



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Fall Conference
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
October 5, 2019**

Commander Jimmy Martin opened the meeting at 12:01 am with a right hand salute to the Colors of our Nation. Acting Chaplain Dewey Long said an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was put in place by Northern Vice Commander Jay Huffman & Southern Vice Commander Parry Schlimmer. Northern Vice Commander Ryan Kohlheim led the Pledge of Allegiance. Southern Vice Commander Jeff Coulter led the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion. The Blue Star Banner was in place.

Commander Martin called on Acting Adjutant Raymond Giehll, Jr. for a roll call which showed the following:

Commander:	James Martin	
Northern Vice Commander:	Ryan Kohlheim	
Northern Vice Commander:	Jay Huffman	
Southern Vice Commander:	Parry Schlimmer	
Southern Vice Commander:	Jeffrey Coulter	
Adjutant:	Steven Tansel	(EX)
Asst. Adjutant:	Raymond Giehll, Jr.	
Asst. Adjutant:	Damon Bradtmueller	
Asst. Adjutant:	Joe Schultis	
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter Sr.	
Asst. Adjutant:	Glenn Nagel	
Finance Officer:	Dewey Long	
Chaplain:	Ron Conrad, Jr	(EX)
Historian:	Fred Motley	(UNEX)
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Charles Gemlich	
Sgt.-at-Arms Emeritus:	Galen Close	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Garrett Gilmore	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	William Barnett	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Logan Pipher	
Judge Advocate:	Richard Pfeiffer	
Asst. Judge Advocate:	Mark Franke	(EX)
Membership Chairman:	Greg Wagner	
Public Relations Director:	Paul Rush	
NEC:	Mike Pipher	
Alt. NEC:	Greg Spaulding	

District Commanders:

1st: Robert Bowie
2nd: Tom Potts
3rd: Richard Reed
4th: Paul Rush
5th: Jay Huffman
6th: Mike Tolley
7th: Gary Miller
8th: Brian Englert
9th: Brian Hauser
10th: Dave Brown
11th: David Miller

Past Detachment Commanders:

Cliff Stephens (EX)	David Stephens (EX)	James Arter
Raymond Giehll, Jr	Terry Slagle	Charles Newman (EX)
Rodney Strong	Damon Bradtmueller	David Ridenour
David Brown	Richard Pfeiffer	Mark Tansel
Mike Pipher	David Hanson	Greg Spaulding
Kirk Rewerts	Chris Carlton	Joe Schultis
Dewey Long	Doug Heiser	

District Advisors:

1st: Al Pulido
4th: Donald Dapp
5th: Pete Brannon
7th: Larry Dent
8th: Kevin Brinksnaeder
9th: Milton Howard
10th: Jose Gaitin

Commander Martin called for the reading of the previous minutes.

PDC James Arter made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed, 2nd PDC Joe Schultis.
Motion passed.

Commander Martin called on PDC Mark Tansel to introduce guests.

PDC Mark Tansel introduced the following guests:

Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer, Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander

Mike Pipher, Indiana NEC

Greg Spaulding, Indiana Alt. NEC

Raymond Giehll, Jr., Past National Commander and Committee on Committees Chairman

David Ridenour, National Asst. Adjutant

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

Mark Tansel, National Chairman Internal Affairs Commission

Joe Schultis, National Chairman Member Training & Development Committee

Damon Bradtmueller, National Vice Chairman Public Media & Communications Commission

Chris Carlton, 2nd Leading Candidate for Sons of The American Legion National Commander

Mark asked that all Past Detachment Commanders stand and be recognized.
Mark asked that all first time attendees stand and be recognized, there were 2 members

Commander Martin asked for Commission and Committee reports.

Americanism Commission:

Chairman Dennis Budd reported that we need to support all the programs of Americanism.
The following Committee reports were given.

Athletic Committee:

Chairman Dave Benefiel reported that bid forms for the Detachment Golf Outing will be going out soon. The bid forms must be in prior to Mid-Winter Conference. Bid forms must be filled out completely.

