



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Indiana
Spring Conference
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
April 6, 2024**

Commander Paul Rush opened the meeting at 12 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 Jeff Gresley. 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	(EX)
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	
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Tom Nedele	
Sgt.-at-Arms Emeritus:	Galen Close	(EX)
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Ryan Kohlheim	
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms:	Luke Woodburn	
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 st :	Ken Corbeille	(EX)
2 nd :	Tom Potts	
3 rd :	Mark Smith	
4 th :	Fred Motley	
5 th :	Jay Huffman	
6 th :	John Hook	
7 th :	Kevin Felker	
8 th :	Jeff Barker	
9 th :	Rick Lohrum	
10 th :	Martin Brown	
11 th :	Dustin Owens	

Past Detachment Commanders:

Cliff Stephens	David Stephens	Don Stephens
Robert Worrel	James Arter	Raymond Giehll, Jr
Charles Newman	David Siggers	Richard Pfeiffer
Mike Pipher	Steve Tansel	David Hanson
Greg Spaulding	Chris Carlton	Joe Schultis
Doug Heiser	Jimmy Martin	Charles Gemlich

District Advisors:

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

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

Chairman Schultis introduced the following guests:

American Legion NEC Kenny Cooper

Kenny came forward and introduced Leading Candidate for American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere, Jr

Leading Candidate James LaCoursiere addressed the meeting saying he is dual member. James thanked the SAL for all we do for the American Legion Family. James spoke on the continuation of the Be The One mission. His slogan is LUV, Loyalty, Unity, Valor

Donald “JR” Hall National SAL Commander from the Detachment of Maryland
David Stephens, SAL Past National Commander
Robert Worrel, 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 Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the minutes as published, 2nd PDC Arter. 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 the candidate count is 208 as of today. Check In will be at Trine University Sunday 6/16/2024 at 8AM

5Star/10Ideals:

Acting Chairman Brian Gilbert 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 January 23, 2024:

WWII-32

USS Oklahoma-5

Vietnam-0

Korea-5

Over 80,000 remains missing since WWII. Over 40,000 are presumed lost at sea.

Athletic:

Acting Chairman David Hanson reported that 2 bids were received.

The 2024 Tournament was awarded to Cambridge City 169.

The cost is \$35 per player.

It will be at Winding Branch Golf Course.
At the request of several players the date will be 9/14/2024.

PDC Hanson made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission report, 2nd 2nd District Commander Tom Potts. The last Arizona survivor passed away and will be put to rest with his shipmates. Motion passed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION:

Chairman Mike Tolley said all reports were given.
Chairman Mike Tolley read the following Committee reports:

Children's Hospital:

Acting Chairman Dustin Owens 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.
The Committee requested \$250 to help with fundraising.
The Committee proposed having a fundraising effort to be held at the SAL Campout on June 22nd.

Junior Shooting Sports:

Chairman Fred Motley said the Department awards were handed out at the opening General Session of Spring Conference.
Continue to find ways to support your local programs through fundraisers.

Americanism & Government:

Chairman David Pearson said awards were presented this morning at General Session.
Continue supporting Legion programs for 2025.

Youth Law Enforcement Academy:

Chairman Cliff Stephens said applications are online on the Department website.
The cost is \$350 per participant, with \$50 down payment.
This year's program will be June 23-29, 2024, at Anderson University.

Special Olympics:

Chairman Brian Gilbert said the Summer Olympic games were held June 7-9, 2024, at Indiana State University. Volunteers are needed.
Teams are now practicing.
State wants more support from the SAL.

Child Welfare Foundation:

Chairman William Barnett said to have donations at meetings of Squadrons, Districts, National.
CWF year-round donations are always acceptable.
Indiana donations as of 4/6/2024 are \$1650.

National total is \$244,101.

May 31, 2024, is the deadline for donations to National for this fiscal year.

Oratorical:

Chairman Mike Pipher said the State Oratorical contest have been completed. State was won by Knox Boyd, and the runner ups were Else Neher, Lilly Deaton and Ella Christianson.

Thanks to the SAL members that helped with the State Oratorical Contest.

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

The Committee asked about mileage and a meal for those volunteering.

Chairman Pipher said that Knox Boyd could win it all.

PDC Hanson made a motion to provide up to \$25 a meal for those going to the National Oratorical contest, 2nd PDC Schultis. Motion passed.

PDC Cliff Stephens made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission report, 2nd PDC Siggers. Motion passed.

