

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
Detachment Convention South Haven June 7th, 2014**

Salute to the Flag

Invocation given by Danny Pool

Roll Call

Elected Officers:

Commander Mike Boughner, pres

1st Zone Commander Victor Fisher, exc

2nd Zone Commander Jeff Meulendyk, pres

3rd Zone Commander Harley (Butch) Maxwell, pres

4th Zone Commander Fred Ruttkofsky, pres

5th Zone Commander Dwaine Verville, pres

Finance Chris Dohnal, pres

Chaplain Danny Poole, pres

Historian Rodney Tolbert, pres

Assistant Historian Danny Gleason, pres

SGT at Arms Jeff Dold, exc

ASST SGT at Arms Carvin Chapman, pres

Asst SGT at Arms Robert Harrington, unexc

NEC Greg Price, pres

ALT NEC David Mennel, pres

PDC 1 Rodney Tolbert, pres

PDC 2 Dwaine Verville, pres

PDC 3 David Mennel, pres

Appointed Officers:

Adjutant Zack Pendell, pres

ASST Adjutant Joe Radiger, pres

Judge Advocate Andre Svacha, pres

Americanism Skip Townes, pres

Budget Chris Dohnal, pres

VA & R Earl Ruttkofsky, pres

Membership Dwaine Verville, pres

Service Officer Larry Money, exc

Legislative Ron Wyatt, pres

Constitution and By Laws Jeremy Bell, exc

Public Relations Jeff Meulendyk, pres

Boys State / Youth Career Law Enforcement Mike Holley, pres

Child Welfare Foundation John Kailunas, pres
Make A Wish Pete Miller, exc
MIAP Greg Price, pres
Homeland Security / Rainbow Connection Andre Svacha, pres
N.E.F. Chairman Sandy Lipman, pres
Emergency Relief Fund Danny Poole, Pres
Education and Leadership Roger Rockhold, pres
Legionaire Editor/Publications Sandy Lipman, pres
Son of the Year Victor Fisher, exc
Community Service Randy Warner, unexc
American Legion Rider Chairman Tom Howard, exc
Reconnect Jack Helminski, pres
Awards and Trophies Dominic Merlington, pres
Pin Sales Russell Bayliss, pres
Upper Peninsula Membership Jerry Lynch, pres
Upper Peninsula Chairman Bill German, exc
Past National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky, pres
Past Department Commander Jerry Lynch, pres
SAL Dept. Liaison Tom Cadmus, pres

Convention reconvened

Convention rules were read roll call of squadrons and delegate count was read.

Rodney Tolbert thanked all for electing him as Historian.

Membership: Dwaine Verville reported as of Friday 3 more Squadrons have made 100%. 83 Squadrons have made 100% 38 were Squadrons that did not make 100% last year. At the end of the year 96.44% last year 95%. 100% Squadrons should be receiving there award if not please check with him.

Department JR president Alisa Champion addressed the Convention. Her special project is child help USA it is an organization to help children that are abused by their parents. Alisa and the JR's did many fundraisers to raise money for this project her hope is to end child abuse one day. She thanked the Detachment for the invitation to this convention. She presented Commander Boughner with a present. Commander Boughner brought up the bracelet that he was given by Alisa at Fall Conference which was motioned that he wear the rest of the year broke about a month and a half ago.

Alisa introduced the JR officers 1st Vice Sierra Brown elected as president, Chaplain Sabrina Towns elected as 2nd Vice, Historian Talor Townes and Sgt-At-Arms Emma Dammon.

Siera Brown addressed the Convention she is the Department JR President for the 2014-2015 year her special project is Rainbow Connection. Commander Boughner thanked the JR's for all the great work they have done all year long. Motion by Sandy Lipman (14) 2nd by Dave Leasa (253) to donate \$100.00 to Siara's special project motion carried.

Department President Sandra Snyder addressed the Convention. She brought greetings from the Department Auxiliary. She thanked the S.A.L. for all they do for the veterans. She presented Commander Boughner and 1st Lady Jacquelyn with thank you presents. She presented a check for

\$100.00 to Commander Boughner for his special project. Commander Boughner thanked Madam President for all the traveling they did all year and he also thanked Nancy Knox for traveling when Madam President was not able to.

Child Welfare: John Kailunas reported that in his final report that was turned in for the book he did not have final totals. He reported that he has them now. The donations for the year closing May 30th were 13,195.00. We reached 58% for an average of \$0.59 per member. Of the set goal of \$1.00 per member. He would like every Squadron to try to reach the goal of \$1.00 per member this coming year. If they accomplish this they will receive a banner from child welfare.

Nancy Knox addressed the Convention she is the leading candidate for Department President for the 2014-2015 year if elected she promises to work with the S.A.L. She is impressed on how much the S.A.L. does. On how much money we raise and how we work with the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is very proud of each and every one of us.

