

Detachment of Arizona

Detachment Convention Meeting 2023

El Conquistador hotel Oro Valley Arizona

CONVENTION MEETING

Saturday June 24, 2023

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING

Call to Order The meeting started at 8:43 a.m.

Roll Call Detachment Officers (present listed):

Commander Noah McMullen (SQ62), Area A Vice-Commander Ryan Harris (SQ52), Area B Vice-Commander Chris Balsley (SQ91), Area C Vice-Commander Mike Bryant (SQ86), NEC Joe Roberts (SQ36), Alt NEC Dan Ashley (SQ91), Chaplain Jim Beischel (SQ58), Adjutant Dennis Pittman (SQ140), Asst. Adjutant Jeremy Davalos (SQ140) , Judge Advocate Ed Cleary (SQ2), Finance Officer Tom Lucas (SQ29), Sgt-at-Arms Kevin Ludvigsen (SQ52), Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Michael Vasquez (3) present, E-Board AJ McMullen (SQ62), E-Board Chaz Bird (SQ109), E-Board Tommy Morrow (SQ59).

Past Detachment Commanders: Rob Pederson (SQ14), Jimmy Brown (SQ39), Ed Cleary (SQ2), Jeff Frain (SQ27), Joe Roberts (SQ36), Joe Miller (SQ66), Greg Mekula (SQ39), Mike Talty (SQ27), Matt Griffis (SQ109), Tom Lucas (SQ29), Chuck Treat (SQ29), Dan Ashley (91), Honorary Commander GI Josh (Detachment of Arizona) present.

- Final Roll Call for PDC Fred Kvasnicka: Called for 3 times (picture and name tag brought forth by Sergeant-at-Arms), Detachment Adjutant informs Commander McMullen of PDC Kvasnicka passing on to Detachment Everlasting. Commander McMullen announces PDC Kvasnicka shall be considered excused from all Detachment duties going forward and proclaims that the 2023 Detachment Convention is dedicated in honor of PDC Kvasnicka.

Squadron roll call:

Area A:

4 –

7 –

9 – Present

11 – Present

16 –

24 – Present

28 – Present

32 –

36 – Present

52 – Present

54 –

59 – Present

66 – Present

68 – Present

95 –

97 –

129 – Present

109 – Present

125 – Present

131 – Present

132 – Present

133 -

Area B:

1 – Present

2 – Present

5 –

12 – present

19 –

26 – Present

27 – Present

29 – Present

34 –

35 – Present

39 – Present

41 – Present

44 – Present

56 –

58 – Present

61 – Present

62 – Present

65 –

91 – Present

105 – Present

107 – Present

117 – Present

134 –

138 – Present

Area C:

3 – Present

6 – Present

13 –

14 – Present

15 – Present

22 –

25 – Present

30 –

37 –

40 – Present

42 –

57 –

69 –

78 – Present

79 –

81 – Present

86 – Present

87 –

88 –

90 –

93 –

140 – Present

SQUADRON 100 – X

Quorum was present.

Reading of minutes from morning Ex meeting. Minutes accepted by voice vote into the official record.

Slide show #1 on Squadrons past activities over last year.

Past business:

Continuing motion – Ben Headen, Resolution 2023-2 SAL Adjutant Expansion of Term Continuity (resolutions Appendix a). Motion to accept and pass by Chuck Treat PDC SQ#29, 2nded, Discussion, Voice vote = passed.

Guest Speakers:

Gary Vaughn, speaks on Legion Scouting program.

Ace Tounsel, Legion Area A candidate for Vice-Commander. Speaks to body.

Bobbie Kimelton, Legion Area B candidate for Vice-Commander. Speaks to body.

Scott Miller, Legion Area C candidate for Vice-Commander. Speaks to body.

Steve Spearl, Legion Membership Director, Legion Department Commander candidate. Speaks to body.

Mike Simon, American Legion Department of Arizona Commander. Speaks to body.

Ben Headen PDC. Speaks to body on The LIT program.

Matt Griffis PDC. ALECCA presentation.

Break.

Resume.

Judge Advocate Ed Cleary, rules of Convention.

Reports (appendix b):

Vice-Commander Area A Ryan Harris, Area A report.

Vice-Commander Area B Chris Balsley, Area B report.

Vice-Commander Area C Mike Bryant, Area C report.

Detachment Chaplain Jim Bieschel, Chaplain report. Jim Bieschel withdraws his nomination for 2023–2024-year Chaplain and nominates Ryan Harris for the position.

N.E.C. PNVC PDC Joe Roberts, N.E.C. report.

Detachment Membership Chairman Dan Ashley, Membership report.

Detachment Finance Officer Tom Lucas, Finance report.

Detachment VA&R: VAVS, Fisher house, et.al. Joe Miller.

Detachment Americanism Jim Borgman. Boys State Jeremy Davalos.

Detachment Children and Youth Dan Ashley.

Detachment Conference report via Commander McMullen.

Detachment Campout report Chris Balsley.

Detachment Awards Dan Ashley/Chuck Treat.

Guest Speaker Arizona's nominated candidate for American Legion National Commander Matt Shuman. Speaks to the body.

Detachment Adjutant report Adjutant Dennis Pittman/Assistant Adjutant Jeremy Davalos.

Commander's report, Detachment Commander Noah McMullen.

Reports are accepted into record with no objections.

Unfinished business: None.

New business:

PNC Jeff Frain speaks to the issue of forming districts and moves motion to form an ad hoc committee on forming districts, seconded, motion passes.