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:

Chairman Richard Pfeiffer said the following bills passed the House and now need Senate approval. Urge them to vote yes:

Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act HR542

Home Act HR3848

COPE Act HR3581

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

Department Legislative Committee Report (2024 Spring Conference)

The DAV wants to administer the Voter Voice system instead of the American Legion. The committee passed a motion to deny the DAV request and keep administration with the Legion.

This year's Washington conference meetings were primarily with aides since most Congressmen were out of town. Key talking points included continued focus on implementation of PACT Act;, recognition of benefit eligibility for reservists for their service time on active duty, and supporting legislation to protect veterans from predatory assistance in getting burn pit and Camp Lejeune benefits.

The Big Four supported several bills at the recent session of the General Assembly. Successful bills include passage of a green alert system for missing veterans, an increase in the property tax

deduction to \$240,000, and requirement for employers of 50 or more workers to display VA service posters.

Next year's priority will be passage of the electronic pull tabs bill to replace paper pull tabs with a centrally administered digital system. The Department will ask for a small cut of the organizations' share of the profits with the money to go to Legacy fund.

The Legislative Meet and Greet was well attended by legislators. Legislative Day attracted 61 of 100 representatives and 22 of 50 senators.

Local town halls are being planned by the Big Four. The IDVA has tentatively scheduled its May commission meeting for Fort Wayne.

There will be no Legislative Committee meeting during the summer convention. The committee will meet next at the fall conference unless an emergency occurs.

Religious Emphasis:

Chairman Fred Motley said District Commanders please make sure your deceased members are up to date at least 2 weeks prior to Convention in MyLegion. Possibly work with scouting programs on religious portion of their programs.

Scholarship:

Chairman Matt Gilbert said the application deadline is April 30, 2024.

So far only one application from Squadron 215.

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 know what's in your community.

See a worn flag, replace it.

Set out Flag Education to local schools.

Convention:

Acting Chairman Brian Gilbert said the Committee is looking for recommendations for speakers.

Campout:

Chairman Steve Brock reported.

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

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

We are looking for help with the games.

We need bids for the 2025 Campout by July 13, 2024. The 2025 Campout dates are June 20-22, 2025.

Public Relations & Information Technology:

Chairman Dave Parker said links are available on our website for the National SAL Snapshots or Service & Videos of Service. Get them submitted.

Please send SAL event info to indianasalpr@gmail.com.

Information & Training:

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

Please check our website for training opportunities. If you can't find what you're looking for let Dave Parker know.

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

REHABILITATION

Chairman David Pearson said all Committees met.

Chairman David Pearson read the following Committee reports:

Veterans Education & Employment:

Chairman Tom Nedele said the Committee submitted information on a Homeless Veterans website to Dave Parker. Check the Detachment website for information.

VAVS:

Chairman Jay Huffman said you need to support your local VA.

The 4th District is still doing Buddy Checks.

More Districts need to visit local VAs.

Indiana Veterans Home:

Chairman Bob Shields said the last bingo was on 02/10/2024 played from 1:30 to 3:30.

There were 36 residents who played 4 rounds, winning 82 games.

We had 20 hardworking volunteers, thanks to everyone that showed up.

Donations were \$100 from Squadron 200, Toothbrush covers from Greg Cheryl Spaulding.

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

Need to sign in at security and wear masks.

Homeless Veterans:

Chairman Tom Potts said that Valparaiso is working on a multi-unit for homeless veterans.

Southern Vice Commander Pearson made a motion to accept the Rehabilitation Commission report, 2nd PDC Gemlich.

Motion passed.

Finance & Budget Committee:

Chairman Raymond Giehll, Jr said the Committee went over the 2024-2025 budget.

There was \$1000 donated to the Creative Arts Festival from the Veterans Assistance line item.

The Detachment will provide up to \$500 for refreshments at the Department Oratorical Contest.

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

Resolutions Committee:

Chairman David Hanson read 2 resolutions:

Ken Corbeille for Detachment Commander for 2025-2026.

Dave Parker for 4th District Commander for 2024-2025.

Chairman Hanson said both resolutions were in proper form.

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

Sons In Need Committee:

Acting Chairman Doug Heiser said District Commanders need to inform the squadrons about this program.

There were no applications this quarter.

And as always, please make a donation to the program.

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

Motion passed.

Membership & Squadron Expansion Committee:

Good afternoon, gentlemen.

