

Minutes

Opening

Commander Bernie Kessler **Called the Meeting to Order** at 8:05 pm in Parlor E of the Hilton Garden Inn Toledo/Perrysburg and led a **Salute to the Colors**. Chaplain David Dilts gave the **Invocation**. CDR Kessler 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 Doug Hancock led the body in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance**. Second Vice Commander Dennis Albright led the body in reciting the **Preamble to the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion**. CDR Kessler declared the 57th Convention **Convened**.

Roll Call

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

Commander.....Bernie Kessler.....S181 – D05	Legislative..... PDC Craig Smith..... S535 – D05
First Vice Cdr.....Doug Hancock.....S479 – D01	Oratorical Rocky Searles S532 – D12
Second Vice Cdr.....Dennis Albright.....S757 – D07	Children & Youth Bruce Forshey..... S389 – D11
ChaplainDavid DiltsS29 – D11	Child Welfare Found..... “Dewey” KuhlS8 – D05
AdjutantScott Thornton.....S587 – D01	Child. Miracle Network . Adam Budner S627 – D13
Asst. AdjutantChase Ordway.....S541 – D01	Special Olympics..... PDC Adam Jones S142 – D07
Judge Advocate.....PDC Bill Towns, Jr.....S357 – D10	VA & R PNVC Dan Sagraves.. S200 – D03
NEC.....PDC “Buster” Sutterlin.S257 – D05	VA & R – North Robert Showalter S733 – D05
ANEC.....PDC Steve HonigfortS63 – D01	VA & R – South Gerry PalmerS62 – D07
Imm. Past Commander .Dale Anderson, IIS703 – D13	Public Relations ANEC Steve Honigfort... S63 – D01
Sergeant-at-ArmsMark Behm.....S405 – D05	<i>Ohio SALute</i> Editor..... PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.....S15 – D09
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms..Brad SwiresS192 – D10	Convention Screening... NEC “Buster” Sutterlin S257 – D05
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms..Chester Crooks.S52 – D11	Finance PDC Lenny Talmage.... S300 – D01
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms..John Conley.S23 – D07	Member Training..... PDC Bill Towns, Jr..... S357 – D10
HistorianVerge DiltsS29 – D11	Committee Appts. NEC “Buster” Sutterlin S257 – D05

POW PDC Evan Mahlman (S300-D1); and VEE Bob Carson, Jr. (S533-D14) were **excused**.

The following District Commanders and First Vice Commanders were present

D1 Commander.....PDC Lenny TalmageS300 – D01	D8 First Vice Cdr. Bill O'Linn..... S677 – D08
D1 First Vice Cdr.Tom RosenbauerS63 – D01	D9 Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr.S15 – D09
D2 Commander.....Randy Matthews.....S178 – D02	D9 First Vice Cdr. Tom FossS7 – D09
D4 Commander.....Chuck CastleS484 – D04	D10 Commander..... Matthew Baxter S357 – D10
D5 Commander.....Tim ConwayS257 – D05	D11 Commander..... Chester Crooks.....S52 – D11
D5 First Vice Cdr.Richard RussellS503 – D05	D12 Commander..... Rocky Searles S532 – D12
D6 Commander.....Ted Kohler, Jr.....S584 – D06	D13 Commander Adam Budner S627 – D13
D7 Commander.....John ConleyS23 – D07	D13 First Vice Cdr. Ron “Stix” Metro S703 – D13
D8 Commander.....Matt Hoisington.....S21 – D08	D14 Commander..... PNC Fred Hartline, Sr.. S566 – D14

D7VC Mark Kendall (S23-D7); D10VC Dan Bekar (S290-D10); D12VC Glenn Hickman (S1-D12); and D14VC Ian Carson (S566-D14) **were excused**.

The following Advisors were present:

Bob Steggeman..... P586 – D3	Mike Holz..... P62 – D7	LIA John RobinsonP641 – D11
Ken Ellis P288 – D4	Bill O'Linn P677 – D8	
Arden "Skip" Craun..... P733 – D5	Ed Long..... P34 – D10	

D6A Ralph McCoy (P85-D6); D12A Glenn Hickman (P1-D12); D13A Richard Wright (P703-D13); and D14A Dave Cobb, Sr. (P566-D14) were **excused**.

The following Past Detachment Commanders were present:

PNC Fred Hartline, Sr. 1971-1972 S566 – D147	Adam Jones. 2008-2009 S142 – D07
Mike Holz 1974-1975 S62 – D07	Rex Buchs..... 2010-2011 S336 – D09
Lenny Talmage 1982-1983 S300 – D01	Steve Honigfort..... 2011-2012 S63 – D01
PNVC Dan Sagraves 1984-1985 S200 – D03	Gary Lang 2012-2013 S389 – D11
Craig Smith 1991-1922 S535 – D05	Jon Coakley, II..... 2013-2014 S164 – D12
Bill Towns, Jr. 1999-2000 S281 – D14	Dave Brown..... 2015-2016 S257 – D05
PNVC Randy Eicher. 2003-2004 S405 – D05	Dan Finnell 2016-2017 S164 – D12
Bill "Buster" Sutterlin 2004-2005 S257 – D05	Bob Mendoza..... 2018, Hon. S533 – D01
Jeff Vrabel, Sr. 2005-2006 S15 – D09	Dale Anderson, II..... 2018-2019 S703 – D013

PNC Bob McBride (S72-D4); PDC Walt Chambers (S3-D1); and PDC Evan Mahlman (S300-D1) were **excused**.

Special Business

PDC Dan Sagraves requested permission for the Past Detachment Commanders to approach the podium for a special order of business. CDR Kessler granted permission. Mr. Sagraves made the following remarks.

Today we mark the passing of one of our own into Squadron Everlasting. The Ohio Past Detachment Commanders offer the following resolution to this convention.

[Mr. Sagraves read **Resolution DC2021-2 – "Memorializing Richard Riviotta, Jr.,"** included at the end of these minutes.]

Hank Telep (S610-D13) **made a motion to accept Resolution DC2021-2**. PNC Fred Hartline, Sr. (S566-D14) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Introduction of Guests

CDR Kessler asked anyone that is a first-time attendee to the Detachment Convention to please stand and be recognized. CDR Kessler also recognized all members who are not dual members and asked for a hand for all sitting as they veterans.

CDR Kessler called upon SGT Mark Behm for the introduction of guests. Mr. Behm introduced the following registered guests.

- Clint Bolt (VA) – National Commander, Sons of The American Legion
- PNC Fred Hartline, Sr.
- Sandy Lipman – Central Region Child Welfare Committeeman

- John “JD” Robinson – New Department Liaison to the Detachment

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Convention

CDR Kessler called upon ADJ Thornton for the reading of the minutes from the 56th Annual Detachment Convention.

PNVC Dan Sagraves (S200-D3) **observed that the minutes of the convention had been distributed in advance to everyone and made a motion to waive the reading and accept the minutes as published.** PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (S15-D9) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Greetings

CDR Kessler stated no guests were currently at the Friday portion of the convention other than Lenny Talmage, and D1C Lenny Talmage declared he would wait to address the convention until Saturday session.

Rules of the Convention

JA Bill Towns, Jr. gave an overview of the Rules of the Convention.

At the 57th Annual Convention of the Detachment of Ohio of the Sons of The American Legion, May 14-16, 2021 the following Rules and Order of Business will be followed.

1. Each squadron will receive one vote and will gain an extra one vote for every ten attending members. Total number of delegates listed must be present.
2. The items in your room is not your property. If items are taken your squadron will be charged.
3. Minors in hotels must be under control of their parents. No underage drinking.
4. Skipping on rooms without paying, squadron will be charged. Any reservations that were not cancelled will cause your squadron will be charged.
5. The rest are standard to past years, and those have been sent out.

Rules of the Election

JA Towns gave the following overview of the Rules of the Election.

All rules were sent out and a copy was given to each attending delegate.

The 2021 Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Ohio Annual Convention will follow these election rules.

1. Each properly registered Squadron will be allowed one (1) vote and all Squadrons will be entitled to one (1) additional vote for every ten (10) members, or major fraction thereof enrolled in Department Headquarters by May 8th, 2021.

2. A Squadron must have at least the number of paid-up 2021 members present at the Convention to vote the full number of votes assigned to the Squadron. Example: A Squadron is entitled to five (5) votes but has only three (3) paid-up 2019 members attending. The Squadron will only be allowed three (3) votes.
3. The total number of delegates listed must be present to cast the total number of votes for the Squadron.
4. The order of Election of Officers shall be the Detachment Commander, Detachment First Vice Commander, Detachment Second Vice Commander, Detachment Chaplain, National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman.
5. National Convention Delegates will be selected pursuant to the procedure approved in 2007.
6. Only delegates or their accredited alternate may be heard or given recognition in the nomination of candidates. Those who wish to nominate or second a nomination must register with the Detachment Adjutant before the start of the Convention.
7. Nominating speeches for Detachment Officers shall be limited to five (5) minutes each. Seconding speeches are limited to two (2) minutes. Not more than one (1) nominating and one (1) seconding speech shall be made for any candidate.
8. Election of officers shall be by ballot except when a candidate is unopposed, at which time the vote may be by acclamation. On all votes requiring a ballot the Squadron Delegation Chairman shall poll his delegation on the floor, mark the appropriate ballot, and deliver it to one of the election tellers.
9. Delegations may arrive at a vote in such a manner as they choose, but it shall be in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote.
10. All Past Detachment Commanders, while in good standing with their respective Squadrons shall be life delegates to all Detachment Conventions, with vote, to be exercised with their respective Squadrons.
11. Prior to the election of Detachment Officers, the Detachment Commander shall appoint a Chief Teller and any number of additional tellers as he deems necessary provided that the total number of tellers shall be an odd number. All appointments must be approved by the Convention body. In a contested election each candidate shall be entitled to one (1) teller of his choice.
12. When more than two (2) candidates are nominated for any office, balloting shall continue until one (1) candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. If on any ballot

taken no candidate receives the necessary majority to elect, a new ballot shall be taken for the place to be filled. The candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on the preceding ballot shall be disqualified.

PDC Bill Towns, Jr. (S357-D10) **made a motion to adopt the Rules of the Convention and the Election.** PDC Dale Anderson, II (S703-D13) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Pre-Convention D.E.C. Meeting Report

Commander Kessler gave a brief overview of the Pre-Convention Detachment Executive Committee meeting.

Everything was deferred until Saturday and Sunday. Finance is deferred until Sunday's Post-Convention DEC Meeting.

Assignment of Convention Committees

ADJ Scott Thornton read the list of committee assignments.

