



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Spring Conference
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
April 5, 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 in place by Southern Vice Commander Brian Hauser and Northern Vice Commander Bill Duncan. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Northern Vice Commander Fred Motley. The Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was led by Southern Vice Commander David Miller. 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:	Joseph Schultis	
Asst. Adjutant:	James Arter	
Asst. Adjutant:	Chris Carlton	
Sgt.-at-Arms:	William Byers	
Finance Officer:	Doug Heiser	
Chaplain:	Kevin Byers	
Historian:	Robert Craig	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Alex Bunch	(EX)
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	
4 th :	Dave Parker	
5 th :	Jay Huffman	
6 th :	John Hook	(EX)
7 th :	Gary Black	
8 th :	Jeff Barker	
9 th :	Rick Lohrum	(EX)
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
SAL Chairman:	Larry Horvath

Past Detachment Commanders:

Cliff Stephens	David Stephens	Don Stephens
James Arter	Raymond Giehll, Jr	David Brown
David Sigger	Richard Pfeiffer	Mark Tansel
Mike Pipher	David Hanson	Greg Spaulding
Chris Carlton	Joe Schultis	Dewey Long
Doug Heiser	Jimmy Martin	Dennis Budd
Charles Gemlich	Paul Rush	

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 Raymond Giehll, Jr

Past National Commander Christopher Carlton

NEC, David Hanson

Alt NEC, Joe Schultis

1st Time Attendees, there were 7.

All Past Detachment Commanders

Doug Heiser, Member National Public Media Communications Commission

Paul Rush, Member National VCF Ad Hoc Committee

Commander Byers called for Commission and Committee reports:

AMERICANISM COMMISSION:

Chairman Ken Corbeille said all Committees were reviewed and thank them for the reports;

Chairman Ken Corbeille read the following Committee reports:

Hoosier Boys State:

Chairman Fred Motley said the application is available online at hoosireboysstate.org.

There is a \$50 non-refundable registration fee.

All required forms can be found at the website.

Orientation dates have been scheduled.

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

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 MIAs were identified from January 11, 2025, to April 5, 2025:

WWII- 22

Vietnam- 1

Korea- 7

From Indiana, U.S. Army Pvt. Charles W. Smalley of Waterloo, IN. was accounted for on January 14, 2025. Pvt. Smalley went missing on August 25, 1944, in Normandy. Pvt. Smalley will be buried in Chesterton, IN later in 2025.

Athletic:

Chairman Jimmy Edwards reported that there was 1 bid for the Golf Outing from Kokomo Post 6. The Committee voted to accept the bid.

Cost will be \$60 per person. Sponsor forms and registration forms will be sent out by the end of the month.

American Legion Baseball is celebrating 100 years.

1st District Commander Corbeille made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd PDC Gemlich. Adjutant Giehll said that he would like added to the 5Star/10Ideal report the

work being done on the program by the Putnamville Squadron 208. Commander Byers has already presented 17 10Ideal awards and is making arrangements to give 17 5Star awards. Motion passed.

Distinguished Guest Chairman Joe Schultis introduced American Legion Department of Indiana NEC Kenny Cooper.

Department NEC Kenny Cooper came forward and introduced Dan Wiley, Leading Candidate for American Legion National Commander from the Department of Kansas.

Leading Candidate Dan Wiley addressed the meeting. Dan Wiley traded his American Legion cap for his SAL cap from Kansas Squadron 36. Dan Wiley said he is a Son based on his grandfather's service in WWI. Dan Wiley stressed the need for the American Legion Family. Candidate Wiley said the American Legion works the best when all parts of the family are involved. Candidate Wiley thanked the SAL for all they do to assist the American Legion.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION:

Chairman David Miller said April is Children & Youth month established in 1938. It is an opportunity to show the community the American Legion Family is dedicated to America's Youth.

