes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Sgt-At-Arms Kraemer introduced the guests. Dept Commander's Aide, Bruce Hallam, Department President Angie Golightly, Department Vice President Arlene Holtgrave, Aux NEC Janet Bacon, and Linda Iberg.

President Angie brought greetings from the Auxiliary and spoke of her year and programs.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

There were no Resolutions submitted for the DEC.

FINANCE REPORT

Detachment Finance Officer Stander asked if there were any questions regarding the printed finance report. He then discussed the importance of filling out expense report form correctly and timely. Motion by NEC Hayse to accept, subject to audit, with the second, motion passed.

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DIVISION COMMANDER'S REPORTS

First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Division Commander's gave reports on their efforts.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES & #1 PINS

Detachment Senior Vice Commander Allen presented the #1 Pins:

He awarded those winners to the following:

Division Winner 1st Division at 76.8%

District Winners:

1 st Division	3 rd District at 105.3%
2 nd Division	10 th District at 70.83%
3 rd Division	16 th District at 74.02%
4 th Division	17 th District at 87.45%
5 th Division	22 nd District at 61.22%

Allen commented about the Committee meeting. Ideas were discussed about different fundraising ideas and membership retention. IRA's, Blue Brigade, and the upcoming Caravan were also discussed. Cards turned in were 174.

STANDING COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

ALL REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE MINUTES

Americanism Commission

Commission Chairman Hayse delivered the report.

Children & Youth Commission

Chairman Hollis delivered his report.

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Finance Commission

Chairman Trout delivered his report. Motion by 24th District Commander Trout to send \$500 out of Overage to Central Region meeting fund, to be held in April, with the second, motion passed.

Commander's Advisory

Committee Chairman Trout gave the report.

Legislative Commission

Vice Chairman Wayne Madson delivered the report.

Leadership & Training Commission

Chairman Wayne Madson delivered the report.

Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Chairman Hudson read the report.

Public Relations Commission

Commission member Bill Hollis delivered the report.

National Security

Chairman O'Connell delivered the report.

Motion by 24th District Commander Trout to accept all reports, with the second, passed.

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COMMISSION/COMMITTEE DONATIONS

Jeff Van Horn Fine - \$20 to CWF
5th Division - \$250 to Honor Flight Southern Illinois
Squadron 308 - \$50 to Honor Flight
Squadron 296 - \$400 to Honor Flight Peoria
Squadron 296 - \$400 to CWF
Squadron 1288 - \$100 to Kards4Kids

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT

NEC Hayse brought greetings from National Commander Don Hall, Jr. He spoke of Commander Hall's goals, including the National Commander's Challenge. Motion by Hayse to accept the report, with the second, passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Commander Vozar entertained a motion to change the 5th Division VA&R Commission rep from Jeff Trout to Stephan Wylie. NEC Hayse motions, with the second, passes.

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Commander Vozar spoke of his year so far. He also stated that we have 3 new Charters in the works.

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FOR THE GOOD OF THE SAL

Detachment Adjutant Van Horn read a Resolution that was written by Fred Hickem for the 5th Division. The Resolved lines read: The Sons of The American Legion 5th Division, Detachment of Illinois-South, does here by secede from the Detachment of Illinois-North, for the sole purpose of joining forces with the Detachment of Kentucky to now be known as Sons of The American Legion, 5th Division, Detachment of Illinois-South-Kentucky Branch. Van Horn read this Resolution in memory of Fred Hickem, who recently transferred to the Squadron Everlasting.

5th Division Commander Wayne Madson motioned to donate \$250 out of Overage to The Haven, in the name of Fred Hickem, with the second, motion passed.

24th District Commander Jeff Trout motioned to reimburse Wayne Madson \$105 out of Overage for his travels that exceeded the budget for Leadership & Training, with the second, passed.

ADVISOR'S REMARKS

The Advisors were not present for the meeting and Chairman Flanagan stated he has no report to be read.

Closing & Benediction

Nemanich said a prayer.
The Colors were in place, a hand salute was rendered.
Commander O'Connell adjourned the meeting at 1502.

Minutes completed by:

Jeffrey Van Horn
Detachment Adjutant



DETACHMENT OF ILLINOIS

2023 Winter DEC

December 9, 2023

Department Headquarters

Bloomington, Illinois

Mike Vozar, Commander

Jeffrey Van Horn, Adjutant

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

2023 WINTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Membership & Squadron Activities Committee Meeting – 11:00 to 12:00

CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM
Detachment Commander

POST THE COLORS

INVOCATION
Detachment Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Host Division Commander

POW/MIA CEREMONY
Detachment Commander
Detachment Sgt-At-Arms

PREAMBLE
Detachment Senior Vice Commander

ROLL CALL
Detachment Adjutant

JUDGE ADVOCATE COMMENTS
Judge Advocate

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
Detachment Sgt-at-Arms

APPOINT RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
Detachment Commander

FINANCE REPORT
Detachment Finance Officer

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

Legislative Commission

S.A.L. Leadership Training Commission

Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
GTTY Promoter
Poppy Promoter
VE&E Promoter
VAVS Promoter

Public Relations Commission

Convention Board of Managers

Commander's Advisory Committee

All Donations to Commissions & Committees

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT
NEC or ANEC

NEW BUSINESS

FOR THE GOOD OF THE S.A.L.

Guests Remarks
Other items

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
Adjutant@IllinoisSAL.ORG 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.IllinoisSAL.org

The Americanism Commission met via zoom on November 16, 7:00 p.m. central time. Present were Chairman Paul Hayse, Second Division Jeff Haddick, excused were Tommie Cicna and John Nemanich. Also attending were Commander Mike Vozar, Phillip Shipley, and Phil Stander.

Chairman Hayse gave opening remarks and opening prayer was given.

Chairman Hayse spoke on The Four Chaplains Ceremony to be held the 1st Sunday in February. He also gave the goals of the National Americanism Commission that were (1) to increase Boys State by 10%, (2) increase flag education by 10%, and support Flying Flags for Heroes by Detachment increase of 10%.

