



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Colorado
Meeting Minutes
Detachment Executive Committee
Post #161, Arvada CO
January 27, 2018

Salute: SR Vice Commander Ron Noakes

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Trystan Cline

POW/MIA Ceremony: SR Vice Commander Ron Noakes, placed by acting SSA Aaron Valdez

Blue Star Banner: SR Vice Commander Ron Noakes

Pledge of Allegiance: JR Vice Commander Nick Arceo

Preamble: Tommy Patton

Meeting called to order at: 1:51 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)	Excused
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)	
Finance	Jim Gelwicks (54)	
Chaplain	Trystan Cline (209)	
Historian	Rick Kettering(209)	Excused
Judge Advocate	Richard Humphrey (23)	Excused
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pierce Hasert (70)	Absent
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Ilyas Hasert (70)	Absent
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Ken Wederski (23)	
Detachment Advisor	Shane Hasert (70)	Absent

Roll Call - Past Detachment Commanders (Present in Bold)

Lionel Sandoval
Ernie Clark
Steve Kidd
Pete Sierminski
Jim Gaddis

John Herath
Michael Moss
Jim Gelwicks
Scott Garrett

Gary Ray
Ken Yanke
Mark Kilstrom
Mike Kirschner

Ben D. Owens III
Rick Baldessari
Shawn McCrary
J.R. Kent

Roll Call – Squadrons (Present in Bold)

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	6	10	13	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>	18
19	20	<u>21</u>	22	<u>23</u>	24	<u>28</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>38</u>	39
<u>54</u>	55	58	62	66	67	70	73	75	81
<u>87</u>	89	97	100	102	<u>103</u>	<u>111</u>	113	115	119
134	151	160	161	170	<u>178</u>	180	187	193	200
203	204	207	<u>209</u>	<u>211</u>	322	1111	1879	<u>1976</u>	1985
1992	2000	2001	2002	2008					

Distinguished Guest: Past National Commander Mike Moss, Past National Vice Commanders Ken Yanke, Jim Gelwicks, Rick Baldessari (PN Chaplain), Past National Sgt-at-Arms Mike Kirschner, Past National Asst. SGT-at-Arms Pete Sierminski, , Past National Historian Mark Kilstrom, Past Dept. Commander Doug Woodell

Guests: Two members of ALA Juniors sold air freshener bags to raise funds for Dept Commander & President projects.

Reading of Minutes: Motion to accept November 18, 2017 Minutes as written. 1st Rick Baldessari. 2nd Ron Noakes. Passed.

Correspondance:

Request for donations from Mount Evans Home Health Care & Hospice, USO (8x).

Thank you's from TAL Endowment Fund (\$100.00), Colo Veterans Community Living Center, TAL Legacy Scholarship Fund (\$250.00).

Thank you letter from National Commander Danny Snith, re: his November visit.

CWF letter w/ bronze award to Sqd #211.

Appointments: None

Vice Commanders Reports:

Sr Vice Commander Ron Noakes:

Due to my health I have not been able to attend the Squadron meetings like I would like. I have attended Squadron 39 once, Squadron 207 once, as well as Squadron 2 meetings. I have been able to attend some other functions at different Posts and Squadrons. Just to let everyone know we are there for them.

Jr Vice Commanders:

Ken Taylor:

Squadron 209 held a Young Guns graduation and awards pizza party on November 9, 2017. Twelve students graduated the gun safety and basic Marksmanship class.

Completion certificates and top shot awards were handed out. Seven shooters advanced in the NRA Marksmanship course and received their certificates. Squadron 209 has a new class starting February 15, 2018 with 10 students enrolled at this time.

On December 12, 2017 I attended the Post 2 Young Guns Awards dinner where Certificates were handed out to several Marksmanship students. Their next class has already started.

On December 3, 2018, Post 2008 graduated their first class of 3 students. I don't believe their next class has been scheduled yet.

Nick Arceo: Post & Squadron #103 made Christmas bags and presented them to the Psychiatric ward at the VA hospital for patients unable to leave the facility. Nick attended "Reach Across America" on December 2. He took part in three Color Guard presentations at Dakota Ridge H.S.

Aaron Valdez: Attended the Jr Shooting Awards and Christmas party at Post #2.

Robert Jones: No report

Committee Reports

Membership Ron Noakes:

We ended the 2017 membership year with 3169 members.

So far for 2018, we are at 2293 members, or 72.36% . We passed our January goal for National of 67.12%.

The next goal is set at 75% for February 14. That is 84 more members. Our Detachment goal was 90% by January 19 and 100% by March 13.