The Detachment Golf Tournament will be the first Saturday after Memorial Day.
There are several new teams participating in American Legion Baseball.

Hoosier Boy's State Committee:

Chairman Ryan Kohlheim reported that this year's HBS program will be at Trine University June 14-20, 2020. "A Week to Shape a Lifetime".

The Samsung Scholarships are for \$20,000 & \$1000.

5 Star/10 Ideals Committee:

Chairman Andy Byers reported that any Squadron that wishes to do a training session to contact Chairman Byers or any Committee member.

POW/MIA Committee:

Chairman Ron Rippenger reported MIA remains identified since the Detachment Convention in July.

MIA remains identified:

2 USS Oklahoma

19 from WWII

12 from Korea

1 from Vietnam

There are 81,000 American missing in past conflicts with over 41,000 presumed lost at sea.

If you know of anybody that has a family member that is MIA make sure the family has DNA on file.

Mark Tansel introduced Department Commander Allen Connelly and Department Sgt.-at-Arms Nick Nicholoff.

Commander Connelly came forward and addressed the meeting. Commander Connelly said that he was blown away by the \$10,000 donation the Sons made to his project at the General Session this morning. Commander Connelly said he has been running into Commander Martin quite a bit in his travels and it is always enjoyable when they are together. Commander Connelly thanked the Sons for all their support.

Chairman Budd reported on the Americanism Conference he attended.

Dennis said the Program Director was an excellent speaker. There were 2 SAL members in attendance including himself. David King was the Conference Chairman.

There were 2 resolutions discussed. The first concerned changes in the Oratorical Contest that are felt to be needed. The second resolution was about proving eligibility if not a US citizen. Any scholarship won in American Legion contests must be spent in the United States.

PDC Terry Slagle made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd PDC David Brown. Motion passed.

Children & Youth Commission:

Chairman Jeff Coulter reported that now is the time to be pushing for contestants for this year's Oratorical Contest. Reach out to your local schools.

The Sons are the largest contributor to the Child Welfare Foundation. Indiana donated \$26,074 last year, which was over \$12,000 short of our goal.

If your Post or Squadron has a Junior Shooting Sports Program get behind it and give all your support.

Let's get out and show our support for Special Olympics.

The following Committee reports were given.

Americanism & Government Committee:

Chairman Robert Bowie reported that A & G testing is coming up in November. Tests are distributed by Department. You can visit your local schools and encourage the taking of the test.

Oratorical Committee:

Chairman Greg Spaulding reported that we need to get out to the schools and push the program. District competition begins in January, Zone competition in February, State competition in March & National competition on April 17-19, 2020.

The Sons help is needed at all levels of competition.

The State competition will be March 1, 2020

Special Olympics Committee:

Acting Chairman Mike Pipher reported that Chairman Brian Gilbert was excused for medical reasons. The Bowling Tournament is underway. State games are each year in June in Terre Haute.

Junior Shooting Sports Committee:

Acting Chairman Rip Rippenger reported that Junior Shooting Sports started up at the beginning of the school year. If your Post has a program, please help support it, if not inquire about starting a Junior Shooting Sports program.

Children's Hospital Committee:

Acting Chairman Brian Hauser reported that the Detachment still had Josh Dogs available to pass out. There is a line item of \$3000 in the budget for Children's Hospitals.

Child Welfare Foundation Committee:

Acting Chairman Mark Tansel reported that National Commander Clint Bolt would like to see fundraisers for CWF. He is asking for \$1.35 per member. The goal this year is \$500,000.

2 videos were shown at the C&Y Conference from grants awarded last year.

As of October 4th National at \$64,334.07. Indiana has donated \$441 thus far this year.

Discussed adding autism to apply for CWF grants.

During the time the Coast Guard was not getting paid, the Child Welfare Foundation gave \$700,000 to Coast Guard families with children.

The National CWF Committee will meet October 11th at 7 pm at Fall NEC.

Chairman Coulter said he attended the National Children & Youth Conference. Jeff said that there were 2 videos were played. One was for “United with Books”, deployed soldiers reading to their children and being videoed and sent him to the children. Jeff said it was a very moving video.