No Religious Emphasis report, no flag alliance report. Under Legacy Scholarship, Phil Stander reported they are Self-funded and the Legion Riders are focusing on the V and C Foundation.

Under Boys State Mike Vozar said the cost has risen to \$400.00 and the website is open.

Chairman Hayse gave his report on American Legion Baseball.

Under Oratorical, State finals will be held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield the first weekend of March. 2024 finals will be held May 17-19 at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

There was no old business, no new business, and under guests Commander Vozar spoke.

In closing remarks Chairman Hayse reminded all that American Legion Day is April 27th. The FFFH website has been paid for another year so keep turning in your numbers and pictures.

Closing prayer was given and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27p.m..

Respectfully submitted, Paul Hayse



Four Chaplains Ceremony is held the 1st Sunday in February

It was Feb. 3, 1943, and the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester was one of three ships in a convoy, moving across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. A converted luxury liner, the Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

It was only 150 miles from its destination when shortly after midnight, an officer aboard the German submarine U2 spotted it. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire. The hit was decisive, striking the ship, far below the water line. The initial blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more.

Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Panic and chaos quickly set in! Men were screaming, others crying or frantically trying to get lifeboats off the ship.

Through the pandemonium, four men spread out among the Soldiers, calming the frightened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were four Army chaplains, Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Quickly and quietly the four chaplains worked to bring calm to the men. As soldiers began to find their way to the deck of the ship, many were still in their underwear, where they were confronted by the cold winds blowing down from the arctic.

Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. "Where are you going?" a voice of calm in the sea of distressed asked "To get my gloves," Mahoney replied. "Here, take these," said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young officer. "I can't take those gloves," Mahoney replied. "Never mind," the Rabbi responded. "I have two pairs." It was only long after that Mahoney realized that the chaplain never intended to leave the ship.

Once topside, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains simultaneously removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did Fox or Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. One survivor would later call it "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains -- arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, only 230 survived. Before boarding the Dorchester back in January, Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him, "Not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty...never be a coward...and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate."

Although the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthumously Congress wished to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements which required heroism performed under fire. So a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains' Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President on January 18, 1961.

It was never given before and will never be given again.

If you have not attended a Four Chaplains Memorial Service, you owe it to yourself to see this moving Ceremony. There is a well-orchestrated service that I have been attending for several years that's held in the chapel at Hines VA Hospital. If there are none offered in your area, please consider hosting a service at your Post, church, or other appropriate venue. There is plenty of help at your fingertips that will spell out suggested steps to be taken found in the American Legion Chaplain's 'How to....Manual' that can be found on the American Legion website. Simply enter "chaplains how to" in the search box and a link will appear that can take you to the manual and pages 37 through 50 can give you step by step suggestions. If I can be of service to you in helping you to start this program in your community, I am a phone call or email away.

Jim Borgman,
Americanism Commission
708 448 6535
Jaborgman9@gmail.com

Registration for the 2024 American Legion Baseball season will open Jan. 1 at baseball.legion.org. The early deadline for registration is May 15. Teams registered after May 15 may be subject to a department \$200 late fee through the final deadline of June 1. Please note that each American Legion department may set an earlier deadline for registration. Registration fees for senior teams are \$50 for national registration and \$35 for administrative fees.

As part of the education and training requirements of Public Law 115-126, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, all coaches, managers, and volunteer staff members must complete the Abuse Awareness course either through Protect Youth Sports or USA Baseball. All coaches, managers and volunteer staff members must also have a completed and passed background check.

American Legion Baseball American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues. Today, the program registers more than 5,400 teams in all 50 states, including Canada and Puerto Rico

Children & Youth Report

The Winter 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 – Absent

Member: Eugene Gort – Excused

Member: Garrett Slevin, Sr. – Absent

Member: Larry Miller – Present

Promoter: Phil Stander – Present

Guests

Detachment Commander – Mike Vozar

AL Department of Illinois C&Y Chairman – Dave Johnson

Old Business

Update of “Stand Up for Kids” Sock program – Phil stated that the latest was having a children’s drawing contest and picking two winners and having those pictures put on the socks as well as the CWR Logo.

Mini Golf / Bowling Tournament by Division would possibly be on the same day, and it would foster comradery between Divisions, Districts, and members. We would like to do this in April 2024 which is Children’s month. We will need a representative from each Division to get this off the ground.

New Business

Dave Johnson discussed the Legion Family 366-day raffle. Dave has the tickets and Bill or Mike will get 200 tickets for the Detachment’s Winter DEC. This raffle will cost \$50 per ticket and there will only be 1,250 tickets. The goal is to sell all the tickets which will net \$42,500 for all the C&Y programs within the Legion Family. Each day you can win from \$25 up to \$1,000. Total winnings will be \$17,000.

Dave also reported that the Winter Special Olympics will be held in Galena, Illinois on February 6, 7, 8 2024. He also stated that the food is up in the air right now. There is new management at the Illinois Special Olympics, and they are changing the food requirements. Sue Johnson and Dave are going to meet with them in the next few days to discuss it and an update will be given.

Guest Comments

There were none.

For The Good of The Sons

There were none.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm

Finance
26 November 2023

The meeting opened at 7:06 pm. Committee members present was Chairman- Jeff Trout, Vice Chairman-Tommie Cisna, Jimmy Hunter and Garrett Slevin Sr. Special guests were Phil Stander, Bill Flanagan, Mike Vozar, Jeff Van Horn. Also present was Bob Tharp.

It was announced by Chairman Trout that the Commander's Advisory Committee is moving forward with an idea to raise funds for the Detachment. Should anyone have additional ideas please bring them to Jeff Trout so he can bring it to Commander's Advisory.

Finance Officer Phil Stander reminded the Committee that the Busey CD matures in January 2024. Jimmy Hunter motioned that the CD should be cashed out and deposited into the General checking account for future use. Tommie Cisna seconded and the motion passed. Phil also informed the Committee that in the past year the four investment accounts have had a total return of 13.38%. He suggested that they be left alone at this time as there are no other types of accounts that would have such a high return rate. The Committee agreed.

