



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Fall Conference
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
September 28, 2024**

Commander Andy Byers opened the meeting at 12:01 PM with a right-hand salute to the Colors of our Nation. Chaplain Kevin Byers gave an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was in place. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Northern Vice Commander Bill Duncan. The Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was led by Southern Vice Commander Brian Hauser. The Blue Star Banner was in place.

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

Commander:	Andy Byers	
Northern Vice Commander:	William Duncan	
Northern Vice Commander:	Fred Motley	
Southern Vice Commander:	David Miller	
Southern Vice Commander:	Brian Hauser	
Adjutant:	Raymond Giehll, Jr	
Asst. Adjutant:	Joe Schultis	
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter	
Asst. Adjutant:	Chris Carlton	
Sgt.-at-Arms:	William Byers	
Finance Officer:	Doug Heiser	(EX)
Chaplain:	Kevin Byers	
Historian:	Robert Craig	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Alex Bunch	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Cliff Anderson	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Luke Woodburn	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Mike Abel	
Judge Advocate:	Richard Pfeiffer	
Asst. Judge Advocate:	Mark Franke	
PR Director:	Dave Parker	
Membership Chairman:	Jeff Gresley	
NEC:	David Hanson	
Alt. NEC:	Joseph Schultis	
District Commanders:		
1 st :	Ken Corbeille	
2 nd :	Noble Pulsipher	
3 rd :	Mark Smith	(EX)

4th: Dave Parker
5th: Jay Huffman
6th: John Hook
7th: Gary Black
8th: Jeff Barker
9th: Rick Lohrum
10th: Brian Gilbert
11th: Dustin Owens

District Advisors:

1st: Al Pulido
3rd: Cecil Brummette
4th: Nick Nickoloff
7th: Larry Dent
SAL Chairman: Larry Horvath

Past Detachment Commanders:

David Stephens	Don Stephens	Robert Worrel
James Arter	Raymond Giehll, Jr	David Sigger
Richard Pfeiffer	Mark Tansel	Mike Pipher
David Hanson	Greg Spaulding	Chris Carlton
Joe Schultis	Jimmy Martin	Charles Gemlich

Commander Byers asked for the reading of the previous minutes.

PDC Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed, 2nd Southern Vice Commander Miller.
Motion passed.

Commander Byers called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Joe Schultis for introductions.

Chairman Schultis made the following introductions:

Past National Commander David Stephens
Past National Commander Robert Worrel
Past National Commander Raymond Giehll, Jr
Past National Commander Christopher Carlton
NEC, David Hanson
Alt NEC, Joe Schultis
1st Time Attendees, there were 2.
All Past Detachment Commanders

Chairman Joe Schultis introduced Melissa Sexton from IU Riley Children's Hospital.

Melissa Sexton came forward to address the meeting. Riley Hospital has been in existence for 100 years. Melissa said it was originally for Indiana children however children from all over the country come to Riley for their renowned care. Melissa thanked the Indiana Sons of The American Legion and Commander Byers for the upcoming support we will be providing Riley Hospital. Melissa said she will get Commander Byers the Riley Donation logo for our plaques.

Chairman Joe Schultis introduced Department Commander Rob Burkhart, Department President Roxy Stoner and ALR Department Director Jeff Everman.
All three came forward to address the meeting.

Department President Roxy Stoner addressed the meeting saying her slogan is “Ringing Bells for Veterans”. Department President Stoner said her projects are the Indy Vet House and Indiana Veterans Home. President Stoner said it is great to be able to work with Commander Burkhart, Commander Byers and ALR Director Everman.

Department Commander Burkhart addressed the meeting saying it was great to have such a active Sons of The American Legion in Indiana. Commander Burkhart said he is looking forward to continuing working with SAL Commander Byers. Commander Burkhart said the Sons participation is not only appreciated but needed to help serve our veterans and community.
Commander Burkhart said united we are stronger.

Department ALR Director Jeff Everman addressed the meeting saying it is his honor to again be the Indiana ALR Director. Director Everman said he has already been working with Commander Burkhart, Commander Byers and President Stoner to promote the programs of the American Legion Family.

Commander Byers said that we could remove our suit coats as it was warm in the meeting room, but if coming to the podium you will need to have it on.

