



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Midwinter Conference
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
January 12, 2019**

Commander Doug Heiser opened the meeting at 12 noon with a right hand salute to the Colors of our Nation. Acting Chaplain Dewey Long said an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was placed by Southern Vice Commanders Parry Schlimmer & Andy Byers. The Blue Star Banner was in place. Past Southern Vice Commander Jeff Coulter led the Pledge of Allegiance. PDC David Hanson led the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

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

Commander:	Doug Heiser	
Northern Vice Commander:	Mike Shuler	(EX)
Northern Vice Commander:	Dennis Budd	
Southern Vice Commander:	Parry Schlimmer	
Southern Vice Commander:	Andy Byers	
Adjutant:	Steven Tansel	(EX)
Asst. Adjutant:	Raymond Giehll, Jr	
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter, Sr.	
Asst. Adjutant:	Glenn Nagel	
Asst. Adjutant:	Joe Schultis	
Finance Officer:	Dewey Long	
Chaplain:	Jay Huffman	(EX)
Historian:	Fred Motley	(EX)
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Ron Conrad	
Sgt.-ar-Arms Emeritus:	Galen Close	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Greg Wagner	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Garrett Gilmore	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Kevin Gwozdz	(EX)
Judge Advocate:	Richard Pfeiffer	
Asst. Judge Advocate:	Mark Franke	(EX)
Membership Chairman:	Raymond Giehll, III	
Public Relations Director:	Paul Rush	
NEC:	Mike Pipher	
Alt. NEC:	Greg Spaulding	

District Commanders:

1st: David Tretter (EX)
2nd: Mike Bottom
3rd: Matt Kearns
4th: Paul Rush
5th: Dennis Hathaway (EX)
6th: Mike Tolley
7th: Jay Rawley
8th: Brian Englert
9th: Brian Hauser
10th: Dave Brown
11th: Merle Smith (UNEX)

Past Detachment Commanders:

Cliff Stephens	James Arter	Raymond Giehll, Jr
Terry Slagle	Damon Bradtmueller	David Ridenour
David Brown	Richard Pfeiffer	Mark Tansel
Mike Pipher	Glenn Nagel	David Hanson
Greg Spaulding	Chris Carlton	Joe Schultis
Dewey Long		

District Advisors:

1st: Al Pulido
2nd: Mark Gourley
4th: Donald Dapp
6th: Cliff Stephens
7th: Larry Dent
8th: Steve Long for Larry French
10th: Mary York
11th: Danny Rice

SAL Committee Chairman: Larry Horvath

Commander Heiser asked for any First Time Attendees, there was 1 First Time Attendee.

American Legion National Executive Committeeman Jerry Jordan came forward and introduced American Legion National Vice Commander James Wallace for the Department of Michigan.

Vice Commander James Wallace addressed the meeting bringing greetings from National Commander Brett Reistad. Vice Commander Wallace thanked the Sons of The American Legion for all the hard work they put into the American Legion programs.

Commander Heiser called on Raymond Giehll, Jr. for introduction of guests. Raymond introduced:

National Commander: Greg "Doc" Gibbs from the Detachment of New York.

New Department staff member Tony Beckham came forward to hello to the Sons. He will be helping with the Sons membership.

National Update Editor: Mike Pipher

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

National Asst. Adjutant: David Ridenour

National Internal Affairs Commission Chairman: Mark Tansel

National Veterans Education & Employment Commission Chairman: Chris Carlton

National Convention Committee Chairman: Greg Spaulding

National Public Media & Communication Commission Vice Chairman: Damon Bradtmueller

National Legislative Commission Member: Richard Pfeiffer

National Member Training & Development Committee Member: Joe Schultis

All Past Detachment Commanders

PDC Dewy Long introduced Past National Commander Raymond Giehll, Jr.

Commander Heiser called for the reading of the previous DEC minutes.

PDC Richard Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the minutes as sent out, 2nd PDC Cliff Stephens.

Motion passed.

Commander Heiser asked for Commission & Committee reports.

Americanism Commission:

Chairman Jimmy Martin reported that it is important to support all the programs of the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion.

5 Star/10 Ideals Committee:

Chairman Jeff Coulter reported that the committee is trying to arrange a training session at the Spring Conference in April.

