

Minutes of the Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
August 29, 2009 North Adams

Commander Dave Johnson called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M. With the colors in place, Commander Johnson led the meeting in a salute to the colors. Detachment Chaplain Phil Samko gave the invocation. Commander Johnson read the POW/MIA resolution. Commander Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander Johnson read the Blue Star Banner Resolution. Clifford Smith led the Preamble to the Constitution.

Commander Johnson called upon Detachment Adjutant Clifford Smith for the roll call.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Commander – David Johnson - Present
Vice Commander– Joseph Poplaski - Present
Vice Commander – Mark McCue - Present
Adjutant – Clifford Smith - Present
Finance Officer – Clifford Hall - Present
Chaplain- Phil Samko - Present
Historian – Tom Friend - Excused
N.E.C. – Tom Wigmore - Present
Alt. N.E.C. – Carl Rossi - Present
Sgt at Arms – Richard Smalley - Excused
Judge Advocate - Brian O’Hearne – Excused
Past Detachment Commanders: -Clifford Hall, Tom Wigmore, Clifford Smith
DISTRICT REPRESENTATION: Present: One, Four, Six, Ten
DEPARTMENT ADVISORS:
Whitey McKitrick - Excused
James Testa - Present
Milton Lashus - Excused
Ray Samko - Excused
DISTRICT ADVISORS: Present: Six, Ten

Adjutant Smith stated a quorum was present.

Commander Johnson now called upon Squadron 125 representative Joe Poplaski to address the meeting. Vice Commander Poplaski welcomed all to the meeting and offered refreshments to all in attendance. Commander Johnson thanked Squadron 125 for their hospitality and sponsorship of the Detachment meeting.

Commander Johnson made two appointments: John Gurry from Squadron 226 for Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee and John Brown Squadron 435 for Chairman of the POW-MIA Committee. Motion by Clifford Smith and seconded by Thomas Wigmore to accept the appointments Motion carried.

Commander Johnson now called for the reading of the previous minutes. Motion made by Mark McCue and seconded by Tom Wigmore to accept the minutes as previously distributed. Motion carried.

Commander Johnson called for Adjutant Smith to read any correspondence.

Adjutant Smith and Commander Johnson thanked Vice Commander Joe Poplaski for a letter he sent to all the Squadrons in Districts One, Two and Three explaining the meeting being held in North Adams and welcoming all members to attend. It was very unfortunate that no members from any Squadrons in these Districts except for the host Squadron showed up for the meeting.

Adjutant Smith moved to have all correspondence received and filed except for those that would be brought up under new business. Motion seconded by Clifford Hall. Motion carried.

Commander Johnson now called for Officers Reports.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Vice Commander – Joseph Poplaski:

Joe gave a verbal report on letters sent to Squadrons in Districts One Two and Three and membership cards delivered.

Vice Commander – Mark McCue:

Mark gave a verbal report on Squadrons contacted in Districts Four, Five and Eight. More follow-ups will take place in the next few weeks.

Historian – Tom Friend:

Chaplain – Phil Samko:

My main mission continues to be the continuation of the “new tradition” at the convention.....that of an annual memorial service for our departed comrades. The positive feedback that I got after the first annual memorial service was greatly appreciated. Many people deserve thanks for the help. Cliff Smith, for the inspiration and idea. Tom Wigmore, for providing contact with the National Chaplain. Ray Samko for info on deceased members. Rich Smalley for the stand for the bell. Tom Friend for ringing the bell. The Detachment for providing me the opportunity to develop the concept. Commanders of Squadrons for keeping me informed. And most importantly, Jim Testa for the black dress shoes for the Chaplain, who would have looked even more stupid than he already does if he had to wear sneakers during the ceremony. I urge all members to keep me informed if someone from their Squadron passes, so that all who deserve honor at our next ceremony can be included. This year, I will send a letter out to all Squadron Commanders in January or February, requesting names of recently deceased members. Last year’s letter went out in September, and I felt that by the time convention rolled around, the letter had been forgotten. A letter received closer to convention may draw a better response. And after numerous requests from Mark McCue, I will make sure that I provide him with a list from last year, and a current list of those who will be honored, for posting on the Squadron Everlasting section of the website. I thank all on the DEC for their continued support.

Sergeant – At – Arms – Richard Smalley:

National Executive Committeeman- Thomas Wigmore:

The new National Commander is Mark Arneson from Georgia. More information will be given at the next Detachment meeting after returning from the National Executive Committee meetings in October.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman- Carl Rossi:

The newly elected National Vice Commander East is Keith Murdough from New Hampshire. More information to follow after returning from the October National Meetings.

