



NADHAL NEWSLETTER

National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion

Volume 47, Issue 1

December 2016

Editor Charemon Dunham

Calendar of Events

August 19, 2017 at 11:30 am — National Historian's Dinner with NADHAL meeting to follow at National Convention at Reno, NV.

September 15, 2017—History books or certification forms must be at National Headquarters.

October 9-10, 2017 at 8:30 am — Judging of History Books and training in Indianapolis, IN.

October 10, 2017 at 10 am —NADHAL meeting at the American Legion Library in Indianapolis, IN.

October 10, 2017 at 6 pm—NADHAL dinner at Sheraton Hotel top floor.

From National Historian Paul Bennett

This being my first article for the NADHAL NEWSLETTER, I offer my "Thank Yous" to many of you, my fellow members of NADHAL. Thank you to PNH Larry Rozier, PNH Charemon Dunham, PNH Sue Mason, PNH Fae Casper, PNH W. Frazier Brinley, PDH Dan Watrous, and PNH Jim Copher for your welcomed advice on many issues facing a new National Historian. And a special thank you to Howard Trace and Lynda Lydick and the rest of the Library staff for all their hard work, daily, and for our Historian Conference. And a great big thank you to Lynn Rollins of the Department of Georgia for answering my call for her to present her training session for our new



Historians and for the assistance of Nellie DeBaker. And a big thank you to Frazier and Larry for their expertise in tabulating our History book judging score sheets. They did a fantastic job, as we implemented a different way of finalizing the decisions on the books.

As we implemented judges comment sheets attached to the judges scoring sheets, I can say the program went well. It was some extra work getting the final product out, and the individual comment sheets on each Historian's book, took a lot of effort by Lynda, for which I am eternally grateful. But the system is set now, and in Lynda's computer. The other project that has been implemented is letters to all Department Historians

asking them to project throughout their Department expressing the importance of the Post Historian. As we all know, that in reality, the Post Historian is just as important as the Post Adjutant when it comes to maintaining the history of the Post; they maintain minutes, but we maintain the photographic, newspaper clippings and other paraphernalia that goes with history. Our history has never been more important as we approach our 100th Anniversary. I sincerely hope all members of NADHAL are assisting their Departments in getting a 100% posting by all their Posts.

As I close, I hope I haven't forgotten anything, I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; and if you have a birthday at this time, Happy Birthday. Hope to see each of you at the convention in Reno next August.

Paul Bennett, National Historian

From NADHAL President Jennifer Salak



I would like to say it was an honor to be elected as the 2016-2017 NADHAL President. I also want to congratulate the

newly-elected NADHAL Officers - thank you for serving and I look forward to working with you over the next year to continue advancing this great organization.

At the Fall NADHAL President's Dinner, I talked about several goals I would like us to accomplish as a team over the next year. Those goals include (1) increase membership in NADHAL, (2) update the NADHAL website, (3) develop and share ideas for the Centennial Celebration, (4) advertise the 100 Cities/100 Memorials Project, and (5) mentor new Department and Post Historians.

By increasing membership in NADHAL, we create a greater network of Historians across 55 Departments. Networking is extremely important because it allows us to build relationships with others, share ideas, get advice and ultimately succeed as Historians in The American Legion.

Part of networking is having access to the latest information. Over the next year, our website committee will be working hard to ensure that everyone has the most current information available on our NADHAL website at www.legion.org/nadhal.

As we share ideas, let's think about how we can increase Post and Department involvement in The American Legion Centennial Celebration. The celebration doesn't officially start until the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis; however, the time to start planning is now. Be sure to visit <http://centennial.legion.org/> for information.

To further observe the WWI Centennial, The American Legion has signed on with the Pritzker Military Museum & Library to support the 100 Cities/100 Memorials Project which will provide 100 matching grants up to \$2,000 apiece to restore WWI Memorials across the U.S. If you know of a WWI Memorial in your community needing repair, download information and a grant application from

www.worldwar1centennial.org/100-cities-100-memorials-home.html.

