

MINUTES OF THE MID-WINTER D.E.C. MEETING
January 23rd, 2010
The Desmond
Colonie, New York

- Joseph E. Zaloga Squadron #1520 Color Guard posted colors
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Fred Merscher
- Commander David Bishop recited the POW/MIA Ceremony
- Chaplain Stand In Christopher Burtch offered the Opening Prayer
- V/C Robert Myrtle led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- V/C John Rodgers led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble
- Commander David Bishop called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM
- Adjutant Robert Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guests Present Included:
 - Past Detachment of Maryland Commander & Past National Public Relations Chairman - Bruce Paquin
 - Leading Candidate for National V/C East, Joseph Gladden (MD)
 - National V/C East, Keith Murdough (NH), and
 - Department of New York Legion Commander – William Kearsing

1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 **Commander Bishop entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the Fall DEC Meeting as printed with any minor corrections, as noted. The motion was made by ANEC, Raymond Jarvis and seconded by V/C Ross Polson, so carried.**

2.00 COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS

- 2.01 Mid-Winter Coordinator, Mark Kearsing welcomed everyone to this year's Mid-Winter and is available if there are questions or problems that may arise. Mark then wished everyone a very happy and successful Midwinter.
- 2.02 **Americanism Commission Chairman, James Coates** report was given by Acting Americanism Chairman Christopher Burtch. The report went on about the Americanism Flag Education Program and on the schedule for those materials to be distributed throughout the districts. The report stressed the importance of getting these flags and program scripts out to the squadrons that will use them, as the committee spends lots of time and money in support of this program, and it is vital the work gets done quickly and efficiently. The report also gave information on the "What America Means to Me" Essay contest and how to access this info on the www.sonsdny.org website. Another item in the report stated that Flag Lapel pins would be purchased again this year for all the NY Boys State participants. The report then concluded with a renewed call for all squadrons to report what had taken place throughout this year in the areas of; Boy's State, Scouting, Flag Education, Memorial and Veterans Days, as well as all the other programs involving Americanism.
A motion made by William Lutz and duly seconded by Ross Polson to accept the Americanism report, so carried.
- 2.03 **VA & R Commission Chairman, Thomas Kurk** reported as follows:
The first topic was the "The Marched for Us, We Walk for Them" walk-a-thon on April 17th, 2010. as reported the project has raised over \$58,000 the last two years and every penny has benefited New York State Veterans. This year the Committee has made a "Pair of Boots" that can be purchased for \$2.00 each and displayed at the post. These sponsorship placards are cheap to reproduce and lets local members show their support for this worthwhile program at the post level. Mr. Kurk then reminded everyone that April 30th is the deadline for Consolidated Report Forms, and these forms are the basis for all the judging of Detachment awards. This date is also the deadline for anyone submitting for the William P. O'Connell Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Kurk also reminded everyone that May 15th is Veterans Assistance Day and gave several tasks that

could be done for our Veterans to show our appreciation for their service to our Country. The Detachment is adding something new to Veterans Assistance Day this year with a contest for the best written report of how individual squadrons supported our Veterans on this day. The awards will be given to one Squadron in each of the ten districts and will be signed by the National Commander and the National VA&R Chairman as well as our Commander David Bishop. The awards will be given out at Convention and will be judged by The Commander and VA &R Chairman.

Mr. Kurk then made a request for more participation in the VAVS Volunteer Service offices in all of the 194 VA facilities. The SONS have 40 Reps currently and is a good start, but we need to recruit more volunteers to keep this program running. The National SONS Commander suggests that each Detachment Select a VAVS Coordinator to report back on all the work being done and on any needs that may be going unheard. This program is called "Operation Proud Son" and anyone interested in participating should contact any commission member or Mr. Kurk on how to become a Rep or Deputy.

A motion made by Gregg "Doc" Gibbs and duly seconded by John Rodgers to accept the VA&R report, so carried.

→ **Department Guests: SONS of the American Legion Consultant - Robert Neville with**

Leading Candidate for National Legion Commander - Jammie Foster (AK).

