



Sons of The American Legion *Detachment of Iowa*

720 Lyon St.
Des Moines, IA 50309



41st Detachment Convention **Des Moines, Iowa** **July 15, 2023**

The Detachment held its Annual Memorial Service at 8:30 AM organized by Adjutant Brian Kessler.

Commander James Lastovka called the meeting to order in proper fashion at 9:00 AM. Chaplain Protem Mike Deacon offered the opening prayer. Parliamentarian Mike Deacon stated the rules of the meeting.

Adjutant Brian Kessler gave the roll call with 12 Detachment Officers present with 1 excused; 4 Committee Chairman with 1 excused; 3 District Representatives, 5 Past Detachment Commanders; 3 Detachment Advisors. 3 District Advisors; 38 Squadrons present and 71 registered delegates. Adjutant Kessler announced there was a quorum present.

Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to approve the July 9, 2022 Detachment Convention minutes as printed; motion carried.

Finance Officer Steven Malmquist reported the final totals for 2023 with beginning balance of \$14,620.81, total expenses of \$23,063.15, total income of \$28,923.95, and \$2,600.00 in the National Candidate Fund, leaving a balance of \$17,881.61. With no questions the report was filed for audit.

American Legion Department of Iowa Commander Randy Johnson brought remarks from the Department of Iowa.

American Legion National Executive Committeeman Dennis Soppe introduced National American Legion Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola (NY) who brought remarks from National American Legion.

Liaison with The American Legion/Internal Affairs Randy Freel gave his report that he gave to the Internal Affairs Committee and is on file.

4th District Advisor/Representative Richard Witt gave his report from the district.

National Executive Committeeman Ken Rochholz talked about getting in Consolidated Squadron Reports.

Detachment Adjutant Brian Kessler discussed the Squadron Notes, noting the squadrons with membership cards still at Headquarters due to not having sent in their Squadron Officers Reports or Officers Eligibility Verification. He also noted all the Squadrons that have asked for help in restarting.

Iowa Veterans Home Volunteer Service Coordinator Laurel Degelau brought greetings from the Veterans Home and asked for help with covering membership for possible Post #739 members at the new Post at the Veteran's Home.

Membership Award winners were announced (11-25) Manchester #45 with 22, (26-50) Columbus Jct.

#100 with 8 and (51+) Waterloo #138 and Deep River #296 with 34. It was explained Emblem Sales is no longer selling Sons of The American Legion watches that were used as membership awards. Several ideas were discussed with Adjutant Kessler saying he talked with Membership Secretary Ann Haack about getting awards from where the Department of Iowa does at Winners Circle in Indianola.

Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Samuel Johnson, **Washington**, to give plaques for Membership Award winners and purchase them from Winners Circle in Indianola, motion carried.

Detachment Americanism Chairman James Lastovka presented his report and is on file.

Detachment Legislative Chairman Dennis Theobald was unable to attend and submitted his report.

Veterans Employment and Education and American Legion Riders Chairman Cliff Barker gave his reports from the two committees.

Commander James Lastovka gave his report for the year.

Motion by Samuel Johnson, **Washington**, seconded Michael Monserud, **Ames**, to approve all reports as presented; motion carried.

Sick Call: Dale Hidlebaugh with stage 4 cancer, Gary Keibaum from Post 739 Iowa Veterans Home.

New Business: Iowa Veterans Home Post #739 ask for help with membership for Veterans who cannot cover the dues to be members of the Post. Post Commander Jack Studebaker explained they have Posts from around the state donate money to sponsor Veterans at the home to become, and the Veterans are told they have been sponsored. Motion by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, seconded by Bobby Jackson, **Lorimor**, to sponsor 15 members for \$540.00 at the Iowa Veterans Home Post #739; motion carried.

As established in the Standing Rules of the Detachment, every five (5) years the process of setting membership goals must be reviewed and approved for the next five (5) years. Motion by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to set the Detachment membership goals for the next five (5) years with Squadrons that have under 10 members on July 1st their goal is 10 members, Squadrons with 11-25 members on July 1st have to get 1 new member, Squadrons with 26-50 members on July 1st get 2 new members, and Squadrons with 51+ members on July 1st get 3 new members each year, motion carried.

Discussion on the whether to purchase Desk Colors for new Squadrons was postponed to Mid-Winter DEC meeting.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, to ratify 2023-2024 Budget as presented by Detachment Executive Committee; motion carried.