Chairman Joe Schultis introduced Ryan Gallagher from COTA. Ryan came forward and thanked Past Commander Paul Rush for raising over \$65,000 for COTA. PDC Paul Rush came forward and Ryan presented a appreciation plaque to PDC Paul from COTA.
Past Commander Rush took the opportunity to present a plaque to Squadron 106 for their donation to COTA.

Commander Byers called for Commission and Committee reports:

AMERICANISM COMMISSION:

Chairman Ken Corbeille said the Commission reviewed all the Committee reports.
Chairman Corbeille read the following Committee reports:

Hoosier Boys State:

Chairman Fred Motley said it’s not too early to get schools to start promoting the program. Registration opens on January 1, 2025. Boy’s State is scheduled for June 15=21, 2025 at Trine University in Angola.

5Star/10 Ideals:

Chairman Tom Nedele said that we need to remind members of this program. It’s in the SAL Handbook and available online.

POW/MIA:

Chairman Ron Ripperger said the following MIAs had been identified July 10-September 26, 2024:
WWII-22

USS Oklahoma-2
Vietnam-2
Korea-12

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced on September 16, 2024, that it has identified the 700th service member listed as missing from the Korean War. More than 7,400 remain missing.

Athletic:

Chairman Jimmy Edwards reported the Detachment Golf Outing was held September 14th at Winding Branch in Cambridge City. There were 17 teams. 7 Districts still need to pay for their hole sponsorship, see David Hanson if your District still owes. The financial report was read and there was a profit of \$870. Bids will be accepted at the Mid-Winter Conference for the 2025 SAL Golf Tournament. The dates will be September 6 or 13, 2025.

Squadrons are encouraged to support American Legion Baseball.

1st District Commander Corbeille made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd PDC Arter. Motion passed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION:

Chairman David Miller said the Commission discussed the Veterans Children's Fund, what it is and its purpose. The National goal is \$500,000 set by SAL National Commander Navarrate. National VCF supports 4 Pillars & American Legion Family Day (April 26)

Chairman David Miller read the following Committee reports:

Children's Hospital:

Acting Chairman Dustin Owens said the Committee would like to do fundraising event at the Detachment Campout for Riley Children's Hospital, a 50/50 to raise funds.

Petition wives and Auxiliary to make baked goods to donate for a raffle.

Find a Post/Squadron to host a Family Day as day to bring Legion Family members together and raise funds.

The Committee would like to rent a bounce house for Family Day.

Family Day date to be determined by host Post/Squadron.

Junior Shooting Sports:

Chairman Mike Shuler said the Department Junior Shooting Sports Committee meets this weekend. In October the schedule will be released for the State Championship match.

Americanism & Government:

Chairman Rick Lohrum the Committee would like to see an email sent out to each Squadron to find participants from the 10, 11 & 12 grades. Participants can earn \$1000 in scholarships.

Need to promote the American Legion Flag Education Test.

The dates are set by the Indiana Department.

Youth Law Enforcement Academy:

Chairman Cliff Stephens said this year's program will be June 22-28, 2025, at Anderson University. Start promoting the program now.

Special Olympics:

Chairman Brian Gilbert said the Fall games going on this weekend. State volleyball tournament is being held in Yorktown/Muncie area in October. Need more help at events, see Brian Gilbert to volunteer. Summer Olympics will be held in Terre Haute in June.

Child Welfare Foundation:

Chairman William Barnett as of 8/14/24 Indiana has given \$2000 to CWF. Last year Indiana raised \$22,378.25. Nationally the total was \$422,407.29. Still asking for \$1 per member from each Squadron. Nationally we reached the \$10,000,000 threshold.

Oratorical:

Chairman Greg Spaulding said to get with your Legion and see if you can assist them with the program. If you have contacts in your schools, promote this program with speech and debate programs. January will be the District contests, February the Zone Contests and March will be the State contest.

SVC Miller made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd PDC David Stephens. PDC Giehl said when he was in the Department office earlier, Wendy asked who the Oratorical Chairman was for the SAL. When he told her it was Greg Spaulding she said that was great because when she sees him coming in for the State contest, she can breathe a sigh of relief knowing everything will be going great. Motion passed.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

Chairman David Pearson said all Committee reports were discussed and read by the Commission members.

