



## American Legion

### Department of Wisconsin

### 8<sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference

***Spring 2012 Conference Minutes    May 19, 2012 @ 0900 hrs    Post 263, New London, WI***

1. District Commander Dan Rindt called the meeting to order at 0900hrs. The colors were posted and all present rendered a hand salute. Chaplain Knauf gave an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was placed on the empty chair and First Vice-Commander Krofta read Resolution 228. Third Vice Commander Solberg led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander Rindt led the Preamble.
2. Commander Rindt declared the meeting open and thanked everyone for their support during the past year. He expressed special thanks to Department Commander Rohan and his team of 8<sup>th</sup> District officers.
3. He then invited Department Commander Rohan to say a few words. Commander Rohan thanked the 8<sup>th</sup> District for its outstanding attendance at several leadership training sessions this past year. She said that the American Legion Extension Institute training course has now been placed on the website and encouraged all legionnaires to check it out. She spoke about her experiences as Department Commander this past year and thanked everyone for their continued service and their many accomplishments.
4. Commander Rindt introduced Steve Krueger, candidate for a second term as Alternate National Executive Chairman, who spoke about his qualifications for office.
5. Commander Rindt introduced David Gough, candidate for a third term as National Executive Committeeman, who spoke about his qualifications for office.
6. Commander Rindt introduced Past Department Commander Al Richards who congratulated Department Vice-Commander Kathy Gorst on her appointment to the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs. He is running for a position on the National Executive Committee, having served as an Alternate NEC for one year. Mr. Richards spoke on his qualifications for office.
7. Commander Rindt introduced Past Department Commanders David Korth and Jim Reigle, Department Vice Commander Gorst and Past Vice Commanders Don Southworth, Bob Polaske and Gary Mader. He also introduced Past Department Chaplain Frank Wozniak along with past 8<sup>th</sup> District Commanders Jim Grimm, Frank Wozniak and David Jensen.
8. Commander Rindt then asked 8<sup>th</sup> District Auxiliary President Lori Barber to say a few words. Lori welcomed everyone to the Conference, expressed her thanks to Commander Rindt's for his support and presented him with a small gift of appreciation.
9. Commander Rindt introduced Wayne Jensen, candidate for Department Commander, who spoke about his vision for the American Legion and his qualifications for office.
10. Chuck Roloff, candidate for Department Vice-Commander, spoke about his qualifications for office.
11. Ron Hessle, candidate for Department Vice-Commander, spoke about his qualifications for office.

12. Greg Samonis, candidate for Department Assistant Chaplain, spoke about his qualifications for office.

13. The roll call of Posts was taken by the Adjutant with 51 Legionnaires from 18 Posts in attendance.

14. Roll call and determination of a quorum was completed by Adjutant Arien Herminath with the following results:

Members present: Commander Grimm, Commander Rindt, 1st Vice-Commander Krofta, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Solberg, Finance Officer Jensen, Adjutant Herminath, Chaplain Knauf, Historian Southworth, Parliamentarian Van Ryzin, Sgt-at-Arms Winter, Sgt-at-Arms Baerl, County Commanders LeCroix, Klotsbuecker, Czarnecki, and Fregien. Past District Commanders Korth, Reigel, Gorst, Polaske, Southworth, Jensen, Grimm, Mader and Wozniak.

Members excused: 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Pitt, County Commanders Olsen and Nardi.

Members absent:

15. Finance Report:

Finance Officer David Jensen presented the district financial report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

16. Commander Rindt called a recess to present a check to disabled veteran Sgt Forest Perez on behalf of the 8<sup>th</sup> District. Department Commander Rohan, Department Vice-Commander Gorst, 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Rindt and Past 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Grimm led the presentation of a check for \$1960.00.

17. Commander Rindt invited David Korth, past National Executive Committeeman, to the podium. Mr. Korth stated that he supported a two-term limit for that position.

18. Calvin Johnson, our guest speaker, was invited to the podium. He spoke about his approach to growing membership and highlighted the need to reach out to potential members. First, we have to demonstrate and convince them of the value of our post programs and activities. Second, once we sign them up we have to mentor them and support them, even when they make mistakes as they grow in knowledge and responsibility. Calvin referred to his days as an athlete and stressed the focus and effort it takes to win. He challenged the legionnaires to focus on goals like increasing membership and post activities and be committed to work hard, both personally and as a team, to achieve them.

19. District Officer Reports:

- a. Commander Rindt spoke about the recent 8<sup>th</sup> District training meetings. He thanked the 8<sup>th</sup> District officers for their support during the past year.
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Krofta commented on his travels and activities during the past six months.
- c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Pitt was excused due to illness. Commander Rindt gave a report outlining 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Pitt's travels and activities during the past six months.
- d. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Solberg spoke about the training he received since assuming his position and outlined his travels and activities during the past six months.
- e. Adjutant Herminath spoke about the mylegion.com website and the support that it affords Post and County officers in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. He also asked the Posts and Counties to submit their 2012-2013 officer election reports as soon as possible.
- f. Chaplain Knauf reviewed his activities since the last District Conference.
- g. Historian Southworth reported on his activities.
- h. Judge Advocate/Parliamentarian Van Ryzin said he attended numerous meetings and conferences along with nine funerals.

