



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Colorado
Meeting Minutes
Detachment Executive Committee
Department Headquarters
August 3, 2019

Salute: Commander Nick Arceo

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Trystan Cline

POW/MIA Ceremony: Commander Nick Arceo, apron placed by Ken Yanke

Blue Star Banner: Commander Nick Arceo

Pledge of Allegiance: Ken Yanke

Preamble: Rick Baldessari

Meeting called to order at: 1:08 PM

Installation of Detachment Officers by Commander Nick Arceo

Special Presentations: Election certificates handed out.

Roll Call of Officers:

NEC/Adjutant	Scott Garrett (23)	
Alt NEC	Ken Yanke (111)	
Commander	Nick Arceo (103)	
Sr. Vice Commander	Robert Jones (28)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Aaron Valdez (2)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Walter Weld (1)	
Jr. Vice Commander	Steve Kidd (1985)	Absent
Finance	Jim Gelwicks (54)	
Chaplain	Trystan Cline (209)	
Historian	vacant	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Teddy Kuntz (1985)	Absent
Sgt-at-Arms Emeritus	Ken Wederski (23)	Excused
Judge Advocate	Richard Humphrey (23)	
Detachment Advisor	Richard Humphrey (23)	
Voting PDC	Mike Moss (21)	

Voting PDC

Mike Kirschner (2)

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	<u>Jim Gelwicks</u>	Mark Kilstrom	Shawn McCrary
<u>Pete Sierminski</u>	<u>Scott Garrett</u>	<u>Mike Kirschner</u>	J.R. Kent
<u>Jim Gaddis</u>	Ron Noakes		

Roll Call – Squadrons (Present in Bold)

<u>1</u>	<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>	38	39
<u>54</u>	55	58	62	66	67	70	73	75	81
87	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>	322	<u>1111</u>	1879
<u>1976</u>	1985	1992	2000	2001	2002	2008			

Distinguished Guests: National Vice Commander Midwest Pete Sierminski (PN Asst SAA), 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 Dept. Commander Richard Humphrey, Doug Wooddell.

Reading of Minutes: Motion to accept June 21 & 22, 2019 Minutes as written. 1st Ken Taylor. 2nd Aaron Valdez. Passed.

Appointments: Pete Sierminski, Mike Moss, and Rick Baldessari appointed to the Finance Committee. Motion to approve. 1st Scott Garrett. 2nd Ken Yanke. Passed.

Correspondence: Two donation requests from the USO. One thank you letter from CWF for Squadron #211.

Guests: None

Vice Commanders Reports:

Sr Vice Commander Robert Jones: No report

Jr Vice Commanders:

Aaron Valdez: Visited LaJunta for their rechartering ceremony. They want to start a squadron. Aaron will work with them.

Walter Weld: Working with American Legion Baseball.

Steve Kidd: Absent.

Committee Reports:

Membership Robert Jones: Scott Garrett updated membership stats. 2020 membership at 232. 2019 is 3009 with 21 to be transmitted. Sqd #2008 submitted 27 preprinted cards with dues and 24 handwritten cards without money! Sept 11 is first target date at 10%.

Permanent Membership Jim Gelwicks: Current PUFL count is at 195, reduced by two deceased and one out of state transfer.

Finance Committee Jim Gelwicks: Finance committee met earlier in the day. It was agreed that the CD's containing the PUFL reserves will be moved out of Bellco as they mature, and Sqd #211 dues will increase to \$15.00, effective immediately. The committee discussed the upcoming national dues increase that is pending. Currently, the detachment is financially sound.

VA&R: vacant

Americanism Ron Noakes:

As of today I one individual who has agreed to assist on this committee. Ken Taylor is representing Shooting Sports. I do not know if he is in attendance today.

Shooting Sports

On July 8th through the 11th, Post 2 young Guns sponsored a Shooting Sports Day Camp for the youth of the community. We had 9 youth attend and complete.

The SAL Tournament is scheduled for September 28th 2019 at Centennial High School. The JROTC expects 60 individuals to partake.

There has been a lot of interest in the Shooting Sports program and we are trying to meet the requests.

The National Finals were just completed in Colorado Springs. Post 209 hosted a welcoming dinner on Wednesday before the finals. As always it was a great success.

Baseball

The National Championships are underway.

I have talked to individuals in the Pueblo area and things are looking up for a team in the southern part of the state.

Oratorical

The committee would like to get more involvement from the SAL in contacting local youth to increase the number of youth involves in the program.

Boys State

PDC Carol Kennedy, is asking for as much assistance from the SAL Squadrons as she can get. Go back to your Squadrons and help your family raise funds .

Boys Scouts

As of now, I have no information about this.

If anyone has any further information to report, please add it.

One last thing, the Department Commander, Dean, is reigniting patriotism by awarding certificates to those who fly the American flag. We all need to get behind this and support it.

What better way to get the word out to our community about what we as a family do in the community.

Children & Youth Pete Sierminski: Colorado is credited with \$46,195.00 in donations for 2018-19, including an unknown check for \$25,000.00. Nationally, \$20,434.00 has been donated this year as of July 26. National has asked for volunteers to man the CWF booth at National Convention. Ken Yanke showed a quilt made by his wife Diana, which will be auctioned at National Convention. Pete has asked Mike Moss to join the committee.