In addition to supporting the preservation of WWI Memorials, National Commander Charles Schmidt has asked the entire Legion Family to participate in the new Veterans Memorial Identification Project. This project will create a comprehensive database identifying war memorials from all conflicts across the country. To get started on this project, visit www.legion.org/memorials.

Finally, over the next year I would ask those experienced Historians to mentor new Post and Department Historians and get them excited about being a Historian and the importance of the position.

I want to thank you for all you do for The American Legion and wish you and your families a safe and happy Holiday season!

For God and Country,
Jennifer Salak, NADHAL President

NADHAL Membership

NADHAL membership is from 1 Jan to 31 Dec. Dues are \$5 per year and can be made out to NADHAL and mailed to Frederick Doten, 3517 Cottage Meadow Way, Laughlin, NV 89029. You must be or have been a Department Historian to be eligible to join.

Season's Greetings From the following NADHAL members

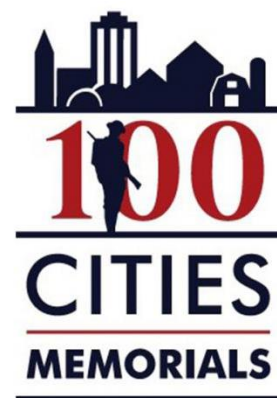
Virgil Arling, Ohio; Paul Bennett, NH, Missouri; Ernest Berry, Michigan; George Boddie, New Hampshire; W. Frazier Brinley, PNH, Connecticut; Fae Casper, PNH, Georgia; Bill Chisholm, Massachusetts; Jerry Clark, Wyoming; James Copher, NH, Minnesota; Robert Craig, PNH, Nebraska; Nellie DeBaker, Wisconsin; Frederick Doten, Nevada; Charemon Dunham, PNH, South Dakota; Steve Ebersole, Ohio; James Fratolillo, PNH, Massachusetts; Robert Gilmore, Arizona; C. Jacob Greeling,

Arkansas; Tommy Hatton, Georgia; Ruth Higgins, Maryland; Jim Higuera, PNH, California; Johnny Keel, PNH, Louisiana; James "Jim" Mariner, New Mexico; Sue Mason, PNH, Florida; Rex McBee, Tennessee; Gerald McClain, Oklahoma; Rick McCanna, Wisconsin; Mike Miskell, PNH, Pennsylvania; Wayne Morgan, Connecticut; Lillian Moss, California; Sally Nay, Massachusetts; Brett Reistad, Virginia; Larry Rosier, PNH, North Carolina; Denise Rohan, Wisconsin; Mike Rohan, Wisconsin; Lynne Rollins, Georgia; Jennifer Salak, Nebraska; J.R. Stillwell, Illinois; Jeri Strande, Arizona; Robert Norton Warner, Connecticut; Dan Watrous, Ohio; Scott Wolf, Iowa; Robert "Pete" Woodruff, Georgia; Bill Yarnell, Pennsylvania; and Chuck Zelinsky, PNH, Illinois.

Season's Greetings from the Library Staff

Howard Trace, Linna Agne, Debra Brookhart, Lynda Lydick, Beverly Maharry, Ruth Rankin.

Restoring World War I Memorials



The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library have announced a new program to help people across the country restore and preserve local World War I memorials.

100 Cities/100 Memorials, which launched July 18, is a fund-matching program in which groups or individuals can:

- Identify local World War I memorials in their area;
- Put together a conservation treatment proposal for a memorial in distress;
- Submit their plan for consideration for matching grant funds;
- Have the memorial treated by an accredited conservator, with communication help and possible matching funds.

The details of the program, including guidelines and online application form, can be found at www.worldwar1centennial.org/100-cities-100-memorials-home.html. The program has been adopted by The American Legion via Resolution 19, passed in May by the National Executive Committee.

Legion posts are encouraged to apply for funds through the program, which is designed to foster a sense of heritage in local communities, recognize local stories and people who were involved in the war, and create a way for community members to participate in the national World War I Centennial.

