



**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Indiana  
Mid-Winter Conference  
Detachment Executive Committee  
Indianapolis, IN  
January 10, 2015**

Commander Ron Sexton opened the meeting at 12:02 PM with a right hand salute to the flag of our nation. Chaplain Richard Lawrence said an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was placed on the empty chair by Southern Vice Commander Andy Byers and Northern Vice Commander Robert Bowie. The Blue Star Banner was properly displayed. Southern Vice Commander James Naylor led the Pledge of Allegiance. Northern Vice Commander David Benefiel led the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

Commander Sexton called on Distinguished Guests Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr. to introduce any guests.

Chairman Giehll introduced Department National Executive Committeeman Paul Stewart. NEC Stewart introduced American Legion National Vice Commander Bill Bryant (VA).

NVC Bryant reminded the membership of when and why the Sons were started. He asked us to continue our work with membership, promoting new members and increasing our renewal rate. He thanked us for our work with the Legion programs. He also talked about National Commander Helm's goal of 4X4: 4 million members and 4 million dollars for Legion programs throughout the Legion Family. He thanked us for the opportunity to address us and wished us a happy new year. Commander Sexton presented NVC Bryant with one of his Commander's pins.

Commander Ron Sexton asked for a roll call of officers. Adjutant Damon Bradtmueller made a roll call which showed the following;

Commander:	Ron Sexton	
Northern Vice Commander:	Robert Bowie	
Northern Vice Commander:	Dave Benefiel	
Southern Vice Commander:	Andy Byers	
Southern Vice Commander:	James Naylor	
Adjutant:	Damon Bradtmueller	
Acting Adjutant:	Raymond Giehll, Jr.	
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter, Sr.	
Asst. Adjutant:	Glenn Nagel	
Asst. Adjutant:	Steve Tansel	(EX)
Acting Finance Officer:	Mark Tansel	(EX)
Chaplain:	Richard Lawrence	
Historian:	Dennis Hathaway	
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Jay Huffman	
Sgt.-at-Arms Emeritus:	Galen Close	(EX)

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Charles Gemlich	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Doug Heiser	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Mark Davidson	
Judge Advocate:	Terry Slagle	
Membership Chairman:	David Mummert	
Public Relations Director:	Dan Conkling	(EX)
NEC:	Richard Pfeiffer	
Alt. NEC:	Mike Pipher	

District Commanders:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Kenneth Corbeille	
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Jerry Halsema	
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Matt Kearns	
4 <sup>th</sup> :	Doug Heiser	
5 <sup>th</sup> :	Jay Huffman	
6 <sup>th</sup> :	Mark Davidson	
7 <sup>th</sup> :	J. Andy Dale	(EX)
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Halleck Lamar	
9 <sup>th</sup> :	Larry Cripe	
10 <sup>th</sup> :	Niles Gammon	(EX)
11 <sup>th</sup> :	Richard Lawrence	

District Advisors:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Al Pulido
4 <sup>th</sup> :	Donald Dapp
7 <sup>th</sup> :	Brian Walters
SAL Chairman:	Larry Horvath

Past Detachment Commanders:

William Stephens  
Cliff Stephens  
David Stephens  
Larry Paulus  
James Arter  
Raymond Giehll, Jr.  
Terry Slagle  
John Widmann  
Damon Bradtmueller  
David Siggers  
Richard Pfeiffer  
Mike Pipher  
Glenn Nagel  
David Hanson  
Greg Spaulding

Commander Sexton called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Raymond Giehll Jr.  
Chairman Giehll introduced the following guests:

First time attendees

All present Past Detachment Commanders

Mike Pipher, National Update Editor

Damon Bradtmueller, National Public Relations Commission Vice Chairman

David Siggers, National Americanism Commission Member

Richard Pfeiffer, National Resolutions Committee Member

Raymond Giehll, III, National Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms

David Stephens, Past National Commander

Raymond Giehll, Jr., Past National Commander

Special Guest: National Commander Central, Mike Moss from the Detachment of Colorado

Commander Sexton called for the reading of the previous minutes.

PDC Giehll made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Commander Sexton called for Commission and Committee reports.

### **Americanism: Chairman Chris Carlton**

Americanism Chairman Carlton gave the following report.

**5Star/10Ideals:** Chairman Mark Davidson reported that the Committee is requesting all District Commanders continue to promote both programs at their District meetings and Squadron visitations. The Committee is also looking at having a class at the Detachment Campout. If you have any completed tests, give them to the Detachment Adjutant.

