



**AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Wisconsin
8th District Fall Conference**

October 25, 2014 0900 hrs Roy L Drew POST 492 Rothschild WI

The meeting was called to order by District Commander Jerry Krofta at 0900 hrs followed by a salute to the colors. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the POW/MIA ceremony, and the recitation of the Preamble. Chaplain Frank Wozniak gave an opening prayer.

Commander Krofta introduced :Past Dept Vice Commander Dan Rindt, Past Dept Vice Commander Don Southworth, Past Dept Chaplain Frank Wozniak, Past Dept Dist Commander Dave Jensen. Also 8th District Auxiliary 1st Vice President Shelley Wilkinson. Auxiliary Lorrie Barber.

8th District Sgt-at-Arms Julian Sonnetag gave a big welcome to members attending this Fall Conference. Introduction was made for Commander Delana Dennison, Adjutant Lee Jaworski. Bob Coleman gave a short presentation of 5 flags posted in the meeting room. The flags were purchased in 1957 and have been used for many major events. The flags were misplaced for some time but were recovered and restored. Also a tour of memorial park being offered during break or lunchtime. Auxiliary member Sherry Lewis has made a afghan that will be raffled. This is a heirloom. The profits of the sale will go for the Gold Star Mother program.

Commander Jean Balz gave a welcome to members.

8th District 1st Vice President Shelley Wilkinson gave a warm welcome.

Commander Krofta stated that this concluded the opening comments and excused the Auxiliary. Denise Rohan from Wisconsin will be running for National Commander of AML a shell will be passed around to help her campaign.

The roll call was conducted with the following results.

Members Present: Jerry Krofta, Sam Solberg, Jim Young, Ron Fregien, Ron Miller, Dave Jensen, Frank Wozniak, Don Southworth, Jim Yeager, Julian Sonnetag,

Members Excused: C Cassetta, M Czarneski, D Vandre

Members Absent: Cathy Gorst

The roll of the 8th District was taken with 48 members and 17 posts represented.

Minutes of the 2014 Spring Conference and the 2014 District Executive Committee were read. A motion made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion was passed.

Update on members M Czarnecki is undergoing kemo therapy, and Dave Vandre had a heart attack.

8th District Treasurer Jensen gave a finance report. \$4,248.32 in general fund. \$168.72 in shell fund . Money market \$2622.35. No bills to date. \$3,090 in expenses. Have not received dues from 2 posts. Motion made to accept treasurers report as read. Motion passed.

District Officers Reports:

Commander Krofta reported he missed one meeting in Shawano County. Presented Schneider Emmanuel Scholarship plaque to Alissa Hannon of Spencer at Marshfield P54. Fundraising for Denise Rohan's National Commander candidacy is gaining steam with a mailing going out to all Posts with a proposed goal of \$250 for posts, \$2,000 for Counties, and \$500 for District. Jim Reigel Has agreed to be the Chairman for the District.

Bill Michael Sports talk network is proposing venture with AML to choose who would receive prizes in the same fashion PCH tapes the award. Tapes available to AML. Prizes include a rental car and credit card for a weeks vacation.

Continue to encourage members to sign up for Legion Insurance Trust (free) Ins. (800-235-6943) Contact on web site at [www.TheLit.com/no-cost-legion care](http://www.TheLit.com/no-cost-legion-care).

Our Department Service Officer shows over \$160,000,000 recovered in retroactive payments and back pay. Our Department SVO continues to work hard to ensure our state veterans are getting their benefits,

1st Vice Commander: Sam Solberg

Visited County Posts, State Convention, Covention Ballot Clerk. Camp American Legion.

2nd Vice Commander Jim Young

Attended all post meetings and activities. Attended all County meetings, worked the Iola car show. President Clintonville Legion baseball. Blood Donor Chairman. Hope everyone who attends the Midwinter Conference in Baraboo will give blood.

3rd Vice Commander Ron Fregien

Attended WC meetings at five posts. Attended Spring Convention Appleton.

District Adjutant Ron Miller no report

District Chaplain Frank Wozniak

Requested to be notified of veterans on sick or deaths. 17 get well cards 6 sympathy cards, note sent With each card. Received 3 thank you cards from families of veterans. Jim Hollar PDC 54 passed Away in Sun City Arizona. Memorials be given to Shriners Hospital Oak Park Chicago. PDC Mauste died in auto accident in Arizona.

Judge Advocate-no report.

Sgt-at-Arms-no report

Commander Krofta requested to accept District Officers reports. Motion made and accepted.

