



Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Iowa



720 Lyon St.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

Des Moines, Iowa

April 26, 2020

Commander Mike Monserud opened the meeting at 1:36 PM. Detachment Chaplin Trevor Davidson offered opening prayer. Detachment Judge Advocate Mike Deacon stated the rules of the meeting.

Members in attendance were Commander Mike Monserud; Vice-Commanders James Lastovka, James Dean, Mike Etzel, and Gary Bonesteel; Adjutant Brian Kessler; Finance Officer Bob Rosenboom; Chaplin Trevor Davidson; Sergeant-At-Arms Doug Honse; Judge Advocate Mike Deacon; National Executive Committeeman Ken Rochholz; Alternate National Executive Committeeman Jim Valentine; Immediate Past Detachment Commander Alan Schenck. District Representatives from 1st and 4th were present. Three Chairman were present; eight Past Commanders; Advisors in attendance were Randy Freel and James Dean, District Advisors Ken Rochholz, Richard Witt, Randy Freel, and James Dean. There were 15 Squadrons, 3 guests in attendance for a total attendance of 22.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to give District Representatives voice and vote for this meeting; motion carried.

Motion by Gary Bonesteel, **Shellsburg**, seconded by Ken Rochholz, **Durant** to approve minutes of February 15, 2020 as printed; motion carried.

Bob Rosenboom gave the Detachment Finance report for the 1st quarter (January - March 2020) with beginning balance of \$11,681.89, total expenses of \$8,482.94, total income of \$12,122.00, leaving a balance of \$17,671.10. With no additions or corrections, the report was placed on file for audit.

Commander Monserud introduced the guest attending the Conference. Commander James Kessler brought greetings and talked about supporting each other during these tough times. Adjutant Derner brought everybody up to speed on how Covid-19 is affecting Legion programs this spring and summer. Adjutant Derner also talked about how the office and Service Office were operating mostly remotely, but everything was still functioning normally. Detachment Commander Phil Stander of Illinois brought greetings from his Detachment and thanked Commander Mike and Adjutant Brian for allowing him and his Adjutant Jeff Van Horn to join our meeting today and see how it could function.

6th District Advisor Randy Freel reported Marcia had 100% membership ribbons for 2018-2019 year, and had sent them out to the Districts for distribution. 4th District needs Squadron Starter Packets sent to Westgate and Sumner. 1st District is having problems with Wellman getting their membership in, but was trying to correct that.

Commander Monserud lead the discussion on Membership by stating we were 8th in the nation with 100.937%, but we were 6th in the nation for renewals at 88.48%. He noted we were 178

members away from making our 105% target and picking up our 4th Triple Nickel Award. But if you were to look at what it would take to get 100% renewals, we would need 521 members, and according to his calculations there is roughly 337 members still out there.

Americanism Chairman James Lastovka read his report and is on file.

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

Public & Media Communications Chairmen Timothy Zacharias gave his report.

Detachment Commander Mike gave his report.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by James Lastovka, **Swisher**, to accept all reports as presented; motion carried.

Sick Call: PDC Dale Hidlebaugh was noted to have been a little under the weather the beginning of the week with high fever but was recovering and listening in on the meeting.

Unfinished business: Children's Activity Room: Bob said he had talk to Makahla who was going to work on something for next year. No one else had heard any comments about members missing it at Mid-Winter Conference.

The Detachment was presented with a thank you letter from the Department Junior Shooting Sports Committee for the purchase of the time clock.

New business: Motion by Gary Bonesteel, **Shellsburg**, seconded by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, to renew the coverage with Legionnaire Insurance Trust for the 30 Detachment Officers for the price of \$97.20, motion carried.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by James Lastovka, **Swisher**, to order the 3 membership watches, motion carried.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded Richard Witt, **Oelwein**, to approve purchasing 2 Gold Aluminum Adjustable Poles for \$38.95 each from Flag and Emblem Sales for the Detachment colors; motion carried.

