



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Colorado
Meeting Agenda
Colorado State Convention
Pre - Convention Detachment Executive Committee
June 21, 2019

Salute: Commander Ron Noakes

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Trystan Cline

POW/MIA Ceremony: Commander Ron Noakes. Apron placed by Richard Humphrey.

Blue Star Banner: Commander Ron Noakes

Pledge of Allegiance: Nick Arceo

Preamble: Aaron Valdez

Meeting called to order at: 1:38 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)	Excused
Chaplain	Trystan Cline (209)	
Historian	Jacob Langley (38)	Excused
Sergeant-at-Arms	Teddy Kuntz (1985)	Absent
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Ken Wederski (23)	Excused
Judge Advocate	Richard Humphrey (23)	
Detachment Advisor	Richard Humphrey (23)	
Voting PDC	Mike Moss (21)	

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	<u>Michael Moss</u>	<u>Ken Yanke</u>	<u>Rick Baldessari</u>
Steve Kidd	Jim Gelwicks	Mark Kilstrom	Shawn McCrary
Pete Sierminski	<u>Scott Garrett</u>	Mike Kirschner	J.R. Kent
<u>Jim Gaddis</u>			

Roll Call – Squadrons (Present in Bold)

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

Distinguished Guests: Past National Commander Mike Moss, Past National Commander Danny Smith, Past National Vice Commanders Ken Yanke, Rick Baldessari (PN Chaplain), Past Dept. Commander Richard Humphrey

Reading of Minutes: Motion to accept January 26, 2019 Minutes as written. 1st Jim Gaddis, 2nd Mike Moss, Passed.

Appointments: None

Correspondence:

- 1) Three thank you letters from CWF.
- 2) One request from USO for donations.

Commander’s Report:

What I brought to the Detachment was my experiences as a group leader, a 30+ year 4-H Leader, a volunteer recruiter, an NRA Training Counselor and trainer (30 years), and my love for the American Legion.

I found out a long time ago that you get more done by leading by example and not by being a Dictator. When you make it so individuals want to be part of what you are doing they will be.

At our 1st DEC, each received a hand book containing a commander’s mission statement and a copy of the SAL Blue Book of Knowledge containing all the information they would need to make them successful. They were asked to review this information as they would be using this when they attend meeting and squadron meetings. They were armed with the tools they need to be successful. They were ready!!!

One of the goals was to get the all the Squadrons to turn in a Consolidated Report form. Last year 31 of 65 squadrons turned on in.

As of June 18th, 2019, our membership is at 2934, with more coming in. That’s 90.42%. Our renewals are at 78%. We have until July to bring this up. With numbers like this we tend to look at many different things but mostly the Commander, as the buck stops with him. Most do not know what is going

on in the entire Department or Detachment as to membership and how a lot of Post and Squadrons are struggling to stay alive, you tend to think that perhaps we are not getting our message out there. As I have said many times," the Detachment is nothing without the Squadron". We are there to assist the Squadron, but the Squadron needs to be the one in charge.

This year was very busy. I wanted to be visible to all. I had a message to get out. The 1st meeting was the department commander's DEC in July. Then there was the Baseball and Shooting Sports Finals banquet, followed by throwing out a 1st pitch at a Legion Game. The traveling never stopped, attending District meeting on the western slope, the southwest, the east, and the north portion of our great state spreading the mission of the Sons of the American Legion. It was hard to follow a membership presentation by Dean. All I could do was support him and remind everyone to get out and get the members. I did not want to duplicate what was all ready said. If by chance there were any SAL members who want to visit with me I welcomed it. For the most part the SAL members in attendance were dual members and wanted to hear what the Department had to say. When asked I would answer any question asked, even if it was about shooting sports. The most important think was the Detachment was there expressing with great enthusiasm that we were there for the squadrons. We really need to work on getting the Squadrons to attend the District meeting so we can reach the one who we are there for. We ended 2017-2018 with the CWF Banquet raising over \$17,000.00 and a challenge from Squadron 38 for the next banquet to top that. This year the CWF Banquet was a great success with \$23,000.00 being raised from throughout Colorado and at Post 2 in Pueblo. A great thank you goes out to Squadron 2 for host this event and a new challenge is issued for next year. The May 31st, 2019 report had us at \$46,198.88. However, we were credited \$17,000.00 to much. The true amount is \$29,000.00. The National shows \$427,315.00

The Awards Banquet went great. Nick did a fantastic job. Mid-Year convention and then visited Fort Collins CSU Squadron for their awards night and visited with their commander. There were some problems and we got them ironed out. We had a great time and a great meal. During our visits everywhere, the recruiting mode was in place. There were new members that were given to the Squadron(s), Post(s), and Auxiliary Unit(s) wherever I went. Every day I would look forward to recruiting and do the Best I could. How many members have you signed up?