County Commander Report:

Marathon County gave a report on posts activities. Jean Balz

Portage County report given to all posts activities. Jim Young

Shawano Monominee County gave report of posts activities. Frank Woziak

Waupaca County gave report on posts activities Dan Rindt

Wood County gave report on posts activities Ron Miller

Commander Krofta requested to Accept County Officer report. Motion made and accepted.

Dave Jensen reported that the shell collection total was \$119.00. Commander Krofta gave a conatulation to all. Dave Jensen requested \$180.00 dollars to be used for King Homeless vets. Commander Krofta requested to accept money to be used for King. Motion made and passed.

Americanism: Oratorical will be held at King this year. Saturday January 24, 2015. 1:00pm Looking for volunteer judges, escorts, monitors.

Badger Legionaire publications: Vern Pitt no report

Camp American Legion: Jim Yeager

Gave a report of Camp activities. Goal 300 people 1st year. This year 1129 people. Also explained how a organization or post can sponsor a cabin. Camp is supported by donations. Can handle 90 Veterans or guest per visit. Would like to have every post in districts to sponsor a fund raising for the Camp. Looking for a sponsor for Craft Shop. Endless amount of work to set camp up to open.

Children and Youth: Ron Fregien no report

Convention & Activity Report: Don Southworth

Passenger Van will shuttle people in the morning from hotels to convention center. Chairs will be placed so those that have a mobility problem can rest. . Hotel will provide coffee each morning. Brought to managements attention about wait for service in restaurant.

Convention Corporation is in place and signed 2016. Convention 2018 for LaCrosse, Appleton, and Oshkosh has been received. Proposal made for fundraising in year book advertising.

Golf update: Traveling trophy. 2015 Seymore, 2016 Brackett, 2017 Wrightstown

Bowling update: 2015 Milwaukee, 2016 Seymore, 2017 Shawano, 2018 Madison-Fundraiser for National Commander Campaign Fund.

Convention parade for the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Need to form a 100th Anniversary Committee.

Guest Speaker at Mid Winter Conf will be Colonel Jeffery Wiegand, Commander of the 115th Fighter Wing in Madison.

Finance Report: Don Southworth

The 2015 Budget minutes were approved.

The National Homeland Security Committee requested to expand the Troop & Family Support Program was endorsed and approved for all veterans.

Possible donation of \$25,000 with restrictions which was stated in a letter from Mr. Weiss's

Attorney. He has donated for the past two years funds used to support Troop & Family program.

If you receive a stipend of \$600.00 or more in a calendar year you will be receiving a 1099 tax form.

Department may request some information from you if they don't have it.

Camp American Legion Director will have his roof repaired. Knutson Builders LLC, subject to Warranty approval.

The Audit proposal by Miller, Brussel, Ebben & Glaeske, LLC was approved.

Fundraising: Rick Klotzbuecker

Discussion on each committee member take a couple of districts to promote signing up for LIT.

Past Dept Commander Denise Rohan addressed the committee about her Campaign for National

Commander. She discussed the requirement by National to have raised \$100,000 by May 2015,

to be eligible to run. CY 2015 will feature a window cling and a magnetic calendar campaign in lieu of the Campaign pin.

Dept. Adjutant David Kurtz discussed the possibility of renting mailing lists to raise funds

from non members. Adjutant Kurtz also discussed meeting with a company called Ascente. The

Company specializes in identity theft protection and restoration. Lifelock is promoted through the

LIT. Adjutant Kurtz will make a report at Mid Winter on the Companies ability.

Homeless Veterans: Dave Jensen no report

Hospital: Gary Mader

Gary Mader gave an in depth report on your first 3 week at King. You have to have a submission form from CSO.

King Day Pilgrimage: Will be held on Sunday June 21, 2015. Organization meeting held in February.

Legion Riders: Ray McSherry

4 parades,14 Funerals/escorts,4 fundraisers, 25,725. Donations: Legacy Run \$1,000. King Homeless Vets \$250.00, Quilts of Valor \$500.00, CAL \$25,500. High Ground \$635.00 United Special Sportsmen \$500.00. Annual raffle report \$5282.00 from 50/50 & District Gun Raffle. Rider Ribbon day. \$3500 each day. Presented plaques to King for all 4 branches of the Arm Services. December 13 , 2015 10:00am start. 11:00 lay ceremonial wreaths at King Cemetary.

Membership Report: Sam Solberg & Darla Porter gave a very inspirational speech on the membership of the American Legion. How to bring members in and mentor the people. Attitude is very important. Get members involved. Pass along some things that you have learned while being a member to a new member. Gave everyone a challenge to bring in members. Bring one more in this year. Posts need to recruit, retain and revitalize to keep members in their organization.