Squadron Activities Award

Chairman: HIST Verge Dilts
Members: 10 delegates
Advisor: D8A Bill O'Linn

Convention Screening Committee

Chairman: NEC "Buster" Sutterlin
Members: 10 delegates
Advisor: D3A Bob Steggeman

Betty McAdow Activities Award

Chairman: 2VC Dennis Albright
Members: 10 delegates
Advisor: D4A Ken Ellis

Resolutions Committee

Chairman: JA Bill Towns
Members: 11 delegates
Advisor: D5A "Skip" Craun

Americanism Award

Chairman: PDC Craig Smith
Members: 11 delegates
Advisor: D7A Mike Holtz

Al Brick Advisor of the Year Award

Chairman: CDR Bernie Kessler
Members: 1VC Doug Hancock
2VC Dennis Albright
CHAP David Dilts

Richard S. Riviotta, Sr. Rehab. Award

Chairman: PDC Dan Sagraves
Members: 10 delegates
Advisor: PDC Ron Chapman

Earl Cox Member of the Year Award

Chairman: "Skip" Craun
Members: All available advisors

Mike Jochumsen (S52-D11) **made a motion to approve the convention committee appointments.** Ron Lambert (S181-D5) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Announcements

Detachment Convention Activities

CDR Kessler called upon DIC Lenny Talmage to discuss Detachment Convention Activities. Mr. Talmage made the following remarks.

- o No bus trip due to postponement of Mid-Winter and not knowing if we were having Convention. It was too late in the year at that point to schedule a bus.
- o Friendship room with be in the Niagara Room across the hall. Friday it will be open until 11pm. Tomorrow it will open 1 hour after session and open until 11pm.
- o There is a bar and restaurant guide to everything within Levis Commons. Plenty of options for food and shopping.
- o Saturday there will be a shuttle van from 2pm to 8pm to Hollywood Casino.

Others

CDR Kessler called for any other announcements.

- o John Tepper has some candies and caramel corn for sale. Each bag is \$5, the whole thing is for twenty dollars. All proceeds go to CWF.
- o PDC Adam Jones has a wooden flag a friend made to raffle off with a tip board. Tips are \$2/ticket. Proceeds go to PDC Club.
- o ADJ Thornton stated he has a few awards for the associated Chairmen to claim.

Recess

CDR Kessler led a **Salute to the Colors** at 8:45 pm and declared the 57th Annual Detachment Convention in recess until 9:00 am on Saturday.

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Reconvene for Business – Saturday, May 15, 2021

CDR Bernie Kessler **Recalled the Convention to Order** at 9:05 am, led a **Salute to the Colors**, and declared the 57th Annual Detachment Convention **Reconvened**.

Introduction of Guests

CDR Kessler called upon SGT Mark Behm for the introduction of guests. Mr. Behm recognized the following registered guests.

- o National Sons of The American Legion Commander – Clint Bolt
- o Department Commander – Roger Friend
- o PNC Fred Hartline, Sr.
- o Central Region Child Welfare Committeeman – Sandy Lipman
- o Legion District 1 Commander – Jason Rue

- Auxiliary Department President – Kristen McLaughlin
- Department Liaison – JD Robinson
- Past Department Commander – Ron “Chapy” Chapman

CDR Kessler called upon SGT Mark Behm to escort Department Commander Roger Friend to the podium. CDR Friend made the following remarks.

Good Morning,

It's really good to see everyone, it's amazing we are allowed to be together. The governor will be lifting restrictions coming soon. Bernie, table officers, I want to thank you all for inviting me. Legion Family members and fellow Sons for what you have done to assist the American Legion. It is amazing what you do being not a veteran.

Bernie, Kristen, and I got together for an event. We went to Bucyrus for a dinner. I visited a post in Wilson, OH and this person is creating a project call Atlas. We had members of the VA, VA member from DC, and one from Ohio. They are creating PODs, it is a building, a room. Veterans can go there to meet with medical professionals for any needs. It is a project being tested here right in Ohio.

Department staff update: John Robinson is our new membership head, and the new Liaison for the Sons. He is in a tough spot with MyLegion updates. It did not work for me the first time, be patient. They are working diligently to get this working properly for all posts and squadrons. Another individual is starting Monday, his name is Scott. He will be the new VA&R rep for the department. I again want to thank you all for inviting me and thank you for all you do for all of us.

CDR Kessler called upon SGT Behm to escort Auxiliary Department President Kristen McLaughlin to the podium. PRES McLaughlin made the following remarks:

Good Morning,

As Roger said it is such a pleasure to be here, after two long years. We are back to semi-normal and as a family. We did not have a poppy shop but next year we hope to. I want to thank the Sons for everything they do. I enjoyed the last two years working with Bernie. My theme Race, Respect, Etiquette for our veterans. As you know I am a NASCAR fan. There are many Sundays after the race the texts start flying. Thank you for the invitation.

[Kristen presented CDR Kessler a gift.]

CDR Kessler called upon SGT Behm to escort First District Legion Commander Jason Rue to the podium. DIC Rue made the following remarks:

I would like thank Bernie and the table officers for inviting me here today to say a few words. Like they said it's been a long two years, but we came through it but it's

nice to finally see faces again. My post is a little unique, we have a very active Legion family. Our Sons have done an awesome job at our Post, in fact we would not have a Post with out them. What you guys do is amazing, give yourselves a hand. I would again like to say thank and have a great meeting today.

CDR Kessler called upon SGT Behm to escort First District Sons Commander Lenny Talmage to the podium. DIC Talmage made the following remarks:

Good Morning,

I would like to welcome you all to the Great First District and the 57th Detachment Convention of the Ohio Sons of The American Legion. Let us have a productive convention in support of our veterans and have a great time in Perrysburg this weekend.

Commission and Committee Reports

Membership Commission Report

CDR Kessler called upon 1VC Doug Hancock for the Membership Commission Report. Mr. Hancock gave the following report.

We had the technical problems which did not help membership numbers. Stated we had to just mail them in. Right now, we have 89.66% of our goal.

Mr. Hancock presented the following membership awards.

2020 Membership Awards - Greatest percentage increase over 2019 totals						
Lawrence Hartline Award (for squadrons with 10-24 members)						
Caufield (Bloomville)	Squadron	434	(D	5)	180.95 %
Tom Getz Award (for squadrons with 25-45 members)						
Donald Cannon (Mechanicsburg)	Squadron	238	(D	3)	156.25 %
George Powell Award (for squadrons with 46-65 members)						
Versailles	Squadron	435	(D	3)	127.78 %
Robert McBride Award (for squadrons with 66-99 members)						
South Park Memorial (Dayton)	Squadron	675	(D	3)	152.54 %
John Taylor Award (for squadrons with 100-139 members)						
Vandalia Memorial	Squadron	668	(D	3)	156.18 %
Ed "Spanky" Van Houten Award (for squadrons with 140-169 members)						
Valley (Malvern)	Squadron	375	(D	10)	105.17 %
Fred Hartline, Sr. Award (for squadrons with 170-215 members)						
Wadsworth	Squadron	170	(D	5)	104.91 %
Mike Wiswell Award (for squadrons with 216 or more members)						



Isaac Van Wert (Van Wert)	Squadron	178	(D 2)	127.46	%
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2020 William R. Welsh Award					
Overall greatest percentage increase over 2019 total; minimum of 20 members					
Caufield (Bloomville)	Squadron	434	(D 5)	180.95	%

We will determine the 2021 membership award winners once we get an updated squadron-level membership report from National. They will be presented at the next D.E.C. meeting.

There were no 2020 Attendance Awards due to the cancellation of the convention.

2021 Attendance Awards					
Greatest percentage of membership in attendance at the Convention					
Mahoning Valley	Squadron	15	(D 9)	11.43	% 4 / 35
Squadron traveling the farthest to the Convention					
Bellaire	Squadron	52	(D 11)	255	mi.

2020 Robert J. Mendoza District Advisor's Awards					
District which chartered the greatest number of new squadrons					
District	14	-	1	Squadron(s):	272 (John Fulton [Akron])
Advisor:	Dave Cobb, Sr.			Post	566
District with the highest percentage of quota squadrons					
District	7	-	12 / 15	Squadrons	(80.00 %)
Advisor:	Mike Holz			Post	62

2021 Robert J. Mendoza District Advisor's Awards					
District which chartered the greatest number of new squadrons					
District	10	-	1	Squadron(s):	160 (Harr-Reese [Brewster])
Advisor:	Ed Long			Post	34
District with the highest percentage of quota squadrons					
District		-	/	Squadrons	(%)
Advisor:				Post	

We will determine winner of the 2021 Mendoza Award for the highest percentage of quota squadrons once we get an updated squadron-level membership report from National. It will be presented at the next D.E.C. meeting.

Gary Murnane (S23-D7) **made a motion to approve the Membership Commission Report.** Ricky Connell (S641-D11) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

CDR Kessler called upon 2VC Dennis Albright for the Activities Commission Report.

Activities Commission Report

Mr. Albright called upon HIST Verge Dilts to present the Best Squadron History and Best Squadron Scrapbook awards. Incoming Historian Matthew Baxter spoke on behalf of Mr. Dilts. Mr. Baxter made the following remarks.

There were no 2020 history awards due to the cancellation of the convention. We went over the 2021 entries and there was only one scrapbook to be reviewed.

2021 Activities Awards			
Best Squadron Written History Report			
[no entries submitted]	Squadron		(D)
Best Squadron Scrapbook			
Joseph Freeman (Wilkesville)	Squadron	476	(D 8)

Mr. Albright continued his remarks.

There was no 2020 Betty McAdow Award due to the cancellation of the convention. We had one submission for 2021. Please submit your entries so we can get out the respect needed. The winner had \$1,900.00 in donations from local businesses and they had 400 volunteer hours.

2021 Betty McAdow Award			
Best Single Project Report			
Don Gentile (Columbus)	Squadron	532	(D 12)

Gary Murnane (S476-D8) **made a motion to accept the Activities Commission Report.** Ron Dull (S88-D5) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Americanism Commission Report

In the absence of AMER Luther Liggett, Jr., CDR Kessler called upon BBS John Vrzal, LEG PDC Craig Smith, and POW PDC Evan Mahlman for their committee reports.

Buckeye Boys State Committee Report

BBS John Vrzal was not present and did not submit a report.



Legislative Committee Report

PDC Craig Smith made the following remarks.

The George B. Evans Grassroots Advocate of the year award is still going to happen every year. We need nominees and they must be in 30 days before convention. There are a lot of guys doing a lot of work behind the scenes. The burn pits are still on top of the list of the legislative commission. Vice Chairman Mike Monserud spoke as he saw this personally when he served - the smoke and fumes from them was so thick that they think this is the cause of things with some of our veterans. He thinks we need to do more studies, so we need the American Legion and the VA to get behind this and make a big push for it.

POW/MIA Committee Report

PDC Evan Mahlman was excused but did send a report. Mr. Mahlman’s report made the following remarks.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency reported the following personnel have been accounted for.

Name	Branch	Accounted For
C. Johnson	Army	4/23/2021
W. Blanchard	Navy	4/23/2021
L. Wiegand	Navy	4/23/2021
W. Mitchell	Navy	4/26/2021
H. Holmes	Navy	4/27/2021
H. Alexander	Navy	4/27/2021
C. Saunders	Navy	4/28/2021
R. Battles	Navy	4/28/2021

If you would like to learn more about POW/MIAs you can go to www.dpia.mil.

PDC Craig Smith presented the 2021 Americanism Award (there was no 2020 award), noting that they had per capita donations of \$21.36.

2021 Americanism Award								
Best Americanism Program Report								
Benjamin Firestone (Columbiana)	Squadron	290	(D	10)	19,065	Hrs. / \$	4,250.00

PDC Craig Smith (S535-D5) **made a motion to accept the Americanism Commission Report.** D12C Rocky Searles (S532-D12) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

CDR Kessler called upon Chairman Bruce Forshey for the Children and Youth Commission report.

