Minutes

Opening

Commander Dan Finnell **Called the Meeting to Order** at 8:00 p.m. and led a **Salute to the Colors**. Chaplain Bernie Kessler gave the **Invocation**. CDR Finnell asked that all observe a **Moment of Silence** in honor of our departed comrades, and observed the **POW/MIA Empty Chair** and **Blue Star Banner** ceremonies. First Vice Commander Evan Mahlman led the body in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance**. Second Vice Commander Dale Anderson led the body in reciting the **Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion**. CDR Finnell declared the Detachment Executive Committee meeting **Convened**.

Roll Call

Adjutant Scott Thornton conducted the **Roll Call**. The following Detachment Officers and Commission & Committee Chairmen were present:

Commander.....Dan Finnell .....S164 – D12
1st Vice Cdr. .....Evan Mahlman .....S300 – D01
2nd Vice Cdr. .....Dale Anderson, II .....S703 – D13
Chaplain .....Bernie Kessler.....S181 – D05
Adjutant .....Scott Thornton.....S587 – D01
Judge Advocate.....PDC Bill Towns, Jr.....S281 – D14
NEC .....PDC "Buster" Sutterlin.S257 – D05
ANEC.....PDC Steve Honigfort .....S63 – D01
Sergeant-at-Arms .....Dave Dilts .....S29 – D11
Asst. SaA.....Rick Lang. .....S389 – D11
Asst. SaA.....Rick Poppe.....S210 – D02
Asst. SaA.....Brad Swires. .....S257 – D05
Asst. SaA.....Dale Thatcher. .....S178 – D02
Historian .....Verge Dilts .....S29 – D11

Americanism ..... PDC Steve Honigfort... S63 – D01
Buckeye Boys State ..... Tim Conway..... S257 – D05
Legislative..... PDC Craig Smith..... S535 – D05
POW/MIA..... PDC Jon Coakley, II..... S164 – D12
Children & Youth..... PDC Rob Brewer..... S12 – D05
Child Welfare Found..... "Dewey" Kuhl.....S8 – D05
Child. Miracle Network . Bruce Forshey ..... S389 – D11
Special Olympics..... Dennis Albright ..... S757 – D07
VA & R..... PNVC Dan Sagraves.. S200 – D03
VA & R – South ..... Gerry Palmer.....S62 – D07
Vets Emp & Ed ..... Robert Carson ..... S566 – D14
Public Relations ..... PDC Dave Young. ..... S178 – D02
Finance ..... PDC Bruce Stirling..... S257 – D05

AAdj Charlie Brown (S64–D11); IPDC Dave Brown (S257–D05); and VA&R-N Robert Showalter (S257–D05) were **excused**.

The following District Commanders and First Vice Commanders were present

D1 First Vice Cdr. .....Wayne Lienau .....S454 – D01
D2 Commander.....Dan Ream.....S96 – D02
D2 First Vice Cdr. .....James Rowan .....S323 – D02
D3 Commander.....Dan Sagraves (VA&R) ..S200 – D03
D4 Commander.....Paul Brenkus.....S194 – D04
D5 Commander.....Tim Conway (BBS) .....S257 – D05
D5 First Vice Cdr. .....Jerry Logan .....S8 – D05
D6 Commander.....“Tub” Morris .....S97 – D06
D6 First Vice Cdr. .....Robert Goodman.....S754 – D06
D7 Commander.....John Conley .....S471 – D07

D7 First Vice Cdr. ..... Mike Zurface.....S14 – D07
D8 Commander ..... Matt Hoisington .....S21 – D08
D8 First Vice Cdr. ..... William O'Linn ..... S677 – D08
D9 First Vice Cdr. ..... PDC Rex Buchs..... S336 – D09
D11 Commander ..... David Dilts (SaA).....S29 – D11
D11 First Vice Cdr. ..... PDC Gary Lang ..... S389 – D11
D12 Commander ..... Rocky Searles ..... S532 – D12
D13 Commander ..... "Stix" Metro..... S703 – D13
D13 First Vice Cdr. ..... Jim Dombrose ..... S610 – D13
D14 Commander. ..... Ken Millick ..... S496 – D14

D14 First Vice Cdr.....Robert Carson.....S566 – D14

D1C Dennis Ordway (S541-D1); D3VC Dan Ferryman (S746-D3); D4VC Jack Fisher (S179-D4); and D12VC Tom Eshelman (S239-D12) were **excused.**

