

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF KANSAS  
DETACHMENT CONVENTION  
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 5-21-16**

Commander Richard Strothman called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM with the proper protocol.

- Adjutant Don Culver called the roll, Officers and Squadrons, and declared a quorum was present. (Roll Call sheet attached)
  - Squadrons registered and delegates present:  
Perry, Topeka #1, Lenexa, Louisburg, Olathe, Shawnee, Arkansas City, Coffeyville, Pittsburg, Burlington, Gridley, Canton, Derby-Haysville, McPherson, Mulvane, Wichita #256, Colby, Concordia, Hays, Great Bend, Hutchinson, Sublette
- Guests: Commander Richard Strothman recognized (2) guests in attendance:
  - National Vice-Commander Steve Ward (KS)
  - S.A.L. Leading Candidate for National Commander Jeff Frain (AZ)
- Finance Report:
  - Finance Officer Don Culver gave the Finance Report noting that he had just received the Budget Actuals from Headquarters Tuesday, 5-17-16. Finance Officer Culver shared some numbers with the delegates and stated the Detachment Budget is in the “black” with 6 weeks to go in the 2015-2016 Budget year.
  - Motion to accept the Finance Report made by Wes Wills (Sqd 68). Motion was seconded by Mike Saindon (Sqd 408). Motion passed.
- NEC Report:
  - Alternate NEC Doug Evans gave the NEC Report. Doug discussed multiple issues including Membership, Americanism, VA&R, Children and Youth, and Training.
  - Motion to accept the NEC Report made by Doug Evans (Sqd 192). Motion was seconded by Gregg Thompson (Sqd 136). Motion passed.
- Rules Report:
  - Judge Advocate Neal Warnken read the Detachment Convention Standing Rules.
  - Motion to accept the Rules Report made by Neal Warnken (Sqd 68). Motion was seconded by Don Culver (Sqd 136). Motion passed.
- Adjutant Culver noted there were (3) booths outside the Legion Convention Room. S.A.L. delegates should check them out ... good time to ask the suppliers any questions you may have.
  - Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)
  - USAA Insurance
  - Flag and Emblem Sales
- Registration Close:
  - Adjutant Culver (Sqd 136) made a motion that Detachment Convention Registration be closed at 1:00 PM. Motion was seconded by Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173). Motion passed.
- Adjourned for Lunch at 11:00 AM.
- Reconvened Detachment Convention at 1:00 PM.
- Department NEC Dave Warnken:
  - NEC Warnken addressed the delegates thanking them for their support of the various American Legion programs. NEC Warnken also discussed several Resolutions the National NEC body passed at the recent Spring NEC meeting. NEC Warnken thanked the delegates for the opportunity to address their Convention.

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- Department Commander Ray Vail:
  - Commander Vail thanked the delegates for everything they do, year in and year out, in support of our Veterans and our Youth. Working together we can and do make a difference. Commander Vail invited everyone to the dedication of the Colmery Memorial in Topeka on June 22 at 2 PM.
- Department Auxiliary President Jeannie Haas:
  - President Haas thanked the delegates for their support of the Auxiliary, their projects, and for the S.A.L.'s continued support of our Veterans.

Committee Reports:

- Children & Youth Report:
  - Chairman Doug Evans discussed the many opportunities we have to support Children & Youth activities. Be sure your Squadron is taking the opportunity to sponsor a student to Boys State, Cadet Law, Girls State, etc.
- Children's Miracle Network:
  - Chairman Doug Evans encouraged the delegates to add the Children's Miracle Network to their "list" of donations. An outstanding program doing great things for kids in need.
  - Motion made by Doug Evans (Sqd 192) to accept both the Children & Youth and the Children's Miracle Network Reports. Motion seconded by Steve Zimmerman (Sqd 256). Motion passed.
- Americanism Report:
  - Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt stressed the importance of the Consolidated Squadron Reports. Additionally, Gerald discussed: Get Out The Vote, The Family Support Network, Flag Etiquette, and Armed Forces Day.
  - Motion made by Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173) to accept the Americanism Report. Motion was seconded by Mike Saindon (Sqd 408). Motion passed.
- Public Relations Report:
  - Chairman Terry Harris discussed media relations in your communities. An excellent way to get the word out about what your Post/Squadron is doing.
- American Legion Riders:
  - Chairman Terry Harris discussed the many projects the Kansas ALR was involved with this year in support of our Veterans and Children. Terry stressed that the Legion Family made it all happen, not just the ALR.
  - Terry Harris (Sqd 180) made the motion to accept both the Public Relations Report and the American Legion Riders Report. Motion was seconded by Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173). Motion passed.
  - Terry Harris then presented Candidate Jeff Frain with a Kansas ALR Challenge Coin.
- Membership Report:
  - Chairman Tom Wallsmith discussed the current membership numbers. Only 162 to go to achieve 100%. Tom stressed there were still a lot of members out there that have yet to renew this year... Go get 'em !!
  - There were no memberships turned in today at the convention.
  - Tom presented the 100% Squadrons Certificates of Achievement.
  - The (2) winners of the membership drawing (\$25 prize) were: Hiawatha #66 and Caney #138.
  - Motion to accept the Membership Report by Tom Wallsmith (Sqd 363). Motion seconded by Doug Evans (Sqd 192). Motion passed.

