

Bennington SAL SQUADRON 266 | MINUTES

Meeting date: 8 May, 2025 | time: 6 pm | Meeting location Bennington Legion Hall

Officers Present: Vice-commander Jim Musel, Adjutant Les Brauer, Sargent-at-Arms Mike Valasek, Historian Alex Banks, Legion Liaison Glen Turner

Absent:, Commander Jared Weinman, Finance Officer Geoff Getzschman, Chaplin Brian Gernandt

Type of meeting: Monthly meeting

Facilitator: Nominated Commander Rick Reed

Note taker: Adjutant Brauer

Total number of members in attendance: 7 members, 1 nonmember, Post Commander Kay

Order Of Business:

- Meeting called to order with hand salute to the flag by Rick Reed
- Opening prayer by Mark Goodrich
- Resolution 288 designating POW/MIA empty chair read and Sgt.-At-Arms Mike Valasek. placed POW-MIA chair cover
- Resolution N C 2-03 Blue Star Banner read
- Pledge of Allegiance to the flag recited
- Preamble lead by Rick R.
- **Minutes of previous meeting:**
 - **Motion** to approve March and April minutes by Alex Banks
 - 2nd by Mike Valsek; passed
- **Finance Report**
 - **Motion** to approve April report by Mark Goodrich.
 - 2nd by Glenn Turner; passed

Old/Unfinished business:

- **CSR Report:** Jim M.-103 hrs., Alex B.-0 hrs., Mike V.-120 hrs.+ blood donation, Rich R.-15 hrs., Mark G. -6 hrs., Brian G.-0 hrs., Rob Goudy-0 hrs., Open Door Mission Dinner: 0-hrs., Les B. 0 hrs.
- ADMIN HOURS- Jared W.-0 hrs., Les B. 4 hrs. and Geoff G. 1 hrs.
- Time to focus on recruiting new members
- Junior shooting sports/ Eddie Eagle/ NRA
- 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 hat for Robbie Glidden: distribution pending.
- **Legion Liaison Information:** Diane Warrick needs help placing crosses and flags on Saturday 24 May at 3 cemeteries and pick-up on Monday 26 May. Contact Diane to volunteer. Programs at cemeteries on Memorial day, May 26, meet at Hall at 9 am; attire t: Legion-SAL logo T-shirt. Bennington Daze parade, June 7, meet at Hall at 10 am; attire: Legion-SAL logo T-shirt.
- **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 25 members = \$37.50; 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 goal of \$500,000 - \$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 to find alternate way to meet requirement; sponsor fee increased to \$425 plus \$25 registration; applications were 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:** awarded \$500 to Kathleen Musel on 27 April.
- **Motions made during meeting:**
 1. Officer nominations; vote during 8 May meeting; motion to approve nominations by acclamation as revised by Les B. with 2nd by Mark G.; passed:
 - Commander: Rick Reed
 - Vice-commander: Jim Musel
 - Adjutant: Glen Turner [Les Brauer withdrew self nomination after discussion with Glenn.]
 - Finance: Glenn Turner and Mark Goodrich [Glenn withdrew self nomination.]
 - Chaplin: Brian Gernadt
 - Sargent-at-Arms: Mike Valasek
 - Historian/Webmaster/Media: Alex Banks
 2. **Call for 48th Detachment Convention,** June 28-29, Quality Inn in Columbus, 402-564-1492. SAL 266 allowed 3 delegates and 3 alternates. Registration: Saturday 28 June 8am – 12 noon and Sunday 29 June 8 9 am. Agenda: elect officers, receive committee reports, address resolutions and such other business as appropriate. Approve delegates and alternation during June meeting; Les B. and Rick R. nominated.
 3. **Air rifle and Pistol:** Commander Rick R. discussed a plan to organize teams.
 4. **SAL Detachment Convention Proposed Resolutions:** DC1-25, Establish SAL Membership Reward Program for well-structured and prompt membership renewal program with \$1500 reward divided into drawings as follows: each member renewed by 1 October, 2025: \$1000; each SAL Adjutant: \$250; each member renewed by 31 December, 2025: \$250; renewals begin with 2026 year.
 - Motion to approve DC1-25 by Mike V. and 2nd by Glenn T.; passed.
 - DC2-25, Establish 50 year Continuous Membership Reward Program where SAL dues are paid by the Detachment.
 - Motion to approve DC2-25 by Mark G. and 2nd by Alex B.; passed.
 5. **SAL Detachment Convention Prior 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.

- 6. Open Door Mission:** need SAL volunteers on monthly basis to serve meals at Timberlake Center.
- 7. Coming Events:** Open Door Mission: 21 June?, 4-7 pm, serve meal. Junior Law Cadet: June 23-24, sponsor fee \$100, no applications . Eastern NE Vets Home: ice cream social on 3rd Friday of each month and Benson Squad 112 Birthday Bingo 4th Wednesday of each month. Memorial Day, May 26, services at 3 cemeteries. Bennington Daze Parade, June 7th. Herman Post 274, 705 Main St. hosts monthly meet & greet on 3rd Saturday mornings with coffee & doughnuts, all are welcome. Riders will do Thank A Veteran Tours on May 24th and June 14th. Freedom Music Festival: Saturday 14 June at Antelope Park, Lincoln, 11am – 7pm, includes music, an art show and food vendors. Fall Round-up October 11th at Herman Post. Nebraska Department of Labor jobs fair at UNO Milo Bail Student Center, 2nd Floor, 22 May, 10am – 2pm, use parking lot E. Register at: <https://omahavetfair2025may.eventbrite.com/>

8. Meeting adjourned

Future meetings: 12 June, 10 July, 14 August, 11 September