PDC Mark Tansel made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd PDC James Arter. PDC Raymond Giehll thanked A&G Chairman for his report as he understood what the A&G program is about. Motion passed.

Internal Affairs Commission:

Acting Chairman Doug Heiser reported that all Committees had submitted reports with the exception of Religious Emphasis.

The following Committee reports were given.

Campout:

Chairman David Miller reported that Jonesboro Squadron 95 had been awarded the 2020 Campout, it will be June 26-28, 2020. Electric hook ups will be \$20 or \$25 if you are running AC. They have a fishing pond. Flyers will be ready for distribution soon.

Public Relations & Information Technology Committee:

Chairman Paul Rush reported that if you want pictures or events posted on the Detachment Website, send them to Chairman Rush.

Use the website links to get more information.

The Committee is looking at a monthly online newsletter.

Information & Training Committee:

Chairman Paul Rush reported that there will be a training session on the use of MYSAL.org at the Mid-Winter Conference. If you need help with MYSAL.org contact Libby Victockers at 800-433-3318.

Community Service Committee:

Chairman Parry Schlimmer reported that Squadron 200 cooked for Special Olympics.

Squadron 200 hands out candy on the Boonville Square for Halloween.

If you see a worn flag in your community, replace it with a new one. Could be a good opportunity for membership.

Legislative Committee:

Acting Chairman Dewey Long reported the Legion Act was signed into law on July 30, 2019. Of course we need the word LEGION to be an acronym so the official name of the law is Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service. Anyone who served at least one day of active duty with an honorable discharge as well as current service members are now

eligible for regular Legion membership. National has updated online and print resources to reflect this.

A concurrent resolution has been introduced in the Senate to request President Trump to award posthumously the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry Colmery.

The bipartisan resolution to designate August 23-29 as “American Legion Week” passed the Senate. It was introduced by Sen. Mike Braun with Sen. Todd Young as a cosponsor.

The HAVEN Act (Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need) was signed into law. This amends federal bankruptcy law to exclude certain military related benefits from income calculations.

Legion legislative staff testified before Congressional committees on three occasions this past quarter in support of various bills being considered.

Current 2019 legislative scorecard for bills submitted that reference veterans:

U.S. Congress-949 bills introduced; 119 have passed at least one chamber; 20 have become law. (Note that these bills reference veterans in some manner but are not necessarily limited to veterans)

Indiana General Assembly-session concluded.

National SAL has asked members to contact their congressional delegations to support the Legion’s legislative agenda. The 2019 Agenda is located at this URL:

<https://www.legion.org/publications/226187/legislative-agenda-116th-congress-1st-session>

Scholarship Committee:

Chairman Charles Gemlich reported that the Detachment offers 2-\$1000 scholarships.

It is not too early to start pushing this program. Last year we only 4 applications.

Need the application updated and posted online.

Convention Committee:

Chairman Dewey Long reported that the Committee is looking for suggestions for activities at this year’s Detachment Convention. It was suggested to place a wreath somewhere.

Plaques to go with the winner’s trophies from the just completed Convention were passed out.

PDC Doug Heiser made a motion to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2nd PDC Dewey Long. PDC David Brown asked about link for Squadrons to post items on the Detachment website. Paul rush said he could make that happen. Send any information to salinfo@indianalegion.org. Motion passed.

Mark Tansel introduced Dick Wagner, a 20 year retired Air Force veteran, his wife Jean Wagner, Daughter in-law Tammy Wagner and Department Service Officer Bryce Hullett. All came forward. Bryce Hullett, representing the Department of Indiana presented Dick Wagner with a Vietnam Veteran pin.

Rehabilitation Commission:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, III reported we need to continue working for our veterans to insure that we are doing our absolute best to see that all of their needs are met.

The following Committee reports were given.

Homeless Veterans Committee:

Chairman Mike Bottom reported that September was Homeless Veteran's Month. Taking bottled water to the homeless is a great icebreaker. Homeless veterans are moving into vacant buildings. Chairman Bottom has gone to them and tried to get them into shelters. Homeless veterans will start moving south soon.

