



**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Indiana  
Fall Conference  
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting  
September 30, 2023**

Commander Paul Rush opened the meeting at 12:00 noon with a right-hand salute to the Colors of our Nation. Chaplain Fred Motley said an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was placed by Southern Vice Commander David Pearson and Northern Vice Commander Jeff Gresley. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Southern Vice Commander Steve Brock. The Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was led by Northern Vice Commander Bill Duncan. The Blue Star Banner was in place.

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

Commander:	Paul Rush	
Northern Vice Commander:	William Duncan	
Northern Vice Commander:	Jeff Gresley	
Southern Vice Commander:	David Pearson	
Southern Vice Commander:	Steve Brock	
Adjutant:	Raymond Giehll, Jr	
Asst. Adjutant:	Chris Carlton	
Asst. Adjutant:	Joe Schultis	
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter	
Finance Officer:	Doug Heiser	
Chaplain:	Fred Motley	
Historian:	Matt Gilbert	(EX)
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Tom Nedele	
Sgt.-at-Arms Emeritus:	Galen Close	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Ryan Kohlheim	(UNEX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Luke Woodburn	(UNEX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Cliff Anderson	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Logan Pipher	
Judge Advocate:	Richard Pfeiffer	
Asst. Judge Advocate:	Mark Franke	
Membership Chairman:	David Miller	
Public Relations Director:	Dave Parker	
NEC:	David Hanson	
Alt. NEC:	Joseph Schultis	

District Commanders:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Ken Corbeille
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Tom Potts
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Mark Smith
4 <sup>th</sup> :	Fred Motley
5 <sup>th</sup> :	Jay Huffman
6 <sup>th</sup> :	John Hook
7 <sup>th</sup> :	Kevin Felker
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Jeff Barker
9 <sup>th</sup> :	Rick Lohrum
10 <sup>th</sup> :	Martin Brown
11 <sup>th</sup> :	Gary Throgmorton

Past Detachment Commanders:

Cliff Stephens	David Stephens	Larry Paulus
James Arter	Raymond Giehll, Jr	David Ridenour
David Siggers	Richard Pfeiffer	Mark Tansel
Steve Tansel	David Hanson	Greg Spaulding
Dewey Long	Chris Carlton	Joe Schultis
Doug Heiser	Jimmy Martin	Dennis Budd
Charles Gemlich		

District Advisors:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Al Pulido
4 <sup>th</sup> :	Nick Nickoloff
6 <sup>th</sup> :	Cliff Stephens
7 <sup>th</sup> :	Larry Dent

Commander Rush called on Distinguished Guest Chairman Joe Schultis for the introduction of guests.

Chairman Schultis introduced the following guests:

Robert Bristo, SAL National Vice Commander from the Detachment of Minnesota  
David Stephens, SAL Past National Commander  
Raymond Giehll, Jr SAL Past National Commander  
Chris Carlton, SAL Past National Commander  
Richard Pfeiffer, National Internal Affairs Commission Member  
Doug Heiser, National Public Media & Communications Commission Member  
Jimmy Martin, National VE & E Commission Member  
Past Detachment Commanders

First Time Attendees

Commander Rush called for the reading of the previous minutes.

PDC Schultis made a motion to accept the minutes as published, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Martin. Motion passed.

Commander Rush called for Commission & Committee reports.

**AMERICANISM COMMISSION:**

Chairman Andy Byers said the Commission discussed all the Committee reports.

Chairman Byers read the following Committee reports:

**Hoosier Boys State:**

Chairman Tom Nedele said that Hoosier Boys State will be held June 16-22, 2024, at Trine University.

**5Star/10Ideals:**

Chairman James Naylor said there are medals for both parts, you can see them in the Youth Handbook.

The test forms are not on our website. Need to contact Department Headquarters or Emblem Sales.

This program is for all SAL members, not just junior members.

