

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Alabama
DEC Conference Call Minutes
Tuesday, December 13th, 2016**

Conference Call Called to Order at 7:00 pm by Commander Gibson

Roll Call:

Commander: Jeff Gibson

Vice Commanders:

Area 1: Jeremy Blevins

Area 2: Frank Birdyshaw

Area 3: Jeff McNair

Area 4: David Duffey

Area 5: Aaron Phillips

Adjutant/ Finance Officer: Andrew Cherry

NEC: Thomas Glander

Alt. NEC: Blair Miles

Chaplain: Terry Robinsky

Historian: Taylor Cowan - Absent

Judge Advocate: Buddy Miller

Sargent-at-Arms: Willie Dupree - Absent

Sargent-at-Arms II: John Burke

Assistant Adjutant/Past Detachment Commander: Steve Bowling

SAL Advisor: Matt Gaff - Absent

Invocation by Chaplain Robinsky

Commander Gibson turned Conference Call over to Adjutant Cherry.

Adjutant Cherry went over proposed changes to the Rules of the Finance Commission, which will be voted on at the Mid-Winter Conference.

Adjutant Cherry stated that two (2) Squadrons, Montgomery 210 and Gant 157, have had zero (0) membership for five (5) years. He recommended that the Charter for these Squadrons be suspended. Adjutant Cherry asked Area 3 Vice Commander Jeff McNair about the status of Squadron 45, Sylacauga, which has had zero (0) membership for three (3) years. Vice Commander McNair recommended that the Sylacauga 45 Charter be suspended.

Motion to suspend the Charters for three (3) Squadrons, Sylacauga 45, Gant 157, and Montgomery 210 made by David Duffey, second by Jeff McNair, motion passed unanimously.

Adjutant Cherry and Commander Gibson stated when attending the District 32 meeting the Detachment of Alabama was challenged to purchase a 20" x 20" Granite Brick for \$500.00 to support the Alabama War Memorial. Adjutant Cherry stated that the Department does a lot for the Detachment and he felt it was our duty to support the Legionnaires. After some discussion, a motion to purchase a 20" x 20" Granite Brick for \$500.00 to support the Alabama War Memorial revitalization was made by Blair Miles, second by Thomas Glander, motion passed unanimously.

Adjutant Cherry suggested combining two (2) parts of the Sons of The American Legion Preamble for the inscription on the Brick Paver:

"Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Alabama, to preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and our Forefathers in the Great Wars."

All voiced agreement to the stated inscription.

Alternate NEC Miles reported on the status of the raffle for POW/MIA Kabar Collectors Knife and Acrylic Display Case. Anyone needing more raffle tickets, please let him know and he will provide them. The plan is to have table setup at the Mid-Winter Conference to sell the tickets Friday afternoon. He asked for some help to ensure the table is manned all afternoon. The drawing will be held Saturday at the Detachment Conference, under Good of the Sons.

Blair Miles, Membership Chairman, gave membership report. He is concerned with the few Squadrons that have been under charter strength for several years, including Brewton 79, Atmore 90, and Arab 114. Current Detachment membership is doing phenomenal at 68.48%, well above the next goal of 45%. The Detachment of Alabama is currently number 2 in the region and number 3 in the nation.

Adjutant Cherry stated that the Department has requested the Detachment to participate in the Game Night, a part of the Saturday night banquet, by hosting a game to raise funds for the SAL. Department suggested that we do something like putt-putt. We will need an indoor putting green, some putters, and some trivial prizes.

Adjutant Cherry stated that a deposit of \$850 has been paid and the Memorial Monument for the Alabama Nation Cemetery has been ordered. Ron Haygood said that the monument company expects delivery of the Monument in mid-January.

Commander Gibson provided information on the two (2) Widows Luncheons that the Detachment is sponsoring, to be held in Lafayette and Union Springs. The American Legion Auxiliary, 24th District, is providing the food for the luncheons. Commander Gibson would like to give each widow one (1) red rose and three (3) white roses. Any donations to help fund the purchase of the roses will be greatly appreciated. The Lafayette luncheon will be 12 noon to 1:30 pm on February 11th, 2017, at Post 141. The details for the Union Springs luncheon to be determined soon.

Adjutant Cherry stated that Department Senior Vice Commander Donna Stacey will speak to the Detachment at the Mid-Winter Conference Saturday morning. The Commanders Advisory Committee will meet Friday at 5:30 pm.

PDC Ron Haygood informed us that the hotel gives some of lunch buffet proceeds back to the American Legion. He also asked us to remind Squadrons that they must provide their Post with their bank statements and financial information to be include with the Post's tax filing. Since the SAL Squadron is a program of the American Legion Post, the Post is responsible for the Squadron.

NEC Thomas Glander requested that we all include the victims of the wildfires in Gatlinburg, TN in our prayers.

Benediction by Chaplain Robinsky

Conference Call Adjourned by Commander Gibson at 7:50 pm.