

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF ILLINOIS
DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FALL MEETING MINUTES
TINLEY PARK SQUADRON #615
17 SEPTEMBER 2011

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Detachment Commander Harl "Butch" Ray.

The Commander appointed Marty Belovicz and J. D. Strum to act as Sergeants-at-Arms for the meeting.

The Colors being in place a salute was rendered.

The Invocation was given by Detachment Chaplain Mike Musil.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by First Division Commander Jim Borgman.

The Commander conducted the POW/MIA ceremony.

The Preamble to the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion was led by Detachment Senior Vice-Commander Jim Hunter.

The Detachment Adjutant J. R. Stillwell conducted the Roll Call (Addendum 1).

The Roll Call determined that there was a quorum present.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Bill Geary, and seconded, that the minutes of the Pre-Convention Executive Committee Meeting, Detachment Convention Sessions 1 and 2 and the Post-Convention Executive Committee Meeting be approved as printed with indicated corrections; passed.

Motion by 11th District Commander Ray Chelmowski, and seconded, to adjourn; rejected.

The Commander appointed Past Detachment Commander Mark Melone - Chairman (Second Division), Past Detachment Commander Mike Sawicki (First Division) and 11th District Sr. Vice Commander Philip Banialis (Second Division) as the Resolutions Committee.

Detachment Audit Committee Report by Jim Hunter, Chairman:
The records are presently with the Department Auditor.

Detachment Finance Officer Bob Tharp gave the Finance Report (see Addendum 2).

He then remarked that when filing Expense Reports you need to use the revised forms. We are required to follow the IRS rules so if you do not file your reports properly you could be subject to having to report your receipts as income. When you travel be sure to fill your tank before you leave (at your expense) and file any gas receipts for purchases on the road and for a fill up immediately upon return home.

Motion by National Executive Committeeman Bill Geary, seconded, to approve the Finance Report subject to audit; passed.

Commission / Committee Reports:

Ad Book Commission, by Mark Friedman:

The Convention book for the last Convention still has a few ad's that have not been paid for. Those advertisers have been contacted and the receipts are being received. The book from the last Convention was discussed. The printing was heavy and the cost was over budget. It was agreed that a new bid should be put out for the next book. Next year 1/8 & 1/4 page advertisement spaces should be available. After some further discussion a motion was made, seconded and adopted to request the Executive Committee to dissolve the Ad Book Commission, effective with this meeting and to create a "Publications Editor", to be appointed annually at the Fall Executive Committee Meeting, to administer the "Ad Book" and that the position be attached to the new "Public Relations Commission".

Motion by the Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

Americanism Commission, by Jim Borgman:

Squadrons need to be encouraged to get involved in: baseball, scouting, Legion shooting program, Boy's State,

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Oratorical contest and Flag education. They should also get involved in the various community 911 programs. Squadrons should also become involved with the "Honor Flight" program, a new flight will be using Willard/CMI airport soon.

Motion by the Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

Children & Youth Commission, by Garrett Slevin, Sr.:

It was decided to do another coin, this year. CWF banners are being awarded to Squadrons, Posts and Units. We have banners available as the proper donation is received. Commander Ray's projects, in the C & Y area, this year is to have Illinois' CWF donation to be at least \$50,000. The other is to have Squadrons and/or individuals "Adopt a Josh". Adoption certifications are available. We need to request a donation of at least \$2,000 for the "Toby Tire" program again.

Motion by the Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

Contest Commission by, Phil Shipley:

The committee will be studying various rules changes and should be able to present these at the next meeting.