Wisconsin Veterans Clinic Wisconsin Rapids Sherry Kleinhans

Reported on the several services that they provide. Also talked about other clinics,Green Bay, Madison, Tomah, Milwaukee. Held a question and answer period regarding services. Novemver 5, 2014 is having a stand down for veterans. Wisconsin has a full time approved day care for veterans. Is available for a veteran who need support. Questions about doctors leaving, travel to clinic due to the geographic locations. Veterans can go to any clinic they want. Some clinics have different services to treat veterans. Wisconsin has a facilities to get a hearing aid. test, or be fitted. Requested to have veterans use my health vet system.com. Many of the veteran clinics are overbooked. Hard to get an appointment.

Team River Runner:

Teaches health & healing through paddlesports. Team River runners is a non profit charity that encourages health & healing for wounded service members, veterans and family members. Veterans are getting medical services, but many many more service members are shwing signs of head trauma, loss of memory, loss of limbs. Even with all the advanced military protective gear they still are injured. Many have a hard time trying to get back in society. Team Rivers runners has experienced personnel on site to assist the veteran. Divers are in the water with each kayak, canoe, inflatable kayak, stand up paddleboards, rafts and more. In the two year of operation They have helped 22 veterans. There is no cost to veterans. ACA insurance. WPS water useage cost. Having a problem finding veterans to come and use the facility.

Dept Vice Commander: John Thurk

Gave a short speech on how he became a Legionaire. He is a Korean War Veteran. Received a card in the mail from headquarters which was in Milwaukee at the time. Stated he needed to be transferred to a local post. He was transferred to post 110 Coon Valley. He stated we need to talk to people and ask them if they are veterans? He stated we need to ask them to join.

Ed Cooper: 10th District

Gave a welcome to 11th District. Stated that he is running for Dept Vice Commander. He is currently serving on the Homeland Security Committee because of the veterans who are in dire need of help. Gave a brief report of a veteran who had no food or could not take care of rent. The Veteran was 82 years old. Asked how many are currently serving on committees on post, county, district or national level? Stated every level in the American Legion structure you gain a great deal of knowledge. If you are not on a committee at various levels you should apply.

POW/MIA: Sam Solberg

In recognition of POW/MIA recognition day the third Friday in September The American Legion of Wisconsin 1st District has held a silent walk the day for the past 30 years to honor the sacrifices made by American prisoners of war and those still missing. Jim Schmidt reported the following service men and women considered POW/MIA: 58,000 Korean, 78,000 World War II; Vietnam 1461. Wayne Jensen and his post are in the process of writing a resolution to change about 25,000 WWII POW/MIAs to be buried at sea as this is the estimated number killed on or around Navy ships and aircraft. The National Executive committee passed resolution 208. Which states the American Legion petition Congress to authorize a forever POW/MIA stamp to honor the sacrifices Of the brave men and women in the armed forces who are still prisoners, or unaccounted for while Serving in any conflict-past, present, or in the future.

National Security: Jim Young

Reported on Troop and Family support. Initial balance of \$56,276.54, 01/01/14: disbursements Through 10/16/14 (\$11,134.92) donations through 10/16/14 (\$2,956.75) balance 10/16/14 (\$48,098.37). Making sure CSO check to make sure personnel have a DD214. Which is required.

Policy & Resolution: Cathy Gorst

The committee addressed the item regarding National Solicitations received by Legionnaires. This was being addressed by Department Adjutant Kurtz.

Historian: Don Southworth

There will be a Historians meeting at Mid-Winter Conference. District Historian is recording all important meeting and District activities in the District History Book. District Historian was recognized for his Post history yearbook at the 2014 State Convention. All posts should have a History yearbook on what they are doing.

Religious Emphasis: Frank Wozniak requested to be notified of any legion members death or a Legion member on sick call. He noticed names on County reports of deaths but was never notified.

VA&R: Dan Rindt:

Reported on Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War. Reported on Achievement Award for CVSO/TVSO. Employment & Training, Homeless Veterans, Hospital report.

A & G Scholarship: Arien Herminath

The program is for 10th, 11th, 12th, graders. After a 175% participation increase last year, we recommended to department DEC to increase number of scholarships to 55. Not approved. Students are tested on US Government, Wisconsin Government, County Government, Constitution And flag etiquette. Students are required to complete a 300 word essay question to qualify. currently award 45 Scholarships: Participation starts at post level. April 16th -22nd 2015.