Renewal notices were sent a couple of weeks ago to those members who show as not having paid. Subsequently, Department has received numerous phone calls from members who received the notice but claim they have paid. When Department looked up the member, the database showed the member had not paid. Be sure you are turning in cards in a timely manner. Don't hold the cards.

If you discover an issue, your first call should not be to Department. Your first call should be to your squadron. Work on the issue with your squadron first, before elevating an issue.

Forms season is upon us. I'll defer to Adjutant Ray Giehll, Jr. to explain...

Adjutant Giehll said that this year the Squadron Certification of Officers and Squadron Delegate form will be together. Remember you can only vote the number of delegates on the form, so go heavy. The other required form this year will be the Consolidated Squadron Report. Both forms will be on the Detachment website by Monday. Remember your Post will need to submit the National Commander/Adjutant form for the squadron to receive the 2025 cards.

The Detachment is doing an outstanding job with membership this year. We are less than 2600 cards away from meeting goal. Two weeks ago, we fell behind last year's pace for goal percentage. As of the April 3rd report, we are at 92.90% of goal. Last year we were at 93.04%. So we are not too far off. That's the "bad" news. However, that doesn't paint the full picture and doesn't explain the hard work you have been doing. Thanks to your dedication and effort, the Detachment is ahead of where it was last year in terms of retention, new members, and membership total. We have 3518 new members this year; that's 120 more than we had last year at this time. More impressive than that, and what the goal percentage doesn't explain is that we

have 956 more members than we had last year. 956! That's almost 1000 members more than we had last year. This isn't possible without what YOU do for the Sons of The American Legion.

It's been a fierce competition for the top spot this year. The 4th District held the top spot early but was overtaken by the 1st District who held the top spot for four months. The 1st District was eventually dethroned by the 11th District who held it for three months, before being overtaken by the 10th District, who leads the Detachment as of the last report. The 11th District is in 2nd place, followed by the 1st District. The remaining order is the 2nd, 4th, 7th, 6th, 8th, 5th, 9th, and 3rd.

All year I've been pushing membership retention. We do a fantastic job welcoming new members into the Sons of The American Legion, as evident by the 3500 new members thus far. The thing is, we cannot allow the new members to walk in the front door, while we let our "old" members sneak out the back door. We need to reach out to our members and get them excited about being a member of the Sons of The American Legion. We, ourselves, need to be excited about being a member of the Sons of The American Legion. We need to remember our "why." Why are you a member? Why are you excited to be a member? For many of us, it's because we are a proud possessor of a priceless heritage. It is a way for us to honor our father, grandfather, mother, grandmother, stepparents, and adoptive parents. It's because of all the great programs for which The American Legion stands. For others, it's cheap beer and the best Friday fish dinner around. Whatever your "why" is, be excited about it and tell someone. Talk to someone who isn't a member and share your why. Get them excited about joining the Sons of The American Legion. Reach out to those members who snuck out the back door and rekindle that fire and passion that they once had. Your efforts, your excitement, and your passion are what makes membership a success and light our path to the future. Your efforts, your excitement, and your passion is what makes the Detachment of Indiana a success! Thank you for your efforts, your excitement, and your passion. Keep up the great work.

Now, on to the exciting part of this report... Awards!

At the Mid-Winter DEC, I reported the 3rd, 4th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Districts were all off zero. Since then, the 2nd, 6th, and 8th have gotten all squadrons off zero.

The 1st, 4th, and 11th Districts met the January 3rd goal of having 65% of its squadrons exceed goal. Each will receive \$25.00. District 4 was the District with the highest retention percentage on January 3rd. It will receive \$50.00.

The 7th, 10th, and 11th Districts met the February 7th goal of having 75% of its squadrons exceeding goal. They will receive \$25.00. District 7 was the District with the highest retention percentage. It will receive \$50.00

No Districts met the March 6th goal of having 85% of its squadrons meet goal. The 7th District had the highest retention percentage and will receive \$50.00.

Congratulations to all. The next target date is 100% by May 1st. 89 squadrons have already met this goal.

Each squadron who exceeded goal on the target date for the past three months has been entered into the drawing for \$750. It is possible for a squadron to be entered up to three times if it met each of the target dates. There are 541 entries in this drawing. This quarter's winner is... out of District 4; Squadron 31, Angola! The check will be mailed to you.

We have a chartered a new Squadron. The new squadron is Squadron 1919 of the Centennial Post 1919 in Greenwood. I have the charter and if the American Legion representative from Post 1919 will come forward they can receive the Squadron 1919 charter.

