

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
Convention Grand Rapids
Friday June 5, 2015**

Salute to the Flag
Singing of the National Anthem
Invocation given by National Chaplin Danny Poole

Memorial Service conducted by National Chaplin Danny Poole. God Bless America was performed. All the Zone Commanders lit a candle for each Zone's deceased members. The Boy Choir of Ann Arbor performed a mini concert. Memorial Service concluded.

Roll Call

Elected Officers:

Commander Harley (Butch) Maxwell, pres
1st Zone Commander Greg Price, pres
2nd Zone Commander Danny Gleason, pres
3rd Zone Commander Carvin Chapman, pres
4th Zone Commander Fred Ruttkofsky, pres
5th Zone Commander Jerry Lynch, pres
Finance Chris Dohnal, pres
Chaplain W Ben Warren, abs
Historian Sandy Lipman, pres
Assistant Historian Earl Miller, abs
SGT at Arms Jeff Dold, exc
Asst SGT at Arms Danny Poole, pres
Asst SGT at Arms Clayton Maxwell exc

NEC David Mennel, pres
ALT NEC Rodney Tolbert, pres

PDC 1 Mike Boughner, pres
PDC 2 Rodney Tolbert, pres
PDC 3 Dwaine Verville, pres

Appointed Officers:

Adjutant Zack Pendell, pres
Asst Adjutant Mike McDonnell, pres
Judge Advocate Skip Townes, pres
Americanism Dominic Merlington, pres
Budget Chairman Chris Dohnal, pres
VA & R Earl Ruttkofsky, pres

Membership Mike Boughner, pres
Service Officer Larry Money, pres
Legislative Dwaine Verville, pres
Constitution and By Laws Ron Wyatt, pres
Public Relations Fred Ruttkofsky, pres
Child Welfare Foundation John Kailunas, pres
Boys State / Youth Career Law Enforcement Mike Holley, abs
Make A Wish Jeff Meulendyk, exc
MIAP Greg Price, pres
Homeland Security Dan Tyack, pres
N.E.F. Chairman Sandy Lipman, pres
Emergency Relief Fund W Ben Warren, abs
Education and Leadership Roger Rockhold, exc
Legionnaire Editor/Publications Sandy Lipman, pres
Son of the Year Victor Fisher, pres
Homeless Vets Rodney Tolbert pres
American Legion Rider Chairman Tom Howard, abs
Awards and Trophies Keith Tyler, pres
Pin Sales Russell Bayliss, pres
Upper Peninsula Chairman Dwaine Verville, pres
Upper Peninsula Membership Bill Germain pres
Reconnect Jack Helminski, pres
SAL Dept. Liaison Tom Cadumes, pres
Past National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky, pres
Past Department Commander Jerry Lynch, pres

Past American Legion National Commanders: Tom Cadumes pres

Past Detachment National Commanders: Earl Ruttkofsky pres

National Detachment Asst Sgt. at Arms: Danny Poole

Past Detachment Commanders: Jack Helminski 1968-69 1969-70 pres, Louis Scott exc , Earl Ruttkofsky 1995-96 pres, Skip Townes 1996-97 pres, Sanford Lipman 1998-99 pres, John Kailunas 1999-2000 pres, Dennis Larson 2000-01 exc, Roger Rockhold 2001-02 exc, Roger Dees 2002-03 exc, Dan Tyak 2003-04 pres, Ron Wyatt 2004-05 pres, Randy Jackson 2006-07 exc, Andre Svacha exc, 2007-08, Greg Price 2008-09 pres, Pat Pustay 2009-10 pres, Dave Mennel 2010-11 pres, Dwaine Verville 2011-2012 pres , Rodney Tolbert 2012-2013 pres and Mike Boughner 2013-2014 pres.

Roll Call of Squadrons

Meeting Convened

Guest's: Kevin Collier leading Candidate SAL National Commander, American Legion Department Commander Jim Wallace and his wife Linda, Nancy Knox Department Auxiliary President, Tom Cadumes Past American Legion National Commander, Ron Wyatt Central Zone Commander, Sabrina Townes fifth District Auxiliary President, Sue Verville Auxiliary Department first vice, Taylor Townes Honorary Junior Auxiliary Department President, Judy Lynch Past Auxiliary President, Gary Tanner American Legion Department Reconnect Chairman.

Commander Butch Maxwell appoints Danny Poole as Chaplin, Dan Tyack as Sgt. At Arms and Hunter Tripp as Asst. Sgt. At Arms for this Convention.

The Convention Committee Co-Chairman addressed the meeting explaining this weekend events and scheduling.