Robert Neville thanked the SONS for all they do and asked that we keep on doing what we are doing for the Detachment. Bob commented on the great job the detachment of NY does for the Children & Youth program. Mr. Neville then thanked David Bishop on the outstanding job he has done this year representing the great State of New York on his travels throughout the state as Commander of the SONS. He then introduced the Leading Candidate for National Legion Commander Jammie Foster, who spoke to the members about his background and family. He told the members it was cool to be duel and recommended recruiting more Legion members to join the SONS. He believes in communication & cooperation and being a duel member helps that work at the local level. Jammie also emphasized the recruitment of future members and officers, but reminded everyone not to just get their money and forget about them. Keep them informed and teach them how to do all the things you do, so they can do it next. We need to keep and preserve the legacy of all the hard work put in to our American Legion Family by our dedicated members, officers and Volunteers. The Commander also emphasized the Legion Family and how important it is we stand together to accomplish our goals. Jammie concluded with a promise to make sure anyone with a question would get an answer, maybe not right away, or the answer they wanted to hear, but that he would get back to them. He believes in personal contacts, so come up and introduce yourself. This next year he hopes to start the Lucky 7 recruitment award for any member signing up 2 new members and has 5 renewals. The Commander asked all the members present to keep a positive attitude and shy away from the negative people who tear us down. Then he reminded everyone to hold their elected officials accountable on how they vote on Legion issues and things that are important to our community and Country. Grassroots political action is the most effective way to influence and change how this Country is run. The Commander once again thanked the officers and members for all the hospitality shown to him, and hoped to return soon for a visit.

Detachment Commander David Bishop then Presented Jammie Foster with a Certificate of Appreciation for Attending our Mid-Winter Conference.

2.04 **Children & Youth Chairman, William Lutz** reported that he was the only member of his commission in attendance at the meeting on Friday Night. Bill then asked all the members to keep doing what they do, just try to do it better, or try to do a little more, when it comes to the Children & Youth programs. Bill then reported that most Counties and districts have failed to organize Josh Dog committees and this was something that was requested by Chairman Lutz at the Fall DEC meeting. We need to get going on this program and we need to make it a priority in the next half of the year. Bill then made the suggestion to start up a partnership with your local fire department. He suggested a pancake breakfast with a 50/50 split of the profit. Then see how each organization

can promote the other on the local level especially in membership and fundraising. We need to work on getting our faces and our programs out for the community to see and appreciate.

Bill then informed the members about the Children Organ Transplant program and another program worthy of support but not widely heard about "Operation Military Kids". Bill then asked the members to pick one of these programs, or one of the many others out there, and give it all you got because sometimes concentrating on one or two successful programs is better than beating yourself up trying to do a little for every program out there. Mr. Lutz then informed the members that the Winter Special Olympic games were being hosted in Syracuse on February 5th & 6th and need 500 volunteers to pull it off. Bill then informed all the members that the new Children & Youth Shirts are now available for \$25.00 each and can be used as a donation on the Detachment year end report.

A motion made by John Bogart and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the Children & Youth report, so carried.

2.05 **Legislative Commission Chairman, Greg "Doc" Gibbs** reported the legislative committee met on Friday night. In attendance were Committee members; David Perry, Jeff Jordan, Vince Green, Jerry Shepard, Greg "Doc" Gibbs, and Guest - John Rodgers. The top 8 priorities of The American Legion will be published in the next news letter as they were just released.

They Include;

- 1) Military Service Credits.
- 2) Free Hunting/Fishing/Trapping Licenses for Active Duty Service Members
- 3) Preserving County Veterans Service Agencies
- 4) Preserving the Oxford Vet Nursing Home Building.
- 5) The 30 Day Billing Policy on New York State SL Aid to our posts.
- 6) The Veterans Memorial Preservation Act.
- 7) The Veterans Organizational Real Property Tax Exemption
- 8) The Flag Amendment.

