Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Vermont
Genral Minutes Annual Convention

7/14/2022

- Meeting was called to order by Commander Revell at 10:00am
- Sgt of Arms Jamie Wescott was called upon to verify membership cards and introduce any guests, JW announced our National Vice Commander Richard “Dickie” Huntley from Maine and our Department SAL Advisor Bruce Paquin
- Chaplain Dave Hendee was called upon to lead us in prayer
- Commander Revell opened meeting in normal ritual asking Sr. Vice Commander Brian Massey to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Command Revell called upon Adjutant John Waite to call the roll. He did so and announced a quorum.
- Commander Revell invited our SAL Advisor Bruce Paquin to the podium for comments.
- Bruce thanked NVC Huntley for visiting Vermont, he told us how we make his job easy.
- He explained how he gave the longest report on Legion floor at opening session. He called it mind boggling that a small detachment can put up such big numbers. Membership may have slumped during covid but it certainly is back on the climb now. And that’s because we are working our programs getting to the squadrons. Post and squadron 28 are being looked at and Department will keep working on the problem. Commended our advisory committee and thanked us for what we are doing.
- The bad is that our convention should be packed we need to get more people here to blow our own horns for what we do. That concluded his remarks
- Bag lunches are available at $5
- Adjourned to go visit Department
- Sr. Vice Commander Massey asked for the reading of previous general meeting minutes, a motion was made by Henry Cleveland to dispense of reading as they are all sent out, a 2nd was made by Dave Hendee, motion carried.

- Sr. Vice Commander Massey calls upon Finance Officer Norman Scolaro to read our financial report a motion to accept as read by Dave Hendee and 2nd by Harold Trombley motion carried.
- Sr. Vice Commander Massey called for checks to be presented please bring forward Sqd #30 Commanders Project $300, Dodge House $500. Squadon 27 CWF $300, Commanders Project $300, Ronald McDonald House $300. Squadron 14 $1,000.00 to Dodge House.
- Sr. Vice Massey called on NEC Man Henry Cleveland to introduce our National Vice Commander from Lubec, Maine Richard "Dickie" Huntley.
- NVC Huntley brought greetings from National Commander Michael Fox and the Fox Squad. He wanted to let us know we are a Team. He comes a smaller Detachment of 2,500, so he understands small Detachments that achieve big things. He announced that National Commander Fox had a goal of placing 1 million flags on Veterans graves this year, we are as a nation at 1.4 million flags placed. He thanked us for his invite and will be around after the meeting if anyone wants to visit.
- Commander Revell at this time wanted to call down the people from his Commander's Project- Pathway's SSVF. Mark Price is the director at Pathway's he came to podium, they provide housing for veterans and their families, they believe housing is a right. No Veteran should be homeless. There is a Veteran with him today his name is Richard Jones. Richard approached podium. Happy to tell us he is a success story of this program. He was sleeping in car when Pathway's helped him. He said all agencies worked together well.
- Commander Revell presented a check for $21,176.25. Also from donations at convention $900.00. That's 22,076.25. Impact 3,735 members have
- Commander called for Committee Reports
- C&Y Marc Colety- CWF raised $569,000.00, SAL was $349,789.00 number 1 donator. Vermont had another banner year in CWF, 8,835+, C&Y this year $28,995.00, 2,678 hours. Great Job. Steve England made motion to accept Dave Hendee 2nd it motion carried.
- Americanism Randy McGrath- he participated in oratorical contest as a time keeper in March. Kids speak for 8-10 minutes on constitutional law. There were 2 contestants only one could move on, he was a junior from Harwood union high school. They speak on an unknown topic for 3-5 minutes. He attended a dinner at Green Mtn Boys State. Commander Tester was there as well. That concludes his report. Motion was made by Norman Scolaro, Darrell Degrenia 2nd
- Membership Sr Vice Commander Massey- membership cards are not ready yet, we will get them out asap. We finished last year at 3,635. We are 14th in the Nation 3,735 members paid, 20 members to hit 105%. Brian opened up floor for discussion of what

