Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Vermont
General Meeting
October 23, 2021

1. **Sr Vice Commander Brian Massey at request of Commander Revell called meeting to order at 9:45am on 10/23/21. The Opening prayer was read by Chaplin David Hendee. The remainder of opening ceremony followed.**
2. **Adjutant John Waite took roll call with 16 squadrons represented by total of 19 people in attendance a quorum was announced.**
3. **Vice Commander Massey called for the reading of the previous meeting minutes. A motion was made by Marc Colety and 2nd by Jack Rindeau Jr,(JRJ) Motion passed**
4. **Vice Commander Massey called for the finance report. Finance officer Norman Scolaro presented the current report to the membership. A motion was made by Henry Cleveland and 2nd by JRJ. Motion Carried.**
5. **Committee Reports were called for:**
    - **C&Y- Marc Colety chairman spoke of his committee meeting on 10/18/21 and that report is attached at end of minutes. Goals of $1 per member for CWF and .50 per member on NEF are continued goals for this year. Also, an ongoing commitment to the Ronald McDonald House as they are trying to get their own property this year. Committee also spoke of a commitment to increase year end reporting. Steve England mentioned the form for squadrons to receive a CWF banner, JW let all know that the form is on our website and can be downloaded. Motion was made by Lucas Herring and 2nd by Randy McGrath to accept. Motion carried**

    - **Americanism- Randy McGrath chairman wanted to talk about oratorical for this year all applications in this report will be attached to end of report. Application Deadline for Oratorical is December 4, 2021. As always, this program is accepting donations as well as volunteers. There's also a contestant application and will be attached to the end of the minutes as well on salvermont.com website. Randy also handed out a flyer for the Boy Scouts Salute to Veterans parade on**

November 6, 2021 in Vergennes parade forms at 9:30am and steps off at 11am. Randy is new to this any and all recommendations are welcome. American Legion Department of Vermont Oratorical Chairman Karlene Devine was introduced by Sgt of Arms Jamie Wescott. She spoke of attending the Virtual Oratorical College that National put on in September, where she learned our National Commander Michael Fox would be supporting oratorical in some manor. Oratorical prepares our young students for citizenship and duties as it regards to the constitution. 1st contest in Vermont is in January, District contest is in February, Department contest is the first weekend in March and the National contest still planning to be in Indianapolis in April on the 23rd and 24th. Registration for volunteers opens November 1, 2021. A location for State Finals has not been set yet. A motion was made to accept report by HC and 2nd by JRJ motion carried.

- **Membership- Brian Massey Chairman we are currently 28th in the Nation and 6th in the Eastern Region. We missed the 25% goal by 19 members. Next goal is 50% on November 7th let's see what we can do. Discussion Lucas let us know the South is ahead of the North in membership. Membership packets with 3 family applications in it please carry them or there is a voluntary fine of $20 to go to CWF. Motion Was made by HC to accept report 2nd by DH. Motion carried**

- **VE&E- Elwood Bourne chairman gave Commander Revell a brief report spoke of the new Marvin Nay award at National which we need to participate and send in a nomination for someone to win. Form will be placed on website. Motion was made by BM and 2nd by JRJ. Motion Carried**

- **NEC Report- by Henry Cleveland Fall NEC was 10/1-10/3 in Indianapolis. A lot of changes are coming down the pipe at the National Organization. Henry gave adjutant Waite a thumb drive with information for Detachment which will be available on website. National is talking about having NEC officer training to coincide with Commander/adj training. He also brought back information pertaining to National Commander Mike Fox's homecoming on March 17-20, 2022 in California and National Vice Commander Huntley's homecoming May 20 and 21 , 2022. There was only 18% reporting Nationwide last year we need to improve as an entire organization. All Chairman should be attending conference calls pertaining to their committee. A list of those calls can be provided. A National Goal of hitting 9 million dollars to CWF is in reach lets see how we can help. C&Y conference calls are the 2nd Monday of the month numbers will be posted. Media & Communications at the National level have no budget so they**

are very limited to what they can do. That will soon be changing we hope with a 3-member advisory board be set up to help guide SAL into the future. Flying Flags for Heroes is National Commander Mike Fox's project. Henry will be heading the committee for Vermont and will be communicating with National Liaison for this project Tim Aboudara Sr. There is a 50th convention coin design contest forms are available if you are an artist. Anyone attending the 50th SAL convention in Milwaukee next year will receive one. 9 resolutions were presented at the Fall NEC and passed they can be found on Website. A Centcom committee is being set up to help the SAL into the future they are looking for 30 and younger to make a commitment. Henry also participated in Flying Flags for Heroes event at the Fall NEC. A motion was made by LH and 2nd by BM motion carried.