Motion by the Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

Finance Commission by, Ed Hudson:

Finance Officer Tharp reported that again last year we had an overrun bill from the Department. The budget, at Department, is \$5,700 and actually \$7,342.23 was spent. We received a bill for the \$1,642.23 and that has been paid from the Overage account. There was a discussion on this year's budget. Finance Officer Tharp reported that we need to do something to balance the "Administrative Account", we annually receive approximately \$7,500, \$.50 per member, and presently the account has been leaved with \$8,800 in possible expenses. Last year we spent \$4,500 on the National Caravan and the Commanders Membership program is authorized up to \$2,500 and the Commander is authorized up to \$1,000 in over budget expenses and the Sr. Vice-Commander is authorized up to \$800 in over budget expenses. Motion by Matt Christie, and seconded, to transfer the \$2,500 Commander's Membership program to a direct Overage account expense; passed. The C & Y Commission requested an advance against profits of \$2,690 to acquire a new version of their coin. Motion by Ed Hudson, and seconded, to approve; passed. C & Y asked that the annual donation of \$2,000 for the Toby Tire program be authorized to be taken from the Overage Funds. Motion by Matt Christie, and seconded, to approve; passed.

Motion by the Vice-Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

The Commander turned the Chair over to the First Division Commander:

Gifts to the Yanks Commission, by Matt Christie:

The cost of mailings was discussed. It was brought up that we use the bulk permit for the mailings. In order to do this we would have to change from a "raffle" to a "sweepstakes". This will be studied and presented at the next meeting.

Motion by the Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

Legislative Commission by, John Jarosz

Senate & House passed separate versions of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs & Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 2055) in mid-summer, there are still some minor differences remaining. American Legion National Commander Fang Wong will testify before the Joint VA Committee on September 21st, may be on C-Span. Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011 authorizes the head of an executive agency to pay the expenses for the presentation of a US Flag for an agency employee who died of injuries sustained which were related to his or her employment. The Legion feels this is inappropriate and detracts from the unique honor bestowed upon deceased service members and veterans. They have expressed their concerns and the action has presently been placed on hold. The House has also acted on (HR 2433) Veterans Opportunity to Work Act, making improvements in the

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laws relating to the employment and training of veterans. (HR 2074) Veterans Sexual Assault Prevention Act, spurred by lack of reporting, security measures and accountability. (HR 2369) to amend the American Legion charter to clarify statutorily the autonomous, independent nature of Post's and Department's. It would also facilitate credit card processing of online membership renewals. (HR 2848) Veteran's Religious Freedom Act, would protect the rights of families of American veterans to worship as they choose when laying their loved ones to rest in our national cemeteries. In Illinois the House has passed 25 bills and the Senate 5 bills and sent them to the Governor. As the Special Secretary of State Committee did not meet we were ask to report that the SAL License plate bill is still in committee.

Motion by the Vice-Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

National Security Commission by, Doug Haberkamp:

As the only member of last year's Commission present, those concerned met and formed themselves as the Acting Commission for this meeting. Jim Borgman was selected to serve as the Acting Chairman and I was selected to act as Secretary for the Acting Commission. The major concern of the Commission was the increasing reliance of China. In 30 years they are projected to be the #1 economy in the world. Of the 17 rarest minerals in the world, last year Chian produced 97% of them. All computer hard drives, TV's, cell phones, cruise missals, night vision goggles, hybrid cars, electric motors, power tools, and wine bottles depend on these minerals.

Motion by the Acting Secretary, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

The First Division Commander returned the Chair to the Commander.

Poppy Commission:
No Report.

S. A. L. Leadership Commission:
No Report.

V. A. & R. Commission Bruno Williamson's report read by the Adjutant

They are working on a cycle fest hopefully at the old Chanute Air Force base in Rantoul for the "Ride to Recovery (R2R)" program. It is my hope that the Commission will approve funds from our account to pay for the bicycle bottle openers that the Commander would like to purchase as a fund raiser for the R2R. There is a need for Hospital Reps at Hines, Jessie Brown and the James Lovell Federated Health Care Center (was North Chicago). We still have approximately 70 "Sonny Bears" and I propose dropping the price to \$10 to get them sold and repay the Detachment the \$495 that they advanced to purchase them. At the FALL DEC it was voted to donate 6 bears each to the Hines and Jefferson Barracks Fisher Houses and to the 3 CMN hospitals in Illinois. The National Golden Age Games will be in St. Louis May 31 - June 5, 2012. This is for veterans 55 and older and the events range from golf, cycling to horse shoes. I have been in contact with members of the Detachment of Missouri, the St. Louis VAMC and our Detachment Commander in hopes that we can work together in providing both volunteer and monetary help. The VSC at the St. Louis VA is looking forward to the Sons helping this year.