"The words 'Lest We Forget' appear on World War I memorials across the nation," said Kenneth Clarke, president and CEO of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library. "Sadly, however, many of these memorials are in need of conservation and restoration, in this, their centennial year."

The 100 Cities/100 Memorials program is particularly well-suited for community service projects hosted by school groups, Scout troops, veterans groups, historical/cultural organizations, faith groups, local sports teams and others.

The sponsor organizations have teamed with the World War I Memorial Inventory Project, which is assembling a crowd-sourced online database to document and assess the condition of the thousands of World War I memorials across the country.

Some of the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program specifics include:

- All submitted projects will be given communication resources to help participants publicize their work, post imagery to social media and tell their own stories.
- Webinars and videos hosted on the commission's website will provide information about conserving memorials, researching a memorial's history and creating a project plan for submission.
- All World War I memorial projects are eligible to be considered for this program's matching funds. However, the matching funds available per project is currently limited to \$2,000, which is likely to be most useful for smaller projects.
- In June 2017, 100 of the submitted projects will be selected by a jury to receive matching funds.
- To qualify for a matching grant, a project proposal needs to be submitted by the new expanded deadline of June 15, 2017. Memorials need to be located in the 50 states or U.S. territories, and the preservation work must be completed (or have been completed) between Jan. 1, 2014, and Nov. 11, 2018.

Information on the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission can be found at www.worldwar1centennial.org.

Information about the Pritzker Military Museum & Library can be found at www.pritzkermilitary.org/explore/topics/twentieth-century-wars-conflicts...

NADHAL Pictures provided by Past National Historian Charles Zelinsky of Illinois



Present and Past National Historians

Left to right: back row; PNH Sue Mason; PNH Larry Rozier; PNH Charles Zelinsky; PNH James Fratolillo; PNH Frazier Brinley; PNH James Higuera; front row: PNH James Copher; NH Paul Bennett; PNH Johnny Keel at the National American Legion Library in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11, 2016.



New Historian Training

Instructing the new Historian training are standing right to left Lynne Rollins and Nellie DeBaker at the National American

Legion Library in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 10, 2016.



National Historian Paul Bennett addressing NADHAL members

Standing in the red cap is National Historian (NH) Paul Bennett addressing the Historians at the NADHAL meeting at the National American Legion Library in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11, 2016.



Denise Rohan is addressing the NADHAL members

Standing Left to right: Jennifer Salak, Denise Rohan, Bob Gilmore, PNH James Fratolillo at the National American Legion Library in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11, 2016.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEPARTMENT HISTORIANS THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ROOM 324B
OCTOBER 11, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Jennifer Salak at 10:04 a.m. Usual American Legion meeting rituals carried out. Chaplain Jim Copher gave opening prayer. Secretary De Baker gave attendees a sign-in sheet (attendance 44) and Christmas Cheer List (44 members + 4 national staff).

Roll Call of Officers - Present - President Jennifer Salak, Vice President Areas 3 - Ruth Higgins, 5 - Johnny Keel, 7 - Jennifer Salak, 8 - Nellie De Baker, 9 - Jerilyn Strande, Secretary Nellie P. De Baker, Treasurer Virgil Arling, Historian - excused. Chaplain James E. Copher, Sergeant-at-Arms Robert B. Gilmore, Jr, and Judge Advocate James Fratolillo and National Historian Paul Bennett.

National Historian Paul Bennett made a few welcome remarks. Denise Rohan, the leading candidate for National Commander, offered remarks on the importance of a historian and Brett Reistad (future candidate for national commander) offered he was a 13 year department historian of Virginia, one of the best jobs he has ever had and he's a long-time NADHAL member. Minutes of October 13, 2015 meeting: Frazier Brinley made motion to accept minutes as distributed, to also include the National Convention minutes, seconded by Chuck Zelinsky, carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory – Chair Charemon Dunham absent. Member Johnny Keel reported nothing came up. No motion/second to approve his report.