Children and Youth Commission Report

Mr. Forshey made the following remarks: XXX

Child Welfare Committee Report

Mr. Kuhl made the following remarks.

Good Morning!

Sixteen days until May 31st. May 31st, of course, is the deadline for receipt of CWF donations in Indianapolis. May 31st, of course, this year, is Memorial Day and I am guessing the United States Postal Service and the American Legion will both be having the day off. So, let us just say we have thirteen for sure and maybe fourteen days to go.

Ohio, as of the May 6th CWF report, shows \$2,651 donated. That is about 9% of our goal, or 9 cents per capita. Delaware does show about \$8,600 in donations with money ready to send, but it figures to be another down year for donations. If you wish to submit a last-minute donation, I do have direct mail envelopes that go straight to Indianapolis.

Nationally, the Sons have donated just over \$142,000 as of May 6th. That is about 40% of our \$1.00 per capita goal and within striking distance of last year's donation total. And, of course, we are entering the "home stretch" when donations pick up some. It has been a tough couple of years, but I believe the winds are starting to come around to our backs, again. We can, and will, do better.

All Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Salons that donate over \$1.00 per member, within the CWF year, are entitled to a CWF banner celebrating the accomplishment. I have some of these order forms or they can be printed out on the CWF website which is cwf-inc.org. These forms must also be in by May 31st, which I believe is an earlier date this year.

The CWF fundraiser, "Sons for Kids" aprons, are still available through National, though supplies are dwindling. There is a donation price of \$20 per apron and hopefully you'll include a little extra to help with shipping and handling. It is possible there may be no new resupply of these because, I'm told, there will be a new item coming out at National Convention. I believe it is a CWF notebook/portfolio.

The CWF is currently accepting new grant proposals through July 15th for the 2022 year. We should have a list of recipients by the third week of October. If you are aware of any local charities that could use some funds (and to be honest, which charities cannot use some funds?) please encourage them to at least consider applying. It is always just a bit nicer giving reports about Ohio charities. Those grant applications can also be found on cwf-inc.org.

The Pat Shea Award is given by the Detachment, each year, to the Squadron with the highest donation to CWF from June 1st to May 1st. For 2020 there was a tie for the highest donation with Squadrons 532 Columbus, 615 Waynesville, and 733 Bettsville each submitting \$1,000.00. For 2021 the award is given to my own Squadron 8 Wellington for a donation of 3,000.00.

This will be my last report for CWF as I'll be wearing a different cap next year. I'd like to take a moment to thank Past Detachment Commander Brown for giving me my start and all the PDCs down through two tours with Commander Kessler for the opportunity to serve. I'd like to thank

you for putting up with my reports. I have tried to make them informative and a little fun. Thank you for all the donations.

(Mr. Kuhl then introduced Mr. Sanford Lipman, Detachment of Michigan, and CWF Committeeman for the Central Region and invited him to make comments.)

With that said, do we have any donations for CWF?

Pat Shea Child Welfare Foundation Award (2020) – Most money donated to CWF

Don Gentile (Columbus) Squadron No. 532	- D12 (\$1,000.00 donation)
Waynesville Squadron No. 615	- D4 (\$1,000.00 donations)
James W. Sullivan (Bettsville) Squadron No. 733	- D5 (\$1,000.00 donation)

Pat Shea Child Welfare Foundation Award (2021) – Most money donated to CWF

Spirit of '76 Squadron No. 8	- D5 (\$3,000.00 donation)
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Children’s Miracle Network Committee Report

Mr. Forshey called upon Adam Budner for the CMN report. Mr. Budner made the following remarks.

Good Morning,

This past year has been quite a different year due to COVID-19. While we were unable to visit the children’s hospitals and many fundraisers were cancelled, we were still able to make a difference.

This summer, the Rainbow Babies and Children’s Foundation will once again hold their UH Rainbow Golf Classic on Monday, August 2nd at The Country Club in Pepper Pike. The outing will be in tee time format with both morning and afternoon starts. This event is nearly sold out so if you are interested, act fast. There are also sponsorship opportunities available. All details are available on the website UHGiving.org

And for those of you that shop at Costco during the month of May, you can donate to CMN right at the register.

Remember, these donations help provide treatment, healing, and research that patients need today so that they can fulfill their dreams tomorrow.

I would like to thank Commander Kessler for this appointment.

At this time if anyone has donations for CMN you can bring them forward.

Adam Budner

CMN Chairman
Squadron 627 / 13th District

Special Olympics Committee Report

Mr. Forshey called upon Adam Jones for the Special Olympics Committee Report. Mr. Jones made the following remarks.

Greetings,

I want to read to you the following statement from February 2021 from Jessica Stuart, President & CEO of Special Olympics Ohio.

“All of us here at Special Olympics Ohio hope this message finds you healthy and well as we hold onto the hope of returning to the normal, we certainly miss, know and love. We remain positive, we can see the light, and know this COVID-19 world will not last forever. We also know returning to full activities will take some time and will not happen overnight. Until then, we will continue to put the safety and health of our athletes first. Aligned with our Special Olympics Ohio Health Initiatives, the overall well-being of our athletes continues to be a priority to us.

At this time, we cancelled Summer Games 2021 instead of that we wanted was to use it as a celebration opportunity pulling out of the pandemic. We truly thought we would be further out, leaving this pandemic as a memory. We must proceed with caution. We hope to be back to full state level competition in the Fall.

In the true spirit of our athletes, we will continue to overcome, be brave in the attempt, and always look to our athletes to be our light in a brighter tomorrow.”

At this time, I will accept donations.

Adam Jones

PDC 08/09

Chairman Special Olympics 2020/2021

Bruce Forshey (S389-D11) **made a motion to accept the Children & Youth Commission Report.** Colton Conway (S257-D5) seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

CDR Kessler called upon Chairman PDC Dan Sagraves for the VA & R Commission Report.

VA & R Commission Report

Mr. Sagraves made the following remarks.

We are all aware that this past year until now has not been normal for our support of veteran programs at our various VA facilities and Fisher Houses. We are still able to serve veterans in other ways. I have reports from around the state of SAL members still doing the work. I want to share one such story. I am told of Colton Conway, 12 Ashland SAL Squadron 88 and his sister an Alivia an Auxiliary Junior. Colton and Alivia are the children of SAL member and Legionnaire Derek Conway. They are the grandchildren of Fifth District SAL Commander Tim Conway and American Legion Fifth District First Vice-Commander Ronald E. Dull. Their father is an active

military member, and during deployment the children decorated their home, driveway, and lined their street with American flags to welcome home their dad from an 18-month deployment to Kuwait. The young man was guest speaker at Veterans Day at his school. He spoke about his dad's deployment in Kuwait. He has also placed American flags at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Ashland for Memorial Day. For all of his efforts he was honored by Ashland Mayor Matt Miller for his work for the veterans.

Adult members should look at what these young folks have done. Ever since she was very young, I have told the story of my daughter and her willingness to serve. Adults, do you do the same? If not, why not?

As proud possessors of a priceless heritage, our mission to our veterans is clear. The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission (V.A. & R) starts, sponsors, and participates in programs and services that enhance the lives of our veterans and their families. Through our efforts we must work to help those who need assistance to restore them to a normal functioning life. Be it physically, mentally, socially, or vocationally. The Sons of The American Legion needs more volunteers to participate in activities or other work at the VA medical facilities in Ohio. We need to have our members that live near VA facilities step up and become full time volunteers. It is so simple to do. When the facilities open again after the pandemic, go to the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) office, and fill out a volunteer application. When your application is processed you can then ask them what jobs are available. We need to have volunteers that can put in a day or two a week. More if you are able. It is our duty as SAL members to do this. I am looking forward to the day when I receive reports from the VA offices telling me how much our efforts have increased.

There has also been some confusion on our VAVS representatives and deputies. We are not being recognized for the people we have in place. The men must also be registered volunteers at their respective facilities. We will select new representatives in 2022. If you are willing to serve in this capacity and represent the SAL let me know.

I have spoken with a VA official and once again as of now the annual grave decorating ceremonies at the National Cemeteries will be canceled again this year. I'll update if this changes.

Donations for Gifts for Yanks or Operation Comfort Warrior?

Mr. Sagraves called upon Chairmen Gerry Palmer (VA&R–South), Robert Showalter (VA & R – North) and Robert Carson (VE&E) for their Committee Reports.

VA & R – North Committee Report

Mr. Showalter made the following remarks.

The OVH in Sandusky is not allowing outside visitors as far as I know. Hope they will be opening soon for visitors. I have not received a newsletter in a long time. They have not returned my calls. Not sure if they are taking new residents yet. I do not think they have their Memorial Day parade. There is nothing on their event calendar about it. On Saturday May 29th at 11am, the Elmore American Legion Riders are having an Honor Ride Parade.

To donate to Greater Cleveland Fisher House:
Make checks payable to Greater Cleveland Fisher House and mail to:
Greater Cleveland Fisher House
PO Box 1852
Cleveland, OH 44106

For questions about donations call (440)377-0067

All donations stay right in Cleveland to support our Fisher House families. They are building a new, user-friendly web site for our veterans and those who support their cause.

VA & R – South Committee Report

Mr. Palmer made the following remarks.

Good Morning, Everyone,

VA in Chillicothe is not doing much. I have been helping and volunteering as needed. They are going to split the buildings, after the split they are going to allow families to come visit their veterans that are in the VA hospital. This is a good thing.

Not being able to help at the VA, I am helping with the families and household stuff. As of now the Chairman stated there will be a Christmas in July. It is penciled-in as it could change with the pandemic. I have a stakeholder's meeting at the end of the month and hope to get more information. I will now turn the podium back to Mr. Sagraves.

Veterans Employment & Education Committee Report

Mr. Carson made the following remarks.

Gentleman,

I visited Wade Park VA Hospital's VAVS Director Gerardo Navarro and now have full access. We have been assigned a locker to keep donations secure. Only I will have access to this locker. Currently it's empty. If you have any donations that need to be secured at the hospital, please contact me.

Mr. Navarro has put in a specific request of our group for the SAL to provide telephone long distance calling cards for the residents of the psychiatric residential unit. These residents have access to local telco lines only. No cell phones or electronics are allowed on the unit.

If your squadron, district, or the detachment can donate cards please limit them to \$10-\$25 denominations at the maximum. If we get a cash donation as a group, we might be able to get a bulk discount, he mentioned that other groups in the past have received them.

Mr. Navarro has put out a request for invitation to all of the districts in our area to speak about Volunteer Services and donations. What better way to get your necessary information than from the director? He has also requested to be a speaker at the Mid-Winter Conference of the detachment. He has a line item available from the VA to pay for his speaking engagements.

I will have more information for all our districts when visiting their conferences in the future.

Thank you.

Now for the VE&E Report...

I receive weekly reports from the Central Region Chairman via adjutant Scott. These reports have information ranging from National Budget to Legislation Employment statistics, Veterans Education, Job Fairs, and Veterans homelessness. If you personally or for a district / squadron level would want to receive this email, I'll create a list and forward it for distribution. Normal size is about 15 pages.

My contact information is:

Email: carsonrobert1957@gmail.com

Cell phone: (330) 620-9154

A brief synopsis of the national report...

