



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Mid-Winter Conference
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
January 11, 2025**

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 put place by Southern Vice Commander David Miller and Northern Vice Commander Bill Duncan. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commission Chairman David Pearson. The Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was led by Northern Vice Commander Fred Motley. 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	(EX)
Adjutant:	Raymond Giehll, Jr	
Asst. Adjutant:	Joseph Schultis	
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter	
Asst. Adjutant:	Chris Carlton	
Sgt.-at-Arms:	William Byers	(EX)
Finance Officer:	Doug Heiser	
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	(EX)
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	
4 th :	Dave Parker	
5 th :	Jay Huffman	
6 th :	John Hook	(EX)
7 th :	Gary Black	
8 th :	Jeff Barker	(EX)
9 th :	Rick Lohrum	
10 th :	Brian Gilbert	
11 th :	Dustin Owens	

District Advisors:

1 st :	Al Pulido
4 th :	Nick Nickoloff
6 th :	Cliff Stephens
7 th :	Larry Dent
10 th :	Ron Patterson
11 th :	Danny Rice
SAL Chairman:	Larry Horvath

Past Detachment Commanders:

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

Commander Byers asked for the reading of the previous minutes.

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

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

Chairman Schultis made the following introductions:

National Vice Commander Harl "Butch" Ray and wife Pam Ray

Past National Commander David Stephens

Past National Commander Raymond Giehll, Jr

Past National Commander Christopher Carlton

NEC, David Hanson

Alt NEC, Joe Schultis

1st Time Attendees, there were 2.

Ron Patterson, Leading Candidate for Department Commander

All Past Detachment Commanders

Doug Heiser, Member National Public Media Communications Commission

First Lady, Christie Byers

American Legion Leading Candidate for Department Commander Ron Patterson came forward and addressed the meeting. Candidate Patterson said he was looking forward to working with Ken & Tanna next year. Ron said he loved the traditions during the opening of the meeting, but while traditions are great and needed there is always room for changes and improvements. Ron said we will probably see some different things next year.

Commander Byers called for Commission and Committee reports:

AMERICANISM COMMISSION:

Chairman Ken Corbeille read the following Committee reports:

Hoosier Boys State:

Chairman Fred Motley said that registration application will be available January 15, 2025.

Boy's State is scheduled for June 15-21, 2025 at Trine University.

Hit the schools to help promote the program.

5Star/10 Ideals:

Acting Chairman Mike Abel said information on programs and requirements are in the Squadron Handbook and available online.

POW/MIA:

Chairman Ron Ripperger said the following MIA's were identified from September 26, 2024 to January 9, 2025:

WWII- 13

Vietnam- 1

Korea- 5

Over 1000 individuals have been identified in the Korea War leaving 1,573 unaccounted.

Athletic:

Chairman Jimmy Edwards reported that the Bid form for the Detachment Golf Tournament will be emailed after the Mid-Winter Conference. Winner bid will be announced at the Spring Conference.

Support American Legion Baseball.

The Committee discussed having a Detachment Bowling Tournament.

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION:

Chairman David Miller said the American Legion Children & Youth programs include VCF, \$1.25 per member goal. CWF, \$1 per member goal, COTA.

American Legion Family Day is the last Saturday in April. It is an opportunity to open the doors to the community to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the American Legion Family. It is also an opportunity to bring awareness to the Be The One program.

Chairman David Miller read the following Committee reports:

Children's Hospital:

Chairman Bill Paulus said the Committee would like to have a 50/50 raffle at the Campout for Riley Hospital.

Plan to ask the Auxiliary to make baked goods to donate to the raffle.

If any Post/Squadron would like to help raise funds on American Legion Family Day, contact Dustin Owens.

Any amount raised on American Legion Family Day would be nice.

Junior Shooting Sports:

Chairman Mike Shuler said registration for the 2024-2025 Department Championship Matches closes February 15, 2025.

22nd Annual Department Championship is March 1st at Hancock County Fairgrounds.

Americanism & Government:

Chairman Rick Lohrum said the email needs to be sent to all squadrons that was sent to the Adjutant asking the them for help.

All squadrons should contact schools in their area to determine interested participants.

Interested parties will test on the Department website.

Test administered throughout November on Detachment website, administrative certifications by September.

Money is not an issue, interest and participation by private & public schools.

Possible sport event ticket and cash award for winner.

As of December 5, 2024, Post 250 had 5 applicants. They notified school board and attended meetings.

