



# *Sons of The American Legion*

## *Detachment of Iowa*



720 Lyon St.  
Des Moines, IA 50309

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### **Detachment Executive Committee Meeting**

#### **Muscatine, Iowa**

#### **October 23, 2016**

Commander Gary Bonesteel opened the meeting in proper fashion at 9:00 AM. Detachment Chaplin Dennis Theobald offered opening prayer. Detachment Judge Advocate Michael Deacon stated the rules of the meeting.

Members in attendance were Commander Gary Bonesteel; Vice-Commanders Carey Tandy, Mike Blanchard, and James Lastovka; Adjutant: Brian Kessler, Chaplin Dennis Theobald; Finance Officer Bob Rosenboom; Historian Mathew Gray (via webcast), Sergeant-At-Arms Bruce Wright; Judge Advocate Mike Deacon; National Executive Committeeman Richard Young; Alternate National Executive Committeeman Bobby Jackson. All Chairman were present; 7 Past Commander Advisors in attendance were Randy Freel and James Dean, District Advisors Randy Freel, and Alan Schenck. There were 14 Squadrons, 3 guests in attendance for a total attendance of 27.

Motion by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, seconded Dennis Theobald, **Muscatine**, to grant District Reps voice and vote in the DEC meeting; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, seconded by Bobby Jackson, **Lorimor**, to approve minutes of July 16, 2016 as presented; motion carried.

Bob Rosenboom gave the Detachment Finance report for the 3rd quarter (July - September 2016) with beginning balance of \$21,182.59, total expenses of \$7,416.34, total income of \$9,326.00, leaving a balance of \$23,092.25. Motion by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, seconded by Carey Tandy, **Oxford**, to approve the finance report as presented; motion carried.

No funds have been spent for any National Candidate Funds for either Richard or Nichole.

Adjutant Kessler noted that he hadn't sent out the closure letters yet, due to expense of sending out registered letters. He also noted that he understands that Terril Squadron is still claiming to have a Squadron even though they don't send in membership; Marcia also noted that Melcher is rumored to be doing the same thing. Bobby Jackson noted he hasn't been over to Corydon yet, but hopes to get there soon. It was also discussed that Iowa City had already voted to disband their SAL, and Randy Freel noted Waukee will also probably disband their Squadron when they receive the letter. The Adjutant was asked not to send letters yet to Brayton, and Des Moines #374.

Motion by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, to donate \$50.00 to the Child Welfare Foundation as a memorial gift on behalf of Phoenix E. Sturm, granddaughter of Past Detachment Commander Michael E. Sypherd Sr.; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, seconded by Dennis Theobald, **Muscatine**, to sponsor the Children's Activity Room at Mid-Winter Conference up to \$1,500.00; motion carried.

Motion by Michael Sypherd, **Washington**, seconded by Richard Young, **Washington**, to go with the goal buttons and ribbons again this year with Commander coming up with design and Ken Rochholz having them created; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, seconded by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, to do a wreath laying during Washington Conference this year; motion carried. Motion by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, seconded by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, to lay the wreath at the Korean War Memorial; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, seconded by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, to approve Gary Bonesteel as NMI student from Iowa for a 2020 graduation; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, seconded by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, to donate \$500.00 to the National Endowment Fund; motion carried.

Motion by Bobby Jackson, **Lorimor**, seconded by James Lastovka, **Swisher**, to donate \$200.00 to Muscatine Squadron for hosting Fall Conference; motion carried

For Mid-Winter do our usual class in afternoon; but we need to leave time for members to attend the Historian class in the Legion classes in the afternoon. Adjutant Derner also noted National Staff will be doing class in the morning on myLegion.org and mySAL.org.

Mid-Winter hospitality room do Root Beer floats with brochures in room, all officers have to take a shift. Mike Deacon said he would call A&E Dairy to get donated ice cream, Mike Deacon to check with 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander Don Swann about getting stuff from Des Moines Hy-Vee.

Liaison & Advisory Committee Chairman Randy Freel gave his report and is on file.

7<sup>th</sup> District Advisor Alan Schenck talked about how his District is doing on membership with some Squadrons who didn't send in membership last year sent some; Bedford will also host Spring Conference. 6<sup>th</sup> District Advisor Randy Freel reported pushed the membership at their Fall Conference; he also gave notice of some Squadron closures, plus talked to several of those closing to see what is up.

