



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Fall Conference DEC
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
October 2, 2021**

Commander Dennis Budd opened the meeting at 12:01 pm with a right hand salute to the Colors of our Nation. Chaplain Jeff Gresley said an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was placed by Northern Vice Commander Paul Rush & Southern Vice Commander Mike Tolley. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Southern Vice Commander David Miller. The Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was recited. The Blue Star Banner was in place.

Raymond Giehll, Jr. introduced American Legion Department Commander Mark Gullion. Commander Mark Gullion came forward and address the meeting. Commander Gullion thanked the Detachment for the \$3000 donation made to help the victims of Hurricane Ida. Commander Gullion thanked Commander Budd for \$7500 donation he made to the Department Rehabilitation Fund at the General Session.

Commander Gullion said that he needs help from the SAL for the Youth Law Enforcement Academy held in July. It is a weeklong camp and help is needed all week. Even if you can't help come down for a day see what the Academy is about.

Commander Budd called on Adjutant Steven Tansel for a roll call which showed the following:

Commander:	Dennis Budd	
Northern Vice Commander:	Paul Rush	
Northern Vice Commander:	Greg Wagner	(EX)
Southern Vice Commander:	David Miller	
Southern Vice Commander:	Mike Tolley	
Adjutant:	Steven Tansel	
Asst. Adjutant:	Raymond Giehll, Jr.	
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter, Sr.	
Asst. Adjutant:	Joe Schultis	
Asst. Adjutant:	Mark Tansel	
Finance Officer:	Dewey Long	(EX)
Chaplain:	Jeff Gresley	
Historian:	Fred Motley	
Sgt.-at-Arms:	David Benefiel	
Sgt.-at-Arms Emeritus:	Galen Close	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Brian Englert	

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Matt Kearns	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Halleck Lamar	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Garret Gilmore	
Judge Advocate:	Richard Pfeiffer	
Asst. Judge Advocate:	Mark Franke	
Membership Chairman:	Jeff Coulter	(EX)
Public Relations Director:	Paul Rush	
NEC:	Greg Spaulding	
Alt. NEC:	David Hanson	
District Commanders:		
1 st :	Robert Bowie	
2 nd :	Mike Bottom	(EX)
3 rd :	Matt Kearns	
4 th :	Tom Nedele	
5 th :	Jay Huffman	
6 th :	David Pearson	
7 th :	Garry Miller	
8 th :	Craig Titzer	
9 th :	Brian Hauser	(UNEX)
10 th :	Steve Brock	
11 th :	Rick Masters	

District Advisors:

1 st :	Al Pulido
3 rd :	Alex Magyar
4 th :	Nick Nicholoff
6 th :	Rodney Strong
7 th :	Larry Dent
8 th :	Rocky Baize II
9 th :	Milton Howard
10 th :	Jose Gaitan

Past Detachment Commanders:

Cliff Stephens	James Arter	Raymond Giehll, Jr
Terry Slagle	David Brown	Richard Pfeiffer
Mark Tansel	Mike Pipher	Steve Tansel
David Hanson	Greg Spaulding	Joe Schultis
Doug Heiser	Jimmy Martin	

Commander Budd called for the reading of the previous minutes.

PDC Joe Schultis made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed, 2nd PDC Dave Brown.

Motion passed.

Commander Budd called on Raymond Giehll, Jr to introduce guests.

Raymond Giehll, Jr then introduced these guests:

Raymond Giehll, Jr., Past National Commander

Mark Tansel, National Internal Affairs Commission Member

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

Doug Heiser, Member of the Public & Media Communications Commission

Richard Pfeiffer, VE & E Commission Member

Ray asked that all Past Detachment Commanders stand and be recognized.

First time attendees, there were 3

Greg Spaulding, NEC

David Hanson, Alt. NEC

Past National American Legion Sgt.-at-Arms Al Pulido

Commander Budd called for Commission & Committee reports.

The following reports were presented:

Americanism Commission:

Acting Chairman Robert Bowie said to continue to support our SAL programs as we open up more and more. Keep supporting our military and flag. For the 2020-2021 year National donations were \$1,584,623, hours were 1,193,401= \$34,059,690.

POW/MIA Committee:

Chairman Ron Ripperger emailed his report.

