



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

Fall 2018 Conference Minutes - November 27, 2018 **Post 63 – Clintonville, 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. Resolution 228 was read by the 1st Vice Commander and the POW/MIA flag was placed on the empty chair. The 2nd Vice Commander led the Legionnaires in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander Fregien then led the attendees in the recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.
2. Commander Fregien declared the meeting regularly convened and invited Clintonville Mayor Rich Beggs to the podium. Mayor Beggs welcomed the attendees to Marion. Commander Fregien then welcomed Waupaca County Commander Pope to the podium. Commander Pope welcomed everyone to Marion and wished them an enjoyable and successful conference. Post 63 Commander Rindt also welcomed the conference attendees to Marion. Finally, 8th District Auxiliary President Swift welcomed everyone, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members alike, to the conference. She spoke about the Legion family and the role of the Auxiliary to support and help promote Legion programs and activities.
3. Commander Fregien introduced the guests.
4. The Adjutant took a roll call of District and County officers. All officers were either present or excused. He then took a roll call of the Posts. A total of 81 Legionnaires from 24 Posts were in attendance.
5. Adjutant Herminath said that the minutes from the 2018 Spring Conference and two most recent Department Convention Caucus meetings had been posted on the 8th District websites for perusal. He asked that they be accepted. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

5. 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.
6. District Officer Reports:
 - a. Commander Fregien: Reported on recent activities.
 - b. First Vice Commander Balz: Reported on recent activities.
 - c. Second Vice Commander Burt: Reported on recent activities.
 - d. Third Vice Commander Melton: 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: Not requested
 - h. Chaplain Melton: Not requested
 - i. Historian Pope: Not requested
 - j. Sergeant-at-Arms Young: Not requested
 - k. Sergeant-at-Arms Wohlrabe: Not requested
7. 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: Reported on post activities.
 - d. Waupaca County Commander Pope: Reported on post activities. He also requested information from posts for the 8th District history book and a list of those who passed away during the past year.
 - e. Waushara County Commander Wickersheim: No report.
 - f. Wood County Commander Krofta: Reported on post activities.
8. Department Commander Frank Kostka was invited to the podium. He passed out his commander's pin to the Legionnaires and spoke about the new "I got One" pin that will be awarded this year for signing up a new Legionnaire. He also mentioned the awards that will be given this year for multiple recruitments. Commander Kostka stated that new membership is the lifeblood of our organization. He stated that his theme is spelled out on his pin, "Legion Proud." It is reflected in all of our activities that get our name out in the community and promote The American Legion. As we demonstrate our pride in our programs and our community, veterans out there will want to join us. Commander Kostka complimented the 8th District on the turnout for this conference. He reminded everyone that if the posts want to qualify for the Post Excellence Award this year, they will have to submit a CPR report. This is an important change that everyone should be aware of. The CPR report is the main document that National uses to go to Congress and inform them of what we do to help veterans. Commander Kostka then thanked Camp Representative Burk for his excellent work at Camp American Legion. There had been too many projects coming on line at camp at the same time and Legionnaire Burk was able to normalize the process and insure fiscal responsibility. Commander Kostka then spoke about the Century Clock that he had with him. There are three levels of

donations to receive a clock for your post. He also mentioned that the recent initiative for all posts to have e-mail service received some criticism, as it should have. He added that Department had backed off that initiative as a number of posts did not have, and did not want, that service. In conclusion, Commander Kostka encouraged everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to relax, enjoy one another's company and have fun at today's lunch. He asked if there were any questions for him. Commander Fregien asked how many miles he put on the Department Commander's car during the past 3-4 months. Commander Kostka said he put 12,500 miles on the car, a lot of miles on "your" car. His comment was received with laughter and applause.