Chairman Pearson read the following Committee reports:

Legislative:

Chairman Richard Pfeiffer said the Big 4 has identified four key priorities:

Priority 1: Tuition Remission for Disabled Veterans

Priority 2: NGAI Indiana National Guard Member Death Benefit Insurance

Priority 3: Electronic Pull Tabs for Veteran Service Organizations

Priority 4: Regulation of Claim Sharks

Mark Franke attended the American Legion Legislative Committee and gave the following report:

Department Legislative Committee Report (2024 Fall Conference)

The five Town Hall meetings sponsored by the Big Four were poorly attended by Legion family members. Chairman Gullion mentioned that the Fourth District meeting was attended by three SAL members alongside two Legionnaires, the best attendance at any of them. Chairman Gullion reminded members of the importance of grassroots support for Legion legislative initiatives.

The Big Four's legislative agenda has four priorities: restoring Child of a Disabled Veteran tuition remission to full for all disabled veterans; life insurance eligibility for Guardsmen during all duty

periods; electronic pull tabs approval (see below); and protection of veterans with benefit claims from claim shark law firms.

The electronic pull tabs priority is getting more support from legislators so there is some level of confidence that it could pass during the 2025 legislative session. The eligibility will be restricted to not-for-profit veterans and fraternal organizations with the net proceed distribution to be determined by the Gaming Commission.

January 14 has been set as legislative day at the Statehouse for veteran's organizations. More information will follow.

Religious Emphasis:

Chairman Kevin Byers said they would like to see a Meet & Greet. Brought up a project to develop rules, regulations & expectations.

Scholarship:

Chairman Dave Parker said the Detachment offers two \$1000 scholarships for ANY SAL member who will be attending school, college or trade.

The 2025-2026 Scholarship application is being tweaked and will be available soon on the website.

The application deadline is April 30, 2025, with the winners announced at the Close of Books.

There is a possibility of a guest presenter of the award at the Detachment Convention in July.

Community Involvement:

Chairman John Hook said to put flags on veteran's graves on all military holidays.

Sponsor a Family Day (Games and Food)

Sponsor a Community Togetherness Day, Cook Outs, Games for Kids, Legion Family tent to encourage membership with the Legion Family Community.

Convention:

Chairman Noble Pulsipher said the Committee discussed ideas for a speaker for Convention. Many good ideas were shared.

Campout:

Chairman Steve Brock reported the 2025 Legion Family Campout will be June 20-22, 2025, at Jonesboro 95 campground.

We are hoping this helps families make plans to come out and enjoy the weekend.

We would like input for things that people would like to do for games.

Public Relations & Information Technology:

Chairman Dave Parker said the Detachment website has been refreshed with newer photos.

Please submit all requests for website postings (event, etc.) to the Detachment Adjutant for approval.

The website address is www.indianasal.org.

Information & Training:

Chairman Dave Parker said most squadrons are using MyLegion at this point.

If a squadron/district would like training on a topic (video, literature, live, etc.) please ask.

Please direct MyLegion questions to Joe Schultis.

There are training links on the indianasal.org website for a number of topics squadrons might need.

PDC Hanson made a motion to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2nd PDC Gemlich. Motion passed.

REHABILITATION

Acting Chairman Rick Lohrum said all Committees met today. Haven't met since Post Convention DEC. Acting Chairman Rick Lohrum read the following Committee reports:

Veterans Education & Employment:

Acting Chairman Rick Lohrum we need to help vocational Rehab personal find work.
Looking for volunteers and help.

VAVS:

Chairman Jay Huffman said you need to support your local VA.
Districts need to contact local VA's to help or donate.
We need representatives for VA Hospitals, presently we only have James Arter at the Fort Wayne VA.
VAVS has changed to Community Development Civic Engagement, CDCE.

Indiana Veterans Home:

Chairman Bob Shields said he would like to see more help at the bingos
Next Bingo dates are October 19, 2024; December 21, 2024; February 8, 2025.
Set up time will be 12 noon, bingo starts at 1:30.
We won't know of any restrictions until we arrive.

Homeless Veterans:

Chairman Cliff Anderson said homeless veterans' month paperwork needs returned by October 15th.
The Committee requested \$2500 donation for Project Neighbors low-income project and homeless veterans. (This was not read at the DEC meeting, so the request was not approved)

9th District Commander Lohrum made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd 2nd District Commander Pulsipher. PDC Greg Spaulding said that we really need more volunteers at the bingos. All Detachment officers should try to attend. IVH Chairman Bob Shields echoed the same sentiment. Motion passed.