Commander – David Johnson:

June 6, 2009: Attended Auxiliary President Mary Ellen Morrissette’s Banquet in Marlboro.

June 7, 2009: Attended Auxiliary President Rose Mary Tower’s installation in Marlboro.

June 10, 2009: Attended Cherry Valley Squadron 443’s meeting and installed the newly elected officers.

June 13, 2009: Attended Department Commander's RAP session at Chester Tuttle Post 279 in Auburn.

June 14, 2009: Attended Sharon Post 106 for a flag disposal ceremony.

June 20, 2009: Attended the Department E-Board Meeting at Tuttle Post 279 in Auburn.

“ : Attended District 4 Installation at Vernon Hill Post 435 in Worcester.

June 24, 2009: Attended the Detachment Transition Meeting at Sharon Post 106.

June 27, 2009: Visited Gardner Squadron 129, Northboro Squadron 234, N. Grafton Squadron 92, and Manchaug Squadron 390 to deliver 2010 membership cards.

June 28, 2009: Participated in the Millbury Fathers Day/4'Th of July Parade.

July 2, 2009: Visited N. Brookfield Squadron 41, and Webster Squadron 184 to deliver 2010 membership cards.

July 7, 2009: Attended Northbridge Post 343 meeting with Tom Wigmore, Mark McCue and Ray Samko to re-activate Squadron 343.

July 12, 2009: Attended District 3 Installation at Indian Orchard Post 277.

July 17, 2009: Visited Raynham Squadron 405, S. Attleboro Squadron 312, Rehoboth Squadron 302, Wrentham Squadron 225 and Medfield Squadron 110 to deliver 2010 membership cards and awards.

July 18, 2009: Visited Oxford Post 58 to present the Auxiliary with their Dream Makers Award.

July 25, 2009: Visited Hyde Park Squadron 78 to support their "Home for Our Troops" fund raiser.

July 30, 2009: Attended a meeting in Natick with the Directors of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for my Commanders Project.

August 2, 2009: Attended Dudley Gendron Post 414 Tri-installation and installed the Squadron Commander.

August 8, 2009: Attended Auxiliary National Vice President Mary Ann Ventulett's Home Coming Banquet.

August 14-15, 2009: Attended Squadron 435 member Richard P. Janitis, Jr's Wake and Funeral.

August 19-24, 2009: Attend the 38th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion in Louisville, KY.

August 26, 2009: Attended the wake for James Baltramaitis. Who served in the U.S. Army and was Department NEC Jim Army's brother in-law.

Adjutant Smith asked Commander Johnson what he did on the two days in June and July that he wasn't visiting some place. Adjutant Smith praised the Commander for all his travel so early in the year.

Motion made by Clifford Smith and seconded by Clifford Hall to accept all Officers Reports as given and as one in progress. Motion carried.

Commander Johnson now called for Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Report: - Clifford Hall:

Receipts since the last D.E.C. :	
150 Tickets sold (ch) +	\$ 480.00
 Total Receipts	 \$ 480.00
 Expenditures since last D.E.C:	
Delegate & Guest fees for convention (CH due \$ 10.00)	330.00
FAO /Officers bond Eastern Insurance	170.10
Shirt Shack Engraving	25.00
H&H Sports Best Plaques	366.58
Best Buy ink Cart for membership Paper for membership	414.18
Postage	28.18
 Total Expenditures	 \$ 1334.04
 Total Balance in 2009-10 budget	 \$ -1044.04
 Proposed Expenses prior to / at next DEC	
Lunch at DEC	100.00
Travel expenses Hotels and travel	800.00
ANEC Expense	422.50
Commander to Indy	295.00
Clock Plates engraved	15.00
 Total	 \$1632.50
 Anticipated income:	
Dept Budget check	\$ 16,200.00

Finance Officer Hall stated that the 2009 Fiscal Records were sent to Brian O’Hearne and he sent a letter with the year end audit to the Statehouse for release of our 2010 budget allotment.

Motion made by Thomas Wigmore, and seconded Carl Rossi to accept the finance report as one in progress and subject to audit. Motion carried

Americanism – Carl Rossi:

Carl stated he did not receive any notification of meeting dates or information from the Department Chairman.