The following Advisors were present:

Bob Mendoza ..... P512 – D01
Mike Homan ..... P241 – D02
Bob Steggeman ..... P586 – D03
Jim Monroe ..... P450 – D04
"Skip" Craun ..... P733 – D05
Duane Rinehart ..... P754 – D06
Mike Holz..... P62 – D07
Gary Petrochello..... P103 – D09
Richard Johnson ..... P52 – D11
Glenn Hickman ..... P1 – D12
Jim Dombrose ..... P610 – D13
Steve Masowick ..... P685 – D14
Brenda McGowan..... Liaison

D8A John Matheny (P21-D8) was **excused.**

The following Past Detachment Commanders were present:

Mike Holz .....1974-1975 .....S62 – D07
Lenny Talmage .....1982-1983 .....S300 – D01
PNVC Dan Sagraves .....1984-1985 .....S200 – D03
Craig Smith .....1991-1992 .....S535 – D05
Bill Towns, Jr. .....1999-2000 .....S281 – D14
Bruce Stirling .....2001-2002 .....S678 – D09
PNVC Randy Eicher .....2003-2004 .....S405 – D05
"Buster" Sutterlin.....2004-2005 .....S257 – D05
Rob Brewer ..... 2007-2008.....S12 – D05
Dave Young..... 2009-2010..... S178 – D02
Rex Buchs..... 2010-2011..... S336 – D09
Steve Honigfort..... 2011-2012.....S63 – D01
Gary Lang ..... 2012-2013..... S389 – D11
Jon Coakley, II..... 2013-2014..... S164 – D12
Kyle Catlett ..... 2014-2015.....S96 – D02
Dave Brown..... 2015-2016..... S257 – D05

PNC Bob McBride (S72-D04); PNC Fred Hartline, Sr. (S566-D14); PDC Dave Brown (S257-D05); and PDC Mike Wiswell (S97-D06) were **excused.**

ADJ Thornton reported there was a quorum present.

Introduction of Guests

CDR Finnell called upon Sergeant-at-Arms David Dilts for the introduction of guests. Mr. Dilts introduced the following:

- S.A.L. National Vice Commander, Central Region Mike Lawler (Wisconsin)
- Leading Candidate for S.A.L. National Commander Danny Smith (Nebraska)
- American Legion Past Department Commander Jim Campbell
- American Legion Past Department Commander Steve Masowick
- American Legion Past National Vice Commander Glenn Hickman
- American Legion Department Special Olympics Chairman Bob Mendoza
- American Legion Department Assistant Sergeant at Arms Tim Shigley
- American Legion Department of Ohio District 12 Commander Steve Ebersole

CDR Finnell recognized all veterans present.

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes

CDR Finnell called upon ADJ Scott Thornton for the reading of the minutes of the November 5, 2016 meeting.

D14C Ken Millick (S496-D14) observed that the minutes of the meeting had been distributed in advance to everyone and **made a motion to waive the reading and accept the minutes as published**. D13VC Jim Dombrose (S610-D13) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Special Business

CDR Finnell called upon JA Bill Towns, Jr. for cancellation, revocation or suspension of charters.

Mr. Towns called upon Past Detachment and current District 3 Commander Dan Sagraves. Mr. Sagraves made the following remarks.

> We have Squadron 665 in West Manchester, Ohio in the 3rd District and we have been on them for the past five years to get it together or get out. They chose to get out. Over the course of the last two or three years I have been trying to get them removed from the books. They have been told to return their charter. I requested a copy of their charter which was delivered to me and I delivered it to them and asked them if it was their intention to re-charter or turn this in and I was told they wanted their charter so they could turn it back in. They have officially turned in their charter but they are still on the books. If this can be done administratively to remove them, please do.

Mr. Towns made the following remarks.

> We have discussed this in the past and I believe it is in order to go ahead and revoke the charter and have them removed from the roster so the District is no longer penalized. It would be in order to have a motion to have them revoked.

D2C Dan Ream (S96-D2) **made a motion to cancel the surrendered charter of Priddy-Walters Squadron No. 665 (West Manchester – D3)**. D12C Rocky Searles (S532-D12) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Reports

Membership Report

CDR Finnell called upon 1VC Evan Mahlman for the membership report. Mr. Mahlman deferred his report to Saturday's meeting since we have membership coming in. There is a box in the back of the room, please turn in any memberships brought with you.