At the time of this report the following Squadrons have reached 100% or more.
6, 15, 38, 39,87, 97, and 103

100% Renewal: 6, 54, 62, 66, 81, 87, 160, and 1976.

An Individual Recruitment Award Is presented to any member who recruits 5 new members Into the Sons of The American legion and fills out the IRA form and sends It Into their Regional Membership Committeeman. This Is a great program to recognize membership recruitment on the Squadron.

Permanent Membership Jim Gelwicks: PUFL membership is steady at 200. PUFL app is available on the website. \$967.00 was transferred from the PUFL account to the general fund to pay National dues. Three squadrons, #21, 38, 209 requested & received their squadron reimbursements.

Finance Committee Jim Gelwicks: Currently \$73,500 in assets, \$1,500.00 in equipment, the rest in cash. About \$53,000.00 is in encumbered assets, VA & R account, PUFL CD's, etc. 2018 budget was approved at Nov 18 meeting. Adjutant is spending much less on printing since working out of Dept HQ. 2018 travel to Indianapolis is \$685.00. A change to the finance policy to come up under New Business.

VA&R Rick Baldessari: VAVS meeting on Feb 1. VA Hospital Director spoke at Past Commanders lunch. New hospital set to open August 11, 2018. Volunteers needed at both old & new hospitals. Old hospital will remain open for the near future. VA & R committee will present ideas for donations at State Convention.

Americanism Ron Noakes:

Shooting Sports: The Young Guns Junior Shooting Sports program at Post 2,209, and 2008 have all reported great things, 2008 has graduated its first class. 209 Is in the middle of a class and 2 is also in the middle of a Class. In December Post 2 held the annual Young Guns Awards Party. The guest speaker was Senator Garcia. Also in attendance was the Department Commander, Terri Clinton, Detachment Commander Jim Gaddis, and Auxiliary State President Ann Ritacco. It was a great awards party and dinner.

Boys State: Recruitment for Boys State Is In full swing.

Oratorical Contest: Nick Arceo gave date/location, March 10 at Metro State University. Next Oratorical meeting is Feb 24, 9:00 AM, Post #178, Lakewood. Roger Masse, Chairman said volunteers and judges still needed. Financial support also needed.

Baseball: Team sponsors are needed. Try contacting high school coaches. Colorado will again host the Western Regional Semi-finals week of August 6.

Boy Scouts: Tommy Patton, Sqd #38 spoke about an Eagle Scout project involving building a Flag Retirement Container. Eagle Scout of the Year nominations are due by March 1.

Children & Youth Scott Garrett: Annette Johnson took over as chairperson in June and C & Y committee is now focused on the overall picture, not solely on CVKF. CVKF financial. 2017 saw \$2,017.00 in donations and \$14,277.00 in expenditures. Current balance is \$13,700.00. Donations are seriously needed. Colorado Veterans Assistance Fund is no longer giving assistance as it is broke. CWF report from Jan 26. Colorado has raised \$5,156.00, \$1.63 per capita, to date. Sqd #103 presented a check for \$5,200.00.

Legislative Mark Kilstrom:

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2018 was signed into law by President Trump yesterday. The NDAA gives service members their largest pay raise in eight years, modernizes defense equipment, and funds all aspects of national defense. Defense development on the space front will increase national security and protect our interests internationally. The focus on national security in space is crucial and worth the necessary funds.

Congressman Dough Lamborn introduced the Veteran's Empowerment Act in late November to give veterans the freedom to choose between care from VA facilities or from civilian physicians. It takes the decision away from the bureaucracy and gives it solely to the veteran.

The United States Mint hosted a ceremonial strike of the 2018 World War I Centennial Silver Dollar honoring the 100th anniversary of American participation in World War I. The \$10 surcharge collected on the sale of this historic coin will assist in building the new national World War I memorial in Washington D.C. May we never forget the heroism and sacrifice of so many.

H.R. 1181, the *Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act*, which 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 passed the house without amendment and is item 21 on the Senate calendar.

On Dec. 7, The American Legion and several other veterans service organizations sent a letter to U.S. Senate leadership, urging passage of **S. 2193**, the Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017. The legislation would build on current community care programs by putting an end to arbitrary standards for when veterans may receive community care and by consolidating the disparate community care programs into one program. The intention is to remove confusion over when and how veterans can access community care doctors, and ensure VA remains the coordinator of care for veterans regardless if care is delivered at VA medical facilities or through community care providers.

The American Legion testified before Congress on Dec. 13 during a hearing at the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., about the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pre-discharge programs for separating servicemembers.

