



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Mid-Winter Conference
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
January 13, 2024**

Commander Paul Rush opened the meeting at 12:02 PM 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 Steve Brock and Northern Vice Commander Jeff Gresley. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt.-at-Arms Tom Nedele. The Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was led by Northern Vice Jeff Gresley. The Blue Star Banner was in place.

Commander Rush said that this DEC meeting would be dedicated to the memory of 11th District Commander Gary Throgmorton.

Commander Rush appointed Chris Carlton as Acting Judge Advocate for this meeting.

PDC Hanson made a motion to accept the Acting Judge Advocate appointment, 2nd PDC Schultis. Motion passed.

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

Commander:	Paul Rush	
Northern Vice Commander:	William Duncan	(EX)
Northern Vice Commander:	Jeff Gresley	
Southern Vice Commander:	David Pearson	(EX)
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	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Luke Woodburn	

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Cliff Anderson	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Logan Pipher	
Judge Advocate:	Richard Pfeiffer	(EX)
Asst. Judge Advocate:	Mark Franke	(EX)
Membership Chairman:	David Miller	(EX)
Public Relations Director:	Dave Parker	
NEC:	David Hanson	
Alt. NEC:	Joseph Schultis	

District Commanders:

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

Past Detachment Commanders:

Cliff Stephens	David Stephens	Larry Paulus
Don Stephens	James Arter	Raymond Giehll, Jr
David Siggers	Mike Pipher	Steve Tansel
David Hanson	Greg Spaulding	Chris Carlton
Joe Schultis	Doug Heiser	Jimmy Martin
Dennis Budd	Charles Gemlich	

District Advisors:

1 st :	Al Pulido
4 th :	Nick Nickoloff
7 th :	Larry Dent
SAL Chairman:	Larry Horvath

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

Chairman Schultis introduced the following guests:

David Stephens, Indiana's first SAL Past National Commander

Raymond Giehll, Jr SAL Past National Commander
Chris Carlton, SAL Past National Commander
Doug Heiser, National Public Media & Communications Commission Member
Past Detachment Commanders
First Time Attendees
David Hanson NEC
Joe Schultis Alt. NEC

Commander Rush called for the reading of the previous minutes.
PDC Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as published, 2nd PDC Arter. Motion passed.

PDC Carlton made a motion to remove Walter Moore as Athletic Committee Chairman per request of the 11th District American Legion, 2nd PDC Giehll. Motion passed.

Commander Rush appointed Ken Corbeille as the new Athletic Committee Chairman.

PDC Hanson made a motion to accept the appointment of Ken Corbeille as Athletic Committee Chairman, 2nd PDC Heiser. Motion passed.

Commander Rush appointed Bill Paulus to replace Gary Throgmorton as Children's Hospital Chairman

PDC Schultis made a motion to accept the appointment of Bill Paulus as Children's Hospital Chairman, 2nd PDC Paulus. 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. As of a week ago we have 55 candidates. If you want to assist be at Trine University Sunday 6/16/2024 at 8AM

5Star/10Ideals:

Acting Chairman Bill Paulus 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 October 1, 2023:

WWII-16

USS Oklahoma-1

Vietnam-1

Korea-4

2 from Indiana, U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Gene F Walker of Richmond, IN. He was commander of an M4 Sherman Tank that was hit by an 88MM anti-tank round near Huchein, Germany. He will be buried in San Diego, CA in early 2024.

Athletic:

Chairman Ken Corbeille reported the Committee is looking to have a resolution for a Detachment Bowling Tournament.

The golf to sponsor a hole at the golf tournament has been raised from \$50 to \$75.

The Committee is requesting bids at the Spring Conference for the Detachment Golf Tournament on the 3rd Saturday in September.

Potential date for a Detachment Bowling Tournament was discussed as first 3 Saturdays of November.

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.

PDC Heiser made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd 2nd District Commander Tom Potts. Motion passed.

PDC Shultis introduced Ryan Gallagher, Executive Director for COTA.

Ryan came forward and addressed the meeting. Ryan thanked Commander Rush for making COTA his project. He also thanked all the SAL for the donation made to COTA.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION:

Chairman Mike Tolley said all reports were given.

Chairman Mike Tolley read the following Committee reports:

Children's Hospital:

Chairman Bill Paulus 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 said this would be a Statewide Project.