National Emergency Fund –

Motion by Clifford Smith and seconded by Carl Rossi to expend \$500.00 from the 2010 budgeted line item for the National Emergency Fund and the check will be presented by Commander Johnson at the National Meetings being held in October 2009. Motion carried

Boys State – Thomas Wigmore:

Boys State was originally developed in 1935. This point in history saw a rise of the Fascist Party and other threats to democracy. The American Legion, all veterans of foreign wars who had fought to preserve our American democracy, recognized that these threats were best answered by educating future leaders on the value of the American governmental system. In the decades that followed, various threats to democracy came and went - the rise of Communism, for instance, and McCarthyism that followed. Regardless of the historical setting, over the past 70 years, Boys State has thrived, and continues to teach young men the responsibility of citizenship. Our host

campus for the week of Boys State was Stonehill College, located in North Easton. On Saturday June 13, 2009 was registration day. We registered 400+ boys in their junior year in High School from around the Commonwealth. The alumni association sponsored more than 90 boys to the program. The alumni association is made up of former students of boy's state who come back each year to work with the program. In the off-season the group raises money to offset the program costs. This was the best program I have witnessed in many years. I encourage all squadrons to send a boy from your local high school. On Monday June 15 alumni night was held. The boy's state class of 1984 was honored. Edward Mulvey from The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 118 Cohasset attended. He went to boys state in 1952. Our student we sponsored from the Detachment was Matt Beck. Matt is a senior at Cohasset High School this year. I have been told The American Legion Auxiliary Girls state will be on campus for the 2010 program.

POW-MIA – John Brown:

All are invited to the Ceremony on the Battleship Massachusetts on September 20th 2009.

Community Service - Phil Samko:

I was unable to attend the July 26, 2009 community service committee meeting at Sutton Post #414 due to a conflict with my responsibilities as the District 4 Athletic Chairman and Department Athletic Committee member. The Department baseball championship was in progress, and I spent that weekend in Acushnet at the tournament. Unfortunately, I have received absolutely no communication from the chairman of the committee, so I have nothing to report. At the urging of Commander Johnson, I will contact the chairman and request that I be acknowledged as the representative of the Sons to the committee, and ask that I be brought up to speed on what's been happening. Further, I will be unable to attend the September 13 meeting of the committee because the Department Athletic Committee has scheduled a meeting for the same date, and I must be at Westwood Post 320. However, through my communication with the chairman, I hope to bring you up to date on any matters of importance at our next DEC meeting.

Children & Youth – Milton Lashus:

Adjutant Smith reported that there is a new program kit from Josh and Friends now available. This kit has new order forms, sample letters and tips for working with the news media. To order these kits go to www.JoshandFriends.com.

Child Welfare – Milton Lashus:

Clifford Smith made a motion that \$500.00 be expended for the Child Welfare Foundation with monies coming from the 2010 budgeted line item and the check be presented at the upcoming National meetings in October by Commander Johnson. Seconded by Carl Rossi. Motion carried.

“Partnership for Kids” and Children’s Miracle Network- Clifford Smith:

Clifford Smith stated he has contacted all three hospitals for the upcoming year. So far two Squadrons qualify for the “Dream Maker Award”. Squadron 19 has donated \$380.00 and Squadron 79 \$300.00. We are hoping to raise \$5000.00 for each hospital. With all the Posts, Units, Squadrons and Salons working together this can be accomplished. Check the S.A.L. website for order forms and contact information.

Resolutions – Brian O’Hearne:

American Legion College: Brian O’Hearne:

Legislative – Clifford Smith:

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – John Gurry:

John stated he is brand new and is looking for help with the committee. Several members offered assistance and the main focus this year will be having certified representatives from the S.A.L. in all locations in Massachusetts by next years convention.

Fundraiser – Milton Lashus:

Membership – Tom Wigmore:

As we begin our 2009-2010-membership year I am asking all of you for 100% dedication to our membership growth. We need to get out in our communities and sign up new members as well as renewing the members we all ready have. I am asking for 10 squadrons to be up and running charted or a reactivation by our convention June 2010

American Legion Department Commander Bill Barbour has assigned his 5 vice commanders to visit post meeting in their area. I am asking everyone that has been assigned an area to contact the department vice commander and ask if you can go with him to the post meeting. The area assignments are as follows

