



Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Colorado  
Detachment Executive Committee  
Minutes  
Post #2, Pueblo, CO  
April 6, 2019

**Salute:** Commander Ron Noakes

**Opening Prayer:** Ken Yanke

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

**Blue Star Banner:** Commander Ron Noakes

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mark Kilstrom

**Preamble:** Mike Kirschner

**Meeting called to order at:** 2:12 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)	Excused
Jr. Vice Commander	Aaron Valdez (2)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Robert Jones (28)	
Finance	Jim Gelwicks (54)	
Chaplain	Trystan Cline (209)	Absent
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)	Excused

**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

Judge Advocate Richard Humphrey challenged whether an attendee who is not the squadron representative could answer that his squadron is present. Discussion ensued. It was decided that the squadron could be listed as present even if that squadron had no vote.

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

1	<b>2</b>	4	5	6	10	13	15	17	18
19	20	21	22	<b>23</b>	24	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	39
<b>54</b>	55	58	62	66	67	70	73	75	81
<b>87</b>	89	97	100	101	102	<b>103</b>	<b>111</b>	113	115
119	134	151	160	161	170	178	180	187	193
200	203	204	206	207	<b>209</b>	<b>211</b>	322	1111	1879
1976	<b>1985</b>	1992	2000	2001	2002	2008			

**Distinguished Guests:** Leading Candidate for National Commander Clint Bolt, National Vice Commander Midwest Pete Sierminski, Past National Commander Danny Smith, Past National Vice Commanders Jim Gelwicks, Ken Yanke, Past National SGT-at-Arms Mike Kirschner, Past National Historian Mark Kilstrom, Past Dept. Commanders Richard Humphrey, Doug Wooddell

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion to accept January 26, 2019 Minutes as written. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Gaddis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Yanke, Passed.

**Appointments:** None

**Correspondence:**

- 1) Thank you letter from the VA for \$100.00 donation.
- 2) Four requests from USO for donations.

**Vice Commanders Reports:**

**Sr Vice Commander Nick Arceo:** No report

**Jr Vice Commanders:**

**Aaron Valdez:** No report

**Robert Jones:** District #10 spring conference in Cortez April 27, 8:00 AM.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership: Nick Arceo.** Thank you all for your hard work on membership! Keep up the good work. How are your numbers? Make sure to check the website (salcolorado.org) for the latest membership

report. Let me remind you of Commander Ron's goal of 4,000 members! Are you working on this goal? You know how important membership is to our organization. I want to challenge you to continue working on those renewals. As of March, 18 2019, we are at 2,485 members. 64.22 % renewals. We can do better than that! What can I do to assist you in reaching your goal? Our next goal is April 10, 2019 2,921 or 436 members. Can we hit our next goal? I believe you can make a difference. Don't forget about the Individual Recruitment Award, it's a great looking pin!

**Permanent Membership: Jim Gelwicks.** Currently 197 PUFL members. Bank account is just over \$49,000.00

**Finance Committee: Jim Gelwicks.** Another \$4,000.00 is needed to meet current budget.

**VA&R: Nick Arceo.** I attended the VAVS Committee meeting on February 7, 2019. Here a few highlights of the meeting:

- The Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held at The Regency Hotel, on a Saturday in May at 12:00 p.m. details to follow.
- Fisher House will be built at the north-end of the campus, and the PTSD Building is planning to be built on the campus. I presented a check in the amount of \$100.00 towards the building fund for The Fisher House on behalf of The Detachment of Colorado. (Thank you letter attached, please print and read)
- New Castle Rock VA Clinic and a new Aurora VA Clinic is under way.
- I am now on the board of The Volunteers for Hospitalized Veterans. Activities include popcorn sales in the lobby, we need volunteers to help sell popcorn! VHV buys a variety of items for the IPU (Inpatient Mental Health Unit) We provide a monthly Pizza Party or Root Beer Social, BBQ and live entertainment. Veterans Day events and a Christmas Party. Please contact me for volunteer information. Nick Arceo 303-903-5262
- The new facility is great, there are plenty of opportunities to Volunteer and assist our Veterans, please consider helping.

**Americanism:**

**JR Shooting: Ken Taylor.** Junior Shooting is in progress at Post 209 and 9 students will graduate on April 25th with an Awards and Pizza Party.

The next class will begin on Thursday September 12, 2019 with twelve open slots.

Post 209 continues to use the BB Gun Range at the Colorado Springs Event Center during Gun Shows, Home Shows etc. It has proven to be a good recruiting tool for Junior Shooting. At present, the Junior Shooting Trailer is parked at Post 209 in Colorado Springs. If anyone wants to use it contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047.

That concludes my report.