VAVS Committee:

Chairman Brian Houser reported that we need to work closer with our local VA Hospitals. See what we can do to assist our hospitalized veterans in need. There \$1000 per VA Hospital in the budget for a total of \$5000.

Veterans Education & Employment Committee:

Chairman Dennis Budd reported that SAL National website has been updated to add 2 new links: Veterans Career Center
Veterans Education Benefits by State
The Stand Downs in Hammond and at the LaPorte Armory both went well.

Indiana Veteran's Home Committee:

Chairman Dewey Long reported that the bingo dates are October 19th, December 21st & February 1st. Meet at 12:30 to set up by 1. Bingo starts at 1:30 and goes to 3:30 or when all the prizes are gone. Mark your calendar for these dates and come to IVH and help with bingo. See the attached wish list form IVH.

Commander Martin asked about the bingo board that Post 241 had talked about donating to IVH. Greg Spaulding said that IGC requires lots of paperwork that will need to be addressed.

PDC David Hanson made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd PDC Mike Pipher. Motion passed. Mike Pipher asked for any VAVS Representatives or Deputies to stand, Jim Arter, Ray Giehll, Jr & Bob Bowie. Mike the Sons is on the NAC and is in danger of losing their seat if more Representatives are not appointed. Motion passed.

Finance & Budget Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr reported that Commander Martin made a \$10,000 donation to Department Commander Connelly's project at the General Session this morning.

The VAVS budget is now \$1000 for each VA hospital. VAVS Reps will need to request the money.

With the new budget several line items were increased, Chairman can check with the Finance Committee.

PDC Raymond Giehll, Jr made a motion to accept the Finance & Budget Committee report, 2nd PDC James Arter. Motion passed.

Resolution Committee:

Chairman Mike Pipher reported the Committee received 3 resolutions for office:

Greg Spaulding for NEC, 2020-2022

David Hanson for Alt. NEC, 2020-2022

Dennis Budd for Detachment Commander, 2020-2021

Chairman reads the resolutions and said they had been received and filed.

Chairman Pipher reminded the Adjutant to date stamp the resolutions when received.

Chairman Pipher said he will get “How to Write a Resolution” on the Detachment website.

PDC Mike Pipher made a motion to accept the Resolution Committee report, 2nd PDC David Brown. Motion passed.

Sons In Need Committee:

Chairman Parry Schlimmer reported that we need to keep pushing the program. All the information is on the Detachment website.

Chairman Schlimmer asked the District Commanders to let the squadrons about the SINS program.

There was one application approved for \$500.

We need donations to keep the program going.

SVC Parry Schlimmer made a motion to accept the Sons In Need Committee report, 2nd 11th District Commander David Miller. Motion passed.

Commander Martin asked for any SINS donations. The Rockport SAL Commander gave a personal check for \$50.

Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee:

Chairman Greg Wagner reported there will be a training session for MySAL at Mid-Winter Conference.

We will be having the privilege to do online renewals.

A suggestion was made for the SAL to help build the Post and membership will come.

Chairman Wagner said that 1395 card had been turned in. The Detachment target was 30%, we are at 26.51%. The National target is 25%.

Chairman Wagner presented the following checks for target goals:

Target 1: 4th District Highest Percentage of Retention, \$50

Districts with Squadrons to Meet 25% or More, District 4 & District 11, \$25 each

Target 2: 4th District Highest Percentage of Retention, \$50

Districts with Squadrons to Meet 25% or More, District 4, District 10 & District 11, \$25 each

Target 3: 4th District Highest Percentage of Retention, \$50

Districts with Squadrons to Meet 25% or More, No Districts reached the goal

First Three Districts to have all Squadron off zero:

District 7, District 4, each received \$50

Chairman Wagner called National Vice Commander Richard Pfeiffer forward to draw the Squadron for reaching goals. Squadron 45 in Noblesville won \$500.