Finance & Budget Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr said the Committee will be asking for a final accounting for 2023-2024. The Committee suggested going back to inviting the top Squadron Commander and his Membership Chairman to the Lincoln Pilgrimage based on November Turn-In. The Chairman will send a copy of the budget to the Committee members. David Siggers made a motion to donate \$2000 to the Indy Vet House from the Veterans Assistance line item, 2nd Jimmy Martin. Motion passed. Chairman Giehll apologized for not getting the National Convention delegate checks sent out. Chairman Giehll reminded the PDCs that they receive a Detachment shirt with there year as Detachment Commander paid for by the Detachment if they are in attendance at 3 DEC meetings for the year. Commander Byers presented \$2000 to the Department Presidents project last weekend that was in the budget. Commander Byers presented \$10,000 to the Department Commander this morning for his project that was also in the budget.

PDC Giehl made a motion to accept the Finance & Budget Committee report, 2nd PDC Martin. Motion passed.

Resolutions Committee:

Chairman David Hanson read one resolution:

David Hanson for NEC for 2025-2027.

NEC Hanson made a motion to accept the resolution as a matter of record, 2nd SVC David Miller. Motion passed.

Sons In Need Committee:

Chairman Mark Smith was not able to attend, and Charles Gemlich said Mark sent the following report:

At this time the Sons in Need program has had one request, and it was passed for \$500. We continue to view applications and ask all Officers of SAL Detachment of Indiana to remind the Squadrons of the application process. As always, we are committed to helping veterans in need and also to take care of our members as we are able. They are our extended family.

Respectfully Mark Smith Chairman

PDC Gemlich made a motion to accept the Sons In Need Committee report, 2nd 11th District Commander Owens. Motion passed.

Distinguished Guests:

Chairman Joe Schultis said all guests had been introduced.

Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee:

Chairman Jeff Gresley said we are always looking for possible new squadrons.

Post 179 in the 8th District is still working on getting enough members to receive a new charter.

Chairman Gresley asked for Gina Owens, Gary Black and Mark Tansel to come forward. They were presented with the charter for the newest Squadron in the 7th District, Squadron 480. Gina Owens said they have started with 19 members.

As we get started into the 2024/2025 membership year, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the Squadrons that made last year a very successful year! Your hard work raised the Detachment to an all-time high of 38,578! Great Job Gentlemen! With your continued efforts I will expect similar results this year like another Detachment all-time high would be fantastic.

Once again, I would like to welcome our first time attendees to this Fall Conference

Whatever reason you had for joining us in the past and the present, we would like to say thank you for your membership and we are grateful for any participation you choose to engage in through your renewal as a member. As we go through this year, I would like to encourage all Squadrons to continue to welcome new members and continuous members alike to become active within the Squadron. Get members involved with functions going on at the Post. Make them feel welcome when they offer to assist at events. Grow our Family!

Squadron 423 was the first Squadron in the Detachment at 100%.

The 4th District and the 7th District have all Squadrons off zero and will receive \$50 each. Once we have a third District to get all Squadrons off zero, they too will receive \$50.

As of September 28th, we have a total of 1,021 new members

The 4th District is in first place with 29.82%. In second place with 28.85% is the 1st District. The 10th District is in third place with 25.79%, followed by 2,7,6,8,9,3,5.

Nationally as of September 26th, Indiana is in 27th place with 22.26% of the year end goal.

Checks for reaching goals:

July 17th

1st, 4th, 10th, 11th Districts for meeting or exceeding the goal percentage 25%, \$25 each.

The District with the highest percentage of retention on target date was the 4th District and will receive \$50

August 7th

1st, 4th, 10th, 11th Districts for meeting or exceeding the goal percentage 30%, \$25 each.

The District with the highest percentage of retention on target date was the 4th District and will receive \$50

September 4th

No District reached the 40% goal.

The District with the highest percentage of retention on target date was the 4th District and will receive \$50

Chairman Gresley had the drawing for the first quarter for \$500. The winning Squadron was Squadron 479.

The check will be mailed.

SVC Miller made a motion to accept the Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee report, 2nd 7th District Commander Black. Motion passed.

8th District Commander Jeff Barker said that Post 242 surrendered their SAL charter and Jeff turned it over to Department on 9/9/24.

