

Minutes

Opening

Commander Bernie Kessler **Called the Meeting to Order** at 7:00 p.m. in Salons E & F, Crowne Plaza and led a **Salute to the Colors**. Chaplain Dave 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 Detachment Executive Committee Meeting **Convened**.

Roll Call

CDR Kessler called upon Adjutant Scott Thornton for the Roll Call. The following Detachment Officers and Commission & Committee Chairmen were present:

Commander.....Bernie Kessler.....S181 - D5	Oratorical Rocky Searles S532 - D12
First Vice Cdr.....Doug Hancock.....S479 - D1	POW/MIA..... PDC Evan MahlmanS300 - D1
Second Vice Cdr.....Dennis Albright.....S757 - D7	Child. & Youth Comm. Bruce Forshey S389 - D11
ChaplainDave Dilts.S29 - D11	Child. Welfare Found.... "Dewey" KuhlS8 - D5
AdjutantScott Thornton.....S587 - D1	Special Olympics..... PDC Adam JonesS23 - D7
Judge Advocate.....PDC Bill Towns, Jr.....S357 - D10	VA & R Comm. PNVC Dan Sagraves.....S200 - D3
Nat'l Exec. Cmte.....PDC "Buster" Sutterlin...S257 - D5	Vets Employ. & Edu. Bob Carson, Jr. S566 - D14
Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte.....PDC Steve HonigfortS63 - D1	Public Rel. Comm. PDC Steve Honigfort..... S63 - D1
Imm. Past Cdr.....Dale Anderson, IIS703 - D13	<i>Ohio SALute</i> Editor..... PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.....S15 - D9
Sergeant-at-Arms.....Mark Behm.....S405 - D5	Convention Screening... PCC "Buster" Sutterlin ...S257 - D5
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms.....Brad Swires.S192 - D10	Finance PDC Lenny Talmage.....S300 - D1
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms.....Chet Crooks.....S52 - D11	Member Training..... PDC Bill Towns, Jr..... S357 - D10
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms.....John Conley.S23 - D7	Committee Appts. NEC "Buster" Sutterlin ...S257 - D5
LegislativePDC Craig SmithS535 - D5	

AADJ Chase Ordway (S541-D1); ASGT Jared Miller (S389-D11); HIST Verge Dilts (S29-D11); AMER Luther Liggett, Jr. (S82-D12); BBS John Vrzal (S725-D01); CMN Adam Budner (S627-D13); VAR-N Robert Showalter (S733-D5), and VAR-S Gerry Palmer, Sr. (S62-D7) were **excused**.

The following District Commanders and First Vice Commanders were present:

D1 Commander.....Lenny TalmageS300 - D1	D9 Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr.....S15 - D9
D1 First Vice Cdr.....Tom RosenbauerS63 - D1	D9 First Vice Cdr. Tom FossS7 - D9
D2 Commander.....Randy Matthews.....S178 - D2	D10 Commander..... Matthew Baxter S357 - D10
D4 Commander.....Chuck CastleS484 - D4	D11 Commander..... Chet Crooks.....S52 - D11
D5 Commander.....Tim ConwayS257 - D5	D11 First Vice Cdr. Troy Tucker..... S389 - D11
D6 First Vice Cdr. "Tub" Morris, Sr.....S97 - D6	D12 Commander..... Rocky Searles S532 - D12
D7 Commander.....John ConleyS23 - D7	

D3C Steve Spraley (S598-D3); D3VC Dan Ferryman (S668-D3); D4VC Kevin Shew (S179-D4); D5VC Richard Russell (S503-D5); D8C Matt Hoisington (S21-D8); D12VC Glenn Hickman (S1-D12); D13C Adam Budner (S627-D13); D13VC Ron "Stix" Metro (S703-D13); D14C Fred Hartline, Sr. (S566-D14); and D14VC Ian Carson (S566-D14) were **excused**.

The following Advisors were present:

Mike Homan P241 - D2	Arden "Skip" Craun.....P733 - D5	Dave Cobb, Sr.P803 - D14
Bob Steggeman..... P586 - D3	Ralph McCoy.....P85 - D6	
Ken Ellis..... P288 - D4	Ed Long.....P34 - D10	

D01A Bernie Rau (P541-D1); D07A Mike Holz (P62-D7); D09A Charles Stennis (P336-D13); D12A Glenn Hickman (P1-D12); D13A Richard Wright (P703-D13); and LIA Jermaine Ferguson (P79-D06) were **excused**.

The following Past Detachment Commanders were present:

Lenny Talmage1982-1983S300 - D1	Steve Honigfort..... 2011-2012.....S63 - D1
PNVC Dan Sagraves1984-1985S200 - D3	Gary Lang 2012-2013..... S389 - D11
Craig Smith1991-1992S535 - D5	Jon Coakley, II..... 2013-2014..... S164 - D12
Bill Towns, Jr.1999-2000S357 - D10	Dave Brown..... 2015-2016.....S257 - D5
Bill "Buster" Sutterlin2004-2005S257 - D5	Evan Mahlman..... 2017-2018.....S300 - D1
Jeff Vrabel, Sr.2005-2006S15 - D9	Dale Anderson, II..... 2018-2019..... S703 - D13
Adam Jones.....2008-2009S23 - D7	

PNC Bob McBride (S72-D4); PNC Fred Hartline, Sr. (S566-D14); PDC Mike Holz (S62-D7); PDC Bruce Stirling (S336-D9); PNVC Randy Eicher (S405-D5); PDC Rob Brewer (S12-D5); PDC Rex Buchs (S336-D9); PDC Dan Finnell (S164-D12) and PDC Bob Mendoza (S553-D1) were **excused**.