National Veterans Unemployment rates: Men: 5.4%; Women: 4.4%

Gulf War II Veterans rates: Men: 5.1%; Women: 5.7%

Overall unemployment rate of veterans is 6.1%.

Legislation – Continuing action from previous years

- GI Bill Repair Act of 2020 is STALLED at present.
- Homeless Veterans Coronavirus Response Act Resolution #326 (Funding for additional housing for homeless veterans with families)
- HR 492 Resolution #340 (Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program)
- HR 1196 Jobs for Veterans act of 2019 Resolution #354 (Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program)

SAL supports these current year resolution actions.

Employment training

Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program. Please direct any recently discharged veteran wishing further education to the VA. This program supports up to one year of housing along with other incentives during appropriate training in a "high demand" program other than a bachelor's degree.

On the education front

Congress is working on getting National Guard compensation time towards GI Bill education benefits based on the number of days served on a yearly and career total basis.

Homelessness – the homeless veterans' situation is still in a bad way

The COVID vaccination programs are helping identify and serve this group with its COVID resources from VA, State, and Community programs - more veterans and families are being cared for.

The VA Home Loan program has been expanded to veterans and surviving spouses for service as of November 1, 1955. Contact the VA for more details.

The Paycheck Protection Plan for small businesses is closed, but there are funds available through local financial institutions through this program until May 31.

Any questions from the floor?

Thank you for your time.

I request to be considered to continue in my VE&E assignment and as the Wade Park VAVS Representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Carson
VE&E Chairman
VAVS Representative to Wade Park VA Hospital
14th District American Legion Commander 2021-2022

Veterans Employment & Education Awards

Chairman Sagraves announced all awards from this past year and this year:

Butch Badgett Memorial Award (2020) – Most money donated to Gifts for Yanks		
Spirit of '76 Squadron No. 8	Wellington – D5	\$4,000.00

Butch Badgett Memorial Award (2021) – Most money donated to Gifts for Yanks		
Spirit of '76 Squadron No. 8	Wellington – D5	\$1,500.00

Richard D. Riviotta, Sr. Rehabilitation Award – Best Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Project		
Hopedale Squadron No. 682	D5	

PNVC Dan Sagraves (S200-D3) **made a motion to accept the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Report.** PDC Rex Buch (S336-D9) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Special Guest Jason Graven approached the podium and called upon other special guest Katherine Dobbs to make a presentation to the membership. Mr. Graven and Ms. Dobbs made the follow remarks:

Mr. Graven: I just want to make a couple points. One how easily are we forgotten. Second point I am here today to Military program Coordinator at BGSU, I want to tell you a few things we are doing at BGSU. I want you to think about the students at BGSU from Ohio that our apart either past or present in our program. When you pay attention to us and help us you are helping your district, and post members or potential members. I will now turn the mic over to Kat for her presentation.

Ms. Dobbs:

Let me give you all little background at myself. My name is Staff Sergeant Katherine Dobbs, I am a medic out of the 180th in Swanton, OH. Since September I have been activated to work during the Covid-19 pandemic. I was the lead medic at the time, I taught many young and new medics at this time. My second activation I worked primarily at the Toledo food bank delivering food boxes, and currently I am out in Cleveland, where I am drawing up Covid vaccines. Currently I am the President of the Bowling Green State University Student Veterans Association.

I am here today to talk about what this BGSU SVA is doing for veterans. I will go through a typical year, in Spring we had Student Veterans of America National Convention. It is where veteran students meet to talk and plan for new charters. It is all about how we can help new and incoming veteran students. SVA will typically send five students to National Convention. We raise that money locally to send our students. We typically fund raise with Legion Posts and VFW Posts. At Convention there are job fairs, they will allow you to talk to employers. Sometimes students get interviews that day at the fair.

This year we were hoping to put wreaths on gravesites and hope to continue this every year. We are hoping to get a continued fundraising opportunity with the Toledo Mud Hens. They are always looking for more volunteers for this adventure. They plan to set up a monthly Taco Night at the local VFW. Additionally, over the summer SVA is going to help Task Force 20 with their 5K, which is on June 27th. This will be in Whitehouse, Ohio. Squadron 384 funded the entire fundraiser. Jason has flyers on the 5K if anyone wants any further information.

Fall, it gets fun. The first week back to school, the SVA will have a baked goods sale. The Fall semester is full of activities. In September, during Suicide Awareness Month the SVA is looking to partner with student groups that are active and understand mental health. Additionally, on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 we are going to have a memorial service. One of the biggest activities in the Fall, is the hero appreciation game. The SVA wants to make this bigger, at BGSU we have almost had 50 student veterans activated for the Covid-19 response. The goal is to recognize all 50 of those students, and I am hoping to have one student on the back of an F-15. October, we plan to have the Lima company come up to talk with veterans. BGSU charter is too small to

gather all the funds to send the students. It would help civilian students understand what veteran students go through daily. Veterans Day, a day is not enough, we are going to do Veterans' Week. November 8th to November 12th, we plan to do little things like raffle off parking passes. To kick it off we will do our veterans breakfast fundraiser. There will be a heroes hockey game, and we will unveil our veterans' memorial.

Mr. Sagraves made the following remarks:

Jason can attest to what we do financially as an organization in Ohio. We are generous, and we help especially young college kids. So, we hope that this \$501.00 will help towards your activities. Send someone to your convention, eat tacos. You all have earned it.

PNVC Dan Sagraves (S S200-D3) **made a motion to accept the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Report amended with the SVA presentation.** PDC Rex Buch (S336-D9) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Public Relations Commission Report

CDR Kessler called upon PDC Steve Honigfort for the Public Relations Committee Report. Mr. Honigfort made the following remarks:

Gentlemen, I am glad to see you all here in the First District. I am proud of the guys we have here. As the Public Relations Chairman, we need to reach out to all the veterans to thank them for what they did and do. We can never forget them for what they have done for us. A handshake goes a long way. I was never so proud when I took my kids out to eat and my kids went around and paid for all the meals. We need to let around the country and world what the Sons of The American Legion do. A lot of fundraising and other activities go on, and it never gets published. Newspapers, word of mouth are easy ways to spread the word. There are new members that do not know what the Legion Family does. We need to change things around; I am proud of this organization but get the word out. As you know we have an award-winning newsletter so get the word in that publication.

Mr. Honigfort called upon PDC Jeff Vrabel Sr. to report on the *Ohio SALute*.

SALute Editor Report

Mr. Vrabel made the following remarks.

At this time each year, we hear reports from commission and Committee Chairmen, our National Executive Committeeman and Alternate NEC, our Detachment Officers, and we hear from guests. You also hear me talk about what a good job we did with The Ohio *SALute* this past year, and I tell you how important it is to submit information. I remind you that it is mandatory, almost, for each Detachment Officer and Chairman to have articles ready for publication. We've been hearing the same thing year after year.

When you go back to your room later today, I want you to look in your mirror and ask yourself a question, did I help support The *Ohio SALute* by submitting information? If you said no, ask the next question, why not? Every member has something going on, or that he is involved in. District Commanders have events going on within the District. Chairmen get information that benefits all members. Are you doing your part to get the word out?

As we go forward, please make sure to do whatever you can to submit information. Detachment Officers, Chairmen, and District Commanders all have an obligation to make reports, as part of the office held. The

Ohio SALute is only published four times per year. That means you only have to put together four articles. When you do so, please make sure to be timely on your submissions.

If you are submitting photos, it always helps to make sure to identify all people in your photographs, write a brief story about the event where the picture was taken. One thing that is important for the photographer is to survey what is in the picture and what is in the background. Avoid alcohol in the picture. Try not to have a bar behind people. Use a place that is free of these items and have a good-looking backdrop to help tell your story.

Do not worry about being a reporter. Just write a story and it will be edited when necessary. It does not have to be perfect, so do not sweat that part. You have all had to write before, whether in high school, college, or at work. The important thing is to submit the information. The rest will be taken care of. One thing is please do not type in all capital letters or capitalize the first letter of each word. It takes longer to edit when submitted that way. Thanks!

Please keep in mind that YOU make the *Ohio SALute* successful by your participation. People across the nation see our newsletter, and some have even used it as a template for their publications. Everyone in the Detachment should be proud of our publication and should want to contribute to it. Please submit whatever you can for the next edition by the June 14th deadline. We must keep this line of communication available to our members. For some, it is the only time they get information from the Detachment and District levels. We owe it to them to make sure they what they need.

Those with pictures of this Convention are asked to submit them as well. Make sure to identify the people in the picture and what was going on when it was taken. If posting on social media, please use the hashtags #ohiosons and #ohdetcon21. You can also tag me, so I get to see them as well. And do not forget to send me your pictures of your new Ohio Sons of the American Legion license plates. Please email them to me at either jeffvrabel@sbcglobal.net or jeffvrabel@gmail.com.

Thank you, Commander Kessler, for allowing me to serve in this capacity, and to everyone who contributed over his two-year term. Keep up your hard work and continue serving those who served...full steam ahead.

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,

PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor
The Ohio SALute

Kenny Vrabel (S15-D9) **made a motion to accept the Public Relations Report.** PDC Rex Buch (S336-D9) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

CDR Kessler called upon NEC Bill “Buster” Sutterlin for Convention Screening Committee Report.

Convention Screening Committee Report

Mr. Sutterlin made the following remarks.

The Detachment Convention Screening Committee met last night with Chairman Buster Sutterlin, 5 delegates (John Conley, Phillip Vrabel, Phil Baxter, Dan Finnell, and Adam Budner) and advisor Bob Steggeman. We had one bid and the forms were filled out. The Committee approved the bid so the 2023 Detachment Convention will be held in Marietta, Ohio. It will be hosted by Squadron 389 and District 11.

The 2022 Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, 711 2nd Street, Portsmouth, OH 45662. The convention will be sponsored by Squadron 23 District 7.

Thank you.

Bill “Buster” Sutterlin
Convention Screening Chairman

NEC Buster Sutterlin (S257-D5) **made a motion to accept the 2023 Convention Site Recommendation.** Kirk Pontius (S178-D2) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

CDR Kessler called upon PDC Lenny Talmage for the Finance Committee Report.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Talmage made the following remarks:

The 2020-2021 budget was based on 30,000 members which was \$300,000.00. Our actual membership at National was 27,039 which gave us an income of \$272,700.00. Expenses as of Friday were \$211,280.03. At the DEC meeting Friday night we deferred any action on expenses until the Sunday Post-Convention DEC since our fiscal year ends in June.

PDC Lenny Talmage (S300-D1) **made a motion to accept the Finance Committee Report.** Chet Crooks (S52-D11) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

National Convention Delegates Selection Committee Report

Mr. Thornton made the following remarks.

At the moment, this is the list of delegates to represent the Detachment and various districts at National Convention. This list will be confirmed and edited during tomorrow morning's meeting.

Mr. Thornton read the list of delegates by District.

Phoenix is a good trip, due to COVID-19 restriction enforcement there will not a parade. Also, the Legion's band competition is cancelled. They are doing the color guard contest. The city of Phoenix puts on a good show for us. The weekend of August 27th-29th. The opening session for the Sons is commander's gavel down at 1pm on Friday. Anyone appointed to National Convention committees, those meetings will occur starting at 8am Friday. Plan to travel on Thursday. Delegates are required to be at the three sessions but there is no parade requirement. Dual members are to fulfill their obligations at their Legion meetings and events.