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- Scholarship Report:
  - Chairman Neal Warnken reported we had more applicants this year than we have had in several years. The Scholarship Committee awarded (1) "Udie Grant Scholarship", and (5) "Jay Thielen Scholarships".
  - Neal Warnken (Sqd 68) made the motion to accept the Scholarship Report. Motion seconded by Mike Saindon (Sqd 408). Motion passed.
- Legislative Report:
  - Chairman Terry Harris reported he attended the Department Legislative Party in Topeka in February. Terry reported although there were fewer of our Legislators in attendance than he expected the ones that did attend were very receptive to our concerns. Terry hoped more S.A.L. caps would be visible at next year's function. Terry encouraged all to "bookmark" the American Legion's legislative page on the National website to keep abreast of National's legislative agenda.
  - Terry Harris (Sqd 180) made the motion to accept the Legislative Report. Motion seconded by Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173). Motion passed.
- Constitution & ByLaws:
  - Chairman Neal Warnken advised there was one (1) Resolution forwarded to the Resolutions Committee.
    - Resolution 1-2016: Amend the Kansas Detachment ByLaws, Article XV, Art. X, Sec 4., submitted by Squadron 68, Hutchinson, Kansas.
  - Neal Warnken (Sqd 68) made the motion to accept the Constitution & Bylaws Report. Motion seconded by Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173). Motion passed.
- Resolutions Report:
  - Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt advised there was one (1) Resolution to be acted upon.
  - Resolution 1-2016: Amend the Kansas Detachment ByLaws, Article XV, Art. X, Sec 4., submitted by Squadron 68, Hutchinson, Kansas.
  - Chairman Gerald read the Resolution to the delegates and asked for any questions.
  - Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173) made the motion to approve the Resolution. Motion was seconded by Wes Wills (Sqd 68).
    - A vote by show of hands resulted in a unanimous vote to approve the Resolution.
  - The Resolution has been forwarded to the Department Adjutant for Department DEC approval.
  - Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173) made the motion to accept the Resolutions Report. Motion was seconded by Wes Wills. Motion passed.
- Web Site Report:
  - Chairman Wes Wills discussed the Detachment Web Site and Facebook pages. There is a lot of info out there to benefit members and Squadrons. Wes noted that if anyone has ideas to improve either please get with him. Pictures of the S.A.L. "in action" are always welcome.
  - Wes Wills (Sqd 68) made the motion to accept the Web Site Report. Neal Warnken (Sqd 68) seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Special Guest:
  - Duane Lange from the Pittsburg Squadron introduced Captain Robert Gardullo. Captain Gardullo was selected to receive the Kansas Department "Fire Fighter of The Year Award" this year. Captain Gardullo is also a S.A.L. member in Pittsburg. ***Congratulations Captain Gardullo !!!***

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District Reports:

- District 1: Report given by District Vice-Commander Mike Hill
- District 2: Report given by Commander Chris Hicks
- District 3: Report given by Commander Keith Muller
- District 4: No Report ... District Commander James Edington in hospital
- District 5: Report given by Commander Steve Zimmerman
- District 6: Report given by Commander Terry Harris
- District 7: Report given by Commander John Hall

Motion to accept all District Reports made by Terry Harris (Sqd 180). Motion seconded by Steve Ward (Sqd 250).  
Motion passed.