ADJ Thornton reported that a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

SGT Mark Behm (S405-D5) introduced the following guests:

- Jeff Vrabel, Sr., National Membership Committee Chairman – Central
- Steve Masowick, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Ohio
- Jon Vulgamore, Media/Communications and Marketing Administrator, Department of Ohio
- Suzette Heller, Department Adjutant, Ohio

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Due to the absence of a quorum at the Fall D.E.C. Meeting on October 17, 2020, the minutes of the Summer D.E.C. Meeting from July 18, 2020 needed to be addressed.

D7C John Conley (S23-D7) **made a motion to waive the reading and accept the minutes of the July 18, 2020 meeting as published.** D9C Jeff Vrabel, Jr. (S15-D9) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

D10C Matthew Baxter (S357-D10) **made a motion to waive the reading and accept the minutes of the October 17, 2020 meeting as published.** D11C Chester Crooks (S52-D11) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

NOTE: The approval of the October meeting minutes includes the approval of CDR Bernie Kessler's appointment of PDC Evan Mahlman (S300-D1) to fill the POW/MIA Chairmanship vacated by Matt Hoisington (S21-D8) for the remainder of the administrative year.

Special Business

CDR Bernie Kessler called upon JA Bill Towns, Jr. for squadron charter issues. Mr. Towns presented the following items:

- North Ridgeville Squadron No. 717 (D-5) – Closing; cancellation paperwork has been submitted.
- Canfield Squadron No. 177 (D-9) – D9C Jeff Vrabel, Jr. requests revocation be initiated (no paid members for a long time)
- William R. Schnug Memorial Squadron No. 614 (Hilliard, D-12) – Post Cdr. Tom Rowe is working to withdraw sponsorship due to insufficient paid members
- Raymond Scott Squadron No. 182 (Columbus, D-12) – D12C Rocky Searles reported the post is closed
- Liberty Squadron No. 46 (Bellevue, D-5) – D5C Tim Conway has previously submitted cancellation paperwork
- Walter Weller Squadron No. 135 (Toledo, D-1) – D1C Lenny Talmage reported the post is closing and Legion PDC Bob Schmitt, Jr. has been working on transferring out interested members
- John Dale Squadron No. 143 (Fayette, D-1) – D1C Lenny Talmage reported they have had 0 paid members for two years and the district has been unable to get any response
- Howard A. Blair Squadron No. 423 (Rittman, D-10) – JA Bill Towns, Jr. reported they just submitted their Officers Certification Form this week
- Lepine-Rush Squadron No. 684 (Hanoverton, D-10) – D10C Matthew Baxter reported they have been without paid members or officers again
- National Trail Squadron No. 756 (Hopewell, D-11) – Still showing on the department membership report after they have been closed

D12C Rocky Searles (S532-D12) **made a motion to direct the adjutant to initiate cancellation proceedings against squadrons 177 (D-9), 143 (D-1), and 684 (D-10), and follow-up on the others mentioned.** D5C Tim Conway (S257-D5) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

Committee Reports

Membership

1VC Doug Hancock announced that we have several membership lap or quota prizes that have been earned and recognized that we have guys out there still getting the job done despite the restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic. We will accept any cards turned in to the bucket in the back of the room tonight and again in the morning. He deferred the rest of his report until tomorrow.

Finance Committee

FIN Lenny Talmage reviewed the documents passed out by the Sergeants-at-Arms earlier. The first is a summary of expenses for the fiscal year through February, the second is a comparison to last year, and the third is the current budget we are operating with. He reported the Committee met this afternoon in Cdr. Kessler's room to discuss reports, noting that our working fund is \$90,000 (based

on 30,000 members at \$3.00 per member), and we have 24,526 members as of February 28th, for an income of \$73,578.

The Department Oratorical Contest only had five participants this year, so the recommendation of the Committee is for the Detachment to offer \$200.00 to each of them in addition to the Department's awards, leaving \$716.82 to be reassigned. Under Donations (Future Projects, Poppy, etc.), we need to allocate some of the \$7,152.00 tonight, particularly Gifts for Yanks since their program year closes at the end of this month. The Washington Conference was virtual this year, so we have \$3,322.65 that could be used elsewhere.

There was a question raised about travel expenses and the mileage reimbursement of \$0.35 per mile, while the IRS allowance of \$0.55 (or maybe \$0.58) currently, whether it's simply an old rate that hasn't been updated, or if there is another reason for it still being that amount.

With the reassignment of the unused funds in addition to the Future Projects balance of \$7,152.02 we have a total of \$11,191.49 that could be used for donations tonight.