Website – Chair James Mariner - he thanks committee members with working on the website. They are moving forward. Chair Mariner, along with Lynda Lydick, anticipate including electronic NADHAL newsletters, past and present, on the website. Carrying NADHAL history on the website will help with understanding of NADHAL nation-wide. Motion made by Sue Mason, seconded by Fred Doten, carried.

Constitution & Bylaws - Chair James Fratolillo - Regarding resignation of Fae Casper as President: Bylaws state in case of a death/disability of the president, the Advisory Committee elects one of the vice presidents to become president. Jennifer Salak was placed in office at the National Convention. Although Jennifer Salak is president 6 weeks, James does not consider this a full year so Jennifer could be elected today and her year would be considered a first year. Chair James wants to amend Article III, Section 2b relating to his previous statement. This will be brought up under New Business. Motion made by James Fratolillo, seconded by Ruth Higgins, carried.

Audit Committee - Chair Robert F. “Pete” Woodruff gave no report. Member Virgil Arling gave the treasurers report: Beginning balance of \$ 6,313.09. Two unanticipated expenses: pins and website expenses. Life members number 21 and honorary members total 3. Ending balance of \$ 6,767.09. Virgil noted that in 2008 balance on hand was \$ 1,545.95. Motion by Johnny Keel to accept Virgil’s report, seconded by Ruth Higgins, carried.

Study Group: Chair Joseph Hovish absent. Member Frazier Brinley stated no report. No motion/second to approve his report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Frazier Brinley reminded us of the Honorary Life Member Listing: Helen Jacob, Bobbie Stuvengen, JoEllen Gazvoda, Roy Mahoney, Del Barabani and Denise Rohan.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Special Guest Laura Edwards gave an overview on the Centennial Celebration coming up 2019 for The American Legion. The handouts provide a summary overview of the

Centennial. The two sides of this celebration are (1) Legacy of the last 100 years and (2) Vision for the next 100 years. The National 100th Anniversary Observance Committee started work in 2011 on the centennial and in 2013 adopted a five-year plan. The handouts include a listing of 9 national level entities. Laura cleared up confusion as to department activity. Each department has a centennial committee and each department has its own timeline and each will choose areas to emphasize. The post can do whatever it wants on their own, form their own committees, etc. There is currently a monthly electronic newsletter. Website already has posted 2,000 out of 13,000 posts. 100 grants will be dispensed for WWI memorial restoration, however, if grants are exhausted, posts can submit expenses for memorial restoration. The National Honorary Committee is made up of individuals who are well known in addition to having been touched by The American Legion in some meaningful way. Primary staff contact is Laura Edwards.

2. Frazier Brinley made a motion for the annual book donation of \$100 to the library, seconded by Chuck Zelinsky, carried.
3. Frazier has a second motion: We have a candidate for an Honorary Life Member of NADHAL - Brett Reistad who has been active as a historian for the past 13 years, seconded by Denise Rohan, carried.
4. James Fratolillo made a motion to amend Article III, Section 2b which currently states “in case of resignation, death or disability of the president, the Advisory Committee shall contact the entire membership to fill the vacancy, need a unanimous vote”. Amended wording would state “in case president is unable to fulfill the duties of the office of president, one of the area vice presidents shall be appointed by the Advisory Committee to fill the remaining time-frame of the presidency” seconded by Ruth Higgins, carried.
5. Chuck Zelinsky commented Virgil Arling will be resigning this year as Treasurer. Chuck stated we shall all give him a well-deserved thank you for serving us so adequately since 2008.
6. Area 8 Vice President Nellie P. De Baker gave a brief report of her work. Out of 7 states 6 are virtually “done” as far as she can go without occurring some expense. One state she never heard from. Hence, she brought forth to the floor a proposal of compensation for Area Vice Presidents. The proposal was given as a hand-out. The initial steps of email and phone would need to be exhausted prior to the next step of writing a personal letter to all department historians in each state. This step would necessitate postage, envelope and paper expense. And when absolutely all work required as an Area Vice President had been exhausted, then the icing on the cake if you will, would be a certificate of completion from NADHAL along with a check to compensate for letter/postage expense. Although comments regarding the proposal were positive James Fratolillo thought Area Vice Presidents need to work through the current department historian to complete their work.
7. The Christmas List is a listing of historians/office personnel who wish to bring Christmas greetings in the NADHAL newsletter. Cost is \$1.00. Collected for 2016 is \$48.00.