Legislative Mark Kilstrom:

Service-connected disabled veterans and their families will soon have access to certain new privileges under the recently signed John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. Beginning in January 2020, service-connected veterans and their caregivers will be eligible to use base commissary stores and some morale, welfare and recreation facilities on bases worldwide. This provision—located under section 621 of the NDAA—comports with DAV Resolution Number 270. In addition, veterans with a service-connected disability rated as permanent and total will soon be eligible to use space-available (Space-A) travel on DOD aircraft, in accord with DAV Resolution Number 274. Eligibility does not extend to spouses, significant others or caregivers, and those wishing to travel Space-A must have a DD Form 2765.

Other notable provisions passed in the legislation include improvements to the DOD Transition Assistance Program—or TAP—that helps prepare transitioning service members for civilian life. This program includes mandatory instruction on preparation for civilian employment, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941. The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion's eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed. *(I was unable to confirm, but I had seen somewhere that the Act also extends eligibility in The American Legion Auxiliary to male spouses of eligible veterans)*

A resolution honoring The American Legion's 100th anniversary of serving veterans, their families and communities was passed July 31 in the Senate by unanimous consent.

Public Relations Ken Yanke: Greetings to members of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado. Commander Nick, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Public Relations Chairman this year 2019, 2020. Public Relations is part of the National SAL, Media & Communications Commission. Today I wish to address the Public Relations piece of this Commission.

What is Public Relations? Public Relations is Me, I am Public Relations. It is You. You are Public Relations. This year the Head PR man for the Detachment of Colorado sits at the Head Table and is our Detachment Commander Mr. Nick Arceo. As we stand or sit here today, we exemplify PR for the Sons of The American Legion. But it does not stop as we leave this meeting and take off our Covers. Nor as we go home and change clothes and go out tonight for dinner. Each and every day, as a member of the Sons of The American Legion, we represent The American Legion and present a PR image to the public.

I was reminded of this the other day as I and John Garcia and I stopped into a Safeway on July 4th after going to Home Depot to get some wire. We needed to pick up some Pepsi for the Fireworks team. They had Diet Coke. I forgot I had the Legion Fireworks Tee shirt on and I saw a friend I had not seen in years.

We use to work together. I stopped to say hello and we chatted and he asked about joining the Legion. I reached into my wallet and handed him a membership application. Advised him of cost and suggested he stop by on One of our Monday Night Bingo's so I could chat with him further. As we are standing there chatting others are walking by and listening and another person stated they were a Veteran and would like to join. I advised him where The American Legion Post is at, apologized for only having one membership Applications in my wallet. And off we went. So there you have it. There I am volunteering in the Community and I end up pushing Membership and promoting the Local Post fund raising activities. Did I mention the Sons Sqd 111 donated \$3000 to the fireworks along, with 12 volunteers at a total of 20 hrs for the event. This is all part of what public relations is all about. Now can you imagine what would have happened I I did not take the time to say hello. And said something like, Sorry Jerry, I do not have time to talk. We would have missed the opportunity to discuss membership and promote the Programs of The American Legion for Free in a public venue. And it would have been a very bad Public Relation image. Aside from taking these opportunities and sharing them on the Local website, and on whatever other Media sites such as face book you wish to present, We should also share them with the National Media and Communications Commission via the SnapShots of Service.

That is all I wish to discuss today.

Ad Hoc Committee for Detachment Districts Scott Garrett: No report.

Detachment Advisor Richard Humphrey: No report.

NEC Scott Garrett: No activity since last DEC.

Motion to accept reports. 1st Trystan Cline. 2nd Pete Sierminski. Passed.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Address postponed motion regarding National Guest invitations. After lengthy discussion, there was a motion to table and leave the decision to the Commander and NECman. 1st Ken Yanke. 2nd Aaron Valdez. Passed.
- 2) New printer for the Adjutant was purchased for approx. \$130.00.

New Business:

- 1) Rick Baldessari asked if CSR's were ready for award determinations yet.
- 2) Commander Nick Arceo gave a short personal bio, and spoke at length regarding his Mission Statement.

Good of the Sons:

- 1) Mike Kirschner asked if everything was all confirmed for National Convention. It is.
- 2) Pete has some of Commander Doc's pins available.
- 3) Mike Moss mentioned the visit to Post #21 by William Shuttleworth, who is walking across America to promote veteran awareness.
- 4) Jim Gelwicks thanked those who bought American Legion Coin raffle tickets. Drawing will be at Awards Banquet on Nov 16.
- 5) Scott Garrett reminded everyone of his address change.

Next meeting will be November 16, 2019, 2:00 PM, at Post #54, 501 E. Virginia Ave., Gunnison, CO 81230, followed by the Awards Banquet, 5:00 PM social, and 5:30 banquet & awards at the Elks Lodge, 123 S. Main St., Gunnison, CO 81230.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Trystan Cline

Closing - Commander

Retirement of the POW/MIA apron: Ken Yanke

Salute

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.