The Legislative committee had met and was making plans for the Washington DC visitations for "On the Hill Day" - February 28 to March 3rd 2010. Currently the Legion is tracking over 700 items of legislation.

The members that are planning on attending include;

Detachment Commander David Bishop
Detachment Adjutant Robert Avery
Detachment Judge Advocate Randall Lewis
NEC John Bogart
ANEC Raymond Jarvis
Detachment Vice Commander Ken Kraetzer
Detachment Legislative Chairman Greg "Doc" Gibbs
Detachment Legislative Committeeman David Perry
National Legislative Chairman David Lee

The NY delegation was to attend the wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial monuments in Arlington Cemetery on Sunday Feb. 28th. Then on Monday March 1st the group would be briefed on the major legislative initiatives supported by the Legion. Tuesday March 2nd they would go to the hill and meet with their respective Congressional Representative. On Wednesday March 3rd the group would debrief and head home. All of these arrangements were scheduled by Chairman Gibbs who looked forward to our Albany version of "On the Hill Day" scheduled for later in the spring on March 15th & 16th.

A motion made Gregg Gibbs and duly seconded by John Rodgers to accept the Legislative report, so carried.

→ **Visit from Jerry Jensen – Manager of the Fisher House** – Jerry thanked the members for allowing him to speak. He then informed everyone on the history and purpose of the Fisher House. The main goal of the house is supporting the families of recuperating soldiers and to provide a home away from home. They provide a positive, safe and supportive environment for the loved ones who are visiting their loved ones that are healing. Jerry thanked the Detachment of New York for its previous donations to the Fisher House Project, and said that they are constantly updating the house. Jerry then described how some families stay up to 8 weeks at the facility and they try to make sure the families need nothing but their toothbrushes during their stay. Any Squadron or member wishing to make a donation can send them to Fisher House, 113 Holland Ave, Albany NY 12208.

A Donation was presented Jerry Jensen by Detachment Commander David Bishop of \$1000.00 to the Albany Fisher House.

→ **President of the American Legion Press Association, Kevin Harrington** addressed the members and informed them on what was available on the National website. He also gave an overview of the press association and some of the perks on belonging. Dues are \$20.00 and get you real press credentials usable to report on our Veterans and the events they go to and promote. The members job is to get the news out to the main stream press to let the public know what we are doing and why. Before leaving Kevin asked the members to try and make the 10:30AM meeting for the press association in the Shaker Room of the Desmond and gave everyone the link to the website as www.nylapa.org

2.06 **Detachment Historian, William Lutz** reported on the visitations made thus far by Commander Bishop and how passionate our Commander is when speaking in supporting the Legion and all of the programs we participate in. In addition, the rules for the Community Affairs Committee Official Scrapbook contest and the History Contest were reviewed. Mr. Lutz was hopeful we would have at least one submission this year, as we went without any submissions for the last couple of years.
A motion made by William Lutz and duly seconded by John Knapp to accept the Historian's report, so carried.

2.07 **Chaplain, James Coats (Report read by Christopher Burtch)** reported attending the following events for the Detachment;

September 12th – Fall DEC Meeting
September 13th – 7th District Meeting in Newark
September 20th – Funeral Service for Dave Burley, Webmaster for Squadron 942 Webster NY
September 24th – National Commanders Dinner in the 7th District
November 8th – Worked the Breakfast in my home Post 282 in Lima NY
November 14th – Worked the Turkey Raffle at Post 282 in Lima NY
November 22nd – Worked the VA Gift shop in Canandaigua VA
December 12th – Attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Bath National Cemetery
December 13th – Attended the 7th District Meeting in Hornell NY
January 10th – Worked the breakfast at Post 282 in Lima NY

Get Well Cards were sent;
Cecil Johnson – 7th District Chaplain
Roger Dees – National Legislative Commission Member
Ross Polson 7/8th District Vice Commander
Annie Wilsey – Detachment of New York SONS Coordinator.