Nomination Committee: Chair Sue Mason presented a slate with Jennifer Salak for President; Nellie P. De Baker for Secretary; Fred Doten for Treasurer; Area Vice Presidents 3 - Ruth Higgins; 5 - Johnny Keel; 6 - J.R. Stillwell; 8 - Nellie P. De Baker; 9 - Jerilyn Strande. President Salak then took over the nomination procedure. She started with open Area Vice Presidents:

Area 1 - Sally Nay nominated by James Fratolillo; Area 2 - Mike Miskell; Area 4 - Sue Mason; Area 7 - Jim Copher. President Salak wanted a motion to accept the nomination report; so moved by Frazier Brinley with a second by Ruth Higgins, carried.

At this point there was a question of who conducts the nomination procedure: is it the president or the chairman of the nomination committee?

President Salak then continued with the Area Vice President nominations. Area 1 - George Boddie nominated by Ruth Higgins and Sally Nay wants on the Area 1 slate; Area 4 - Rex McBee nominated by Rick McCanna and Sue Mason wants on the Area 4 slate; Area 6 - Richard McCanna nominated by Rex McGee; Area 9 - Lillian Moss nominated by Lynn Rollins. Robert Warren made motion to close the nominations, seconded by Bill Chisholm, carried. Two opposed areas are 1 and 6. Sally Nay from Area 1 withdrew her name. Frazier Brinley made a motion to close the nominations and that the secretary cast one unanimous vote for all positions unopposed, seconded by Chuck Zelinsky, carried. Area 4, the two nominates, Rex McBee and Sue Mason left the room and there was a hand count. Sue Mason will be Area 4 Vice President. Other appointments completed: Historian – Charemon Dunham; Chaplain - James Copher; Sergeant-at – Arms - Robert Gilmore, Jr.; Judge Advocate - James Fratolillo; Advisory Committee - Johnny Keel is Chairman, members are Fae Casper, Nellie P. De Baker and Charemon Dunham. Nominating Committee - Rex McBee is Chairman, members are Ruth Higgins and James Fratolillo. Website - Fae Casper is Chairman, members are Rex McBee, James Mariner and Robert Gilmore, Jr. Constitution and Bylaws - James Fratolillo is Chairman, members are Frazier Brinley and Charemon Dunham. Audit Committee - Fred Doten is Chairman, members are Jeri Strande and Larry Rozier. Newsletter Editor is Charemon Dunham. Study Group - Frazier Brinley is Chairman, members are Nellie P. De Baker, Jerry Clark and Brett Reistad.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Fae Casper gave updates on the new NADHAL website. Right now need to go to the National Website to access NADHAL - lots of information on there. Also forward information to Fae to place on the website.

Lynda Lydick made note that no history books can be removed from the room without prior approval and signing-out of books. She also stated that Secretary De Baker forwards to her the NADHAL roster for the coming year taken from a recorded tape. This includes all elected positions and committee assignments. Lynda will be compiling an updated file of past/present department historians for area vice presidents. Virgil Arling will meet with the upcoming treasurer Fred Doten at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon for transfer of financial material.

Brett Reistad, candidate for National Commander and a long-standing member of NADHAL, thanked NADHAL for the honor bestowed upon him as an Honorary Life Member.

Group photograph immediately upon conclusion of meeting.

James Copher made motion to adjourn, seconded by Robert Warner, carried.

Chaplain gave concluding prayer.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m.

Compiled by Nellie P. De Baker
NADHAL Secretary
2016 - 2017