The Detachment received an email from the Central Region Extravaganza informing us that the second annual event will be happening in April 2024. They are asking for donations to help offset the costs of hosting the event. Finance Officer Stander said the Detachment of Illinois donated \$500.00 last year. Tommie Cisna motioned to donate \$500.00 from overage to the Central Region Extravaganza. Jimmy Hunter seconded the motion. During discussion it was agreed that this is a worthwhile event. The motion passed.

Bob Tharp informed the Committee that the auditors are running about two months behind and he expects the audit report sometime in the late spring, early summer.

Jeff Van Horn reminded us that Detachment Advisor Bill Flanagan has asked that we take a fresh look at the rules on using the National Candidate Fund.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

8:20 AM
12/04/23
Cash Basis

SAL GENERAL ACCOUNT
Balance Sheet
As of December 4, 2023

	<u>Dec 4, 23</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Annual Donations	12,783.35
BUSEY CD-653-ADMIN - 2010 (ANNUAL ...	14,456.68
Children and Youth	791.55
EDWARD JONES	
AMERICAN BALANCED FUND - A	7,277.12
AMERICAN BALANCED FUND - C	13,832.83
INVESTMENT CO OF AMERICA - A	15,150.03
INVESTMENT CO. OF AMERICA - C	16,523.63
Total EDWARD JONES	52,783.61
National Candidate fund	34,561.91
Overage Savings	54,268.82
SAL General Checking	34,455.78
Scholarships	18,826.66
Total Checking/Savings	222,928.36
Total Current Assets	222,928.36
TOTAL ASSETS	222,928.36
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	205,037.44
Retained Earnings	133,101.41
Net Income	-115,210.49
Total Equity	222,928.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	222,928.36

SAL GENERAL ACCOUNT
Budget vs. Actual
 August 2023 through July 2024

	Aug '23 - J...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...
Income			
100000 - INCOME			
110000 - PER-CAPITA	32,538.00	70,000.00	-37,462.00
120000 - INTEREST	13.31	20.00	-6.69
130000 - CONVENTION			
130001 - REGISTRATION	315.00	800.00	-485.00
Total 130000 - CONVENTION	315.00	800.00	-485.00
140000 - TRANSFER FROM OVERAGE	0.00	15,263.00	-15,263.00
150000 - OTHER			
150001 - SWEEPSTAKES	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00
150002 - MISC	10,186.63		
Total 150000 - OTHER	10,186.63	2,500.00	7,686.63
170000 - INVESTMENT	5,333.06		
Total 100000 - INCOME	48,386.00	88,583.00	-40,197.00
160000 - DONATION SAVINGS			
160005 - CHILD WELFARE FNDD.	1,350.00		
160025 - COMMANDERS PROJECT	-1,968.00		
160028 - HONOR FLIGHT	2,730.00		
Total 160000 - DONATION SAVINGS	2,112.00		
Total Income	50,498.00	88,583.00	-38,085.00
Expense			
010000 - ADM. NON-BUDGETED ACCT			
010006 - MISC.	136,328.65		
010010 - 5 YEAR CARDS	0.00	2,515.00	-2,515.00
010011 - NAT. REPORTS	800.00		
Total 010000 - ADM. NON-BUDGETED ACCT	137,128.65	2,515.00	134,613.65
200000 - GENERAL ADMIN. EXPENSE			
201000 - POSTAGE			
201100 - OFFICERS			
201104 - FINANCE OFFICER	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 201100 - OFFICERS	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 201000 - POSTAGE	0.00	300.00	-300.00
202000 - SUPPLIES			
202101 - ADJUTANT	1,130.70	1,750.00	-619.30
202102 - FINANCE OFFICER	116.59	1,250.00	-1,133.41
202103 - HISTORIAN	0.00	100.00	-100.00
202104 - CHAPLAIN	0.00	150.00	-150.00
202106 - SERVICE OFFICER	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Total 202000 - SUPPLIES	1,247.29	3,300.00	-2,052.71
203000 - MAINTENANCE			
203099 - MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total 203000 - MAINTENANCE	0.00	100.00	-100.00
204000 - NAME TAGS, PLAQS, PINS			
204100 - NAME TAGS			
204101 - OFFICERS	143.97	250.00	-106.03
Total 204100 - NAME TAGS	143.97	250.00	-106.03
204200 - PINS			
204201 - INCOMING COMMANDER	0.00	3,500.00	-3,500.00
204202 - PAST COMMANDER	0.00	350.00	-350.00
Total 204200 - PINS	0.00	3,850.00	-3,850.00

