

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FALL CONFERENCE—SEPT. 2015
SAN ANTONIO, TX**

Call to Order

By order of the Commander and pursuant to the constitution and by-laws, Article IV, Section 1, of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Texas, I, Kevin Winkelmann, Detachment Adjutant, do hereby call all members of the Detachment Executive Committee to convene on Saturday September 19, 2015 at 10:00 AM and, if necessary, Sunday September 20, 2015 at 9:00AM in the Amphitheater Room at the Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade in San Antonio, Texas.

Meeting and Hotel News

Where: Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade, 9821 Colonnade, San Antonio, TX 78230
210-691-8888. Room rates are \$95.00 per night plus tax. All room reservations must be made by August 31, 2015

When: Saturday, September 19, 2015 @ 10:00AM
Sunday, September 20, 2015 @ 9:00AM (If Necessary)

Agenda

You will find the agenda for the meetings enclosed

Commander's Comments

Please see the enclosed letter from Detachment Commander Waddell for his notes and words of encouragement.

Adjutants Notes

Please make sure all Officers, Chairman and District and Squadron Commanders address changes are reported to me as soon as they occur. This includes e-mail addresses. Please e-mail all correspondence if possible. All Squadrons and Districts need to make sure their certification of officers is turned in as soon as possible. This will help with our mailings. The minutes from the 2015 Detachment Convention are enclosed. Please read them and bring all corrections to this meeting in September. We will be having the leading candidate for National Commander as our guest. His name is Jeffrey Frain from the Detachment of Arizona . Please note, the Mid-Winter Conference will be held on January 29-31, 2016 at the Omni Hotel. We will be having a special guest in for this meeting. More info in the next newsletter. The next Detachment Convention will be held in El Paso, Texas over the weekend of July 15-17, 2016.

Finance

Greetings everyone. I plan to email our officers, Committee Chairman and PDC's around the end of August to request your confirmation for Fall DEC. Please respond by Thursday September 4TH. I need to have the list to Bill West shortly after that. If you have not received my email by Labor Day weekend, please contact me at 817-946-4506 or smslaughter@sbcglobal.net. Any confirmations after Labor Day weekend will be paid after the meeting. So, reply as soon as you see my email.

Steve Slaughter, Detachment Finance Officer
Phone: 817-946-4506
E-Mail [-smslaughter@sbcglobal.com](mailto:smslaughter@sbcglobal.com)

Awards Banquet

The awards dinner that normally happens this weekend may be postponed. We will do some checking into what is available and a good location. More information to come at a later date. My apologies

Internet

Greetings! The new year brings new opportunities to improve over the last. We have a great tool available for you to use. Send us the flyer to events your Squadron or District is hosting and we will post it for you and advertise it across the state. If you have pictures or events you have hosted, send them with a description of who, what, where, etc. and we will post them all.

Gary Winters—Internet Chairman

Public Relations

Please remember to take advantage of the Sons of The American Legion-Detachment of Texas Facebook page and the SAL web page, saltexas.org, to promote your Squadron's events and activities. You can forward the information to Gary Winters at thumper_mia231@yahoo.com and he will get them posted. Also, please forward your pictures and stories of these events to me so I can document the year and share with others all that we do with the Sons. My email address is eddysal179@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing more and more posts about upcoming events and seeing and hearing about them when they are finished.

Eddy Seegers
Public Relations Chairman
Detachment Historian

Department Headquarters Policy

There have been some changes at Department Headquarters that we all need to observe. From this day forward or until further notice, these are the new policies that have been mandated. If anyone or any Squadron has complaints, concerns, issues or needs information concerning membership or any other matter, all comments and/or questions must go through the Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Winkelmann, or if he is not available next through Detachment Commander Connie Waddell. All items must be in letter form or by e-mail, if possible. Adjutant Winkelmann can be reached at 281-541-8642 cell, 832-548-1728 home, 713-896-4775 fax or e-mail at knwink@msn.com. Commander Waddell can be reached at 409-935-3723 or e-mail at cwaddelljr@comcast.net. Please follow these rules so that all issues can be resolved.

Training Class

There will be a training class for all District, Division and Detachment Commanders on Saturday morning starting at 8:30 AM. Your presence is strongly requested to attend this class. Even though this notice is for Commanders, all members are invited to attend. The location of the meeting will be posted at a later date.

