



# *Sons of The American Legion*

## *Detachment of Iowa*



720 Lyon St.  
Des Moines, IA 50309

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### **Detachment Executive Committee Meeting**

#### **Des Moines, Iowa**

#### **February 2, 2019**

Commander Alan Schenck opened the meeting in proper fashion at 9:00 AM. Detachment Chaplain Trevor Davidson offered opening prayer. Detachment Judge Advocate Mike Deacon stated the rules of the meeting.

Chaplain Trevor Davidson; Vice-Commander James Lastovka; Adjutant Brian Kessler; Past Detachment Chaplains Gary Palas and Timothy Zacharias presented a ceremony honoring the Four Chaplains.

Members in attendance were Commander Alan Schenck; Vice-Commanders James Lastovka, Mike Monserud, James Dean, and Jim Zacharias; Adjutant Brian Kessler; Finance Officer Bob Rosenboom; Chaplain Trevor Davidson; Sergeant-At-Arms Devin Von Querner; Judge Advocate Mike Deacon; National Executive Committeeman Bobby Jackson; Alternate National Executive Committeeman Ken Rochholz. District Representatives from 4th, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District were present. Five Chairman were present; five Past Commanders; Advisors in attendance were Randy Freel and James Dean, District Advisors Ken Rochholz, Randy Freel, and James Dean. There were 25 Squadrons, 3 guests in attendance for a total attendance of 42.

Motion by Jim Zacharias, **Hampton**, seconded by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, to give District Representatives voice and vote for this meeting; motion carried.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by Jim Zacharias, **Hampton**, to approve minutes of October 28, 2018 as printed; motion carried.

Bob Rosenboom gave the Detachment Finance report for the 4th quarter (October - December 2018) with beginning balance of \$19,746.94, total expenses of \$13,078.77, total income of \$13,072.00, leaving a balance of \$16,579.22. Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by Jim Zacharais, **Hampton**, to approve the finance report as presented; motion carried.

Commander Schenck introduced the guest attending the Conference. National Vice-Commander Matt Christi brought greetings from the National Commander (Report is on file). Iowa NEC Jerry Sebben introduced Leading Candidate for National Commander Paul Dillard. National Vice-President Nichole Clapp introduced National Vice-President Central Division Teresa Isensee, and then she gave her remarks about her year.

Department Advisor Randy Freel presented his report he gave to the Department DEC meeting on February 1. Report is on file. Randy Freel then spoke as the 6<sup>th</sup> District Advisor, talked over the 6<sup>th</sup> District membership and trying to get their membership sent in timely. Ken Rochholz gave a report from 1<sup>st</sup> District membership with Wellman and Iowa City having internal problems. Jim Zacharias discussed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> District membership with most of the goose eggs getting address. Alan talked about membership in 7<sup>th</sup> District; James Lostavka talked about 2<sup>nd</sup> District membership.

Membership report was given by Membership Chairman Gary Bonesteel. Gary presented the Squadrons that had reached the 75% goal or higher by Mid-Winter Conference a certificate.

Americanism Chairman James Lastovka read his report.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairmen and National Executive Committeeman Bobby Jackson reported.

Sioux Falls VAVS Representative Brian Kessler gave his report.

Veterans Employment & Education Chairman Mike Monserud gave his report.

Legislative Chairman Dennis Theobald emailed his report and is on file.

Public & Media Communications Chairmen Timothy Zacharias gave his report.

Detachment Commander Alan during his report.

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

Sick Call: Jim Zacharias is having health problems and also Jim's brother Dave Zacharias.

Unfinished business: Adjutant Kessler talked about the Squadrons on the list of closure, and asked those in attendance to talk to the Squadrons or Post on the list and see what their intentions are, if they wish to close, get the contact information for the Post Commander to the Adjutant and he will send them a letter outlining how to close down their Squadron.

Haven't heard from anybody yet on being webmaster.

The District Cookout proposal was set aside for now as members are all too busy to handle this project at this time.

