



Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Colorado  
Meeting Minutes  
Detachment Executive Committee  
Post #209, Colorado Springs, CO  
November 18, 2017

**Salute:** Commander Jim Gaddis

**Opening Prayer:** Chaplain Trystan Cline

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

**Blue Star Banner:** Commander Jim Gaddis

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Nick Arceo

**Preamble:** Mark Kilstrom

**Meeting called to order at:** 1:20 PM

**Roll Call of Officers:**

NEC	Pete Sierminski (32)	
ALT NEC/Adjutant	Scott Garrett (23)	
Commander	Jim Gaddis (87)	
Sr. Vice Commander	Ron Noakes (2)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Ken Taylor (209)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Nick Arceo (103)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Robert Wall (2)	Absent
Jr. Vice Commander	Aaron Valdez (2)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Robert Jones (28)	Absent
Finance	Jim Gelwicks (54)	
Chaplain	Trystan Cline (209)	
Historian	Rick Kettering(209)	Excused
Judge Advocate	Richard Humphrey (23)	
Assistant Adjutant	Ken Yanke (111)	Excused
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pierce Hasert (70)	Absent
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Ilyas Hasert (70)	Absent
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Ken Wederski (23)	Excused
Detachment Advisor	Shane Hasert (70)	Absent

**Roll Call - Past Detachment Commanders (Present in Bold)**

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

**Roll Call – Squadrons (Present in Bold)**

1	<b><u>2</u></b>	4	5	6	10	13	15	17	18
19	20	<b><u>21</u></b>	22	<b><u>23</u></b>	24	28	<b><u>32</u></b>	<b><u>38</u></b>	39
<b><u>54</u></b>	55	58	62	66	67	70	73	75	81
<b><u>87</u></b>	89	97	100	102	<b><u>103</u></b>	111	113	115	119
134	151	160	161	170	<b><u>178</u></b>	180	187	193	200
203	204	207	<b><u>209</u></b>	<b><u>211</u></b>	322	1111	1976	1985	1992
2001	2002	<b><u>2008</u></b>							

**Distinguished Guest:** National Commander Danny Smith, Past National Commander Mike Moss, Past National Vice Commanders Jim Gelwicks, Rick Baldessari (PN Chaplain), Past National Asst. SGT-at-Arms Pete Sierminski, , Past National Historian Mark Kilstrom, Past Dept. Commander Richard Humphrey, Doug Woodell

**Reading of Minutes:**

Motion to accept July 22, 2017 Minutes as written. 1st Jim Gelwicks, 2nd Ken Taylor, Passed.  
Motion to accept August 20, 2017 Minutes as written. 1st Trystan Cline, 2nd Ken Taylor, Passed.

**Correspondance:** None

**Appointments:** None

**Vice Commanders Reports:**

**Sr Vice Commander Ron Noakes:** Visited Squadrons #38 and #207 where he presented the retired Detachment SAL banner.

**Jr Vice Commanders:**

**Ken Taylor:** Update on Historian Rick Kettering.

**Nick Arceo:** Nick volunteered at the AL Baseball Regional finals, attended National Convention, attended the Americanism conference in Indianapolis, (and was appointed to the National Oratorical contest). He attended a job fair in October, met and arranged an honor guard ceremony for a veterans widow. He received his VAVS certification as an Assistant SAL Representative, visited Post/Squadron #58, attended Districts #4,5,6 Fall Conferences, and participated in a flag raising ceremony. His squadron, #103, has reached 124% membership and 86% renewals.

**Aaron Valdez:** Visited Squadron #207 with Ron Noakes.

## **Committee Reports**

**Membership Ron Noakes:** Several squadrons are over 100%. Ron initiated a membership drive for the Legacy Run and for Veterans Day. Detachment has already exceeded Dec 13<sup>th</sup> goal of 45%.

**Permanent Membership Jim Gelwicks:** Permanent membership is at 200, an all-time high. PUFL fund is at \$48,000.00 +/- \$967.00 to be moved to general fund.

**Finance Committee Jim Gelwicks:** Jim gave overview of proposed 2018 budget.

**VA&R Rick Baldessari:** Thanks, Nick for stepping up as Ken Wederski & Mike Moss are volunteering less due to health issues. Last VAVS meeting was November 2. There is still confusion regarding volunteer access to new VA hospital, whose opening is now August 2018. It will be named VA Rocky Mountain National Center. Volunteers are still needed/wanted. Better tracking of volunteer hours is needed. Next VAVS meeting is February 1. Squadron #21 donated \$375.00 to "RCA."

**Americanism Ron Noakes:** Nick Arceo spoke about Oratorical. Next meeting is Dec 2 at Post #178. Contest is on March 10 at Metro State. Ken on Jr Shooting. Sqd #209 just graduated 12 youths. Eight more have reached Sharpshooter status. A turkey shoot raised \$500.00. New Jr Shooting class to begin in February.