FALL DEC

Opening Session	10:00 AM
Call To Order	Commander Waddell
Post Colors	Sgt-At-Arms Watson
Invocation	Chaplain Carrol Murphy
Moment Of Silence	
Pledge Of Allegiance	Division 1 Commander Ray Hartline
Preamble	Division 2 Commander Juan Torres
Roll Call	Adjutant Winkelmann
Reading of Minutes	Adjutant Winkelmann
Special Introductions	NEC Chatham
Committee Meetings (Immediately following recess of meeting)	Location TBD

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEC	Milton Chatham
Internet	Gary Winters
Legislative	Alton Faulkner
Americanism	Clarence Britton
VA & R	Rick Trzcinski
Children & Youth	Tracy Wood
CMN/CWF	Jimmy Don Dixon
Public Relations	Eddy Seegers
Marketing	Ray Hartline
Convention City	Stan Blair
Boys State	Travis Arreaga

Awards-----**Wesley Jones**

PUFL-----**Richard Grimes**

Internal Affairs/Membership-----**Richard Bartholomew**

Finance-----**Henry Creech**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Benediction-----**Carrol Murphy**

Retire The Colors-----**Sgt-At-Arms Taylor Watson**

Adjournment-----**Commander Waddell**

**IF ALL BUSINESS IS NOT COMPLETED BY 6:00PM SATURDAY, THE MEETING WILL
RECONVENE AT 9:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING**

**DETACHMENT CONVENTION
BEAUMONT, TEXAS
JULY 10-12, 2015**

FRIDAY JULY 10, 2015

Meeting called to order by Vice Commander Division 3 Creech at 2:05PM. Following the posting of the colors, the pledge, prayer and preamble were asked for. The Commander then called the meeting to order. The Commander then asked the Adjutant for the roll call. All officers were present except for Judge Advocate Bartholomew and Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Mathews (E). All chairmen were present except for Rick Trczynski (E), Legislative Betancourt, Children & Youth Dixon and Awards Jones (E). Districts present were 1, 2C, 4, 5, 6C, 7, 9, 10, 12C, 13C, 14, 15C, 16C, 17C, 20C, 21 and 22C. Squadrons present were 36, 37, 50, 163, 172, 179, 208, 231, 297, 321, 388, 393, 430, 447, 453, 472, 517, 522, 550, 554, 593, 618, 654, 655, 817 and 838. It was stated that a quorum was present. Vice Commander Creech then called for the reading of the previous minutes. A motion was made by Jon Kingston, 2nd by Gary Paul to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

Vice Commander Creech then made some appointments to fill out some officers and Chairmen. Vice Commander Creech appointed Gary Paul, by motion and vote of the body as Judge Advocate. Vice Commander Creech then appointed Tracy Wood, VA & R Chairman, Edgar Seegers, Public Relations Chairman and Ken Dorsett, Awards Chairman. Motion by Gary Winters, 2nd by Gary Paul to accept the appointments. Motion passed. Vice Commander Creech then asked for volunteers to serve on the Credentials Committee. Micah Montgomery and Jonathan Montgomery volunteered.

Judge Advocate Paul came forward to give the rules of credentials committee. The rules were read to the body for discussion. JA Paul then read the first reading of the credentials to the body.

Vice Commander Creech then read the full list of committees and meeting times. He asked that all District Commanders help out with missing members of the various committees.

Adjutant Winkelmann then gave some brief notes to the body. The meeting then was recessed at 3:02 PM until Saturday morning.

SATURDAY JULY 11, 2015

Commander Skelley called the meeting back into session at 9:44AM. Following hand salute to the colors, prayer and pledge, the meeting was called to order. Roll call was then taken. All officers were present except for Judge Advocate Bartholomew and Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Mathews. All chairmen were present except for Legislative Betancourt, VA&R Trzcinski (E) and Wesley Jones (E). Districts present were 2C, 4, 5, 6C, 7C, 8, 9, 10, 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 17C, 20C, 21 and 22C. Squadrons present were 7, 36, 37, 50, 163, 172, 179, 181, 208, 231, 245, 297, 321, 388, 393, 430, 447, 453, 472, 517, 521, 522, 550, 554, 586, 592, 593, 598, 618, 654, 655, 817 and 838.

American Legion Department Commander Lynn Sparks came forward to bring greetings. She thanked us for all of the hard work we continue to do for The American Legion Family

Commander Skelley called for NEC Chatham to the floor for the purpose of introduction. He proceeded to make the introduction of Mike Moss, National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion. Mike then came forward to bring greetings to the body. He thanked everyone for their continuous support of the SAL and everything that the Detachment does for the National Organization.

NEC REPORT---NEC Chatham then gave his report to the body. A full report is attached to these minutes. The main point of interest was the financial changes for the NEC meetings in October and May. Motion by Milton, 2nd by Robert Sonnier to accept the report as read. Motion passed.

CREDENTIALS---The committee came forward for the second reading of the credentials to provide the voting strength of each Squadron. Report given by acting Judge Advocate Gary Paul.

DEPARTMENT LIAISON—Advisor Schendel came forward to give his report. A full copy of his report is attached to these minutes. John made a motion to accept his report, 2nd by Henry Creech. Motion passed.

BOYS STATE—Chairman Arreaga came forward to give his report. He gave a brief report covering this past year Boys State. There were 1005 delegates registered this year for the program and that all 1005 delegates completed the program. Next year's Boys State program dates are not set at this time. A complete copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Travis Arreaga made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista. Motion passed.

CONVENTION CITY—Chairman Milton Chatham gave the report. He thanked the body for coming to Beaumont and wished everyone a pleasant stay. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. At this time David Blair gave a small report on the upcoming Detachment Convention coming up in El Paso next year. Motion was made by Milton to accept his report, 2nd Robert Sonnier. Motion passed.

INTERNET—Chairman Gary Winters gave the report. He asked that more information be sent to him to be put on the internet. Gary spoke to the body about the legacy page that is available on our website. Only 9 members have participated in this program. A complete copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Motion by Mr. Winters to accept the report, 2nd by David Dew. Motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE—No report as of the morning session

PUFL—Chairman Paul came forward to give the report. It was stated that there are 124 PUFL members right now with 3 members making payments. A total of \$41,000.00 is in the PUFL account. Gary Paul made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Gary Winters. Motion passed

LARGE SQUADRON----KERRVILLE 208
SMALL SQUADRON----CORNICANA 22
DISTRICT-----11TH DISTRICT
DIVISION-----2ND DIVISION

VA & R— Acting Chairman Tracy Wood came forward and gave the report. He reported to the body on the various accomplishments of the Detachment. He reported on the various awards that the Squadrons won. A complete copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Motion by Tracy to accept his report as read, 2nd by Gary Winters. Motion passed

PUBLIC RELATIONS— Acting Chairman Eddy Seegers gave the report. He reported on some future opportunities that PR is working on such as The Legacy Page and the face book page to promote your Squadron, District or Division events. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Eddy made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by David Dew. Motion passed.

AWARDS— Acting Chairman Ken Dorsett gave the report. He stated that the committee is in the process of creating a new award called the David Dew Award for VA & R. The following winners are:

MEMBER OF THE YEAR-----CLARENCE BRITTON SQUADRON 522
DUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR-----LARRY BENFER POST 522
ADJUTANT OF THE YEAR-----JOEL ROBERSON SQUADRON 430
ADVISOR OF THE YEAR-----TOM BOWE POST 430

MOTHER OF THE YEAR-----SHIRLEY PAUL UNIT 71

SAL BOYS STATE ADVISOR OF THE YEAR-----

Chairman Dorsett made a motion to accept his report, 2nd by Ken Peters Jr. Under discussion, FO Slaughter questioned the Chairman about the new award and also how many nominees there were. Motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS---Acting Judge Advocate Gary Paul came forward to read a resolution of endorsement for information only.

AMERICANISM—Chairman Richard Grimes gave the report. Chairman Grimes read a consolidated list of the Detachment’s accomplishments for the year. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Award winners were announced at this time Large Squadron Plano 321, Medium Squadron Pilot Point 550, Small Squadron San Antonio 300. Best District report was District 5. Overall winner for best report was San Antonio 300. Richard Grimes made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jonathan Poe. Motion passed

MARKETING—Ray Hartline, Chairman, gave the report. He reported on the quantity of merchandise still available. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Ray made a motion to accept the report. 2nd by Jon Kingston. Motion passed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH/CMN & CWF—Chairman Jimmy Don Dixon and CMN Chairman Mark Patterson came forward to give the report. The Chairmen read a consolidated list of the Detachment’s accomplishment for the past year. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Mark Patterson made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista. Motion passed.

- SMALL SQUADRON-----RICHARDSON 368
- MEDIUM SQUADRON-----ROUND ROCK 447
- LARGE SQUADRON-----BEDFORD 379
- DISTRICT-----5TH DISTRICT
- LARGEST CWF DONATION-----ROUND ROCK 447
- LARGEST SPECIAL OLYMPIC DONATION-----GREENVILLE 17
- LARGEST CMN-----ROUND ROCK 447
- LARGEST JOSH DOG-----ROUND ROCK 447

Commander Skelley recessed the meeting at 11:37 AM for lunch

Commander Skelley reconvened the meeting at 1:30 PM

FINANCE—Chairman Connie Waddell gave the report. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Connie gave a brief rundown of the proposed budget for 2015-2016. He then proceeded to go through the budget by line item. Connie made a motion to accept the report as read, 2nd by Bill Kuehner. Motion passed.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS/MEMBERSHIP—Chairman Bill Kuehner gave the report. His first line of business was the checks for the 100% membership by American Legion Birthday. His next order of business was the 100% awards along with lowest percentage caps. He reported that the Detachment now stands at 6183, goal is 6242. He asked that we work hard for the 100% goal to attain by National Convention. A complete report is attached to this meeting. Bill made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Travis Arreaga. Motion passed. After the motion was made, Commander Skelley started a new tradition by awarding the Silver Cup to Division 3 Commander Creech for highest percentage of goal for the past year. The new award will be a traveling cup/award.

CHAPLAIN’S REPORT—Chaplain Murphy came to the floor his report. He reported on various illnesses of members and members who have passed on this past year.

HISTORIAN REPORT—Historian Jonathan Poe came forward to give his report. He stated that only 2 squadrons sent in photos of the Commander's travels.

SQUADRON, DISTRICT AND DIVISION COMMANDER'S REPORT—A motion was made by Gary Winters, 2nd by Robert Sonnier to dispense with these reports. Motion passed. However, it was stated that if any Commander wanted to read their reports, they could come forward and present their report. All reports are to be turned in to the Detachment Adjutant to be filed in the minutes.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Motion was made by Gary Winters to pay for all 13 delegates plus three at-large delegates to the National Convention to be held in Baltimore, MD. 2nd by Milton Chatham. Motion passed. Total cost will be \$400.00. It was also stated that guest attending the convention must pay \$25.00 up front for their registration.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER THOM SKELLEY FINAL REPORT

Commander Skelley gave his final report to the body. He was presented his Past Detachment Commander's pin after his report. A motion was made by Milton Chatham to accept his report, 2nd by Gary Winters. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS---None

NEW BUSINESS---Motion made by Brad Pack, 2nd by Milton Chatham to donate \$500.00 to the National Commander's project, the National Endowment Fund. Motion passed. JA Paul presented a By-Law change to the Constitution to modify the call-in for the Alternate NEC to align with the new call-in for the NEC as determined by the SAL National Organization. This new cost will also apply to the Detachment Commander if he attends the NEC meetings in Indianapolis less the \$150.00 which is given to the Commander for the Fall NNEC for the Detachment Commander's class. Motion made by Gary Paul, 2nd by David Dew to accept the changes as read and these changes will be published in the next newsletter. Milton Chatham then made a motion to pay parking for the NEC, Alternate NEC and the Detachment Commander if they attend the NEC meetings in Indianapolis, 2nd by Alton Faulkner. Under discussion, it was noted that a limit be put on the parking fee. Henry Creech called for the vote. Motion defeated. Motion by Gary Winters, 2nd by Brad Pack to pay parking not to exceed remote parking. Motion passed

GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Other announcements were made at this time. Commander Skelley then asked the body for any individual who is running for an office that would like to address the floor.

After Adjutant notes, the meeting was recessed at 4:44 PM

SUNDAY JULY 12, 2015

Commander Skelley reconvened the meeting at 9:12AM. Following the hand salute to the colors, prayer and pledge, Commander Skelley called the meeting to order. The Adjutant then completed the roll call. All officers were present except for Judge Advocate Bartholomew and Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Mathews (E). All Chairmen were present except for VA&R Trzcinski (E), Awards Jones (E) and Legislative Betancourt (E). Districts present were 2, 4, 5, 6C, 7C, 8, 9, 10, 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 17C, 20C, 21 and 22C. Squadrons present were 7, 36, 37, 50, 163, 172, 179, 181, 208, 231, 245, 297, 321, 388, 393, 430, 447, 453, 472, 517, 522, 550, 554, 586, 592, 593, 598, 618, 654, 655 and 817. A quorum was present.

CREDENTIALS—The final report of credentials was read by Chairman Paul. A total of 156 delegates was reported to the floor. Motion was made by Micah Montgomery, 2nd by Gary Winters to accept the report. Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Judge Advocate proceeded into the election. The new officers elected are as follows:

COMMANDER-----CONNIE WADDELL SQUADRON 554
1ST DIVISION-----RAY HARTLINE SQUADRON 321
2ND DIVISION-----JUAN TORRES SQUADRON 472
3RD DIVISION-----JACKIE MATHEWS SQUADRON 241
4TH DIVISION-----JONATHAN POE SQUADRON 163
ADJUTANT-----KEVIN WINKELMANN SQUADRON 654
FINANCE OFFICER-----STEVE SLAUGHTER SQUADRON 297
HISTORIAN-----EDGAR SEEGER SQUADRON 179
CHAPLAIN-----CARROL MURPHY SQUADRON 393
JUDGE ADVOCATE----GARY PAUL SQUADRON 550---2 CANDIDATES
SGT-AT-ARMS-----TAYLOR WATSON SQUADRON 163---2 CANDIDATES
ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS---JERRY BEAIRD SQUADRON 618---2 CANDIDATES
NEC-----MILTON CHATHAM SQUADRON 817
A.I.T. NEC-----DAVID BLAIR SQUADRON 36

Kevin Winkelmann made a motion, 2nd by Milton Chatham, to release the Credentials Committee from their duties. Following the election, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Mike Moss installed the new officers. After the installation, newly elected Detachment Commander Connie Waddell addressed the floor with his comments. Following his comments, Children and Youth Chairman Jimmy Don Dixon came forward for the CWF drawing. Winners of the drawing are as follows:

1ST PRIZE-----TV, KEN DORSETT SQUADRON 430
2ND PRIZE-----TABLET, GENE MAYES
3RD PRIZE-----BLUE-RAY, SQUADRON 472

Final announcements were made. The Commander then called for the prayer and final words followed by the retirement of the colors. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

POST DEC MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM by Detachment Commander Waddell. Commander read the new appointments for the Committees. A motion was made by Bill Kuehner, 2nd by Richard Bartholomew to accept the appointments. Motion passed. Motion to pay the call-in for Carrol Murphy for Detachment Chaplain by Steve Slaughter, 2nd Bill Kuehner. Motion passed. Following some brief announcements by the Adjutant and being no further business, Commander Skelley adjourned the meeting at 10:49AM

Commander's Message

First I want to thank Dorie E. Miller Post 817 and Commander Milton Chatham for hosting the Detachment Convention in Beaumont, Texas, "Job Well Done". Then let me say "Thank You" for the confidence and trust you have place in me, by electing me to serve as Detachment Commander for 2015-2016. Sons of the American Legion members like you continue to go above and beyond to make a difference in this great organization. It is because of our Veterans that we are dedicated to and willing to serve our organization. So let us celebrate and never forget our Veterans and the freedoms they gave to us by Honoring Their Service. They gave us the rights and opportunities to be free, to worship, to go and come as we please.

We must Honor their service and support their Legacy by promoting Peace and Harmony within our squadrons. Please read and update your Constitutions and Bylaws annually. All squadrons are governed by our National, Detachment and Squadron Constitution and Bylaws, which have to be in accord with each other. The Constitution and Bylaws are the only governing document we should be using. Whenever you have an ideal or issue turn to the Constitution and Bylaws for guidance and a legal decision.

Remember, there is no I, me or my in the word Squadron. It is a must that we operate as a squadron. Webster dictionary defines Squadron as a group of people with a particular function or cause who are part of a larger organization.

It is truly an Honor to serve as the 2015-2016 Detachment Commander. My theme is **Honoring Our Veterans**

For God and Country,
Connie Waddell, League City Squadron 554
Detachment Commander of Texas
Sons of the American Legion

July Detachment Commander's Calendar

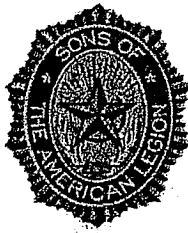
July 18, 2015 League City Post 554 Installation of Officers

July 25-26, 2015 - 9th. District Coffee Tour

July 25, 2015 Post 817 Installation of Officers

July 26, Rosenberg Post 241 Installation of Officers

July 28-29, 2015 American Legion Baseball Tournament



Fellow Sons of The American Legion,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Detachment Commander for the past year. I truly enjoyed my travels and experienced some wonderful events and hospitality around the great state of Texas.

I have made some extraordinary friends over the last six years, and those connections will not be diminished by the distance between us nor will it lose strength over time. That is what true friendship is.

To me, the most powerful emotions someone can experience are love and gratitude. So, I just wanted to express how much I love being a part of the Detachment of Texas and to thank you all for being the reason why. I don't know where my future lies with the SAL, but I doubt that I will find a group of more dedicated individuals that provide assistance to our nation's veterans, children and youth. Your accomplishments are inspiring. My only hope is that I can take what I have learned from each of you, and spread those lessons to wherever I may be, and to the future leaders of our program.

I look forward to the day when we meet again, and I wish our new officers and the Detachment of Texas the greatest success. Remember the message, have PRIDE in your membership.

Promote-Recruit-Instill-Dedicate-Educate

Remaining ever faithful to the Sons of The American Legion,

Past Detachment Commander

Thom Skelley