



Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Colorado  
Meeting Minutes  
Detachment Executive Committee  
Doubletree Hotel, Greeley, CO  
January 26, 2019

**Salute:** Commander Ron Noakes

**Opening Prayer:** Chaplain Trystan Cline

**POW/MIA Ceremony:** Commander Ron Noakes, apron placed by Teddy Kuntz & Richard Humphrey

**Blue Star Banner:** Commander Ron Noakes

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Aaron Valdez

**Preamble:** Nick Arceo

**Meeting called to order at:** 1:35 PM

**Roll Call of Officers:**

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| NEC/Adjutant       | Scott Garrett (23)        |
| ALT NEC            | Ken Yanke (111)           |
| Commander          | Ron Noakes (2)            |
| Sr. Vice Commander | Nick Arceo (103)          |
| Jr. Vice Commander | Aaron Valdez (2)          |
| Jr. Vice Commander | Robert Jones (28)         |
| Finance            | Jim Gelwicks (54)         |
| Chaplain           | Trystan Cline (209)       |
| Historian          | Jacob Langley (38)        |
| Sergeant-at-Arms   | Teddy Kuntz (1985)        |
| Asst. Sgt-at-Arms  | Ken Wederski (23) Excused |
| Judge Advocate     | Richard Humphrey (23)     |
| Detachment Advisor | Richard Humphrey (23)     |
| Voting PDC         | Mike Moss (21) Excused    |
| Voting PDC         | Steve Kidd (1985)         |

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

Lionel Sandoval

John Herath

Gary Ray

Ben D. Owens III

Ernie Clark  
**Steve Kidd**  
Pete Sierminski  
**Jim Gaddis**

Michael Moss  
**Jim Gelwicks**  
**Scott Garrett**

**Ken Yanke**  
Mark Kilstrom  
Mike Kirschner

**Rick Baldessari**  
Shawn McCrary  
J.R. Kent

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

|                  |                    |                  |      |                  |                   |                   |                   |                  |      |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------|
| 1                | <b><u>2</u></b>    | <b><u>4</u></b>  | 5    | 6                | 10                | 13                | 15                | <b><u>17</u></b> | 18   |
| 19               | 20                 | <b><u>21</u></b> | 22   | <b><u>23</u></b> | 24                | <b><u>28</u></b>  | 32                | <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  | 101              | 102               | <b><u>103</u></b> | <b><u>111</u></b> | 113              | 115  |
| 119              | 134                | 151              | 160  | 161              | 170               | <b><u>178</u></b> | 180               | 187              | 193  |
| 200              | 203                | 204              | 206  | 207              | <b><u>209</u></b> | <b><u>211</u></b> | 322               | 1111             | 1879 |
| 1976             | <b><u>1985</u></b> | 1992             | 2000 | 2001             | 2002              | 2008              |                   |                  |      |

**Distinguished Guests:** Past National Vice Commanders Ken Yanke, Jim Gelwicks, Rick Baldessari (PN Chaplain), Past Dept. Commanders Richard Humphrey.

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion to accept July 28, 2018 Minutes as written. 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Valdez, Passed.

**Appointments:** None

**Correspondence:** USO request for donation 2x.

**Vice Commanders Reports:**

**Sr Vice Commander Nick Arceo:** Post/Squadron #103 held a membership drive at Ace Hardware. The first Oratorical meeting was held at Post #178. Post #103 conducted a DMS drive. Post/Squadron #103 donated 32 gift bags to hospitalized veterans for Christmas.

**Jr Vice Commanders:**

**Aaron Valdez:** No report.

**Robert Jones:** Collected bears for the Teddy Bear Drive. Squadron #75 Cortez is having membership issues. Bob would like the Detachment Commander & Adjutant to attend the District Spring Conference.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership: Nick Arceo.** January 23 report puts the detachment at 1,842 members, 56.76%. We are lagging behind last year. There is a Citation of Achievement Certificate for squadrons reaching 100% by March 15, The American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Commander Ron has a goal of 4,000 members. A question was asked about online renewals for SAL. Nothing from National on this yet.

**Permanent Membership: Jim Gelwicks.** Regarding the expected dues increase from National, our current bank account is \$49,000.00 for 196 PUFL members.

**Finance Committee: Jim Gelwicks.** This year's per diem to Indianapolis is \$645.00. The budget change for Commander/Adjutant lodging for MidYear & Convention has yet to be written into the Finance Policy. The Detachment finances are solvent.

**VA&R: Nick Arceo.** Next VAVS meeting is February 7. Popcorn sales at the VA hospital are doing well. Dual membership pins are available for \$5.00.

### **Americanism:**

**JR Shooting: Ken Taylor.** Post #2008 has just finished a class. Posts #2 & #209 have classes about to begin. La Junta & Security posts are working to start their programs. Ken took part in the Colorado Junior Shooting Competition on January 19. There were 43 competitors, and 80+ attendees at the banquet.