- **Scholarships and Golf HC chairman said there will be a meeting in December prior to mid-winter. JW noted applications for both are on website. Motion to accept by JRJ and 2nd by JW motion carried.**
- **Legislative report Lucas Herring chairman referred us to The American Legion Chairman Richard Farmer article in their newsletter and suggested we support them. See attached for entire report. Lucas also included a Northern Area report which is also attached. Motion was made by Jack Riendeau Jr and 2nd by RM. Motion carried**
- **Advisory-John Waite Chairman talked about speaking with Jeremy and Brian after this meeting and at mid-winter speaking with all Detachment officers in some form. Each will be notified.**
- **Sick Call/Relief- was announced again the passing of PDC Ed Drown in Sept**
- **Correspondence- Jeremy received the CWF Heritage Circle Gift Club Award for donations in 2020-2021. He also received a thank you from National President Kathy Daudistell for the Vermont gift basket he presented at her visit to Vermont. Her National Presidents project is to help unpaid caregivers of Veterans.**
- **Old Business- None**
- **New Business- Lucas brought up discussion of directory challenges with the county commanders. JW announced the electronic version has been corrected nothing we can do with those printed. Lucas also wanted to just state if you have the ability to promote or brag about what you do in the SAL don't miss it. That positive attitude will bring new members. JW spoke of efforts on the website and brought forward a statement from Rob Liberty he can get our website updated for a cost of $800. HC first made a motion to allow up to $800 After discussion MC suggested $1,000 in case of any unforeseen problems. HC**

amended his motion to allow up to $1,000 for website 2nd by LH and passed. Jack Riendeau Jr stated he would like to be Caledonia County Commander again Comm Revell said no problem just needed to be installed.

- **A motion was made to adjourn by HC 2nd by MC motion carried**

Guests-

- **Department Commander Cathy Tester visited our meeting thanking us for our Donation back at the July DEC of $7,500 to the American Legion Foundation. Which she stated they are working on the bylaws so it can permit a SAL and Auxiliary member on the board. She talked about her efforts working with Commander Revell and President Francisca Massey to be a true American Legion Family. Her project is Preserving a Piece of the Veterans Home History the Chapel Bell. A flyer was left and will be published in newsletter as well as website. She also wanted us to know that The American Legion would be supporting Commander Revell's Project SSVF. She then introduced National Vice Commander Cory Bates from Rhode Island. Cory let us know he is a dual member in Rhode Island. He thanked us for all we do and said if we need anything to let him know. At this time Commander Revell presented Dept Commander Tester with a check for $1,500 toward the Oratorical program.**
- **Sr. Vice Commander Tom Scanlon stopped in to tell us our advisor Bruce Paquin had just had a knee replacement and was know starting to get around. He let us know Bruce is available at this time. He was happy to hear of our revitalization efforts. Spoke of membership being down in The American Legion. BM gave Tom a Membership matters packet to keep in his wallet. Tom said great idea he had some leftovers from Dave Woodward when he was commander.**
- **American Legion Auxiliary President Francisca Massey thanked us for all our efforts in our support of Veterans. Her project is Vermont Paws & Boots which pairs rescue dogs with Veterans and First Responders. Michelle LeBlanc is the founder and runs this program. Francisca is selling tickets for $10 each you can send a check to American Legion Aux Dept of Vermont in memo put President's Project. She hopes we can grow our entire Legion Family membership.**

Respectively Submitted
John Waite
Detachment Adjutant
10/26/21

C&Y Committee Meeting minutes

The Children and Youth Committee met for the first time on 10/18/21. This year's team of PDC Cleveland, District Commander Mike Felber and County Commander Elwood Bourne were all in attendance via Zoom.

The team reviewed and commented on the material I have been presenting during squadron visitations. This includes a review of 2021 Detachment and National statistics and a review of 2022 goals.