Motion by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, seconded by Daniel Blazek, **Nevinville**, to require the Squadron Officers Report, Squadron Officers Eligibility Verification form, Consolidate Squadron Report, and Squadron Data Report be required each year for Squadron to receive the next years membership cards, motion carried with one no vote.

Motion by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, seconded by Daniel Blazek, **Nevinville**, to accept all

Consolidated Squadron and Detachment Reports as presented and are on file; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Jackson, **Lorimor**, seconded by Michael Sypherd Sr., **Washington**, to give \$500.00 donation to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Motion carried.

Motion by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, seconded by Richard Witt, **Oelwein**, to approve the Delegates and Alternate Delegates for the 2023 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina: James Lastovka (Chairman), James Dean (Secretary), Ken Rochholz, Steve Colcord, Cliff Barker, Michael Monserud, Samuel Johnson, Mike Etzel, Stanley Elliott, Rick Cross, James Peterson, Alan Schenk, Glen Johnson IV, Levi Frost, and the Detachment to pay the registration fees; motion carried.

The following people volunteered to serve on National Convention Committee's during the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina: Americanism: Samuel Johnson; Children & Youth: Mike Etzel; Constitutional Amendments Samuel Johnson; Credentials: Steve Colcord; Internal Affairs: Cliff Barker; Membership; Ken Rochholz; Finance: James Dean; Legislation and Rules: James Lastovka; and VA&R: James Lastovka.

Elections of 2023-2024 Detachment Officers:

Nominations were opened for Detachment Vice-Commanders with endorsements for James Zacharias, **Doug Honse**, and **Steve Colcord**, by their respective Squadrons. Cliff Barker nominates **Daniel Blazek**. Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, that nominations cease and call for a vote by delegate strength to choose 3 Vice Commanders; motion carried.

Steve Colcord, Doug Honse, and Daniel Blazek were elected as Detachment Vice-Commanders for 2023-2024 year. Motion by Michael Sypherd Sr., **Washington**, seconded by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, to destroy the ballots from the Detachment Vice-Commander vote; motion carried.

Ames Squadron endorsement for Steve Malmquist for the Detachment Financial Officer. Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, nominations cease, and the rules of the Convention be suspended, and the Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Steve Malmquist to be the Detachment Finance Officer for the 2023-2024 year; motion carried.

Richard Witt nominated James Zacharias for Detachment Chaplain. Cliff Barker nominates Levi Frost for Detachment Chaplain. Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, that nominations cease and call for a vote by delegate strength to choose Detachment Chaplain; motion carried.

Levi Frost was elected as Detachment Chaplain for the 2023-2024 year. Motion by Michael Sypherd Sr., **Washington**, seconded by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, to destroy the ballots from the Detachment Chaplain vote; motion carried.

Whiting Squadron endorsed James Dean for Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms. Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, nominations cease, and the rules of the Convention be suspended, and the Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for James Dean to be the Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms for the 2023-2024 year; motion carried.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, for the incoming Commander to appoint a Detachment Historian for the 2023-2024 year with DEC ratification; motion carried.

Ames Squadron endorses Michael Monserud as Alternate National Executive Committeeman. Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, nominations cease, and the rules of the Convention be suspended, and the Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Michael Monserud to be Alternate National Executive Committeeman for the 2023-2025 years; motion carried.

Ames Squadron endorsed Samuel Johnson as National Executive Committeeman. Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Cliff Barker, **Ames**, nominations cease, and the rules of the Convention be suspended, and the Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Samuel Johnson to be the National Executive Committeeman for the 2023-2025 years; motion carried.

Swisher Squadron endorses James Lastovka for Detachment Commander 2023-2024. Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Michael Monserud, **Ames**, that nominations cease, and the rules of the Convention be suspended, and the Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for James Lastovka as Detachment Commander for the 2023-2024 year; motion carried.

Commander Lastovka turned the podium over to Randy Freel for installation of the 2023-2024 Detachment Officers.

The Detachment was asked if they understood the new membership credits the Squadrons will be collecting at the Detachment due to members renewing online, with most understanding.

The Detachment was asked to begin thinking about who should serve on a committee to plan for the 50th Convention of the Detachment of Iowa in 2032.

Next meeting was set for July 20, 2024, at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Des Moines Iowa.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed in proper order at 11:12 AM.

Brian Kessler

Brian Kessler
Detachment Adjutant
Sons of the American Legion