Mike Monserud presented a proposal to change how the Membership Watches are to be presented. Mr. Monserud proposed that the Squadrons be broken down into three categories, based on their Squadron's size. He proposed that the Squadron with the highest percentage of membership in each category receive a watch, with the only exception being those Squadrons with membership less than the 10 members required to charter a squadron not being eligible to win. Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Bob Roseboom, **Palmer**, break the Squadrons into 3 categories based on their membership size at the start of the membership year; Squadrons with 11-25 members category 1, 26-50 members category 2, 51+ members category 3; with the Squadron with highest percentage of membership growth in each category as of June 30 winning an Sons of The American Legion watch, if there is a tie it will go to the Squadron with the most membership; motion carried.

Fifth Grade Flag Essay resolution was updated with Marion Post passing the resolution, it then went to Linn County who passed the resolution and now 2<sup>nd</sup> District must discuss it and approve at their Spring Conference to send it on to the Department Convention for their consideration.

New business: Commander Alan asked for the approval of the DEC to appointment Robert Hill to fill the Vice-Commander position for the remainder of the 2018-2019 year. Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Rick Cross, **Des Moines #731**, to approve Robert Hill as Detachment Vice-Commander 2018-2019, motion carried by ballot vote.

Motion by Gary Bonesteel, **Shellsburg**, seconded by James Lastovka, **Swisher**, to give to Iowa American Legion Foundation a donation of \$50.00 on behalf of Annie Blanchard; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, seconded by James Dean, **Whiting**, to give the Finance Officer the authority to decide whether or not to purchase the online calendar for the Detachment website; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, seconded by Rick Cross, **Des Moines #731** to give \$500.00 to National American Legion Endowment fund; motion carried.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, to give \$1,000.00 to parking lot project at the Department of Iowa Headquarters; motion carried.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Gary Bonesteel, **Shellsburg**, to give \$500.00 to Child Welfare Foundation and the National Emergency Fund at the Spring National Executive Committee meeting; motion carried.

Motion by Rick Cross, **Des Moines #731**, seconded by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, to authorize Commander Schenck to be the representative for Detachment of Iowa at the Washington Conference, motion carried as amended.

Motion by Gary Bonesteel, **Shellsburg**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, to amend the motion to add a \$500.00 expense limit for the Washington Conference; motion carried.

The Detachment discussed the Wall of Honor with it being decided to discuss this with the Iowa American Legion Internal Affairs before moving forward. This was tabled till the Spring Conference, but it was also noted a proposal should be wrote up to move project forward.

No one came forward at the meeting wishing to be on any National Committees, it was noted that anybody wishing to do so had to get the appropriate paperwork to NEC Bobby Jackson by March 31.

District Spring Conference assignments were made with:

1<sup>st</sup> District: April 6<sup>th</sup> at Mount Pleasant – James Lastovka

2<sup>nd</sup> District: April 13<sup>th</sup> at Walcott – James Lastovka

3<sup>rd</sup> District: April 27<sup>th</sup> at Waverly – Alan Schenck

4<sup>th</sup> District: April 6<sup>th</sup> at Oelwein – Alan Schenck

5<sup>th</sup> District: April 27<sup>th</sup> at Richland – Brian Kessler

6<sup>th</sup> District: April 6<sup>th</sup> at Des Moines Post 731 – Joe Cross

7<sup>th</sup> District: March 30<sup>th</sup> at Treynor – Alan Schenck

8<sup>th</sup> District: April 14<sup>th</sup> at Forest City – Bob Rosenboom

9<sup>th</sup> District: April 6<sup>th</sup> at Onawa – James Dean, Brian Kessler

Under the Good of the Sons: Commander Schenck discussed with the Detachment about the National American Legion Commander wanting the Post to do “Buddy Checks” on Veterans in their communities the week of March 11-16. We felt the Detachment could do that too, but also check on our members we haven’t heard from in a while just to show the Squadron still cares.

Motion by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, seconded by Gary Bonesteel, **Shellsburg**, to close the meeting for purposes of discussing personnel issues at 12:00 PM; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Deacon, **Ames**, seconded by Gary Bonesteel, **Shellsburg**, to adjourn the close session at 12:45 PM; motion carried.

The next DEC meeting will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Department/Detachment Headquarters starting at 9:00 AM.

Chaplain Davidson offered the closing prayer, with Commander Schenck closing the meeting in proper fashion at 12:50 PM.

*Brian Kessler*

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Brian Kessler  
Detachment Adjutant  
Sons of the American Legion