SAL GENERAL ACCOUNT
Budget vs. Actual
 August 2023 through July 2024

	Aug '23 - J...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...
204300 - PLAQUES			
204301 - PAST COMMANDER	0.00	50.00	-50.00
204302 - DIV. MEMBER OF THE YR.	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Total 204300 - PLAQUES	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total 204000 - NAME TAGS, PLAQS, PINS	143.97	4,200.00	-4,056.03
207000 - ACCOUNT EXPENSES			
207100 - NAT. CAND. FUND	909.15		
207104 - CHILD WELFARE FNDD.	2,645.00		
207107 - GIFTS TO YANKS	5,582.80		
207109 - NAT. EMERGENCY FUND	560.00		
207110 - SPECIAL OLYMPICS	550.00		
207124 - LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP	211.00		
207126 - OP. COMFORTWARRIOR	1,030.00		
207128 - COMMANDERS PROJECT	-1,968.00		
207133 - MISC.	600.00		
207134 - IL. DISASTER RELIEF	490.00		
Total 207000 - ACCOUNT EXPENSES	10,609.95		
Total 200000 - GENERAL ADMIN. EXPENSE	12,001.21	7,900.00	4,101.21
207300 - MANDATED			
207301 - SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	7,108.00	-7,108.00
207303 - ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
207304 - ANNUAL AUDIT	0.00	1,900.00	-1,900.00
Total 207300 - MANDATED	0.00	10,508.00	-10,508.00
208000 BANK SERVICE CHARGES			
208002 CHECKS	194.12	175.00	19.12
Total 208000 BANK SERVICE CHARGES	194.12	175.00	19.12
270000 - INVESTMENT	3,140.00		
300000 - FUNCTIONING EXPENSES			
301000 - ELECTED OFFICERS			
301001 - COMMANDER	1,004.57	3,500.00	-2,495.43
301002 - SR. VICE COMMANDER	233.50	3,000.00	-2,766.50
301003 - N.E.C.	489.59	900.00	-410.41
301004 - A.N.E.C.	0.00	900.00	-900.00
3010205 - IM. PAST. COMMANDER	0.00	450.00	-450.00
Total 301000 - ELECTED OFFICERS	1,727.66	8,750.00	-7,022.34
302000 - APPOINTED OFFICERS			
302001 - ADJUTANT	459.69	1,750.00	-1,290.31
302002 - ASSIST. ADJUTANT #1	0.00	500.00	-500.00
302003 - FINANCE OFFICER	330.78	1,000.00	-669.22
302004 - CHAPLAIN	0.00	450.00	-450.00
302005 - JUDGE ADVOCATE	176.00	450.00	-274.00
302006 - HISTORIAN	0.00	450.00	-450.00
302008 - PARLIAMENTARIAN	0.00	450.00	-450.00
302009 - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	0.00	450.00	-450.00
302011 - SERVICE OFFICER	0.00	450.00	-450.00
302014 - COMMANDERS AIDE #1	105.00	300.00	-195.00
302015 - COMMANDERS AIDE #2	0.00	300.00	-300.00
302016 - SR. VICE AIDE	0.00	450.00	-450.00
302017 - COMM. SRGT AT ARMS #1	0.00	300.00	-300.00
302018 - COMM. SRGT AT ARMS #2	0.00	300.00	-300.00
302019 - SR. VICE SRGT at ARMS	0.00	450.00	-450.00
Total 302000 - APPOINTED OFFICERS	1,071.47	8,050.00	-6,978.53

SAL GENERAL ACCOUNT
Budget vs. Actual
 August 2023 through July 2024

	Aug '23 - J...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...
303000 - COMMISSIONS			
303101 - FINANCE PLANNING	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Total 303000 - COMMISSIONS	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
304000 - COMMITTEES			
304100 - SPECIAL COMM. MEETING			
304101 - CONVENTION SITE	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
304102 - LEADERSHIP TRAINING	300.00	300.00	0.00
Total 304100 - SPECIAL COMM. MEETING	300.00	1,300.00	-1,000.00
Total 304000 - COMMITTEES	300.00	1,300.00	-1,000.00
306000 - NATIONAL CONVENTION			
306001 - REGISTRATION FEES	0.00	1,250.00	-1,250.00
306002 - DELEGATE ALLOWANCES	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00
306003 - LUNCHEON	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00
306004 - NAT. CON. DEL. SEC.	550.00	550.00	0.00
306006 - DELEGATION CHAIRMAN	400.00	400.00	0.00
306008 - INCOMING COMMANDER	550.00	550.00	0.00
Total 306000 - NATIONAL CONVENTION	8,000.00	10,450.00	-2,450.00
Total 300000 - FUNCTIONING EXPENSES	11,099.13	29,550.00	-18,450.87
400000 - DETACHMENT CONVENTION			
401000 - HOUSING			
401001 - COMMANDER	0.00	500.00	-500.00
401002 - REGISTRAR	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401003 - NAT. REPRESENTATIVE	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401004 - SENIOR VICE COMMANDER			
401004A - COMM - PRES DINNER	0.00	90.00	-90.00
401004 - SENIOR VICE COMMANDER - Other	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Total 401004 - SENIOR VICE COMMANDER	0.00	590.00	-590.00
401005 - ADJUTANT	0.00	500.00	-500.00
401006 - CHAPLAIN	0.00	450.00	-450.00
401007 - JUDGE ADVOCATE	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401008 - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401009 - HISTORIAN	0.00	450.00	-450.00
401010 - FINANCE OFFICER	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401012 - PARLIAMENTARIAN	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401015 - IMD PAST COMMANDER	0.00	450.00	-450.00
401016 - NEC	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401017 - ANEC	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401018 - GIFTS	0.00	200.00	-200.00
401019 - ASSIST. ADJUTANT	0.00	300.00	-300.00
401020 - SR VICE COM. CANDIDATE	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Total 401000 - HOUSING	0.00	5,990.00	-5,990.00
402000 - REGISTRATION			
402003 - SUPPLIES	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total 402000 - REGISTRATION	0.00	100.00	-100.00
403000 - ADMINISTRATION			
403003 - FLOWERS	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 403000 - ADMINISTRATION	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 400000 - DETACHMENT CONVENTION	0.00	6,290.00	-6,290.00

SAL GENERAL ACCOUNT
Budget vs. Actual
 August 2023 through July 2024

	Aug '23 - J...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...
500000 - MEMBERSHIP			
501000 - DIVISION COMMANDERS			
501100 - COMMANDERS (5)	65.91	1,500.00	-1,434.09
501200 - SEN. VICE COMM. (5)	300.00	750.00	-450.00
Total 501000 - DIVISION COMMANDERS	365.91	2,250.00	-1,884.09
502000 - DISTRICT OFFICERS			
502100 - COMMANDERS / CHMN (23)	140.20	2,760.00	-2,619.80
502200 - SR VICE COMMANDER (23)	50.00	1,150.00	-1,100.00
Total 502000 - DISTRICT OFFICERS	190.20	3,910.00	-3,719.80
503000 - CARAVAN			
503003 - NATIONAL CARAVAN	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
Total 503000 - CARAVAN	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
504000 - AWARDS			
504001 - CITATIONS & PLAQUES	0.00	500.00	-500.00
504003 - BREAKFAST & JACKET	0.00	660.00	-660.00
504004 - MEMBERSHIP AWARDS	0.00	200.00	-200.00
504005 - COMMANDERS SHIRT	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Total 504000 - AWARDS	0.00	2,360.00	-2,360.00
Total 500000 - MEMBERSHIP	556.11	13,520.00	-12,963.89
600000 - DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS			
601000 - LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE			
601101 - WREATH & RECEPTION	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
601200 - COMMANDER			
601203 - EXPENSES	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 601200 - COMMANDER	0.00	300.00	-300.00
601300 - NEC			
601303 - EXPENSES	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 601300 - NEC	0.00	300.00	-300.00
601400 - HISTORIAN			
601403 - EXPENSES	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 601400 - HISTORIAN	0.00	300.00	-300.00
601500 - ADJUTANT			
601501 - EXPENSES	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 601500 - ADJUTANT	0.00	300.00	-300.00
601600 - SR VICE COMM.			
6016001 - EXPENSES	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 601600 - SR VICE COMM.	0.00	300.00	-300.00
601900 - NAT. REPRESENTATIVE			
601903 - EXPENSES	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Total 601900 - NAT. REPRESENTATIVE	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Total 601000 - LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
602000 - EGYPTIANS PAST COMM.			
602100 - COMMANDER			
602103 - EXPENSES	300.00	300.00	0.00
Total 602100 - COMMANDER	300.00	300.00	0.00

