



**American Legion**  
**Department of Wisconsin**  
**8th District 2015 Fall Conference**

**Fall 2015 Fall Conference Meeting Minutes**  
**October 31, 2015 Post 317 Wautoma, WI**

1. District Commander Jim Young called the meeting to order at 0900hrs. With colors being in place, all rendered a hand salute. Chaplain Tom Theama gave an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was placed on the empty chair by 3rd Vice Commander Jaeger. 2nd Vice Commander Pat Borchard led the Pledge of Allegiance. Finally, 1st Vice Commander Ron Fregien led the reciting of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.
2. Commander Young declared the meeting open. Wayne Winter, Commander of Post 317, briefed the Legionnaires on a number of issues related to the day's activities. The Mayor of Wautoma welcomed the Legionnaires and thanked them for their service. Commander Young then introduced the distinguished guests in attendance.
3. The roll call and determination of a quorum was completed by Adjutant Arien Herminath. All District officers were present with the exception of Judge Advocate Kathy Gorst who was excused. All County Commanders (with one Acting Commander) were present with the exception of Portage Commander David Vandre and Wood Commander Ronald Miller. Forty-five Legionnaires from a total of 20 Posts were in attendance.
5. Adjutant Herminath asked that minutes of the 2015 Spring Conference, two Caucus meetings at the 2015 Department Convention, and an August 2015 Executive Board Meeting be approved. The above minutes had been posted on the 8th District Website and hard copies were available on the front table for perusal. A motion was made and seconded to approve the above minutes. The motion passed.
4. Mike Kollmansberger, Detachment Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, spoke about Sons-related activities in Wisconsin. His goal is to continue to grow the Sons in Wisconsin and have a Squadron in every county. He encourage all Legionnaires to consider a Sons membership as a gift to the young men in their families and, if eligible, to join the Sons and serve as dual members.
5. Finance Officer David Jensen gave a District finance report. He had hard copies of the report available at the front desk for perusal. He also gave a report on the Shell Fund. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion passed.

6. Frank Kostka, 11th District Commander, a candidate for Department Vice Commander in 2016, spoke about his qualifications for office.

7. District Officer Reports:

- a. Commander Young
- b. 1st Vice Commander Fregien
- c. 2nd Vice Commander Borchardt
- d. 3rd Vice Commander Jaeger

He spoke about his work in Portage County to inform the Posts of the many activities of the American Legion and encourage increased participation in and support of such worthy activities. District Commander Young agreed with the above comments and mentioned that all Posts and Counties should meet at least every two months to stay current on the many ongoing plans and programs of the American Legion.

- e. Finance Officer Jensen

A motion was made and seconded to donate the money in the Shell Fund over \$100 to the homeless vets at King. The motion passed.

- f. Adjutant Herminath

He encouraged the Posts and Counties to send in updates for the 8th District website. He sent out email copies of the 8th District Fall Dispatch to District and County officers in an effort to increase distribution of this document. The Dispatch was also uploaded to the 8th District website. Finally he asked for a motion to renew the 8th District website for \$240.00. A motion was made and seconded to approve the motion. The motion passed.

- g. Judge Advocate Gorst - Excused
- h. Chaplain Theama
- i. Historian Post
- j. Sergeant-at-Arms Klotzbuecher
- k. Sergeant-at-Arms Sonntag

8. County Commander Reports:

- a. Marathon County Commander Balz reported on Post activities
- b. A Portage County Commander representative from Post 6 reported on Post activities
- c. Shawano/Menomonee County Commander Marien reported on Post activities
- d. Waupaca Commander Post reported on Post activities
- e. Waushara Acting Commander Winter reported on Post activities

He spoke about challenges facing Waushara County with the recent passing of County Commander Marty Czarnecki and the shortage of young veterans involved in the Posts. He added that he was looking forward to assistance to carry out a revitalization program in Waushara County.

- f. Wood County did not present a report on Post activities

9. Commander Young asked for a motion to approve the above District Officer and County Commander reports. A motion was made and seconded to approve the above reports. The motion passed.

10. 3rd Vice Commander Jaeger commented that it was evident from the above reports that

County Councils and encourage the Posts to attend such meetings in greater numbers and to meet at the county level on a more regular basis. He encouraged the 8th District leadership team to accept this responsibility.