This is what has been reported since July 8, 2021

Vietnam-2

WWII-16

USS Oklahoma-14

Korea-10

One from Indiana. Army Sgt. Stanley L DeWitt of Royal Center, Indiana. Member of Medical Detachment, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing on December 6, 1950.

5 Star/10 Ideal Committee:

Chairman Charles Gemlich said the Committee requested that all District Commanders push this program. Information on the program is in the SAL Handbook.

Athletic Committee:

Chairman Dave Benefiel said that Kokomo Post 6 made a proposal to host the SAL Detachment Golf Tournament for the next 3 years, includes \$20 per person. Pro Shop will take care of team forms, door prizes, help block rooms, beer priced locked in.

Chairman Benefiel said the Committee recommended that we proceed with the proposal.

Hoosier Boy's State Committee:

Acting Chairman Mike Tolley said the 2022 Hoosier Boy's State will be at Trine University in Angola starting on June 12, 2022. Help get the flyers out. Applications started being accepted on 10/1/2021.

PDC Raymond Giehll, Jr. made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report minus the Athletic Committee report, 2nd PDC James Arter, Sr. Motion passed.

PDC Raymond Giehll, Jr. made a motion to accept the Athletic Committee report minus the Kokomo Post 6 bid, 2nd PDC David Hanson.

David Hanson who is taking care of the Detachment Golf Tournament said that the bid sheet has been made. Bids are due December 31, 2021. Awarding of the Detachment Golf Tournament will be at the Mid-Winter DEC. David said it has been the long established policy of the Detachment to award the Detachment Golf Tournament on a yearly basis.

PDC Raymond Giehll, Jr. said that Golf Tournament was set up as something for our members. It was decided later that the money would go to the Scholarship Fund, the money at any time can be given to any other program. The amount made is not as important as providing the Tournament for our members. The Tournament was designed to be played at different golf courses.

Motion passed by majority.

PDC David Brown made a motion if you host the Detachment Golf Tournament you must wait 2 years to bid again. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commander Dennis Budd introduced Wendy Waldman, President of the Brain Injury Association of Indiana.

Wendy Waldman came forward and addressed the meeting. Wendy said she had just come from a 5K for brain injury in Carmel. She said they got rained on but continued.

Wendy said the Brain Injury Association of Indiana is a nonprofit founded in 1981. The Association works with brain injuries that occur after birth. The incident of brain injury is 2 to 1 male to female. Wendy herself is a victim of a brain injury. "Brain injury isn't on your mind, until it's in your mind". Wendy introduced Luis Aju.

Luis Aju came forward and addressed the meeting about his traumatic brain injury. Luis is a Staff Sergeant in the Kentucky National Guard. Luis told the moving story of his brain injury. Luis said he is still getting better every day. His experience is why he tells his story so people will understand traumatic brain injury.

Wendy Waldman came back and thanked us for the opportunity to address the meeting and thanked Commander Budd for making the Brain Injury Association of Indiana his project this year.

Children & Youth Commission:

Chairman Jay Huffman said that donations are slow right now.

Americanism & Government Committee:

Chairman Bob Bowie said that teaching materials are available for pick up here at the Conference. Be prepared to assist your Post with teaching in the schools as necessary.

Special Olympics Committee:

Acting Chairman Rick Masters said the State Bowling Tournament will be in December. The Chairman should coordinate with the State American Legion Chairman. The Summer Games will be in June in Terre Haute.

Children's Hospital Committee:

Chairman Brain Englert gave the top 4 Children's Hospital's in Indiana for donations.

Peyton Manning Children's Hospital

Memorial Children's Hospital

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center

Riley Children's Hospital

Youth Law Enforcement Academy Committee:

Chairman Cliff Stephens said the camp will be July 17-23, 2022 at Anderson University. The attendees learn everything the State Police learn. Orientations will be held in every District.

Department Youth Law Enforcement Academy Chairman Ron Patterson asked that the following pertinent information from his meeting be included:

- Need for all Cadets to go through an "orientation" prior to showing up to camp. Committee members will work with District personnel to set up. Patterson to have information pertaining to this at Fall Conference.
- Discussion to form an alumni group with an annual gathering. Use this as a means to promote the program/ highlight impact that the program has had in the lives of the Cadets. SGT. Elwood to pull together email list so that we can start to form an action plan.
- Junior shooting sports to be added to the curriculum for next year. Troopers may not be able to attend due to legal concerns from ISP upper management.
- SGT Elwood to work with ISP to get drone support for videos.
- Legion needs to video the graduation ceremony. Butch to work with Josh on this matter for next year.
- Drill & Ceremony to be handled by Legion members next year. Butch to work with Josh to come up with a video for the Cadets to watch on D&C prior to working in the field. Need to coordinate with ISP regarding any specific D & C terms that they may use.
 - Tentative dates for the camp next year are July 17-23.