**POW/MIA:**

Chairman Ron Ripperger said the following MIAs had been identified since April 15, 2023:

WWII-61

USS Oklahoma-6

Vietnam-2

Korea-19

2 from Indiana, US Army Private Davis S. Whipple of Plymouth. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. US Army PFC Leonard E. Adams of Dana. He will be buried in Radcliff, KY.

**Athletic:**

Chairman Walter Moore reported the 2024 Detachment Golf Tournament bids will be due at Mid-Winter Conference. The date for the tournament will be changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September on a Saturday. Asking to increase hole sponsors to \$75.

The SAL Bowling Tournament for November 2023 has been canceled for this year. Revision to the tournament will be made and hopeful it will be back in 2024.

11<sup>th</sup> District Commander Gary Throgmorton made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Gemlich.

PDC Long asked about the date change to the golf tournament. PDC Mark Tansel asked the reason for the hole sponsor raise. The Committee could not clearly answer the questions. PDC Giehll asked who was originally sponsoring the Bowling Tournament as it was not the Detachment. No minutes reflected the Detachment approving a Bowling Tournament. Judge Advocate Pfeiffer said to start a Detachment Bowling Tournament would require a resolution.

11<sup>th</sup> District Commander Throgmorton amended his motion to accept the Americanism Commission report minus the Athletic Committee report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Gemlich.  
Motion passed.

Commander Rush instructed the Athletic Committee to reconvene and report back later in the meeting.

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION:**

Chairman Mike Tolley read the following Committee reports:

#### **Children's Hospital:**

Acting Chairman Gary Throgmorton said the Committee would like to raise fund for the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital via a fundraiser. The goal would be \$750.  
The Committee asked for \$250 to help with the fundraiser.

#### **Junior Shooting Sports:**

Chairman Fred Motley said that with school just starting this program is just getting started at many Posts. If your Post has a Junior Shooting Sports program, volunteer to help out or assist monetarily if you can.

#### **Americanism & Government:**

Chairman David Pearson said to support Squadrons working with Posts on Flag Education. Oratorical needs to be promoted to home school students.  
High School scholarship information will need to be promoted at the first of the year.

#### **Youth Law Enforcement Academy:**

Chairman Cliff Stephens said the Committee is attending all the American Legion meetings for this Committee.  
Waiting for the 2024 dates.  
Asking all Posts for donations and participants.

#### **Special Olympics:**

Chairman Brian Gilbert sent in the following report.  
Summer Olympic games were held June 9-11, 2023, at Indiana State University.  
I participated in bicycle racing judging/timer. I also participated in the opening ceremony.  
EKS games are being held this weekend at Brebeuf Prep School, I will be there on Sunday.

Fall & Winter practices have started. Volunteers are needed for state tournaments. PLEASE sign up online.

**Child Welfare Foundation:**

Chairman William Barnett said the as of 8/17/2023 Indiana is at 0.00 dollars donated.

Nationally CWF donations are \$42,574.00.

National Commander JR Hall is asking for \$1 per member for CWF.

**Oratorical:**

The 2024 National Finals will be May 17-19, 2024, in Hillsdale, MI at Hillsdale College.

Department finals (no date scheduled yet) will need volunteer help.

Last year the Finance Committee authorized money for Department Finals refreshments.

Need to assist at local levels.

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:**

Chairman Jeff Gresley said all Committee reports were discussed and read by the Commission members.

Chairman Gresley read the following Committee reports:

**Legislative:**

Legislative Committee member Mark Franke gave the following report:

The Big Four voted not to participate officially in veterans' day at the State House on January 16. While the Department will not be a sponsor, individual districts and posts are welcome to participate through attendance at the event and manning a table. The committee voted unanimously to endorse this decision and recommend it to the Department DEC.

The Department plans to host a legislative dinner in March that would be a private affair, away from the State House. At that time our legislative priorities will be discussed.

The five legislative priorities for the 2024 General Assembly will be released next week. The list includes bills on suicide prevention, tuition waivers at state colleges, free state park admission, life insurance for National Guardsmen and the perennial gaming bill.