The Detachment of Vermont in 2021 raised $20,602 donations and volunteered 1544 hours for C&Y of which $5702 went to CWF. Nationally, $740,889 was awarded across seventeen grants to non-profit projects. Vermont finished first in the east so we cannot do much better than that, but we can once again repeat in that position. The goal for 2022 is $1.00/capita or a total of $3,497 but we are looking to again exceed those totals.

The committee discussed some opportunities for squadrons to plan and execute specific C&Y events during the upcoming year.

We discussed child safety options for Halloween. Potential events the week of National Family Week in November. Adopting a family or a child for Christmas presents. Finally, we want to challenge every squadron to plan and host one event or fundraiser during the American Legion Children and Youth month in April 2022. We want to see the May issue of our newsletter flooded with activities for C&Y month. Programs in support of CWF with a goal of $1.00/capita, National Emergency Fund with a goal of $.50/capita and VCF Veterans and Children's Fund with a goal of $.50/capita are all worthy projects. Other projects could include items like scholarship fundraisers, scouting programs, educational support like providing school supplies or bullying, violence or drug prevention programs.

We also want to make sure we get the word out to all our squadrons about The Ronald McDonald House's fundraising efforts to purchase their own facility this year.

We also discussed a commitment to increase year end reporting from all squadrons by helping collate and prepare squadron year end reports with the squadrons with a primary focus to increase hours and $ donations reported under C&Y but of course increasing reporting benefits all the category reporting. Last year 12 or 1/3 of our squadrons did not submit year end reporting which means a lot of good efforts in Children and Youth programs went unrecognized. We must do better and need the support of all the officers to get this completion percentage significantly higher. With our usual efforts for Children and Youth programs and a higher reporting rate, we can easily exceed last years reported numbers.

Northern Area Report

Since the last newsletter, I've been able to join our Commander and/or Sr. Vice in St. Johnsbury, Colchester, Vergennes, and Hardwick leading up to the Fall Convention, and I hope to meet with Middlebury next week. The diversity of ideas discussed is humbling. Raffles of snow blowers and custom-made knives, car shows, school donations, rabbit hunts and bowling events…there is a lot out there to do and to let other squadrons know about. I have been reminding squadrons to make sure that you provide there event information to Detachment to share with everyone as your events come up, but also using local newsletters, Front Porch Forum, Facebook and your local papers to get the message out locally. In November, I look forward to seeing folks in Northfield, Montpelier, and running our Granite City 5K event in Barre. These are all before Veteran's Day, which many of you will be at the Dodge House, but I will be speaking before a crowd in Barre. I encourage you to attend the different events in your communities to support your local Veterans if you cannot make it to the Dodge House.

Legislative Report

I wasn't able to get a meeting together with the Committee. From the Dept. Legislative Report I suggest having the SAL follow suit with the Legion and ask people to reach out to Legislators. I would like the committee to work with the Legion and take this one step further by providing a "script" for members to use and provide the legislator contact information. Also, I would like us to assist in setting up a "Day on the Hill", which could be in January prior to Mid-Winter to have people stop in on their way to South Burlington (or what the Legion Commander feels is best)

Odds and Ends

I propose that we revisit the listing of County Commanders to remove Lamoille and add Grand Isle

I propose that DEC Members attend a City Council/Town Selectboard meeting in their area to present the 2021 National, State and their local achievements. We can talk about those experiences to see if there is a document that can be created to give out to Squadrons to do this in more municipalities around the state.

I propose that the SAL Advisory Committee be assigned as "trainers" or to help with recruitment of Detachment Officers, especially at the County level. We are lacking, but there are interested individuals from squadrons that we can discuss the commitments of each position and answer questions they have prior to Convention in June.

In Honor of All the Veterans,

Lucas J. Herring
Northern Area Commander, Legislative Committee Chair
Detachment of Vermont
Salvtlegionpost10@gmail.com
802-272-8222

Fox Homecoming

March 17-20, 2022

Thursday

St. Patricks Day Karaoke Night

Friday

Daytime- Tour of Hollywood Post 43-Light Morning Breakfast

Evening- Legion Family Casino Night with Dinner

Saturday

Daytime- Flying Flags for Heroes Event at Local Cemetery

Evening- Homecoming Gala held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

****Please note ticket price includes a 2 hour tour of Library**

I am Interested!