Also squadrons wanting to administer the 5 Star/10 Ideals test at their squadron can download and print the information and administer the test themselves. The Committee can come help assist with putting on the program.

Athletic Committee:

Chairman Dave Benefiel reported that due to administrative reasons the Golf Bid Forms did not get sent out in time. Bids for the outing will be accepted until Spring Conference. The site for the 2019 Detachment Golf Tournament will be picked at Spring Conference.

Hoosier Boy's State Committee:

Acting Chairman Parry Schlimmer reported that attendance has been declining. The Sons of The American Legion need to help the American Legion. We need to go to the schools and push the Hoosier Boy's State program.

POW/MIA Committee:

Chairman Ron Rippenger said the report contains information since the Fall Conference 2018.

MIA remains identified:

38 from WWII

20 from Korea
4 from Vietnam
45 from the USS Oklahoma

3 from Indiana:

Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDonald of Greenwood, IN
Army PFC Marvin E Dickson of Indianapolis, IN
Marine Corps Reserve PVT Fred E Freet of Marion, IN

PDC Terry Slagle made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd PDC Greg Spaulding. There was a question about the Golf Bid Form deadline being the Spring Conference. Glenn Nagle said he would see the Golf Bid Form will get out. Motion passed.

Children & Youth Commission:

Acting Chairman Dennis Budd reported that the Consolidated Report Form is online. Fill out the Consolidated Report Form and turn it in from your squadron. April is coming up and is Children & Youth month.

Americanism & Government Committee:

Acting Chairman Mike Tolley reported that we need to help the elderly veterans. During these winter months clean their sidewalks & driveways and take them to the store. Let's not forget Memorial Day on May 27, 2019. Members assisted in Christmas programs for the elderly.

Children's Hospital Committee:

Acting Chairman Glenn Nagel reported that the budget has a line item of \$3000 to be donated to Children's Hospitals in Indiana. Josh Dogs are still available, see Steve Tansel. Please visit a Children's Hospital in your area

Child Welfare Foundation Committee:

Chairman Greg Wagner reported the following numbers for CWF:

Indiana SAL: \$2,055
American Legion: \$650
Auxiliary: \$4,906
National SAL: \$155,919

The National SAL is only \$30,000 short of \$8,000,000 raised since start of SAL reporting.

There is a shirt, polo & hoodie sweatshirt that will be raffled off today.

Squadron 330 New Haven will be having a Pig Race on March 24, 2019.

Remind squadrons to look for non-profit organizations that help children and submit applications for funds. This will give a chance for CWF donations to return to Indiana.

Junior Shooting Sports Committee:

Acting Chairman Ron Rippenger reported that the Committee did not know of any scheduled events. If your Squadron or Post had any upcoming Junior Shooting Sports events please make the Committee aware of them.

Oratorical Committee:

Chairman David Mummert came forward and reported that the Oratorical Contests are happening now and the American Legion needs our help in conducting these contests. Go and assist as an escort or a room monitor, we have been asked before to tally the judges scores, whatever they need, please do. Don't hesitate to take your wife or girlfriend as a female presence is sometimes needed if we have female contestants. Have them sit in as a room monitor. At the State Contest, we need 2 escorts with each student.

District Contests:

January 12th, 2nd District
January 13th, 3rd & 4th Districts
January 19th, 6th, 7th & 11th Districts
January 20th, 9th & 10th Districts
No contest in the 8th District

Zone Contests:

Zone 1 (1st, 2nd, 3rd) February 10th at 2 pm (EST) 1 pm (CST) Laporte High School use door #13
Zone 2 (4th & 5th) February 17th at 1pm Post 296 130 Tillman Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807
Zone 3 (6th, 7th, 11th) February 16th at 9 am Post 3 6379 N. College Ave, Indianapolis
Zone 4 (7th, 8th, 9th) February 16th at 1 pm Post 230 701 E Morgan St, Martinsville

Department Contest:

Sunday March 3rd at 1 PM National Headquarter, 700 N. Pennsylvania

National Contest:

Saturday April 6th All Day (Quarter/Semi-finals on Saturday) Wyndham Hotel West

Dave said he would send the Oratorical schedule to Asst. Adjutant Giehl to send to the Squadrons.