**Religious Emphasis:**

Chairman Fred Motley said to make sure Squadrons are keeping up on deceased member reporting. District Commanders can help.

Make sure you let District and Squadron Commanders know when and where your 4 Chaplains program is going to be and plan on helping with the program.

Please! All District Commanders let their Chaplains know they are members of this Committee and need to attend and participate.

**Scholarship:**

Acting Chairman Jimmy Martin said the application deadline is April 30, 2024.

The Scholarship is open to all current SAL members attending Post or High School education at an Indiana institution.

**Community Involvement:**

Chairman Kevin Felker said to assist when possible.

Know what's in your community.

See a worn flag, replace it.

**Convention:**

Chairman Bill Duncan said the Committee is looking for recommendations for speakers.

**Campout:**

Chairman Steve Brock said the bid packet will be online soon.

We need to get the word out. It's for all of the American Legion Family.

We are looking for help with games.

Bid packet due before Mid-Winter Conference.

**Public Relations & Information Technology:**

Chairman Dave Parker said to please submit website requests for posting through the Detachment Adjutant.

If you have pictures for the website, please email indianasalpr@gmail.com and we can discuss how to submit them.

Please promote National Photos of Service and Videos of Service. Indiana had one winner Squadron 42, Floyds Knob.

**Information & Training:**

Chairman Dave Parker said if you are struggling with or need help to train someone new on MyLegion, please see Joe Schultis.

Northern Vice Commander Gresley made a motion to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Arter.

There was a question about recording deceased members. It can be recorded on MyLegion or sent to Department Headquarters.

William Barnett said he is the 11<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain and was in the room during the Religious Emphasis meeting but was chairing another meeting.

Motion passed.

**REHABILITATION**

Chairman David Pearson said all Committees met.

Commission will schedule a call if needed.

Chairman David Pearson read the following Committee reports:

**Veterans Education & Employment:**

Chairman Tom Nedele said the Committee was familiarizing themselves with the program.

David Pearson will email everyone on program.

National VE&E is working on a new trifold.

**VAVS:**

Chairman Jay Huffman said you need to support your local VA.  
The 4<sup>th</sup> District is still doing Buddy Checks.  
Louisville VA still needs a VAVS Representative.  
Jay Huffman will be doing Grant County Stand Down on 10/6/23.

**Indiana Veterans Home:**

Chairman Bob Shields said the bingo dates are, October 14, 2023; December 9, 2023; February 10, 2024.

Setup time will be between noon and 12:30.

Bingo starts at 1:30

You need to sign in at security and wear masks.

Donations of new clothing are welcome.

A donation of \$100 was received from West Lafayette Beta Kappa Association.

**Homeless Veterans:**

Chairman Tom Potts said the Biden/Harris administration is taking action to end veteran homelessness.

Reach underserved veterans.

Increase supply and access to affordable housing.

Prevent homelessness among veterans.

Southern Vice Commander Pearson made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Paulus. Motion passed.

**Finance & Budget Committee:**

Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr said there will be a \$2 increase in membership dues for the 2025 card year, it was passed at the Detachment Convention.

A motion was made to add a line item to the next budget for refreshments at the Department Oratorical Finals not to exceed \$500. The motion was passed.

PDC Giehll made a motion to accept the Finance & Budget Committee report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Pfeiffer. Motion passed.

**Resolutions Committee:**

Chairman David Hanson read one resolution, Tom Potts for Detachment Commander for 2025-2026. Chairman Hanson said the resolution was in order.

NEC Hanson made motion to accept the resolution as a matter of record, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Schultis.

Motion passed by majority.

NEC Hanson made a motion to accept the Resolutions Committee report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Gemlich.

Motion passed by majority.

**Sons In Need Committee:**

Chairman Greg Wagner said the Committee had received 3 SINS requests.

Brazil Squadron 2 for \$500.

Orland Squadron 423 for \$500.

Bristol Squadron 143 for \$500.

All 3 applications were approved by the Committee.