**POW/MIA:** Chairman James Naylor reported that there are a total of 83,156 unaccounted for from all conflicts. Totals are WWII-73,516; Korea-7,865; Vietnam-1,638; Cold War-126; Iraq and Other Conflicts-6. The remains of Cpl. Leland F. Smith were returned to Angola, IN after almost 64 years with full military honors.

**Athletic:** Athletic Chairman David Benefiel reported that 2 Golf Outing bids were submitted and the Committee recommended the bid from Kokomo Squadron 6. Please bring your Hole Sponsor checks to Spring Conference. The Committee would like to see more Squadrons submit bids in the future.

Baseball: State Final bids are due now being accepted. The location for the Regional and Final sites will be announced at Spring Conference.

### ***Americanism Commission:***

The Commission would like to recognize the 4<sup>th</sup> District for their work with the 5Star/10Ideals program after their meeting. Chairman Carlton stated that he had a few Americanism Manuals with him and to see him after the meeting if you want one. You can also request a manual from Department. The National Americanism Commission has started an "Americanism in Action" E-mail collection of articles from Squadrons across the nation. District Commanders, please encourage your Squadrons to submit both individual members' and whole Squadrons' paragraphs promoting Americanism in their communities. Please forward articles to me at

[rdavr@aol.com](mailto:rdavr@aol.com) and I will forward then on the National Commission. The Commission is asking the Athletic Committee to generate criteria to accompany the Golf Tournament bid form. This should make for less confusion when selecting a winning bid.

PDC D. Stephens moved to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SVC Naylor. PDC Giehll made a motion to amend the original motion minus the Athletic Committee report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Pfeiffer. Motion passed. Commander Sexton now called for a vote on the amended motion to accept the Americanism Commission report minus the Athletic Committee report. Motion passed.

PDC Giehll moved to discuss the Golf Tournament, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Hanson.

PDC Siggers asked Athletic Chairman David Benefiel to address the membership as to how the winning selection was made. Chairman Benefiel called on Committee member and Golf Chairman Glenn Nagel for an explanation. After much discussion Commander Sexton called for a vote to close the discussion. Motion passed.

PDC Hanson moved to hold the Golf Tournament at Middletown, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Giehll. Judge Advocate Terry Slagle reminded the membership that only DEC members can vote. The vote was taken and the motion was defeated 11-9.

PDC Pipher moved to accept the Athletic Committee report recommendation that the Golf Tournament be held in Kokomo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

### **Children & Youth: Chairman: Halleck Lamar**

***Special Olympics:*** Chairman Bryan Shuler reported that over 11,000 Special Olympics athletics have been training this year. Chairman Shuler stated that he worked the Special Olympics Bowling event at Pro Bowl West two weekends in November and the kids absolutely loved it. Everyone there cheering the kids on really made their day. For events in your area checkout <http://soindiana.org/events>. Special Olympics are funded through donations; please ask your Squadrons and members if they can help.

***Junior Shooting Sports:*** Chairman Mike Shuler reported that Waynedale Post 241 is being considered for the site of the State meet. If your Post has a shooting program please send info to [Mike9271962@gmail.com](mailto:Mike9271962@gmail.com). If you have any questions on Junior Shooting Sports you can contact Kim Mezger, Department Program Director, at [kmezger@inlegion.org](mailto:kmezger@inlegion.org) or [shooting@legion.org](mailto:shooting@legion.org). The Committee would like to know if your post has a Junior Shooting Sports Program; if so, send information to Mike Shuler at [mike9271962@aim.com](mailto:mike9271962@aim.com).

***Americanism & Government:*** Chairman Dewey Long reported to push Flag Education. Keep up on veterans' issues at your Post as the Legislature is back in session.

***Child Welfare Foundation:*** Chairman Andy Byers reported that we were 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation last year with \$19,145; let's try and beat that amount this year. Make sure you are keeping your Consolidated Report Form up to date.

***Hoosier Boys State:*** Chairman Joe Schultis asked the District Commanders to encourage Squadrons to help Posts obtain prospective candidates for this year's Hoosier Boys State in June.

***Oratorical:*** Chairman Chris Carlton reported that the Department Oratorical Contest Finals will be on March 8 at National Headquarters and 5 volunteers are needed. If you can work the finals contest please see Chairman Carlton after this meeting or contact him at [rdavr@aol.com](mailto:rdavr@aol.com). Volunteers need to be present by noon. Most of the District Oratorical Finals have been completed.

