



MINUTES  
 Sons of The American Legion  
 Detachment of Colorado  
 Detachment Executive Committee Meeting  
 Mid-Winter Conference  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Aurora, CO  
 January 21, 2017

**Meeting called to order at:** 1:10 PM

**Opening Prayer:** Chaplain Nick Arceo

**Salute:** Commander Jim Gaddis

**POW/MIA Ceremony:** Commander Jim Gaddis

**Blue Star Banner:** Commander Jim Gaddis

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Nick Arceo

**Preamble:** Ken Yanke

<b>Roll Call of Officers</b>	<b>Officers Present in bold type</b>
NEC	<b>Pete Sierminski (32)</b>
ANEC/Adjutant	<b>Scott Garrett (23)</b>
<b>Commander</b>	<b>Jim Gaddis (1)</b>
<b>Sr. Vice Commander</b>	<b>Ron Noakes (2)</b>
Jr. Vice Commander	Dave Smith (15)           absent
<b>Jr. Vice Commander</b>	<b>Ken Taylor (209)</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Jim Gelwicks (54)</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Nick Arceo (103)</b>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Aaron Valdez</b>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Pierce Hasert (70)</b>
Asst Sergeant-at-Arms	Ken Wederski (23)       excused
<b>Asst Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Ilyas Hasert</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Richard Humphrey (23)</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Rick Kettering (209)</b>
Advisor	Tom Florez (2)           excused
<b>Assistant Adjutant</b>	<b>Ken Yanke (111)</b>

**Roll Call - Past Detachment Commanders (Present in bold type)**

Lionel Sandoval	John Herath	Gary Ray	Ben D. Owens III
Ernie Clark	Michael Moss	<b>Ken Yanke</b>	<b>Rick Baldessari</b>
Steve Kidd	<b>Jim Gelwicks</b>	<b>Mark Kilstrom</b>	Shawn McCrary
<b>Pete Sierminski</b>	<b>Scott Garrett</b>	<b>Mike Kirschner</b>	<b>J.R. Kent</b>

### Roll Call – Squadrons (Present in bold type underscored)

1	<u>2</u>	4	5	6	10	13	15	<u>17</u>	18
19	20	<u>21</u>	22	<u>23</u>	24	28	<u>32</u>	<u>38</u>	39
<u>54</u>	55	58	62	66	67	<u>70</u>	73	75	81
<u>87</u>	89	97	100	102	<u>103</u>	<u>111</u>	113	115	119
151	160	161	170	178	180	187	193	200	203
204	207	<u>209</u>	<u>211</u>	322	1111	1985	<u>1992</u>	2001	2002
2008									

**Distinguished Guest:** Ken Yanke, National Vice Commander, Midwest, Past National Vice Commanders Jim Gelwicks, Rick Baldessari (PN Chaplain) Past National Asst. SGT-at-Arms Pete Sierminski, , Past Dept. Commanders Richard Humphrey, Carol Kennedy, J.R. Kent

**Reading of Minutes:** Adjutant Scott Garrett. Motion by J.R. Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Taylor to accept November 19 Minutes as written. Discussion: Mark Kilstrom asked if the Pufl transfer of \$795.00 was clarified. It was. He then asked if the \$468.00 per diem for Indianapolis was based on past amounts or reflected on current fares. Its based on current fares. In the Americanism report, Squadron #208 should have been #2008. No other discussion. Passed.

### **Correspondence:**

- 1) Thank you letter from Leading Candidate for National Commander Danny Smith for November hospitality.
- 2) Grand Junction Veterans Health Care System thank you for \$150.00 donation.
- 3) Mount Evans Health & Hospice request for donation.
- 4) TAL Legacy Fund thank you for \$200.00 donation.
- 5) Rocky Mountain Hyperbaric Assoc. request for donation.
- 6) USO thank you for \$100.00 donation.

### **Guests:**

Walter Kraus reported that his grandson & daughter were in an auto accident which left his grandson paralyzed below the waist and donations. J.R. Kent made a motion to give a \$300.00 donation of Detachment money. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Humphrey. Discussion: Scott Garrett suggested tabling the motion until a financial report was given. An amendment to the motion, 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rick Baldessari, was to vote contingent upon approval by the Finance Committee. Both motions passed.

Scott Gibson gave a report on the upcoming Western Regional Baseball tournament taking place a Metro State University. He showed off a 100 oz. Silver bar that will be given away thru a raffle. About thirty volunteers are needed to help the tournament succeed. The CALB is hoping to make the Regional tournament a permanent event in Denver.