The Commander remarked that the bicycle bottle opener/key fob are available in either red or blue for \$3 each.

The Commander made a \$20 donation to the R2R.

Motion by the 8th District Commander Will Pillman, and seconded, to approve the report; passed.

Commander's Advisory Committee by, Secretary Jim Borgman:

The resolution to give prior notice of the subjects to be addressed the be placed on file and referred of the Detachment Convention Resolutions Committee. The Web Master (Garrett Jr.) reported that the website was up and running, very user friendly and in possible contention for top site. Coming soon will be information in monthly mailings and Detachment events captured in photographs. The Commander reminded everyone of his theme "Guided By Tradition" and his projects (CWF, R2R, Josh Dogs). Mark Melone questioned some of the

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mishandling in the administrative processes; however, there has been 3 changes in the administration during this past year.

Detachment Convention Committee, by Garrett Slevin, Sr.:

No Report.

Secretary of State Special Project Committee by, Mark Melone:

No further report as the Legislative Commission reported on its standing.

Public Relations Ad-Hoc Committee by, Mark Melone:

No Report.

Membership & Squadron Activities Committee, by Jim Hunter:

We are ahead of last years membership, but only by 4 members. The First Division is presently in 1st place and the 10th District is the top District. We are doing OK but we need to continue to push to get the cards turned in. There are still too many Districts and Squadrons not certified. We had 146 cards turned in today. The winners of the #1 Pin are: First Division; 8th District; 10th District; 16th District; 19th District and 25th District.

Motion by the Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

Web Master, by Garrett Slevin, Jr.:

Needs the Commander and Vice-Commanders names for the Web Site; he would also like information about Squadron Web Sites so that he can arrange connections.

PUFL Administrator, J. R. Stillwell:

We are receiving applications slowly and there have been some additional interest.

Unfinished Business:

Correspondence:

National Executive Committeeman's Report, by Bill Geary:

He thanked everyone for their support in electing him. He thanked Matt Christie for keeping him in the loop for the last 2 years. The latest National Membership Report shows Illinois at 24% of our goal. The 40th National Convention was held in Minneapolis and I believe everyone had a good time. Our outgoing Commander David Dew (TX) did a great job. The Convention was a celebration another great year. The National Organization did reach its 100% again with 344,000 members. We also reached another all time high in donations to the Child Welfare Foundation. There were many outstanding guests including National Commander Jimmy Foster, the National Auxiliary President, the Honorary National Junior Auxiliary President, candidate for National Commander (now Commander) Fang Wong and Past National Commander Jake Comer. When Past Commander Comer was National Commander (1988) he ask the Legion Family to raise \$1 million dollars for the Child Welfare Foundation and the exceeded that amount. He has attended every SAL Convention since to thank us for our support. George West, Chairman of the SAL Sub-Committee of the Internal Affairs Commission drew some laughs when he remarked that "Dew Done Did it". Also attending were the American Legion Youth Champions (Boys Nation President, Eagle Scout of the Year, Baseball Player of the Year, Oratorical Winner and 2 Shooting Sports Champions) one of the Shooting Sports Champions talked to the Convention from the side of the podium as he said he wanted to be seen. He was 15 and about 4 feet tall. The Convention elected Jim Roberts, of Florida, as the new National Commander and the new National Vice-Commander for our area is John Sansoucie from Missouri. At the Post Convention N. E. C. Meeting, Illinois did well with appointments. We have a Commission Chairman, Bruno Williamson (VA&R); 2 Committee Chairmen, Butch Ray (Homeland Security/Civil Preparedness); Mike Sawicki (Member Training & Development) and 2 Commission Members, Jim Borgman (Americanism) and Jim Hunter (VA&R). The Fall N. E. C. will be held in Indianapolis October 7, 8 & 9. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome. The N. E. C. Meetings are interesting; however, I find the Committee & Commission meeting even more interesting. At the FALL meeting they conduct the National Management Institute (NMI), this is a 3 session - 3 year program, and if you are interested in advancing at the Detachment or National level and would be interested in taking the program please let Commander Butch know.