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Youth Law Enforcement Academy:

Chairman Cliff Stephens said to check with State to see if they could use some funds.

Pickup information sheet.

Dates for Academy and Graduation will be June 22-28, 2025, at Anderson University.

Registration begins in February.

Special Olympics:

Chairman Brian Gilbert said the Winter games will be in Lawrenceburg in February.
The Polar Plunge will be coming up in February.
State bowling games now completed.
State Summer games will be in June at Indiana State University.

Child Welfare Foundation:

Acting Chairman Chris Carlton said the Child Welfare Foundation is now the Child Well-Being Foundation. The acronym will stand as CWF.

The 2025 grant recipients were announced during the Fall National meetings, 13 grants totaling \$852,593:

American Kidney Fund: \$25,000

ASXL Rare Research Endowment Foundation: \$10,550

Briggs & Barnett Project: \$15,000

Camp Corral: \$25,000

Children's Hospital & Medical Center Foundation: \$20,000

Cleveland County ALWS Baseball INC.: \$125,000

Father Flanagan's Boy's Home: \$25,000

Gift of Adoption: \$20,919

Life Camp USA: \$25,358

Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence: \$5,000

Spectrum Sailing: \$3,500

The American Legion National Headquarters: \$525,000

The National Children's Cancer Society: \$27,266

May 31, 2025, is the cutoff date for donations

Indiana has donated \$2000 to date, National total is \$105,783.05

Oratorical:

Chairman Greg Spaulding said the State Oratorical Contest will be at National Headquarters in Indianapolis on March 2, 2025.

At this time, we have 10 volunteers to help. If interested see Greg. The list will be turned in today at 3 pm.

Southern Vice Commander Miller made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd PDC Gemlich. Motion passed.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

Chairman David Pearson said all 8 Committee reports were discussed and read by the Commission members.

Chairman Pearson said Committee Chairman need to sign and complete all paperwork.

Chairman Pearson read the following Committee reports:

Legislative:

Chairman Richard Pfeiffer said the Washington Conference will be February 22-26, 2025.
Legion Day at the State House is January 14, 2025.
Not Much going on with new Congress just starting.

Religious Emphasis:

Chairman Kevin Byers said the Committee is working on creating Rules, Regulations & Expectations Guideline.
Chaplain Byers participated in the December bingo at IVH.

Scholarship:

Chairman Dave Parker said the 2024-2025 Scholarship Application is available on the Detachment website.
The application deadline is April 30, 2025. Winners will be announced at Close of Books.
This is open to all SAL members in good standing who will be receiving higher education in an Indiana school during the 2025-2026 school year, age does not matter.
There are (2) \$1,000 scholarships available.

Community Involvement:

Acting Chairman Cliff Anderson said squadrons need to look at finding ways to work with Boy Scout & Girl Scout troops and churches.
Help teach Flag Etiquette and help youth, parks and recreation.

Convention:

Chairman Noble Pulsipher said the Committee discussed in more detail who we will invite to speak at the Convention.
The Committee also discussed the duration of the speaker's time, 10-15 minutes.

Campout:

Acting Chairman David Hanson said there is a conflict with the date at Jonesboro 95.
Post & Squadron 492 volunteered to host the Campout.
The Committee recommended that the Campout be moved to Post 492 with the same dates. June 20-22, 2025. There will be an additional charge for hookups.

Public Relations & Information Technology:

Chairman Dave Parker said to submit all website postings to the Detachment Adjutant.
The membership report is posted online weekly.

Information & Training:

Chairman Dave Parker said MyLegion usage is at an All-Time high for squadrons.
If a squadron/district would like training on a topic not currently on the website or if more information is needed, please ask.
There are a number of training resources on the Detachment website.
Joe Schultis is still the go to for MyLegion questions.

PDC Tansel made a motion to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report minus the Campout Committee report, 2nd PDC Paulus. Motion passed.

PDC Giehll made a motion to accept the Campout Committee report with the change in the Campout location for 2025, 2nd PDC David Stephens. Motion passed.

REHABILITATION

Acting Chairman Rick Lohrum read the following Committee reports:

Veterans Education & Employment:

Acting Chairman Rick Lohrum said if you have and Stand Downs in your area let him know so he get information out to Veterans and families.

Help vocational rehab personnel find work.

We are always looking for volunteers and helpers.

VAVS:

Chairman Jay Huffman said to continue to support local VA's.

VAVS has changed to Community Development & Civic Engagement.

Ask squadrons to go to nursing homes to donate birthday & Christmas presents to veterans there.

