

# Bennington SAL SQUADRON 266 | MINUTES

Meeting date: 14 November, 2024 | time: 6 pm | Meeting location [Bennington Legion Hall](#)

**Officers Present:** Commander Jared Weinman, Adjutant Les Brauer, Sargent-at-Arms Mike Valasek, Historian Alex Banks, Chaplin Brian Gernandt, Finance Officer Geoff Getzschman

**Absent:** Legion Liaison Glen Turner

**Type of meeting:** Monthly meeting

**Facilitator:** Commander Weinman

**Note taker:** Adjutant Brauer

**Total number of members in attendance:** 11 members, 0 nonmembers

- Commander Jared W. called meeting to order with hand salute to the flag
- Opening prayer by Chaplin Brian Gernandt
- Commander read Resolution 288 designating POW/MIA empty chair with Sgt.-At-Arms Mike Valasek. placing POW-MIA chair cover
- Commander read Resolution N C 2-03 Blue Star Banner
- Pledge of Allegiance to the flag recited
- Preamble lead by Commander Jared W.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- **Minutes of previous meeting:** approved October meeting minutes.
  - a. **Motion** to approve minutes by Mike V.
  - b. **2<sup>nd</sup>** by Jim Musel; Passed
- **Finance Report**
  - a. **Motion** to approve by Geoff Getzschman
  - b. **2<sup>nd</sup>** by Alex Banks; Passed
- **Old/Unfinished business:**
  - a. **CSR Report:** Jim M.-10 hrs., Alex B.-4 hrs., Mike V.-19 hrs + blood; Rich R. -2 hr.+ blood, Mark G. -0 hrs., Brian G. -0 hrs., Rob Goudy-0 hrs., Open Door Mission Vets Dinner: 22 hrs., election day service: 14 hrs., SAL'oween: 49 hrs. Pending: Senior Center Veterans Day programs: Valley Lakes and Ridgewood.  
ADMIN HOURS- Jared W.-3 hr., Les B. 3 hrs. and Geoff G. 0 hrs.
  - b. Time to focus on recruiting new members
  - c. Junior shooting sports/ Eddie Eagle/ NRA
  - d. Membership: we are currently at 24 members, 16 paid; payments for 2025 underway.
- **2. Renewals:** If paying online - \$30; \$15 kept by National and Detachment; \$15 returned with \$5 for Squadron and the extra \$10 is a donation to SAL 266; dual or 16 and younger members need to pay in cash to avoid extra online charge.
- **3. Flag Retirement Ceremony:** Plan 2<sup>nd</sup>, unofficial chair – Jim M.; Mike V., burn permit, good for 1 year, use fire pit at Hall, 2 p.m. Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Day. Coordinate with Deann Zens' Wreath Laying Ceremony at Veterans Memorial, 10 a.m.
- **Griddle and Stand:** Repaired. Donate to fire dept. with plaque stating “Donated by Bennington Sons of American Legion 266 Squadron.”
- **SAL orders:** hat for Rob Goudy: 7-3/8's and Robbie Glidden: 7-1/4 – received.

- **Legion Liaison Information:** By Rick Reed; drop-down screen installed for use with portable projector. Need ideas for community viewing events. Hail damaged roof, replacement completed, damaged building siding replacement pending.
- **New Business**
- **Social Media:** Alex B.: see Facebook page for updates.
- **Charter:** Diane Warrick added names to charter; framed; need to mount it on the wall.
- **National Commander's 4 Pillars Challenge:** requested \$1/member minimum; approved \$50 SAL minimum, approved Fiscal Year (October to September) for reset of donations; need payment dates to verify if 2024 goals met:
  - Children and Youth:** National set Veteran Child Welfare Foundation goal. Donated \$600 to baseball.
  - VA&R** (Veterans Affairs & rehabilitation) Operation Comfort Warrior; possible donate from Easter Event fund raiser as done in 2024. Easter is 20 April, 2025; need to set event date.
  - Americanism,** no 2024 Boys State nominations; if none for 2025, then find alternate way to meet requirement. Possibility: Department Executive Committee authorized NE SAL Scholarship. See qualification and application at <http://nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Scholarships.html> Submission deadline is 1 March, 2025.
  - National Security,** donate \$500 to Bennington Police K-9 project.
  - NE SAL Commander's Project:** raised garden bed project at Western Nebraska Veterans Home.
- **BHS \$500 BHS College Scholarships:** to Nolan Walsh, confirmation pending and Tristen Buhman, paid.
- **NE VA Vets Get Pets:** \$350 donation approved
- **Motions made during meeting:**
  1. **Subject:** T-shirt so Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are uniformly dressed; design set with Legion: Post 266 on front and Legion family logos on back, SAL will fund purchase of 2-4X, 2-3X, 10-2X, 4-XL, 5-Lge. Order placed with Create-A-Tee, \$1224.08 for all 3, Legion, Auxiliary, SAL.
    - Motion:** agreed to discuss with Legion, **no motion**
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>:
  2. **Subject:** Table Nolan Walsh BHS payment until confirmed.
    - Motion:** Jim M.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Geoff G; passed
  3. **Subject:** Donate \$500 for K-9 dog, Ducky after Officer D. Stocker explained need \$703 to meet \$6500 cost for dog, also need to outfit cruiser; Ducky to be trained and NE Certified for drug detection and people tacking. Ducky is a 2 yr. Old German short hair.
    - Motion:** Donate \$500 to K-9 project, meets National Security goal; by Mark G.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Brian G; passed
- **SAL Detachment Convention Resolutions:** Review Squadron Constitution for possible updates:
  - DC-2-24: membership dates to match National SAL dates of April 6, 1917 through November 11, 1918 and anytime from December 7, 1941 to present.
  - DC-4-24: establish "Adopt A Veteran" program per Article III Section 17, squadrons adopt a senior or veterans' home to provide family type comfort to veterans living there; suggested activities include friendly visits, sending birthday and holiday cards, small gifts and if appropriate, financial support.
- **Open Door Mission:** Chairman Jared met with VSO Bonney and ODM staff to get Vets VA benefits; set SAL volunteers on monthly basis, Saturday 9 November serve Vets' meal at Timberlake: volunteers: Jared, Jim, Mike, Mark, Brian. Les.

- **SAL'oween:** held 26 October, 5 – 9 pm; Alex B. and Geoff G. are co-chairs; \$1,000 budget, costume contest for 12 yr. olds and under with 3 prizes: king size candy bars; Rick Reed to set up movie screen and projector; games; pumpkin decorating: markers, stickers; spent \$1/pumpkin last year; police department brought cruiser; closed street. Over 200 kids attended. Runza sponsorship for 2025. Received \$73 in donations. Reduce time to 2 hrs., 5 – 7 pm.
- **Veterans' Day Programs:** held at senior centers: Valley Lakes, 11am; Ridgewood, 2.30pm.
- **Coming Events:** Mid-year Conference, January 17-19, 2025 at Norfolk. District 8 Convention February 15. 2025, Herman Post 274. Open Door Mission: 23 November, 4-7 pm, serve meal.
- Closing prayer given by Chaplin Brian G.
- Sgt.-At-Arms Mike V. retired the POW-MIA chair cover
- Hand salute to the flag
- Meeting adjourned