- Credentials Report:
  - Judge Advocate Neal Warnken reported that 40 delegates from 22 Squadrons were registered.
  - Neal Warnken (Sqd 68) made the motion to accept the Credentials Report. Motion was seconded by Doug Evans (Sqd 192). Motion passed.
- Unfinished Business:
  - None was brought forward
- New Business:
  - None was brought forward
- Commanders Report:
  - Commander Strothman gave his Commanders Report. He thanked all for their support this past year. He discussed his travels, Homecomings attended, helping out with Christmas wrapping at Fort Dodge, attending District Conventions, and travel to Indianapolis last Fall for the NEC meeting. He also recalled the loss of some Veteran and Sons friends this past year. In closing Commander Strothman again thanked the S.A.L. members, Squadrons, Posts, and the Auxiliary for the camaraderie this past year.
  - Motion to accept the Commanders Report made by Richard Strothman (Sqd 256). Motion was seconded by Steve Zimmerman (Sqd 256). Motion passed.
- Introduction of Special Guests:
  - Alternate NEC Doug Evans introduced National Vice-Commander Steve Ward (KS).
    - NVC Steve Ward:
      - NVC Ward thanked Kansas for all its hard work on membership. He said he is sure Kansas will hit another 100% year. NVC Ward also discussed: What good a Squadron can do for a Post; the Four Pillars of The American Legion; and Children & Youth.
  - Alternate NEC Doug Evans introduced the Leading Candidate for National Commander Jeff Frain (AZ)
    - Candidate Jeff Frain:
      - Candidate Frain thanked Kansas for the invitation to attend the Detachment Convention. He also congratulated Kansas on its hard work on membership, and for the Kansas involvement at the National level. Candidate Frain said he was amazed by the report on the Turkey Run & Operation North Pole. He then discussed some of his goals for next year (if elected). In closing, Candidate Frain thanked Kansas for the hospitality shown him and hoped to come back next year as National Commander of the S.A.L..

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- Alternate NEC Doug Evans then presented Candidate Frain with a Quilt made by “The War and Peace Quilters”. Commander Strothman then presented Candidate Frain a check for \$500, a donation from The Detachment of Kansas to his campaign fund.  
Then both NVC Ward and Candidate Frain were each given picture frames with a background that read: “America Calls Him Soldier ... But I Call Him Dad”
- Child Welfare Foundation (CWF):
  - “Pass The Hat” for CWF collected \$200
  - Gerald and Rosie Hammerschmidt donated two (2) of Rosie’s world famous Carmel Apple Pies to be auctioned off.
  - PIE # 1:
    - After a spirited auction PIE #1 sold to Steve Ward for \$100 ... donate money to CWF and re-auction the PIE ...
    - This time the PIE sold for \$100 to Tom Wallsmith ... donate the money to Turkey Run.
  - PIE #2:
    - After another spirited auction PIE #2 sold to Steve Ward for \$100 ... donate money to CWF and re-auction the PIE ...
    - Round 2 for PIE #2 sold to Don Culver for \$75 ... donate money to CWF and re-auction the PIE
    - Round 3 for PIE #2 sold to Jeff Frain for \$100 ... donate the money and re-auction the PIE
    - Round 4 for PIE #2 sold to Doug Evans for \$70 ... donate the money to CWF ... Wes will eat the PIE.
  - When the dust settled the results of the PIE Auction were:
    - \$100 to the Turkey Run
    - \$445 to CWF (Jeff Frain will mail check for \$100 to CWF when he returns home... Will reference Kansas on donation form)
  - CWF turn-in Sunday morning:
    - \$200 ... “Pass The Hat”
    - \$345 ... Pie Auction (Jeff Frain “check in the mail” for \$100 not included)
    - \$545 ... **CWF Total**
  - **Total turn-in Sunday morning:**
    - \$545 ... CWF
    - \$100 ... Turkey Run
    - \$50 ... Fines ( 2 phones , 1 cap backwards)
    - \$695 ... **Total Turn-In**

Elections:

- Judge Advocate Neal Warnken conducted the elections for Detachment Officers 2016-2017:
- It was determined only 29 delegates remained on the convention floor.

Commander:

- Don Behrens (Sqd 24) nominated Tom Wallsmith (Sqd 363). Seconded by Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173).
- Steve Zimmerman (Sqd 256) nominated Richard Strothman (Sqd 256). Seconded by Doug Evans (Sqd 192).
- There were no other nominations.
- A paper ballot was used to cast votes ... Tom Wallsmith (Sqd 363) won 15 to 14.

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Vice-Commander:

- Steve Ward (Sqd 250) nominated Mike Saindon (Sqd 408). Seconded by Doug Evans (Sqd 192).
- Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173) made the motion that nominations cease and the Adjutant be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Mike Saindon. Motion seconded by Troy Shields (Sqd 327). Motion passed.
- Adjutant Culver cast 1 unanimous ballot for Mike Saindon as Vice-Commander.

Finance Officer:

- Gregg Thompson (Sqd 136) nominated Don Culver (Sqd 136). Seconded by Steve Zimmerman (Sqd 256).
- Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173) made the motion that nominations cease and the Adjutant be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Don Culver. Motion seconded by Terry Harris (Sqd 180). Motion passed.
- Asst. Adjutant Wes Wills cast 1 unanimous ballot for Don Culver as Finance Officer.