The following Sympathy Cards were sent;
Alan Anderson – Past Detachment Commander - mother passed away
Family of Mathew Butler - Detachment of Maryland
Family of George Evans – National Vice Chairman of Legislative Commission
Family of Michael Dick – Honeoye Hemlock Squadron 1278
Family of George W. Hooten – Detachment of Georgia – Legion & SONS Member.

A motion made by Ray Jarvis and duly seconded by Ross Polson to accept the Chaplain's report, so carried.

- 2.08 **Judge Advocate, Randall Lewis** was happy to see some new faces at the meeting. Randy then gave out his new Email address as he had changed jobs recently to rlewissonsdny@gmail.com but his phone number has remained the same, but without texting capabilities. Randy then reported on his very busy schedule of SONS activities including; The Washington Conference and the Spring NEC in Indianapolis.

A motion made by William Lutz and duly seconded by Ray Jarvis to accept the Judge Advocate report, so carried.

- 2.09 **3rd District Commander Kevin DeRusso** reported his district was 3rd in the Detachment for membership, and was working to establish a SONS Organization in Albany County. The Commander also reported on the fundraising efforts to benefit the Stranton VA and the Fisher House. Kevin was sad to report the passing of SONS member Timothy J. Warren who had recently died in a motor cycle accident. Kevin then concluded by thanking all the members and officers that supported him and the Commander David Bishop.

A motion made by William Lutz and duly seconded by Ray Jarvis to accept the 3rd District report, so carried.

- 2.10 **6th District Commander Ted Armbrust** reported the following squadron activity;
Squadron 221 – hosted dinners January through March.
Squadron 154 – has been conducting raffles.
Squadron 442 – holds bingo, has dinners and raffles.
Squadron 616 – has a Memorial Day raffle and places American Flags in Town
Squadron 1645 – has monthly Chicken BBQ's, 50/50's, Bingo, Community Service Projects, and donates small flags to local elementary schools for flag education programs.
Squadron 1254 – hosts a Christmas dinner for underprivileged children.
Squadron 465 – has a monthly Breakfast and raffle.
Squadron 876 – Friday night Wing Night and scholarship golf tournament.
Squadron 54 – has raffles and serves breakfast
Squadron 1390 – puts on Fish Fry's and Chicken & Biscuit dinners, and has assisted with repairs to the roof and siding of the post building.
Squadron 758 – supports the post with Bingo and monthly pancake breakfasts.
Broome County SONS – sponsor a yearly trip to the Bath VA Gift Shop with Santa, gifts and Christmas carols.

A motion made by Ted Armbrust and duly seconded by William Lutz to accept the 6th District report, so carried.

- 2.11 **8th District Commander Gregg "Doc Gibbs** reported that the District had two meetings prior to Midwinter that were held on October 4th in Wellsville and on December 6th in Albion. District 8 members painted William P. O'Connell's house on August 15th for Veterans Assistance Day. Gregg also attended the Fall DEC Meeting at Zaloga Post in Albany on September 12th. The 8th District voted to support Larry Montello for the position of Detachment ANEC and sent a letter of support to the Adjutant. Doc also attended a wreath laying ceremony at the Batavia Hospital and Homes locations, and served as coordinator for the American Legion oratorical contest in Erie County. The winner of the contest, Kashmeel McKoen, was from City Honors High school in Buffalo and went on to the 8th District contest. Gregg then reported that the District would again be supporting the William P. O'Connell ROTC SONS Scholarship and the Kim Huson Memorial Scholarship of \$250 given to an eligible high school Legion Family member. The District was discussing deadlines and initiatives to help collect consolidated reports and officer certification forms, and received our first written communication from our Canadian contingent in years. Gregg also reported some success at reforming an Allegany County SONS organization. Gregg concluded his report with news of two Josh Dogs being given out, and announced the next 8th District meeting would be in East Amherst on February 7th 2010 in the Jurek Post.

A motion made by Doc Gibbs and duly seconded by Ross Polson to accept the 8th District report, so carried.