Indiana Veterans Home:

Chairman Bob Shields reported:

IVH Bingo on 10/19/2024

Had 35 residents winning 72 bingo games

Had 14 volunteers

IVH Bingo on 12/21/2024

Had 42 residents winning 102 bingo games

Had 26 hardworking volunteers, thanks to everyone that showed up

Thanks to Steve and Jane Brock for playing Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus

Next bingo will be 2/8/2025. Setup will be at noon, bingo starts at 1:30pm.

Bingo dates for 2025-2026

10/18/2025, 12/13/2025, 2/7/2026

Setup will be at noon, bingo starts at 1:30 pm, Indianapolis time.

Homeless Veterans:

Chairman Cliff Anderson said that squadrons need to work with their local government and community to find ways to help fund and find housing.

9th District Commander Lohrum made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd PDC Schultis. Squadron 200 donated \$100 to bingo. Motion passed.

Finance & Budget Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr said any changes in your budget must be in by Spring Conference. Chairman Giehll said that that he talked to Adjutant Woodburn about a donation to HAVF and Adjutant Woodburn said they were overwhelmed with donations at the time.

(Chairman Giehll realized after the meeting that the Detachment did make a \$1000 donation to HAVF from the Veterans Assistance line item, I apologize for forgetting)

Cliff Stephens, Law Enforcement Academy Chairman, asked about the Detachment making a donation to the program. Chairman Giehll said he would look at the budget. (Further investigation shows that the Detachment already sponsors 3 attendees to the Academy)

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

Resolutions Committee:

Chairman David Hanson said the Committee received 2 resolutions, he read the resolved clause on both:

Joe Schultis for Alt. NEC for 2025-2027

Jimmy Edwards for 2nd District Commander for 2025-2026

PDC Hanson made a motion to accept both resolutions as a matter of record, 2nd PDC Pfeiffer. Motion passed.

Sons In Need Committee:

Chairman Mark Smith said only one request was received and it was denied because of ineligibility, not a paid member since 2023.

Remind all District Commanders to take advantage of the program.

Need to make sure squadrons know to have dues paid before submitting an application for help.

There was discussion on the rules for receiving SINS assistance.

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 per these minutes.

Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee:

Chairman Jeff Gresley said NVC Butch Ray addressed the meeting.

On November 20, 2024 the Detachment presented Squadron 480 out of the 7th District their new charter, Present were Commander Byers, Membership Chairman Gresley, 7th District Commander Black, 7th District Adjutant Tansel and Gina Owens.

Post 179 in the 8th District is still trying to get enough members to form a squadron.

As of January 11, 2025, the Detachment of Indiana's membership total was 26,934. We are currently 164 behind this time last year.

Congratulations to the 182 squadrons that already exceeded the 65% goal and to the 116 squadrons that already exceeded the next goal of 75% by February 2, 2025. The 3rd Quarter drawing will be \$750. We currently have 6 squadrons still on zero.

As of the January 2, 2025, National report the Detachment of Indiana was in 16th place with a total actual membership of 25,817, renewal percentage of 62.80% and a 62.61% of year end goal.

Results of the second quarter Target membership goal winners are as follows:

October 2, 2024

Squadrons that exceed the goal percentage (30.01% or higher) on this target date will receive a chance at the 2nd quarter drawing for \$500.

Each District in which 45% of their squadrons met or exceeded the target will receive \$25.

District 6

District with the highest percentage of retention on the target date will receive \$50.

District 4

November 6, 2024

Squadrons that exceed the goal percentage (45.01% or higher) on this target date will receive a chance at the 2nd quarter drawing for \$500.

Each District in which 50% of their squadrons met or exceeded the target will receive \$25.

None

District with the highest percentage of retention on the target date will receive \$50.

District 1

December 4, 2024

Squadrons that exceed the goal percentage (55.01% or higher) on this target date will receive a chance at the 2nd quarter drawing for \$500.

Each District in which 55% of their squadrons met or exceeded the target will receive \$25.

District 1 & District 4

District with the highest percentage of retention on the target date will receive \$50.

District 1

All Squadrons off zero:

1st Off Zero: 4th District

2nd Off Zero: 7th District

3rd Off Zero: 2nd District

All to receive \$50

National Vice Commander Butch Ray came forward and drew the 2nd quarter squadron winner for \$500. Charabusco 157.