National Executive Committee Richard Young discussed the challenge the National Vice-Commander of the Central Region announced having Central region membership be 100% by Veterans Day and he will give each Detachment \$100.00 who makes it. There was also a challenge to raise \$1 million for the Child Welfare Foundation by National Convention so the National Legion Child Welfare Foundation chairman and National Sons of The American Legion Commander will shave their heads. New social media and website rules coming down at Spring National Executive Committee meeting. Squadrons need to get in their member's date of births in, they also need to get signed up for mySAL.org as membership and everything is going to that website. Also please work on getting your Consolidate Squadron Reports in each year.

Membership Co-Chairman reported that we are ahead of our target dates with 10 Squadrons at 100%. Mike Sypherd asked why the targets didn't change from last year and it was decided that Marsha probably didn't get new numbers for this year. Mike said he would work the spreadsheet and send them into Marsha for changing.

V.A. & R. Chairman Bobby Jackson talked about Des Moines stand down was successful, but

needs more help from SAL. Bobby is still trying to get a walk-a-thon in Des Moines for the Des Moines VA.

The Detachment recessed for lunch at 11:33 AM and reconvened at 1:00 PM.

Department Adjutant John Derner brought his report, and highlighted some of the things out of it specifically for the Detachment. He urged the Detachment to learn about the Service Officers sponsored by the American Legion and what they do for Veterans in our state, the Service Office brought in \$1.6 million in benefits for Iowa Veterans last year. The American Legion in Iowa is doing a concerted effort on renewals and would like to make 100% by Membership Rally.

Verlinda Prior, 1<sup>st</sup> District American Legion Auxiliary President, spoke to the Detachment about her District President's project of Wreaths Across America project. She noted on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the Keokuk National Cemetery they will be laying of the ceremonial wreaths; then some time that day they could use help laying all the rest of the wreaths on the Cemetery. After President Prior left it was noted they also lay wreaths on the Veterans Cemetery at Marshalltown Veterans Home and the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter.

Motion by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, seconded by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, to donate \$100.00 to 1<sup>st</sup> District Presidents Verlinda Prior's Wreaths Across America project, \$100.00 to Marshalltown Iowa Veterans Home and also \$100.00 to Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter to totaling \$300.00 to the National Wreaths Across America program; motion carried.

Department Commander Ken Rochholz thanked the Detachment for all we do, and his project is to raise money for a new parking lot at Department Headquarters.

Americanism Chairman Gary Palas gave his report urged the Detachment to get involved in the Legion activities.

Motion by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, that whatever money is remaining from the Christmas Gift to Sioux Falls and Omaha VA's be used to purchase something specific for either hospital; motion carried.

V.E.& Ed. Chairman Brian Kessler urged people to get Veterans they know to job fairs or to job interviews and help them to get job or education they may need.

Legislative Commission Chairman Dennis Theobald talked about getting out to vote campaign. He also discussed visiting and lobbying your legislative members on Veterans issues.

Detachment Commander talked about going to Commander's school at Fall NEC, he also urged the Detachment get membership in. He mentioned his project is Soldiers Wish.

Motion by Richard Young, **Washington**, seconded by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, to accept all reports as presented; motion carried.

Nobody for Sick Call.

Muscatine decided to donate the \$121.00 raised from Registration fee to Commander's Project Soldiers Wish.

Bob talked about Nichole Clapp's shirts for her campaign.

Motion by Mike Blanchard, **Muscatine**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, to give \$240.00 to radiothon; motion carried.

Under the God of the Sons:

It was decided to have a meeting for membership at the Membership Rally on November 19, 2016 at Des Moines #274.

Bruce Wright and James Lastovka will carry the colors at Mid-Winter Conference.

Spring Conference will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April in Bedford.

The next DEC meeting will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines, Iowa starting at 9:00 AM.

Chaplain Theobald offered the closing prayer, with Commander Bonesteel closing the meeting in proper fashion at 2:35 PM.

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*Brian Kessler*

Brian Kessler  
Detachment Adjutant  
Sons of the American Legion