



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Colorado
Meeting Minutes
Detachment Executive Committee
Post #38, Security, CO
April 7, 2018

Salute: Commander Jim Gaddis

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Trystan Cline

POW/MIA Ceremony: Commander Jim Gaddis, apron placed by Richard Humphrey

Blue Star Banner: Commander Jim Gaddis

Pledge of Allegiance: Nick Arceo

Preamble: Ken Yanke

Meeting called to order at: 12:44 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)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Aaron Valdez (2)	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Robert Jones (28)	
Finance	Jim Gelwicks (54)	
Chaplain	Trystan Cline (209)	
Historian	Rick Kettering(209)	Excused
Judge Advocate	Richard Humphrey (23)	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pierce Hasert (70)	Excused
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Ilyas Hasert (70)	Excused
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Ken Wederski (23)	Excused
Detachment Advisor	Shane Hasert (70)	Excused

Roll Call - Past Detachment Commanders (Present in Bold)

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

Roll Call – Squadrons (Present in Bold)

1	<u>2</u>	4	5	6	10	13	15	17	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	178	180	187	193	200
203	204	207	<u>209</u>	<u>211</u>	322	1111	1879	1976	1985
1992	2000	2001	2002	2008					

Distinguished Guests: Leading Candidate for National Commander Greg (Doc) Gibbs, Past National Commander Mike Moss, Past National Vice Commanders Ken Yanke, Jim Gelwicks, Past National Sgt-at-Arms Mike Kirschner, Past National Asst. SGT-at-Arms Pete Sierminski, , Past National Historian Mark Kilstrom, Past Dept. Commanders Doug Wooddell, Richard Humphrey.

Guests: None

Reading of Minutes: Motion to accept January 27, 2018 Minutes as written. 1st Ken Taylor. 2nd Mark Kilstrom. Passed.

Correspondance:

- 1) Request for donations from USO (4x).
- 2) Rick Kettering emailed that he will not continue as Historian after this year.

Appointments: None

Vice Commanders Reports:

Sr Vice Commander Ron Noakes: No visitations due to health issues.

Jr Vice Commanders:

Ken Taylor:

Detachment Historian Rick Kettering is still having health issues since his fall last November. He has lost weight and is doing fair physically, but is still having issues with his memory. He doesn't have a lot of stamina and is limited in what he can do. The Young Guns at Post 209 will graduate 12 Junior Shooters on April 12, 2018. Nine participants advanced in the NRA Marksmanship Program. On April 14th and 15th, 2018, Squadron 209 will be using the B.B. Gun Range at the AR Event Center in Colorado Springs. We will be promoting Junior Shooting and recruiting new members for the Legion Family. Squadron 209 visited the Veterans at Laurel Manor Care Center on March 19, 2018. They were presented certificates of appreciation for their Military Service and small flags with stands to display in their room.

Squadron 209 presented Josh Dogs to St Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs on March 29, 2018. We were able to visit with two children of Veterans and give Josh to them, while eight more were left with the Hospital for the needs of future children.

Nick Arceo:

- Attended the VAVS Committee meeting @VA
August 11th, grand opening ceremony
Coming, a new Castle Rock facility
The new PTDS clinic is 2 years out, will have 20 + beds, concern with the female Vets, this has been addressed
No popcorn sales at the new facility, in 2017 this produced \$51,000. In sales, this is a big concern
Please no more big donations, small items only
On February 12th Bronco great Randy Gradishar will be on site singing autographs
- Conducted a membership drive, front of King Soopers front, spoke to several Vets, collected names for potential membership to the Legion Family, also assisted Vets with help getting their medical benefits
- Accompanied Commander Gaddis to a post visit in Elizabeth #82, presentation on starting a Squadron
- Participated in 2 Color guards
- Attended the American Legion Washington Conference, visited all Memorials, participated in the wreath laying, witnessed the changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown, attended the ceremony of National Commander Danny Smith laying his wreath at the tomb of the Unknown
- Capital Hill visit
- Oratorical contest, very successful contest this year, here are the winners
 - 1) Kidus Zelalem, post 1864 Parker, Smoky Hill HS Junior
 - 2) Tabitha Jeub, post 9-11 Monument, Home School, Senior
 - 3) Vincent Nowak, post 178 Lakewood, Golden View HS, Senior
 - 4) Matt Logan, post 13 Canon City, Canon City HS, Junior

Robert Wall: No report.

Aaron Valdez: Not present.

Robert Jones: No report.

Committee Reports

Membership Ron Noakes: All target dates to date, including 90% on April 11 have been met. 100% date is May 9, and 105% is July 25, also the cutoff date for Triple Nickel goals. Possible new squadrons include Central City, Brush, Wray, Elizabeth, and Bailey.

Permanent Membership Jim Gelwicks: PUFL membership is 200. He gave the formula for the dues. Application is on the website.

Finance Committee Jim Gelwicks: Financial position. Checking \$22,556.24. Petty cash \$82.98. Savings \$48,083.60. Total \$70,722.82.

VA&R Rick Baldessari: Not present.

