

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FALL CONFERENCE—SEPT. 2014
AUSTIN, 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 27, 2014 at 1:00 PM and, if necessary, Sunday September 28, 2014 at 9:00AM in the Amphitheater Room at the Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin, Texas.

Meeting and Hotel News

Where: Amphitheater Room, Omni Southpark Hotel, 4140 Governor's Row, Austin, TX
512-448-2222. Room rates are \$95.00 per night plus tax. All room reservations must be made by August 31, 2014

When: Saturday, September 27, 2014 @ 1:00PM
Sunday, September 28, 2014 @ 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 Skelley 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 2014 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 Kevin Collier from the Detachment of Alaska. Please note, the Mid-Winter Conference will be held on January 16-18, 2015 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 Beaumont, Texas over the weekend of July 10-12, 2015.

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 Tuesday September 2nd. 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

Awards Banquet

The awards dinner will be Friday, September 26, 2014 at Post 83 in Austin, down the street from the hotel. More information later via email and the website. The cost and menu will be forwarded out in an email very shortly. Dinner will start at 7:00 PM with the awards presentation starting around 8:00 PM. Entertainment will follow the closing of the awards program. This award program is subject to change due to the availability of the Post.

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

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 Thom Skelley. 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 Skelley can be reached at 813-310-0109 or e-mail at thomskelley@elp.rr.com Please follow these rules so that all issues can be resolved.

IMPORTANT CHANGES AT THE FALL DEC

We will begin to have a leadership workshop for our District Commanders, Division Commanders and the Detachment Commander. The class will start at 8:00 AM Saturday morning and should take about 3-4 hours. Attendance is highly requested. The DEC will open at 1:00 PM after lunch. This workshop is important to the future leaders of this Detachment, our membership and this Detachment as a whole. However, all members of the Detachment are welcome to attend and gain some knowledge.

FALL DEC

Opening Session-----1:00 PM

Call To Order-----Commander Skelley

Post Colors-----Sgt-At-Arms Watson

Invocation-----Chaplain Carrol Murphy

Moment Of Silence

Pledge Of Allegiance-----Division 1 Commander Jon Kingston
Preamble-----Division 2 Commander Ken Peters Jr
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-----Santiago Betancourt
Americanism-----Richard Grimes
VA & R-----Rick Trczynski
Children & Youth-----Jimmy Don Dixon
CMN/CWF-----Mark Patterson
Public Relations-----Paul Miller
Marketing-----Ray Hartline
Convention City-----Milton Chatham
Boys State-----Travis Arreaga
Awards-----Wesley Jones
PUFL-----Gary Paul
Internal Affairs/Membership-----Bill Kuehner
Finance-----Connie Waddell

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Benediction-----Carrol Murphy

Retire The Colors-----Sgt-At-Arms Tyler Watson

Adjournment-----Commander Skelley

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

DETACHMENT CONVENTION
McALLEN, TEXAS
JULY 11-13, 2014

FRIDAY JULY 11, 2014

Meeting called to order by Commander Kuehner at 2:00PM. 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 Vice Commander Division 1 Paul, Vice Commander Division 2 Beard, Asst Sgt.-at-Arms Manning and Asst Adjutant Arreaga(E). All chairmen were present except for Americanism Davis, Legislative Betancourt, CMN/CWF Sanders, Boys State Arreaga and Children & Youth Wood. Districts present were 4, 6C, 9C, 10C, 11, 12C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 17C, 20C and 22C. Squadrons present were 36, 37, 50, 83, 96, 101, 121, 163, 172, 179, 231, 243, 245, 297, 393, 430, 447, 472, 522, 554, 569, 592, 593, 598, 654 and 838. It was stated that a quorum was present. Commander Kuehner then called for the reading of the previous minutes. A motion was made by Gary Winters, 2nd by Robert Sonnier to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

Commander Kuehner then made some appointments to fill out some officers and Chairmen. Commander Kuehner appointed Fernando Pacheco, Chairman of the Credentials Committee with Robert Sonnier and Steve Slaughter as members.

15th District Commander Paul Miller came forward to bring greetings to all members present for the Detachment Convention. PDC Richard Bartholomew then came forward to bring the response to the greeting.

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

Commander Kuehner 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 3:12 PM until Saturday morning.

SATURDAY JULY 12, 2014

Commander Kuehner called the meeting back into session at 10:00AM. 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 1st Division Commander Paul, 2nd Division Commander Beard and Asst Adjutant Arreaga. All chairmen were present except for Legislative Betancourt, Americanism Davis and CMN/CWF Sanders. Districts present were 2, 4, 5, 6C, 9C, 10C, 12C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 17C, 20C, 21 and 22C. Squadrons present were 7, 36, 37, 50, 83, 101, 121, 163, 172, 179, 208, 231, 241, 245, 297, 321, 361, 393, 430, 447, 453, 472, 517, 522, 554, 569, 592, 593, 598, 654, 817 and 838.

Commander Kuehner called for Department Advisor John Schendel to give his report.

DEPARTMENT LIAISON—Advisor Schendel gave his report. A full copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

American Legion National Commander Daniel Dellinger came forward to our meeting to bring greetings and well wishes toward and for the Detachment of Texas and all SAL members.

American Legion Department Commander Jim Fleming came forward to our meeting to bring greetings and well wishes toward and for the Detachment of Texas and all SAL members

CREDENTIALS---Judge Advocate Pacheco came forward to read the 2nd reading of the credentials.

BOYS STATE—Acting Chairman Waddell came forward to give his report. He stated that a written report was emailed in from Chairman Arreaga and read it to the floor. There were 941 delegates registered this year and 901 boys completed the program. The report also stated that next year's goal is 1000 members and will be held June 7-June 12, 2015. It was stated that Gary Flenniken was elected the Boys State Volunteer of the Year. A complete copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Brad Pack made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Robert Sonnier. Motion passed.

CONVENTION CITY—Chairman Richard Grimes gave the report. He thanked the body A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. It was stated that the final report be read tomorrow and the motion be made then. National Convention City Chairman Juan Torres came forward to give a report on the upcoming National Convention. He spoke on various items that will be conducted during the convention. Motion by Richard Grimes to accept the report, 2nd by Richard Bartholomew. Motion passed.

INTERNET—Chairman Gary Winters gave the report. He asked that more information be sent to him to be put on the internet. A complete copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Motion by Mr. Winters to accept the report, 2nd by Robert Sonnier. Motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE—No report as of the morning session

PUFL—Chairman Sonnier came forward to give the report. It was stated that there are 119 PUFL members right now with 4 members making payments. A total of \$35,321.37 is in the PUFL account. Robert Sonnier made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Steve Slaughter. Under discussion, the comment was asked where the expenses for the PUFL expenses were coming from. It was stated by Chairman Sonnier that the Finance Officer was handling these expenses. Motion passed

VA & R— Chairman Jimmy Don Dixon gave the report. He reported to the body on the various accomplishments of the Detachment. A complete copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Motion by Jimmy to accept the report, 2nd by Robert Wigman. Motion passed

PUBLIC RELATIONS—Chairman Paul Miller gave the report. He reported on The American Legion Highway. He also spoke about the guest we had today and one radio coming out for the presentation. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Paul made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Robert Sonnier. Motion passed.

AWARDS—Chairman Mark Patterson 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-----DAVID BLAIR SQUADRON 36

DUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR-----DENNIS DUCHARME POST 593

ADJUTANT OF THE YEAR-----STEVE DAVIS SQUADRON 81

ADVISOR OF THE YEAR-----

MOTHER OF THE YEAR-----EVA VALLES UNIT 598

SAL BOYS STATE ADVISOR OF THE YEAR-----GARY FLENNIKEN SQUADRON

Chairman Patterson made a motion to accept his report, 2nd by Brad Pack. Under discussion, FO Slaughter questioned the Chairman about the new award and what the winner will receive and it was stated that only a plaque would be given. Motion passed.

American Legion Auxiliary National President Nancy Lee Brown came forward to bring greetings to the body and give well wishes to the Detachment.

American Legion Auxiliary Department President Cristine Trahan came forward to bring greetings to the body and gave the Detachment well wishes for this year and future years to come.

Paul Miller came forward for the purpose of an introduction. He introduced Mike Fossum, Air Force Veteran and former NASA astronaut. Mr. Fossum came forward to bring greetings and gave a brief program on the Astronaut program and NASA. His remarks were well received and he thanked the body for their support of The American Legion and the Veterans.

Commander Kuehner then recessed the meeting at 12:21 PM for lunch

Commander Kuehner called the meeting back into session at 1:44 PM

NEC Milton Chatham came forward for purpose of introduction. He proceeded to introduce to the body, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Joe Gladden, Detachment of Maryland. He brought greetings from the National Organization. He gave the Detachment his words of encouragement and spoke about the numerous achievements of the SAL not only on the National level but also on the Detachment level.

NEC---NEC Chatham came forward to give his report. He informed the body of various changes in the National Organization and reported on those. A complete copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Milton made a motion to accept his report, 2nd by Henry Creech. There was some discussion concerning the Charles Rigsby Award. Motion passed.

AMERICANISM—Acting 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 New Braunfels 179, Medium Squadron Duncanville 81, Small Squadron Pasadena 521. Best District report was District 5. Juan Torres made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Ralph Rocco. 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 Tracy Wood, chairman and Jonathan Poe, chairman CMN and C & Y, gave 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. Jonathan Poe made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Henry Creech. Motion passed.

SMALL SQUADRON-----	ALVARADO 368
MEDIUM SQUADRON-----	ROUND ROCK 447
LARGE SQUADRON-----	CLEBURNE 50
DISTRICT-----	5 TH DISTRICT
LARGEST CWF DONATION-----	HOUSTON 472
LARGEST SPECIAL OLYMPIC DONATION-----	MERCEDES 172
LARGEST CMN-----	ROUND ROCK 447
LARGEST JOSH DOG-----	ROUND ROCK 447

FINANCE—Chairman Thom Skelley gave the report. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Thom gave a brief rundown of the proposed budget for 2014-2015. He informed the body of some proposed changes such as increase to the per diem at an extra \$10.00 per day. He then proceeded to go through the budget by line item. Thom made a motion to accept the report as read, 2nd by Ray Hartline. Motion passed.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS/MEMBERSHIP—Chairman Richard Bartholomew 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 6022, goal is 6193. He asked that we work hard for the 100% goal to attain by National Convention. A complete report is attached to this meeting. Richard made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Henry Creech. There was some discussion on the manufacturer of the caps. Motion passed

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT—Chaplain not present. The body spoke 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 a photo album will be ready for Commander Kuehner after the Detachment Convention. Motion by Jonathan, 2nd by Robert Sonnier. Motion passed.

SQUADRON, DISTRICT AND DIVISION COMMANDER'S REPORT—A motion was made by Robert Sonnier, 2nd by Gary Winters 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 Brad Pack to pay for all 13 delegates plus four at-large delegate to the National Convention to be held in Charlotte, NC. 2nd by Richard Bartholomew. Motion passed. Total cost will be \$425.00. It was also stated that guest attending the convention must pay \$25.00 up front for their registration.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER BILL KUEHNER FINAL REPORT

Commander Kuehner 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

Motion by Brad Pack, 2nd by Jake Hill to donate \$500.00 to the leading candidate for National Commander Kevin Collier at the Fall DEC. Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Milton Chatham, 2nd by Robert Sonnier to purchase a corporate size Blue Star Banner at a cost of \$30.00. Motion passed. Motion by Henry Creech, 2nd by Jonathan Poe to purchase a Gold Star Banner at a cost of \$23.00. Motion passed. Motion by Brad Pack to purchase the remainder of National Commander Gladden's coins at a cost of \$440.00. 2nd by Jake Hill. Motion passed. There was a motion made by Milton Chatham, 2nd by Brad Pack, to purchase 5 new lap top computers and 5 new projectors at a projected cost of \$7,500.00 and the funds would be taken from the Reserve Account. Motion passed

GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Other announcements were made at this time. Commander Kuehner 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 13, 2014

Commander Kuehner reconvened the meeting at 9:03AM. Following the hand salute to the colors, prayer and pledge, Commander Kuehner called the meeting to order. The Adjutant then completed the roll call. All officers were present except for Commander Division 1 Paul, Commander Division 2 Beard, Chaplain Meurer and Asst

Adjutant Arreaga. All Chairmen were present except for Internet Winters (E) and CMN/CWF Sanders. Districts present were 2C, 4, 5, 6C, 9C, 10C, 11, 12C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 17C, 20C, 21 and 22C. Squadrons present were 36, 37, 50, 83, 101, 121, 163, 172, 179, 208, 241, 245, 297, 321, 393, 430, 447, 453, 472, 517, 522, 554, 569, 593, 598, 654, 817 and 838. A quorum was present.

CREDENTIALS—The final report of credentials was read by Chairman Pacheco. A total of 218 delegates was reported to the floor. Motion was made by Milton Chatham, 2nd by Mark Patterson to accept the report.. Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

COMMANDER-----THOM SKELLEY SQUADRON 598
1ST DIVISION-----JON KINGSTON SQUADRON 321
2ND DIVISION-----KEN PETERS JR. SQUADRON 50
3RD DIVISION-----HENRY CREECH SQUADRON 593
4TH DIVISION-----JONATHAN POE SQUADRON 169
ADJUTANT-----KEVIN WINKELMANN SQUADRON 654
FINANCE OFFICER-----STEVE SLAUGHTER SQUADRON 297
HISTORIAN-----JONATHAN POE SQUADRON 163
CHAPLAIN-----CARROL MURPHY SQUADRON 393
JUDGE ADVOCATE-----RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW SQUADRON 37
SGT-AT-ARMS-----TYLER WATSON SQUADRON 163
ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS—JACKIE MATHEWS SQUADRON 241
NEC-----MILTON CHATHAM SQUADRON 817
ALT. 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 Joe Gladden installed the new officers. After the installation, newly elected Detachment Commander Thom Skelley addressed the floor with his comments. Following his comments, Children and Youth Chairman Tracy Wood came forward for the CWF drawing. Winners of the drawing are as follows:

1ST PRIZE-----TV, CLARENCE BRITTON, SQUADRON 522
2ND PRIZE-----TABLET, BARBARA Z, UNIT 79, ALPINE
3RD PRIZE-----BLUE-RAY, BRAD PACK, SQUADRON 447

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 10:55AM.

POST DEC MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 11:15AM by Detachment Commander Skelley. 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

Sons American Legion
Detachment of Texas

July 12, 2014

The American Legion
Department of Texas
Finance Committee
P.O. Box 140527
Austin, TX 78714

Gentlemen,

The Son's of the American Legion, Detachment of Texas wishes to purchase computers, projectors, and software for our Detachment Commander and each of our four Detachment Vice Commanders. The purpose of these computers is to aid with training. We would like to pay for this from the S.A.L. Reserve Account. Below is an estimate of the cost of the equipment and software:

Quantity	Description	Price Each	Total
5	Dell Model w MS Office	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00
5	Projectors	\$500.00	\$2,500.00
	Total		\$7,500.00

We would like to have the equipment and software available to issue at the Fall DEC. This will allow use to make use of the equipment during the Fall District Conventions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Slaughter
S.A.L. Detachment Finance Officer
817-946-4506



Fellow Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Texas:

There are a few points that I would like to emphasize for this year. Let me start by reminding all members why we joined. To preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and of our FOREFATHERS in the Great Wars. We exist to honor all veterans for their service and to assist (The American Legion) in carrying on for God and Country. This is a volunteer program; no one is getting paid to do the work. However, by taking your oath as a member, especially an officer, we are all bound to fulfill our obligations.

That being said, I ask that we "Do Our Jobs." Remember to have PRIDE in your membership.

Promote-Recruit-Instill-Dedicate-Educate

In McAllen, I issued a friendly challenge to the Division Commanders regarding 1st quarter membership. Let's see who will step up and work their respective Districts and win the wager.

We all need to be more involved with the Detachment website. Chairman Winters has done an exceptional job putting this site together and it is a medium for free publicity for any Squadron event/fundraiser. Just email Gary the details of your event and it will be added to the site as well as it being posted on our Facebook page. He can be reached at [thumper\(underscore\)mia231@yahoo.com](mailto:thumper(underscore)mia231@yahoo.com).

Speaking of the website, have you submitted an entry for the new Legacy page?

I would like to promote Flag education and etiquette to our younger members and schools this year. Set some time/money aside to do a presentation in your community.

One of our goals this year will be to increase the number of Squadron Constitution/Bylaws that are on file at H.Q. Internal affairs will be compiling a list of those Squadrons who need to get these filed.

If you have an event planned and would like me to attend, please email me as soon as you have a date. The calendar will fill up fast and with the proper advanced notice, the Detachment can save money by booking travel early and making multiple stops in a given area.

Lastly, THANK YOU all for your commitment, our membership is the heart and soul of our program.

For God and Country

Thom Skelley

To all District and Division Commanders. We will set aside time for photos at Fall D.E.C. (individual and group.) Please bring a jacket, dress shirt and tie.

Thom Skelley

State Commander

Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Texas