Finance Committee

PDC Bruce Stirling made the following remarks.

> After the last DEC meeting the proposal for $150,000 went in to be approved by the Department Finance Committee. It was not discussed at their finance meeting, so we're now operating with our $100,000 budget for the remainder of this year. That will be addressed this coming year.

ADJ Scott Thornton made the following remarks.

> If there are any considerations for changes to the budget they need to be submitted to Mr. Stirling before the Detachment Convention in Marietta because we need to finalize next year's budget at that meeting.

Old Business

CDR Dan Finnell called for any items of Old Business. There were none.

New Business

CDR Dan Finnell called for any items of New Business. There were none.

National Appointment Recommendations

NEC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin made the following remarks.

> I have received letters of recommendation to endorse Steve Honigfort and Jon Coakley for national appointments. If there is anyone else interested in a national appointment speak up now. Would anyone in the DEC like to nominate someone for a national appointment?
>
> We recognize that Gary Lang is on the Americanism Commission and Bernie Kessler is on the Legislative Commission and both have two years remaining on their current appointments.

NEC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin (S257-D5) **made a motion submit the names of Steven Honigfort and Jon Coakley for National appointments.** D2C Dan Ream (S96-D2) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Future Projects Fund Donations

CDR Dan Finnell made the following remarks:

> Currently, without the $150,000.00 budget, working off $100,000.00, we do have $11,000.00 to disburse this weekend for Future Projects. My recommendations are the following:
> - Commander's Project: Gifts for Yanks: $5,000.00
> - Commander's Award – C&Y: Child Welfare Foundation: $4,000.00
> - Commander's Award – VA&R: Operation Comfort Warrior: $1,400.00
> - American Legion Auxiliary Washington Poppy Contest: $600.00

D3C Dan Sagraves (S200-D3) **made a motion to approve the Future Project Fund donations.** D7C John Conley (S471-D7) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Announcements

Mid-Winter Conference Activities

ADJ Scott Thornton made the following remarks.

> The American Legion has changed their format for the weekend to have a bunch of seminars and conference meetings, etc., tomorrow (Saturday). Obviously, it's going on during our meeting but if you're not up here speaking on the floor, if you're interested in something the Legion is looking at go ahead and do so. With this being the first year the Legion has changed the structure of the conference for the weekend we wanted to see how things went for them and after tomorrow when we see how it goes we can discuss possibly changing the way we do things next year as well and try to coordinate the timings a little better.

CDR Finnell made the following remarks.

> I would like for as many of us to go out and sit in on these Legion meetings. It is a good teaching tool. If there is one of the (Legion) seminars you would like to attend please let me know in advance and we will try to move your committee report up in the agenda so you can make that meeting.

Guest Speaker

CDR Finnell invited American Legion Auxiliary Department President Denise Conrad to the podium. Ms. Conrad made the following remarks.

> I would like to thank you for being a part of our organization, our Legion Family, because life has taught me, as I just recently lost my brother, my best friend, and, except in rare cases, you don't get to choose your family. You do get to choose your friends, and if you can call either of them family you can consider yourself very fortunate. This I say to you – we are truly family and I've heard you guys are the fun group. I've heard that you can raise an enormous amount of money for a very good cause. So kudos to all of you for all the hard work that you put in, for all the support that you give both to our Auxiliary ladies and to our Legionnaires. There is no way that our organization moving forward will survive if we don't all work together. That means membership, that means programs, that means everything that we do. We all need to be entwined, to be a part of everything that everybody does. We need to share our information, the more you have the better it is. With that being said, I don't have an entourage like your commander did when he came over to the Ladies meeting tonight with about fifteen guys, which was awesome. He had his ducks I a row, all we could see was all these gold caps when he came in.
>
> I'm here on behalf of 40,000 of our American Legion Auxiliary members in the Department of Ohio. We have 403 units and we stand willing and ready to support all of our veterans and our active duty military, our children and youth and our communities.

I am going to ask one favor – and I hope that Dan (Finnell) will give me permission. I have a special project this year. It started in our Department in 2010 and it is called The Military Families Assistance Fund. It is a special project simply for those active duty military and those that are less than four years separated from service. Sometimes they come home and they have broken families or they come home and they have a family in place, they have a job and PTSD gets in the way a year or two down the road. Sometimes our veterans are too proud to ask for help. By the time they reach out to an organization they are in danger of losing their home, their family, their jobs.