9. District Committee Chairman Reports.
 - a. Americanism/Career Academy/Fund Raising: Jerry Krofta
 - b. Camp American Legion: Michael Burt
 - c. Children and Youth: Ron Fregien
 - d. Convention Activity: Arien Herminath
 - e. Finance: Dave Jensen announced the amount raised for the Shell Fund and made a motion to donate \$375.00 to King. The motion was seconded and approved.
 - f. Homeless Veterans: Dan Rindt
 - g. Hospital: Gary Mader
 - h. King Day Pilgrimage: Jean Balz
 - i. Legion Riders: Ray McSherry
 - j. Membership: Ron Fregien
 - k. MIA/POW: Jim Young
 - l. Policy and Resolutions/Legislative: Kathy Gorst
 - m. Religious Emphasis: Mark Melton
 - n. VA&R: Dan Rindt
 - o. National Security: Bob Bohr
10. Commander Fregien invited Waupaca County Veterans Service Officer Jesse Cuff to the podium. VSO Cuff discussed his activities as VSO and commented that he was not a member of any veteran organization in the county as he wants to remain neutral in his interactions with local veterans. He stressed how he works hard to form veteran coalitions as we are stronger together. He asked for questions and was asked why he had not joined a local veteran organization. VSO Cuff said it was a personal decision based on family and professional reasons. He said he respected that local veterans would like him to be a member of their organizations and said it might well happen in the future. Post 63 Commander Dan Rindt congratulated VSO Cuff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the veterans of Waupaca County and his current program to provide transportation for veterans with health and mobility issues. The Legionnaires gave VSO Cuff a strong round of applause for his service to Waupaca County veterans.
11. Commander Fregien invited Department Adjutant Amber Nicolai to the podium. She thanked the Legionnaires present for their service to their country and their unflinching support to King. Amber worked with many Legionnaires from the 8th District during her time at King and is well aware of their dedicated service to improve the lives of our sick and disabled veterans. She spoke about her efforts as Adjutant to ensure Department listens more to the voices of the blue cap Legionnaires. One of her goals is to create a creative and forward-thinking environment. Another of her goals is to create a comprehensive communications plan to improve Department efforts to get information to the posts. Amber spoke about upcoming events, particularly the Mid-Winter where

many meaningful training courses will be offered. She added that entertainment will also be a part of the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference to promote camaraderie and a family atmosphere. Amber announced that there would be a "One Hundred Years of Why" board at Mid-Winter. The purpose of the board is to explore the "why" that brought each of us to the American Legion and the "why" behind our personal dedication to the principles contained in the Four Pillars. Amber mentioned that Department was working to improve the voting process at the 2019 Department Convention, to include bringing in voting machines to speed up the process and modernize tabulation procedures. She added that plans were also in progress to promote the idea of Legion Family at the upcoming Department Convention by incorporating social events and entertainment in the program. Finally, Amber thanked the Legionnaires for their service and for all that they do to promote the values of the Four Pillars.

12. District Program Director Reports:

- a. A&G Scholarship: Arien Herminath
- b. Badger Boys State: Jean Balz
- c. Boy Scouts: Richard Mariens
- d. County Youth Government Day: Willis Pope
- e. Baseball: Bob Bohr
- f. Blood Donor: Jim Young
- g. Oratorical Program: Jerome Krofta
- h. SAL Liaison: Dan Rindt

13. 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.

14. Commander Fregien asked for any old business. There was none.

15. Commander Fregien asked for any new business.

- a. There was a discussion concerning the sale of Swan products as a fund raiser. Several posts have visited the Swan website and participated in the program.
- b. Past Department Commander Reigel Mentioned that next year's Department golf outing would be held the second week of September and we should mark it on our calendars. He also suggested that posts start to compile their CPRs early in the year and add to them as post events unfold. That way the reports are virtually complete when the time comes to submit them.
- c. Legionnaire Wohlrabe spoke about Hoptel (name of a hotel) and Fisher House in Milwaukee and how these entities enable family members to spend the night when their loved ones are in the hospital. He made a motion that the 8th District donate \$250 to each organization to help support their activities. The motion was seconded and approved.
- d. The 8th District received two bids for the 2019 Spring Conference, one from Manawa Post 226 and one from Marshfield Post 54. Past Department Commander Reigel spoke about the facilities at Post 54 and how they were prepared to host the upcoming Spring Conference. A motion was made and seconded to award the 2019 8th District Spring

Conference to Marshfield Post 54. The motion was seconded and approved.

- e. Several Legionnaires commented that the conference room for this year's joint Fall Conference was very noisy. The two groups met in one large hall separated by a large curtain which was a less than ideal situation. Legionnaire Kathy Gorst suggested that the value of holding a joint Fall Conference was worth the effort to find a suitable location. Legionnaire Jim Jaeger commented that the lack of suitable locations might make it necessary for the Legion and Auxiliary to hold separate Fall Conferences in the future. Commander Fregien said that the 8th District Executive Board would study the situation and file a report at the 2019 Spring Conference.
- f. Legionnaire David Jensen made a motion that the 8th District donate \$500 to purchase additional wreaths for King Veterans Home. The motion was seconded and approved.

16. There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chaplain Melton 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 1445 hours.

Arien Herminath,
8th District Adjutant