



**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Vermont Regular Meeting
Convention - June 26th, 2021**

1. Commander Hendee (DH) called the meeting to order at 10:45 A.M. and the opening prayer was given by Chaplain Steve England (SE). Sgt-At-Arms Jamie Westcott (JW) reported one visitor: Chris Morgan representing The Dodge House. Sgt-At-Arms 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.

3. A motion was made by JR and seconded by Chittenden County Commander Elwood Bourne (EB) to dispense with the reading of and accept the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion passed.

4. Finance Officer Norm Scolaro (NS) presented the finance report. A motion was made by N. Area Commander Brian Massey (BM) to accept the report and was seconded by Historian Lucas Herring (LH).

- Checks were presented as follows:
 - Sq. 7 Hardwick – Commanders Project \$500 and CWF \$500
 - Sq. 91 Colchester – The Dodge House \$500

6. Committees.

- Activities – Report by ALTNEC PDC Henry Cleveland (HC). From the golf tournament, total revenue was \$17,685, expenses were \$7,471.35 leaving \$10,213.65 profit. Profits were dispersed as follows: Scholarships \$3,000, Veterans Assistance \$1,500, CWF \$1,500, The Veterans Place \$1,500, Law Cadet School \$750. A motion made and passed during the DEC Meeting which allocated \$1,500 to the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington, VT. From the balance of \$1,973.65. The remaining balance of \$473.65 is used toward next years golf tournament. HC stated we were going to be at Neshobe next year on May 21st, 2022. This year's winner was Team Rutland with a 61. Henry thanked S. Area Commander Bill Brothers (BB) for bringing in the most hole sponsors this year.

Scholarships were given out as follows: North \$1,000 – Natalie Geoffroy from Hardwick, VT; North \$500 – Colby Rodrigue of Canaan, VT; South \$1,000 Shannon Wright of Stafford, VT and South \$500 Nicholas Stevenson of Sharon, VT. A motion was made by NEC PNVC John Waite (JW) and seconded by MC to accept the report as read. The motion passed.

- Americanism – Report by BM. Brian discussed the lack of the annual Legion Family Recognition Night this year for Boys State. No Girls State update. Discussed all the Squadrons that put flags on veteran's cemetery plots for Memorial Day. No shooting reports. Parades were limited this year due to the pandemic. Brian mentioned MC marched in the Arlington parade and asked if anyone else had participated in local Memorial Day parades. Brian recognized LH for his blood drive contributions. No Auxiliary program reports. Brian reported on Legion baseball and let everyone know that Rutland had won the game yesterday 12-1. BM reported he and NS judged at the finals for the Oratorical and that MC had judged at the preliminary in the south. NS received a certificate of appreciation for his continued service to the oratorical program. A motion to approve the report was made by MC and seconded by Randall Magrath (RM). The motion passed.
- Children and Youth – No report issued however JW made note that the Detachment was at \$1.72 per capita in donations for C&Y, far exceeding the goal of \$1.00.
- Constitution and Bylaws – Reported by NEC/Judge Advocate John Waite. John discussed the by-law change add verbiage allowing the use of digital technologies for conducting business in the case of unusual circumstances. A motion was made for a roll call vote by squadron. 14 of 15 represented squadrons ratified the change with 1 squadron abstaining (the squadron representative had previously left the meeting). The motion was approved unanimously.
- Legislative – Reported by LH. Lucas referred to his weekly update reports and advised we should pay close attention to the Vermont bill considering repealing income tax assessment on veteran retiree benefits, Vermont being 1 of 5 states that still tax these benefits. A motion was made to accept the report as presented by JR and seconded by SE. The motion carried.
- Historian – Reported by LH. Lucas updated people on the previously postponed commissioning of the USS Vermont now scheduled to take place on 8/28/21. A motion was made to accept the report as presented by JR and seconded by SE. The motion carried.
- Membership – Reported by JR. Currently at 3399 members or 84% of the Detachment goal. Two squadrons have achieved 100%, Brattleboro #5 and Barre #10. BM added that the two Area Commanders have decided to each donate to the others charity of choice as there is no definitive report to validate who was in the lead on the final day. A motion was made by LH and seconded by EB to accept the report. The motion carried.
- Public Relations – Was not requested at the meeting however I am including relevant information that was prepared for presentation. The following PR information is not part of the record of the meeting. The focus remained for this year the distribution of newsletter, content updates for the website and driving increased Facebook traffic.
 - Newsletter: Distributed 12 of 12 of the last months. Distribution is now 365 monthly. Content refresh rate is 66%. Continues to get high marks in feedback scores at the regional and national levels. Fresh submissions remain a challenge averaging only 2 "non-required" content submissions monthly and 2 event related submissions. Received only two requests for cancellations the entire year with an increased distribution of 57 netting a 16% increase in direct distribution.
 - Web Content - All new content submissions are up to date.
 - Facebook – Average monthly access 62 with 12 engagements and 23-page likes.