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Motion by the N. E. C. Bill Geary, and seconded, to approve the report; passed.

Resolutions Committee Report by Chairman Mark Melone:

They had 3 resolutions to consider, all being Hospitality Resolutions. DEC 11-01, to Tinley Park Squadron #615; DEC 11-02, to Tinley Park Post #615 and DEC 11-03, to Tinley Park Unit #615; all recommended for adoption.

Motion by the Chairman, and seconded, to adopt the report; passed.

The Commander presented the resolutions to representatives from the Host Squadron, Post and Unit.

New Business:

Annual Appointments:

The Commander requested the Sergeants-at-Arms to distribute the list of Committee, Commission, Liaison, Promoter and Boy's State Board of Directors appointments (see Addendum 3).

The Commander then nominated Jeff VanHorn to be the Detachment Adjutant, Bob Tharp to be the Detachment Finance Officer, J. R. Stillwell to be the Detachment Assistant Adjutant; Garrett Slevin, Jr. to be the Detachment Web Master and J. R. Stillwell to be the Detachment PUFL Administrator.

Motion by Past Detachment Commander Mike Sawicki, and seconded, to approve the appointments; passed.

The Commander then ask if there were any objections to the list of Committee, Commission, Liaison, Promoter and Boy's State Board of Directors appointments.

Motion by Past Detachment Commander Mike Sawicki, and seconded, to approve the appointments, with the appointment of the Boy's State Board of Directors position subject to final approval of the Boy's State Board; passed.

The Commander requested the Sergeants-at-Arms to distribute the list of Committee and Commission Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen appointments (see Addendum 4).

The Commander then ask if there were any objections to the list of Committee and Commission Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

Motion by 16th District Commander Garrett Slevin, Sr., and seconded, to approve the appointments; passed.

For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion:

Detachment Advisor Bill Flanagan remarked that he is still working on getting calls, or at least letters of meeting announcements, for SAL representatives to the various Legion Committees and Commissions.

The Commander then introduced Larry Moore, Legion Alternate National Executive Committeeman and Chairman of the Department Internal Affairs Commission for a few remarks.

The Commander then introduced Robert Howe, Second Division Commander, for a few remarks.

Donations received at this meeting were:

Wauconda Squadron #911 - \$300.00, Child Welfare Foundation
Wauconda Squadron #911 - \$100.00, National Emergency Fund
Genoa Squadron #337 - \$100.00, Child Welfare Foundation

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Dave Zebell - (fine) - \$10.00, Child Welfare Foundation
Genoa Squadron #337 - \$100.00, Child Welfare Foundation
Genoa Squadron #337 - \$100.00, National Emergency Fund
Genoa Squadron #337 - \$10.00, Ride 2 Recovery
Rantoul Squadron #287 - \$250.00 -
Donation - (fine) - \$10.00, Child Welfare Foundation
Donation - (fine) - \$5.00, National Emergency Fund

Senior Vice-Commander Jim Hunter remarked that there was a list of needed items at Quincy on the sign in table.

Bob Tharp remarked that he has received the new Detachment Color and has given it to the Detachment Commander.

Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Denver Phelps conducted the 50-50 drawing the total pot was \$90.00. The winner was Michael Bachmann and he donated his share to the Ride 2 Recovery.

The Commander called for a moment of silence.

The Detachment Chaplain offered the Benediction.

The Colors being in place, a salute was rendered.

The Commander adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

J. R. Stillwell
Detachment Adjutant