11. Post 317 Commander Winter introduced Bill Roseneau, Waushara County VSO, who spoke on recent Veterans Administration activities and developments related to veterans.

12. Col. Robyn J. Blader of the Wisconsin Army National Guard spoke on her service as the Staff Judge Advocate for Joint Forces Headquarters. She focused on her service in Afghanistan as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate to the 648th MEB.

13. District Committee Chairman Reports:

a. Americanism Jerome Krofta  
Department is very interested in volunteer assistance for the Badger Boys and Oratorical Scholarship programs. Don Southworth received a 2nd place award for his National History Book. Don presented the book to Past 8th District Commander Krofta. He also encouraged to Posts to maintain history books on their activities.

b. Badger Legionnaire Rick Klotzbuecher  
c. Camp American Legion James Jaeger  
He mentioned that 216 Legionnaires helped set up camp in the Spring and 64 went up to help close the camp. He added that 573 veterans attended camp this year. This year 94 care givers also attended camp this year along with many veteran family members. A total of 1,294 people attended camp this year.

d. Children and Youth Ron Fregien  
e. Convention Activity Don Southworth  
He gave a report on upcoming convention locations. He also reported on the locations of upcoming American Legion golf and bowling tournaments. He also encouraged all Legionnaires to attend the Department Mid Winter Conference for the training offered.

f. Finance Don Southworth  
g. Fund Raising Rick Klotzbuecher  
h. Homeless Veterans David Jensen  
i. Legion Riders Ray McSherry  
He presented a report on Legion Riders activity that will be posted on the 8th District website. He added that the Riders will support the Badger Boys and Badger Girls programs financially this coming year. He continues to look for more riders

j. Hospital Gary Mader  
He spoke about the Red, White and Blue program at King.

k. King Day Pilgrimage Jerome Krofta

l. King Day Parade Ron Fregien

m. King Publicity

n. Legislative Dan Rindt for Kathy Gorst

o. Membership Darla Porter

She gave an overview of membership activities throughout the Department and District during the reporting period. She also encouraged all Legionnaires to promote the training offered at the upcoming Mid Winter Conference. The information there is vital, particularly the information on membership retention and recruitment that is essential to our future. Finally, with costs going up across the board we have to continue to grow if

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|---------------------------|-------------|
| p. MIA/POW                | Ron Fregien |
| q. Security               | Jim Young   |
| r. Policy and Resolutions |             |
| s. Religious Emphasis     | Tom Theama  |
| t. SAL                    | Dan Rindt   |
| u. VA&R                   | Dan Rindt   |

14. District Program Director Reports:

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|----------------------|-----------------|
| a. A&G Scholarship   | Arien Herminath |
| b. Badger Boys State | Don Southworth  |
- He said that attendance was up to 870 boys this year, 14 more than last year. He encouraged all Legionnaires to support this program as it provided our young boys with a unique opportunity to learn about our democratic form of government.
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|----------------------------|-----------------|
| c. Baseball                | Jim Young       |
| d. Blood Donor             | Jim Young       |
| e. County Youth Government | Arien Herminath |
| f. Oratorical Program      | Jim Young       |
| g. Shooting Sports         |                 |
| h. Boy Scouts              |                 |

15. Commander Young asked for a motion to approve the above District Committee Chairman and District Program Director reports. A motion was made and seconded to approve the above reports. The motion passed.

16. Commander Young reported that Shawano Post 117 submitted a bid to host the 8th District 2016 Spring Conference. A motion was made and seconded to accept the bid. The motion passed. Commander Young opened the floor for bids for the 2016 Fall Conference. There was no response at this time.

17. Don Southworth made a motion, seconded by Gary Mader, for the 8th District to donate \$500 to Department HQs to support Troop and Family Support. The motion passed.

18. Post Commander Winter asked that Legionnaires remain for a few minutes and assist with putting the chairs away following the completion of today's conference.

19. Legionnaires then discussed where we might hold the 2016 Fall Conference. Very few Posts have room to host a joint conference with the Auxiliary. Marshfield was mentioned as a possible host as it is large enough to host the 130 Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who would attend such an event.

20. There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chaplain Theama gave a closing prayer. The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the POW/MIA flag from the empty chair and Commander Young declared the meeting adjourned at 1530 hours.