Junior Shooting Sports:

Chairman Fred Motley said that Posts' continue to look for participants. If your Post has a Junior Shooting Sports program, volunteer to help out or assist monetarily if you can.

Americanism & Government:

Acting Chairman Mike Tolley said District and Squadron Commanders need to work hard to develop candidates for Hoosier Boy's State.

Be prepared to assist your Post with Memorial Day.

Assist at grade schools to teach 4th Grade Flag Education.

Youth Law Enforcement Academy:

Chairman Cliff Stephens said to see information about the program go to indianalegion.org/youthacademy.

Reach out to schools and youth organizations to promote the program and to increase attendance.

The Committee sends its condolences for Committee member Gary Throgmorton.

Special Olympics:

Acting Chairman Logan Pipher said the Summer Olympic games were held June 9-11, 2023, at Indiana State University.

Child Welfare Foundation:

Chairman William Barnett said send donations to National.

To make a donation visit www.legion.org/sons.

Requesting a for \$1 per member for CWF.

Have raffles to raise funds.

Oratorical:

Chairman Mike Pipher reminded everyone of the 5 Zone contests in February.

Help Districts near you.

Department finals will be April 7, 2024. A signup sheet is being passed around for volunteers.

The 2024 National Finals will be May 18, 2024, in Hillsdale, MI at Hillsdale College.

Rooms will be provided for National Volunteers.

PDC Arter made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd PDC Spaulding. PDC Giehl asked who was paying for the rooms at the National contest. The rooms will be provided by the college in dorms. Motion passed.

PDC Schultis introduced Department Membership Chairman David Miller.

Department Membership Chairman David Miller came forward and addressed the meeting.

Chairman Miller said there is a new membership program starting today.

It is "One Team, One Fight". Chairman Miller said if you sign up one new member in each entity, American Legion, Auxiliary & SAL you will receive a numbered coin. That number will be put in for a drawing at Spring Conference worth \$250 or \$500 if you are present at the drawing. Send the information directly to Chairman Miller. If you do it more than once your number will be put in each time increasing your chance to win.

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 Chairman Richard Pfeiffer sent in the following report:

There is not much to report at this time as the General Assembly just opened recently. There are a lot of bills out there, but most will never get to the floor for a vote.

The Washington Conference will be held February 25-28 2024. The SAL will be placing wreaths on Sunday February 25th.

Applications for the George B Evans Advocate of the Year award are on the National web page

Doc Pfeiffer

Detachment of Indiana Legislative Chairman

Religious Emphasis:

Chairman Fred Motley said 4 Chaplains is the 1st Sunday in February, please try to attend ay observance in your area.

Make sure District Commanders and Chaplains continue to work with Squadrons on keeping up on deceased member reporting.

District Chaplains continue reporting hospital and funeral visitations.

Scholarship:

Acting Chairman Jeff Gresley 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.

We have no applications as of yet.

Community Involvement:

Chairman Kevin Felker said to assist when possible.

See a worn flag, replace it.

Help out Veterans.

Convention:

Acting Chairman Ken Corbeille said the Committee is looking for recommendations for speakers.

Campout:

Chairman Steve Brock said flyers will be out soon online.

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

We are looking for help with the games.

The Committee voted to start having the bids in by Convention so they can work on getting the word out so everyone can make plans.

The 2024 Campout will be June 21-23, 2024, at Jonesboro 95 campground.

Public Relations & Information Technology:

Chairman Dave Parker said if you have an event for the website, please send it to the Detachment Adjutant for approval.

If you have pictures for the website, please email to indianasalpr@gmail.com

Visit the National Public Media & Communication site to submit National Photos of Service and Videos of Service.

Information & Training:

Chairman Dave Parker said if you have any MyLegion questions, please see Joe Schultis.

Northern Vice Commander Gresley made a motion to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, 2nd PDC Martin. Motion passed.

REHABILITATION

Acting Chairman Jimmy Martin said all Committees met.

Acting Chairman Jimmy Martin read the following Committee reports:

Veterans Education & Employment:

Chairman Tom Nedele said the Committee needs to have Squadrons promote the program.

VAVS:

Acting Chairman Jimmy Martin said you need to support your local VA.

The 4th District is still doing Buddy Checks.

Louisville VA still needs a VAVS Representative.

Indy Vet House serves Indiana Veterans and Auxiliary members.

The Committee asked for \$1000 one time donation to the Indy Vet House.

Indiana Veterans Home:

Chairman Emeritus James Arter came forward and gave the report.