Special Olympics Committee:

Chairman Matt Kearns reported the State Finals were held in Indianapolis, December 14-16. Our own Logan Pipher finished 2nd in bowling at the State Finals.

Northern Vice Commander Dennis Budd made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd PDC Joe Schultis. Motion passed.

Internal Affairs Commission:

Acting Chairman Dewey Long.

Campout:

Acting Chairman Parry Schlimmer came forward. Parry said the menu had been sent to the Detachment Adjutant. The motel list is being worked on and will be sent to Detachment Adjutant when completed. There are 18 hookups on the grounds of Post 200. Parry said that Chairman David Miller requested that the Campout Flyer be sent to every Squadron in the next mailing.

Community Service Committee:

Chairman Parry Schlimmer reported that Squadron 200 does the cooking for the Special Olympics. Squadrons can have flag disposal ceremonies and involve local Boy Scout troops. Replace worn flags that your squadron sees in your community. Donate flags to schools for proper flag etiquette.

Convention Committee:

Chairman Dewey Long reported a decision needs to be made on the Children's Party at Convention. Dewey said that the Committee is open to ideas from members.

Information & Training Committee:

Chairman Paul Rush reported that the Committee did its first training session this morning. The Committee wants to add the training session material to the Detachment website. The Committee is planning to do more training sessions.

Chairman Rush said the Committee would like to combine with the Public Relations & Information Technology Committee keeping all the same members for both committees.

Legislative Committee:

Acting Chairman Richard Pfeiffer reported the Big 4 legislatives priorities are: gaming terminals, a percentage of lottery ticket revenue to fund veteran's programs, earmark \$4,000,000 to fund County VSOs.

Indiana bills that need our support:

SB 132: Require High School students to pass Civics test for graduation.

SB 107: State Park admission for disabled veterans.

SB 100: Disabled veterans Renter's Deduction.

HB 1053: Disabled Hoosier Veteran's license plate.

2019 Indiana Legislative Agenda

VETERANS INTEREST

- Return to post-2011 tuition and fee exemption for children of disabled veterans
- Expand Veterans Treatment Courts and capabilities
- Increase Funding for County Veteran Service Officers
- Extend homeless and hyperbaric oxygen therapy programs beyond 2019
- Lottery revenue to fund state veterans programs
- Charity gaming modifications and enhancements
- Veteran ID/Driver License info for state inter-agency use
- Medical Cannabis research support increased growth, and overall rescheduling
- Do not include earned disabled veteran benefits when determining state need-based financial assistance
- Support Military Justice improvements

TAX ENHANCEMENTS

- Raise Excise tax credit for disabled veterans who do not own “Real” property
- Renter Credit for disabled veterans who do not own “Real” property
- Included veterans receiving Individual Unemployability in property tax credits at the 100% rate
- Increase income tax exemption on military pay
- Tax credit for landlords assisting homeless veterans in active programs
- Include spouses of KIA for property tax exemptions in Indiana

Public Relations & Information Technology Committee:

Chairman Paul Rush reported that the Detachment website is being continuously updated. Albums for pictures have been added to website. Plans are for an album for each District. Chairman Rush said the Committee would like to combine with the Information & Training Committee keeping all the same members for both committees.

Religious Emphasis Committee:

No report, Chairman was not present.

Scholarship Committee:

Chairman Charles Gemlich reported that the Scholarship Application needs to be put on the Detachment website.

Internal Affairs Acting Chairman Dewey Long reported that all Committees reported except Campout and Religious Emphasis as both Chairmen were not present.

Acting Chairman Long said that the Information & Training Committee and the Public Relations & Information Technology Committee wanted to combine and keep all the members of both Committees. Chairman Long ask Judge Advocate Richard Pfeiffer if this was the time to discuss the combining. Judge Advocate Pfeiffer said it should come up under New Business.

PDC Dewey Long made a motion to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2nd PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Rehabilitation Commission:

Chairman Jeff Coulter.

Homeless Veterans Committee:

Chairman Mike Bottom reported that US 31, US 41 & I69 are common routes that the homeless travel. The only clothes accepted at IVH will be new with tags. Furniture donations to IVH must be cleared. No furniture till Spring due to contamination.