Carol Kennedy spoke about this year's Boys State. She is asking for assistance from both the SAL & American Legion Riders to promote this years event. She is hoping to recruit 250 boys this year. Carol spoke of the basic requirements for participation, and also the Samsung \$20,000.00 scholarship which can be applied for.

Chris Ward spoke about LegalShield, a program being promoted by The American Legion. Fees are \$19.95 per month and give access to all legal needs. It is also available to members who have small businesses. The American Legion gets a commission from each new member signed up. One stipulation is LegalShield cannot get involved in currently ongoing litigation.

Roger Masse spoke of the upcoming Oratorical Contest. We have four returning contestants this year. Roger is hoping to have at least fifteen contestants on board. The deadline for entry is February 1. The contest will take place on March 11, at Metro State University. Roger asked for Post, Unit, and Squadron donations, and noted that the Past Commanders Club donated \$250.00.

**Senior Vice Commander Report:**

Ron Noakes reported that Squadron #160 seems to be in limbo. Meetings with outlying Squadrons have been erratic as a lot of members are dual members and it is difficult to get a quorum at some of these meetings. Commander Jim expressed shock at Ron's brevity (overwhelming laughter).

**Junior Vice Commanders Reports:**

Ken Taylor visited Squadron #2, Pueblo, and gave a Josh Dog presentation. He also showed a CWF video which he would like to see a little more current. He visited Squadron #1948 at Teletech College in Colo Springs with Commander Jim. Ken has an upcoming visit to Squadron #38 next week, and a visit to Squadron #5 in February.

Dave Smith was absent and did not transmit a report.

**Committee Reports:****Membership:**

Ron Noakes talked about having tee shirts made with SAL logo on the front & "Ask me about membership" on the back. Current membership has passed the January 19<sup>th</sup> 60% goal, but February 8<sup>th</sup> 75% goal is coming quickly. Ron said that Squadron #2 has recruited 15 new members and wants to see 1,000 new members statewide this year.

**Permanent Membership:**

Jim Gelwicks said that the PUFL form is still available on the Detachment website. There is no National Lifetime program. The PUFL fund is over \$40,000.00 and stable. Three new PUFL's came in since November. There is no age factor with Colorado's program as there would be with a National program.

**Finance:**

Jim Gelwicks said the Detachment is in sound financial shape with over \$78,000.00 currently in assets. \$300.00 to aid Walter Kraus's grandson would come from a \$500.00 unrestricted donation availability listed in the proposed budget. There were no changes to the proposed budget requested and the budget will go for a vote under new business. Any & all receipts from the 2016 fiscal year need to be turned in this weekend.

**VA&R:**

Rick Baldessari said the the next VAVS meeting is the first week in February. Volunteer hours have slimmed down recently, partly due to termination of Fisher House volunteering and Ken Wederski's continued poor health. The United Veterans Conference has a dinner scheduled for April 19 with dinner tickets at \$75.00 and ads starting at \$250.00. Rick was reminded that the Detachment no longer has an involvement with the UVC. We still need a representative in Grand Junction and Cheyenne, which services Ft Collins. There were some questions about proper recording of volunteer hours with different facilities.

**Americanism:**

Ron Noakes reported on the success of the shooting booth as a recruiting tool. Tanner Gun Shows donate shooting booth space and tables. Ron's complaint is that there are not enough volunteers for both the booth and recruiting tables. He is working on a short (perhaps ten slides) membership presentation to coincide with using the booth. A Josh Dog presentation is already complete. Baseball, Oratorical, and Boys State had already been discussed.

**Children & Youth:**

Scott Garrett reported that the CVKF & C&Y Awards were not presented at Joint Opening due to the plaques not being finished in time. Winners were not announced because that info could not be obtained from Scott's email due to access issues, two minutes access notice was insufficient. Colorado is currently in 1<sup>st</sup> place regionally, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place nationally for CWF in Per Capita at \$3.38 per capita and \$10,155.00 total donations. Arizona leads the nation in total dollars and per capita both. Total donations to date nationally are \$247,000.00. A new pin, limited to 500 pieces, is available from CWF for \$100.00 each, with the wording "A cut above the rest".

### **Legislative:**

Pete Sierminski gave a list of current legislation pending. Funding for women veterans health care. Alternative treatments for PTSD sufferers. Repeal of unfair offsets that penalize disabled veteran and widows. Support for veteran owned small business. Fully fund a superior national defense. Protect student veterans from predatory schools. Reclassify cannabis for medical research. Support for those caring for veterans. Provide mandatory end of service examinations for reservists. Ensure returning active duty veterans their reemployment rights. Continue funding for homelessness programs. Create an American Legion commemorative coin by the U.S. Mint for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The American Legion. There is also hope that the flag amendment might have a renewed chance of passing with the new administration.