Member Training Committee Report

JA Bill Towns, Jr. made the following report.

If we don't teach them, how will they know?

The year-long Covid pandemic did have one silver lining; it allowed for more at-home time to review all Detachment documents. It emphasized the need to have members' email address on file so that business could still be handled. I would encourage all squadrons to revise their membership dues receipt to include a place for collecting email address and date of birth of the member.

The Member Training and Development Committee held a session at the Mid-Winter Conference and had 14 participants. I would like to acknowledge the participants that gave their time, but mostly thank the presenters that performed the work, Dan Finnell, Dan Sagraves, Scott Thornton, and Bill Towns.

There is a serious need to continue member training. We need to put more emphasis on officer and committeemen duties. A particular area would be the importance of resolutions - why we have them, and how to write them. All detachment committee chairmen should be encouraged to add short items to their reports to educate the membership on their individual programs.

The recent “failure to load” of the newly rolled out edition of MyLegion.org has shown us that we must not wait till the last minute to do things, and do not sit on cards. Send them in regularly.

We would also like to encourage all district officers to reach into the local squadrons and encourage participation at detachment events. I know there are members out there who can teach us a lot.

JA Bill Towns, Jr (S357-D10) **made a motion to accept the Member Training & Development Committee Report.** Tim Conway (S257-D5) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee

JA Towns made the following remarks:

With changes in the National Sons of The American Legion Constitution, the Detachment of Ohio Constitution and By-Laws had to be amended. Going by the Detachment of Ohio Constitution and By-Laws, some of the changes are administrative and require no action but other changes require a vote of the legislative body of our detachment, which is you, the Detachment Convention.

Because of the National Pandemic, the 2020 Detachment Convention was cancelled. An emergency vote was taken at the Summer 2020 DEC to accept the changes with full knowledge that to make it official the changes would have to be ratified at the very next Detachment Convention. Copies of Resolution DC2021-1, changing the Detachment of Ohio Constitution have been emailed prior to this convention for your review. The committee recommends that Resolution DC2021-1 be approved by this body.

JA Bill Towns, Jr (S357-D10) **made a motion to accept the Member Training & Development Committee Report, minus the resolution.** John Conley (S23-D7) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

CDR Kessler called upon NEC Bill “Buster” Sutterlin for the Committee on Committees report.

Committee on Committees Report

Mr. Sutterlin made the following remarks.

The following members are serving on a committee or commission at the national level:
Steve Honigfort – Finance, goes off at the close of the 2021 National Convention

Bernie Kessler – Legislative Commission
Jon Coakley – CWF Committee, goes off at the close of the 2021 National Convention
Jeff Vrabel, Sr. – Membership, goes off at the close of the 2021 National Convention

I have received the following names for National Appointment Recommendations.

Bill Towns – Historian
Jon Coakley - CWF
Steve Honigfort – Finance

Bill “Buster” Sutterlin
Committee on Committee Chairman

NEC Buster Sutterlin **made a motion to accept the Appointments Committee Report.** D13VC Ron “Stix” Metro (S703-D13) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

CDR Kessler called upon NEC Bill “Buster” Sutterlin and Alternate NEC Steve Honigfort for the National Executive Committee report.

National Executive Committee Report

Mr. Honigfort made the following remarks.

Gentlemen, one thing I am going to report on is the Finance report. Most of the budgets were approved for 2021-2022 but numbers have not been completed. If NEC could provide a dollar amount of surplus funds; the funds need to be positive in the Legion account. We have many discussions with not having anything last year, and a lot has carried over.

National Convention, in the ongoing pandemic guidelines are in place to protect your families. It is important to follow these safety protocols. Follow the state and local guidelines no matter where you are from. You will have to wear face coverings but can be removed while speaking. Face masks will be worn on all buses, and 6’ social distancing needs to be held when possible. That concludes my report.

Mr. Sutterlin made the following remarks:

AMERICANISM

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) Committee remarked that 44 out of 55 Detachments thus far have donated. They will be reaching out to the 11 Detachments that had yet to donate to encourage them to contribute between now and the end of May 2021.

There is a new way to donate to CWF via the National SAL webpage. Any SAL member can now go to the National SAL webpage and donate through a donate button. It is that simple and convenient. If you decide to donate online, there is an “In Honor” and “In Memoriam” section on the donate page. Indicate that you are a SAL member along with your Squadron details, and that will give the SAL credit for your donation, no matter what amount could be donated.

The National SAL goal for the 2020-21 CWF administrative year is \$500,000. Commander Bolt noted that the Detachments need to be reminded to send in their donations to CWF quickly.

There will be a CWF Pad Folio at the National Convention this year for \$20 There is a potential CWF calendar which will feature 12 – 18 months.

National Emergency Fund (NEF) Since the early 1920s, The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion family members in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and

wildfires. The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, the fund has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

It provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for post home buildings. The following are the requirements to be eligible: 1. The applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due to damage that happened during a declared natural disaster. 2. The applicant must give copies of receipts of items needed to meet needs (temporary housing, food, water, clothing etc.) during the period immediately following the disaster. 3. The applicant's membership must be active at the time of the disaster and the time of the application. You can find more information about this program at www.legion.org/emergency. At this site, you can also donate to the fund or apply for assistance.

Scrap Books Chairman Hall revealed from the last Americanism Commission call that it was brought up about the Scrap Books. The confusion stemmed from the fact that The American Legion has cancelled its Scrap Book Contest for this year. As of now, the SAL is still having its Scrap Book Competition. The National SAL Historian will coordinate the History Books. The Americanism Commission should be ready to judge the competition submittals at the National Convention in Arizona. Any Scrap Books that were received last year will also be judged this year.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Committee is looking forward to holding the second annual Youth Activity Room at the upcoming National Convention in Phoenix.

Also, everyone is encouraged to participate in The American Legion's "100 Miles for Hope" fundraising efforts which benefits the Veterans and Children Foundation. This year's goal is \$300,000. More information is available on the National Website.

CONSOLIDATED REPORTS

Commander Bolt said that Squadrons need to submit a Consolidated Report Form. Last year we went from 21% to 12%. The American Legion typically sees at least a 70% reporting figure each year. Squadrons can report on-line, hopefully that makes it easier.

MEMBER TRAINING

May 12th is the cutoff for the 2021 membership. The printing of the 2022 membership cards will be May 15th. After July or August a supplemental extraction will be done for changes after May 15th.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

The American Legion Legislative Action Center is where you need to go to find out information about the current legislation, If you haven't signed up yet, everyone is encouraged to sign up on voter voice. (<https://voterveice.net/AmericanLegion/home>). They will send you alerts as they need special bills or other topics for you to contact your representatives.

One point brought up for a need to be supported. Between 2009 and 2016 the Military Extensions Vital to the National Interest Program allowed approximately 140,000 non-citizens to join the military. They were told that they would become citizens after completing their service time with an honorable discharge. However, many were deported once they completed their service. An additional requirement was a shorter residency of one year instead of three years and the application fees were waived.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Chairman Ray said that the commission has a goal to get at least one Charles Rigsby nomination from each Detachment this year. This year has been challenging due to the COVID-19 Virus and those volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty should be nominated for this award. If a Detachment submits a nominee that is not awarded and the nominee continues to volunteer, he can be submitted again the following year with updated numbers.

Chairman Ray said we are now ready to train more in VA & R programs SUCH AS Fisher House that provides housing for families of veterans who are in VA Hospitals.

OCW or Operation Comfort Warrior is another program we support, started by PNC Jim Koutz (IN). Every dollar donated to this program goes directly to the care of a veteran where the money was donated.

Other programs we support at the VA include ‘My Life, My Story’, Warrior Transition Program, Women Rise, and Helmets for Heroes. Helmets for Heroes info for the Legion Family has spread across the country, and the program is going strong. It’s similar to the Piggy Banks for CWF, and it’s an easy one to work.

NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

49th Annual SAL National Convention – This has been confirmed as the anniversary date for Phoenix, AZ. 50th Annual SAL National Convention – This will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in August of 2022.

NEC Bill “Buster” Sutterlin (S257-D5) **made a motion to accept all Commission and Committee Reports.** D13VC Ron “Stix” Metro (S703-D13) seconded the motion. **The motion passed without objection.**

Guest Speaker

CDR Kessler called upon NEC Bill “Buster” Sutterlin for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Sutterlin made the following remarks.

Clint D. Bolt

Sons of The American Legion National Commander

Clint is a proud member of the Sons of The American Legion John D. Sudduth Squadron 72 in Warrenton, Va., where he has been a member since 1998. Clint married his wife Becky in 1987, and they have one son named Jason. Jason is married to his wife Rachel, and they have a daughter named Ella Marie, who is 3 years old.

Clint is a restoration carpenter. His most notable work is on North Wales, a 1750s country estate in Warrenton, VA, once owned by Walter P. Chrysler, Jr. This home is listed on the National Registry of Historical Places and is one of the largest homes in Virginia.

Other prominent work is on the c.1858 private residence of The Gray Ghost, Colonel John Mosby. This home served has a museum for the town of Warrenton for several years. Now a private residence, the home is part of the Civil War history of the town and the State of Virginia.

Clint served as national vice commander in 2010. He served as Children and Youth Commission chairman, VA&R Commission chairman. He was the national representative for the Sons of The American Legion on the VA Volunteer Service National Advisory Committee. This is the only outside organization that the Sons belong to with full voting privileges to assist The American Legion.

Clint is eligible for membership through his grandfather, Kennard “KC” Bolt. He served honorably in the United States Navy during World War II and was stationed at Norfolk, VA.

Clint is very proud of his grandfather's service in the war but is also just as proud of his grandmother, Marie Bolt's, service. She, like so many women at that time had to raise the family and work toward the war effort. She not only had her husband in the war but also had three brothers and many other family members serving. Remarkably, she managed to keep the home going, raising little children, the oldest was his dad, William Bolt, but she was a lathe operator at the torpedo factory in Alexandria, VA.

Mr. Bolt made the following remarks.

Commander Bernie, Department Commander Roger, Madame President Kristen, PNC Fred Hartline, Adjutant Scott Thornton, Officers, and members of the Detachment of Ohio, Good Afternoon.

Today, Armed Forces Day, we express our gratitude and support our service men and women around the world protecting us and keep us secure and free.

I was elected August of 2019, right here this weekend is the first in-person Detachment Convention I have been to in the 2 years. Thank you for inviting me, I am just so happy to be out and see faces.

Convention, its where you wrap up your year's work. It's what where you give out awards and see what all happened during the year and how much money was raised. It is where you give yourself and others a pat on the back and then when we all go home next week, we start thinking about how we can raise the bar. That is what we do.

Commander Bernie and I know each well through the regional phone calls. We participated in 21 regional phone calls. It is what we had to do to keep the information flowing. The regional conference calls were the most important calls we had. Then Zoom came and it went viral. Squadrons were even using it to get the groundwork done. We are thankful for Zoom.

I will share this with you, last year at Fall NEC, our National Historian works for an emergency response team and last September in our meeting Louisiana got hit twice with hurricanes. The historian pulled his pickup over in Louisiana to participate in the meetings. There were others that called in from work. We had members participate from their place of work. There were people calling in from many different locations. As you heard from Buster, I am proud of my grandfather's service and my grandmother being a lathe operator in a torpedo factory. Their communication was lacking compared to our days.

