

**Detachment of Arizona**  
**Fall Conference General Meeting 2023**  
**El Conquistador hotel Oro Valley Arizona**

**CONFERENCE MEETING**

Saturday November 4, 2023

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING

Call to Order The meeting started at 9:59 a.m.

Roll Call Detachment Officers (present or excused listed):

Commander Chris Balsley (SQ91), Area A Vice-Commander Chas Bird (SQ109), Area B Vice-Commander Dave Alfaro Excused (SQ62), Area C Vice-Commander Jeremy Davalos (SQ140), NEC Joe Roberts (SQ36), Chaplain Ryan Harris (SQ52), Adjutant Dennis Pittman (SQ140), Judge Advocate Jeff Frain (SQ27), Finance Officer Ed Cleary (SQ2), Sgt-at-Arms Kevin Ludvigsen (SQ52), Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Brandon Britton (SQ140).

Past Detachment Commanders: Ed Cleary (SQ2), Jeff Frain (SQ27), Joe Roberts (SQ36), Joe Miller (SQ66) Excused, Mike Talty (SQ27), Matt Griffis (SQ109) Excused, Tom Lucas (SQ29) Excused, Chuck Treat (SQ29), Dan Ashley (SQ91), Noah McMullen (SQ62), Honorary Commander GI Josh (Detachment of Arizona) present.

Squadron roll call:

Area A:

4 –

7 –

9 –

11 –

16 –

24 – Present

28 –

32 –

36 – Present

52 – Present

54 –

59 –

66 –

68 – Present

95 –

97 –

129 –

109 – Present

125 –

131 –

132 – Present

133 - Present

Area B:

1 – Present

2 – Present

5 –

12 – Present

19 – Present

26 –

27 – Present

29 – Present

34 –

35 – Present

39 –

41 – Present

44 –

56 –

58 – Present

61 – Present

62 – Present

65 – Present

91 – Present

105 – Present

107 –

117 –

134 –

138 – Present

Area C:

3 –

6 – Present

13 –

14 –

15 –

22 –

25 – Present

30 –

37 –

40 –

42 –

57 –

69 –

78 –

79 –

81 –

86 – Present

87 –

88 –

90 –

93 –

140 – Present

SQUADRON 100 – X

Quorum was present.

Guest Speakers:

Commander Balsley calls special guest AZALPDC Ben Headen forward. Ben speaks to and introduces Arizona's approved candidate for Legion National Commander Matthew Shuman.

Matthew Shuman speaks about his membership and friendship with The Sons of The American Legion. Thanking special members for their support and the opportunity to speak before the body. Matthew speaks to what he envisions as the future for The American legion and The Sons of The American Legion. Matthew asks for the Detachments help and support in his run for National Commander.

Commander Balsley calls special guest Arizona Department Commander Steve Sperl forward.

Commander Sperl speaks to "No Bad Days". Commander Sperl thanks Sons for support.

Commander Balsley calls PDC McMullen to give report due to scheduling issues. ALLECA report (reports are in appendix b).

Judge Advocate Frain gives rules of meeting.

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

Minutes of Convention 2023 having been made available accepted by voice into the official record.

Commander Balsley calls forward representative of host Squadron 132. Commander Davis of SQ132 thanks members for coming to Fall Conference.

Commander Balsley calls Tommy Morrow (SQ68) forward to present him with his SOY cover from his year as SOY.

Reports (reports are in appendix b).

Vice-Commander Area A Chas Bird, Area A report.

Vice-Commander Area B Dave Alfaro (excused absent), Area B report gave by Dan Ashley (SQ91).

Vice-Commander Area C Jeremy Davalos, Area C report.

Chaplain Ryan Harris, Chaplain report.

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

Detachment Membership Chairman Mike Bryant, Membership report.

Detachment Finance Officer Ed Cleary, Finance report.

Detachment Judge Advocate Jeff Frain, Judge Advocate and Constitution and Bylaws report.

Fisher house, Joe Roberts.

Detachment Americanism Jim Borgman. Baseball, Scouting, Boys State.

Detachment Children and Youth, GI Josh.

Detachment Legislative, AJ McMullen.

Detachment Conference report Adjutant Pittman (124 registered, 117 in attendance).

Detachment Campout report Chas Bird.

Detachment Awards Chuck Treat.

Detachment Adjutant report Adjutant Dennis Pittman.

Reports as delivered accepted by voice into the official record.

Commander Balsley calls special guest Bobbie Kimelton (AZALC) forward. Commander Balsley decrees Bobbie as an Honorary AZSAL member for the 2023-2024 year.

Bobbie Kimelton speaks on Arizona American legion College. Bobbie thanks the Sons for their donation to Arizona American Legion college.

Unfinished business:

2023-2024 proposed SAL Arizona Detachment Budget. Budget explained and spoke to by Finance Officer Ed Cleary and Adjutant Dennis Pittman. Adjutant gives explanation of operation up to date (operational budget approved by Legion DEC). Explanation estimated budget cost, explanation of new costs never budgeted for before. Projected dip into savings to cover budget shortfall. Motion to pass budget by Dan Ashley (SQ91), seconded Mike Bryant (SQ86). Discussion. Chuck Treat request if a balance sheet for Detachment was currently available. It was given verbally (was just finished night before without time to produce copies). Questions on future budgets and their look, answered by stating until we have the full implement of Legion mandates we cannot honestly answer. Budget passes by voice vote.

