



**Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Vermont  
Detachment Executive Committee Meeting  
October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

1. Commander David Hendee (DH) called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and the opening prayer was given by Chaplain Steve England (SE). Sgt-At-Arms Jamie Westcott (JW) reported no visitors, however Commander Ron Larose of the Department of Vermont American Legion arrived 15 minutes later. JW then posted the POW/MIA banner and Blue Star banner. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sr. Vice Commander Jeremy Revell (JR).

2. Adjutant Marc Colety (MC) read the roll call and a quorum was announced.

3. Motion by NEC PNVC John Waite (JW) and seconded by N. Area Commander Brian Massey (BM) to dispense with the reading and accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion passed without discussion.

4. Department American Legion Commander Ron LaRose (RL) visited and thanked the SAL for their work on membership, activities and supporting their posts. Commander RL encouraged individuals to go directly to him with issues if they felt they needed to.

5. Finance Office Norm Scolaro (NS) presented the finance report to the DEC. Motion was made to accept the report by JR seconded by MC. Discussion: Requested by JW that Operation Comfort Warriors to be spelled out on the finance report. The motion passed.

6. Sick Call and Relief. Chaplain SE reported Squadron 10 has Rick Hutchins and Tony Hedges on sick call. It was also reported PDC Frank Gabaree (FG) is not doing well but is stable. It was further reported that PDC Harold Trombley (HT) was recently released from the hospital and is home. Finally, it was also noted that Squadron 59's David Wilbur Wright had passed away.

7. Committee Reports:

Activities Committee Report given by ALTNEC PDC Henry Cleveland (HC).

There are still 38 golf hats to sell. The Detachment golf tournament deposits totaled \$13,909.49 and total costs were \$6,952 leaving total profits of \$6,957. From that we had commitments for \$3,000 for

scholarships, \$1,500 for the Vermont Veterans Fund, \$1,500 for CWF, \$1,500 for the Veterans Place and \$750 for the Law Cadet Scholarship. This leaves us with a gap this year of \$1,292. Only 14 teams were registered, and we were down \$2,800 in sponsorships despite significant efforts from Bill Brothers and Tom Burrows. HC suggested that the net loss can be made up from prior funds. Team Waterbury #59 won the golf tournament. Dale Brown of Cabot won the Caspian pistol raffle. Scholarships were awarded to Abbygayle Laundry (\$1,000) of Hardwick, Dakota Jones (\$500) of Irasburg, Hunter Smith (\$1,000) of Westminster and Ashlynn Deptie (\$500) of Brandon. The 2021 Detachment Golf Tournament will be held at Neshobe Golf Course in Brandon, VT on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A motion was made to cover our usual donations with previous funds by JW and seconded by MC. The motion carried.

Americanism Committee Report given by BM.

The annual scout's parade has been cancelled in Ludlow for this year due to COVID concerns. Oratorical information will be coming out in the next week. JR made a motion to accept and JW seconded. The motion carried with no discussion.

Awards Committee Report given by JW and HC.

JW awarded the following: Most active squadrons 1-50 N. Troy 28; 51-100 W. Rutland 87; 101-150 Barre 10; 151-200 Chester 67. Most donations to Children & Youth 1-50 N. Troy 28; 51-100 W. Rutland 87; 101-150 Bennington 13; 151-200 Chester 67. Most Contributions to Veterans 1-50 Brandon 55; 51-100 W. Rutland 87; 101-150 Barre 10; 151-200 Chester 67. Most Active Americanism 1-50 Pownal 90; 51-100 Arlington 69; 101-150 Middlebury 27; 151-200 Hardwick 7. 100% Membership jacket to Arlington Squadron 69. Squadron Member of the Year – Tom Burrows. District Commander of the Year – Adam Holden.

HC reported that the National Heritage Circle Award was awarded to the Detachment of Vermont for 2019-2020. SE made a motion to accept the reports and JR seconded. In discussion it came up that squadron reporting was a disaster last year and we must do better next year. The motion carried.

Children and Youth Committee Report given by District 1 Commander Mike Felber (MF).

MF reported the national goal of \$360,678 and is currently only at \$36,029. The Eastern regional goal is \$136,994 and is currently at \$8,995. The annual Jingle Bell and Polar Express are cancelled so the Ronald McDonald house donations are expected to be hurting as these are their two major fundraisers. A motion to accept the report was made by MC and seconded by JR. The motion carried without further discussion.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report given by JW

John reported we needed to update the Detachment C&B for a pandemic plan. John reported on the first ever Virtual NEC meeting activities. JW and HC both attended. There were 16 resolutions brought forward. A question was raised on lifetime membership issues by Lucas Herring (LH), JW

explained it would have to be state run, not a National program because of various dues requirements, but is best when managed at a squadron level.