**Oratorical: Nick Arceo.** I want to thank everyone that volunteered at the contest this year! We had a great contest. Here are the top three results, 1<sup>st</sup> place Kidus Zelalem, Post 1864 Parker, Smokey Hill H.S. Senior. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Sophia Schwarz, Post 1864 Parker, Early College Junior. 3<sup>rd</sup> place John Golden, Post 178 Lakewood, Golden View Classical Academy Senior. Congratulations to all the students that participated. Please consider being a part of this contest next year, please contact me for more information.

**Baseball: Nick Arceo.** Summer is coming. Get ready for American Legion Baseball!

**Boy's State: Scott Garrett.** Sign-up is lagging slightly from last year. Dept charges \$200.00 per boy despite actual cost is over \$400.00. The Daniels fund donates \$100,000.00 split half and half with Girl's State. It has been suggested looking at alternative ways of recruiting. The golf tournament fundraiser has been cancelled due to lack of volunteers.

**Children & Youth: Scott Garrett.** CWF. Colorado is currently at \$5,593.13 or \$2.25 per capita based on current 2019 membership. Colorado is currently 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation per capita and 7<sup>th</sup> in actual cash donations. It has been discussed at Dept HQ to bring both TFA and CVKF under the VA & R umbrella as they are more closely aligned with VA & R than C & Y.

**Legislative Mark Kilstrom:**

**Protect the American flag.** The American Legion urges Congress to introduce and approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would permit Congress and the states to pass legislation to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration. The U.S. House of Representatives has routinely passed such an amendment. Every state has endorsed it. And a majority of Americans agree the flag should be protected. (Resolution 303, Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2016)

**Expand Agent Orange benefits.** Efforts by the 115th Congress fell short of finally extending fairness to Blue Water Navy Vietnam War veterans exposed to the toxic defoliant Agent Orange while at sea. The American Legion remains firm in its position that all veterans exposed to Agent Orange – on land, sea or air – deserve service-connected disability benefits for adverse health conditions presumed to be linked to such exposure. (Resolution 246, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

**Redefine “wartime service” period.** More than 1,600 U.S. military men and women since the end of World War II have been killed or were wounded during times of armed conflict not recognized by the U.S. government. History is clear that the United States has been in a continuous state of wartime activity since the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. In fairness to all who have served and sacrificed, not just those who fall within a government-defined window of dates, The American Legion passed Resolution 1 at its Fall 2018 National Executive Committee meeting calling on Congress to direct VA to expand the definition of “wartime veteran” to include all military personnel who served honorably under Title 10 orders for at least one day during this continuous period of armed conflict. (Resolution 1, Oct. 17-18, 2018)

**Support VA's suicide-prevention efforts.** An estimated 20 veterans end their lives every day. Most were not receiving care or support through VA that may have saved them. The American Legion supports expanding and promoting mental health treatment for veterans and urges Congress to provide VA necessary funds to hire mental health professionals and proper staffing for its Integrative Health and Wellness Program. (Resolution 20, May 9-10, 2018)

**Implement, oversee new laws.** The 115th Congress passed multiple American Legion-supported bills that help veterans and their families, from the backlog-aimed VA Appeals Modernization Act to the omnibus VA MISSION Act. The Legion now calls on the 116th Congress to ensure these measures are accurately and quickly implemented, as designed. (Multiple resolutions)

**Fully fund a superior national defense.** The American Legion supports a defense budget that reverses sequestration and its effects, rebuilds U.S. military end strength and weaponry and fairly compensates military personnel, especially in an ongoing time of global warfare. (Resolution 35, Aug. 28-30, 2018)

**Improve health care for women veterans.** VA must continue to develop and expand health-care services for the fast-growing population of female veterans, a large percentage of whom do not enroll for

VA health care for a number of reasons, according to surveys. Among the factors are limited gender-specific treatment services and awareness of VA benefits. All veterans, regardless of gender, must receive fair and equal VA health-care services. (Resolution 147, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

**Reclassify cannabis for medical research.** The American Legion supports increased research on cannabis as part of a larger effort to develop complementary and alternative treatments, as well as therapies, for veterans. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that will remove cannabis from the schedule I drug list and reclassify it to permit research to determine if it has therapeutic purposes. (Resolution 11, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

**Programs to end veteran homelessness.** To fully implement VA's pledge to eradicate veteran homelessness, Congress must continue making investments in affordable housing and programs such as Supportive Services for Veteran Families that move veterans and their families off the streets and into stable housing with supportive services. (Resolution 340, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