Motion by Brian Kessler, **Lake Park**, seconded by Richard Witt, **Oelwein**, to donate \$300.00 to Wreaths Across America for use at Keokuk National Cemetery, Iowa Veterans Home Cemetery, and the Iowa Veterans Cemetery; motion carried.

Commander Monserud, with assistance from the Illinois delegation brought forth an idea to pay the renewals of members that were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. It was noted that several members in Illinois had lost their jobs, or had their hours reduced due to the state being shut down and everybody ordered to stay home. Plus, some member had the virus so they had lost time at work during recovery. Illinois said they had realized due to everything getting canceled they were going to have some money left over in their budget and this is what prompted them looking to cover the dues of the members. They said each Squadron had to nominate what members of their Squadron they wanted to have the dues paid for to their District Commanders by the end of May. Those requests went to the Adjutant who would review them and figure out

which membership they could pay for and which they couldn't (But they noted they were going to try and pay all nominated dues). The DEC discussed that really all we had to cover for this one time was the National dues, forgive the Detachment dues, and it would be up to the Squadron if they still wanted to try and collect their dues or forgive them. Adjutant Kessler & Derner said they would write a letter and have it mailed out to the Squadrons informing them of the idea, but Adjutant Derner said those requests should just come to Detachment and they could handle it in the office. Illinois Adjutant Van Horn said he would email a copy of the letter to both guys to use as a template for Iowa's letter.

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Jim Valentine, **Bondurant**, to pay the National dues of members needing to be renewed that are affected by the Covid-19 pandemic due to job loss, reduced hours or sickness, for one-time only deal, motion carried as amended.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to amend previous motion to be one-time only deal, motion carried.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by Gary Bonesteel, **Shellsburg**, to increase the amount of the gift given to the National Commander and his National Vice-Commander from \$150.00 to ~~\$300.00~~ \$400.00, motion carried as amended. (Operating Structure, page 8, #3)

Motion by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, seconded by Doug Honse, **Rock Valley**, to amend the previous motion to \$400.00, motion carried.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by Bob Rosenboom, **Palmer**, to approve the Detachment Operating Structure as amended for 2020-2021, motion carried.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by Brian Kessler, **Lake Park**, to present the 2020-2021 Detachment budget to the Department Finance Committee and the Detachment of Iowa for their approval, motion carried.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by Jim Valentine, **Bondurant**, to approve the 39th Annual Detachment Convention rules as presented; motion carried.

Adjutant Kessler noted when the Constitution was amended to change the number of elected Vice-Commanders from five (5) to three (3) it was forgotten to amend the Bylaws too. Ames Squadron said they would bring forth a resolution to make the change.

Motion by Ken Rochholz, **Durant**, seconded by Jim Valentine, **Bondurant**, to stay at Department Headquarters for Spring and Fall DEC, motion carried. It was also decided to stay the same weekends, but to check with the DEC 30 days prior if they wanted to meet in person or do it over Zoom.

Under the Good of the Sons: Adjutant Derner noted all the final hurdles had been handled for the headquarters parking lot, they would be losing two spaces and it was going to cost a quarter of a million dollars to fix it. The Department DEC is considering selling the current location and moving.

Squadrons were reminded to get their Member of the Year applications into the Adjutant by June 15th.

The DEC said to send out an email asking if anybody was wishing to get Detachment polos, but please change the color on the next order.

Those wishing to go to Department Leadership school: Brian Kessler. It was also noted to send out an email seeing if anybody else wished to go, but it was noted the date might change so not to get in to big a hurry.

Commander noted he had checks of \$706.00 for NEF and \$1,156.00 for CWF he was going to be mailing in, and if anybody had more money to send in, get it to him ASAP so he could have Department mail them all in together.

The next DEC meeting will be held on July 11th, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport and Conference Center starting immediately following the Detachment Convention.

Chaplain Davidson offered the closing prayer, with Commander Monserud closing the meeting in proper fashion at 3:40 PM.

Brian Kessler

Brian Kessler
Detachment Adjutant
Sons of the American Legion