District Commanders need to remind Squadrons of the SINS program and also ask for donations to the program.

PDC Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the Sons In Need Committee report, 2<sup>nd</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander Throgmorton. Motion passed.

### **Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee:**

Chairman David Miller said there is a possibility of 4 new Squadrons:

2 in the 6<sup>th</sup> District, 1 in the 5<sup>th</sup> District, 1 in the 10<sup>th</sup> District

New members are not a problem. We need to work on retention of members. Keep them involved. Give them a call.

When the Legion pops up a tent to promote membership at an event, ask how you can help and join them.

Find Posts that can use a Squadron.

Squadron 263 in the 6<sup>th</sup> is a new squadron.

Squadron 196 is the first in the Detachment at 100%.

The 10<sup>th</sup> District and the 7<sup>th</sup> District have all Squadrons off zero and will receive \$50 each. The third District that gets all Squadrons off zero will also receive \$50.

We have 932 new members.

The 1<sup>st</sup> District is in first place with 31,36. Second is the 4 District with 27.66%, Third is the 11 District with 27.30%, followed by 10, 8, 7, 2, 6, 3, 5 & 9.

Nationally Indiana is in 29<sup>th</sup> place with 22.51%. Indiana is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Central Region behind Wisconsin and Illinois.

Chairman Miller gave the following checks for reaching goals.

July Goal:

District 4-\$25 for meeting or exceeding 25%

District 4-\$50 for highest percentage

August Goal:

No District reached 30% goal.

District 4-\$50 for highest percentage

September Goal:

No District reached 40% goal.

District 1-\$50 for highest percentage.

Chairman Miller called National Vice Commander Robert Bristo forward to draw the Squadron winner for the first quarter.

Squadron 95, District 5-\$500

PDC Martin made a motion to accept the Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Heiser.

Doug Heiser talked about the Ganassi Mobile Post that is helping to get new American Legion members.

PDC Carlton said that it is possible for Indiana to get the Triple Nickel Award this year. It requires 5 new squadrons, 105% membership, 80% retention. We are already on the way.

Motion passed.



Americanism Chairman Andy Byers came forward to read the amended Athletic Committee report:

**Athletic Committee:**

2024 Detachment Golf Tournament bids will be due at Mid-Winter Conference. The date for the tournament will be changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September on a Saturday depending on the bid accepted.

The Committee is looking at getting a resolution to have a Detachment Bowling Tournament in the future.

The Committee is looking at raising the hole sponsorships.

PDC Hanson made a motion to accept the amended Athletic Committee report, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Long. Dewey Long asked if this meant there will be no Detachment Golf Tournament in the 2023-2024 administrative year. That is correct.

Mark Tansel asked that the amount in the Detachment Scholarship fund be determined before raising the hole sponsorships, there might not be a need.

Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Immediate Past Detachment Commander Charles Gemlich came forward and presented his remaining awards for donations to his project of Operation Comfort Warrior. PDC Gemlich passed out the plaques for the trophies awarded at the Detachment Convention.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Judge Advocate Richard Pfeiffer made a motion to revoke the charters of Squadron 123 in the 8<sup>th</sup> District & Squadron 413 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District for not having 10 members for 2 membership years, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Schultis. Motion passed by majority.

PDC Pfeiffer made a motion to have a letter drafted and sent to Posts 54, 161, 279 & 608 to inform them that their SAL charters would be revoked if they do not have 10 or more members by Close of Books 2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> PDC Mark Tansel. Motion passed.

PDC David Stephens said the National Oratorical will be in Hillsboro, MI and asked if there were plans to send Indiana members to attend. Oratorical Chairman Mike Pipher said that National moved the contest and there are no plans to send Indiana members.

PDC Mark Tansel introduced Brandon Curry, NEC from Kentucky. Mark invited Brandon to see how the Detachment of Indiana operates its DEC meeting. Brandon recently retired from the USAF as a Master Sergeant.