PDC Doug Heiser made a motion to accept the Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee report, 2nd 1st District Commander Robert Bowie. It was requested that the drawing winner be put on the Detachment website. NVC Pfeiffer said that the target goal for National was 30% by Friday. There was a question about putting dollar amounts on the Detachment website. Judge Advocate Doc Pfeiffer said he saw no problem with dollar amounts on the website. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

Immediate Past Detachment Commander Doug Heiser and immediate Past Membership Chairman Raymond Giehll, III came forward and presented the membership jackets for 2018-2019. Top District Commander Jay Huffman, 5th District; Kenny Schulz Top Recruiter Kellis Allen, Squadron 1.

New Business:

Mark Tansel came forward and read an email from Detachment Adjutant Steven Tansel who is deployed in Kuwait.

Mark said as the National Internal Affairs Chairman he oversees the Convention Committee. Mark thanked Convention Chairman Greg Spaulding for the great job he did for the just completed National Convention in Indianapolis. Mark said the Friday night dinner was a huge success.

Mark said that Joe Schultis was the new National Membership Training & Development Committee Chairman.

Again as the National Internal Affairs Chairman Mark also oversees the Membership Committee. Renewal postcards are set to go out November 1st. Indiana still has 66 squadrons on zero. Mark said we need to do whatever it takes to get these squadrons off of zero.

Greg Spaulding said that Indiana had a great turn out at National Convention. Greg said he has National Convention pins for sale, \$4 apiece or 3 for \$10.

PDC Raymond Giehll, Jr made a motion that since Squadrons 101 & 259 had not had at least 10 members for the last 2 years their Squadron charters be suspended, 2nd PDC Joe Schultis. Motion passed.

Sick & Relief:

Dave Brown said that PDC David Mathews is still doing well.

Brian Gilbert from Squadron 1 had open heart surgery on Tuesday.

Mark Tansel said that PDC Harrell Sorrels has blockage in both his carotid arteries.

David Miller said that Past 11th District Commander Merle Smith had a stroke and has moved to Chicago to be with family.

PDC Cliff Stephens is in the hospital with leg swelling.

Correspondence:

Acting Adjutant Giehll read a plaque from the Child Welfare Foundation given to the Detachment of Indiana.

Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

NEC Mike Pipher came forward and introduced National Vice Commander Richard “Doc” Pfeiffer.

National Vice Commander Richard “Doc” Pfeiffer came forward and addressed the meeting. Doc brought greetings from National Commander Clint Bolt. Commander Bolt has a membership goal of 400,000 members for this year. Doc said it is a lofty goal but very attainable. Commander Bolt has picked the Child Welfare Foundation and the Veterans and Children’s Fund, formally known as the Endowment fund, as his 2 main projects for the year. Doc said that Commander Bolt is looking for \$500,000 this year for CWF.

Doc thanked all the members of Indiana for supporting him and thanked the Detachment for having him here this weekend.

Past Department Commander Rodney Strong came forward and thanked the Sons for the support they gave his program, the Ernie Pyle Museum, last year.

Mark Tansel introduced Department Membership Chairman Richard Brown.

Department Membership Chairman Richard Brown came forward and talked about ways to build membership. Richard showed a special coin that could be received by any member of the American Legion family for recruiting 10 new American Legion members to Indiana posts. Richard made a personal donation from him and his wife of \$100 to Commander Martin’s project.

Dewey Long presented a check for \$200 that the Detachment Color Guard received for competing in the National Color Guard contest.

PDC Joe Schultis made a motion that the Color Guard check be applied to the Color Guard Maintenance line item in the budget, 2nd PDC Mark Tansel. Motion passed.

SVC Jeff Coulter said he was invited to the 6th District and while there was proud to have his picture taken with a 94 year old WWII veteran.

Paul Rush said the Annual Gary Gregory Putt-Putt tournament will be January 25, 2020.

David Miller said that Squadron 495 will be having it annual Putt-Putt tournament on October 26, 2019. Flyers were handed out.

Chris Carlton said that the winning team from the Gary Gregory tournament is invited to Squadron 495.