The American Legion representatives from Post 1919 came forward and Chairman Miller with the help of National Commander JR Hall and Detachment Commander Paul Rush presented them the charter.

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 PDC Pipher 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: None

SICK CALL & RELIEF:

PDC Terry Slagle has been in and out of the hospital the last couple weeks with chest pains and blood pressure issues.

Past 6th District Commander Jim Staggs passed away.

Diane Budd had surgery this week and is home recovering.

Past 9th District Commander Larry Cripe is in the hospital.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Adjutant Giehl read the following correspondence:

A letter from Department Commander Bob Oeth thanking the Detachment for our donation to the Indiana American Legion Foundation.

A thank you letter to Commander Rush from Squadron 143 for greeting their "Tour De Legion" bus trip at Rome City 381.

A thank you letter from the Rodebush VA for a donation of equipment.

A receipt from the Fort Wayne VA for our donation.

GOOD OF THE SAL:

NEC David Hanson came forward and introduced Sons of The American Legion National Commander Donald “JR” Hall from the Detachment of Maryland.

SAL National Commander Donald “JR” Hall came forward to address the meeting. Commander Hall said he was impressed to see all 4 of Indiana’s Past National Commanders at the meeting. Commander Hall talked about the all the hard work being put in by SAL members all over the country. Commander Hall said his slogan is “Representing More Than Me”. Commander Hall is representing all the members and veterans. Commander is also representing his Grandfather who eligibility in the Sons of The American Legion.

Commander Rush presented Commander Hall with a plaque commemorating his visit to the Detachment of Indiana.

PDC Steve Tansel asked the Adjutant through the Commander if the Detachment Convention minutes had been sent out, Adjutant Giehll said they had been sent. PDC Tansel said that the Adjutant needed to go over his notes as the visit by the National Oratorical Champion from Indiana had been missed. PDC Tansel was disappointed that no one else caught the omission. Adjutant Giehll said he was not given any notes and transcribe the minutes from a recording given to him by PDC Tansel when he was the Detachment Adjutant. Adjutant Giehll said he would listen to the recording and make any needed corrections.

(Editor’s Note: After listening to the recording of the Convention I received, there is no introduction of or do I hear the National Oratorical Champion speaking. But I received information that I did not have before, and the Convention minutes will be corrected to show that the National Oratorical Champion did come to our Convention. Sorry for my confusion)

Andy Byers said he would be having a Meet & Greet in room 480 following the close of the meeting.

NEC Dave Hanson said that when registration is open for National Convention it will be posted on the Department website. Dave also said the agenda for the conferences is always posted on the Department website if anyone needs to see the times for Committee & Commission meetings.

Commander Rush asked for donations.

The following donations were brought forward:

Squadron 200:	\$4540, COTA
Post 330:	\$500, COTA
Squadron 330:	\$200, COTA
Squadron 42:	\$1500, COTA
Squadron 42:	\$1500, CWF
Post 97:	\$1000, COTA
Post 97:	\$240, OCW

Post 97:	\$250, HBS
Squadron 241:	\$1000, COTA
Post 145:	\$372, OCW
Post 145:	\$372, CWF
Post 145:	\$372, HBS
8 th District SAL:	\$200, COTA
Squadron 31:	\$250, IVH Bingo
Squadron 31:	\$250, COTA
Squadron 66:	\$500, COTA
Squadron 502:	\$1004, CMN
Squadron 502:	\$1004, CWF
Squadron 502:	\$1004, Riley Children's Hospital
Squadron 502:	\$1004, Child Welfare/Widows of Veterans
Squadron 216:	\$1000, COTA
10 th District Legion:	\$200, COTA
Mike Fowler:	\$50, COTA
Squadron 94:	\$250, COTA
2 nd District SAL:	\$50, Sponsor Hole 2 of SAL Golf Tournament
2 nd District SAL:	\$500, COTA
4 th District SAL:	\$4562.50, COTA
Squadron 333:	\$300, COTA
Post 97:	\$1000, CWF
4 th District SAL:	\$5750. CWF, Various Squadrons from Bowling Tournament
Cash:	\$305, COTA
Cash:	\$605, COTA, Collected at the Commander's Party

Commander Rush said he has around \$3700 from hat sales.

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

Joe Schultis said he is collecting \$5 from all officers and anyone else who would like to donate for Commander Rush's gift.

David Siggers thanked the Detachment for awarding the 2024 Detachment Golf Tournament to Post 169, Cambridge City.

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 1:54 pm.