we could do for Squadrons, several ideas were given. Brian called upon Northern and Southern area commanders to talk about the North vs South Challenge with outcome being, NAC Lucas district 1 106%, dist 2 93.7%, dist 3 97.2%, dist 4 112.6% and dist 5 106.4%. Breakdown for Challenge 100.7% North, 109.7%South. Marc Colety winner of challenge announce 9 squadrons in South have already hit 105%. 3 other Squadrons are close to 105% and 100% in renewal. As the challenge went Lucas and I bet $300 for Area with highest renewals, Lucas comment without any District Commanders Marc kicked butt. Lucas $300 donated to Marc's cause the Veterans Home in Bennington, and Marc donated $150 to Lucas's cause being Josh Pallotta's fund. Commander Revell added that these guys both did a great job. A motion was made by Elwood Bourne and 2nd by Eric Buckley to accept. Motion carried.

- VA&R report- Elwood Bourne no report currently. Commander Revell stated that in upcoming year hoping to improve communication with counterpart in The American Legion.
- NEC Man's Report- Attended National Convention, the Fall and Spring NEC, ANEC England traveled to Spring meeting as well. Preston Sharp visited Vermont to place Flags and Flowers on Veterans graves in Montpelier. There was good publicity on Channel 3 and 5. There are a lot of changes coming in the National organization, so I will be working to keep all informed as changes come. That concludes report. A motion was made by Randy McGrath and 2nd by George Spears. Motion Carried
- Scholarship Report- Winner from North was present Tylan Emch from South Hero was $1,000 recipient, Southern winner of $500 was present Jayden Wright from Brattleboro he thanked us very much, he will be going to Southern ME university to pursue a career in fire science. He is now a certified firefighter.
- The other 2 winners were not present at this point. Northern $500 winner was Natasha Bowen from Newport and Southern $1,000 winner was Reid Hryckiewicz from Cavendish
- Constitution & Bylaw Chairman John Waite read 2 resolutions which were properly warned and will be voted on by roll call. Resolutions JC-01 and JC-02 resolve was read basically adding to constitution and bylaw allowing meetings by webinar or zoom technology. Discussion was brought up about referencing zoom. Roll call of squadrons were called for vote for each resolution they both passed unanimously. That concludes C&B report. A motion was made by MC to accept and 2nd by EB. Motion carried
- Activities Report- Henry Cleveland total deposits were $18,055.49, total cost $8,636.56, total profit was $9,418.93. Winner of gun was Dean Thurber of Waterbury, VT he took the cash, so we have a gun for next year to raffle. Vote at DEC we had 918.93 balance we rounded up to $1,000 to OCW. Next year's tournament is scheduled for May 20,

2023, at Neshobe. A motion was made by Lucas Herring and 2nd by Randy McGrath. Motion carried.

- Commander Revell introduced newly elected Department Commander Tom Scanlon, Tom announced he is also a proud SAL member as well as his grandsons are members.
- Commander Tom announced this coming year's project will be in unity of the whole Legion Family.
- New legion theme "Be The One" look for it all year.
- Commander Tom said let's all work together it will make our voices louder.
- Legislative Committee Report Lucas Herring see attached. Reportwas given on May 30 so it's a little dated. Added to report prior to convention The Pact Act also attached. Reach out to those people running for office to make sure we are heard. A motion by Elwood Bourn 2nd by MC motion carried.
- Advisory Committee JW we will be meeting monthly by zoom and in person. Discussion of having District meetings and invite squadrons to attend. Also spoke of Detachment to purchase golf shirts for county and district commanders. A motion was made by HC to do so and 2nd by DH. Discussion by HT do you district commanders know they get stipend? Commander said for those that come to meeting they should know. A motion was made by HT and 2nd Ross Brown motion carried.
- Visitation schedule out after DEC in July and travel begins in August.
- Commander Revell announced our numbers for the record Veterans hrs 19,247, $106,404.00, C&Y hrs 3,528, $29,504.00, Americanism hrs 5,586, $20,689.00, Community hrs 13,924, $42,362.00, total hours 42,362 total $177,486.76
- Break for District Caucuses
- Northern Area Commander Lucas Herring, Southern Area Marc Colety
- District 1 Commander Elwood Bourne, District 2 Vacant, District 3 John Christian, District 4 Vacant, District 5 George Spear
- Addison Cty James Russo, Bennington Joe Galli, Chittenden Travis Reynells, Franklin Dave Benson. Washington Randall McGrath
- Awards for 2021-2022 were handed see attached list of all categories and winners.
- Commander Revell handed out National Citations to the 9 Squadrons who had exceeded their membership they had on December 31 by The American Legion Birthday
- Commander Revell presented Ross Brown with Squadron Member of the year as he was present. The seconded recipient will be presented his at a Squadron visit.
- Commander Revell called Lucas Herring to the podium as he was last year's recipient of the Butch Miller award to present to this year's winner. Lucas decided that Marc Colety was the best choice of a member going above and beyond their duties.
- District Commander of Year was presented to John Christian from District 3