The American Legion Reconnect Chairman Gary Tanner addressed the meeting. Mike Boughner makes a motion to donate \$500 to the American Legion Reconnect Committee, support Victor Fisher, **motion carried.** Department Commander Jim Wallace reported that to date over \$40,000 has been donated to the Patriotic Fund.

Adjutant Zack Pendell read the rules for the Convention.

Finance Officer Chris Dohnal makes a motion to suspend rule 10 of the Convention rules stating that any money donated would have to be by roll call vote only, supported by John Kailunas, **motion carried.**

Good of The Sons: Historian Sandy Lipman requested that all history books be turned in by Saturday evening. Son of the Year Chairman Victor Fisher asked that all Applications be turned in by 1:00 pm Saturday, he also appointed his committee. Americanism Chairman Dominic Merlington asked that all Consolidated reports be turned in Saturday. He announced that the air rifle shoot will be at Post 47 between 1:00 and 3:00 pm. Earl Ruttkofsky asked that all VA & R reports be turned in Saturday. Chaplin Danny Poole makes a motion to donate \$500 to the Boys Choir of Ann Arbor, Rodney Tolbert supports, **motion carried.** Adjutant Zack Pendell read two endorsement letters. Numerous hospitality rooms were announced

Convention meeting adjourned until 8:30 am Saturday

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
Convention Grand Rapids
Saturday June 6, 2015**

Salute to the flag
Invocation giving by Danny Poole

Meeting Reconvened

Roll Call

Elected Officers:

Commander Harley (Butch) Maxwell, pres
1st Zone Commander Greg Price, pres
2nd Zone Commander Danny Gleason, pres
3rd Zone Commander Carvin Chapman, pres
4th Zone Commander Fred Ruttkofsky, pres
5th Zone Commander Jerry Lynch, pres
Finance Chris Dohnal, pres
Chaplain W Ben Warren, abs
Historian Sandy Lipman, pres
Assistant Historian Earl Miller, abs
SGT at Arms Jeff Dold, exc
Asst SGT at Arms Danny Poole, pres
Asst SGT at Arms Clayton Maxwell pres

NEC David Mennel, pres
ALT NEC Rodney Tolbert, pres

PDC 1 Mike Boughner, pres
PDC 2 Rodney Tolbert, pres
PDC 3 Dwaine Verville, pres

Appointed Officers:

Adjutant Zack Pendell, pres
Asst Adjutant Mike McDonnell, pres
Judge Advocate Skip Townes, pres
Americanism Dominic Merlington, pres
Budget Chairman Chris Dohnal, pres
VA & R Earl Ruttkofsky, pres
Membership Mike Boughner, pres

Service Officer Larry Money, pres
Legislative Dwaine Verville, pres
Constitution and By Laws Ron Wyatt, pres
Public Relations Fred Ruttkofsky, pres
Child Welfare Foundation John Kailunas, pres
Boys State / Youth Career Law Enforcement Mike Holley, abs
Make A Wish Jeff Meulendyk, pres
MIAP Greg Price, pres
Homeland Security Dan Tyack, pres
N.E.F. Chairman Sandy Lipman, pres
Emergency Relief Fund W Ben Warren, abs
Education and Leadership Roger Rockhold, exc
Legionnaire Editor/Publications Sandy Lipman, pres
Son of the Year Victor Fisher, pres
Homeless Vets Rodney Tolbert pres
American Legion Rider Chairman Tom Howard, abs
Awards and Trophies Keith Tyler, pres
Pin Sales Russell Bayliss, pres
Upper Peninsula Chairman Dwaine Verville, pres
Upper Peninsula Membership Bill Germain pres
Reconnect Jack Helminski, pres
SAL Dept. Liaison Tom Cadumes, pres
Past National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky, pres
Past Department Commander Jerry Lynch, pres

Past American Legion National Commanders: Tom Cadumes pres

Past Detachment National Commanders: Earl Ruttkofsky pres

National Detachment Asst. Sgt. at Arms: Danny Poole

Past Detachment Commanders: Jack Helminski 1968-69 1969-70 pres, Louis Scott exc , Earl Ruttkofsky 1995-96 pres, Skip Townes 1996-97 pres, Sanford Lipman 1998-99 pres, John Kailunas 1999-2000 pres, Dennis Larson 2000-01 exc, Roger Rockhold 2001-02 exc, Roger Dees 2002-03 exc, Dan Tyack 2003-04 pres, Ron Wyatt 2004-05 pres, Randy Jackson 2006-07 exc, Andre Svacha exc, 2007-08, Greg Price 2008-09 pres, Pat Pustay 2009-10 pres, Dave Mennel 2010-11 pres, Dwaine Verville 2011-2012 pres , Rodney Tolbert 2012-2013 pres and Mike Boughner 2013-2014 pres.

