



Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Iowa

720 Lyon St.
Des Moines, IA 50309



Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

Des Moines, Iowa

February 3, 2024

Commander James Lastovka opened the meeting in proper fashion at 9:00 AM. Detachment Chaplain Levi Frost offered the opening prayer and Detachment Parliamentarian Michael Deacon stated the rules of the meeting.

Members in attendance were Commander James Lastovka; Vice-Commanders Doug Honse, Daniel Blazek, Steve Colcord; Adjutant Brian Kessler; Finance Officer Steve Malmquist; Sergeant-At-Arms James Dean; Chaplain Levi Frost; Parliamentarian Michael Deacon, Webmaster Bob Rosenboom; National Executive Committeeman Samuel Johnson; Alternate National Executive Committeeman Michael Monserud; Immediate Past Detachment Commander Michael Monserud. Historian Micheal Sypherd Sr. was excused. District Representatives from 1st District, 2nd District, 4th District, 7th District, and 8th District were present. Six Chairman were present, and one was excused; six Past Commanders with one excused; Advisor in attendance were Randy Freel, James Dean, and Gary Quinlan. District Advisors Ken Rochholz, Jeffery Large, Richard Witt, Alan Schenck, Kenneth Fields, and James Dean. There were 2 guests present, thirty-six Squadrons, for a total attendance of seventy.

American Legion National Commander Candidate Dan K. Wiley of Kansas thanked the SAL for all we do for Child Welfare Foundation. Told the Detachment to keep up the fight and stay focused on what we do because we are making a difference in children's lives.

Motion by Kenneth Fields, **Gowrie**, seconded by Steve Malmquist, **Ames**, to approve minutes of October 28, 2023; motion carried.

Motion by Samuel Johnson, **Washington**, seconded by Daniel Blazek, **Nevinville**, to approve minutes of Special Zoom meeting December 30, 2023; motion carried.

Steve Malmquist gave the Detachment Finance report for the 4th quarter (October - December 2023) with a beginning balance of \$17,845.39, total expenses of \$2,751.83, total income of \$12,052.65, leaving a balance of \$24,546.21. With no additions or corrections, the report was placed on file for audit.

Commander Lastovka introduced the guest attending the Conference.

Past National Commander Neal Warnken gave a hello, as he has moved to Iowa, but staying a member of Kansas.

National Vice-Commander Terry Harris (KS) brought greetings from National and spoke of the Be The One Campaign.

American Legion Department of Iowa Commander Stanley Elliott expressed his appreciation for the SAL, and thanked Chaplain Levi Frost for going to his local schools and campaigning for student suicide prevention for which goes hand and hand with our Be The One Campaign.

Liaison with the American Legion/Internal Affairs Randy Freel read his report he gave to the Department

of Iowa Department Executive Committee and is on file.

Richard Witt Fourth District gave his report and is on file. He noted that Rockwell #208 and Decorah #163 should be closed with Decorah sending a letter requesting to be closed.

Randy Freel Sixth District is trying to get Squadron Officers Reports in from the 6th District.

Commander Lastovka and Adjutant Kessler discussed the membership.

Americanism Commission Chairman Daniel Blazek emphasized the Detachment needs to help push the Americanism programs.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Bobby Jackson gave his report and is on file thanked the Detachment for allowing him to do the raffle.

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

Legislative Commission Chairman Doug Honse gave his report and placed on file.

Public and Media Communications Chairman Samuel Johnson gave his report and placed on file.

National Executive Committeeman Samuel Johnson gave his report.

Webmaster Bob said he would get back on the website, he thought he had it cleaned up and noticed that stuff is not coming off.

Sick Call: Past Detachment Commander Dale Hidlebaugh's cancer has returned.

Adjutant Kessler led the DEC through the Squadron Notes. NEC/1st District Representative Samuel Johnson noted he was working on getting a letter from the Post to close the Wellman #427 squadron.

Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to renew the domain name of iowasal.org for \$68.97 for 3 years; motion carried.

Detachment Commander Lastovka gave his report.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Richard Witt, **Oelwein**, to accept all reports as presented; motion carried.

Unfinished business: Ideas were discussed about how to replace the desktop color sets the Detachment use to buy for new Squadrons, with all ideas either being expensive or to hard to implement. It was decided to purchase for the new Squadrons instead a 3'x5' SAL outdoor flag so they could have Squadron colors until they purchased their official Squadron colors. Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Daniel Blazek, **Nevinville**, to order 3'x 5' outdoor SAL flag for new squadrons, and order 10 to start; motion carried.

New business: Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, to give \$50.00 each to the Iowa Foundation in honor of Marlene Valentine (PNC Jim Valentines wife) and Marilyn Kessler (Adjutant Brian Kessler's mother); motion carried.

Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Samuel Johnson, **Washington**, to donate \$500.00 to Child Welfare Foundation; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Samuel Johnson, **Washington**, to donate \$500.00 to National Emergency Foundation; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded by Samuel Johnson, **Washington**, to give \$500.00 donation to The American Legion Children & Veterans Fund; motion carried.

Motion by Mike Monserud, **Ames**, seconded Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, to start a fund with \$2,000.00 for the “Final Salute” program; motion carried.

Discussed National Committee and Commission appointments with everyone being reminded the deadline for submission is March 31, 2024.

Spring District Conference Assignments

1st District: April 13th at Columbus Jct. – Commander James Lastovka

2nd District: April 20th at Blue Grass – Glen Johnson

3rd District: March 30th at Tama – Alt. NEC Michael Monserud

4th District: March 23rd at Oelwein – District Representative/Advisor Richard Witt

5th District: April 20th at Deep River – NEC Samuel Johnson

6th District: April 20th at Cumming – Commander James Lastovka

7th District: March 9th at Glenwood – Vice-Commander Daniel Blazek

8th District: April 6th at Fort Dodge – Alt. NEC Michael Monserud

9th District: April 27th at Holstein – Vice-Commander Doug Honse

Under the Good of the Sons, Commander Lastovka highlighted the notes listed on the agenda.

Jim Peterson reminded everybody to double check with LIT about being in the lifetime insurance.

Past Detachment Commander Ken Rochholz presented Commander Lastovka with his state signs from the National Convention in Charlette, NC.

Adam Houseman from Clarinda announced Fly Iowa is coming to Clarinda and their Red Tail project for youth during the Labor Weekend 2024. He asked for some financial assistance to sponsor the project. The Detachment decided not to financially support the project at this time.

Glen Johnson talked about his daughter’s Veterans Tech Support as a project the SAL could sponsor.

It was noted that Kingsley in the 9th District would like to restart their Squadron that was just closed at the Fall NEC meeting, so they were instructed they must wait one year, before they can re-apply for a charter.

The next DEC meeting will be held on April 28th, 2024, at the Department Headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa starting at 9:00 AM

Chaplain Levi Frost offered the closing prayer, with Commander Lastovka closing the meeting in proper fashion at 12:00 PM.

Brian Kessler

Brian Kessler

Detachment Adjutant

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