- **Department Guest - SONS Membership Coordinator, Paul DeLair** congratulated the Detachment on making the last 2 target dates and hoped we could keep it up. We need 3,000 more members to make next quota, but he is confident we will succeed. Paul then told everyone that Annie Wilsey was on the mend, and was looking forward to getting back to the office. Finally, Paul spoke about making sure squadrons keep track of any over charges or under charges when it comes to sending in membership cards and payments. Squadrons with credits can send in cards without payment to get even again. He then thanked the members for the great job so far this year, and asked us to keep up the good work.

2.12 **10th District Commander Roy Mezzapelle** reported on his visitations with Commander Bishop to Nassau & Suffolk Counties. According to Roy, the Commander was recognized for his dedication to our Veterans and our organization. The Commander outlined the goals and accomplishments of the Detachment SONS and delivered very memorable addresses. Roy then spoke on the membership in the 10th District, currently at 61%, and reminded all the members not to hold on to cards and to send them in ASAP. Mr. Mezzapelle then listed several events including; Memorial Day, VA visits, fund raisers and Visitations, that he had participated in. The 10th District was still waiting to have an official vote for District officers, and Roy was confident that the vote would happen prior to Convention in July. He then concluded his report with a heart felt thank you and congratulations to Vice Commander 2/10 - John Rodgers, for all the hard work and dedication he has shown recently in support of the SONS.

A motion made by Roy Mezzapelle and duly seconded by Ray Jarvis to accept the 10th District Report, so carried.

Commanders Advisory Chairman Gary Denmon reported that the Commander had a meeting with the advisory committee in the fall and must have learned a lot, because he has done a super job.

A motion made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Ray Jarvis to accept the Commanders Advisory report, so carried.

2.14 **Vice Commander 1/9, Ken Kratzer** reported putting up photo's and recordings of SONS radio programs on the website. Ken spoke about recruiting members that are interested in supporting our Veterans and the Legion programs as a whole, not just more people to sit at the bar. Ken reminded the members that articles with pictures help promote what we do, and that it is very important that people see & hear about our accomplishments. Currently there are over 6,000 photos on our website, so take some time and review them. Next Ken talked at length on the Jewish Chaplains Memorial being planned for Arlington National Cemetery. To date over \$8,000 has been raised for this memorial, and the total cost was estimated at \$17,000 to complete. Ken then talked about the West Point Army/Navy basketball game, and that he and some fellow SONS have attended the game and displayed the extremely large flag the color guard uses on the field. Ken pointed out that West Point was a place ripe for recruiting new Sons members. Ken then concluded by reminding everyone about the "Freedom Team Salutes" program and encouraged all members to get more info from our website.

A motion made by Ken Kratzer and duly seconded by Gregg "Doc" Gibbs to accept the Vice Commander 1/9 report, so carried.

2.15 **Vice Commander 2/10, John Rodgers** reported being very busy with Visitations and the fall conference. Kings County had held its first Children & Youth fundraiser and had a tremendous turnout and raised lots of money. On November 8th John attended a first of its kind veterans mass honoring all Veterans, Legionnaires, and Sons in honor of their service to the Nation, and was a very moving ceremony. John attended services at Cypress Hills on Veterans Day. John was also invited to speak at a memorial mass held at the Floyd Bennett Post by the Legion Post Commander. The parade of Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons were cheered through the streets on route to the local church while being escorted by the NYPD and the Kings County Band. John also reported that several Squadrons and County organizations were being reformed and that Nassau

and Suffolk Counties were looking for officers to fill those County Sons positions. John then reported on a Thanksgiving collection of canned foods for gift baskets, and the Christmas gifts collected for the auxiliary gift shop in the Brooklyn VA. The Kings County Sons put on a coat, hat and scarf drive for homeless Veterans and needy families and collected 30 bags of donations. Mr. Rodgers then concluded his report by telling of the hard work of the Kings County Sons collecting and distributing over 1000 toys to Squadrons, families of Military Servicemen at Ft. Hamilton, and to the Con Their Post at the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility in Richmond County.