SAL GENERAL ACCOUNT
Budget vs. Actual
 August 2023 through July 2024

	Aug '23 - J...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...
602200 - HISTORIAN			
60203 - EXPENSES	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 602200 - HISTORIAN	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 602000 - EGYPTIANS PAST COMM.	300.00	600.00	-300.00
603000 - ARMED FORCES DINNER			
603100 - COMMANDER OR SR. VICE			
603103 - EXPENSES	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 603100 - COMMANDER OR SR. VICE	0.00	200.00	-200.00
603200 - HISTORIAN			
603201 - EXPENSES	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 603200 - HISTORIAN	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 603000 - ARMED FORCES DINNER	0.00	400.00	-400.00
605000 - AUX. PATRIOTIC CONF.			
605100 - COMMANDER	0.00	200.00	-200.00
605200 - HISTORIAN			
605201 - EXPENSES	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 605200 - HISTORIAN	0.00	200.00	-200.00
605400 - AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN			
605403 - EXPENSES	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 605400 - AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 605000 - AUX. PATRIOTIC CONF.	0.00	600.00	-600.00
606000- JR AUXILIARY ANN. CONF			
606100 - COMMANDER			
606103 - EXPENSES	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Total 606100 - COMMANDER	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Total 606000- JR AUXILIARY ANN. CONF	0.00	150.00	-150.00
609000 - HOMECOMINGS			
609100 - DEPT. COMMANDERS GIFT			
609101 - DETACHMENT COMMANDER	0.00	100.00	-100.00
609100 - DEPT. COMMANDERS GIFT - Other	100.00		
Total 609100 - DEPT. COMMANDERS GIFT	100.00	100.00	0.00
609200 - DEPT. PRESIDENTS GIFT			
609201 - DETACHMENT COMMANDER	89.27	100.00	-10.73
Total 609200 - DEPT. PRESIDENTS GIFT	89.27	100.00	-10.73
Total 609000 - HOMECOMINGS	189.27	200.00	-10.73
Total 600000 - DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS	489.27	5,950.00	-5,460.73
700000 - NATIONAL & OTHER FUNCT			
710100 - WASHINGTON CONFERENCE			
710101 - WREATH	0.00	175.00	-175.00
710102 - PRESENTOR OF WREATH	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
710103 - BUS TRIP & MEALS	0.00	50.00	-50.00
710104 - AMERICANISM CONFERENCE	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Total 710100 - WASHINGTON CONFERENCE	0.00	2,025.00	-2,025.00

SAL GENERAL ACCOUNT
Budget vs. Actual
 August 2023 through July 2024

	<u>Aug '23 - J...</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Bu...</u>
790000 - HOMECOMINGS			
790100- NAT SAL COMMANDERS GIFT			
790101 - COMMANDERS GIFT	0.00	250.00	-250.00
790109 - PRESENTER OF GIFT	0.00	350.00	-350.00
Total 790100- NAT SAL COMMANDERS GIFT	<u>0.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>-600.00</u>
Total 790000 - HOMECOMINGS	<u>0.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>-600.00</u>
Total 700000 - NATIONAL & OTHER FUNCT	0.00	2,625.00	-2,625.00
900000 - MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES			
901000 - CONTINGENCY			
901001 - MTG. CALL PAY	1,100.00	8,550.00	-7,450.00
901099 - MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total 901000 - CONTINGENCY	<u>1,100.00</u>	<u>8,750.00</u>	<u>-7,650.00</u>
908000 - NATIONAL HOSPITALITY	<u>0.00</u>	<u>800.00</u>	<u>-800.00</u>
Total 900000 - MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	<u>1,100.00</u>	<u>9,550.00</u>	<u>-8,450.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>165,708.49</u>	<u>88,583.00</u>	<u>77,125.49</u>
Net Income	<u>-115,210.49</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-115,210.49</u>

Commander's Advisory
26 November 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 pm. Chairman Jeff Trout, Vice Chairman Kevin O'Connell and committee members Wayne Madson, Eugene Gort and Tommie Cisna were present. Also present were special guests Bill Flanagan, Commander Mike Vozar, Jeff Van Horn and Matt Christie. Guest Phil Stander was also present.

Chairman Trout asked that the committee attempt to move forward with an idea to add additional revenue to the Detachment. Wayne Madson made a motion to gather all information needed to raffle a big ticket item such as a side by side utility vehicle. Kevin O'Connell seconded. The motion passed. Wayne and I will work on getting all pertinent information in line by the Spring Zoom call to see if this raffle will be feasible.

The next topic of discussion was the necessity of getting a list of possible candidates to serve as Commission and Committee members. It has been pointed out that sometimes we have to use a member from outside a division to represent. Adjutant Van Horn agreed that he would send a letter to all Division Commanders that they must submit a list of possible candidates for consideration to be placed on a Commission or Committee. He will give them a cutoff date to respond to the request.

NVC search committee liaison Matt Christie said that there is nothing new to report since his last report in September.