- i. Sergeants at Arms Winter and Baierl had nothing to report.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the above reports. All in favor, the motion passed.

20. County Commander Reports:

- a. Marathon County Commander Tony Nardi was excused and Legionnaire Borchardt read an extensive report of post activities.
- b. Portage County Commander Louis LeCroix read an extensive summary of post activities.
- c. Shawano-Menomonie County Commander Olsen was excused. Frank Wozniak read an extensive summary of post activities.
- d. Waupaca County Commander Rick Klotzbuecher read an extensive summary of post activities.
- e. Waushara County Commander Marty Czarnecki read an extensive summary of post activities.
- f. Wood County Commander Ronald Fregien read an extensive summary of post activities.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports. All in favor, the motion passed.

21. District Committee Chairman Reports:

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|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. Americanism                         | Jerome Krofta     |
| b. Badger Boys State                   | Don Southworth    |
| c. Badger Legionnaire/Public Relations | Jim Grimm         |
| d. Camp American Legion                | Jim Jaeger        |
| e. Children and Youth                  | Arien Herminath   |
| f. Convention and Activities           | Louis LeCroix     |
| g. Finance                             | Don Southworth    |
| h. Fund Raising                        | Rick Klotzbuecher |
| i. Homeless Vets                       | David Jensen      |
| j. Hospital                            | Gary Mader        |
| k. King Day Pilgrimage                 | Dan Rindt         |
| l. King Day Parade                     | Jerry Krofta      |
| m. King Publicity                      | Dan Rindt         |
| n. Legislative                         | Kathy Gorst       |
| o. Membership                          | Jerry Krofta      |
| p. National Security                   | Jim Grimm         |
| q. Policy and Resolutions              | Gene Van Ryzin    |
| r. POW/MIA                             | Sam Solberg       |
| s. Public Safety                       | Jim Young         |
| t. Religious Emphasis                  | LeRoy Knauf       |
| u. Strategic Planning                  | Don Southworth    |
| v. VA and Rehabilitation               | Jim Grimm         |

22. District Program Director Reports:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| a. Americanism and Government Testing | Arien Herminath |
| b. Baseball                           | Jim Young       |
| c. Boy Scouts                         | Lyle Freiberg   |
| d. Blood Donor                        | Nick Blaske     |
| e. County Youth Government            | Arien Herminath |

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|--------------------|----------------|
| f. Oratorical      | Wayne Winter   |
| g. SAL Liaison     | Robert Hoffman |
| h. Shooting Sports | Robert Hoffman |

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Committee and Program Director reports. All in favor, the motion passed.

23. Commander Rindt asked for a motion to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> District Spring 2012 Executive Board and Conference minutes that had been handed out. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

24. Old Business:

- a. Consolidated Post, Children and Youth and VA & R reports: Every post is to turn in the above three reports by 01 June. Adjutants and Commanders are to get these reports in.
- b. Commander Rindt suggested that Legionnaires use the Department and 8<sup>th</sup> District websites to locate forms and guidelines for completing the above reports.
- c. He also requested that the posts and counties submit updated officer and committee member information as soon as their elections are completed. This information is needed to update current 8<sup>th</sup> District contact information for its mailing list and for website reference purposes.

25. New Business:

- a. Commander Rindt asked for volunteers to serve as Committee Representatives and Ballot Clerks at the upcoming Department Convention in Appleton. The following Legionnaires volunteered to serve as Committee Representatives: Krofta (Americanism); LaCroix (Children and Youth); Fregien (Constitutional Amendments); Southworth (Finance); Reigel (Legislative); Wozniak (Membership); Young (National Security); Jaeger (Resolutions); and Gorst (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation). Legionnaires Mader, Fregien and Krofta, volunteered to serve as ballot clerks.
- b. Commander Rindt reminded Legionnaires of 8<sup>th</sup> District Caucus at 7:30 a.m. on the 20th and 21st of July at the Department Convention and asked for maximum attendance.
- c. Commander Rindt said that Legionnaires who would like to serve on District and/or Department Committees should submit the appropriate forms for signature prior to the District Convention.
- d. Commander Rindt then asked for the names of Legionnaires who planned to serve as delegated at the National Convention in Indianapolis or serve as an Alternate Sergeant-at-Arms. Legionnaires Korth, Kroenig, Gorst, LaCroix, Czarnecki and Wozniak said they would like to serve as Delegates representing the Department. We did not have a volunteer to serve as Alternate Sergeant-at-Arms.
- e. Clintonville submitted a bid to host the 8<sup>th</sup> District 2012 Fall Conference. A motion was made and seconded to approve Clintonville's bid to host the 2012 Fall Conference. The 27 October Conference will be a dual conference with the Auxiliary ladies present. The motion carried.
- f. Several legionnaires spoke about their visits to Washington as part on the Honor Flight program. They spoke very positively about the experience and encouraged others to participate in the program.

26. The 8<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain led the Conference in a Memorial Service for our departed comrades. The Legionnaires then stood at attention and observed a moment of silence.

27. There being no further business to come before the meeting, Commander Rindt declared the meeting adjourned at 1500 hours.

Respectfully submitted by: Arien Herminath, 8<sup>th</sup> District Adjutant