Oratorical Committee:

Chairman Mike Pipher said that National is no longer printing Oratorical brochures. You can find the brochure for printing at www.legion.org/oratorical. The Committee is requesting that we print the brochures for distribution in Indiana.

Coordinate with Post & District Chairman to help with Post, District & Zone Contests.

Department Oratorical Finals will be March 13, 2022. National Oratorical Finals will be April 23, 2022. Sign up to help at Department or National at Mid-Winter Conference.

Contact schools, public, private & home school to find participants. There is over \$200,000 in scholarships available.

Child Welfare Foundation Committee:

Chairman Mike Tolley said to date there has been \$75,000 donated. We are \$110,000 from \$1,000,000. We have piggy banks, District Commanders take a case back and pass them out to all your squadrons. Reach out to the community and members for donations.

We are asking for \$1 per member from each squadron.

Junior Shooting Sports Committee:

Acting Chairman Mike Tolley said the Legion Committee was meeting in Salon 6. Rifles are on display to see what they use in competition.

5th District Commander Jay Huffman made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd PDC Mike Pipher. Motion passed.

Internal Affairs Commission:

Acting Chairman Doug Heiser gave the following Committee reports:

Religious Emphasis:

Chairman Jeff Gresley said to contact your local VA's and help out visitations.

Visit local churches to see if they could use help with the veterans that attend their church.

Legislative Committee:

Chairman David Miller gave the following active veteran related legislative priorities:

HR 1022: PAWS Act of 2021

HR 1307: Dept. of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act

HR 1448: Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members for Veteran Therapy Act

HR 1520: Veterans Access to Direct Primary Care Act

HR 1585: Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act

HR 1656: Treat PTSD Act

HR 1812: The Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act

HR 2127: Toxic Exposure in the American Military (Team) Act

Asst. Judge Advocate Mark Franke attended the American Legion Legislative Committee and added the following information from that meeting to the report:

AmVets has dropped out of the Big Four, replaced by the Indiana National Guard Association.

Priority 1: Still working on VSO exemption from current gaming law. Somebody (gaming company?) would place the machines and handle all reporting with the post simply hosting the machine with a one-third cut. Another third would go to IDVA and a third to the vendor. County service organizations could request grants from IDVA's share. Rep. Frye said bill doesn't get supported because it has the word gaming in its title so it gets opposed as another gambling bill.

Priority 2: Exempting all veteran-based income from state income taxes.

Priority 3: Add spouses to CDV tuition benefits.

Priority 4: Free state park entry for veterans.

Convention Committee:

Chairman Jeff Gresley said the Committee was going to try to contact a 2-Star General to address the Convention.

Information & Training Committee:

Chairman Paul Rush said the Committee is planning a training session for MyLegion at the Mid-Winter Conference.

Public Relation & Information Technology Committee:

Chairman Paul Rush P.R. email address (@indianasal.org)/gmail

P.R. information will be posted to indianasal.org if properly submitted.

P.R. should run the website and the Facebook page.

Monthly electronic newsletters/ forwarded to Matt Parsons.

At National Convention Squadron 18 won 2 awards in the Snapshots of Service contest.

The Committee asked for a laptop with MSOffice and video creation, up to \$800.

Acting Adjutant Giehll said that anything posted on the website or Facebook page must still be vetted through the Adjutant.

Scholarship Committee:

Acting Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr said we had 2 recipients of the scholarship at Detachment Convention.

Cole C Louison, Squadron 241

Grant David Gottlier, Squadron 155

Each received a \$1000 scholarship from the Detachment

Application for the scholarship is online and will be updated.

Campout Committee:

Chairman David Miller said the Campout will June 24-26, 2021 at Jonesboro, Squadron 95 of the 5th

District. Preregistration is \$15. Electrical and water hook ups are available for \$25 per day. Please spread the word. Showers are planned to be installed before the Campout.

Community Involvement Committee:

No Report.