Guests: Kevin Collier leading Candidate SAL National Commander, American Legion Department Commander Jim Wallace and his wife Linda, Nancy Knox Department Auxiliary President, Tom Cadumes Past American Legion National Commander, Ron Wyatt Central Zone Commander, Sue Verville Auxiliary Department first vice, Judy Lynch Past Auxiliary President, Gary Tanner American Legion Department Reconnect Chairman, Honorary Junior Auxiliary members, First Lady Linda Maxwell and former first Lady Beverly Ruttkofsky.

The newly elected 2015 – 2016 Honorary Junior President Taylor Townes introduced her officers.

American Legion Department Commander Jim Wallace addressed the meeting. He spoke about the American Legion working together as a family.

American Legion Department Auxiliary President Nancy Knox addressed the meeting.

Historian Sandy Lipman makes a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Honorary Junior Auxiliary President's special project, support Mike Boughner, **motion carried**. Historian Sandy Lipman makes a motion to suspend Convention rule ten, support Rodney Tolbert **motion carried**.

American Legion Auxiliary Department Sr. Vice President Sue Verville, the leading candidate for Department President addressed the meeting.

NEC Committeeman David Mennel introduced the leading candidate for the National Detachment Commander Kevin Collier.

Kevin Collier addressed the meeting. Kevin's theme this year is going to be rocked. Remembering our commitment and keeping it every day.

Committee Reports:

Son of the Year: Victor Fisher stated that today is the deadline for turning in applications. He also stated that he has no one for the seventeen and under award. Victor Fisher makes a motion that the Son of the Year award can only be won once for the under seventeen and once for the over seventeen for the same person in a lifetime, support Hunter Tripp, **motion carried**.

Finance: Chris Dohnal asked that all Committee Chairman stand up so they can receive a copy of the 2015 – 2016 budget. He explained that with the increase of our dues the Detachment has increased the income by \$20,766.00. He also explained numerous increases in expenses. Finance officer Chris Dohnal makes a motion to accept the 2015 – 2016 budget, supported by John Kailunas, **motion carried**.

Americanism: Dominic Merlington asked that anyone who has a Consolidated report to please turn them in as soon as possible.

Constitution and By Laws: Ron Wyatt read a resolution to be approved. Resolution 01-2015RW submitted by Squadron 233 Lake Orion, MI nomination of David Mennel for the office of National Vice Commander Central Region. Ron Wyatt makes a motion to approve this resolution, support Dan Tyack, **motion carried**.

VA & R: Earl Ruttkofsky stated that he has a new representative in Ann Arbor. There will be wrist bands for sale to support the Wilwin Lodge. Earl reported that the movie Sniper gave a \$10,000 grant to Wilwin.

Reconnect: Jack Helminski asked everyone to please turn in their forms for what they did for helping veterans.

Historian/Publications: Sandy Lipman asked that everyone turn in any articles or pictures for the newsletter. He stated that you will only get one newsletter per household. He also stated that he has only received \$500 in donations for NEF.

Boys State: Jerry Lynch spoke about Boys State. He stated that this is the 78th year for Boys State. He thanked the SAL for their financial support.

MIAP: Greg Price stated that there is now thirty three states with a MIAP program. He spoke about several veteran's remains that were interned.

Adjutant Zack Pendell did roll call of Squadrons with Delegates paid.

Zack read an endorsement letter for Fred Ruttkofsky for Detachment Commander for 2015 – 2016.

Zack read rules for Zone Caucus.

Moment of silence for the 7th anniversary of D-Day

Break for Zone Caucus.

Results of Zone Caucuses

Zone One Commander: Greg Price

Zone Two Commander: John VanHavel

Zone Three Commander: Carvin Chapman

Zone Four Commander: Roger Rockhold

Zone Five Commander: Bill Germain

Committee Reports

Homeless Vets: Rodney Tolbert reported that last year during the winter we lost about one hundred homeless veterans. Rodney asked for anything to help, money or clothing.

Make a Wish: Chairman Jeff Meulendyk introduced Brooke Javic from Make a Wish Michigan. Brooke stated that all the money we raise stays right here in Michigan. Convention Committee Co-Chair Tom makes a motion to suspend rule 10, support Sandy Lipman, **motion carried.** Convention Committee Co-Chair Tom makes a motion to donate \$500 to Make a Wish, support Sandy Lipman, **motion carried.**

American Legion Reconnect Chairman Gary Tanner announced that there will be a tips for troops at Post 459 Saturday night with him as the guest bartender.