The 3rd and final bingo is set for February 10, 2024.

Setup time will be between noon and 1PM

Bingo runs from 1:30-3:30PM.

Christmas bingo had 71 residents play 75-80 games of bingo and 23 hard working volunteers along with Santa Claus. Squadron 18 Bloomington donated \$200.

Proposed budget for 2024-2025:

3 bingos at \$1900=\$5700

2025 Close of Books lunch at \$800

Total request=\$6500.

Homeless Veterans:

Chairman Tom Potts said Hud announced in January 2023 they were 35,574 homeless veterans. Work to prevent veterans from becoming homeless in the first place. Connect homeless veterans to permanent housing with supportive services. Increase the supply of affordable housing.

PDC Martin made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd PDC Gemlich. Greg Spaulding said there were only 13 volunteers, not 23 at the Christmas IVH Bingo. Greg said it was shameful for there to be that few. We need more volunteers at the IVH bingos. Motion passed.

Finance & Budget Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr reported:

Proposed IVH budget for 2024-2025:

3 bingos at \$1900=\$5700

2025 Close of Books lunch at \$800

Total request=\$6500

The Detachment made a \$1231.89 donation to the Indy Vet House on 11/13/2023 for medical equipment.

VAVS Committee asked for a one \$1000 donation to the Indy Vet House for everyday needs. A reminder that there will be \$2 dues increase for the 2025 card year that was voted on and passed at the 2023 SAL Convention.

The Committee discussed a possible request for up to \$2500 for a guest speaker at Spring Conference. It is contingent on American Legion Department approval.

The Committee approved the IVH budget and the \$1000 donation to the Indy Vet House.

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

Resolutions Committee:

Chairman David Hanson read one resolution, Noble Pulphisher for 2nd District Commander for 2024-2025. Chairman Hanson said the resolution was in order.

NEC Hanson made motion to accept the resolution as a matter of record, 2nd PDC Schultis. Motion passed.

There were 2 resolutions that arrived in time but were not available for this report:

Ken Corbeille for Detachment Commander for 2025-2026.

Richard Reed for Northern Vice Commander for 2024-2025.

NEC Hanson made a motion to accept the Resolutions Committee report, 2nd PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Sons In Need Committee:

Acting Chairman Doug Heiser said the Committee had received one SINS request. West Lafayette Squadron 492 for \$500.

The application was approved by the Committee.

Keep pushing the program so your members know it's available.

PDC Heiser made a motion to accept the Sons In Need Committee report, 2nd PDC Martin. Motion passed.

Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee:

Acting Chairman Ken Corbeille gave the report of the meeting.

There are no new squadrons.

Work on getting members renewed.

There is a letter on MyLegion to send to past members.

Chairman David Miller sent in the following report and was read by PDC Chris Carlton:

Good afternoon, gentlemen.

The Detachment is doing an outstanding job with membership this year. We are on pace to surpass our goal of 36,424. If we keep the pace, we will end the year close to 37,000 members. While this leaves us shy of the all-time high of 38,578 members, we are on the right path, and you are shining brightly on that path.

As of the January 10th report, the Detachment is at 73.50% of its goal. We have almost 27,000 members who have paid their dues this membership year. Our retention percentage is 68.10%. These are the best numbers we have had since 2020.

The 11th District leads the Detachment in terms of goal percentage, followed by the 1st District, with the 7th District in third place. The remaining order is District 4, 10, 8, 2, 6, 9, 5, and 3. In terms of retention percentage, the 7th District leads with 73.53%, followed closely by the 4th District with 73.18%. Remember that member retention is key as we travel this membership path. Don't let the new members walk in the front door, while we allow the old members to walk out the back door. Talk to your members. Find out what interests them and see if there is anything you can do for them. Find out what brings them back and keep them coming back.

I mentioned letting new members walk in the front door. This is something in which you excel. Thanks to your efforts, we have welcomed 2346 new members. District 6 leads the way in new members with 308, followed by District 8 with 285 new members. Keep up the great work.

I challenge each of the District Commanders, District Vice Commanders, and District Membership Chairmen to attend each of your squadron's meetings and press membership. Get them excited about membership and why they joined. Get them excited about why they are a proud possessor of a priceless heritage. Help guide them down the path to our future.

Now, on to the awards and the drawing. The checks will be mailed to the District Commanders.