American Legion Family Day is Saturday in April 26, 2025. 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:

Acting Chairman Dustin Owens said the Committee would like to have a 50/50 raffle at the Campout for Riley Hospital. We will need permission from Post 492.

District 11 ALA President is garnering support from Units to assist in baked for sale at the Campout.

Family Fun Day was scrapped due to scheduling conflicts.

Wagon Raffle is ongoing in foyer, 10 per ticket, 500 tickets.

Junior Shooting Sports:

Chairman Mike Shuler said the awards were passed out at this morning's General Session.

Americanism & Government:

Acting Chairman Kent Walker said all squadrons should help posts contact schools in their area to determine interested participants.

Squadrons should promote 4th Grade Flag Education.

This year's winner were recognized at this morning's General Session.

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Youth Law Enforcement Academy:

Chairman Cliff Stephens said more students are needed to participate. Let your local schools know about the program.

We need more donations.

Special Olympics:

Chairman Brian Gilbert said practice has started for the Summer Games.

State Summer games will be in June at Indiana State University. Need volunteers to help.

Contact Brian Gilbert.

Child Welfare Foundation:

Chairman Bill Barnett Indiana has donated \$2200 to date, National total is \$198,014.

May 31, 2025, is the cutoff date for donations.

If Squadrons donate \$1 per member to CWF they could receive a 100% banner.

If you want to request a grant, go to cwf-inc.org.

Oratorical:

Chairman Greg Spaulding thanked everyone who took time to help at District and Zone competitions.

Greg also thanked those who worked at the State Finals this year: David Miller, Chris Carlton, David Hanson, Raymond Giehll, Jr, David Pearson, Mark Tansel, Cliff Anderson, Brian Gilbert & Cheryl Spaulding.

This year's winner was Ella Christensen from Indianapolis sponsored by Post 3.

National competition will be in May at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Southern Vice Commander Miller made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd PDC Martin. Finance Chairman Giehll said that \$900 was budgeted for the Law Enforcement Academy not the \$1000 in the report. PDC Carlton said that National is still needing judges for the National Oratorical Contest at Hillsdale College in Michigan. Motion passed.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

Chairman David Pearson thanked all the Committees for their effort today. Plenty of good information and well attended.

Chairman Pearson read the following Committee reports:

Legislative:

Chairman Richard Pfeiffer said the Washington Conference was February 22-25, 2025.

The Big 4 is working on priorities for 2025.

Electronic pull-tab has passed house and in in the senate, Mark Franke will update.

Need support for the Richard Star Act
(See updated report under the Good)

Religious Emphasis:

Chairman Kevin Byers said the Committee is working on creating Rules, Regulations & Expectations Guideline for chaplains to get to the adjutant.

District Commanders please update deceased members two weeks prior to State Convention.

Scholarship:

Chairman Dave Parker said the Detachment offer two \$1000 scholarships to any SAL member who will be attending college or a trade school.

The application deadline is April 30, 2025. Winners will be announced at Close of Books.

A list of schools with info is posted on the www.indianasal.org website under the Boy's State header.

Community Involvement:

Acting Chairman Cliff Anderson said continue to look to educate Boy Scout & Girl Scout troops and elementary schools about the flag.

Look to work with Parks Departments in the Summer.

Help teach Flag Education & Americanism.

Convention:

Chairman Noble Pulsipher said the Committee was waiting on response from contact from Riley Children's Hospital to solidify our speaker for Detachment Convention.

The Memorial Service will be held Friday night after the Pre-DEC meeting so we can have the Convention over on Saturday. The Pre-DEC meeting will be 6:30 PM Friday.

Installation will be on Saturday also with no meetings on Sunday.

Campout:

Chairman Steve Brock said the Campout registration packet is on the Detachment website.

The Committee is looking for bid for the 2026 Campout. The bid form will be online.

The more helpers for games, the better.

Might have a Bake Sale and 50/50 to support the Commander's project.

Campout is June 20-22, 2025 at Post 492 in West Lafayette.