- Commander Revell called NVC Huntley to the podium to present the gift our Detachment gave. It was a handmade cutting board by Henry Cleveland which he had SAL emblem engraved in back, with a plaque recognizing Dickie's service for this year.
- Nominations of Officers Jeremy Revell for Detachment Commander, nominations closed adjutant cast 1 ballot for Jeremy to be Detachment Commander, Brian Massey for SR Vice, nominations closed adjutant cast 1 ballot for Brian Massey Jr to be Sr Vice Commander. Nominations for Finance Officer Norman Scolaro, nominations closed adjutant cast1 ballot for Norman Scolaro as Finance Officer, Nominations for Chaplain David Hendee, nominations closed adjutant cast 1 ballot for David Hendee for Chaplain
- Commander Revell called upon Judge Advocate Harold Trombley for the purpose of installation of officers, Harold installed all officers minus the Commander and NVC Richard Huntley installed Commander Revell for his 2nd year.
- Past Department President Francisca Massey came into our meeting to thank Commander Revell for a great year serving together, she also thanked NVC Huntley for his hospitality when she and Brian attended his homecoming in Maine. She then introduced newly elected Department President Kelly Donaldson
- Her project is Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, theme is The Yellow Ribbon and Beyond.
- Her project is same as Tom Scanlon's and Commander Revell's Josh's House
- Her goal is a True American Legion Family
- Her Challenge to us Auxiliary will raise more money than the SAL in 2022–2023-year, Commander Revell accepted the challenge.
- Commander Revell acronym for year is Sons, Serving Our Nations Service members
- PDC Hendee did a floor challenge to start Commander Revell's project off on right foot.
- $546.00 was raised from the floor.
- Commander Revell announced that Colchester 91 will be holding a breakfast Sunday morning beginning at 9am
- Commander called for anything for good of, hearing
- Commander Revell asked Chaplain to lead us in closing prayer
- Commander completed regular closing
- Meeting adjourned at 1:15

Respectively Submitted

John Waite

Detachment Adjutant

VT SAL 2021 – 2022 Legislative Report

This year marked the 2nd year in the Vermont Biennium. Below are the Vermont Bills that were in play:

- S.104 - An act relating to the education of military families
- S.105 - An act relating to purple star school programs
- H.185 - An act relating to exempting U.S. military retirement pay and survivor benefit income
- H.188 - An act relating to the appointment of the Adjutant General and creating a tax exemption for military retirement pay
- H.321 - An act relating to establishing an F-35 Adverse Impacts Compensation Board and Compensation Fund
- H.328 - An act relating to the education of military families
- H.373 - An act relating to exempting military retirement pay from Vermont income tax and recruiting military veterans
- H.71 - An act relating to exempting U.S. military retirement pay from income tax
- S.12 - An act relating to exempting U.S. military retirement pay from Vermont income tax

What can happen is that the original bill is recreated, sometimes sponsored by other Legislators, and given a new number. What we did see is that H.328, S.104 and S.105 were combined into H.517 that was introduced, passed by the Legislature, and signed into law by Governor Scott. The other bills related to exempting U.S. military retirement pay were not taken up or otherwise placed into the FY23 Budget Bill. A "Day on the Hill" did not occur this year, but members of the Legion Family were able to attend a Press Conference related to the pension bills. Both Governor Scott and Lt. Gov. Gray were both in favor. Lt. Gray was able to attend Fall Conference and speak to our membership.