PDC Doug Heiser made a motion to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2nd Southern Vice Commander David Miller.

There was a question about the Commander's laptop for P.R. That computer is out of date.

Motion passed.

Rehabilitation Commission:

Chairman Andy Byers said we need to keep doing whatever we can to help veterans.

Veterans Education & Employment Committee:

Chairman Bob Bowie said that the Grant County had a Stand Down on October 1st.

Evansville has the Helmets to Hardhats program.

The pandemic has been hurting everyone.

Indiana Veterans Home Committee:

Chairman Bob Shields the bingo dates for this year October 16, 2021; December 18, 2021, February 12, 2022. Setup at 12:30 pm, bingo 1:30-3:30 or until the prizes are gone. At this time the bingos are still on but with Covid they could be cancelled at any time. Everyone must wear a mask at the bingos.

Homeless Veterans Committee:

Chairman Mike Bottom said that we need to help out at homeless shelters. See if any homeless veterans need help this winter.

VAVS Committee:

Acting Chairman Matt Kearns said we need to work with our local Posts. See if the local VA needs anything.

PDC James Arter, Sr. made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd PDC Terry Slagle. Motion passed.

Bob Shields said that Post 492 will be open after bingo.

Finance & Budget Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr. said that with the pandemic hurting everyone the Finance & Budget is suggesting that squadrons try to make donations locally to help Indiana and Indiana communities.

Budget request must be in by Mid-Winter DEC.

Oratorical Chairman Mike Pipher said we need to print Oratorical pamphlets to distribute. Money for printing is in the budget.

PR requested a laptop to use for the website & Facebook page, the Committee put \$1000 cap on the request.

The Detachment donated \$3000 towards Hurricane Ida relief in Louisiana.

PDC Raymond Giehll, Jr. made a motion to accept the Finance & Budget Committee report, 2nd PDC Jimmy Martin.

PDC Richard Pfeiffer said that at the National meetings today Louisiana thanked everyone for the help.

11th District Commander Rick Masters asked about replacing the flags in the courtyard at the Marriott.

They have been replaced.

Motion passed.

11th District Commander Rick Masters made a motion to buy Space Force flag for the Marriott courtyard, 2nd PDC David Brown. Motion passed.

Rick said when it is bought he will deliver it and it will be placed under the US flag.

Resolutions:

Chairman Greg Spaulding said there were no resolutions received. If you have any question about resolutions don't hesitate to reach out to Chairman Spaulding or Committees members, Richard Pfeiffer, Terry Slagle & David Miller.

Distinguished Guest Committee:

Acting Chairman Raymond Giehll Jr. said all guest had been introduced.

Sons in Need Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, III said we haven't had a SINS request in almost a year.

District Commanders & Vice Commanders need to let squadrons know of SINS. In these times it's hard to think there are not members in need.

We can always use donations for this program that helps and supports Indiana members.

Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee:

Acting Chairman Joe Schultis explained that the membership report we have been attempting to get out is the best we can do right now.

We need to encourage squadrons and individuals to use MyLegion.

11th District is working on a new squadron for Post 360.

The 7th District saved Squadron 244.

1st District still has Squadron 54 uncertified.

We still have cards for squadrons in the 1, 3, 5, 11 Districts.

PDC Joe Schultis made a motion to accept the Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee report. 2nd PDC Richard Pfeiffer.

6th District Commander David Pearson asked about membership awards. Acting Adjutant Giehll said hopefully we get enough information to give the awards retroactively.

Terry Slagle asked how his long time membership number got changed.

Commander Budd said that on Squadron drawing we should include all certified squadrons.

11th District Commander Rick Masters has asked to talk to the Post 88 Commander & Adjutant about the Squadron.

Squadron 276 is missing a check from cards turned in at Convention. It seems the cards have not been recorded either. It will be looked into.

SDR must be turned in or your members who pay online will only have to pay \$13 and the squadron will have to get the remainder of dues. Question was asked if we know who has turned in SDRs. We don't know. Acting Adjutant Giehll said he sent National all of last year's Squadron Certifications that should have the dues structure on them.

Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

PDC Raymond Giehll, Jr. asked for PDC Doug Heiser to come forward. PDC Giehll presented PDC Doug Heiser with his Past Detachment Commander's pin. PDC Heiser called forward PDC Jimmy Martin forward. PDC Heiser presented PDC Jimmy Martin his Past Detachment Commander's pin.