Public Relations & Information Technology:

Chairman Dave Parker said to submit all website postings to the Detachment Adjutant.

If the www.indianasal.org website is hard to navigate, please send your suggestions to indianasalpr@gmail.com.

The website address is www.indianasal.org

Information & Training:

Chairman Dave Parker said the quickest safest way to forms, etc. is through MyLegion.org

There are a number of training resources on the indianasal.org website.

Please direct MyLegion questions to Joe Schultis.

If a Squadron/District would like more training on a topic, please ask.

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

REHABILITATION

Acting Chairman Dustin Owens said there were reports from all Committees. Homeless Veterans asked for \$2500 donations. IVH asked for \$250 for Close of Books bingo at IVH.

Acting Chairman Dustin Owens read the following Committee reports:

Veterans Education & Employment:

Acting Chairman William Barnett 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 we still need Reps for local VA Hospitals

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 2/8/2025

Had 36 residents winning 82 bingo games

Had 16 hardworking ALA & SAL volunteers, thanks to everyone who showed up to help.

There will be a bingo at Close of Books, possibly sponsored by the Auxiliary. We will need help from the SAL for that bingo.

The Committee is asking for \$250 for the Close of Books bingo.

Homeless Veterans:

Chairman Cliff Anderson said the Committee needs to know about the budgeted donation for Homeless Veterans.

Project Neighbors has 10-34 apartment units for veterans.

Need to look into Buddy Checks for homeless veterans.

September is the month to register for all homeless veterans

11th District Commander Owens made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd PDC Long. Motion passed.

Finance & Budget Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr said the Committee had decided to redirect the Detachment donation for CWF this year to Commander Byers Riley Hospital Project keeping the money in Indiana helping Indiana children.

Chairman Giehll said that he spoke with American Legion Department Finance Chairman Scott Meyer about redirecting the Detachment donation to NEF to IVETS keeping that money in Indiana helping Veterans in need. The Committee agreed to this change.

The Committee encourages all Squadrons to think about keeping donations in Indiana if possible. The Committee discussed the deck at IVH, we need a better estimate on repairs.

The IVH Committee asked for \$250 to help with prizes for a bingo on the day of Close of Books in June. The Committee approved the request.

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

Resolutions Committee:

Chairman David Hanson said the Committee received 9 resolutions, he read the resolved clause on all:

Bill Duncan for 1st District Commander for 2025-2026

Mark Smith for 3rd District Commander for 2025-2026

Cliff Anderson for 4th District Commander for 2025-2026

Mark Davidson for 6th District Commander for 2025-2026

Jimmy Martin for 8th District Commander for 2025-2026

David Brown for 10th District Commander for 2025-2026

Michael Abel for Detachment Sgt.-at-Arms for 2025-2026

Noble Pulsipher for Northern Vice Commander for 2025-2026

David Parker for Northern Vice Commander for 2025-2026

PDC Hanson made a motion to accept both resolutions as a matter of record, 2nd Southern Vice Commander Miller. Motion passed.

Sons In Need Committee:

Chairman Mark Smith said the Committee received 3 requests since the last meeting, 2 from Squadron 492 and 1 from Squadron 321. All 3 were approved by the Committee.

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

There was discussion on the rules for being reimbursed for SINS assistance.

It was questioned about District helping Squadrons and then we reimburse the District. It was decided the Chairman Smith would talk to Ron Bryley on how the American Legion handles IVETS and get back with the Committee.

3rd District Commander Smith made a motion to accept the Sons In Need Committee report, 2nd PDC Gemlich. Motion passed.

Distinguished Guests:

Chairman Joe Schultis said all guests had been introduced per these minutes.

Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee:

Expansion:

At this time there has not been any additions for new Squadron charters. Post 179 in the 8th District is currently trying to get enough members to form a Squadron.

Membership:

Congratulations to the 164 Squadrons that have exceeded the 90% goal and to the 64 Squadrons that are at or above 100% goal. Great job!