**Upcoming District Contests:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> District will be on January 18 at LaPorte High School auditorium (door 13) at 1:00 PM.

The 5<sup>th</sup> District will be on January 18 at Legion Post 6 at 1:00 PM.

The 7<sup>th</sup> District will be on January 17 at Legion Post 18 at 11:00 AM.

**Upcoming Zone Contests:**

Zone 1 will be on February 22 at Munster High School (door 3) at 12 PM (CST).

Zone 2 will be on February 15 at Legion Post 296 at 1:00 PM.

Zone 3 will be on February 21 at Legion Post 331 at 1:00 PM.

Zone 4 will be on February 15 at SPEA at IU at 1:00 PM.

**National Oratorical Contest Finals** are April 10-12 at the Wyndham West. National will contact volunteers who have assisted in the past. If you would like to volunteer and have not worked the contest in the past, contact Chairman Carlton.

**CMN/Riley:** Chairman Raymond Giehll, III hopes that all District Commanders are carrying their Josh Dogs to bring awareness to the program. He reported that we still need to collect pop tabs. We currently have money to purchase Josh Dogs and the Committee would like donations from Squadrons and members to accompany what we have already collected. Chairman Giehll III has kept in contact with Riley Hospital and also contacted Peyton Manning Children's Hospital as a possible donation site.

4<sup>th</sup> DC Heiser moved to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC D. Stephens. Motion passed.

**Internal Affairs: Committeeman Greg Spaulding**

***Community Involvement:*** Chairman Kevin Gwozdz asked that with winter in full force we remember our elderly neighbors and veterans. They may need assistance getting to the store and with snow removal. If your Squadron has an event going on, such as a cancer drive, Honor Flight, or scholarship, get some photos for the paper and for our Detachment display. Remember to wear your covers or shirts to show that you are a member of the Sons.

***Convention:*** Chairman Raymond Giehll, III reported that the Committee wants to do the magician act again this year. The Committee requests that the Detachment Adjutant make all arrangements for the magic act.

***Campout:*** Chairman Jay Huffman reported that the only campout bid was received from Jonesboro Squadron 95. The Campout will be held on June 12-14, 2015. The Committee is looking at having a 5Star/10Ideals class for our members.

**Information Technology:** Chairman Doug Heiser requested that Squadrons and Districts use the Facebook page [SAL Detachment of Indiana](#) as well as the Detachment website IN-SAL.ORG to promote Squadron and District events. When sending out mass E-mails, use BCC (Blind Carbon Copy). We will not put any links on our webpage that have not been endorsed by National.

**Information & Training:** Chairman Terry Slagle reported that we have not received any requests from Districts and Squadrons to host training seminars. These seminars will help inform our membership of the programs we support and how Squadron administration should work.

**Legislative:** Committeeman Greg Spaulding reported that The Department of Indiana is supporting the following:

Senate Bill that allows private corporations a choice to hire veterans first; and  
a Bill that will permanently support a State Women Veterans Coordinator position.

Nationally, U.S. Senator Donnelly is working on getting the Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Act of 2014 passed. This will allow a mental survey for all active and reserve military personnel annually.

**Public Relations:** Chairman Doug Heiser reported that the Committee looked into the cost of billboard advertising and found it to be too costly. The Committee suggests that Squadrons and Districts use the Detachment webpage and Facebook pages to promote your events both before and after. Also use any free publications, radio and television that might be available in your community.

**Religious Emphasis:** Chairman Richard Lawrence came forward and reported that we need to check in on the sick and shut-ins. The Committee is preparing for the Memorial Service at Detachment Convention. With Four Chaplains Services coming up in February, check to see when your District service is and try to attend. Continue to pray for our servicemen and servicewomen, both here in the states and deployed around the world.

**Scholarship:** Chairman Craig Streby reported that now is the time to promote our scholarship to our Squadrons. District Commanders, Detachment Vice Commanders and Detachment Commander Sexton are again being asked to push this scholarship in their travels.

PDC Spaulding moved to accept the Internal Affairs Commission Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter.  
Motion passed.

### **Rehabilitation: Chairman Charles Gemlich**

#### ***Rehabilitation Commission***

Chairman Gemlich reported that Waynedale Squadron 241 donated 62 bags made up of hats, gloves and other items for veterans at 2 shelters at Christmas time.