- VA & R. – Reported by MC. Basically this was a lost year for the Detachment VA&R Program. I participated in only 50% of national VA&R conference calls. No traction in execution of the Operation Comfort Warriors program at the WR facility due mainly to both the VA Hospital and the Veterans Home being shut down to non-essential personnel last year. Vermont's VA&R program needs a boost over the next year, after gaining a little traction the previous year, all momentum was lost this year. At the national level, the current activities being focused on include a revised 2021-2022 VA & R Mission Plan, generating additional VA & R Articles, a new PowerPoint Presentation and further promoting MySAL (Specifically for the submittal of Squadron Consolidated Report Forms and the new Squadron Data Form).
- Advisory Board – No report
- NECman report by John Waite. John gave an overview of this years NEC virtual meeting including resolutions proposed and status prepared in a handout. All have been recommended for approval. John talked about the need for signing the COVID waivers for the Phoenix, AZ National Convention.

7. Sick Call and Relief. – None

8. Notes and Correspondence. - None

9. Old business:

- The American Legion National Convention is August 27th – September 2nd. Convention delegates were identified, and we will not exceed our eleven delegates. Please let John Waite know immediately if we missed anyone who wishes to go as a delegate.
- Golf Sponsorship certificates of appreciation were handed out to squadron's 1, 3, 10, 19, 36, 39, 47, 49, 50, 59, 63, 67 and 69.

10. New business:

- Awards Committee Results:
 - Category 1 Children & Youth Most Donations
 - 1-50 No winner
 - 51-100 West Rutland #87
 - 101-150 Vergennes #14
 - 151-200 Bristol #19
 - Category 2 Veterans Assistance Contributions
 - 1-50 Hartford #26
 - 51-100 Northland #47
 - 101-150 Barre #10
 - 151-200 Rutland #31 & Ballard Hobart #36
 - Category 3 Most Active Squadron
 - 1-50 Hartford #28
 - 51-100 Northland #47
 - 101-150 Barre #10
 - 151-200 Ballard-Hobart #36

- Category 4 Americanism Most Active
 - 1-50 Hartford #26
 - 51-100 Lyndonville #30
 - 101-150 Middlebury #27
 - 151-200 Chester #67

- District Commander of the Year – Lucas Herring District 3.
- Member of the Year – Alan Way Fair Haven #49.
- The Butch Miller Award was chosen and presented by the previous winner Adam Holden to Lucas Herring for going above and beyond as a SAL member.