District 1-2-3

Joseph A. Poplaski 532 Daniels Rd. North Adams, MA 01247

E-Mail jpoplaski001@adelphia.net Phone 413-329-6081

District 4-5-8

Mark B. McCure 24 Redfield Rd. Cherry Valley, MA 01611

Cell: 508-328-0970 E-Mail mbrianmc@charter.net

District 6-7

Clifford Smith 32A Cottage St. Mansfield, MA 02048

Home 508-261-1629 Cell 781-956-4374 E-Mail Cliff106@juno.com

District 9-10

Thomas Wigmore P.O. Box 108 Cohasset, MA 02025

E-Mail Wiggy3604@aol.com Phone 781-740-8049

In early July, at the Department meeting of the American Legion the 2010 cards for The Sons of The American Legion were given out to an American Legion representative in your district. If you're Posts Squadron has not received their cards please contact Adjutant Cliff Smith or myself as soon as possible. **Please don't wait** The Schedule for the mailing of the renewal postcards from the national organization will be as follows. The first mailing will be September 18, 2009. The second mailing will be January 18,2010 and the 3rd mailing will be April 18, 2010 (**This will be the final mailing for the membership year 2010**) These mailings are made to all members whose record at the National Headquarters shows they have not renewed their membership for 2010. I am asking all squadrons to please transmit your membership to department as soon as possible. By doing so this will eliminate any confusion with your squadron and at the national organization. I am looking for no 0 squadrons across the state by November 1st. (**A 0 squadron is a squadron that has no membership sent into department**).

The Detachment of Mass is know on the web www.salmass.org

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Adjutant Clifford Smith noted that Squadron 405 still has not received their 2010 cards.

Information Technology – Mark McCue:

No Contact from Department IT Committee has been received as to liaison with their committee. The website is running fine with more and more content being sent in from the squadrons. The Committee has set a goal of same day service on updating content submissions it or an E-Mail response is sent to notify of submission errors or file problems. We will be adding some more features to the website in the coming months such as a Squadron Locator with info on meeting times, location, contacts, etc...., Please use our web address as much as possible in all your correspondence, e-mails, stationary, business cards, etc....., with proper marketing along with giving our members the information they are looking for and timely service this should become a valuable tool in all aspects of detachment operations.

Convention – Clifford Hall:

Motion made by Phil Samko and seconded by Tom Wigmore to invite leading Candidate for National Commander David Dew from Texas as a guest at the Detachment Convention in June 2010. Motion carried.

Training & Education – Clifford Smith / Brian O’Hearne:

Department Advisor Report – Leslie McKittrick:

Advisor McKittrick spoke with Adjutant Smith prior to the meeting and asked that a conscious effort be made to visit any Squadron who was not 100% last year. He will also be sending out a list of potential Posts which may wish to start a new Charter or reactivate one for the new 2010 membership year.

Gift Committee – Clifford Hall:

Motion by Clifford Smith seconded by Clifford Hall to purchase four more gift clocks needed for this year. Motion carried

A motion was made by Phil Samko and seconded Carl Rossi to accept all Committee Reports as one’s in progress. Motion carried.

SICK CALL & RELIEF: None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Clifford Smith questioned what was happening with the two Scholarships that are in the 2010 budget this year. Clifford Hall made a motion that a committee be set up to establish a scholarship criteria, method of future funding and basic rules and regulations of the scholarship and this is to be completed by the next Detachment meeting on November 7th, 2009 and reported on. Motion seconded by Clifford Smith. Motion carried. Commander Johnson appointed the following to the Scholarship Committee: Clifford Smith Chairman, Clifford Hall, Mark McCue, Phil Samko and Joseph Poplaski. Motion by Clifford Smith and seconded by Tom Wigmore to accept. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was made concerning the weekend of May 15, 2010 which is also the testimonial for Detachment Commander Johnson. It was agreed that a special pre-convention membership round up day and convention meeting take place that weekend. In addition a motion was made by Tom Wigmore and seconded by Mark McCue to invite National Vice Commander East Keith Murdough down for the weekend. Motion carried. Clifford hall discussed the need for supplying more lanyards for the Boys State program as we did in the past. He also spoke about Girl’s State being combined together next year. Motion made by Clifford Hall and seconded by Tom

Wigmore to purchase 300 lanyards for Girls State for the 2010 year to cover what we have so far. Motion carried. Motion by Clifford Hall and seconded by Clifford Smith to purchase 1500 lanyards for the 2011 Boys and Girls State programs. Motion carried. Clifford Hall discussed changes needed to the current Detachment by-Laws and a need to establish a By-Laws Committee. Commander Johnson appointed the following to the By-Laws Committee: Clifford Smith, Brian O’Hearne, Clifford Hall, Tom Wigmore, James Testa and Jospeh Poplaski. Motion made by Clifford Hall and seconded by Tom Wigmore to accept. Motion carried.

BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:

A motion was made by Carl Rossi and seconded Phil Samko to adjourn. Motion carried

Commander Johnson called upon Chaplain Phil Samko for a closing prayer.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Johnson called upon all to render a right hand salute to the flag of our country.

Commander Johnson now declared the meeting adjourned at 01:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford A. Smith

Clifford A. Smith

Detachment Adjutant

The next Detachment meeting will be November 7, 2009 at Haverhill Post 4 starting at 11:00 AM.