

Bennington SAL SQUADRON 266 | MINUTES

Meeting date: 12 December, 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, Legion Liaison Glen Turner

Absent: Chaplin Brian Gernandt, Finance Officer Geoff Getzschman

Type of meeting: Monthly meeting

Facilitator: Commander Weinman

Note taker: Adjutant Brauer

Total number of members in attendance: 8 members, 1 nonmember, Commander Merlin Kay

- Commander Jared W. called meeting to order with hand salute to the flag
- Opening prayer by Mark Goodrich
- 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 November meeting minutes.
 - a. **Motion** to approve minutes by Alex Banks
 - b. **2nd** by Passed
- **Finance Report**
 - a. **Motion** to approve October by Jim Musel
 - b. **2nd** by Mike Valasek; Passed
 - c. **Motion** to approve November by Alex Banks
 - d. **2nd** by Mark Goodrich; Passed
- **Old/Unfinished business:**
 - a. **CSR Report:** Jim M.-3 hrs., Alex B.-2 hrs., Mike V.-0 hrs., Rich R.-0 hrs., Mark G. -0 hrs., Brian G.-2 hrs., Rob Goudy-0 hrs., Open Door Mission Dinner: 12.5 hrs., Salvation Army bell ringer 4 hrs., Senior Center Veterans Day programs: Valley Lakes and Ridgewood-6 hrs., Flag retirement-12 hrs.
ADMIN HOURS- Jared W.-8 hr3., Les B. 4 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, 17 paid; payments for 2025 underway, 7 expired.
- **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:** Held 2nd, unofficial chair – Jim M.; Mike V., burn permit, good for 1 year, used fire pit at Hall, 2 p.m. Saturday December 7th Pearl Harbor Day.
- **Griddle and Stand:** Repaired. Donate to fire dept. with plaque stating “Donated by Bennington Sons of American Legion 266 Squadron.”

- **SAL orders:** received hats for Rob Goudy: distributed and Robbie Glidden: distribution pending.
- **Legion Liaison Information:** By Glenn Turner; roof repaired, damaged building siding replacement underway; pancake breakfast may be Saturday April 5th.
- **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:** increased request to \$1.50/member minimum, for 24 members = \$36; approved \$50 SAL minimum, approved Fiscal Year (October to September) for reset of donations 2025 status:
Children and Youth: National set Veteran Child Welfare Foundation-\$0; donated \$600 to baseball team. goal met.
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. \$400 to Open Door Mission **Americanism**, winning scholarship: \$20,000, no 2024 Boys State nominations; if none for 2025, then find alternate way to meet requirement; sponsor fee increased to \$425 plus \$25 registration; applications due by March 15. Possibility: Department Executive Committee authorized NE SAL Scholarship. See qualification and application at <http://nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Scholarships.html>
Submission deadline is 1 March, or sponsor 1 from another Post; 2025. \$0
National Security, donated \$500 to Bennington Police K-9 project. Goal met.
NE SAL Commander's Project: raised garden bed project at Western Nebraska Veterans Home, \$0.
- **BHS \$500 BHS College Scholarships:** 2024 to Nolan Walsh, confirmation pending and Tristen Buhman, paid.
- **NE VA Vets Get Pets:** \$350 donation approved
- **Motions made during meeting:**
 1. **Subject:** received T-shirts so Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are uniformly dressed; design: Legion: Post 266 on front and Legion family logos on back, distribution underway; **no motion**.
 2. **Subject:** Purchase replacement adjustable flag pole, estimate \$41.99 + S&H .
Motion: Jim M.
2nd: Alex B.; 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.
2nd: Jim M; 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:** set SAL volunteers on monthly basis, Saturday November 23 and December 21 serve meals at Timberlake: November volunteers: Jared, Les.

- **Coming Events:** Mid-year Conference, January 17-19, 2025 at Norfolk. District 8 Convention February 15, 2025, Herman Post 274. Open Door Mission: January 18, 4-7 pm, serve meal. NE Veterans' Legislative Day in Lincoln with Gov. Pillen, Friday January 31 at 8am. Junior Law Cadet: June 23-24, sponsor fee \$100, application deadline March 1. Eastern NE Vets Home: ice cream social on 3rd Friday of each month and Benson Squad 112 Birthday Bingo 4th Wednesday of each month.
- Closing prayer given by Mark G.
- Sgt.-At-Arms Mike V. retired the POW-MIA chair cover
- Hand salute to the flag
- Meeting adjourned