



## **American Legion Department of Wisconsin** **8<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference**

### **Fall 2017 Conference Minutes - November 21, 2017** **Post 139 – Coloma, WI**

1. District Commander Ron Fregien called the meeting to order at 0900 hours. The colors were posted and all present rendered a hand salute. The Chaplain gave an opening prayer. The POW/MIA flag was placed on the empty chair and Resolution 228 was read. Legionnaires then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.
2. Commander Fregien declared the meeting open and invited Waushara County Commander Wickersheim to address the Legionnaires. Commander Wickersheim welcomed everyone to Post 139 and wished them an enjoyable and successful conference. Post 139 Commander Burt also welcomed everyone to Post 239. He informed the attendees of several tours of local training facilities that would be offered later in the day.
3. The Adjutant took a roll call of District and County officers. All officers were present or excused. He then took a roll call of the Posts. A total of sixty-seven Legionnaires from twenty-three Posts were in attendance.
4. Adjutant Herminath said that the minutes from the 2017 Spring Conference, two Department Convention Caucus meetings, and two recent Executive Board meetings had been posted on the 8<sup>th</sup> District websites for perusal. He asked that they be accepted. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed.
5. Commander Fregien introduced the guests. Several officers running for Department offices in 2018 were brought forward during the course of the program to speak about their qualifications for office.
6. Commander Fregien invited SAL Vice Detachment Commander Allen Watry, who is responsible for the 8<sup>th</sup> District, forward. Commander Watry spoke about ongoing SAL activities in the Detachment and encouraged 8<sup>th</sup> District Posts to work closely with their SAL Squadrons and encourage their participation in and support of post activities. He also spoke about the SAL-sponsored Josh Dog program to comfort the children of deployed veterans. He showed several examples of Josh Dogs and asked that the posts promote and support this important SAL program.

7. Finance Officer David Jensen gave a District finance report. He had hard copies of the report available for perusal. He also gave a report on the Shell Fund. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion passed. Today's Shell Fund collection totaled \$148.00.

8. District Officer Reports:

- a. Commander Fregien: Reported on recent activities.
  - b. First Vice Commander Balz: Reported on recent activities.
  - c. Second Vice Commander Bohr: Reported on recent activities.
  - d. Third Vice Commander Wickersheim: Reported on recent activities.
  - e. Finance Officer Jensen: Encouraged posts to pay dues in a timely manner.
  - f. Adjutant Herminath: Asked for approval to renew the website subscription for 2018 at a cost of \$240. A motion was made and seconded to approve the expenditure of \$240 to renew the website. The motion passed.
  - g. Judge Advocate Gorst: Excused
  - h. Chaplain Theama: Encouraged Legionnaires to contact him with any spiritual questions or needs that they might have.
  - i. Historian Pope: Reported on recent activities.
  - j. Sergeant-at-Arms Young: Reported on recent activities.
  - k. Sergeant-at-Arms Wohlrabe: Excused
- County Commander Reports:
- a. Marathon County Commander Balz: Reported on post activities.
  - b. Portage County Commander Lee Miller: Reported on post activities.
  - c. Shawano County Commander Marien representative: Reported on post activities.
  - d. Waupaca County Commander Pope: Reported on post activities.
  - e. Waushara County Commander Wickersheim: Reported on post activities.
  - f. Wood County Commander Krofta: Reported on post activities.

9. District Committee Chairman Reports.

- a. Americanism: Jerry Krofta
- b. Badger Legionnaire: Rick Klotzbuecher
- c. Camp American Legion: James Jaeger
- d. Children and Youth: Ron Fregien
- e. Convention Activity: Arien Herminath
- f. Finance: Dave Jensen
- g. Fund Raising: Jerry Krofta
- h. Homeless Veterans: Dan Rindt
- i. Hospital: Gary Mader
- j. King Day Pilgrimage: Jean Balz
- k. Legion Riders: Ray McSherry
- l. Legislative: Ron Fregien
- m. Membership: Darla Porter
- n. MIA/POW: Jim Young
- o. Policy and Resolutions: Ron Fregien
- p. Religious Emphasis: Tom Theama
- q. VA&R: Dan Rindt
- r. National Security: Jim Young

10. District Program Director Reports:

- a. A&G Scholarship: Arien Herminath
- b. Badger Boys State: Dan Rindt
- c. County Youth Government Day: Arien Herminath
- d. Baseball: Jim Young

- e. Blood Donor: Jim Young
  - f. Oratorical Program: Jerome Krofta
  - g. SAL Liaison: Dan Rindt
11. Commander Fregien asked for a motion to approve the District and County Commander Reports, District Committee Chairman Reports and District Program Director Reports. A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports. The motion passed.
12. Commander Fregien then asked the main speaker, Department Commander Laurel Clewell, to the podium. Commander Clewell addressed the joint session of Auxiliary members and Legionnaires and spoke about her plans and initiatives to grow the American Legion Family of Wisconsin during the coming year. She stressed the importance of increasing our membership and working together as a team to promote and support the many outstanding programs of the American Legion.
13. Unfinished Business:
- a. Manawa Post 226 submitted a formal bid to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> District 2018 Spring Conference at Bear Lake on April 21. The bid was accepted.
  - b. Clintonville Post 63 submitted a verbal bid to host the 8<sup>th</sup> District 2018 Fall Conference. Post 63 was asked to submit a written bid.
14. New Business:
15. 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, the colors were retired, and Commander Fregien declared the meeting adjourned at 1400 hours.

Arien Herminath,  
8<sup>th</sup> District Adjutant