### **Public Relations:**

Mike Moss was not present. Website details will be discussed under Old Business.

### **Detachment Advisor:**

Tom Florez was not present.

Motion to accept Vice Commander & Committee Reports. 1<sup>st</sup> Pete Sierminski. 2<sup>nd</sup> Walter Kraus. No discussion. Passed.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Delegate Strength Resolution was read. Motion to approve. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Gelwicks. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pete Sierminski. Discussion. Mark Kilstrom argued that the resolution cannot originate with the Detachment Commander, therefore the resolution needs to be withdrawn. As the resolution was read at the November DEC, it could be presented with the DEC as originator, but needs 100% approval. Mark brought up Constitution Article VI, Section 5 Conference voting strength rules. Motion to present resolution to the floor. 1<sup>st</sup> Rick Baldessari. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Yanke. 100% approval failed.
2. Code of Convention wording changes based on November motion for changes presented for acceptance. Motion to accept. 1<sup>st</sup> Pete Sierminski. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ron Noakes. Discussion. Amendment to motion to linestrike "Detachment Officer" from Article VIII, Section 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Rick Baldessari. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Kilstrom. Passed. Main motion then passed. Delegate Strength Form revision was presented. Motion to accept. 1<sup>st</sup> Pete Sierminski. 2<sup>nd</sup> Rick Baldessari. Discussion to accept electronic, phone, or text authorization to vote delegate strength was approved. Motion passed.
3. Ken Yanke gave a report on typo's in the Constitution. 9 in Constitution, 27 in By-Laws. Motion to approve typo corrections. 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Yanke. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Noakes. Passed. Rick Baldessari pointed out that his Constitution was perfect and these must be errors by his successor or his successor's computer.
4. Ken Yanke gave a report on the website status. Wes Wills sent a suggestion list of what to include in a new website, but it is unclear if he will design a site due to his health. Mark K suggested a webmaster from Post #38.

### **New Business:**

1. Vote on site for November Awards Banquet. Squadron #209 offered. Motion to accept. 1<sup>st</sup> Ron Noakes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Kilstrom. Passed.
2. Mark Kilstrom reported that the Community Service Award cutoff is April 15.

### **Good of the Sons:**

1. Rick Baldessari has Dual Member pins for \$5.00. Squadron #21 will host a "Wild Game" dinner on Feb 5 prior to the Superbowl.

2. Mark Kilstrom spoke of the need to follow rules in the Constitution.
3. Pete Sierminski will send a letter to National regarding appointments and needs to know who wants an appointment. Pete then introduced Ken Yanke, NVC Midwest.
4. Ken mentioned Commander Frain's "Be a SuperHero" theme about recruiting three new American Legion members. He spoke of the "Knowledge is Power" book and advocated using the "MySAL" website. Only 33% of Squadrons nationally report on the Consolidated Report. Even so, last year saw 1.5 million hours and \$5,528,000.00 reported.
5. Pete asked about our membership renewal postcards sent last year. Six renewals and stacks of returned cards with bad addresses.
6. An email regarding financial planning for the future is promised before the April DEC.
7. Financial assistance is available thru a hardship provision in the budget and could be approved thru electronic voting.
8. Pierce Hasert of Sqd #70 gave a CWF donation that was raised by putting piggy banks and graphics around his Post.
9. Ron Noakes. Young Guns will sponsor a Sweetheart Night at Post #2, Feb 11, with dinner & a show (comedians) \$25.00 per couple, \$15.00 single.
10. Mark Kilstrom. USAA is sponsoring a Junior Achievement fundraiser with the local office & corporate each matching the donations. Event will be a bowl-a-thon in Colorado Springs, Feb 11. A request for a donation is thru the Commanders discretion.
11. Rick Baldessari. Announcement of prospective Detachment officers is expected at April DEC.
12. Knowledge is Power books are available now. Two per Squadron preferably.

Our next meeting will be April 1, 2017, 1:00 PM, at Post #1985, 870 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Firestone, CO 80520 followed by our annual CWF Banquet. SAL National Commander Jeff Frain will be our guest.

**Closing Prayer:** Chaplain Nick Arceo

**Closing:** Commander Jim Gaddis

**Salute:** Commander Jim Gaddis

**Meeting adjourned at 3:54 PM**