Unfinished Business:

Commander Byers called immediate Past Detachment Commander Paul Rush and Immediate Past Membership Chairman David Miller forward. Commander Byers presented them with the 100% Membership ribbon for their year. PDC Rush and Past Membership Chairman Miller placed the ribbon on the Detachment flag.

Chairman Joe Schultis introduced Past National Auxiliary President Vickie Koutz.

Vickie came forward and addressed the meeting about Veteran's Creative Arts Festival coming to Indianapolis May 11-18, 2025. Everyone is invited to see what the veterans do for arts. The music part will be at Clowes Hall. This is the 25th year of the Auxiliary's ties with the event and the VA, Vickie is in charge of the hospitality room that will be open for all the days of the events. Vicky said she has many volunteers but can consider more. Volunteers need to know that the event is completely non-alcoholic.

Volunteers will need to be trained and have background checks. There are 150 eligible to attend. There will also be over 60 caregivers.

Mark Tansel said the 7th District donated \$100 for the hospitality room and challenged the other Districts to do the same. Chris Carlton said the 11th has already met that challenge.

New Business: None

Sick Call & Relief:

Portland American Legion was hit by a tornado and lost its roof.

Mark Tansel thanked Dave Parker and Ray Giehll for allowing him to post a picture and information on SAL member Raymond Pirtle, long time Squadron Adjutant from Squadron 139, who recently passed away.

Dave Hanson said that PDC Dave Brown was at the SAL Golf Tournament. He is doing a lot and is now home.

Ray Giehll said that Kim Heiser, wife of PDC Doug Heiser, broke both her legs and Doug was home taking care of her.

Squadron 1 SAL Commander Ryan Nickloy passed away suddenly on Friday.

Sluggo said SAL 200 recently lost a member.

Ron Ripperger thanked Commander Byers for having Riley Hospital as his project. Ron said had been a patient there many years ago.

Bill Barnett said Squadron 249 lost a member.

Rick Lohrum said the Squadron 234 lost 2 members.

Correspondence:

Adjutant Giehll said that if any Commission or Committee had anything they wanted to get to the squadrons, write it up and get it to him or Asst. Adjutant Chris Carlton.

Adjutant Giehll said he had sent email several times of the Officer Communication list and the District Meeting Schedule asking for any corrections. He received none on the Officer Communication list but heard of several corrections just today. The District Schedule corrections came in for almost 2 months. Adjutant Giehll said if we are going to move forward and get things right Detachment officers need to read the information that is sent o them.

Good of The Sons of The American Legion:

Doc Pfeiffer said he still has COTA plaques to make from the donations at Detachment Convention.

David Stephens said that prison Squadron 208 made 5000 poppies and raised \$500 from them. Commander Byers presented 18 Ten Ideals medals to the members of 208.

Mark Tansel spoke on the need for more volunteers at the IVH bingos. Setup starts at noon and bingo at 1:30.

Bob Shields asked about 2024 Squadron 100% ribbons. Adjutant Giehll said that he put the order in and was just now realizing we never got them, he will follow up on Monday.

PDC Joe Schultis called a Northern caucus after this meeting.

PDC Charles Gemlich presented an OCW plaque to Squadron 434.

Sluggo said the annual Boonville 200 charity auction will be on November 30th. The proceeds are split between the project of the Department Commander, Detachment Commander & Department President.

SVC Brian Hauser called a Southern caucus after this meeting.

Commander Byers asked for any donations. The following donations were made:

Post 88:	\$100	Commander's Project
Squadron 88:	\$100	Commander's Project
Squadron 253:	\$500	Commander's Project
10 th District SAL:	\$50	CWF, In Memory of David Mathews
Squadron 387:	\$500	Commander's Project
Squadron 492:	\$500	Commander's Project
Post 492:	\$500	Commander's Project
Squadron 235:	\$500	Commander's Project

Mark Tansel spoke on the importance of donations.

David Stephens said to go to local business and ask for donation for the SAL projects.

PDC David Stephens called a PDC meeting for after the caucuses.

David Miller said the Annual Squadron 495 Indoor Putt-Putt will be October 10th. David said flyers are on the back table.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Byers called on Chaplain Kevin Byers for a closing prayer. Chaplain Byers gave the closing prayer. With a right-hand salute to the Colors of our Nation the meeting was closed at 2:11 pm.