**Homeless Veterans:** Chairman Ken Corbeille reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> District donated a new dryer to the Gary Homeless Shelter at St. Mary's Church. Crown Point Squadron 20 donated \$200 to the Gary Homeless Shelter to purchase food.

**VAVS:** Chairman Jim Martin reported that the VAVS Representatives are: Jim Staggs, Danville; Jim Arter, Fort Wayne; Louisville is open; Marion, Ron Sexton; Indianapolis is open. Representatives need to report to VAVS Chairman quarterly. The Committee requested that David Stephens be appointed to fill as the open Indianapolis VA representative. The Committee would like to receive any request for funds at Spring Conference.

**Indiana Veterans Home:** Chairman James Arter reported that the October 11<sup>th</sup> Bingo had 10 Legion Family members assist 75 residents play 60 games. All prizes were won and all had a great time. The Committee discussed the December 13 Bingo, which had 36 Legion Family members, 2 from the IVH recreation department and Santa help 85 residents play 70 games. Santa handed out envelopes to the Bingo players and then went to the floors to present envelopes to residents who could not attend the party. All prizes were won. Lafayette Squadron 11 donated \$250, Martinsville Squadron 230 donated \$250, Bloomington Squadron 18 donated \$150, Cedar Lake Squadron 261 donated \$55 and Charlestown Squadron 335 donated 15 pairs of sweat pants and shirts. The next Bingo is February 7<sup>th</sup>, with setup at 12:30 PM and Bingo from 1:30 till 3:30 PM. The Committee encourages everyone to attend and assist the residents; you will have a good time.

PDC Slagle moved to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Arter. Motion passed.

### **Finance & Budget: Committeeman Raymond Giehll Jr.**

The Commission discussed and approved a donation of \$1,000 to National Commander Mike Moss's project of the American Legion Endowment Fund from the Veterans Assistance line item. The Commission would like to clarify that the proposed new line item for the 5Star/10Ideals program is not for the purchase of awards. The line item is to be used for the promotion of the program. Participating Squadrons are to determine how awards are purchased and awarded. Committeeman Giehll Jr. also clarified the \$1000 we have in the budget for homeless veterans. It is a direct donation to the Department of Indiana to be used as best needed.

PDC Giehll Jr. moved to accept the Finance and Budget Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Siggers. Motion passed.

### **Resolutions: Chairman Richard Pfeiffer**

Chairman Richard Pfeiffer read a resolution for Ken Corbeille for the office of Northern Vice Commander for the 2015-2016 membership year to be made a matter of record.

PDC Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the Resolutions report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC C. Stephens. Motion passed.

### **Unfinished Business:**

PDC Giehll Jr. made a motion pursuant to a special meeting in August of 2013 that Adjutant Bradtmueller be reinstated with the duties of Adjutant and that with no need for an Acting Finance Officer that he be reinstated to his elected office as Finance Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Stephens. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

None

**Sick Call & Relief:**

PDC David Hanson's grandmother passed away.

PDC Pfeiffer's mother passed away.

PNVC Barry Confer passed away. There will be a memorial service on January 17, at 3:00 PM at Waynedale Post 241.

PDC Mike Sheets is getting better.

**Correspondence:**

We received a letter from IVH thanking us for our donation of \$1,000 to purchase undergarments for the residents.

A card was received from the LaGrange family thanking us for a donation in memory of Alan LaGrange.

**Good of the SAL:**

The Annual Gary Gregory Memorial Putt-Putt tournament is to be held on January 31, at Garrett Post 178 at 1:00 PM. Hole sponsorships are available for \$25.00. Proceeds are going to the Commander's project.

4<sup>th</sup> District Annual Bowling Tournament is to be on February 14 at Auburn Bowl at 2:00 PM. Lane sponsorships are available for \$25.00. Proceeds are going to CWF.

NEC Richard Pfeiffer approached the podium and introduced Mike Moss, National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion.

National Commander Moss thanked the Detachment for all we do for our communities and our programs. He stated that we should have fun when we are working our programs and challenged us to mentor our youth. Commander Moss talked about his program of raising money for the National Emergency Fund and the National Endowment Fund. He also talked about his theme of "Building Bridges to the Future". He stated that we need to reach out to our membership with as much information that we have available to build that bridge to close the gap of communication.