Americanism Ron Noakes: Squadron #209 is going to graduate 12 junior shooting kids. Post/Squadron #2 has two girls competing in ROTC shooting. One girl placed 13th nationally. Nick reported on Oratorical. No baseball update. Tommy Patton told of the great job being performed by their post sponsored Boy Scout troop. Trystan will have a Boys State report following the April 14 meeting.

Children & Youth Scott Garrett: Colorado Veterans Kids Fund year to date income \$3,799.91. Expenses \$3,400.00. Current balance not available. CFW Colorado donations to date \$10,388.14. Banquet income later.

Legislative Mark Kilstrom:

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act was signed into law last October by President Donald Trump. This legislation requires the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue gold, silver and half-dollar clad coins in celebration of the centennial of The American Legion, for one year, beginning in January 2019.

The American Legion will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court a lower court's ruling that a 40-foot-tall cross erected as a war memorial on state-owned land in Bladensburg violates the constitutional separation of church and state

The \$700 billion National Defense Authorization Act, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Pikes Peak National Cemetery, the Veterans Empowerment Act, and more.

On March 14, The American Legion sent a letter of support to Rep. Steve Knight (CA), giving our organization's support for H.R. 5177, entitled the Encouraging Veteran Employment Act of 2018. The legislation will amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to award a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans. [Resolution #316]

On March 14, The American Legion sent a letter of support to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (MA), giving our organization's support for draft legislation entitled the Service members. Improved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress (SIT-REP) Act. In order for a school or training program to be eligible for GI Bill benefits, the school must adopt a policy that disallows them from imposing a late fee, denial of access to facilities, or other penalty due to a late payment from VA. [Resolution #318]

On March 19, The American Legion sent a letter of support to Sen. Richard Burr (MA), giving our organization's support for draft legislation designating April 5, 2018 as "Gold Star Wives Day." The proposed legislation recognizes the work of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., and their dedication to service, support, and friendship to the spouses of fallen service members and veterans.

Update on Flag Amendment Bill

The American Legion is continuing its efforts to protect the American flag in the 115th Congress. As he did in the previous Congress, Rep. Steve Womack (AR) re-introduced a flag protection constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 61. The measure currently boasts 27 co-sponsors. On Flag Day, Sen. Steve Daines (MT) introduced a Senate companion measure, Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 46 in that chamber. The amendment currently has 13 cosponsors.

Public Relations Trystan Cline: Colorado American Legion Pres Association (COALPA) is open to all American Legion family members. This years dues is \$20.00.

Motion to accept reports. 1st Mark Kilstrom, 2nd Trystan Cline, passed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- 1) Detachment Constitution is not in adherence with Department Constitution regarding voting procedures at Mid-Winter Conference. After explanation & discussion, a committee consisting of Richard Humphrey, Chairman, Mark Kilstrom, Ken Yanke, Scott Garrett will compare constitutions and present a resolution to make necessary changes. Motion to make this a Convention Committee was made by Pete Sierminski, 2nd Mike Kirschner, passed with no further discussion.
- 2) Motion to donate \$500.00 to Doc Gibbs campaign, 1st Mike Moss, 2nd Mark Kilstrom, passed with no discussion.
- 3) Motion to donate \$500.00 to Ilyas Hasert recovery fund, 1st Jim Gelwicks, 2nd Pete Sierminski. \$200.00 to be moved from travel fund. Passed with no further discussion.

Special Presentations: None

Good of the Sons:

- 1) Pete Sierminski introduced Greg (Doc) Gibbs, Leading Candidate for National Commander. Doc spoke of his Colorado connection, having been a NVC under Mike Moss, and having Pete running for NVC Midwest. He then spoke of his father's military service. Doc's theme for next year is "Honoring the Past—Continuing the Legacy".
- 2) Announcement of candidates for Detachment officers 2018-19 year:
 - Ron Noakes Commander
 - Nick Arceo Sr Vice Commander
 - Tommy Patton Jr Vice Commander
 - Trystan Cline Chaplain
 - Scott Garrett NEC
- 3) Sqd #111 donated \$100.00 to Ilyas Hasert recovery fund.
- 4) Sqd #2 donated \$???.?? To National Emergency Fund
- 5) Mayor Gelwicks, Gunnison, read a proclamation to make March 29 "Viet Nam Veterans Recognition Day".
- 6) Trystan Cline mentioned an event at CSU, Fort Collins on April 22 to raise funds & awareness for "Operation Bearhug", Commander Clinton's project, and displayed a commemorative tee shirt.
- 7) A picture is still needed for the website homepage.
- 8) Squadron packets are available for pickup.

Next Meetings will be Pre-Convention meeting Friday, June 22, 2018, 1:00 PM, Hotel Elegante, 2886 S. Circle Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80906, and Detachment Convention meeting, Saturday, June 23, 2018, at 9:00 AM, same location.

Closing Prayer: Trystan Cline

Closing - Commander Jim Gaddis

Retirement of the POW/MIA apron: Richard Humphrey

Salute

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 PM.