Greg Spaulding said he has National Convention Pins for \$4 apiece or 3 for \$10. See him after the meeting.

David Brown said that we are getting the participation at these DEC meetings that we once did. Dave said that is especially true of younger members.

Greg Spaulding said that every post should consider have a portable AED on site.

Charles Gemlich said that the Annual Auction that had been held at Boonville 200 will now be at Post 351. It will still be the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 30th.

Rick Masters said that gaming proceeds at Post 64 are going OCW.

There will be a fundraiser for Vickie Koutz at Sellersburg Post 204 on October 26th.

Commander Martin asked for donations.

Squadron 106	\$100 to Steve Tansel's unit items
Squadron 18	\$100 to Steve Tansel's unit items
Squadron 492	\$500 to Commander's project
Squadron 261	\$261 to CWF
Squadron 261	\$1000 to Commander's project
Squadron 20	\$600 to Commander's project
Unit 230	\$200 to Steve Tansel's unit items
Squadron 172	\$100 to Steve Tansel's unit items
Jim Arter	\$50 to Steve Tansel's unit items
4 th District	\$150 to Steve Tansel's unit items
Squadron 254	\$200 to Steve Tansel's unit items
Squadron 202	\$500 to Commander's project
Squadron 492	\$500 to Commander's project
Squadron 42	\$2500 to Commander's project
Squadron 213	\$200 to Commander's project
Squadron 124	\$234 to Commander's project
District 1	\$1000 to Commander's project
Squadron 241	\$500 to Commander's project
Cash	\$500 to Commander's project

Dave Hanson said that Squadron 216 will be starting their mountain oysters on October 19, 2019. It will be the third Saturday of each month until March. The January 18, 2020 mountain oyster proceed will go to the Detachment Commander's project.

Commander Martin said if you still need a Detachment shirt you need to get the order to him by November 1st.

Gary Miller said that Post 2 had closed but had now purchased an old bar in Brazil and was again a growing Post. They are having a 52 week Gun Raffle with the proceeds going to the Post Building Fund. They will give away 1 gun for 52 weeks and you can win more than once. Tickets are \$52 see Gary after the meeting.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Martin called on Acting Chaplain Long for a closing prayer. Acting Chaplain Long gave a closing prayer. With a right hand salute to the Flag of Our Nation, the meeting was closed at 2:53 pm.

10/5/19



Indiana Veterans' Home

WISH LIST

CONTACT: Tom Smith, Community Services Director (765) 497-8512 • tosmith@ivh.in.gov

LONG-TERM PROJECT ITEMS

- 4th of July Fireworks Sponsor 2020- \$5,000

RESIDENT REQUESTS

- Recliners, pleather
- Lift Chairs, pleather
- Walmart Gift Cards
- Phone Cards

BATHROOM ITEMS

- 3 and 1 Mens Bodywash
- Lip Stick
- Shaving Cream
- After Shave (alcohol - free only)

ACTIVITIES

- Electric Razors
- Soft Snack Cakes (Little Debbie)
- Cheese & Crackers/Peanut Butter & Crackers
- Little Candy Bars
- Storage Containers or Small Cabinets
- Memory Games
- Craft Kits (wooden)
- Fruit Snacks
- Cake Mix
- Frozen grapes or a frozen banana
- Hummus with carrots and cucumber slices.
- Baked apple chips sprinkled with cinnamon.

- Greek yogurt with peach slices or fresh berries.
- Handful of roasted almonds or heart-healthy walnuts.
- Unsweetened Banana Chips
- GoGo Squeez Organic Applesauce Pouches
- Sesame Sticks (All Flavors)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Sea Bond Denture Pads
- Money in Trust

CLOTHES

- Sweat Pants, large - 5x
- T-Shirts, 2x - 4x
- Diabetic Socks
- Men's Boxer Briefs, large - 5x
- Women's Underwear, 9-14
- Men's Basketball Shorts, med - 5x
- Pocket T-Shirts, large - 4x
- Men's Pajama Pants, large - 5x

MUSIC AND MEMORY

- iTunes Gift Cards