Commander Vozar stated that he has been asked about how to deal with unauthorized posts on Facebook. It was suggested that any Squadron, District or Division that has their own Facebook page should be sure to check the settings to make sure all posts go through the administrator. If nothing else works they may have to block the offending party.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF ILLINOIS - LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Zoom Meeting - Monday 11/20/23 - 7:00PM

Present:

Glenn Kraemer, Rick Allen, Kevin O'Connell, Phil Stander

Discussion Points:

LOVE LIVES ON ACT

Gold Star Spouses are currently put in a heartbreaking predicament- choose love and happiness through remarriage before the age of 55 and lose critical benefits, or forgo companionship to keep their benefits. This predicament creates an untenable choice for our widows and widowers between personal happiness and financial stability. It's time to change this!

The Love Lives On Act aims to correct this egregious wrong by proposing the following actions:

- Eliminate the age limit for remarrying without loss of benefits.
- Allow remarried surviving spouses to retain education benefits.
- Preserve Commissary and Exchange benefits for remarried spouses.
- Enable remarried spouses to regain TRICARE benefits if the subsequent marriage ends.
- Abolish the "Hold Themselves Out to Be Married" clause, an outdated law causing unnecessary fear and inhibiting freedom.

AFGHAN ADJUSTMENT ACT

Two years ago, our soldiers and Marines heroically evacuated tens of thousands of Afghan allies who fought with us against the Taliban. Since then, more than 70,000 at-risk Afghans have been relocated to the United States, where they have been in legal limbo. Despite fleeing from the Taliban, most of our new Afghan neighbors have no direct pathway to lawful permanent residency and stability in the U.S.

Without an adjustment act that creates this path, most Afghans would be forced to navigate the backlogged, complex, and paperwork-intensive asylum process. Access to qualified and affordable legal representation, loss of critical documentation and required evidence during the hurried evacuation, the impact of trauma, and backlogs in processing create significant barriers that make the immigration process seem impossible.

This year, Congress re-introduced the Afghan Adjustment Act, but we are running out of time, and this may be our last chance. We urge Congress to pass S. 2327 and H.R. 4627 and grant our allies a path to permanent residency!

VETERAN SERVICE RECOGNITION ACT

H.R. 4569, the Veteran Service Recognition Act, would protect noncitizen veterans from deportation, and ensure that they and their families would still receive the benefits they earned if they are deported. This bill also expedites the process of naturalization for our noncitizen servicemembers. Ensuring that no veteran or servicemember slips through the cracks of our immigration system. The Veteran Service Recognition Act will:

- Direct the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense to implement a program that allows non-citizen servicemembers to file for naturalization during basic training, or as early as otherwise possible.
- Direct the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Military Family Immigration Advisory Committee. This committee will review the cases of non-citizen veterans and active duty service members in removal proceedings and will provide recommendations on whether prosecutorial discretion is warranted, or whether the removal proceedings should continue.
- Provide an opportunity for non-citizen veterans who have been removed or ordered removed and who have not been convicted of serious crimes to apply for and obtain legal permanent resident status if it is in the public interest.

Expanding America's National Cemeteries Act of 2023

Access to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) and its tradition of bestowing full military honors during burials is currently under threat. The Department of Defense (DoD) has proposed restricting Arlington eligibility primarily to recipients of awards such as the Purple Heart, Silver Star, or higher, potentially disregarding the service of deserving veterans from World War II, Korea, and the Vietnam era, as well as a significant number of female veterans. Implementing such reductions would not only affect those who have spent decades planning to be laid to rest with full military honors, but would also limit the capacity of ANC for the next 42 years. We must act to devise a sustainable, long-term solution.

The American Legion finds these proposed reductions wholly unacceptable, and we urge Congress to take immediate action to safeguard this crucial benefit. H.R. 1413, the Expanding America's National Cemeteries Act of 2023, represents a vital lifeline. It enables an existing VA-run national cemetery to transform into a new location capable of providing full military honors as ANC nears capacity. By maximizing our resources rather than restricting them, this legislation offers a pragmatic and effective solution.

Repeal the authorizations for the use of military force (AUMF) against Iraq

The 1991 and 2002 AUMFs—which passed 32 and 21 years ago, respectively—authorized the use of force for the Gulf and Iraq wars, but Congress has failed to repeal these AUMFs to prevent potential misuse by future presidents. Repeal would also enhance the relationship the United States now has with a sovereign, democratic Iraq, now a key partner in the Middle East.

The vast majority of military actions overseas rely on the [2001 AUMF](#) for approval. In the rare occasions that presidents have cited the 2002 AUMF—like the 2014 airstrikes in Syria or 2020 killing of Qassem Soleimani—it was in combination with other legal authorities. Thus, the Iraq War AUMF is legally irrelevant for any modern operations and allowing it to stay on the books allows for future abuse. Too often, the Executive Branch interprets congressional authorizations in a way that maximizes executive power while minimizing congressional responsibility. This is contrary to Congress’s constitutional role of deciding when the country goes to war.

Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act

The American Legion or other accredited veterans service organizations (VSO) are the best first step for veterans seeking assistance because we successfully provide expert help free of charge for hundreds of thousands of veterans a year. We also understand and support a veteran’s freedom to choose representation – whether it’s a VSO, another claims agency, law firm or private company. But we support that right on a key condition: that anyone who represents a veteran in the filing of a claim is accredited with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Accreditation means the representative has been vetted, is trained, and is accountable to VA’s rules, which include the regulation of fees that can be charged.

The American Legion continues to work with VA to share information and educate veterans about free services available through VSOs like accredited American Legion service officers who helped veterans receive \$16.8 billion in disability compensation last year alone. All accredited representatives who assist veterans must be held to the same level of accountability as our service officers, who have been successfully helping with claims since the birth of VA. The Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a claim for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation benefits.

The Major Richard Star Act

Right now, VA deducts the retirement pay of veterans with a disability rating of less than 50%. These veterans who have been forced into medical retirement are being penalized for their injuries, and there is no excuse for it. Disability compensation and retirement pay are two different payments, and should be treated as such. DoD awards retirement pay for honorable service, while the VA is responsible for disability compensation. Conflating the two and forcing deductions in retirement pay is an injustice.