Good of the Sons: Victor Fisher makes a motion that zone one Commander Greg Price be fined \$5.00 for not wearing the name tag that was made up for him, support Rodney Tolbert, **motion carried.**

Victor Fisher pays a \$20 fine for speaking too much at the meeting.

Sandy Lipman makes a motion to suspend rule ten, support Rodney Tolbert, **motion carried.**

Sandy Lipman makes a motion to donate \$500 to the National ALR Legacy Fund, support Dan Squadron 253, **motion carried.**

Commander Butch Maxwell thanked everyone for all their support this year.

Commander Butch spoke about his special project PTSD.

Numerous Hospitality rooms were mentioned.

Convention meeting adjourned until 8:30 am Sunday

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
Convention Grand Rapids
Sunday June 7, 2015**

Salute to the flag
Invocation giving by Danny Poole

Meeting Reconvened

Roll Call

Elected Officers:

Commander Harley (Butch) Maxwell, pres
1st Zone Commander Greg Price, pres Victor Fisher sitting in
2nd Zone Commander Danny Gleason, pres
3rd Zone Commander Carvin Chapman, pres
4th Zone Commander Fred Ruttkofsky, pres
5th Zone Commander Jerry Lynch, pres
Finance Chris Dohnal, pres
Chaplain W Ben Warren, abs
Historian Sandy Lipman, pres
Assistant Historian Earl Miller, abs
SGT at Arms Jeff Dold, exc
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Guests: Kevin Collier leading Candidate SAL National Commander, American Legion Department Commander Jim Wallace and his wife Linda, Past Department Commander Ray Moore, Tom Cadumes

Past American Legion National Commander, Ron Wyatt Central Zone Commander, Gary Tanner American Legion Department Reconnect Chairman, Honorary Junior Auxiliary members, First Lady Linda Maxwell, former first Lady Beverly Ruttkofsky and Anita Mennel.

Roll call of Squadrons

Unfinished Business: Reading of previous minutes. Dwaine Verville makes a motion to accept the previous minutes as written, support Rodney Tolbert, **motion carried.** Numerous members approached the podium with donations to various charities. The donations turned in today brought in a total of \$16,578.00.

New Business: Adjutant Zack Pendell gave the official call for the Department Convention DEC 2 on June 25th thru June 28th. The meeting will be a one day call and one day per diem, unless you are scheduled to attend any Department meetings, then it would be two days. DEC 1 will be held right after the installation of officers.

Committee Reports:

Son of the Year: Victor Fisher announced the winner of the under 17 Son of the Year, Dakota Yates. Victor Fisher announced the winner of the over 17 Son of the Year, Carvin Chapman.

Awards and Trophies: Dominic Merlington presented the awards in all the age groups for the rifle shoot. He also presented the two Americanism awards.

Department Reconnect Chairman Gary Tanner approached the podium and stated that tips for troops last night at Post 459 raised \$1600.00. he thanked the SAL for everything they do for the American Legion.

Chris Dohnal makes a motion to suspend the Convention rules, start the elections of officers and any unopposed office has one unanimous vote by the Adjutant, support Squadron 259, support Squadron 69 supports, **motion carried.** Commander Maxwell appoints tellers for the elections. All officers ran unopposed, so Adjutant Zack Pendell cast one unanimous vote for all new officers.

Commander: Fred Ruttkofsky

Chaplin: Jack Helminski

Historian: Sandy Lipman

Finance: Dwaine Verville

Sgt. at Arms: Dan Tyack

Chris Dohnal makes a motion to resume with regular business, support Squadron 253, **motion carried.**

Newly elected Commander Fred Ruttkofsky made numerous appointments.

Dan Tyack makes a motion to accept all the newly elected Commander's appointments, support Squadron 177, **motion carried.**

Newly elected Commander Fred Ruttkofsky addressed the meeting. He asked that all of his family be recognized. He stated that his special project this year is Wilwin Lodge.

Good of the Sons: Carvin Chapman was introduced as the leading candidate for the Detachment Commander for 2016 – 2017. Sandy Lipman announced the dates for the articles to be sent in for the SAL newsletter. Sandy Lipman makes a motion to establish a Lifetime Achievement Award for the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Michigan as requested, support Squadron 253, **motion carried.**

Jeff Stealf addressed the meeting and talked about how the Wilwin Lodge helped him with his PTSD condition. 2016 Convention is in Charlotte, MI on June 3rd, 4th and 5th.

Leading Candidate for SAL National Commander addressed the meeting and thanked the Detachment for the wonderful hospitality.

Installation of incoming officers was conducted by Department Commander Jim Wallace.

Changing of the covers.

No further business

Closing prayer given by Danny Poole

Meeting Adjourned