Congratulations to District 10 for being the first District with all squadrons off zero. This was followed by District 7 and District 4. Districts 10, 7, and 4 will each receive a check for \$50

for being the first three squadrons off zero. I would also like to congratulate Districts 3, 9, and 11 for having all squadrons off zero.

Two Districts met the October 4th goal of having 45% of its squadrons exceeding the 30% goal. Congratulations to Districts 4 and 11. Each will receive \$25.00. District 1 was the District with the highest retention percentage on October 4th. It will receive \$50.00.

District 11 was the only District to meet the November 1st goal of having half its squadrons meeting the 45% goal. It will receive \$25.00. District 1 led the way with the highest retention percentage and will receive \$50.00.

Districts 1, 4, 10, and 11 met the December 6th goal of having 55% of its squadrons meeting the 55% goal. Each will receive \$25.00. District 1, again, led the way with the highest retention percentage.

Congratulations to all. The next target date is 75% by February 7th.

Each squadron who exceeded goal on the target date has been entered into the drawing for \$500. It is possible for a squadron to be entered up to three times if it met each of the target dates. There are 254 entries in this drawing. This quarter's winner is... Squadron 97 out of District 4! The check will be sent to you.

Congratulations to all. Thank you for your dedication and hard work. Continue to light our path to the future.

DAVID A. MILLER
Detachment Membership Chairman
"Membership Lights Our Path to the Future"

1st District Commander Corbeille made a motion to accept the Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee report, 2nd PDC Arter. Motion passed.

Distinguished Guest Committee:

Chairman Joe Schultis said that all guests were properly introduced.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Joe Schultis came forward to talk about MyLegion. Joe had handouts passed out. Joe mainly explained how to track which members had paid their dues online.

PDC Carlton made a motion that Dustin Owens of Squadron 360 to represent the 11th District with full voting and expense privileges for the remainder of the SAL administrative year, 2nd PDC Gemlich. Motion passed.

Commander Rush said his Homecoming is scheduled for April 27, 2024, at Post 241. Information will be sent out.

SICK CALL & RELIEF:

Steve Hamel of Squadron 28 had open heart surgery, keep him in your prayers.

Detachment Historian Matt Gilbert had surgery and is doing well. He will still be in Lutheran Hospital for a couple more days.

Dan Conkling, Past 2nd District and Detachment Northern Vice Commander of Squadron 253 has passed away.

A 77 year member of Post 72 passed away. He has 2 sons that have been long time members of Squadron 72.

Squadron 200 had 2 members who passed away.

Squadron 235 & Squadron 9, both in the 9th District each lost an SAL member.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Adjutant Giehll read a letter from the Louisville VA Hospital thanking the Detachment for the \$1100 donation.

GOOD OF THE SAL:

Joe Schultis said the Gary Gregory Memorial Indoor Putt Putt will be at Garrett Post 178 on January 27, 2024. The money raised goes to help the families of the 122nd Black Snakes Fighter Wing Family Resources Fund. The 4th District has donated over \$20,000 to the 122nd.

Joe Schultis said the 4th District Don Dapp Bowling Tournament will be February 17, 2024. There is limited available openings for teams. The money raised will go to COTA. There will be dinner at Post 97 after the tournament and the prizes will be awarded after dinner.

Adjutant Giehll passed out the District membership award checks.

Ken Corbeille came forward and had Commander Rush draw the winning squadron for the quarterly award. Squadron 97 of the 4th District won \$500.

Ken Corbeille read the latest membership numbers.

Commander Rush asked for donations.

Adjutant Giehl read the following checks:

Post 47:	\$1000, COTA
Squadron 47:	\$500, COTA
4 th District ALR:	\$1000, COTA
Squadron 321:	\$250, COTA
Matthew & Jennifer Tracy:	\$40, COTA
5 th District SAL:	\$50, Detachment Scholarship Fund

The following donations were brought forward:

Squadron 507:	\$300, CWF
Squadron 169:	\$500, COTA
Squadron 353:	\$40, COTA
3 rd District SAL:	\$500, COTA
Squadron 98:	\$500, COTA
Squadron 100:	\$500, COTA
Squadron 260:	\$500, COTA
Squadron 196:	\$500, SINS
Squadron 196:	\$500, NEF
Squadron 196:	\$500, COTA
Cash:	\$45, COTA

Commander Rush passed out plaques for donations to his project, COTA.

PDC Hanson said there will be a PDC meeting in this room following the DEC meeting.

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 1:52 pm.