Finance: Chris Dohnal reported that he presented the budget to the Legion Finance Committee and it got approved for the 2014-2015 proposed budget. He presented the budget for approval of this Convention. Disquisition was held to make sure everyone is receiving a copy of the Legionnaire one per household. Motion by Dwaine Verville (17), 2nd by Squadron 550 to accept Finance report Motion carried.

Jim Wallace Leading candidate for Department Commander for 2014-2015 addressed the Convention. He is looking forward to working with the incoming officers of the S.A.L. He hopes to see the Legion Family working as a group. He spoke about having membership applications on you wherever you go. To help build up membership in the Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L.).

Zone Caucus rules were read. 30 minute break for Zone Caucus.

Convention reconvened.

Minutes from 2013 convention in Grand Haven motion by Squadron 253 2nd by Squadron 550 to accept the minutes subject to corrections motion Carried.

NEC: Greg Price said that it was his honor to represent Michigan at National. He also reported on MIAP: he is sitting adhoc on national MIAP committee. The program is about Veterans remains sitting on shelves the goal is to get them off the shelf's and interned with full military honors different Sons have been doing work with this Pete Miller and Jeff Meulendyk were mentioned. Since the start the word is getting out about this program. A gentleman from Illinois Jim Hunter asked for information from Michigan they are about to introduce legislation there. Bob Jackson from Iowa is taking information back to his state. Andre Svacha contacted Greg Price about bodies in Wayne County this was looked into by state MIAP rep Mary Kope 160 pieces of information were released to her to verify if any are veterans. Greg talked about a gentleman from Joe Louis Post George Brown, Greg attended his funeral a Greg read a letter about George's volunteer hours at the VA hospital MR Brown received the Presidential Award of Achievement . Greg also said it is the blue cappers that do all the work.

Bud Hansbarger Leadership collage addressed the Convention. He thanked all and Commander Boughner for all there help with Leadership Collage. 11 classes about 60 SAL and ALR attended. He thanked Roger Rockhold, he had attended all classes. Bud asked for support for the coming year 5 classes have been setup focusing on officer training (Commander, Adjutant and Finance offers.) Bud said that his involvement has made him a better Veteran, better Son and a better man. Bud thanked everyone for letting him do this.

Mark Sutton Legion Publications addressed the Convention he talked about D-Day he talked about the SAL and ask why am I a SAL member, who allowed me to be and how can I honor them. He talked about how people get forgotten the Legion family decided to take care of their own. He talked about Greg Price and what he does. He ask any new people to this Convention what makes you spend your weekend in meetings? You need to say what will I learn. Talk to Sons that have been coming to Conventions for a long time ask them questions. If you want to lead, "lead by example". He talked about a 93 year old Airborne who wanted to and did a jump over Europe he said he wanted to see Europe like this one more time he landed and is doing fine. Lakeshore Band is in France they came to the American Legion for names of WWII Veterans. Mark told them to write an article and he would put it in the paper. The response was from 1200 WWII veterans. The Band wanted to have red, white and blue ribbons and carry them to France and bring them back then send them to WWII veterans. He said the American Legion has an impact.

Roger Rockhold gave a report on Saginaw VAVS rep \$200 canteen service \$100 on Community live in-services \$300 recreational out of \$1500 that was given. He feels that all reps need to give reports. He was told that Earl Ruttkofsky has all reps have given reports.

Legislative: Ron Wyatt spoke about the band that went to France they are from the Stevensville Post who had held a spaghetti dinner and raised \$3,800.00 to help with their trip. They went to Silver Beach to fill bottles with sand to take with them to leave there and bring back bottles of sand back and send them to WWII veterans. Ron went to Washington DC as Legislative Chairman talked to Congressman Fred Upton he is a SAL member of squadron 568 and he talked to Senator John Proos who is a member of Squadron 362 they are looking out for veterans. Ron said that blue cappers need to contact their representatives.

Ron Wyatt reported on Wilwin Lodge. There has been a lot of tree damage if anyone wants to help with cleanup or anything contact Ron Wyatt or Earl Ruttkofsky. Keep the donations coming that is what they operate on. Earl Ruttkofsky also spoke on Wilwin Lodge they are almost booked for the summer this weekend there is a psychologist and 15 PTSD patients there also a lady with 2 horses she volunteers her time she lets them groom the horses ride the horses there is 600 acres 10 miles of trails. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are able to come and do work earn badges. The word is getting out about donations.