New Business:

Greg Spaulding said he is attending Hoosier Boy's State 6/12-6/18/2021. Help is needed on the first day June 12th at 8am. It will be held at Trine University in Angola. The American Legion would like to have SAL members as counselors during the week. HBS enrollment started on 10/1. There is a website for HBS.

Garry Miller resigned as the Internal Affairs Commission Chairman.

Commander Budd appointed William Barnett as the Internal Affairs Commission Chairman.

PDC Raymond Giehll, Jr. made a motion to accept the appointment of William Barnett as the Internal Affairs Commission Chairman, 2nd PDC Dough Heiser. Motion passed.

Sick Call & Relief:

11th District Commander Rick Masters said that Edwin Smith, 11th District Sgt.-at-Arms from Squadron 64 had passed away.

Commander Budd said that Brian Gilbert has Covid.

Jeff Coulter was in the hospital this week with cellulitis. Jeff is now home recovering.

Terry Slagle said that Helen Conn, wife of Past Department Commander Don Conn had passed away on Wednesday.

Mark Tansel said that Cindy Rawley, wife of Past 7th District SAL Commander Jay Rawley passed away on July 11th.

Mark Tansel said that Past 7th District SAL Commander Andy Dale was battling cancer.

SAL 11th District 1st Vice Commander Gary Throgmorton had Covid and also a heart attack. Gary is now home recuperating.

Past SAL 3rd District Commander Richard Reed went to the Cleveland Clinic and had 2 heart valves replaced. Richard is home recuperating.

Correspondence:

Acting Adjutant Giehl read a thank you letter from the Rodebush VA Hospital for the \$1000 donation the Detachment made to the hospital.

PDC Jimmy Martin said he has a thank you letter from the Louisville VA Hospital for the \$1000 donation made to that hospital by the Detachment.

Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

The 11th District SAL is planning a Bowling Tournament for November of 2022.

PDC David Hanson said a Bowling tournament should go through the Athletic Committee. It would a District function.

Andy Byers said the Department Bowling Tournament is in March. Each team must have one American Legion member and the rest can be American Legion Family members.

Squadron 423 donated \$500 to the Commander's project.

Squadron 423 gave 100-\$5 bills to be given at the IVH bingos.

Terry & Betty Slagle donated \$100 to the Commander's project.

David Hanson said that the Golf Tournament put on by Squadron 216 for Chris Carlton's campaign raised \$3100.

Squadron 321 donated \$200 to CWF.

Mike Tolley said each squadron needs to take CWF pigs.

The Annual 8th District Auction will be in Elberfeld on November 27th. The proceeds are split between the Department Commander, Department President & Detachment Commander's projects.

NEC Greg Spaulding said Indiana was well represented at National Convention in Phoenix. Greg said that Michael Fox was not elected unanimously. The National Commander's project is Flying Flags for Heroes, wants to put 1,000,000 flags on veteran's graves.

Greg said IA Chairman Robert Newman said the SAL raised \$48.6 million dollars. This was on the reporting of 1163 squadrons out of 6211 total. What would it be at 100% reporting?
CWF is at \$75,000 to date.

PDC Jimmy Martin thanked everyone who attended the National Convention in Phoenix.

PDC Mike Pipher said that Squadron 18 won 1st Place in the Americanism division of Snapshots for Service. Mike said Squadron 18 won 2nd Place in the Children & Youth division of Snapshots for Service.

Joe Schultis said that with the new system at National members who have renewed could be receiving renewal notices.

David Miller said that Squadron 495 would be again having their Annual Indoor Putt-Putt on October 23, 2021. Practice at 11:30am, start at 12:30pm. AYCE Breakfast served 9-11am for \$8.
Post 495 will be having a Pork Chop Dinner tonight.

Mike Pipher said that Squadron 18 will an AYCE Pizza & Salad Bar on October 16th 5-8pm.

Tom Potts said that 2nd District is raffling a hand gun, 300 tickets at \$5 apiece, proceeds are going to buy headstones for Norm & Sandy Hubler.

Jay Huffman said that Squadron 95 will be having a Christmas Auction on 11/26/21.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Budd called on Chaplain Gresley for a closing prayer. Chaplain Gresley gave the closing prayer. With a right hand salute to the Colors of our Nation the meeting was closed at 2:37pm.