Our organization, The American Legion Auxiliary, had contacts through a veteran service organization on base for active duty military and also through Troop and Family Assistance Centers (TFAC). The Commander's commanding officers on the unit bases that are around Ohio saw the need to be able to turn around a $1,500.00 or less grant per individual per family in a dire need. Those entities refer people to us and within forty-eight hours we actually have the relief, the cash in hand to help those service members. We also, in that process, because it is a one-time grant, we then reach out to The American Legion, to other organizations that can help support them, to the VA because at times they need help with their PSTD and so we get them on their way. Any other organization that you have to file for assistance for as a general rule two weeks is a minimum amount of time it takes to receive one penny. We have things in place to be able to do that, to help them immediately and make sure that the lights are on and heat is there, they have food on the table for their families that they have a vehicle that is going to get them to work and back.

We awarded our first one in 2012 and since then we have spent over $60,000.00 that our Auxiliaries have donated to keep this fund afloat. We are right now down to $1,000.00 and that includes the $25,000.00 that we two years ago withdrew from our investments to keep this because the need is greater than the response. If you all have contacts through people that have businesses, we can do this through a 501(c)(3) to Charities, Inc. They have graciously agreed to help us with that. It is deductible even through the Auxiliary, but if a company needs it to be a 501(c)(3) we can accommodate them. We have to have something that is more plausible than just a fundraiser that our Units can have, although no donation is too small. Any pennies that you can get bring to us, we are willing to take them. We now have a Donate button on our website, alaohio.org. where you can donate directly by the click of a button. Please, if there is anyone that is interested, contact the Department of Ohio if you have anything that you can offer.

We want to do a renewable energy, something where if we can contact companies, businesses that we know we can go back to next year or two years from now so that we can keep this ongoing because I don't think that the wars are going to end tomorrow. I think that our military and our veterans are going to need us way into the future and we have to be prepared to step up to the plate and answer that call. We can't, as history has taught us, expect our government to do everything for them because they are not going to. We keep pushing and we keep making things better but there are still those voids that we have to fill.

With that being said I'm going to get off my bandwagon now but I would graciously entertain any help that you could give us in this area. We are actually doing what our mission is, and that is to serve our veterans and our military. With that, I will bid you adieu for tonight and I wish you a very successful conference this weekend. Thank you.

(Following Ms. Conrad's remarks there was discussion from the floor regarding the possibility of reallocating some funds in the Detachment budget which could then be directed towards The Military Families Assistance Fund.)

D2C Dan Ream (S96-D2) **made a motion to transfer $1,000.00 from the Ohio National Commander Candidate Fund and $500.00 from Misc./Discretionary Fund to allow the $1,500.00 to be provided to the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary to be used for The Military Families Assistance Fund.** D3C Dan Sagraves (S200-D3) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Commander's Luncheon

CDR Dan Finnell provided details for his luncheon.

The Commander's luncheon will be Saturday starting at 3:30 p.m. at Miller's Ale House on Olentangy River Road.

PDC Reverse Raffle

Anyone having unsold tickets left need to get them to PDC Rob Brewer. The reverse raffle will be held this year at Don Gentile Post 532 at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Address and directions will be provided Saturday. There will be tacos and entertainment.

For The Good of the Sons of The American Legion

CDR Dan Finnell called for anything for the Good of the Sons of The American Legion.

- Dale Anderson: Raffle ticket sales are going very slow for the Detachment raffle. Before today less than 100 tickets have been sold. Reminder that all profits go to Child Welfare.
- Skip Craun: Advisors will meet immediately following this evening's meeting.
- Jon Coakley: Turn in POW-MIA raffle tickets. More tickets are available.
- Dennis Albright: Reverse raffle tickets available. Chillicothe Post 757. Proceeds to Special Olympics. Tickets are $20.00 each. Grand prize $1,500.00.

- Bill "Buster" Sutterlin: Past Commanders, table officers and special guests invited to his room at 9:10 PM.

- Dan Finnell: Limited refreshments in room 325.

Closing

With no further business to come before the committee, CHAP Bernie Kessler gave the **Benediction** and CDR Dan Finnell led a **Salute to the Colors** and declared the meeting **Adjourned** at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charleton Brown
Detachment Assistant Adjutant