- Visitors:
 - Sgt-At-Arms JW introduced and escorted the following visitors at various times throughout the meeting: Chris Morgan – The Dodge House; Sharon Russell – The Open-Door Mission; Karen Boyd – The Veterans Place; Department Commander Ron LaRose; Department Commander Cathy Tester and SAL Advisor Bruce Paquin
 - Chris Morgan reviewed The Dodge House program. She reported that the home was almost at capacity with only a single empty bed on the women’s side. They remained viable and open through the entire pandemic to date. Chris also discussed her new computer program she is implementing. She mentioned they were going to need to restock their boot program before winter. BM issued a floor challenge for contributions. \$475 was collected in cash from the members in attendance to be presented to The Dodge House. In total Commander Hendee presented a check for \$1,975 to Chris on behalf of the Detachment.
 - Sharon Russell gave an overview of The Open-Door Mission in Rutland VT. Founded 36 years ago, currently serves as a homeless shelter and soup kitchen for veterans and the disenfranchised. Sharon recommended a book by a local author and veteran Mark Treanor “A Quiet Cadence” Serving 30,000 meals per year. Commander DH presented a Commanders Project check for \$2,950.
 - Karen Boyd discussed The Veterans Place in Northfield, VT. The building was constructed in 1854, in 1936 it was repurposed as a hospital. They are currently working on a new 5-to-10-year plan for the facility working directly with local students on the details of the plan. Currently they have 16 residents plus 2 permanent residents and 1 live in staff member. All rooms are occupied but none are doubled up at this time. Commander DH presented a Commanders Project check for \$2,950.
 - Commander Ron LaRose spoke about his satisfying relationship during his term with the Sons of The American Legion. He spoke also of the relationship he has with incoming Detachment Commander JR from their mutual home posts of Bristol #19. Commander LaRose recognized the Detachments for its outstanding achievements during a difficult pandemic year.
 - Commander Cathy Tester spoke about improving communications with the Sons of The American Legion and working closely with its leadership to accomplish Department and Detachment goals. She introduced her motto for

the new year which is “Have a goal for tomorrow, a plan for today and remember the past”.

- SAL Advisor Bruce Paquin (BP) congratulated the Detachment on their past successes and offered that “The American Legion will be there to support the Sons”. Advisor BP also encouraged the new leadership to keep up the good work in the year ahead.

- Elections:

- Jeremy Revell was nominated by SE, seconded by PDC Harold Trombley (HT) as the next Detachment Commander. Jeremy accepted the nomination.
- Brian Massey was nominated for Sr. Vice Commander by NS and seconded by MC. Brian accepted the nomination.
- Dave Hendee was nominated for Chaplain by SE, seconded by JR. Dave accepted the nomination.
- Norm Scolaro was nominated by JR (and everyone else) and seconded by LH for Finance Officer. Norm accepted the nomination.
- The following were the choices from each of the district caucuses:
 - Northern Area Commander – Lucas Herring
 - Southern Area Commander – Marc Colety
 - District 1 Commander - Vacant
 - District 2 Commander - Vacant
 - District 3 Commander – John Christian
 - District 4 Commander - Vacant
 - District 5 Commander – Vacant
 - Addison County Commander - Vacant
 - Bennington County Commander – Joe Galli
 - Caledonia County Commander - Vacant
 - Chittenden County Commander - Elwood Bourne
 - Essex County Commander - Vacant
 - Franklin County Commander - Vacant
 - Lamoille County Commander - Vacant
 - Orleans County Commander - Vacant
 - Rutland County Commander – Vacant
 - Washington County Commander - Vacant
 - Windsor County Commander – Vacant
 - Wyndham County Commander – Vacant
- Adjutant Marc Colety cast a single ballot for each at large officer above who ran unopposed after a motion was made by JW and seconded by HC to do so.

11. Other Business:

- District 3 Commander LH reported raising \$13,000 from the Barre 5K which was donated to The Veterans Place.
- Commander Jeremy Revell (JR) reminded everyone of the July Campout and the next DEC meeting on July 24th, 2021, at 11:00 AM in Lincoln, VT.

12. Chaplain SE read our closing prayer.

13. Commander Revell adjourned the meeting at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Colety – S.A.L. DEC Adjutant