My theme this year is Serving Those Who Serve... Full Steam Ahead. Serving those who serve sums up exactly what each of us live. Whether it's families or the veterans themselves. Full steam ahead, was in honor of my grandfather for his service in the Navy.

Some items we must go over: Membership, I was glad to hear patience is the word on MyLegion. Indication in the next few weeks, and problems will be solved for you.

How many of you have heard of training Tuesday? Training Tuesday is May 25th at 7pm EST, the American Legion Training Tuesday will cover everything to do with MyLegion. It will be a 60-90-minute session. The session will be recorded and can be accessed at any time.

The squadron data reports are required, you must do it. This is the same as the post data reports, please help the squadrons that need help so it can be done.

Another important aspect of my year as we are coming out of this pandemic is recognition. We need to make sure those out there doing the work get recognized. We do have the Individual Recruitment Awards (IRA), if you have any members that are deserving get it to them. Also, this year, American Legion Commander Bill Oxford is offering an award pin to any family member who recruits three new Legionnaires. President Trump just signed the LEGION Act, that means any member that served from December 7th, 1941 to present is eligible for membership. That means if you go shopping and you see a veteran with a hat on ask him to be a member of The American Legion.

I liked hearing about the new squadrons, I firmly believe that when you hear new squadrons, you know recruitment is happening and we are moving forward. I have been a member since 1998, the advertisement going around was The American Legion had 15,000 posts around the country and approx. 3,000,000 members. Now we have somewhere around 12,600 or 12,800. Most of Legion posts that fail do not have a complete Legion Family. The successful ones have a Sons Squadron and Auxiliary Unit. If they don't, make them the pitch why they should have a squadron. It's for the health of the whole organization.

Now as we are closing the year and the new cards come in July, renewals get harder and harder to get. In-person contact is what works, by this time reminders have gone out. Remind them of the importance.

It was great to see all the money you raised; you guys are something else. The American Legion Charities appreciate what you do. I was present for the grants Sandy spoke about; I was there for most of those meetings and we wanted to give everyone grants. Some had to get haircuts since we were a little behind due to the pandemic. All money for the CWF goes to the children. The Commander's NEF is well worth supporting. My own charity is the Veterans and Children Foundation. The American Legion has a long-term goal of 25 million dollars for that charity. This is one of the oldest; it used to be called the Endowment Fund. Please keep that in mind, it trains our service officers twice a year. It supports Temporary Financial Assistance. The American Legion steps in and helps those veterans as needed.

Another initiative is public media and communication. They are putting together a campaign to recruit younger members. We need to know what is working to recruit younger members at your squadrons. No need of an article just a brief synopsis of what works. This is to compare and create a standard.

National Convention, it will be a safe one and sort of restricted. You will need to be registered in advance through your Detachment. We have secured twice the amount of normal convention space so we can spread out. Every effort is being made to make this the safest convention we have ever had.

Thank you all for having me.

CDR Kessler called upon JA Bill Towns, Jr. for the Resolutions Committee report.

Resolutions Committee Report

Mr. Towns made the following remarks.

The Resolution Committee met Friday, May 14th with 7 members: Steve Honigfort S63, Tim Conway S257, Jeff Vrabel, Jr. S15, Jon Coakley S164, Dale Anderson, II S703, Fred Hartline, Sr. S566, Chairman Bill Towns, Jr. S357 and Advisor Arden “Skip” Craun P733, present.

There were 2 resolutions presented to be considered.

DC2021-1 Constitutional Amendments

The origin is the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and is needed due to changes in the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and other purposes.

The attached Resolution DC2021-1 was read, reviewed, and accepted to send to the Convention Body for approval.

A motion by Steve Honigfort S63, seconded by Dale Anderson, II S703, to approve the resolution calling for changes in the Detachment Constitution was approved by the Committee and recommends the delegates approve the changes.

JA Bill Towns, Jr. (S357-D10) **made a motion to adopt Resolution DC2021-1.** John Conley (S23-D7) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

DC2021-2 Memorializing Richard Riviotta, Jr.

The Origin is the Past Detachment Commanders. Its intent is to dedicate the 2021 Detachment Convention in the memory of Past Detachment Commander Richard Riviotta, Jr. and that an empty chair be placed at the convention in his honor. Due to its nature, this resolution was presented at the opening session of the convention and has already been approved by this body.

A motion by Jon Coakley S164, seconded by Tim Conway S257 to approve the resolution as accepted by the body.

Under new business the Committee held discussions on ways to get squadrons to understand the importance of resolutions and how they make a difference. The direction this organization goes in, the programs it supports, its very future lays in the hands of the resolutions which are presented. All resolutions do not have to be world shattering, they do not even have to address a legislative issue. Some are as simple as saying thanks to a mayor or even a squadron for hosting a convention and allowing us to meet in this city.

With no further business a motion by Jeff Vrabel, Jr. S15, seconded by Fred Hartline, Sr. S566, was approved to adjourn at 9:03 pm.

JA Bill Towns, Jr. (S357-D10) **made a motion to accept the Resolutions Committee Report.** Tom Hurst (S454-D1) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

Presentation of Convention Awards

CDR Kessler presented the convention awards.

Al Brick Advisor of the Year Award Committee Report

CDR Kessler announced the winner of the Al Brick Advisor of the Year Award

Al Brick "Advisor of the Year" Award	
Ken Ellis – Post No. 288	– D4

Earl Cox Outstanding S.A.L. Member of the Year Award Committee Report

CDR Kessler called upon District 5 Advisor Arden "Skip" Craun to present the Earl Cox Outstanding S.A.L. Member of the Year Award. Mr. Craun made the following remarks:

We had two nominees this year. Since you have already heard his accomplishments earlier this morning, I present you the 2021 Earl Cox "Outstanding S.A.L. Member of the Year," Colton Conway.

Earl Cox "Outstanding S.A.L. Member of the Year" Award	
Colton Conway – Squadron No. 257	D5

Commander's Program Awards

CDR Kessler presented the Commander's program awards to eight squadrons.

Commander's Program Award 2020 – Met all the Detachment Commander's program goals for the year	
Bellaire Squadron No. 52	Bellaire – D11
Roger Moore Squadron No. 175	Stow – D14
Don V. Cross Squadron No. 357	Minerva – D10
Conn-Weissenberger Squadron No. 587	Toledo – D1
James W. Sullivan Squadron No. 733	Bettsville – D5



Commander’s Program Award 2021 – Met all the Detachment Commander’s program goals for the year

Bellaire Squadron No. 52	Bellaire – D11
Colonel Crawford Squadron No. 181	Bucyrus– D5
Don V. Cross Squadron No. 357	Minerva – D10
Conn-Weissenberger Squadron No. 587	Toledo – D1
James W. Sullivan Squadron No. 733	Bettsville – D5

Announcements

CDR Kessler called for any announcements.

Detachment Convention Activities

PDC Lenny Talmage:

Nothing changes from yesterday’s report.

Memorial Service

Chaplain Dave Diltz:

Tomorrow morning 8am, be on time. We will be covering two years and there will be a lot of names to go through. We 461 names in two years, that may not be all of them. Those are just the ones we know.

Others

- Tim Conway needs all fifth district members to meet immediately after this meeting.
- JA Towns was approached by two different squadrons that had some personal comments on the personal Squadron Constitution and By-Laws and to meet with him after.

Recess

CDR Kessler led a **Salute to the Colors** at 1:14 p.m., and declared the 57th Annual Detachment Convention in recess until 9:00 AM on Sunday.

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Detachment Memorial Service – Sunday, May 16, 2021

Chaplain Dave Diltz conducted the Detachment Memorial Service at 8:00 AM on Sunday, May 16, 2021.



The following is a list of those members who passed into Squadron Everlasting this year and for the year 2020 and were recognized at the service.

2. Largest Squadron Quota Prize for 150 dollars to the Alman & Sidel Squadron 252 from District 1
3. Large Squadron Quota Prize – Benjamin Firestone Squadron 290.
4. Jumbo Squadron Quota Prize - SAL 320 for 150 dollars
5. Jumbo Squadron Quota Prize – Squadron 62

Rodney (S532-D) **made a motion to accept his Membership Report.** Kevin Tiner (S181-D) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

Election of 2019 National Convention Delegates

CDR Bernie Kessler called upon Adjutant Scott Thornton for the election of convention delegates. Mr. Thornton called the roll of delegates and alternates to the 2021 National Convention. The list will be finalized at the July 17, 2021 D.E.C. meeting and will be submitted at that point.

District 1

- o Scott Thornton
- o Tom Rosenbauer
- o Wayne Lienau
- o Tom Hurst
- o Bruce Lyle
- o Doug Hancock
- o Steve Honigfort
- o Joe Lavare

District 2

- o No names are submitted

District 3

- o Dan Sagraves
- o Troy Davis
- o Chris Hemles

District 4

- o Bob Ray, Sr
- o Jerry Wilson
- o Chappy Chapman
- o Steve Foster
- o Donny Chandler
- o Craig Wiswell
- o Bob McBride

District 5

- o Tim Conway
- o Derrick Conway
- o Colton Conway
- o Darryl Bishop

- Skip Craun
- Ron Knowle
- Charlie Bishop
- Bernie Kessler
- Buster Sutterlin

District 6

- No names

District 7

- Gerry Palmer, Sr.
- John Conley
- Dennis Albright
- Gary Kulbain
- Adam Jones

District 8

- No names

District 9

- Jeff Vrabel, Sr.
- Jeff Vrabel, Jr.
- Rex Buchs
- Ryan Whitesman
- Kenneth Vrabel
- Phillip Vrabel
- Gary Menidao
- Vince Gorea
- Darren Gooden
- Kevin Soltice II
- Ryan Baker
- Tom Foust

District 10

- Bill Towns, Jr.

District 11

- Gary Lang
- Dave Diltz

District 12

- No names

District 13

- Ron Metro
- Dale Anderson II
- Tony Perelli

District 14

- o Bob Carson, Jr.
- o Dave Cobb, Sr.
- o Steve Masowik
- o Fred Hartline II
- o Fred Hartline, Sr.

We have 58 delegates allowed for the detachment, and we have 39 named. There are 19 available, and 17 alternates listed. That leaves two open spots to be delegates. Scotts nominates all listed people as delegates.

ADJ Scott Thornton (S587-D1) **made a motion to adopt the tentative list of 2021 National Convention Delegates as submitted, subject to final approval at our July D.E.C. meeting.** NEC Buster Sutterlin (S257-D5) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

New Business

CDR Bernie Kessler called for any items of New Business. There were none.

Commander's Final Report

CDR Bernie Kessler yielded the podium to First-Vice Commander Doug Hancock; 1VC Doug Hancock called upon Commander Bernie Kessler for the Commander's Final Report. CDR Kessler made the following remarks.

Good Morning,

This is the final report of my time as the Detachment of Ohio Commander. While things didn't go as I had hoped or planned, I am truly grateful for this opportunity.

A quote from the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life" "Strange isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. I know you have made a difference in my life and I hope I have made a difference in yours."