A motion made to accept the report by MC and seconded by JR. The motion carried without discussion.

Legislative Committee Report given by Lucas Herring.

Lucas reported he is still updating and distributing reports to the DEC weekly and this will continue. A motion made by HC and seconded by MF to accept the reports as read. The motion carried without further discussion.

Membership Committee Report given by JR.

Membership is lagging on National reports. Melodie is changing the report date submission to Friday to help make the report more current. 8 Squadrons are still at 0 memberships. JR suggests we split districts up and make some phone calls to those squadrons. JR distributed 100% ribbons and pins. LH had notes from a recent visitation which led to a long discussion about quotas and how they are derived. There was a discussion about how to satisfy DD214 membership requirements with a handout of the process and how challenging that could be for out of state transfers. Lucas Herring to draft a response to Tom Burrows questions, John Waite to review prior to release. Henry to call Tom about how past year quotas were generated. Motion made by JR for a two-week delay on membership reporting for the prime rib challenge only and was seconded by LH. There was discussion about how to manage this. The motion carried with no amendments.

Public Relations Committee Report given by MC.

Our newsletter is in desperate need of new content and new contributors. Despite the limited statewide activities, there are things happening and we need these submitted. Posters are preferred but email summaries are acceptable. A motion was made by JR and seconded by LH to accept the report. The motion carried without discussion.

VA&R Committee Report given by MC.

MC reported he would be distributing the newly revised VA&R mission statement to the DEC in the next week. No further information to report. A motion made to accept the report by JR and seconded by HC. The motion carried without discussion.

Historian's Report given by LH.

LH distributed a newspaper with coverage of the USS Vermont. Motion to accept all Lucas's reports made by HC and seconded by MF. The motion carried without discussion.

Advisory Committee: This has been a difficult year; did we overact to COVID19? John read his Choice of Attitude essay. The discussion centered on looking to the future not the past, we need to regain our previous momentum with hard work the only way to succeed. HC told about his squadron's meal program. JR talked about Bristol's meal program. There was further discussion about managing activity expectations. Some squadrons are having success by changing from 4 big events to 12 smaller events a year. We must reimagine ourselves to overcome the changing dynamics of our environment. Steve talked about Barre's Cinco de Mayo revised format this year. Everyone

agreed we cannot give up on our efforts. LH asked about Detachment level raffles/events. It was suggested to focus on the squadrons for the short term but can be organized under activities in the future. MC made a motion to accept the report and LH seconded. The motion passed.

#### 8. Old Business.

Team Green Mountain – It was reported that JW will not run for National Commander. Detachment finances have \$7,500 reserved currently. These will transfer out of Team Green Mountain and back to the Detachment or donors. HC handed out the golf sponsorships certificates.

#### 9. New Business.

Mid-Winter Conference by the Department of Vermont is cancelled. The American Legion and The Auxiliary will meet via Zoom. A motion was made by JR and seconded by EB to meet at Chester 67 for The Sons of The American Legion Mid-Winter Convention on Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 AM for the DEC meeting and noon for the regular meeting. The motion carried with discussion and agreement that we needed confirmation from Chester that they will host the meetings quickly. If not available, Colchester and Barre were offered as possible locations.

MF will look at options for a Detachment raffle as an active FFL holder because HC reports Caspian is now running three years behind so they cannot support next year's raffle.

LH discussed questions asked about cleaning gravestones in Waterbury. Can we get information to help them out? JW knows some contacts that might be able to provide some information, he will check into it.

A reminder that on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2021 the annual wreath laying is scheduled. More discussion will occur at Mid-Winter Convention.

Donations brought forward at the meeting.

1. Squadron #10 Barre - \$200 Commander's Project, \$300 for The Dodge House and \$150 for CWF.
2. Squadron #69 Arlington - Dodge House \$350
3. Squadron #7 Hardwick – Dodge House \$1,000
4. Squadron #47 Northland – Dodge House \$350

The Dodge House annual donation this year will most likely be done outside. The date is planned for 11/11/20 but still needs confirmation from Chris Morgan. Officers in attendance should be in suit and tie per Commander DH.

Commander DH thanks BM and BB for stepping up and covering many squadron meetings lately. Some visitations need to be rescheduled, there are still some left to go on the schedule.

#### 10. Other Business:

LH was recognized and stated that this was a great team that he enjoyed working with. We could disagree with each other without prejudice or grudge and then socialize after the meetings. He and SE gave a quick summary of the Barre 5K for the Veterans Place.

11. Chaplain SE read our closing prayer.

12. Commander DH adjourned the meeting at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marc Colety - Adjutant*