A motion made by John Rodgers and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept Vice Commander 2/10 report, so carried.

- 2.16 **Vice Commander 3/4, Robert Myrtle** reported that the Sons showed great support during the 10 visitations he attended. Sons helped out in every capacity from cooking, and cleaning, to serving as Chaplain and making introductions for the Visitations. Robert was proud of the service the Sons were giving in support of the Legion and encouraged squadrons and members alike to support the Department Commanders' NEF fund. Bob then reported that six squadrons had reached 100% in the 4th District for membership, and the 3rd District had 3 squadrons make 100%. Membership overall was steady and above quota for both Districts, but more work was needed to finish the job. Vice Commander Myrtle then went on at length about our women in military and the history of our famous lady patriots and Veterans such as; Betsy Ross, Abigail Adams, Dr. Mary Walker, Florence Budin, Loretta Walsh and Hillary Clinton. These women warriors were honored at the Women's Armed Forces Monument Dedication in Ulster County on November 8th 2009. Bob also thanked the North Albany Squadron # 1610 for raising over \$7,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Bob also thanked Chairman William Lutz for his help with the Josh Dogs that were sent for the Albany Medical Center that supports 25 Counties in Upstate NY. Yet another project that Bob recognized was the Homeless Veterans Program that provided 3 presents to each child of the 37 Veterans included in the program. Mr. Myrtle concluded his report with information on the 3rd District Oratorical contest. He said he was proud of the ideals these young people spoke about, and predicted to a very bright future for these articulate and patriotic young people.

A motion made by Robert Myrtle and duly seconded by William Lutz to accept Vice Commander 3/4 report, so carried.

- **Department Commander, William Kearsing** addressed the DEC, members, and distinguished guests in attendance. He thanked the members for all their hard work and dedication, then asked for their support of the his project the NEF. Mr. Kearsing then commended the job our Commander David Bishop was doing, and told about how well received he has been throughout the State Visitations.
- **Detachment Commander, David Bishop** addressed and thanked the DEC, members, and distinguished guests for all that they do in support of our common goals. He then introduced Joseph Gladden (MD), Keith Murdough (NH), Department Commander William Kearsing and John Kerestan the National SAL Liaison for the purpose of extending greetings to our Detachment.

Detachment Commander David Bishop then Presented each of our Detachment guests with a Certificate of Appreciation for Attending our Mid-Winter Conference.

Commander Bishop declared the Executive Meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New York in recess until 8:30AM tomorrow.

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- The Colors in place, a hand salute was ordered by Detachment Commander Bishop
- Acting Chaplain Christopher Burtch invoked the Blessing of God
- The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Vice Commander, Ross Polson
- Detachment Commander Bishop declared the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York re-convened
- Adjutant Robert Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present

2.00 COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS (continued)

2.17 **Vice Commander 5/6, John Knapp** reported being very busy accompanying Detachment Commander Bishop with the Visitations of the 5th & 6th Districts. They started in Broome County on October 2nd. Then on October 17th he attended the National Commanders Visitation in Big Flatts New York. The 5th District Visitations started on October 30th and he met many new people in that District. In November John went to the schoolmasters' dinner for the Broome County Boys & Girls State Program and met some outstanding young students. On December 7th John visited the Bath VA Center and helped out with the VA Gift Shop Program. The Veterans and their families were very glad to have the gifts that were given. On December 25th John and his wife spent Christmas with their new baby grandson, and then later it was on to Legion Post #80 in Binghamton to help with Christmas dinner. The dinner is put on to bring a little joy to the hard timers, and means a whole lot to the community.

A motion made by John Knapp and duly seconded by Ross Polson to accept Vice Commander 5/6 report, so carried.