Adjutant:

- Mike Saindon (Sqd 408) nominated Don Culver (Sqd 136). Seconded by Terry Harris (Sqd 180).
- Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173) made the motion that nominations cease and the Adjutant be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Don Culver. Motion seconded by John Hall (Sqd 205). Motion passed.
- Asst. Adjutant Wes Wills cast 1 unanimous ballot for Don Culver as Adjutant.

Master-At-Arms: (2 positions)

- Mike Saindon (Sqd 408) nominated Robert Whittaker (Sqd 408). Seconded by Doug Evans (Sqd 192).
- Doug Evans (Sqd 192) nominated Terry Harris (Sqd 180). Seconded by Troy Shields (Sqd 327).
- Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173) made the motion that nominations cease and the Adjutant be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Whittaker and Terry Harris. Motion seconded by Gregg Thompson (Sqd 136). Motion passed.
- Adjutant Don Culver cast 1 unanimous ballot for Robert Whittaker as Master-At-Arms.
- Adjutant Don Culver cast 1 unanimous ballot for Terry Harris as Master-At-Arms.

**National Vice-Commander Steve Ward gave the Oath of Office to the newly elected officers.**

Pass The Gavel:

- The Past Detachment Commanders formed a line and the Gavel was passed to Detachment Commander Elect Tom Wallsmith.
- Commander Elect Wallsmith thanked the delegates for the vote of confidence and the opportunity to serve as Detachment Commander. He reminded all that this membership year was not yet over and we still needed 162 to reach 100%. There are plenty of renewals yet to be had so let's go get them.

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- Delegates and Alternates to Cincinnati National Convention, August 26-28, 2016
  - The delegates were asked who wanted to be a Delegate to the National Convention in Cincinnati
  - The below listed asked to be Delegates:
    - Jack Ison
    - Tom Wallsmith
    - Doug Evans
    - Steve Ward
    - Neal Warnken
    - Caleb Fredrickson
    - Lyle Larson
    - Damon Christensen
    - Gerald Hammerschmidt
    - Richard Strothman
  - Motion to approve the National Convention Delegates made by Don Culver (Sqd 136). Seconded by Mike Saindon (Sqd 408). Motion passed.
- “For the Good”
  - Neal Warnken announced the two (2) inductees into the Detachment Hall of Fame this year:
    - Jerry “Doc” Leopold
    - Wes Wills
  - Gerald Hammerschmidt (Sqd 173) reminded all that there were 2 “phone fines” to be collected ... both of the guilty parties voluntarily paid \$20 each. Additionally there was a cap fine ... the guilty party voluntarily paid \$10 ... All funds go to CWF.
- With no further business brought forward Detachment Chaplain Gregg Thompson offered the Benediction.
- Commander Elect Tom Wallsmith reminded all there would be a short DEC meeting following the Convention adjournment.
- Commander Elect Wallsmith adjourned the 2016 Detachment Convention with the proper protocol at 5:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by:  
Detachment Adjutant Don Culver

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<b>ROLL CALL</b>		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Commander	Richard Strothman	X		
V-Commander	Tom Wallsmith	X		
Adjutant	Don Culver	X		
Assitant Adjutant	Wes Wills	X		
Finance	Don Culver	X		
NEC	Open			
Alt. NEC	Doug Evans	X		
Masters-At-Arms	Terry Harris	X		
	Robert Whittaker	X		
Chaplain	Gregg Thompson	X		
Historian	Jim Trenary	X		
Judge Advocate	Neal Warnken	X		
SAL Advisors	Dave Hazelwood		X	
	Tom Tschantz		X	
	Charlie Trapp	X		
Dept. ALR Rep. to the SAL	Terry Harris	X		
District 1 Commander	Donte Wichman			X
District 2 Commander	Chris Hicks	X		
District 3 Commander	Keith Muller	X		
District 4 Commander	James Edington			X
District 5 Commander	Steve Zimmerman	X		
District 6 Commander	Tom Wallsmith	X		
District 7 Commander	Chris Krueger		X	
District 8 Commander	John Hall	X		
<b>Past Detachment Commanders</b>	Carl Griffee		X	
	Chris Haas	X		
	Andy Procina		X	
	Vail Henningsen			X
	Neal Warnken	X		
	Don Culver	X		
	Wes Wills	X		
	Gerald Hammerschmidt	X		
	Alan Rusch	X		
	James Burton	X		
	Basil Pepperd		X	
	Lyle Larson	X		
	Randy Bland		X	
	Steve Ward	X		
	Sam Sparks			X
	Doug Evans	X		



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