My theme for my year as commander was "Recognize the Past, Redefine the future." Understanding the rich heritage and history of our organization and those past commanders who carried on the traditions of the Four Pillars, and redefine how things will be done in the future and how to teach those future leaders.

My eligibility comes from my father, a WWII combat veteran of the European theatre.

I have always felt comfortable with a coat and tie... even at a young age. I know, cute kid!

I have met many wonderful people in my time as Commander. If you were in Mansfield in 2019 you met Nick Vogt, a wounded combat hero, many National Commanders, our Department officers, and we can't forget our Pentagon tour guide from my home town of New Washington, David Riedel.

The Hartline Family, Bob and Ian Carson, my table officer team. We don't pick our family, but we do get to pick our friends and I consider each and everyone of you as dear friends. Verge Diltz, I don't know how you keep going, but I am glad you are here. Events at nursing facilities, VA hospitals, and OVH, where you meet heroes from a forgotten era.

Members like Mike Pettijohn and Darrell Bishop, speaking on behalf of PDC Anderson at Poppy Shop. An event President Kristin and I didn't get to share.

My time spent out of Ohio with Past Detachment Commanders in Washington, DC as part of the Legislative Conference. Bill, Dan, Kyle, Evan, and Dale. What a flurry of activity in just a few days.

My Travels to the NEC meetings with Dale Anderson, where I saw things that I an never unsee! Driving Dale's car and scaring the crap out of him by testing the tailgating sensors on his car without he knowledge. Remember that, Dale?

Share time with the PDC's at different homecomings and our parades at National Conventions.

I was able to assit JA Towns by presenting a charter to a new Squadron, Don V. Cross #357 in Minerva.

Remembering the POW/MIA's by placing memorial chairs at Redbird stadium in Loudenville, Ashland University, the Bucyrus football complex and a few others.

It was an honor to be a part of the grave decorating ceremonies at Dayton and Western Reserve National Cemeteries, along with doing Wreaths across America at the OVH in Sandusky.

Helping out local post during meals and fundraisers, whether having a display with brochures and information about the Son's, hog roasts, chicken BBQs, or just donations to causes for worthy families in the community.

Speaking before BBS and BGS. I had never written anything that I thought had an applause line in, but at BBS, it happened. A fun time always was addressing the best looking part of our Legion Family, the Auxiliary. Those ladies are always smiling, laughing, and having a good time. Do we take ourselves too seriously? I was happy to attend their Plan of Action Weekend. That would be something to consider for us.

Being part of the National Legislative Commission and part of the Washington Conference. Meeting our Ohio Legislators and lobbying for better care for our Veterans and their families. Protecting the flag and our National Security were always something our organization believes in.

While in Washington, the opportunity to lay our Detachment wreath at the WWII memorial in honor of my father and his comrades was something I will never forget.

Children and Youth has always been a big part of our organization. We saw that here this weekend. While we celebrate with those here this weekend, we also honored those who are no longer with us. I want to mention Past Department Treasurer and member of the 5th District, Bob Enzor. We truly miss not having Pat Shea, Spanky, Tom Getz, Dave Stoney Young, Freeman May, and Ken Millick with us this weekend. We still mourn the passing of PDC Rick Riviotta.

I have mentioned this before to some, that since I announced my decision to run for Chaplin a few years ago, we have had 7 Department Liaisons. I hope with me being out of this position, JD will have better luck. The one true constant we have had at HQ for me and a lot of you is Christie White and I would not feel right for her not to be mentioned in my report.

Now, the one person who you all would rather see and I stay away, the wind beneath my wings, the first lady of the Detachment, the love of my life, Nancy. While you have all been my organizational support, she has been my moral support and I wouldn't or couldn't do any of this without her by my side. I truly love you.

I am leaving here today with so much to be proud of and in conclusion, I just want to say thank you. Working side by side with all of you, I've learned a heck of a lot more than just how to do the job. I have learned what it means to be a brother in the Son's of the American Legion and how we do whatever we can to be there for each other. I am finally leaving this position but I have no intention of leaving this family, but I want you all to know that these past few years, they have been the best time of my life. Don't think for once second that I don't know

how lucky I have been. I will never forget that. I hope that I have made you feel as lucky just by having me here. I hope that I have helped you to grow as men and as members, you have done that for me, and thank you all for helping me to see that the world is not what I can have or get, but a bigger world that you have taught me what I can give and share.

1VC Doug Hancock (S479-D1) **made a motion to accept the Commander’s Final Report.** IPDC Dale Anderson, II (S703-D13) seconded he motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

Mr. Hancock presented Commander Bernie Kessler with some gifts.

CDR Kessler turned the podium over to JA Bill Towns, Jr. to conduct the election of officers. Mr. Towns dismissed the table officers to join their delegation with the exception of Adjutant Scott Thornton and the Commander.

Election of Officers for 2021-2022

JA Towns then opened the floor for nominations for the office of Detachment Commander for 2020.

Detachment Commander, 2021-2022		
Candidate:	Douglas Hancock	Murbach-Siefert Squadron No. 479 – Swanton (D1)
Nominated by:	Bob Schmidt, Jr.	Conn-Weissenburer Squadron No. 587 – Toledo (D1)
Seconded by:	PDC Gary Lang	Squadron No. 389 – (D11)

Mr. Hancock accepted the nomination.

Mr. Towns called three times for any other nominations for Detachment Commander. There were none.

Mr. Towns opened the floor for nominations for the office of Detachment First-Vice Commander.

Detachment First-Vice Commander, 2021-2022		
Candidate:	Dennis Albright	Joseph W Hoffman Squadron No. 757 – Chillicothe
Nominated by:	PDC Dan Finnel	Squadron No. 164 – (D12)
Seconded by:	Ron Metro	Squadron No. 703 – (D13)

Mr. Albright accepted the nomination.

Mr. Towns called three times for any other nominations for Detachment First-Vice Commander. There were none.

Mr. Towns opened the floor for nominations for the office of Detachment Second-Vice Commander.

Detachment Second-Vice Commander, 2021-2022

Candidate:	David Diltz	Zanesville Squadron No. 29 – Zanesville
Nominated by:	Matthew Baxter	Squadron No. 357 – (D10)
Seconded by:	Rocky Searles	Squadron No. 532 – (D12)

Mr. Diltz accepted the nomination.

Mr. Towns called three times for any other nominations for Detachment Second-Vice Commander. There were none.

Mr. Towns opened the floor for nominations for the office of Detachment Chaplain.

Detachment Chaplain, 2021-2022

Candidate:	Tim Conway	Squadron No. 257 –
Nominated by:	Cary Kuhl	Squadron No. 8 – (D5)
Seconded by:	Brad Swires	Squadron No. 252 –

Mr. Conway accepted the nomination.

Detachment Chaplain, 2021-2022

Candidate:	Jeff Vrabel, Jr.	Mahone-valley Squadron No. – Zanesville (D9)
Nominated by:	PNC Fred Hartline, Sr.	Squadron No. 566 – (D14)
Seconded by:	PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.	Mahone-valley Squadron No. – Zanesville (D9)

Mr. Vrabel accepted the nomination.

Mr. Towns called three times for any other nominations for Detachment Chaplain. There were none.

Mr. Towns made the following remarks.

Delegates of this fifty-seventh Annual Convention, for the 2020-2021 membership year, you have nominated:

- Commander, Doug Hancock of Murbach-Siefert Squadron No. 479 - Swanton
- First Vice Commander, Dennis Albright of Joseph W Hoffman Squadron No. 757 – Chillicothe;
- Second Vice Commander, David Dilts of Zanesville Squadron No. 29 – Zanesville; and

- Chaplain, Tim Conway of Squadron No. 257 –.
- Chaplain, Jeff Vrabel, Jr. of Squadron No. 15 – D9

JA Towns instructed all squadron delegate chairmen to conduct a vote for one person for Detachment Chaplain within each squadron vote and deliver to one of the SAAs.

Ja Towns instructed each candidate that they have the right to appoint one teller for the election.

Mr. Conway chose Bill “Buster” Sutterlin as his teller.

Mr. Vrabel chose Rex Buchs as his teller.

JA Towns recognized CDR Kessler’s committee for holding the elections:

- Randy Eicher
- Tom Hurst
- Chuck Castle
- Ed Long – Advisor
- All tellers to meet at door and will conduct count across the hall.

JA Towns puts the election on temporary hold. JA Towns requests ADJ Thornton to make a few announcements. ADJ Thornton made the following remarks:

- Donation totals
- NEF – 2,850
- CWF – 9,515.00
- CMN – 1,150
- SO – 100
- Vets and Children – 1,000
- GFY – 3,215
- OCW – 1,400
- Fisher House – 800.00
- HOOVES – 1,800
- Americanism – 2,850
- C&Y – 1,675
- VA&R – 7,215
- Total – 21,830.00
- JD did get the expense reports out. Please turn them in if possible, today. You must be a delegate of the convention or an oncoming District or Detachment officer.

Chief Teller Randy Eicher states the voice of the delegates have been heard and Tim Conway has been elected the new Chaplain of the Detachment of Ohio.

Chief Teller Randy Eicher states he as chief teller will destroy all ballots. CDR Kessler asks for a motion to approve the destroying of the ballots.

Mike Holtz (S62-D7) **made a motion to destroy all ballot for recent election of Chaplain.** Gary Murnane (S23-D7) seconded he motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

CDR Kessler made the following remarks.

“Mr. Thornton will you please step the podium and cast one unanimous ballot for the recently elected officers.”

ADJ Scott Thornton (S587-D1) cast one unanimous ballot for the following slate of nominees for 2021-2022 as presented by the Judge Advocate:

- 2019-2020 Detachment Commander, Bernie Kessler of Colonel Crawford Squadron No. 181 – Bucyrus;
- 2019-2020 Detachment First Vice Commander, Douglas Hancock of Murbach-Seifert Squadron No. 479 – Swanton;
- 2019-2020 Detachment Second Vice Commander, Dennis Albright of Joseph W Hoffman Squadron No. 757 – Chillicothe; and
- 2019-2020 Detachment Chaplain, David Dilts of Zanesville Squadron No. 29 – Zanesville;

PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (S15-D9) **made a motion to suspend the rules of the election and instruct the Detachment Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for all uncontested candidates.** John Conley (S556-D14) seconded he motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

At this time JA Towns allowed PDC Club to make a presentation to the floor.

Incoming Commander Doug Hancock made the following remarks:

“first off I want to thank all of you. I have had a lot of encouragement, and with things in my life changed and it was my time to step up. I am thankful to have most of my family and thank you all for your support.”

The PDC club presented outgoing Commander with his PDC pin and cover.

Installation of the 2019-2020 Detachment Officers

JA Bill Towns called upon National Commander Clint Bolt for the purposes of an installation. Mr. Bolt called upon the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring forward the newly elected officers of the Detachment of Ohio.

Mr. Bolt made the following remarks.

“I present to you the newly elected officers of the Detachment of Ohio whose eligibility records for membership in the Sons of The American Legion have been duly checked and approved.”

“Gentlemen, you have been chosen to fill the various offices of this Detachment. You will, I know, vindicate the trust that has been reposed in you, and fulfill in every way the obligations that trust entails. You will at once familiarize yourselves with the duties of your particular office and you will proceed upon those duties in the same spirit of devotion and endeavor that characterized your fathers' service in any of the Great Wars, out of which came your basis for membership in The American Legion and your own in the Sons of The American Legion.