The Detachment of Indiana's membership total for **April 3, 2024**, was 33,849 and our % of goal was 92.90% with a retention of 84.56%.

As of the April 5, 2025 report, membership total for **April 5, 2025**, was 34,512 and our % of goal was 92.85% with a retention of 84.21%.

That puts us 663 members ahead of last year's total at this date!

We are only .05% behind the % of goal and .35% behind the % of retention of one year ago.

Nationally as of March 27, 2025, the Detachment of Indiana is in 15th place of the "% of year end goal with 88.48% (90.39% per Joe's information on April 5, 2025)

We are definitely on track for another shot at reaching a **Detachment all-time high in membership in 2025**. I would like to congratulate and say thank you to all the Squadrons for doing a great job to help our Detachment to reach our membership goals.

I urge you to continue reaching out to your members that have not yet renewed their membership by whatever avenue that works best for you. Mailings, telephone calls or personal visits. Keep up the good work and together we will reach our membership goals.

Once again, I would like to say Thank you for all your hard work and dedication for "**Supporting Veterans Through Strength in Membership**"

Membership awards for Spring Conference as of March 5th , 2025.

Third Quarter Drawing is worth \$750.00: Commander Byers drew Squadron 313, Fairmont

Target "7" 65% January 8, 2025

Each District that 65% of their Squadrons exceed or meet the target goal receive \$25.00:

District 2

District 4

District 6

District 7

Target "8" 75% February 5, 2025

Each District that 75% of their Squadrons exceed or meet the target goal receive \$25.00:

District 2

District 4

District 7

Target "9" 85% March 5, 2025

No Districts met or exceeded the target goal for March 5th

The District with the highest percentage of retention on the target dates receive a \$50.00 check.

Target "7" January 8, 2025

District 4 74.32%

Target "8" February 5, 2025

District 4 80.65%

Target "9" March 5, 2025

District 4 85.16%

Once again, I would like to say Thank you for all your hard work and dedication for **"Supporting Veterans Through Strength in Membership"**

11th District Commander Owens made a motion to accept the Squadron Expansion and Membership report, 2nd PDC Martin

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Commander Byers appointed an AD Hoc Committee for one year to look at reorganizing the Detachment Commissions & Committees and writing action plans for each Commission & Committee. The members will be:

Cochairmen: Greg Spaulding & Chris Carlton

Members: David Stephens, Richard Pfeiffer & David Miller.

PDC Giehll made a motion to accept the AD Hoc Committee and appointed members, 2nd PDC Schultis. Motion Passed.

PDC Mark Tansel said there are 98 till Detachment Convention and we need to really step in up to help Commander Byers reach his goal of \$100,000 for Riley Children's Hospital.

Commander Byers asked Chris Carlton to tell everyone about the Riley Wagon.

PDC Carlton said that he found on the Riley website that any organization that donates \$25,000 or more can receive a custom-made license plate with their logo on a Riley Wagon for one year. Chris said this will be great PR for the Sons.

Sick Call & Relief:

PDC Dave Stephens said the 6th District Commander John Hook would be getting cancer treatment.

PDC Doug Heiser said he had talked to Greg Wagner. Greg is not able to drive anymore and is somewhat housebound. Doug asked for people to give Greg a call when you have some time.

Adjutant Giehll said that Department Auxiliary Treasurer Kathy Knafel had lost who battle with cancer on April 1st. Greenwood Post 252 will be having a Celebration of Life for Kathy on April 19th.

Correspondence:

Adjutant Giehll had a receipt and thank you letter from the Danville, IL VA Hospital for the \$1100 donation the Detachment made to the VA Hospital.

Adjutant Giehll said that the end of the year forms are now on the Detachment website. That information will be sent to the Squadrons this week.

Adjutant Giehll said there are Campout packets on the SAL display table in the hallway. The Campout packets will be sent to the squadrons and posted on the Detachment website.