Nationally, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial is to be built on the National Mall. The American Legion also supported measures for veterans who were exposed to toxic airborne hazards. The "Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act was later labelled the PACT Act and should be signed into law by the President.

The American Legion's Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for connecting American Legion Family members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities. Sign up for alerts here: https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home

The Legislative Committee met on May 27th to discuss efforts for the next biennium. It is recommended that the SAL is to propose that a new Bill be introduced for the 2023-2024 biennium to continue the effort to exempting U.S. military retirement pay from income tax. Research should also be conducted with the Vermont Department of Veterans Affairs to see how much funding is provided by the State toward different programs in order to see what needs to be done for additional financial support. If these efforts are support by the S.A.L. and the Department of Vermont. The research can be done and contact made for the requests to Legislators on those items.

In Honor of All the Veterans,

Lucas J. Herring
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Senate passes historic burn pit legislation

By Mackenzie Wolf
JUN 16, 2022

The U.S. Senate made history June 16, ensuring millions of veterans exposed to noxious fumes emanating from burn pits will have access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) care and benefits. The bill was approved by an 84-14 vote.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act (PACT Act) addresses the full spectrum of issues affecting toxic-exposed veterans' access to VA benefits and care, while also reforming VA's presumptive decision-making process.

The sweeping legislation provides a comprehensive framework to improve the presumptive process for burn pit veterans by streamlining access to health-care benefits for those who served in areas of known toxic exposure — regardless of disability status — and provides health care for as many as 3.5 million veterans exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits.

American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard hailed the Senate and the 117th Congress for passing the PACT Act, calling the legislation a "historic bipartisan achievement."

"Today, the U.S. Senate has saved lives and truly delivered for veterans," Dillard said. "By passing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act, the 117th Congress has put substance behind the phrase, 'Thank you for your service.'

"The American Legion is grateful for the service of millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits, atomic radiation, Agent Orange and other environmental poisons. Thanks to the U.S. Congress, these men and women will be able to receive the care and benefits they have earned. The PACT Act is an historic bipartisan achievement. The American Legion thanks not only those who voted for this legislation but the thousands of Legionnaires and advocates who worked to make this happen. We look forward to President Biden signing the Honoring Our PACT Act into law."

Toxic smoke and fumes from burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan included medical and human waste, jet fuel, chemicals, metal, munitions and unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics, Styrofoam and more.

See the response from National American Legion Commander, Paul Dillard.

2021-2022 Sons of The American Legion Awards

Most Active Squadron

Most Active Squadron 2022
1-50
Creller Landon #60

Most Active Squadron 2022
51-100
Sorrell Maynard #63

Most Active Squadron 2022
101-150
Barre #10

Most Active Squadron 2022
151-200+
Chester #67

Children & Youth

Most Donations to C & Y 2022
1-50
Creller Landon #60

Most Donations to C & Y 2022
51-100
Enosburg #42

Most Donations to C & Y 2022
101-150
Windsor #25

Most Donations to C & Y 2022
151-200+
Bristol #19

Most Contributions to Veterans

Most Contributions to Veterans 2022
1-50
Crellor Landon #60

Most Contributions to Veterans 2022
51-100
Sorrell Maynard #63

Most Contributions to Veterans 2022
101-150
Barre #10

Most Contributions to Veterans 2022
151-200+
Chester #67

Americanism Award

Most Active in Americanism 2022
1-50
Creller Landon #60

Most Active in Americanism 2022
51-100
Sorrell Maynard

Most Active in Americanism 2022
101-150
Barre #10

Most Active in Americanism 2022
151-200+
Ballard Hobart #36

District Commander Plaque- John Christian