Name:_____ Guest Name:_____

Email: _____

Please check box of events you are interested in attending and enclose check. Mail check to

Fox Homecoming c/o DATATrue
115 W. California Blvd #248
Pasadena, CA 91105

☐ **Thursday** ☐ **Friday-Daytime** ☐ **Friday Evening** ☐ **Saturday-Daytime**

☐ **Homecoming Gala Event-Black Tie (Optional)**

You may pay with a Credit/Debit Card

Name:_____ Card No.: _____

EXP:_____ CVC: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

☐ **Please check this box if transportation is needed to events**

Hotel

Doubletree by Hilton Hotels-Monrovia-Pasadena
924 W Huntington Dr
Monrovia, CA 91016
Booking Link
www.my-event.hilton.com/salmichaelfoxhomecoming/

Tickets

Transportation available to and from hotel

Hollywood-Friday
$50 per person

Legion Family Casino
Night w. Dinner
Friday Evening
$50 per person

Homecoming @ Ronald
Reagan Presidential
Library- Saturday
$75 per person

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT ORATORICAL PROGRAM

Marty Lemnah, PDC (Feb. 26, 1947-June 30, 2021) was committed to the Oratorical Program, having served as judge several times locally, for the Department and Nationally. *Please consider honoring her commitment by donating to the Department Oratorical Program fund.*

Marty was poised to attend the 2020 National contest before it was cancelled due to COVID. Pictured here with 2019 VT Department winner, Avery Carter, Marty attended and judged the 2019 National semi and quarter final contests.

Your contribution will assure that the Department will honor the effort and commitment expended by students in our Department contest by providing a worthy contest award.

For more information about the Department Oratorical, http://www.vtlegion.org/oratorical.cfm

https://www.legion.org/oratorical

Refer any interested high school student to me, Karlene DeVine. kdevine@myfairpoint.net (802)877-6392 **Application deadline is Dec. 4, 2021**

Post_____ Date_____

Amount donated:_____ Specify "*Donation to Department Oratorical*"

Where to send acknowledgement of donation (name & address)_____

_____

Mail to: Department HQ, 126 State St., Montpelier, VT 05601-0396

DonationForm2021

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Vermont

The American Legion High School Oratorical Program
"A Constitutional Speech Contest"
2022 APPLICATION

(To be completed by student with sponsorship of American Legion Post)

Contestant Name: _____Birth Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____
Are you a United States Citizen? Yes ___No ___ If no, are you a resident alien? Yes ___ No ___

Parent's Name: _____ Day Time Phone: _____

SCHOOL REPORT

High School: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____

Faculty Contact: _____ Email: _____
I first became interested in the Oratorical Contest when: _____
_____

I will abide by all the rules of the Department of Vermont and The National High School Oratorical Contest Committee and follow the instructions of contest sponsors and chairman. I hereby attest that my Prepared Oration and Assigned Topic presentations are my original work.
Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Sponsored by American Legion Post or District: _____

Post or District Chairman or Officer _____ Phone: _____

**********Must be postmarked no later than December 4, 2021**********

Mail Application to: Or FAX to:
THE AMERICAN LEGION **(802) 223-0318**
Department Oratorical Contest
126 State Street, PO Box 396
Montpelier, VT 05601-0396

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
GREEN MOUNTAIN COUNCIL

HONOR THE BRAVE

SCOUTING'S SALUTE TO VETERANS

Saturday, November 6, 2021
Vergennes - Hosted by Troop 539

In honor of the brave men and women who continue to preserve freedom enjoyed by Americans, the Green Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America is proud to hold its annual Scouting Salute to Veterans parade, Saturday, November 6th 2021, rain or shine. This year's "Scouting Salute to Veterans Parade" will be hosted by Vergennes Troop 539.
All Scout units, both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are invited to come to Vergennes, in uniform, march in the parade and honor our Veterans.