Good of The Sons of The American Legion:

Commander Byers read a flyer about "Wine for a Cause". The wine is \$17 per bottle and \$2 from each bottle goes to support veterans

Commander Byers asked for any donations:

Squadron 129:	\$500	Commander's Project
Post 216 Family:	\$600	Commander's Project
11 th District SAL:	\$657	Commander's Project
Squadron 122:	\$100	Commander's Project
Squadron 353:	\$1000	Commander's Project
Squadron 333:	\$500	Commander's Project
Squadron 437 :	\$500	Commander's Project
Squadron 182:	\$500	Commander's Project
Squadron 70:	\$1000	Commander's Project
Squadron 315:	\$500	Commander's Project
Squadron 330:	\$100	Commander's Project
Squadron 196:	\$196	NEF
Squadron 196:	\$196	SINS
Squadron 196:	\$500	Commander's Project
Squadron 172:	\$200	Commander's Project
Squadron 298:	\$201	Commander's Project
Squadron 1919:	\$50	Commander's Project
Squadron 285:	\$500	Commander's Project
Mark & Regina Tansel:	\$100	Commander's Project
Squadron 31:	\$200	Commander's Project
Post 31:	\$1000	Commander's Project
Squadron 98:	\$500	Commander's Project
Squadron 66:	\$200	Commander's Project
Squadron 104:	\$500	Commander's Project
4 th District Bowling:	\$4254	Commander's Project
Squadron 47:	\$1000	Commander's Project
Squadron 178:	\$300	Commander's Project
Squadron 97:	\$1000	Commander's Project
Squadron 409:	\$1168.68	Commander's Project
Squadron 241:	\$1597	Commander's Project
Squadron 157:	\$100	Commander's Project
Squadron 215:	\$150	Commander's Project
Squadron 111:	\$250	CWF
Squadron 47:	\$500	CWF
Squadron 98:	\$250	CWF
Squadron 377:	\$20	CWF
Squadron 241:	\$500	CWF
Squadron 31:	\$300	CWF
Squadron 157:	\$100	CWF
Squadron 330:	\$100	CWF
Post 200 from auction:	\$4075	Commander's Project
Greg & Cheryl Spaulding:	\$500	Commander's Project
PDC & Officers:	\$115	Commander's Project
Squadron 423:	\$500	Commander's Project

Post & Auxiliary 72:	\$500	Commander's Project
Auxiliary 104:	\$500	Commander's Project
Collected at Homecoming:	\$1833	Commander's Project

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

Past Detachment Commander Paul Rush passed out 3 plaques for COTA donations during his year.

Southern Vice Commander Miller called for a Southern caucus following the close of this meeting.

PDC Pfeiffer called for a Northern caucus following the close of this meeting.

PDC Mark Tansel called a PDC meeting after the caucuses.

Jim Arter said if you are at Close of Books, come see the bingo that we be happening, especially if you have never been to an IVH bingo.

Chris Carlton asked if anyone knew of a veteran that needed a power chair, carry trailer and ramps. One of his fellow employees has it, see Chris after the meeting.

Ken Corbeille said he will be having a Hospitality Room from 5-7 in room 160.

Greg Spaulding explained the purpose of the caucuses and invited the new attendees to come to the caucuses.

Noble Pulsipher said the Be The One program is looking for a trainer from each District. If interested, see Noble after the meeting.

Gary Black said that Squadron 18 will be having their Golf Outing on 6/8 with the proceeds going to the Detachment Commander's Project.

Mark Franke gave a Legislative report after attending the American Legion Legislative Committee Meeting.

SB108, that allows for electronic gaming in Indiana has been passed and is on the Governor's desk waiting for his signature.

Another bill is working on changes in benefits eligibility based on discharge status.

PDC Heise made motion to accept the Legislative report, 2nd PDC Gemlich. Motion passed.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Byers called for a closing prayer. Chaplain Byers gave a closing prayer. With a right-hand salute to the colors of our Nation the meeting was closed at 2:03 PM