Adjutant Zack Pendell read election results for Detachment Vice Commanders (i.e. Zone Commanders)

1st Zone: Greg Price

2nd Zone: Danny Gleason

3rd Zone: Carvin Chapman

4th Zone: Fred Ruttkofsky

5th Zone: Jerry Lynch

N.E.C Greg Price introduced the leading candidate for National Commander Mike Moss. Greg gave a background history of Mike. Mike has been a SAL member since 1983 in Colorado. His wife Linda became an Auxiliary member in 1986. He also has 2 Daughters, 2 Sisters, 1 Sister in-law, 1 Son, 2 Grandsons, 3 Brothers, 1 Brother-in law, 1 cousin, 3 Nephews and 1 Son In-law that are all members. Mike is a man of action he is not afraid to get his hands dirty. He has been the Easter Bunny at his Post. Plumber by trade. His eligibility comes from his father Richard, an Air Force Veteran He talked about his travels the last 7 months and the 3 main aspects anywhere he go is veterans and their families , community involvement and supporting our children for they are our future of our organization and our

country. He thanked the Detachment for their support of Fisher House. After the National Convention we will be building bridges to the future. The bridges will be anchored by the four pillars. Building membership strengthens the span of the bridge to go forward not backwards. Our bridge will link the American Legion Family together. Mike's special project will be National Endowment Fund. The American Legion Endowment Fund was founded in 1925. The National Endowment Fund distributes to the VA&R Commission. He closed with a story of his brother getting shot down in 1968 he returned home with a Purple Heart and a Silver Star. The only ones to welcome him home other than his family was the American Legion Family. He looks forward to representing the S.A.L. as the next National Commander.

Randy Eicher brings greetings from National Commander Joe Gladden. He spoke of the start of his and Commander Gladden's year started serving 346,000 blue cap members of the S.A.L. Challenging but reachable goals were set and programs were picked. He mentioned the goals of \$250,000 for the Legacy fund, \$1.00 per member for CWF, the purchase of Josh Dogs to be donated to hospitalised children and to increase volunteer hours. How are the three words going to make this happen also making the goal of 106% membership? One way is to have a strong American Legion Family. By working hand in hand with the Legion family and being committed to our Nations veterans. Being a part of the largest Veterans organization takes commitment. Being committed to our Nations veterans and their dependents is our purpose of our membership. The volunteer hours assisting in community projects that benefit others defines the passion of the S.A.L. display. He talked about membership that we need to reach out to new members to engage them to keep them as members. He talked about they were still counting totals checks still coming in \$326,000 plus of \$355,000 goal about 95% of the goal they are still counting checks. In closing he shared a story about a man that was a volunteer at a National cemetery. He shared a prayer for our troops. Thanked on behalf commander and national commander for the opportunity to visit. Thanked the Detachment for the dedication to the American Legion community and our Nations Veterans. Commander Boughner called for any donations to be made.

Squadron 28 \$1400 to homeless veterans, \$1550 to operation comfort warriors, \$1550 to Grand Rapids Veterans home and \$775 to Wilwin Lodge.

2nd District \$100 to operation comfort warriors. Squadron 34 \$100 to Fisher House \$100 to CWF and \$100 to Wilwin Lodge. Squadron 216 \$3,047.60 to CWF and \$400 to Make a wish. Squadron 233 \$120 to CWF, \$250 to Make a wish, \$500 to Operation comfort warriors, \$100 to NEF, \$100 Fisher House, \$100 to Homeless Veterans, \$100 Freedom Center and \$50 to Wilwin Lodge. Squadron 550 \$500 to Fisher house, \$500 to CWF. Squadron 253 \$300 to CWF, \$560 to Make a wish, \$300 to Wounded Warriors, \$200 to Veterans Haven. Squadron 514 \$200 to Make a wish, \$200 to Ronald McDonald house. Squadron 325 \$250 to CWF, \$250 to Wounded Warrior, \$250 to Fisher House and \$250 to Wilwin Lodge. The 1st Lady presented a check from Commander Boughner's for \$300 to Operation Comfort Warriors. Squadron 300 \$300 to Wilwin Lodge.

Good of the Sons

Greg Price talked about Michigan making the National paper about MIAP. Squadron 34 did their cash bash raised \$1000 gave money to Emergency fund of Lenawee County there bank matched what they raised so \$1000 for a total of \$2000. No admin fees for veterans and their families of Lenawee County.

Earl Ruttkofsky asked if anyone wanting to host a convention in the future Squadron 42 is bidding for 2016. Jeff Meulendyk gave Squadron 42 advice about getting the contract from the Detachment signed by the host hotel. Commander Boughner brought up if the Detachment could make any donation to the UP Monument it would be greatly appreciated. Earl Ruttkofsky brought up that the Detachment has a cap on that donation but if any squadron would like to donate. Earl also talked about the shirts that will be worn at National convention. Meeting reassessed until 8:30 A.M. Sunday.