Indiana Veteran’s Home Committee:

Chairman Jim Arter came forward and reported that the October 20th bingo had 13 Legion Family members and Purdue Circle K member, Elizabeth Pfeiffer, helping about 60 residents play 60 games of bingo. As usual everyone had a great time. All the prizes were won and all were looking forward to the December bingo.

The December 15th bingo had 29 Legion Family members, 15 Bloomfield ROTC help about 60 residents play 60 games of bingo. The Wreaths Across America Program slowed us up a little, but we still got started on time at 1:30. Santa arrived and presented envelopes to all the bingo players. Santa then went to all the residents who did not attend the bingo and gave them an envelope. Everyone had a wonderful time! There were a few prizes left over. Cash donations came from New Palestine Squadron 182 \$200; Orland Squadron 423 \$100; New Albany Squadron 28 \$100; Bloomington Squadron 18 \$300, Martinsville Squadron 230 \$250; East Chicago Squadron 369 \$25. We will get more prizes for the residents. A big surprise was when Department Commander Rodney Strong popped in to say hi to everyone. The next bingo will be February 16, 2019 at the same time.

VAVS Committee:

Acting Chairman Halleck Lamar reported that we still need a Rep at the Louisville VA Hospital. We need to reach out to our local VA Hospitals to get there needs and a wish list.

Veterans Education & Employment Committee:

Chairman Dennis Budd reported the Committee is still having trouble getting information. There have been Career Fairs, but mostly in other states. Chris Carlton is the National VE&E Chairman.

National VE&E Chairman Chris Carlton came forward and addressed the meeting. Chris gave an overview of the National program.

Rehabilitation Chairman Jeff Coulter reported that we need to add links to our website so our members can pull up Rehabilitation information.

We need to do a better job of getting involved with our veterans and making sure they are getting the help that they deserve.

Southern Vice Commander Andy Byers made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd District Commander Mike Bottom. Motion passed.

Finance & Budget Commission:

Commission Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr. reported that the Commission discussed the 2019-2020 budget. Any budget request must be in by Spring Conference.

The purchase of the Color Guard uniforms is in progress.

The Finance Commission will be meeting again before Spring Conference.

The Campout Committee wants the Campout flyer mailed to each squadron as soon as possible.

There is postage money in the budget.

With the National Convention being in Indianapolis this year we will need to produce a Convention Pin to sell. The Commission suggested that the money to purchase the pin come from the surplus and that money from the sale of the pin will then be returned to the surplus.

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

Resolutions Committee:

Chairman Mike Pipher said he wanted to thank The Detachment Adjutant for marking the resolutions as "received".

Mike said there was one resolution. Richard Reed for 3rd District Commander for 2019-2020. Everything was in order and the resolution was received and filed.

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

Sons in Need Committee:

Chairman Greg Wagner reported that funds had been approved and payed to Squadrons 241, 2 & 95.

The Committee approved funds of \$168 for Squadron 233.

The Committee approved funds of \$500 for Squadron 200.

The Fall Conference raffle and jail raised just a little under \$9000.

The application and guidelines are on the Detachment website.

There will be another raffle drawing at Spring Conference on Saturday night. Tickets that did not get turned in for the last raffle will be good for entry in this new raffle.

The following donations were made to the SIN program:

Squadron 18 Bloomington \$500

Squadron 47 Fort Wayne \$400

Squadron 495 Indianapolis \$500

Squadron 335 \$500

Commander Heiser said that you can go to the Detachment website to get more information on the Sons in Need program.

PDC Pipher made a motion to accept the Sons in Need Committee report, 2nd PDC David Hanson. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

PDC Dewey Long made a motion to combine the Public Relations & Information Technology Committee and the Information & Training Committee beginning at the 2019 Spring Conference, 2nd 4th District Commander Paul Rush. Motion was defeated.

Membership Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, III said that all the Districts were still in 1st Place, it's about teamwork.

There were 1973 cards turned in today. The Detachment total is 26,240.

As of yesterday, Friday, Indiana was 22nd in the Nation.

Keep pushing to get those cards turned in and remember the importance of retention.

Do not hold cards for more than 30 days.

Chairman Giehll passed out Continuous Membership Certificates to squadrons.

Raymond gave a \$100 check to the 1st District for meeting 2 retention goals.

Raymond gave a \$50 check to the 4th District for meeting a retention goal.