**Children & Youth Scott Garrett:** Squadron #2008 submitted photos of their Child Safety Night from August 1. CWF donations are currently at \$4806.00 or \$1.55 per capita. CVKF, once again a program of Children & Youth Committee under Annette Johnson, is in serious need of donations to stay solvent.

**Legislative Mark Kilstrom:** At The American Legion Convention National Convention President Trump signed into law the GI Bill Forever Act that removes time limitations on veteran's educational benefits and allows veterans to transfer unused benefits to a spouse or child.

The American Legion is opposing sections 706 and 707 of the 2018 Defense Authorization Act which will cause dramatic increases in TriCare premiums.

On Nov 7<sup>th</sup> the House passed HR 2519 which directs the US Treasury to mint an American Legion Commemorative Coin celebrating the 100 year anniversary of The American Legion. The Bill had 385 cosponsors, the most in history of any bill.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the VA released its draft proposal of the Veterans Coordinated Access Rewarding Experience (CARE). The plan is to be more patient centric and allow more opportunities for veterans in rural areas more access to care at civilian clinics and hospitals rather than requiring travel of great distances for Dr. visits and treatment.

**H.R. 1181**, the *Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act*, introduced by Chairman Phil Roe, M.D., would prohibit the Department of Veterans Affairs from considering any beneficiary who is assisted by a fiduciary as "mentally defective" without a magistrate or judicial authority ruling that the beneficiary is a danger to themselves or others.

**Public Relations Trystan Cline:** Darrell Myers wants/needs articles from the SAL. Trystan says we need to promote ourselves more, such as thru Operation Bearhug.

**Commander Gaddis:** Barring any objections (there were none) all Vice Commander & Committee reports are accepted.

**Guests:** NEC Pete Sierminski introduced SAL National Commander Danny Smith. Danny stated that communications is being emphasized at the national level, specifically aimed at committee/commission chairmen and regional vice commanders. He requested support for the National Endowment Fund & National Emergency Fund. He is optimistic about the newly appointed SAL Liaison & National Adjutant, changing at the same time. He spoke of recruiting new members & encouraging retaining them as well.

**Commander Gaddis** spoke of his travels to the Fall Conferences, promoting the Triple Nickel Award. We currently have two new squadron charters and three more very promising prospects: Palisade #50, Brush #68, and Wray #30. Membership numbers are good, so getting new squadrons is the most difficult issue.

**Unfinished Business:**

- 1) Membership. Already discussed. Nothing to add.
- 2) Website: Up & running. Don't confuse with the old outdated website. Calendar is currently down due to gremlins. Scott Garrett is website administrator, but not handling Facebook. Trystan will take over Facebook and fill in for Rick Kettering as Historian.
- 3) Adjutant correspondence: Emails were being blocked by Yahoo & others. Situation more or less resolved. Emails now are fewer with more content and should stay this way. Most info available on website.

**New Business:** Budget motions.

Motion to move \$967.00 to General Fund. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Gelwicks. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Noakes. Passed.

Motion to adopt draft budget approved by finance committee. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Gelwicks. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Noakes. Passed.

Motion to approve per diem to Indianapolis to maximum of \$685.00. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Gelwicks. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pete Sierminski. Passed.

**Special Presentations:** Jim Gelwicks presented \$400.00 check to Squadron #209 for hosting Awards Banquet.

**Good of the Sons:**

- 1) Gunnison is working on a proposal to host 2019 Colorado State Convention.
- 2) Jr Shooting instructors class will be held Nov 24-26 at Post #2, Pueblo. Cost \$125.00
- 3) Squadron #209 has a book made by Facebook with posts & pictures from last few years. Cost \$50.00
- 4) Dec 2. Old Golden Christmas Parade. Rick Baldessari as a dignitary (Grand Marshall??)
- 5) CWF piggies are available for distribution.
- 6) Veterans Employment & Education Committee to be new (ad hoc) Detachment committee. Scott Garrett to chair.
- 7) Reminder. Squadron #38 will host 2018 CWF Banquet with silent auction. No used ducks or duck hats, please.

Next Meeting will be Saturday, January 27, 2018, 1:30 PM, at Post #161, 6230 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Ave., Arvada, CO 80003. This will follow Mid-Winter Conference Joint Opening at 8:30 AM, Children & Youth breakfast at 7:00 AM (price TBD) at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5455 Olde Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO. Past Commanders lunch is at Hilton Garden Inn 12:00-1:15 PM. No lunch will be served at the Post.

**Closing Prayer:** Trystan Cline

**Closing -** Commander Jim Gaddis

**Retirement of the Colors:** Richard Humphrey

**Salute**

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.