Department Adjutant Suzette Heller spoke in response to the mileage rate question, informing everyone that the IRS rate for non-profit organizations is actually \$0.13, and if the department were to issue reimbursements to anyone in excess of \$600.00 they would also have to issue a Form 1099 to report that as taxable income. She offered to follow-up with our accounting firm to review the amount and that it is being handled properly.

2021 Detachment Convention

D1C Lenny Talmage spoke about plans for the 57th Detachment Convention to be held May 14-16 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. Hotel reservations must be in by Sunday, April 25th, and delegate registrations are due by Friday, May 7th. Due to the ongoing concerns about Covid we have put the bus tour of posts in the area with a dinner at the last stop on hold, pending discussions with the posts who were interested in participating last year. Levis Commons offers a lot of shopping opportunities, a comedy club, many different restaurants, all within walking distance of the hotel. The First District has a couple of meetings between now and then to try to make some other arrangements for the attendees.

Old Business

CDR Kessler spoke about one item from the Fall D.E.C. Meeting, a 2023 Joint Ohio Legion Family Convention. This would be in Dayton at the end of June / beginning of July and would include the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons, and the Riders, all together at the same time.

After some discussion on the subject, IPDC Dale Anderson, II (S703-D13) **made a motion to continue holding independent detachment conventions for now.** D10C Matthew Baxter (S357-D10) seconded the motion. **By a show of hands, the motion carried with 20 "Ayes" and 3 "Nays."**

New Business

National Appointment Recommendations

NEC Bill “Buster” Sutterlin reminded everyone that the following members have current national appointments: Steve Honigfort – Finance (expiring this year); Bernie Kessler – Legislative (unexpired); Jon Coakley – CWF (one-year); Jeff Vrabel, Sr. – Membership (one-year).

ADJ Thornton reminded everyone that we had discussed whether to hold the NEC/ANEC elections this coming May, or keep Buster Sutterlin and Steve Honigfort in their current positions until May, 2022. The consensus was that the vote taken in 2020 was to keep the then-current officers in place for “an additional term,” meaning that Buster’s and Steve’s time in office was extended to 2022 by that action since their terms are for two years, not one.

Based on that, NEC Sutterlin then announced the following members are being recommended for national appointments:

- PDC Steve Honigfort – National Finance Commission
- PDC Bill Towns, Jr. – National Historian

NEC Bill “Buster” Sutterlin (S57-D5) **made a motion to approve the slate of National Appointment Recommendations.** D5C Tim Conway (S257-D5) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

JA Towns reported that he missed an online announcement from PDC Jon Coakley, II regarding his interest in being reappointed to the National CWF Committee.

NEC Bill “Buster” Sutterlin (S57-D5) **made a motion to add PDC Jon Coakley, II to the slate of National Appointment Recommendations.** D12C Rocky Searles (S532-D12) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

Future Projects Fund Donations

CDR Kessler announced that we have \$11,191.49 in the Future Projects Fund based upon the most recent membership and finance reports we have. He opened the floor for suggestions on donations to make from the fund. After some back-and-forth by the members the following recommendations were made:

- H.O.O.V.E.S. - \$1,000.00
- Fisher House of Ohio - \$500.00 to each of the three Ohio house fundraising organizations for Dayton, Cleveland, and Cincinnati (for a total of \$1,500.00)
- National Emergency Fund - \$1,000.00
- Operation Comfort Warriors - \$1,000.00
- Child Welfare Foundation - \$1,500.00
- Gifts for Yanks - \$1,000.00

D7C John Conley (S23-D7) **made a motion to approve the donations as recommended.** D12C Rocky Searles (S532-D12) seconded the motion. **The motion carried without objection.**

It was noted that checks issued by the department on our behalf must show “S.A.L. – Detachment of Ohio” in the memo line and/or be accompanied by a letter referencing the S.A.L. as the donor (otherwise, the Legion gets the credit).

Announcements

PDCC's Reverse Raffle

Tomorrow at Post 532 at 6:00 pm; dinner is included.

Commander's Luncheon

For those invited tomorrow, we will be leaving fifteen minutes after the training session. The restaurant is only 10 minutes away.

For the Good of the Sons of the American Legion

2VC Dennis Albright spoke about his raffle. So far we have raised \$1,200 from the smoker tickets.

Closing

With no further business to come before the committee, CHAP Dave Dilts gave the **Benediction** and CDR Bernie Kessler led a **Salute to the Colors** and declared the meeting **Adjourned** at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott J. Thornton
Detachment Adjutant

Donations Summary (for the weekend):

Program	Friday	Saturday	Totals
Child Welfare Foundation	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Children's Miracle Network			
Fisher House *	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Gifts for Yanks	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
H.O.O.V.E.S.	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Honor Flight			
Legacy Scholarship Fund			
National Emergency Fund	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Nat'l League of Families (POW/MIA)			
Operation Comfort Warriors	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Special Olympics			
Vets & Children [Endowment] Fund			
A.L.A. – Ohio President's Project			
PDC Bob Schmitt's Proj. (Vets Treat. Courts)			
Totals	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00