10 Minute break.

Resumes.

New business:

Commander Balsley turns the floor over to PDC Ben Headen. PDC Headen comes to speak to the members on the cost of getting a National Commander into office (Matthew Shuman). PNC Jeff Frain speaks to body on his run and what the Legion Body did and donated to allow his run. PDC Frain motions that we use the \$25,000.00 (restricted use funds held for a National Commander Run) by donating it to the Matthew Shuman campaign as Matt is not only running for Legion National Commander, but a proud SON from the Detachment of Arizona. Dan Ashley (SQ91) seconds. Point of order called for by Chuck Treat on what the restricted use funds were put in savings for, a Son National Commander run. Discussion ensues. Ruling finally gave by Adjutant Pittman as Judge Advocate Frain made the motion barring him from ruling on the Constitutionality of it. Adjutant Pittman rules that as per documents that have been reviewed by him on the issue and with no new evidence being produced at current time in other evidence. The motion is a valid use of the restricted use funds as Matthew Shuman being a SAL member in good standing of the Detachment of Arizona meets all notions to it being used by a SON from Arizona and That the term "National Commander" does not specify as per Legion or SAL. Thus, all terms of the restricted use fund are being met. Mr. Treat is informed he still has the right to call the judgement of the Adjutant before the Body for vote on the ruling. Mr. Treat acquiesces. Other discussion. Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

Adjutant Pittman explains the new line item to restricted savings \$5000.00 per year capping out at \$25,000.00 held for use of potential future SAL Candidates for National Office (donations from to be approved on an individual basis, always by motion/resolution carried forward to vote of the Body). At anytime the fund sinks below \$25,000.00 the line item is active until replenished at \$25,000.00 (\$5000.00 x 5-year plan).

Break from new business.

Dan Ashley request to give CWF Report, granted by Commander Balsley.

New business:

Jeff Frain motions to approve \$2500.00 for Dan Ashley's campaign for SAL National Western Vice Commander 2024-2025 from the newly formed restricted savings. Seconded by Chuck Treat (SQ29). Discussion. Passes by voice vote.

Dues increase plan of \$5.00 added per year on per diem moving per diem to Detachment from \$6.00 per member to \$11.00 per member starting 2024-2025 year. Adjutant Pittman explains plan as approved by Finance Committee. Motion to accept as proposed (\$5.00 per diem raise per member) by Mike Bryant, seconded by Noah McMullen. Discussion. Passes by voice vote.

Resolution #2023-3 Expansion of term of Finance Officer for Continuity. Origin Jeff Frain (SQ27), Ed Cleary (SQ2), Dennis Pittman (SQ140). Resolution read by Jeff Frain. Motion to accept as written Noah McMullen, seconded by Kevin Ludvigson (SQ2) Discussion. Passes by voice vote.

Resolution #2023-4 Adjutant vote removed. Origin Dennis Pittman (SQ140), Mike Bryant (SQ86). Resolution read by Jeff Frain. Motion to accept as written Dan Ashley, seconded Steve (SQ173). Discussion. Passes by voice vote.

Detachment Commander Rings Jeff Frain. Motion going forward that outgoing Detachment Commander Rings be covered by Detachment of 50% of all cost charged by Flag and Emblem (Ring, Tax, Shipping, Etc.), with the outgoing Commander responsible for the other 50%. With one year after becoming Outgoing Detachment Commander to accept, Replacing the old verbiage on PDC rings in the Standing rules starting with the 2024-2025 Commander, second by Chuck Treat (SQ29). Discussion. Passes by voice vote.

Proposed Emergency Budget. Commander Balsley explains reasoning and use of a pre-approved emergency budget for Detachment and goes over proposed budget. Motion to accept as written (SQ105), seconded Jeremy Davalos. Discussion. Passes by voice vote.

Chas Bird moves to select lake Havasu as location for 2025 Campout (April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> or April25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> dependent on incoming National Commander schedule), Jeff Frain seconds, Discussion, passes by voice vote.

Good of the Sons:

Jeff Frain (SQ27) calls James Matlock forward for recognition for past Blue Brigade presenting pin.

Adjutant Pittman (SQ140), replacement 100% ribbons made available.

Past detachment Chaplain Jim Beischel (SQ58) gives thanks to new Chaplain Harris (SQ52) on job he is doing.

Commander Balsley speaks on going to Fall NEC.

Washington Wreath presenter selected, Ed Cleary (SQ2), Commander Balsley will also attend.

Commander Balsley speaks on CWF, his charity for the year.

PDC Mike Talty gives shout out to Adjutant Pittman, Finance Officer Cleary and Membership Chairman Bryant for effort put into budget and financials to make them informational and understandable to the Membership.

Donations (appendix A).

Commander reminds of WWWR

Good of Sons, closed.

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

Closing prayer.

Commander closes meeting.

Adjourned at 1:23PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Pittman,

Detachment Adjutant

Running time: 204 minutes

