

# Bennington SAL SQUADRON 266 | MINUTES

---

Meeting date: 13, February 2025 | time: 6 pm | Meeting location [Bennington Legion Hall](#)

Note: January meeting was canceled

**Officers Present:** Commander Jared Weinman, Adjutant Les Brauer, Sargent-at-Arms Mike Valasek, Chaplin Brian Gernandt

**Absent:**, Finance Officer Geoff Getzschman, Historian Alex Banks, Legion Liaison Glen Turner

**Type of meeting:** Monthly meeting

**Facilitator:** Commander Weinman

**Note taker:** Adjutant Brauer

**Total number of members in attendance:** 7 members, 0 nonmembers

- Commander Jared W. called meeting to order and suspended our typical opening agenda opting for an informal discussion on the future of the squadron. Key message: it is time for others to step forward into leadership roles. Use the time from now until our June election to consider where you fit in our mission; how can you carry-on. Officer nominations are open for all positions.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- **Minutes of previous meeting:** approved December meeting minutes.
  - a. **Motion** to approve minutes by Jared W.
  - b. **2<sup>nd</sup>** by Brian G., Passed
- **Finance Report**
  - a. No report.
- **Old/Unfinished business:**
  - a. **CSR Report:** Jim M.-18 hrs., Alex B.-0 hrs., Mike V.-20 hrs. + blood donation, Rich R.-0 hrs., Mark G. -3 hrs., Brian G.-0 hrs., Rob Goudy-0 hrs., Open Door Mission Dinner: 0-hrs., Les B. 12-hrs. Mid-yr and Ridgewood veteran cards.  
ADMIN HOURS- Jared W.-4 hrs., 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 25 members, 23 paid for 2025, 2 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. Griddle and Stand:** Repaired. Donated to fire dept.; plaque stating "Donated by Bennington Sons of American Legion 266 Squadron" pending/
- **SAL orders:** received hats for Rob Goudy: distributed and Robbie Glidden: distribution pending.
- **Legion Liaison Information:** No report.
- **New Business**
- **Social Media:** Follow our 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; donated from Easter Event fund in 2024 but 2025 event canceled. Open Door Mission: \$400 in 2024, \$0 in 2025.

**Americanism**, no 2024 or 2025 Boys State nominations; need 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:** nominations pending.
- **Motions made during meeting:**
  1. None
- **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:** need SAL volunteers on monthly basis to serve meals at Timberlake Center.
- **Coming Events:** District 8 Convention rescheduled to March 15. 2025, Benson Post 112. Open Door Mission: March 8, 4-7 pm, serve meal. Junior Law Cadet: June 23-24, sponsor fee \$100, application deadline March 1. Eastern NE Vets Home: ice cream social on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month and Benson Squad 112 Birthday Bingo 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.
- Meeting adjourned