Commander Moss then read a letter from a young 10 year old member who lived in Montana that talked about his experiences in the Sons with his 7 year old brother. Commander Moss reiterated about mentoring our youth, our future.

Commander Sexton presented Commander Moss with a plaque and one of his pins.

PDC Giehll Jr. made a motion to donate \$1,000 to National Commander Moss's project of the National Endowment Fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Pfeiffer. Motion passed.

PDC Pfeiffer thanked everyone for their cards, calls and E-mails after the death of his mother; it was very much appreciated.

PDC Bill Stephens thanked the officers who attended the December IVH Bingo, talked about how much fun it was and encouraged everyone to attend.

PDC Giehll Jr. reminded the officers that today is the last day for expense reports to be turned in to him and that he is taking care of them this month. Next month please send them to Adjutant Bradtmueller.

### **Membership: Chairman David Mummert**

Membership Chairman Dave Mummert reported that we turned in so many cards today that they were not able to count them all. A preliminary report shows that we have made our goal. We turned in over 1,250 today and there are still over 1,500 more to count. Currently we are at 62.55 and we will be able to reach our 65% goal for January. We still have 10 Squadrons on "0". There is a new Squadron 555 in the 5<sup>th</sup> District at the Miami Correctional Institute whose first meeting is on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The final membership report for 2014 arrived from National. We ended up at 100.553% with 37,276 members and a renewal rate of 88.88%. So far this year our renewal rate is 53% which will surely rise after this weekend. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter drawing for \$750 is underway and each Squadron making goal is entitled to 3 entries. At this time there are 103 Squadrons at 66% that will be entered in the drawing.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Membership Target Awards**

##### **Target 4      October 3-4, 2014**

District with the highest % of retention                      District 1 at 31.5%      \$50.00

Districts with 31% of all Squadrons making goal:                      \$25.00 each  
and 3 Goal pins

District 1 at 39%, District 2 at 50%, District 3 at 31%, District 4 at 33%, District 6 at 35%  
District 8 at 41%, District 9 at 31% and District 10 at 34%

##### **Target 5      November 10, 2014**

District with the highest % of retention                      District 8 at 41.57%      \$50.00  
District with 50% of Squadrons making goal                      \$25.00 each  
And 3 Goal pins

District 1 at 55%, District 2 at 51% and District 8 at 51%  
8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Halleck Lamar and his Membership Chairman Jim Martin won the Lincoln Pilgrimage trip.

**Target 6      December 5, 2014**

District with the highest % of retention	District 8 at 46.69%	\$50.00
District with 56% of Squadrons making goal	None	
There were 277 entries in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter drawing and the winner was South Haven Squadron 502 from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> District		\$500.00

Membership Chairman Mummert again thanked everyone for their work with membership and said let's keep it going.

PDC Hanson moved to accept the Membership report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDC Paulus. Motion passed.

With no further business to come before the meeting, Commander Sexton called Detachment Chaplain Lawrence for a closing prayer. Chaplain Lawrence said a closing prayer. With a right hand salute to the flag of our nation, the meeting was closed at 1:45 PM.

All donations are on the following page.

<b>Mid-Winter Conference Donations</b>						
<b>Squadron</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>CWF</b>	<b>Cmd. Project</b>	<b>OCW</b>	<b>CMN</b>
New Palestine 182	10	#1186	\$ 300.00			
Valparaiso 94	2	#1156	\$ 194.00			
Crown Point 20	1	#2245	\$ 600.00			
Worthington 106	7	#1442	\$ 100.00			
New Palestine 182	10	#1185		\$ 200.00		
10th District	10	#107		\$ 250.00		
Worthington 106	7	#1441		\$ 100.00		
Jasonville 172	7	#600		\$ 100.00		
Mooreville 103	7	#1444		\$ 103.00		
Vincennes 73	7	#2093		\$ 100.00		
Lawernceburg 239	7	#1578		\$ 100.00		
Crown Point 20	1	#2237		\$ 600.00		
North Manchester 286	5	#1187		\$ 100.00		
5th District	5	#1006		\$ 100.00		
Jonesboro 95	5	#1075		\$ 100.00		
Doug Heiser Family	4	#6576		\$ 161.50		
North Manchester 286 Riders	5	#1010		\$ 100.00		
Jasonville 172	7	#599			\$ 100.00	
Crown Point 20	1	#2249				\$ 300.00
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$ 1,194.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,114.50</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>
<b>Total Donations</b>						<b>\$3,708.50</b>