The American Legion stands with disabled veterans and urges Congress not to continue this denial of retirement benefits. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset for those veterans who are medically retired due to injuries sustained in combat and allow them to receive both their retirement pay without forfeiting their disability compensation.

Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act

This bipartisan bill would expand community-based services for aging veterans and improve VA support for veterans and caregivers of all ages, and would:

- Increase the expenditure cap for noninstitutional care alternative programs from 65 percent to 100 percent of nursing home care costs;
- Expand access to home and community-based alternative care programs for veterans at all VA medical facilities, as well as to veterans living in U.S. territories and Native veterans enrolled in IHS or tribal health programs;
- Require VA to create a centralized website to disseminate information and resources related to home and community-based programs and help veterans and caregivers determine their eligibility;
- Require VA to review staffing and resource needs, accessibility, and other aspects of the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care and Caregiver Support Program Office to make sure they are appropriately serving veterans and caregivers;
- Create a pilot program to provide home health aide services for veterans that reside in communities with a shortage of home health aides; and
- Require VA to establish a warm handoff process for veterans and caregivers discharged from or ineligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

Veterans with significant disabilities, like spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D), require specialized and long-term services and support. Unfortunately, the number of veterans requiring this level of care greatly exceeds VA's existing capacity to provide it.

Most significantly, disabled veterans would prefer to receive non-institutional care or home and community-based services (HCBS). VA HCBS must be more accessible to veterans with catastrophic disabilities. The Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program, which allows veterans to receive HCBS in a consumer-directed way, is currently available at only some VA medical centers. Furthermore, VA is limited on how much can be spent on each veteran's home care. When VA reaches this cap, the only alternatives are to place the veteran in a facility or rely on the veteran's caregivers, often family, to bear the extra burden. The Senate can no longer deny veterans these essential services.

The American Legion [Resolution No. 18: Comprehensive Supports for Caregiver Support Program](#) resolves that the Department of Veterans Affairs provide more robust and available comprehensive home and community-based support better to alleviate the physical and mental strains of caregiving. Please write to your Senators today to demand they co-sponsor S. 141, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act!

**Sons of
The
American
Legion**



DETACHMENT OF ILLINOIS
P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2910
2720 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, Illinois 61704-6010

National Security
November 20th 2023

Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Kevin O'Connell
Glenn Kramer
Wayne Madson

The following is a synopsis of the zoom meeting held on November 20th 2023 for the National Security Committee.

We began with a discussion on the open borders issue between the United States at the Mexico border. Currently there is little Government direction or funding. The United States is becoming overwhelmed with illegal immigrants allegedly seeking asylum. Currently Texas is shipping those crossing the border to big cities who adopted the welcoming city status. Those welcoming cities are now seeking government support as they cannot handle the financial Burdon put upon them. To date they have found well over 160 individuals who entered our country that are on the terrorist watch list.

There was also a discussion on law and order. During that last election cycle several States Attorneys were elected to office who supported the no cash bail policy, as well as decriminalizing several crimes. The areas, mostly big cities have experienced a drastic increase in crime. As new elections are coming around, there is a push back on those radical ideas. Aso there was a big push on defunding the Police a few years ago. Again' this is coming full circle as many big cities are fully funding the Police. However, many Police Departments have experienced a large number of officers who retired, or quit. This has caused a severe manpower shortage, Recruiting is very difficult because of the anti-police atmosphere.

The War between Ukraine and Russia continues back and forth and appears to a conflict that will last for some time. The United States is funding Ukraine with money, weapons, and humanitarian supplies.

Other conflicts being watched is Israel and Hamas, China and Taiwan, as well as North Korea and South Korea.

Submitted by: Kevin O'Connell

Public Relations

Public relations met on Sunday November 26, at 6pm. In attendance were members Eugene Gort, Sergio Senese, Tommie Cisna, and Larry Miller.

William Hollis was excused. There were also guest Jeff Van Horn, Commander Mike Vozar, and Kevin O'Connell. We discussed the website and Sergio making the necessary updates with the forms.

Someone from 5th Division is interested in helping with the website his information has been given to Sergio to reach out and give us assistance. We believe with some more help, we can keep our website more up to date. Will have an email newsletter going out first week of December.



Jeff Van Horn <saljeffvh@gmail.com>

Training Minutes

1 message

Wayne <madsonwsr@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 7:39 PM

To: Jeff Van Horn <SALJeffVH@gmail.com>

The SAL Leadership and Training Committee meet Monday Nov 27 at 7pm
Committee members present Larry Miller, Tommie Cisna, and Wayne Madson also present Detachment Sr Vice Rick Allen
excused was Glenn Kramer and Bill Hollis

We did have Training Sessions in all 5 Divisions we had the following turnout in Div 1, 18 people, Div 2, 17 people, Div 3, 5 people also we had a High School student Natalie Boyd give us a presentation about Veterans Suicide. Natalie Father was an Army veteran and he took his life. Div 4, had 11 people, and Div 5, had 5 people. Would have like to seen more people attend. Like to recognize Jeff Trout for his assistance at all 5 Divisions. And to my committee members for spreading the word and assisting at their Divisions. If any Squadrons or Districts would like to have a training session please contact your Division reps. Will be putting together a guide for future use for anyone to use.

Wayne Madson
Chairman SAL Leadership and Training

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Illinois

Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Call

Wednesday November 19, 2023, 6:30 pm CST

Roll Call

Committeemen:

Wade Hudson (C) -	Present	Butch Ray (VC) -	Present
Jeff Trout-	Excuse	Bill Seward -	Not Present

Absent: Tommie Cisna, Larry Miller

Ex-Officio Members:

John Nemanich -	not present	Wayne Madson (Poppies) -	Excuse
Jimmy Hunter -	Excuse		

Hospital Reps:

Bruno Williamson (VAVS) -	Present	Derrick Stinson -	Excuse
Jeff Trout -	Excuse	John Nemanich -	Present
Jimmy Hunter -	Excuse	Stephen Wiley-	Present

Guests:

Commander Vozar -	Present	Vice Commander Allen -	Present
Adjutant Van Horn -	Excuse	Imd. Past Commander/ANEC O'Connell -	Not present
NEC Hayse -	Not present		

Old Business

Veterans and Childrens Foundation:

New Business

Honor Flight – this is Commander Vozar's program for the year & this is a VA&R 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

Veterans Employment & Education – none

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) – Bruno Williamson

For the Good of the SAL general discussion?