Raymond asked all the District Commanders to come forward and gave each of them an ice scraper.

Raymond gave each District Commander an SAL watch for the great job they are doing at this halfway point.

The drawing for the squadrons that met goal was held. National Commander Doc Gibbs drew Squadron 158 Union City as the winner of \$500.

The Detachment is at 67.70%.

PDC Greg Spaulding made a motion to accept the Membership Committee report, 2nd PDC Dewey Long. Motion passed.

Sick Call & Relief:

Mike Pipher said that PNC David Stephens was to have surgery this month. There is a GO Fund Me Page to help Dave with his bills.

Mark Tansel said that Past 7th District Commander Andy Dale's daughter Morgan was to undergo her 3rd heart transplant. Morgan is a student at ISU.

David Brown said that PDC David Mathews was not doing well and has lost a lot of weight.

Correspondence:

Asst. Adjutant Raymond Giehll, Jr read a thank you letter from the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System for an \$1100 donation to the General Fund.

Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

NEC Mike Pipher came forward and introduced Sons of The American Legion National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs.

National Commander Doc Gibbs addressed the meeting. Commander Gibbs still has a few of his information flash drives.

Commander Gibbs said that if you sign up 3 new members you will receive a pin with a 24 carat gold carrot on it, send the information to National Membership Chairman Joe Navarrete.

Commander Gibbs has coins that you can get for a personal donation of \$30 to him for CWF.

Commander Gibbs said that the Bugs Bunny on his material with 'What's Up DOC' also comes from his father's unit patch in WWII which had Bugs Bunny on the patch.

Commander Gibbs said we need to embrace our heritage.

Commander Gibbs talked about being in Hawaii and going to JAPC, where all American soldiers returned remains go when repatriated.

Commander Gibbs showed a copy of his father's dog tags that PNC David Stephens had researched and gotten for him.

Commander Heiser introduced Department Commander Rodney Strong.

Department Commander Rodney Strong came forward. Commander Strong presented an Indiana Centennial Coin and his pin to Commander Gibbs.

Commander Strong said his project this year was to replace the wood siding on the Ernie Pyle Home & Museum in Dana Indiana. Commander Strong wants to raise \$30,000 of the \$90,000 needed to complete the project.

NEC Mike Pipher brought a quilt up front. The quilt was won by a \$600 bid the Detachment of Indiana made at the October NEC meetings. The quilt represents each state and several states have state pins. Mike was looking for suggestions for the quilt. Department Commander Strong suggested the quilt be raffled at Spring Conference for the SIN program.

PDC Mark Tansel said there would be a PDC meeting in this room immediately following this meeting.

David Hanson said there will be a Hospitality Room for David Mummert in room 680 following this meeting.

David Brown said that the American Legion Family at Post 65 will be having a Testimonial Dinner for David Mathews on March 29, 2019. Flyers are being passed out, please RSVP.

Greg Spaulding said he is serving as the National Convention Chairman for the Sons. Greg said the National Convention will be in Indianapolis this year. Greg asked if there was any interest in a golf outing on the Thursday before the Convention. Greg would also like to know the number of children under 18 who would be attending the Convention. Contact Greg with any feedback.

National Public & Media Communications Commission Chairman Seth Rippe is looking for photos of the person that we gained our eligibility from for the SAL.

Paul Rush said the 4th District Putt-Putt tournament is at Post 178 on January 26th. The proceeds will go to the Honor Flight. Flyers are being passed out.

Jim Arter said there will be a Northern Caucus after the PDC meeting.

Chris Carlton said not to forget the CWF raffle for the hoodie and shirts.

Squadron 20 donated \$300 to COTA and \$600 to CWF.

Glenn Nagle has bid sheets for the golf tournament.

Damon Bradtmueller said the 11th District is having a Meat Raffle for Vicki Koutz. Tickets are available at the table in the atrium.

Damon Bradtmueller said that the National Public & Media Communications Commission has the Snapshot of Service Contest. Send in photos of members walking for the American Legion Family. There is a link on the SAL National website.

David Hanson said that he has advance tickets for the Squadron 216 Mountain Oyster meal and proceeds will go to the Detachment Commander's project.

Squadron 335 donated \$150 to CWF.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Heiser 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 2:18 pm.