11th District Commander Owens made a motion to accept the Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee report, 2nd 7th District Commander Black. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

PDC Schultis said the fishing pier at IVH was in really bad shape to the point of being unusable. Joe asked if the Detachment had the funds to look into making repairs.

PDC Tansel said that he had heard from Past Department Commander Jim May that it was being taken care of.

Mike Bottom said that one of the pilings had sunk and the cost to repair it would be \$20,000.

Mike said the deck boards also need replaced and the cost to remove the old and replace would be \$65,000. Mike said the 2nd District was working Home Depot on possibly getting material donated.

Adjutant Giehll said that Posts 242 & 454 had turned in the Squadron charters to Department. They will be removed from the rolls. Post 249 no longer exists so the Squadron as a Post program is automatically defunct and would also be removed from the rolls.

PDC Giehll made a motion to remove Squadrons 161, 279 & 608 from the rolls for not having at least 10 members for the last 2 membership years, 2nd PDC Tansel. Motion passed.

Sick Call & Relief:

David Hanson said that PDC David Brown was doing a lot better and was getting out and around.

Adjutant Giehll said the PDC Chuck Newman's son Charlie was a Navy Seabee on the west coast and his unit was assisting the LA fires. He asked that pray for his safety.

PDC Tansel asked that the Chaplain have a moment of silence before the closing prayer for the PDC Mike Sheets who recently passed away. Mark also asked that this meeting be dedicated in PDC Mike Sheets name.

PDC Dave Stephens said the 6th District Commander John Hook would be getting a heart catheter on Monday.

Correspondence: None

Good of The Sons of The American Legion:

NEC David Hanson came forward and introduced National Vice Commander, Central Region, Harl “Butch” Ray from the Detachment of Illinois.

National Vice Commander Harl “Butch” Ray came forward and addressed the meeting. Vice Commander Ray brought greetings from National SAL Commander Joseph Navarrete. Vice Commander Ray gave a very knowledgeable and engaging address. He has the coins made for the National Vice Commanders this year for \$20 donations that goes to VCF, see him after the meeting.

Commander Byers asked for any donations:

PDC Arter gave \$100 from Past Department Commander Terry Smith for the Commander’s Project.

Rick Lohrum gave \$500 cash from him for the Commander’s Project.

Squadron 495:	\$1137	Commander’s Project
Squadron 95:	\$500	Commander’s Project
Squadron 100:	\$500	Commander’s Project
Squadron 507:	\$1000	Commander’s Project
Squadron 507:	\$300	CWF
Squadron 507:	\$1000	IVH
10 th District SAL:	\$500	Commander’s Project
Squadron 321:	\$1000	Commander’s Project
Squadron 391:	\$1000	Commander’s Project
Squadron 169:	\$1000	Commander’s Project
10 th District Legion:	\$1000	Commander’s Project
Squadron 72:	\$2500	Commander’s Project
2 nd District SAL:	\$500	Commander’s Project
Squadron 223:	\$500	Commander’s Project
3 rd District SAL:	\$500	Commander’s Project
Squadron 434:	\$500	Commander’s Project
Squadron 260:	\$500	Commander’s Project Commander’s Project
9 th District SAL:	\$100	Commander’s Project
Squadron 379:	\$100	Commander’s Project
Squadron 379:	\$100	Children & Youth
Squadron 25:	\$50	Commander’s Project
Squadron 233:	\$500	Commander’s Project
Squadron 479:	\$250	Commander’s Project (Half of their Membership Award)

Commander Byers passed out the Award Plaques for donations to his project.

PDC Greg Spaulding said that he still needs volunteers for the State Oratorical Contest on 3/2/2025. If you can volunteer, see Greg after the meeting.

PDC Mark Tansel called a PDC meeting for after the meeting.

PDC Dave Stephens said that more counselors are needed for Hoosier Boy's State.

Al Pulido came forward. Al is the Vice Chairman of the Department IVH Committee. Al said that now that the Close of Books is at Department the Committee voted to have their own Close of Books at IVH for the veterans on 6/1/2025. There will be a Blacktop Party the evening before at Post 492.

Dave Parker said the Annual Gary Gregory Putt-Putt will be January 25, 2025, at Garrett Post 178.

David Hanson said Squadron 216 will be having their Annual Mountain Oyster fry for the Commander's Project on February 15.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Byers called for a closing prayer. Chaplain Kevin Byers asked for a moment of silence for PDC Mike Sheets before the prayer. Chaplain Byers gave a closing prayer. With a right hand salute to the colors of our Nation the meeting was closed at 1:52 PM.