You must know that the welfare and success of this Detachment depends largely on you; and you must know also that upon your shoulders equally rests the burden of preserving the integrity of the Sons of The American Legion. You must protect and advance its good name before the people of this community, the state and the nation. You must exalt it in their eyes. You must make them know, as we all know its purposes and its policies. Ever remember the tolerant spirit that animates its members. There is no rank among us, for each serves as the equal of his comrade; and all strive toward the same goal, which is the realization in the life of the Republic of the ideals of Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty. Ever remember that the cardinal purposes of the Sons of The American Legion are the care of the dependents of those who have answered the final call and of those who are now suffering from disease and want; the rightful education of the children of our country, and devoted service to the community, state and nation.

You will raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your names where I give mine. "I, Clint Bolt do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in the Sons of The American Legion I am about to assume, and I further pledge I am not a member of, and do not subscribe to, the principles of any groups opposed to our form of government."

Mr. Bolt instructed the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort retiring Commander Bernie Kessler to the Podium and made the following remarks.

"Bernie, your duties as Commander of this Detachment have been completed; yours has been a year marked with earnest endeavor and success to a satisfying degree; yours has been a great privilege and a rich experience. The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion have observed your faithful and untiring efforts and extend to you their sincere appreciation of the services, which you have rendered for this great Detachment of Ohio.

Mr. Bolt instructed the Sergeant-at-Arms to conduct the Junior Past Commander to his post opposite this station and to escort the newly elected Detachment Commander to the podium and made the following remarks.

"Commander Doug, to you is entrusted the very sacred duty - that of teaching and protecting the cardinal principles of the Sons of The American Legion throughout your entire Detachment of Ohio. To you is entrusted supervision of the duties of all other officers of the Detachment. To you will come the indigent and the distressed and it is your duty to see that no worthy comrade is turned away without justice. It is your duty to see that Freedom is ever the watchword of those with whom you may come in contact. Loyalty to your Detachment, to its membership and to The American Legion are now requirements which you now assume. You are more than the presiding officer for meetings. You are guided by our Constitution and by the decisions of the Detachment of Ohio as a body. Yet, the responsibility for failure or success of the year's program is largely on your shoulders. You must initiate and carry programs through to completion. You must thoroughly familiarize yourself with the policies and traditions of your Detachment and of the Sons of The American Legion. To you I extend the congratulations of The American Legion, and I wish you well as you assume the responsibilities of your office."

Mr. Bolt instructed all newly-installed officers to perform an about face, and then addressed the entire membership as follows:

"I present to you the officers of your choice. I congratulate you on the selections you have made. Now that you have chosen them to guide the destinies of this Detachment of Ohio, it is your duty to aid them in every way. Help them keep the Sons of The American Legion a free organization of free men, faithful to its principles and ideals. Mr. Commander, I present to you the gavel of the Detachment of Ohio."

Commander Hancock made the following remarks:

I look to my left and I look to my right and I am proud to have you gentlemen on my team for this year. I am thrilled to be up here. With covid typically my wife would be coming up to switch covers but that has not come in yet. Again the support I receive from all of you and had your trust in me to take this position. This was not technically in my cards but with the support from all of you and my family, it was time. This is all for honoring my father.

Announcements

IPDC Bernie Kessler called for any announcements.

- The Post Convention Detachment meeting will be a half hour after the meeting.
- If you received checks for quota awards please remember to get your picture taken before you go.
- If you are from Sq. 62, Sq. 355, Sq. 320, Sq. 290, Sq. 232, and the 4th District. You have cash prizes up here yet to be received. We will be distributing that after convention.
- Graves Decorations – have been cancelled this year.
- Mr. Verge Diltz – reminds the membership we need more scrapbooks for next year. Please get in more scrapbooks. This year we only had one submission.
- CSRs – there is always something that goes in them. If that is the case please take a photo and put that in a scrapbook.
- Duffer states the District 1 golf outing is August 8th, 2021 in Ottawa, OH at Pike Run Golf Course. Hosted by Sq. 63
- Matthew Baxter is asking as incoming Historian for the PDCs to meet in the corner for a photo.
- Door prizes were drawn.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion

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

- PNC Fred Hartline, Sr. approached the podium. He states we don't have your new cover but we have something your wife can give. Nancy approached and presented IPDC Bernie Kessler with his plaque. Bernie again thanked the membership.

Closing

With no further business to come before the body, Past Detachment Chaplain Dave Diltz gave the **Benediction**. CDR Bernie Kessler led a **Salute to the Colors** and declared the 57th Annual Detachment Convention **adjourned** at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chase Ordway
Detachment Assistant Adjutant



Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Ohio
Detachment Convention, Perrysburg, Ohio
May 14-16, 2021

RESOLUTION

No.: DC2021-1
Title: Constitutional Amendments
Origin: Constitution and By-Laws Committee

WHEREAS, The Detachment of Ohio of the Sons of The American Legion is a program of the Department of Ohio of The American Legion, governed by a Detachment Constitution and By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, Said Constitution and By-Laws may only be amended by action of the Annual Convention of the Detachment of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, In reaction to the global pandemic known as COVID-19, during its meeting on July 18, 2020 the Detachment Executive Committee enacted emergency changes that are in conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws and require ratification by the Annual Convention to remain in force; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Detachment of Ohio of the Sons of The American Legion in Annual Convention assembled in Perrysburg, Ohio on May 14-16, 2021, that the Detachment Constitution be amended in the following manner:

ARTICLE I – NAME

Add new Section 2 as follows: “The Detachment Headquarters of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Ohio shall be located at the site of the Department Headquarters of The American Legion, Department of Ohio in the city of Delaware, Ohio.”

ARTICLE V – LEGISLATIVE BODY

Add new Section 9 as follows: “The Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, without meeting together, may transact business by mail, email, fax or telephone on a matter of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed to the next regular meeting. Thirty (30) days shall be allowed for the return, by mail, email, fax or telephone, of the votes thereon by the Detachment Adjutant. The Detachment Adjutant shall notify the Detachment Commander of the results of the vote

TO BE FILLED BY RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval Recommended _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejection Recommended _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral To _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Action _____
SIGNATURE OF RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN: <i>William L. Towns, Jr.</i>	
William L. Towns, Jr. Detachment Judge Advocate, Ohio Sons of The American Legion	

SUBMITTED BY: <i>William L. Towns, Jr.</i>
William L. Towns, Jr., Chairman Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Ohio Sons of The American Legion
RECEIVED BY: <i>Scott J. Thornton</i>
Scott J. Thornton Detachment Adjutant, Ohio Sons of The American Legion



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ARTICLE VII – FINANCES

Amend existing Section 3 as follows: “The amount of the annual Detachment Per Capita dues shall be ~~\$3.00~~ \$5.00 more than the per capita established for National dues.”

Amend existing Section 5 as follows: “The annual dues established by the National Headquarters shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted through the Detachment Headquarters to the National Treasurer of The American Legion. The annual Detachment dues shall be collected by the Squadron and transmitted together with the National dues to Detachment Headquarters. If a Squadron uses the myLegion.org portal to transmit their memberships online, then the National and Detachment dues are paid directly to the National organization together, with the Detachment portion being returned to the Detachment on a regular basis.”

Amend existing Section 6 as follows: “The development and management of the Detachment’s annual budget and financial matters shall be the responsibility of a Detachment Finance Committee, comprised of three (3) ~~Past Detachment Commanders~~ Sons of The American Legion members appointed by the Detachment Commander, the Detachment Adjutant, the Department Sons of The American Legion Liaison, and one member of the Department Sons of The American Legion Advisory Committee as an advisor. ~~The Past Detachment Commanders~~ Sons of The American Legion members appointed to the Detachment Finance Committee shall serve a term of three (3) years, with the exception of the initial appointments, which shall be for one (1), two (2) and three (3) years, respectively, to create a staggered expiration of terms. The Detachment Finance Committee Chairman shall be the ~~Past Detachment Commander~~ Sons of The American Legion member whose term on the committee expires in the current administrative year.”

Add new Section 8 as follows: “The Department Finance Committee should provide a reconciled budget report to the Detachment Commander and Detachment Finance Committee on a regular basis.”

TO BE FILLED BY RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval Recommended _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejection Recommended _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral To _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Action _____
SIGNATURE OF RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN:	
<i>William L. Towns, Jr.</i>	
William L. Towns, Jr. Detachment Judge Advocate, Ohio Sons of The American Legion	

SUBMITTED BY:
<i>William L. Towns, Jr.</i>
William L. Towns, Jr., Chairman Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Ohio Sons of The American Legion
RECEIVED BY:
<i>Scott J. Thornton</i>
Scott J. Thornton Detachment Adjutant, Ohio Sons of The American Legion



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taken. The Detachment Executive Committee may also meet on the call of the Detachment Commander of the Sons of The American Legion or on written request of at least three (3) Districts, at any time during the year for sufficient reason to it appearing.”

TO BE FILLED BY RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval Recommended _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejection Recommended _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral To _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Action _____
SIGNATURE OF RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN: <i>William L. Towns, Jr.</i>	
William L. Towns, Jr. Detachment Judge Advocate, Ohio Sons of The American Legion	

SUBMITTED BY: <i>William L. Towns, Jr.</i>
William L. Towns, Jr., Chairman Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Ohio Sons of The American Legion
RECEIVED BY: <i>Scott J. Thornton</i>
Scott J. Thornton Detachment Adjutant, Ohio Sons of The American Legion



Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Ohio
Detachment Convention, Perrysburg, Ohio
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RESOLUTION

No.: DC2021-2
Title: Memorializing Richard Riviotta, Jr.
Origin: Past Detachment Commanders

WHEREAS, Richard S. Riviotta, Jr. was a member in good standing of Brook Park Squadron No. 610 of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, He held all Squadron 610 offices; and

WHEREAS, He held all District Thirteen offices; and

WHEREAS, He held all Detachment of Ohio offices; and

WHEREAS, He served as the thirty-fourth Commander of the Detachment of Ohio of the Sons of The American Legion from 1997 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, He had held several National S.A.L. appointments and offices, including National Chaplain from 2002 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Detachment of Ohio with great devotion; and

WHEREAS, Richard S. Riviotta, Jr. passed into Squadron Everlasting on Saturday, August 1, 2020; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Detachment of Ohio of the Sons of The American Legion in Annual Convention assembled in Perrysburg, Ohio on May 14-16, 2021, that the 2021 Detachment of Ohio Convention be dedicated to the memory of our friend Richard S. Riviotta, Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That an empty chair be marked in Rick’s memory for the duration of this Convention.

TO BE FILLED BY RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval Recommended _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejection _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral To _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Action _____
SIGNATURE OF RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN:	
<i>William L. Towns, Jr.</i>	
William L. Towns, Jr. Detachment Judge Advocate, Ohio Sons of The American Legion	

SUBMITTED BY:
<i>Daniel L. Sagraves</i>
Daniel L. Sagraves, on behalf of the Past Detachment Commanders, Ohio Sons of The American Legion
RECEIVED BY:
<i>Scott J. Thornton</i>
Scott J. Thornton Detachment Adjutant, Ohio Sons of The American Legion