**Oratorical: Nick Arceo.** Oratorical contest will be March 9 at Metro State. What are squadrons doing to help? Sponsorships at \$200.00 and volunteers are needed. Eleven students have signed up so far. Donations from Posts and/or Squadrons would be appreciated.

**Baseball: Nick Arceo.** 4 of 6 of this year's Baseball Hall of Fame inductees played in American Legion Baseball. Money is needed to defray expenses from the recent Regional Finals. Lynn Peterson has items available to raffle off.

**Boy's State: Scott Garrett.** Currently, 38 online applications have been received. A golf tournament fundraiser is being planned.

**Children & Youth: Scott Garrett.** No info available regarding Colorado C & Y. The CWF report this year is using current membership numbers rather than last year's final count!?!? Squadron #54 got the 1<sup>st</sup> place Jim & Judy Gates CVKF Award.

### **Legislative Mark Kilstrom:**

Legislative wins for The American Legion in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

**The Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017**, which was passed by both chambers and signed into law by President Trump. The act gives the secretary of VA the authority to rid or demote employees that don't meet the mission of VA

**The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017**, which modernized the appeals process at VA. This bill was signed into law by Trump on stage during The American Legion's 99th national convention in Reno, Nev. The changes streamline the appeals process and force VA to issue a decision on a claim within one year.

**Choice Program.** The American Legion worked closely with Congress to ensure the extension of the Choice Program. The program helps veterans access medical care in the private sector when care through VA was not an option or wait times were too long

**The Harry W. Colmery GI Bill** — also called the Forever GI Bill — is named after an American Legion past national commander. The bill passed Congress and was signed into law by the president. The Forever GI Bill removes the 15-year cap for using the benefit post-service.

Another change added is protection for student veterans against predatory, for-profit higher education institutions.

**Electronic health record.** The American Legion advocated strongly for electronic health record (EHR) modernization. With the influence and support of The American Legion, Congress approved the necessary funding for the Cerner contract which will manage this new program. VA and the Department of Defense are beginning to implement interoperable EHR that will aide service members as they transition into the civilian sector.

**Centennial coin.** To commemorate The American Legion's centennial celebration, a U.S. Minted coin was approved by Congress to recognize the 100 years of American Legion's service to veterans, military personnel, their families, young people and communities. Legionnaires successfully lobbied Congress to pass the bill — which was the most co-sponsored piece of legislation to pass the 115th Congress. All proceeds from the sale of The American Legion centennial coin will help raise money for American Legion programs that support veterans, service members and their families

With the partial government shutdown continuing, Coast Guardsman continue to go without pay while still standing watch. The American Legion has provided over \$574,000 in Temporary Financial Assistance, TFA. Please keep these honor bound men and women in your thoughts and please donate as you can to The American Legion Endowment Fund to help the Legion continue to assist them.

**Public Relations: Trystan Cline.** The Community Service Food Bank project was acknowledged by the Greeley Tribune newspaper. Nice point of awareness for The American Legion. Operation Bear Hug was a big success, as was Law Enforcement Member of the Year. It all raises awareness for The American Legion. Trystan is going to write an article promoting The American Legion and send it to the northern Colorado newspapers.

**Detachment Advisor: Richard Humphrey.** The Viet Nam Memorial Traveling Wall will not be going to Cripple Creek any more without infusion of funds to cover the costs of about \$5,000.00 per year.

**NEC: Scott Garrett.** No NEC activity since the last DEC meeting.

Motion to accept Officer & Committee reports. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Gelwicks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Valdez. Passed.

**Guests:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

- 1) Motion to select Squadron #54, Gunnison to host the 2019 DEC and Awards Banquet in November. 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Yanke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Valdez. Passed.
- 2) Code for Convention non-compliance with the Detachment Constitution was discussed. A motion to change the Code to comply with the Constitution was made by Jim Gelwicks, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Yanke. Passed.
- 3) Motion to donate \$100.00 to the Viet Nam traveling wall from the VA & R fund. 1<sup>st</sup> Rick Baldessari, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Hastie. Passed.

- 4) Motion to donate \$100.00 to the Fisher House from the VA & R fund. 1<sup>st</sup> Rick Baldessari, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Yanke. Passed.

**Special Presentations:** Junior Shooting Tournament Power Point Presentation.

**Good of the Sons:**

- 1) Squadron #1985 gave \$100.00 to Teddy Bear Drive. Nick Arceo gave \$60.00. \$300.00 already received at Dept HQ.
- 2) Golden Squadron #21 hosting their 'Wild Game' dinner prior to the Superbowl.
- 3) Nick Arceo announced intent to run for Detachment Commander.
- 4) Robert Jones announced intent to run for Jr Vice Commander.

Next meeting will be Saturday, April 6, 2019, 2:00 PM, Post #2, 701 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St, Pueblo, CO 81003

**Closing Prayer:** Chaplain Trystan Cline

**Closing:** Commander Ron Noakes

**Retirement of the POW/MIA apron:** Sgt-at-Arms Teddy Kuntz & Richard Humphrey.

**Salute**

Meeting adjourned at 3:19 PM.