A Legion spokesman said servicemembers found unfit to continue service, for a condition that is not stable enough to assign a permanent rating, will end up on TDRL. If the individual is retired and is transitioned out of service, they will be required to undergo periodic examinations by DoD to see if the condition has improved, worsened or become stable enough to assign a permanent rating.

"The agreement and spirit of IDES is that DoD would stay out of the rating business and leave the decision to VA," he said. "The American Legion believes that DoD is violating the principles of IDES and should not be conducting ratings."

Guest: Western Region National Vice Commander Paula Stephenson gave greetings & salutations from Utah and National Commander Denise Rohan. She spoke at length with emphasis on Family First.

Public Relations Trystan Cline: Website up and running. See Scott Garrett for more info. Trystan spoke with Sqd #1879 Commander about reaching out to the younger generation. Make sure that people know that we are here. He mentioned the new Colorado American Legion Press Association.

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

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Motion to correct a math error in 2018 budget. 1st Jim Gelwicks. 2nd Ron Noakes. No discussion. Passed.
- 2) Ken Yanke presented a \$1,100.00 check left over from NVC expenses. Money to return to National Candidate Fund.
- 3) Question arose as to whether a new Detachment pin was in the works. (Not at this time.)

New Business:

- 1) Squadron #1 presented a resolution (attached) or approval and forwarding to National. Motion by Dan Szelkowski. 2nd Trystan Cline. After discussion, a voice vote was not conclusive. A show of hands was questioned by Mark Kilstrom who argued that the Detachment Constitution required a roll call vote. Judge Advocate was unavailable to clarify. Roll call results 15 for, 95 against. Resolution failed.
- 2) Site selection for November 2018 Awards Banquet & DEC. Sqds #2 & #32 volunteered. Voice vote went to Sqd #32.
- 3) Finance policy revision (attached) was recommended by the finance committee. Motion to approve by the meeting body. 1st Jim Gelwicks. 2nd Ron Noakes. Discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

Special Presentations: Commander Jim presented Nick Arceo with \$750.00 from Detachment to Oratorical Committee.

Good of the Sons:

- 1) Announcement of candidates for 2018-19 Detachment office. Tommy Patton, JR Vice. Aaron Valdez, JR Vice. Trystan Cline, Chaplain.
- 2) Announcement of attendees for Commander Danny Smith Homecoming. Pete Sierminski, Ken Yanke, Mike Moss, Ron Noakes, Jim Gelwicks, Mike Kirschner, Jim Gaddis, Scott Garrett.
- 3) More CWF piggies available for distribution.
- 4) Reminder of the CWF Banquet & DEC at Sqd #38, Security, on April 7. Scheduled guest is Leading Candidate for National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs.
- 5) Mark Kilstrom requested a \$100.00 donation to the Junior Achievement of Southern Colorado Bowl-a-thon. Motion by Mark Kilstrom. 2nd Trystan Cline. Passed.
- 6) Nick Arceo suggested laying a Detachment wreath at Washington DC Conference. Motion by Rick Baldessari. 2nd Mark Kilstrom. Passed. \$150.00 cost to come from VA & R account. Nick to determine which memorial will get the wreath.

Next Meeting will be Saturday, April 7, 2018, time TBD, at Post #38, 6685 Southmoor Dr., Fountain, CO 80817. CWF Banquet to follow.

Closing Prayer: Trystan Cline

Closing - Commander Jim Gaddis

Retirement of the Colors: Aaron Valdez

Salute

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Finance Policy Revision

J. A Colorado Squadron member can lose his Detachment travel reimbursement/per diem privileges. Failure to follow policies, attend meetings or adhere to Department/Detachment conduct expectations can result in the loss of Detachment travel payments.

a) The Detachment Commander, National Executive Committeeman, Adjutant, or Finance Officer may initiate restrictions on a member in consultation with the other officers. The restrictions time period shall not exceed five (5) years. The Detachment Adjutant shall write a letter to the member informing him of the reasons for the loss of privileges and restrictions.

b) The member can appeal his restrictions to a regularly scheduled Detachment Executive Committee meeting. The Detachment Executive Committee decision (uphold, remove or modify) is final.

Squadron #1 Resolution wording

Changing the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

Whereas the preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion states

”to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the great wars; and

Whereas the “Great Wars” are really in reference to World War One and World War Two, and

Whereas there have been other wars and conflicts, and

Whereas many veterans might fell they are being left out,

Therefore, it be resolved that the words “and other wars and conflicts” be add to the Preamble of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

