



Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Iowa

720 Lyon St.
Des Moines, IA 50309



Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting

October 25, 2020

Commander Michael Monserud opened the meeting in modified fashion at 1:35 PM. Detachment Adjutant Brian Kessler offered opening prayer. Detachment Judge Advocate Mike Deacon stated the rules of the meeting.

Members in attendance were Commander Michael Monserud; Vice-Commanders James Lastovka, James Dean, and Mike Etzel; Adjutant Brian Kessler; Finance Officer Bob Rosenboom; Sergeant-At-Arms Doug Honse; Judge Advocate Mike Deacon; National Executive Committeeman Ken Rochholz; Immediate Past Detachment Commander Alan Schenck; District Representatives from 1st District and 4th District were present. Four Chairman were present; Six Past Commanders; Advisors in attendance were Leonard Ernst, Randy Freel and James Dean, District Advisors Ken Rochholz, Leonard Ernst, Richard Witt, Randy Freel, and James Dean. Alternate National Executive Committeeman Jim Valentine was excused. There were fourteen Squadrons, six guests in attendance for a total attendance of twenty.

Motion by Mike Etzel, **Marion**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to give District Representatives voice and vote for this meeting; motion carried.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by James Lastovka, **Swisher**, to approve minutes of April 26, 2020; May 4, 2020; May 29, 2020 meeting as printed; motion carried.

Bob Rosenboom gave the Detachment Finance report for the 3rd quarter (July - September 2020) with beginning balance of \$12,908.24, total expenses of \$5,587.63, total income of \$5,826.00, leaving a balance of \$13,146.61. With no additions or corrections, the report was placed on file for audit.

Commander Monserud introduced the guests attending the Conference. Department of Iowa American Legion Commander James Kessler brought greetings from the Department and thanked the Detachment for making the presents known an promoting the American Legion Family. Iowa American Legion Auxiliary President Kelly Elliott brought greetings from the Department and talked about her goals for the year. Department Adjutant John Derner went over his fall report and noted the Legions Service Office holds 64% of the Power of Attorney's for their clients.

The DEC agreed to send out certificates to the Squadrons whose membership for the 2019-2020 membership year was 100% or higher in membership goal.

Past National Commander Mike Deacon brought up he had received Minnesota's Paid Up For Life program if we want to start one. It was decided to have the Adjutant send out the information to all the DEC, Adjutant Derner and Department Commander Kessler.

Adjutant Kessler noted the e-newsletter is changing programs and company to Highroad Solutions Aestra program.

Americanism Chairman James Lastovka read his report and is on file; with a special note everyone helping with American Legion Baseball must have background check.

Sioux Falls VAVS Representative Brian Kessler gave his report and is on file.

Legislative Chairman Dennis Theobald talked about voting and his report in on file.

National Executive Committeeman Ken Rochholz reported on all the resolutions that were talked about at Fall NEC.

Public and Media Communications Chairman Tim Zacharias urged Squadrons to use their social media and news sources to spread what the Squadrons are doing in their communities.

Detachment Commander Monserud gave his report noting for his Commander's Project this year he wants all Squadrons to give money to local charities and events before giving money to the National Charities.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Mike Etzel, **Marion**, to accept all reports as presented; motion carried.

Sick Call: Gary Bonesteel and Jim Zacharias.

Unfinished business: Adjutant Kessler went over the Squadron Notes and what Squadrons have not turned in their verification of officers yet.

New business: Motion by Brian Kessler, **Lake Park**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, to give from the Detachment of Iowa \$150.00 and \$50.00 from the Shaddock's (\$200.00 total) to the Iowa American Legion Foundation in memory of Past Detachment Chaplain Leroy Shaddock; motion carried.

Bob Rosenboom had discussion with the Junior Auxiliary, and they noted they would take over the Children's Activity Room as their room and would welcome all children for activities in the afternoon during Mid-Winter Conference. Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to authorize funds up to \$1,500.00 for the Junior Auxiliary Activity Center at Mid-Winter Conference; motion carried.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by James Lastovka, **Swisher**, if the Vets of Valor radio-a-thon happened, the Detachment donate \$240.00 during one of the matching hours; motion carried.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Brian Kessler, **Lake Park**, not to donate \$100.00 to Leading Candidate for the National Sons of The American Legion Commander this year, due to there being no change in officers because of no National Convention during the Covid-19 pandemic; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Etzel, **Marion**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to give up to \$2,500.00 for Christmas Gifts to the VA Hospitals and Iowa Veterans Home; motion carried. Finance Officer Bob Rosenboom noted he wanted a breakdown of how much money went to each hospital or home in Christmas Gifts.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Mike Etzel, **Marion**, to donate \$1,000.00 to the Iowa American Legion Foundation and to be presented at Mid-Winter Conference; motion carried.

Motion by Brian Kessler, **Lake Park**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, spend our Emblem Sales gift certificate of \$555.00 to purchase ribbons for all the Squadrons of the Detachment honoring our 5th Triple Nickle Award; motion carried.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to do Root Beer floats again at Mid-Winter Conference and have everybody work shifts; motion carried. Mike Deacon said he would pick up the first round of supplies for the room.

The DEC decided to skip doing a class this year during Mid-Winter Conference and encourage participants to go to the Legion training sessions.

It was noted Washington Conference is scheduled for February 27th – March 3rd, 2021, with Adjutant Kessler noting he was thinking going with his Father. Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Mike Etzel, **Marion**, to name Brian Kessler as Detachment of Iowa Representative to Washington Conference and reimburse him up to \$500.00; motion carried.

Commander Monserud lead discussion on the 2020 Legion Riders Resolution #19 that was approved at the American Legion Fall NEC meeting. Most members in attendance were in opposition to the resolution and felt some response should come from the Detachment and/or the Iowa' Riders chapters in the form of a resolution, but the DEC was cautioned not to meddle into this to much, because what is happening to the Riders could come back on the S.A.L. organization. Commander Monserud was asked to send a letter to Robert Wenger, Chairman of the American Legion Riders for the Department of Iowa expressing our support for a resolution in opposition and offer our support.

Under the Good of the Sons: Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Brian Kessler, **Lake Park**, to keep our NMI candidates as selected last year: class of 2020 – Mike Monserud, class of 2021 – Doug Honse, and class of 2022 – James Lastovka; motion carried.

It was noted to hopefully be able to present the Member of the Year and Membership Watches at Mid-Winter Conference.

American Legion Department of Iowa National Vice-Commander's Membership tour and Past District Commander's turn-in was reviewed. It was noted the Past District Commander's turn-in was going to be virtual event due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The next DEC meeting will be held on February 13th, 2021 at the Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines, Iowa starting at 8:30 AM.

Adjutant Brian Kessler offered the closing prayer, with Commander Monserud closing the meeting in proper fashion at 4:24 PM.

Brian Kessler

Brian Kessler
Detachment Adjutant
Sons of the American Legion