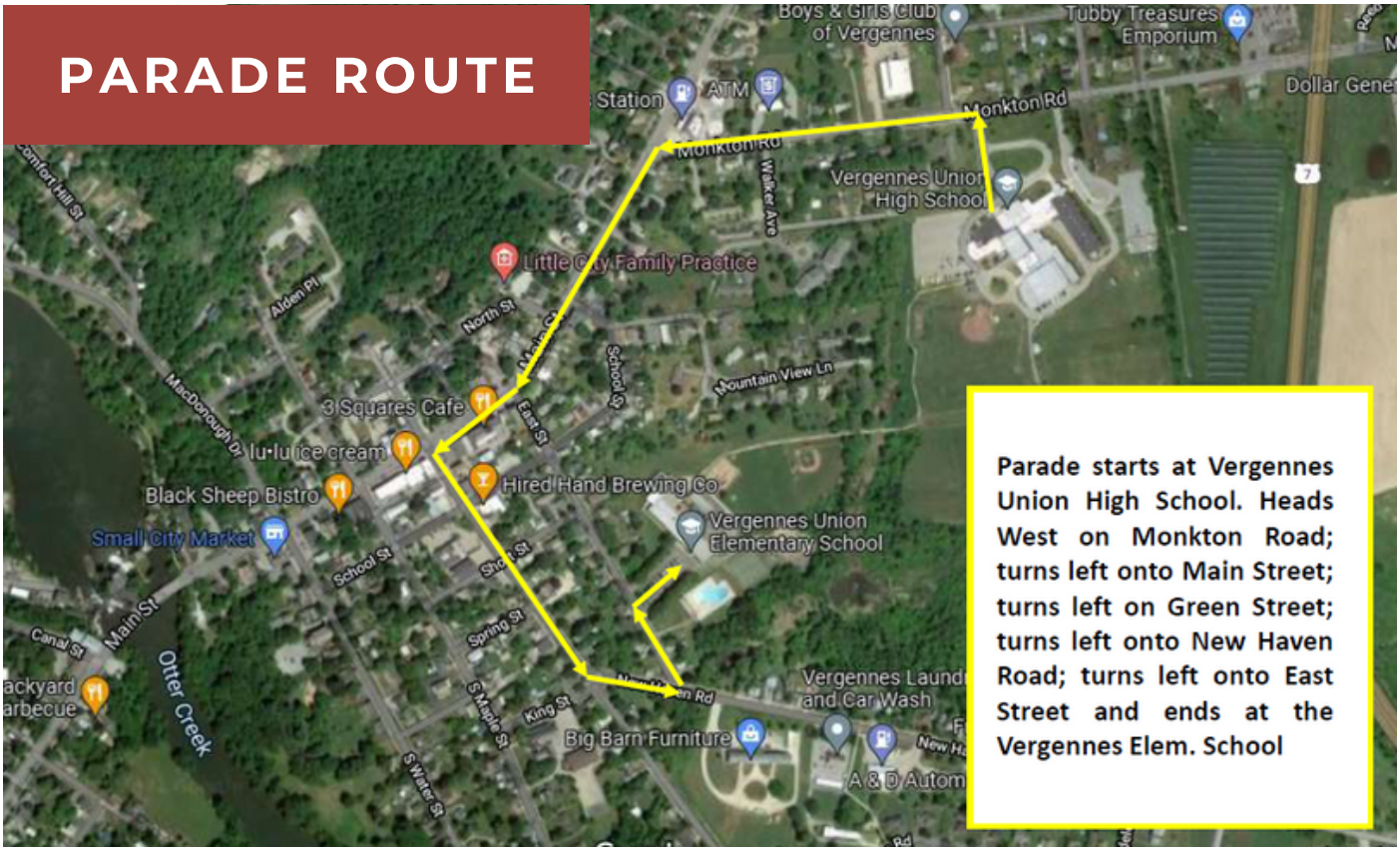
REGISTER AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

https://scoutingevent.com/592-veteransparade2021

Fees:

- **Scouting Participants: $4** (includes a patch, free lunch and marching in the parade)
- **Patch only: $6** (for non participants)
- **Veterans: free**

PARADE ROUTE



Schedule

Please plan on arriving early to the Vergennes Union High School so the parade can be formed and ready to “step off” promptly at 11:00 a.m.
It takes a huge effort to get everyone lined up and many people will be available to assist you to be sure you are in the right place.

- 9:30 am - 10:45am Parade formation
- 11:00am - Parade “Steps off”
- 12:00pm - Luncheon

The lunch will be free to youth and adults who participated in the parade. If your unit is going to attend the meal, please be sure to indicate how many persons will be eating on the registration website so we can get an accurate count on how much food to buy.

The Veterans Parade Committee is sponsoring a food drive for the local food shelves of Vergennes. Please bring non-perishable foods, either cans or dry, to drop off. Drop off collection point will be near the registration table.