2023-2024 Theme

“Be the ONE” ... how can we incorporate the Commander’s theme into our Commission?

The American Legion National Family has a shared goal of the “Be the ONE” initiative. Remember that “Buddy Checks” are just as important to the SAL and the American Legion Auxiliary as it is to the American Legion. Please inform all members of the change in the call-in number to the Veteran Suicide Hotline. The new way to reach out for help is to just dial #988 and then press 1! He then stated what could be a new slogan for this effort... **“Press 988 to Prevent a 911”?**

We have been informed of AL National Commander Troiola’s goal and challenge to raise \$2 Million dollars for The American Legion Veteran’s and Children’s Foundation. He asked all on the call to embrace this goal as the SAL has for the CWF!

Goals

- Promote Veterans National Assistance Day (3rd Saturday in May)
 - Informational emails (3 times starting after the first of the year)
 - Regional Conference Calls
- Charles Rigby Volunteer of the Year Award from Illinois

Promoter’s Reports:

Service Officer: vacant

VEEC: Chairman W. Hudson is working on getting his ID for Great Lakes. He will volunteer once a month. I would also have access to Hines and Jesse Brown and to attend the VA&R quarterly meeting. By doing this I am trying to build camaraderie

I would like to go to the hospitals as a team. Jesse Brown needs help with scheduling and elevator problems. As a VRA rep, the employees look forward to the change. I would also like to be a greeter at Great Lakes.

I would like to push out the Buddy check and SAVE.

SAL university will have their first class in Spring 2024. It will be like Legion class, and it will be based on the mission and volunteerism.

Butch Ray (VC) - Butch and Bruno has notes from the meeting they attended, and they will give a report.

Butch gathered information on VE&E. There is a job fair in December. There is also one in November. Most are concentrated in the Chicago metro area. Veterans will have preference. The VAs is hiring although the process is not quick.

There will be half a dozen bills in the spring regarding veteran employment. The veteran should be able to transfer from the military directly into a job.

Be the One is a mission and not a fundraiser. Take the **SAVE** training. It shows you what to look for when helping a veteran from suicide and bodily harm.

Honor flight sent rehabilitated veterans to send to the Washington monument.

Stephen Wiley: 5th Division – No Report

Gifts to Yank Jimmy Hunter: Report was sent in and read by Chairman Wade Hudson as follow give to the yanks 2023-2024, The theme Be the One and how can we incorporate Be the One. Do buddy checks for the American Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary. He gave the number 988 to a veteran's suicide hotline that need help. Raise \$2 million for Veterans children and youth foundation fund.

Poppies Wayne Madson: He was excuse and but mention Poppies going to increase and will give his report at the Winter D.E.C.

Derrick Stinson- He was excuse and no report at this time.

VAVS Bruno Williamson: Spoke on The National SAL was certified at five hospitals. Look for someone else at Hines. We are behind. Want to be in a 1/3 of the hospitals.

Want to recruit one volunteer each year. Only must volunteer four times a year.

We have one official representative in Manteno. There are different applications and criteria for volunteering. The criteria are to go to quarterly meetings at a minimum. Have four volunteer days. See what the needs are. Fill out a joint review. The VRE report, Bruno would like people to get trained. It takes about 25 minutes to look for signs for people in crisis. Would like to do a joint training at Robert Busch Medical Center. Military have trouble going back into the civilian world. The was a resolution passed where we cannot pass out the pamphlet until National goes through it. We all need to go through the circle and share what is going on. We are on national teams, and we have more input to make a difference. Please send the SAVE training to others and do buddy checks. If you do not hear from people, reach out to them.

Detachment Commander Mike Vozar – Mike Vozar visited the Marion VA and took a tour. Any veteran beyond the Pack Act in crisis will be covered for their care regarding a mental health crisis.

McHenry Post 491 has been engaged with buddy checks. They do it weekly, every Saturday morning. It strengthens relationships.

Rick Allen- During meetings at hospitals, there is an empty seat to represent veterans. The empty chair reminds them of the Veterans in each conference room. There is a designated empty chair.

Mike Vozar- took a picture of the designated empty chair.

“I wonder how we will react if at all our meeting there was an empty chair, will we look away or possibly turn and stare. But why would we bother with an empty chair if all it does is mulishly stare.

Can an empty chair speak or convey thought or it just empty, and thus it should never be brought. But what is that chair is an unspoken Vet. Could we ignore his presence without feeling regret. It a powerful thing the empty chair, it doesn't have to speak but we know it there.

As the chair can't speak it has no choose but to rely on us to become it, Voice.”

VEEC: (Last Question)

Hudson- What can we do get out to different hospital as a team and meet with veterans at different Hospital.

Butch- SAL university will have their first class in Spring 2024. It will be like Legion class, and it will be based on the mission and volunteerism.

Mike- Be the One encourage the training, Pack act and Crises and Boots on the Ground.

Closing:

With no further business to consider; Chairman Hudson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FOR GOD AND COUNTRY OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 * WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS * P: 317-630-1205

Stand for the Four Pillars, stand for the Legion Family

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We are off and working to make 2023-24 a great year! What an honor to be elected as your national commander and be able to represent my grandfather's service in the Army during World War II. "Representing More Than Me" is my slogan for the year because I truly believe that is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper it is a commitment to pay respect to our family member's service in our military. Let's make sure that our commitment is worth the sacrifices they made.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization, and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security and they are still the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, all you need to do is raise one dollar per member each for Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), the Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) and your department's Boys State program (Americanism) and hold a blood drive (National Security). You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is not that hard to do, if we plan and work to get it done.

I believe that the Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in the work we do to help our veterans, children, and community. Aaron Tippin sang a song that said, "You've got to stand for something or you will fall for anything." Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth all of us being the best Son we can be. "Be The One" in more ways than one.

Sincerely,

Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

"Representing More Than Me"

