

Bennington SAL SQUADRON 266 | MINUTES

Meeting date: 10 October, 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

Absent: Finance Officer Geoff Getzschman, Legion Liaison Glen Turner

Type of meeting: Monthly meeting

Facilitator: Commander Weinman

Note taker: Adjutant Brauer

Total number of members in attendance: 9 members, 1 nonmember, Legion Commander Merlin Kay

- Meeting brought to order by Commander Jared W.
- Hand salute to the flag
- Opening prayer given by Chaplin Brian Gernandt
- Commander read Resolution 288 designating the POW/MIA empty chair
- Sgt.-At-Arms Mike Valasek. placed the 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 September meeting minutes.
 - a. **Motion** to approve minutes by Jim Musel
 - b. **2nd** by Alex Banks; Passed
- **Finance Report** (results by Commander Jared)
 - a. **Motion** to approve by Alex Banks
 - b. **2nd** by Mark Goodrich; Passed
- **Old/Unfinished business:**
 - a. **CSR Report:** Jim M.-10 hrs., Alex B.-10 hrs., Mike V.-16 hrs; Rich R. -1 hr.+ blood, Mark G. -8 hrs., Brian G. -3 hrs., Rob Goudy-0 hrs.
ADMIN HOURS- Jared W.-7 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, 15 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 2nd, unofficial chair – Jim M.; Mike V., burn permit, good for 1 year, use fire pit at Hall, date Saturday December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day. Coordinate with Deann Zens' Wreath Laying Ceremony at Veterans Memorial.
- **Griddle and Stand:** disposition pending. Commander Jared has it stored. Possibly 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 Commander Merlin; drop-down screen installed for use with portable projector. Consider Bennington High School away football game viewing events. Hail damaged roof, replacement completed, damaged building siding replacement pending. Donut Dollies event raise \$208 and 300 lbs food for donation to VA home.
- **New Business**
- **Social Media:** Alex B.; coordinate T-shirt design with Legion, expect to include Auxiliary; SAL'oween flyer done and distributed.
- **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:
CFW \$300 approved August 2023 (Children and Youth), if paid before October then 2024 **Goal NOT** met.
VA&R (Veterans Affairs & rehabilitation) Operation Comfort Warrior; \$400 donation from Easter Event fund raiser; paid. Event held March with payment thereafter, **Goal Met**
Americanism, no Boys State nominations; alternate: donate \$100 to Detachment; canceled check since it was not cashed; did **NOT** find alternate way to meet requirement. **Goal NOT** met
National Security, donated \$50 to St. Johns Church for hosting their blood drive), paid, need date to determine if **Goal Met**
NE SAL Commander's Project: donate \$100 to Gifts for Yanks; paid.
- **BHS Awards:** \$500 BHS college scholarship each to Nolan Walsh and Tristen Buhman. Payment made.
- **NE VA Vets** Get Pets: \$350 donation approved
- **Motions made during meeting:**
 1. **Subject:** T-shirt so Legion 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. Discussed, **no motion**, waiting Legion to order. Auxiliary wants to participate.
Motion: agreed to discuss with Legion
2nd:
 2. **Subject:** donate \$2500 to Legion for roof repair deductible; Cancel as Legion avoided paying it.
Motion:
2nd:
 3. **Subject:** Donate \$600 to baseball team, raises Legion gift to \$10,000; presented October 3rd.
Motion: by Mark G.
2nd: by Mike V.; approved
- **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.
- **Coming Events:** senior center Veterans' programs at: Valley Lakes, 11am; Ridgewood, 2.30pm. Mid-year Conference, January 17-19, 2025 at Norfolk. District 8 Convention February 15. 2025, Herman Post 274
- 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