**Re-employment rights for veterans.** Veterans should not lose their jobs while deployed to protect the freedoms all Americans enjoy. When service members deploy, worrying about whether they will still have employment can hinder mission focus. The American Legion urges Congress to prohibit employers from pressuring servicemembers into waiving their employment rights and protections through arbitration agreements. (Resolution 85, Aug. 22-24, 2017)

**Access to business capital via GI Bill.** As times change, so must the GI Bill. For veteran entrepreneurs, access to capital for starting, purchasing or expanding small businesses is a serious obstacle. The American Legion supports legislation that would expand GI Bill benefits to assist veterans in obtaining access to small business capital. (Resolution 150, Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2016)

**Citizenship for honorable service.** Immigrants to the United States often join the U.S. Armed Forces as a route to citizenship. Many veteran immigrants say they have been deported after discharge because they failed to acquire U.S. citizenship while in service. The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed prior to discharge. (Resolution 15, Oct. 17-18, 2018)

**Repeal unfair VA offsets.** Many military retirees must forfeit a portion of their pensions to receive VA service connected disability compensation. It is equally outrageous when VA survivor benefits are offset from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. The American Legion supports legislation to repeal both of these unjust offsets. (Resolution 224, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

**Public Relations: Trystan Cline.** Not present.

**Detachment Advisor: Richard Humphrey.** The traveling Viet Nam Memorial Wall will cease going to Cripple Creek each year without new funding. Post #23 volunteers will walk from Fairmount Cemetery to the Colorado Freedom Memorial on Memorial Day.

**NEC: Scott Garrett.** Ken Yanke mentioned Senate Bill #504 which would change the eligibility for veterans to join The American Legion.

Motion to accept Vice Commander & Committee reports. 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Kirschner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Valdez, Passed.

**Guest:** NEC Scott Garrett introduced SAL Leading Candidate for National Commander Clint Bolt.

Clint applauded that we are close to chartering some new squadrons. He mentioned that National Endowment Fund will change its name to the Veterans & Childrens Fund which he will be promoting next year. Clint spoke of the TFA applications overwhelming Virginia's Department office from Coast Guard members who were the only branch of service not receiving pay during the government shutdown. His CWF goal will be \$500,000.00 next year. Clint wrapped up by giving kudos to Colorado for all we do.

Pete Sierminski made a motion to donate \$500.00 to Clint's campaign. 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Garrett, Passed.

**Unfinished Business:** The current Finance Policy (revised January 27, 2018) Section #7 reads: *The Detachment Adjutant can be issued a Detachment credit card. The card's primary purpose is for mailings and office expenses; also to reserve rooms for national guests.*

Jim Gelwicks made a motion to change Section #7 to read: *The Detachment Adjutant can be issued a Detachment credit card. The card's primary purpose is for mailings and office expenses; also, to reserve rooms for national guests and for up to five (5) nights lodging annually for the Detachment Commander and Detachment Adjutant during the annual convention and Legion Midyear. The Detachment Commander and Detachment Adjutant shall either share the lodging or split the financial benefit.*

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Kirschner, Passed.

**New Business:**

- 1) Commander Ron suggested the Detachment look into purchasing a second gun range. Motion to table 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Kirschner, 2<sup>nd</sup> ??, Passed.
- 2) Discussion about pending National dues increase for information purposes.

**Special Presentations:** Squadron #2 donated \$200.00 to National Emergency Fund.

**Good of the Sons:**

- 1) Announcement of candidates for Detachment off ice for 2019-20: Aaron Valdez – Sr Vice Commander, Robert Jones – Jr Vice Commander, Teddy Kuntz – Sgt-at-Arms.
- 2) June Convention joint opening will take place on SATURDAY. All Vice Commander & Committee Chairs will give reports on Friday, or if not present, will submit reports to Detachment Adjutant prior to Friday.
- 3) Jim Gelwicks purchased a Centennial coin with Denver Mint markings to be auctioned at Convention.
- 4) CWF has reached \$8,000,000.00.
- 5) Squadron packets are available for pickup.
- 6) Scott Garrett, Detachment Adjutant is planning to move from Denver Metro. All mail should continue to go to Headquarters.
- 7) Mike Kirschner gave highlights of the CWF Banquet following the DEC meeting.
- 8) The Colorado Junior Shooting Tournament will take place in October of this year with fundraising to go to Junior ROTC. It is planned for this to become an annual event.

Next meeting will be Pre-Convention DEC on Friday, June 21, 2019, 1:00 PM. Convention DEC will be Saturday, June 22, 2019, immediately following Convention Joint Opening (approx. 10:30 AM). Location is Crowne Plaza, Circle Dr., Colorado Springs, CO.

**Closing Prayer:** Ken Yanke

**Closing:** Commander Ron Noakes

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

**Salute**

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM.