

**NEC Fall 2016 Report
Detachment of Minnesota
Sons of The American Legion**

The Fall 2016 National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion was held October 8-9, 2016 at the Sheraton in Indianapolis; however, various Committees met the evening of October 7. I had the privilege of sharing a room with Detachment Commander, Gene Olsword, who was attending the Commanders Training for the second year.

I attended the 'Member Training and Development' committee on Friday evening, which was very informative. Some of the main points discussed were: Expanding the schedule for the Detachment Commander training to allow for a longer Q&A session at the end, registration for the NMI training during the Spring NEC and the 'Knowledge is Power' booklets. Casey Lenort was also in attendance at that meeting. All of the Committee meetings were held at 7:00 pm, so it was possible to attend only one for the duration.

The Saturday morning Opening Session of the NEC started at 8:30 am, with National Commander, Jeff Frain presiding. It was stated that due to the resignation of Gary Semmel from the Internal Affairs Commission, Jay Cool (OH) was appointed to fill that vacancy. John Kerestan, our National Liaison, spoke about several things. He said the 2018 Membership Application would be redesigned to include additional items. Our 'Renewals' were at an ATH. He stressed the importance of obtaining and updating email addresses for ALL members. Only 12,000 email addresses (out of 365,000+) are currently available. When the National Newsletter was sent out, only 11,360 went through and only 3,540 of those were opened, with only 1,000 'clicking' on the link to read it. He also stated that only 31 Detachments were using "MySAL.org" and just 1,243 Squadrons.

Donations accepted included almost \$22,000 for the Child Welfare Foundation, as well as several hundred dollars for the National Emergency Fund and National Endowment Fund.

The meeting was then recessed.

I attended the 'Public and Media Communications' Commission meeting held at 12 noon. Some items discussed were: the development of a 'Boys State' & 'Legion Baseball' flyer; 'Snapshots of Service' [pictures of various Squadron activities (with SAL on shirts, etc.) along with a Caption], information was sent to all Detachment Adjutants regarding this; a Large Screen TV is planned for outside at Convention showing SAL information. A video of Detachment Commanders (volunteers) being interviewed, was going to be made following the Commanders school and made available on YouTube, etc. The video may be downloaded and written to a CD/DVD for distribution. It was also mentioned that if a Squadron, District, etc. has either a website or 'Facebook page', Please keep it reasonably updated (NOT month's old) or REMOVE IT!

On Sunday, I attended the Commanders breakfast prior to the NEC meeting at 8:45 am. Special Guests included: the National Legion Commander, the National Auxiliary President, the leading candidate for Legion Commander (Denise Rohan / WI) and the president of the Child welfare Foundation. The various Commissions/Committees presented their Reports for approval. There is far too much material to cover in this report, so PLEASE read the minutes of all of the above (as well as the Resolutions). They are ALL available on our website -mnsal.org- under [Reports] (on the [Home] page). There was NO Old Business or New Business. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen Amundson
National Executive Committeeman
Detachment of Minnesota
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