Each morning as I look outside and before I start my day I ask myself this question, "How can I make today better?" Do this and you will see your day become better.

My favorite saying is this "if it is to be, it is up to me"

Vice Commanders Reports:

Sr Vice Commander Nick Arceo:

- Attended two membership drives at King Soopers store fronts. Spoke to potential Legion family members. Passed out information to Veterans RE several important items.
- Attended District conferences 2, 6 & 7. Addressed membership concerns.
- Posted colors at two different events at Dakota Ridge H.S.
- Attended transitional meeting at Post 32.
- Participated in handing out Poppies over the Memorial weekend with the Auxiliary unit 103.
- Organized the American legion 100th anniversary celebration picnic along with Post 103's annually summer event.
- Attended the VAVS meeting, Denver.
- Attended spring NEC in Indianapolis, I graduated upon completion of NMI 3.
 - Attended the National SAL VA&R Commission meeting.
 - Attended Membership meeting. Attended Membership meeting. Notable items:

- Communication is the key to continued success for membership. Set up a phone-call renewal day each month.
- Personal 1 on 1 contact is important.
- Give members something to do, something they LOVE to do, the best SALE tool is ~action. Let members know why they are needed and where they can help.
- The Post Commander needs to be involved, must keep the interest up in The Sons.
- Don't forget Duel membership, have you gone to your Post meeting and asked how many decedents of a Veteran are there? Sign them up!
- 3 resolutions have been submitted, 1) National renewal month, November 2) Recruiter of the year award which will include a special Cover, 3) Detachment recruitment award.
- Great Leaders.... Lead by Example.

It has been my honor & privilege to serve as Senior Vice Commander this past year. I appreciate all your help and support. You have truly made The Detachment of Colorado great! As I reflect over the past year, I'm astonished at the accomplishments that have been made on behalf of Veterans and Their Families across our Great State, you are truly to be commended! To the other Officers, thank you for all your help and support, I could not have done it without you. Commander Noakes, "Mr. Ron" your pin states, "Our Youth are Our Future" Thank you for reaching out to our youth as you have this past year. Your efforts in the area of Jr. Shooting sports is second to none. Along with this and other projects, this past year has been successful in many areas. I look forward to your continued help and support as The Detachment moves forward.

I leave you with one final challenge and thought..."66 words" ...that's how many words are in our Sons of The American Legion Preamble! Let's live this each and every day. Thank you again and God Bless.

Jr Vice Commanders:

Aaron Valdez: See attachment

Robert Jones: Still working on Squadron #75 issues. May 25, I took Dean Noechel and co. on the veterans train ride to Silverton and performed a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial there. In conjunction with the VFW, I performed 9 color guard ceremonies in two weeks.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Nick Arceo.

Although this past year has been somewhat disappointing regarding membership, your efforts have produced a 90.4% with a renewal rate of 75.7%. The renewal rate remains a challenge. It's not too late to continue to get these renewals in. I am happy to report The Detachment had several Squadrons that did reach the 100% and above, great job to the following 4,5,24,28,54,70,87,89,180,204,207,322,1111,1976 & 2000. Several others came very close. One thought on membership, I know that everyone worked very hard and did all the right things to get

new members and go after renewals. The numbers will go down as is, but don't be discouraged I know each of you do your very best! That's all you can do!! Let's look forward to completing this year stronger and getting after it next year!

Attended Membership meeting at the Spring NEC, Notable items:

- Communication is the key to continued success for membership. Set up a phone-call renewal day each month.
- Personal 1 on 1 contact is important.
- Give members something to do, something they LOVE to do, the best SALE tool is ~action. Let members know why they are needed and where they can help.
- The Post Commander needs to be involved, must keep the interest up in The Sons.
- Don't forget Duel membership, have you gone to your Post meeting and asked how many decedents of a Veteran are there? Sign them up!
- 3 resolutions have been submitted, 1) National renewal month, November 2) Recruiter of the year award which will include a special Cover, 3) Detachment recruitment award.
- Great Leaders.... Lead by Example.

Permanent Membership: Jim Gelwicks. See attachment

Finance Committee: Jim Gelwicks. See attachment

VA&R: Nick Arceo.

- Groundbreaking for the New Fisher House is set for next spring, it will have 16 suites.
 - A new VA clinic is planned for the city of Castle Rock, no date at this time.
 - The Aurora Clinic has plans to double in size.
 - For now, the PTSD clinic will remain at the old Clairmont facility, building on the new site soon.
- A few noteworthy items for the VA&R Spring NEC meeting:
- VAVS participation has dropped the past 10 years, we need to keep the hours up.
 - Members are encouraged to join the monthly conference calls. Keep informed.
 - We need to increase the number of VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives nationwide.
 - Encourage continued support for The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program.
 - Lots of helpful information passed out at.

Americanism:

JR Shooting: Ken Taylor.

On June 1st, 2019 we held a run through of our first ever Department of Colorado Rifle Instructor Class at Post 209. Eight adult instructors and three Junior Instructors went through the training. I want to thank Mr. Ron Noakes for developing the training class.

On June 20th, 2019, during the convention, we will hold another training class at Post 209 from 8 AM to 5 PM. Everything is provided and will be paid for by the Department of Colorado.

On June 25th, 2019, there will be a fun shoot at Post 2 in Pueblo. Shooting starts at 6:30.

July 8th thru July 11th, 2019 there will be a youth air rifle summer camp at Post 2 in Pueblo. It will run from 9 to 4 each day.

July 24th, 2019, there will be a National Junior Shooting Sports Dinner held at post 209. This is for the 40 Shooters participating in the American Legion National Championship at the Olympic Training Center.

July 25th there will be a summer junior shooting class at post 209 for the ROTC cadets at Dougherty High School in Colorado Springs.

September 28, 2019 there will be a SAL sponsored air rifle tournament at Centennial High School in Pueblo. This will be a CMP sanctioned event.

In November 2019, there will be an American Legion sponsored air rifle tournament at Dougherty High School in Colorado Springs. The exact date has not been set.

That concludes my report.

Additional comments from Commander Ron. Thursday night, at Post #209, six shooting instructors were graduated.

Oratorical: Nick Arceo.

The 2019 Oratorical Speech Contest was a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers that contributed. Our first-place winner this year was Senior Kidus Zelalem sponsored by Post 1964 in Parker, He attended Smokey Hill High School. He went on to Indianapolis to compete at Nationals, unfortunately he did not place. The American Legion's 82nd winner was a High School Junior from Iowa, Patrick Junker Waukee. Patrick won an \$18,000. Scholarship. This was a significant comeback after not advancing past the quarterfinal round last year. Here is a quote from his speech that bears repeating "We must not only teach students the constitution, but we must also teach them the importance it has on our everyday life. We must teach this importance in order to safeguard our future".

Our next contest will be held on Saturday March 7th, 2020 at Metro State University. Applications are due by January 31st, 2020. Please consider being a volunteer at this great Americanism Program.

Baseball: Nick Arceo.

American Legion Baseball has been in Colorado since 1925. The vision this year is to have 200 teams participating by 2020. That's a lofty goal, but one I believe can be achieved. How are they going to get this done? How about help from The Sons of The American Legion? Please consider helping your Post sponsor a team or two and let's get this going for 2020!

As you recall for the last few years Colorado has hosted the Mid-West Regional Tournaments. The last two years I was fortunate to be a part of the weeklong games. What a great time! Dept/State Legion D Tournaments will be held July 18, 19 & 20th this year. Watch for details and go out a take in a game. Summer Legion Baseball is here!

Last year TAL World Series winner was from Post 1 in Willington Delaware winning over Las Vegas Nevada Post 40. The game was won with a walk-off home run in extra innings!

Boy's State: Scott Garrett. 185 boys attended a very successful Boy's State. Planning has already begun on next year's event. The convention silent auction will donate to Boys State & Girls State.

Boy Scouts: Rick Baldessari. A Colorado Eagle Scout's name was submitted to Indianapolis for consideration for Eagle Scout of the Year.

Children & Youth: Scott Garrett. Nothing to report on Colorado C & Y activity. CWF has already been discussed.

Legislative Mark Kilstrom: Absent. No report.

Public Relations: Trystan Cline.

Crawford House: The 2nd semi-annual department community service project benefitted the Crawford House (an organization that assists homeless veterans) which is located in downtown Colorado Springs. The roof was damaged in a series of recent snow storms, and a team of approximately 10 (led by PDC Terri Clinton and PDP Ann Ritacco) assisted staff in performing upkeep of the property. It was very successful and our efforts as a Legion Family will benefit veterans in need within El Paso County for many years to come.

-Teddy Bear Drive: At the 2019 American Legion Department of Colorado Mid-year Conference, I unique opportunity in my role as Detachment Chaplain along American Legion member Peggy Baldwin, and American Legion Auxiliary member (ALA Department Chaplain) Donna Rae Smith (in their dual capacity as members of the Marine Corps League) to honor and benefit a movement that was started by our Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Teddy Kuntz. It is a toy drive called the Teddy Bear Drive that was designed to uplift the spirits of children that were hospitalized in the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora. A special thank you goes out to Sons of The American Legion Junior Vice Commander Robert Jones for helping me in preparation for my role in that ceremony. You were incredibly helpful. Teddy, thank you very much for your dedication our Detachment, and our beloved Colorado, and our veterans.

-Programs and their importance: We do a great job at reaching out to the community, and we must continue to do so! Our Child Welfare Foundation banquet that we hold every is our most noteworthy, but we must not forget about Junior Shooting, Boys/Girls State, American Legion Baseball, Oratorical competitions. Through our collaborative effort as a Legion Family, we can and will positively impact the community, state, and nation for generations to come.

-American Legion Observer: Please take notice of Department's award winning monthly newsletter that is published by Darrell Meyers. That being said, articles need to be written and submissions are always welcome! You can subscribe online, and it free.

-Post Newsletters: This is by far the best way to communicate information amongst yourselves as a Post family collectively looking forward to future events, but also, a newsletter serves as an excellent way in which to capture a memory or two. Take advantage of the resources made available to you on the national website in order to gain some successful marketing strategies.

-We are SAL: We are Sons of The American Legion. We do an excellent job of getting ourselves out there from a service standpoint. The community may only see us as a program of our larger parent organization, but let's show them that we specialize in being loving, kind, and caring neighbors. Let's continue to serve our community that we love, and the country that we love so much.

Homeless veterans: If you see a homeless veteran on the street, smile and say thank you. If you have time, talk with them. A crucial part of our job as Sons is to foster and maintain relationships with veterans and

try to assist them within our ability whether as a Squadron, Detachment, or as individuals. They will truly appreciate our kindness and willingness to listen and/or help.

Detachment Advisor: Richard Humphrey. See attachment.

NEC: Scott Garrett. The SAL National Liaison, Ken George, announced in his opening remarks that we will be doing more and more online, for example National officer visitation, National Convention delegate registration, and online membership renewals, perhaps in about two years. I received a Chaplain's Training PDF & Powerpoint, designed for squadron & detachment use, available from me upon request. The NEC discussed raising National dues from \$2.00 to \$5.00 beginning with 2021 membership. This will be voted on at National Convention. Additional info from Danny Smith, The American Legion would like the SAL to donate \$3 million per year to their budget and wants to see a \$5.00 increase now, and another \$5.00 in about five years. This all should be resolved at National Convention.

Motion to accept Vice Commander & Committee reports. 1st Keith LaMee, 2nd Trystan Cline, Passed.

Guest: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: As The National Legion advisor to the SAL National Advisory Committee overrode the rejection of Michael Fox (CA) for National Commander Candidate, we discussed not inviting Mr. Fox to Colorado as either a Candidate or Commander. A motion was made by Mike Moss and seconded by Ken Yanke for the purpose of discussion. Discussion ensued. Jim Gaddis motioned for postponement until the Post-DEC in August, so that it could be thought over.

Special Presentations: None

Good of the Sons:

- 1) Rick Baldessari brought up some members are in arrears on their Past Commander Club dues, and that Ron Noakes has yet to join. Ron's rebuttal was "I have not been asked!" Response "Do you need to be?"
- 2) Keith LaMee said Post #5 is changing their name to THE PFC Floyd K Lindstrom American Legion Post #5. We are doing a Centennial charter event on August 11 at Post #209.
- 3) Nick Arceo will have a hospitality room Friday night.
- 4) Ron Noakes' homecoming will be July 20, Post #2, Pueblo.

Next Meeting will be DEC Saturday, June 22, 2019, immediately following Joint Opening, Hotel Elegante, 2886 S. Circle Dr, Colorado Springs, CO.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Trystan

Closing: Commander Ron Noakes

Retirement of the POW/MIA apron: Richard Humphrey

Salute

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 PM.

June Convention 2019 Report

So far since the last meeting I have gone to/helped with a couple of different events. These events consist of a Resource Fair held by District 60 in Pueblo, Co, Last Squad, District 8 spring conference, Memorial Day Ceremony, and finally a Flag retirement ceremony held by Post 2.

Lets begin with the Resource Fair held by District 60. It was a really well put together event many potential members roaming around learning about many organizations and our own many of these people were interested in what we do as The Sons Of the American Legion. They were also interested in our programs that we promote.

Second Last Squad is a memorial service held by Post 2 to honor the members of the post. During this ceremony the records of the member are burned and a candle is lit to remember their life with us. During the burning of the records Taps is played and I was the one to have played Taps for the ceremony. It was a great ceremony and it was so well thought out it made me have a little tear in my eye for the members of Post 2.

Third District 8 Spring Conference mostly what happened there was that they discussed some legion business. They also elected their new officers at the meeting with only 2 officers known.

Next is, Memorial Day Was well put together honoring Gold Star Moms. I also played taps during the ceremony. After the ceremony Post 2 held a luncheon to feed all of the people that were at the ceremony. I have to say it was really great food!

Finally, The Flag Retirement Ceremony. The Flag Retirement Ceremony is a ceremony where we retire the flags that are so worn down that they are unfit to fly anymore. So you dispose of the flag properly by lighting it with a flame in a justified way. During the retirement of the flag Taps is played. I am beginning to sound like a broken record but I did play taps for that ceremony also.

All in all These ceremonies and events that I have attended/helped with were really thought out and very well executed. Also many of these events had potential members I talked to and gave applications to. That concludes my report.

Aaron Valdez

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF COLORADO
FINANCE REPORT
PRECONVENTION DEC 2019**

by Jim Golwicks
Detachment Finance Officer

Permanent Membership:

There are 198 permanent members in the Detachment of Colorado. Given Squadron Everlasting and new permanent members, we are two below where we thought we would be last November. With a payout rate from our fund over the last five years, the Permanent Membership account should last for 48 years.

IF the proposed NEC 2021 National Dues increase goes into effect July 1, 2020, our charge for becoming a permanent member will increase \$55.50 in response to the national increase. At this time, our fund including the \$3 increase per member dues, the Permanent Membership account should last for 31 years.

The recommendation is not to change our current Permanent Membership dues formula. But we should schedule a program review sometime in 2023–2024.

Finance Report

Please refer to the written report in the convention program.

Please note the change to the convention program information.

Saturday, delegates will vote on dispersing \$2,700 from the 2018 budget surplus. The amount is \$700 more than the one stated in the program. Any delegate can propose how the funds will be allocated. Collectively we have done a good job of supporting our programs, including substantial donations to Fisher House and Colorado Veterans Homes. We might want to look at increasing the \$4000 travel money for the National Convention in Indianapolis.

A highlight is money raised for the Child Welfare Foundation. Please note, Peto Sicrinski and I talked and agree, the May 31 national report is incorrect. Our total year's donation should be in the \$28,000–\$29,000 range and not mid 40's.

The accountant's financial review and compilation is done and I am waiting on the printed report and bill.

As of June 12th, Detachment has not met our 2019 revenue goal and is \$1,237 short. I expect additional revenue and expenses to be presented during convention.

Under New Business, two items:

- 1) \$645.19 for Commander Noakes travel to 2018 Fall Conferences. For Ron to be reimbursed for his expenses, requires a vote under the hardship financial policy provisions.
- 2) Distribution of \$2,700 in surplus 2018 revenue.

NEXT DEC:

Please schedule a 10 am (2 hour) Detachment Finance Committee to review travel policies, changes in Department procedures and record keeping training and procedures.

SAL ADVISOR – Things that are happening this past year and the year to come for the good of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion.

The House of Representatives has just recently passed the Legion Act. This Act will allow those veterans who did not serve during any established conflict of the United States but who did serve this great nation be allowed to join The American Legion. The Senate now has the Resolution and hopefully will be voting on it very soon. This Act will not only help The American Legion with membership but will also help the Sons of The American Legion with membership. When this Act passes, and everyone is pretty sure it will, the recruiting will start, and the Sons need to be a big part of that recruitment.

The Blue Water Act has also passed and will not be contested by the Veterans Administration. This Act allows those Navy personnel who were on ship in the waters off Vietnam access to the VA for care because of Agent Orange.

The Flag amendment is still in the Judiciary committee. It apparently is not moving very quickly through the system. For a group of individuals who represent the citizens of this nation and the Flag of The United States, you would think this would be a very important resolution. The Flag Amendment has been in the system for the last 25 + years and still not added to the US Constitution.

The last part of my report is this: National POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 20, 2019 this year. As the Chairman of the Pow/MIA Committee for The American Legion, Department of Colorado, I'm asking that all Posts who can, sponsor a fund-raising dinner to support the Vietnam Traveling Wall that will be at Cripple Creek. Without the assistance of The American Legion, this Wall will no longer be able to travel to Cripple Creek. This Traveling Wall helps in the healing process of those who came home and remember those who did not, for many that cannot travel to Washington D.C. to view the real one.

Richard Humphrey