County Youth Government: Arien Herminath
A request from Todd Braun to make sure the County Youth reports are turned in by posts.

Badger Boys State: Don Southworth
Reported to increase number of citizens for 215 to 895. If your post wishes to sponsor more boys send in your sponsorship early. The Department Oratorical chairman had agreed to organize part of the oratorical contest that would allow badger boys to compete at Badger Boys State. There is a plan to attract sponsors, District, County commander to badger boys state. Badger Boys State is working on development of a school of journalism.

American Legion Baseball: Jim Young
The 2014 season for American Legion baseball has 207 teams registered in Wisconsin. This placed us 4th in the nation in the number of teams at state. The 16 and under tournament was held in Burlington with Janesville winning the championship. The 17 and under was held in Union Grove with Appleton winning the championship. The class A tournament was held in Nekoosa with Waupun winning the title. The AA tournament was in Baraboo with Merrill winning the title. The AAA tournament was held in Plover with Plover winning the State Championship.

Blood Donor report: Jim Young
The American Legion in conjunction with the American Red Cross held a blood drive on July 18, 2014 at the Convention center in Appleton Wisconsin. The blood drive resulted in 27 donated units. Each unit of blood can help 3 individuals. I would like to thank Angie Chappell at Department Headquarters, Laura Moon and her crew from American Red Cross, 4th District volunteers and especially personnel who donated blood. I have a new Quota for this year and its 30 units or more. The next Blood Drive will be held during Midwinter Conference at the Ho-Chunk Convention center, Saturday January 17, 2015 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. I am requesting everyone to donate.

Shooting Sports report: Jim Young
I would like to thank Commander Shappell for the privilege of serving as your Jr. Shooting Sports Chairman during 2014-2015. Brochures have been mailed to all posts for the 2014-2015 year. Three trophies will be awarded to the highest scores for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place. Senior 15-18 years old. The match will be conducted according to National Three position air rifle rules. Also scholarships will be awarded to the three highest scored.

Boy Scouts: Lyle Freiberg
I have been contacting Eagle Scouts about the American Legion "Eagle Scout of the Year." scholarship program. We have 123 posts sponsoring 3300 Scouts. One requirement some of the scouts miss is the religious award. I would like those posts in District 8 who sponsor boy scout troops to have the Scoutmaster contact me if they have a boy working toward Eagle Scout. so I can give information on the program. I also encourage posts to sponsor Boys Scout Troops and Cub Scouts. An Eagle Scout is eligible for an award in a troop that is sponsored by an American Legion Post, or is the son or grandson of a Legion /Auxiliary member and in any other Scout troop. Motion to accept all reports given. Motion passed.

Old Business: Reminder to submit updated Officer information to District. Encourage you to sign up for the subscription for Badger Legionaire on line. Reminder that our membership team consist of Dan Rindt, Jim Young, Clark Cassetta, Ron Miller, Darla Porter.

New Business:

Sam Solberg a motion to endorse Jerry Krofta for District Vice Commander. The motion was made by Dan Rindt, Seconded by Don Southworth. Motions accepted. Motion passed.

Motion to accept a bid for Clintonville to hold the 8th District Spring Conference on May 16th 2015. Motion was made and seconded. All in favor. Motion passed . Anyone looking to move to Historian, Finance, or 3rd vice position in the District are requested to contact Nomination Committee, Don Southworth, Dan Rindt, Jerry Krofta.

If any posts would like to put in a bid for Fall Conference 2016, you should get started now, also to remember you must have a facility large enough to hold Legionaires and Auxiliary.

Operation sweaters for veterans/collections to be done before November 11,2015. Also Home Depot Has a project to help veterans. If you have any veteran needs something to make their home liveable. They have a team home depot crew to start with assistance of posts to help

Silent March in the 1st District. Location War Memorial central location at Plover.

Gary Mader gave a talk about King Va Home.

Plover had a baseball game between Police and Firemen and they raised \$40,000 for “The Never Forgotten Honor Flight.” When we get rid of our flags we should be calling it a flag disposal, or Flag retirement.

Posts have problems getting ammunition in regards to Funeral. You must have two forms completed.. Contact Dawn Folland (309-782-4608) dawn.1.folland.civ@mail.mil or Stephanie at (309-782-7480).

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chaplain Wozniak gave a closing Prayer. Sgt at Arms Jagear retired the POW/MIA flag. The colors being in place, legionaires rendered a hand salute. Commander Krofta declared the meeting adjourned at 1500hrs.

Submitted by: Ronald Miller 8th District Adjutant