Brad Heck speaks on budget and reasons it cannot be passed until Fall Conference and moves to table it until then, Commander McMullen tables until Fall Conference. Chairman Heck also speaks to how Detachment is currently at break even (\$19.00 to savings) due to inflation and increased cost of doing business and asks body to consider ways to increase income. Chairman Heck moves to add a line item to the budget to cover cost of Detachment officer bonding (\$1000.00), seconded. Discussion, Adjutant Pittman is asked to explain bonding of officers, motion carries. Chairman Heck moves to add a line item to the budget to cover cost of Detachment D&O insurance and Liability insurance (\$2500.00), seconded, Adjutant Pittman is asked to explain estimated cost, motion carries. Mike Bryant motions to donate to Arizona American Legion College (\$5000.00), seconded. Discussion. Chairman Heck explains what Arizona American Legion College is and does. Chairman Heck explains how AZALC budget was cut in Department Finance committee. PDC Headen speaks to budget issues affecting AZALC and asks AZSAL to help. Question arises on nature of donation via one time or ongoing. Chairman Heck asks to amend the motion making it an ongoing line item to the AZSAL budget (\$5000.00 per fiscal year), seconded. Discussion, questioning how to fund an ongoing line item, Chairman Heck explains that currently we would withdrawal from the reserves of Detachment but hopefully by a passed budget new funding measures would be found to increase Detachment income. Squadron 27 makes announcement of \$5000.00 donation pledge to AZALC. Questioning under discussion continues, PNC Frain asks if the ongoing line item will have a sunset time limit built into it and notes that with current additions (bonding, insurance and AZALC) it would be adding over \$8000.00 to budget that is at breakeven and notes finding that money is only going to be found by a dues increase and asks for an AZALC line item to go to an exploratory committee for Fall Conference before being considered for approval. Chairman Heck speaks to adding it and then arraigning the budget in consideration of it. Squadron 29 makes announcement of \$1000.00 pledge for AZALC. More discussion, Adjutant Pittman speaks to being present in the Department Finance Committee meeting (with approval of Department Finance Chairman Headen) and how the budget hit on AZALC came unexpected and without chance for AZALC representative to Committee Bobbie Kimelton to respond. Adjutant Pittman speaks in favor of SAL Detachment supporting AZALC in an ongoing role by line item and the merits of AZALC and asks Detachment continuing support. Vote called on amendment to motion, passes, vote on original motion, passes. Item is added to AZSAL budget as ongoing line item of \$5000.00 per fiscal year in support/donation of Arizona American Legion College.

New business closed.

Meeting is suspended for continuing nominations and vote for Detachment Officers.

Judge Advocate Cleary takes podium;

Calls for Detachment N.E.C. nominations (current Joe Roberts). None, closed.

Calls for Detachment ALT N.E.C. nominations (current Dan Ashley). None, closed.

Calls for Detachment Commander nominations (current Mike Bryant and Chris Balsley). None, closed. After closure Mike Bryant asks for floor and withdrawals from nomination due to illness and asks for faith and support in Chris Balsley. PDC Ben Headen takes floor and announces campaign for candidacy of Mike Bryant for Detachment Commander 2024-2025.

Calls for Detachment Vice Commander Area A nominations (current Ryan Harris and Chas Bird). None, closed. Vice Commander Ryan Harris withdraws.

Calls for Detachment Vice Commander Area B nominations (current Dave Alfaro and A.J. McMullen). None, closed.

Calls for Detachment Vice Commander Area C nominations (current Jeremy Davalos). None, closed.

Calls for Detachment Chaplain nominations (current Jim Bieschel). Jim Bieschel withdraws his nomination for 2023–2024-year Chaplain and nominates Ryan Harris for the position, Ryan Harris accepts, closed.

Nominations closed.

Elections:

Motion made unless any objections to find all unopposed candidates as elected, no objections, Adjutant Pittman puts into record as such.

Election for Area B Vice Commander commences by secret ballot. Election commences.

10-minute break.

Judge Advocate Cleary announces election result of new Area B Vice Commander Dave Alfaro.

Good of the Sons:

Slide show #2 plays.

Adjutant Pittman thanks Detachment for picture submittals for slideshows and lets members know this will be an ongoing item of Convention going forward.

Newly elected Vice Commanders come forward and introduced to Detachment.

Sergeant-at-Arms escorts newly elected Detachment Commander Chris Balsley and wife Lisa forward and then escorts Commander McMullen's wife Stephanie and son A.J. forward.

Pinning and capping of new Detachment Commander Elect and outgoing Detachment Commander.

Outgoing Commander McMullen gifts Commander Elect Balsley with gavel.

Commander Elect Balsley gifts Outgoing Commander McMullen with gifts on behalf of the Detachment.

Outgoing Commander McMullen thanks Detachment for his year.

Commander Elect Balsley has Sergeant-at-Arms escort Outgoing Commander McMullen and guests off podium.

Detachment Commander Elect Balsley announces Outgoing Commander McMullen one last gift;

Slideshow #3 in honor of Commander McMullen's year. Slideshow #3 ends remembering PDC Fred Kvasnicka.

Still under Good of the Sons, PNC Frain speaks to Honor PDC's with new memorial plaque and award.

PDC Ashley, thanks and announces to Detachment he is in line for National Vice Commander.

Announcement of Detachment Executive Committee meeting immediately after closure.

Donations (appendix A).

Good of Sons, closed.

Commander Elect calls for any further business to come before the meeting, hearing none.

Closing prayer.

Salute flag.

Commander Elect closes meeting.

Adjourned at 12:58PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Pittman,

Detachment Adjutant

Running time: 255 minutes