Adjutant Giehl presented the plaque the Detachment received for our donations last year to the American Legion Legacy Fund.

### **SICK CALL & RELIEF:**

Detachment Historian Matt Gilbert was airlifted to Indianapolis because of a mass in his stomach.

David Hanson said that American Legion Past 10<sup>th</sup> District & Southern Vice Commander Robbie Robinson had passed away. Keep his wife Midge in your prayers.

Greg Spaulding said his wife Cheryl was up and walking. Greg thanked everyone for their prayers.

Jay Huffman said member Kevin Reynolds had passed away.

Gary Throgmorton said that Rick Masters had returned to Indiana. Gary said that Rick's time in Florida did not go well.

Tom Potts said he is now 2 ½ years in remission.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Adjutant Giehll read a letter from the Child Welfare Foundation that came with the Gold Award presented by NVC Bristo at the General Session for Indiana's donations last year.

### **GOOD OF THE SAL:**

NEC David Hanson came forward and introduced Robert Bristo, National Vice Commander, from the Detachment of Minnesota.

National Vice Commander Robert Bristo came forward and addressed the meeting bring greetings from the National Organization and National Commander JR Hall. National Commander Hall's slogan is "Representing More Than Me". National Commander Hall asked that we strengthen the 4 Pillars of the American Legion. NVC Bristo said that 400,000 members this year is a very attainable goal. NVC Bristo said "Believe and Succeed."

NVC Bristo presented PDC Sluggo with the CWF Gold Award.

Mark Tansel said this is the second year for the Be The One initiative. Mark read an article from the SAL website concerning Be The One.

Joe Schultis said there will be a Northern Caucus in this room after the meeting.

Squadron 97 is having a shotgun raffle; tickets are \$10 each and it will be drawn when all tickets are sold.

Greg Spaulding gave his final NEC report. Greg said that Indiana was represented at all the National Convention Committees. Greg thanked all the Indiana members for attending the National Convention.

Steve Brock said there will be a Southern Caucus in this room after the meeting.

David Miller said that Squadron 495 will be having their Annual Indoor Putt-Putt Tournament on October 21, 2023. Practice at 11:30 with play starting at noon. \$10 per player and includes food. You can sponsor a hole for \$25. Early Birds can enjoy the Post 495 breakfast buffet for only \$9.

Dick Reed said that Michigan City Squadron 130 was very appreciative of the plaque and certificate they received from the Detachment.

Charles Gemlich said the Annual Charity Auction at Post 200 will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Proceed are shared between the Department Commander, Department President & Detachment Commander's projects.

NEC Brandon Curry from Kentucky thanked the Detachment for allowing him to attend the DEC meeting and for the hospitality he has been shown.

Commander Rush said his goal for COTA is \$65,000 and he has made a bet with the Detachments of New Jersey & Florida.

Jimmy Martin said he has the Indiana signs from National Convention that were signed by all, to give to PNC Chris Carlton.

Commander Rush asked for donations.

Post 423-\$1000, COTA

Auxiliary 423-\$1000, COTA

SAL 423-\$1000, COTA

ALR 423-\$250, COTA

Steve Brock-\$20 cash, COTA

Squadron 379-\$100, COTA

Squadron 379-\$100, SINS

Squadron 379-\$154, CWF

Squadron 47 sent a \$1000 check to Department for COTA

Tom Nedele said that all needed membership forms were available in the room next to this one.

Commander Rush said that there has been over \$1000 raised for COTA from hat sales.

Doug Heiser said that ironically, he sold 3 COTA hats to a member of Florida, helping Commander Rush with his bet.

The Annual 4<sup>th</sup> District Indoor Putt-Putt will be January 27, 2023.

The 4<sup>th</sup> District Don Dapp Bowling Tournament will be held February 17, 2023. Proceeds will go to COTA.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Rush called on Chaplain Fred Motley for a closing prayer. Chaplain Motley gave the closing prayer. With a right-hand salute to the Colors of our Nation the meeting was closed at 2:16 pm.