2.18 **Vice Commander 7/8, Ross Polson** thanked everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and everything else the members did during his recent recovery. The Legion Family really went all out in his time of need and Ross truly appreciated the efforts. Ross has been busy taking care of the squadrons that have failed to report and has concentrated on retaining the members we had last year. Ross reported District 8 was at 47.06% and District 7 was at 69.93%, and even though they are ahead of last year, the Districts need to continue to push towards 100%. Ross then discussed the importance of letting our members know the benefits of belonging to the Legion Family and all of the great programs that we offer. That being said, Ross then emphasized the importance of promoting and advertising what we do to the public and looking on with pride at what we have accomplished. Ross looked forward to the Visitation in the 7th & 8th Districts with Commander Bishop, and on working to accomplish all the goals that have been set. Ross closed by asking that we all keep our men and women protecting our freedoms, in our armed forces, in your prayers.

A motion made by Ross Polson and duly seconded by William Lutz to accept the 6/7 District Vice Commander's report, so carried.

2.19 **Internal Affairs Chairman, Raymond Jarvis** called forth his committee chairmen to report; **Membership Chairman, Ted Armbrust** first congratulated the Detachment on making the first three target dates. Great effort, but keep it up to get 100%. There were still some 0's to take care of but reminders are going out and should help bring in the delinquent members. Ted is confident that we will reach our goal by Detachment Convention in July. Ted also thanked all 43 squadrons that made 100% by January 15th. This number was up from the 27 squadrons that made 100% the previous year. Ted concluded by offering his help to anyone that needed it, especially in the area of membership.

Membership Results as of January 7, 2010 were as follows;

1st – John Rodgers Districts 2/10 – 71.73% 2nd – Robert Myrtle Districts 3/4 – 65.23%
3rd – Ken Kraetzer Districts 1/9 – 61.19% 4th – John Knapp Districts 5/6 – 60.99%
5th – Ross Polson Districts 7/8 – 58.5%

Next **Member Training & Development Chairman, Roy Mezzapelle** reported that the materials for both the Membership Training Seminar, and the Advisors Seminar, were now updated and ready to be used in our workshops. The Advisors Seminar was very useful to the participants, especially when it came to stressing deadlines, and giving the cutoff dates for many of the Sons forms. The feedback from the sessions seemed to indicate a second more advanced class may be needed to tackle other issues more in depth. Possibly a Leadership II Class like the National Program does. Roy then thanked the members for their participation and looked forward to adding to next years program.

Next **Conventions Chairman, Dean Williamson** reported that preparations for the Binghamton Convention 2011-2012 were underway and on track, and should have an in depth report at Convention in July. The Syracuse SONS Convention will open with the CWF Golf Tournament to be held Wednesday July 14th at Northern Pines Golf Course on Route 31 in Cicero NY, with lunch provided at the Mattydale Legion Post just 10 miles away. The price is \$55.00/person or \$220.00/team and hole sponsorships are \$25.00 each. The Detachment raised over \$2000.00 last year, and we hope to surpass that amount this year, so get out and get our squadrons to sponsor a hole in support of the CWF. Dean then reported that the SONS Headquarters would be in the Doubletree, formerly the Windham, where we stayed in 2003 on Carrier Circle. The meet the Candidates luncheon will be 12:00 noon on Thursday in the hotel, and the Installation luncheon will be Friday at the East Syracuse Post #359 at 2PM. The post is only 5 minutes from the hotel and busses will be provided. The cost of the installation luncheon is \$18.00 for a clambake style meal, so get your tickets early because there will not be any sold at the door. The Department parade will step off at 6:30 PM on Friday Night and will be followed by the Band Thunder Canyon performing at the Oncenter Complex from 8PM to 11PM. Busses will run for the parade as well as continuously between the hotels during the Convention. Some other local attractions in town during our convention include the Syracuse Nationals Classic Car Show, and the Blues Fest downtown. Dean then concluded his report with his thanks to the people on his committee for all the time and hard work that has gone into planning this event.

A motion made by Ray Jarvis and duly seconded by Ross Polson to accept the Internal Affairs report, so carried.

→ **Department of New York President Karyn L. Porempski** addressed the DEC and Detachment membership on her experiences traveling with Commanders Kearsing and Bishop as they Buzz around the State on the Visitations. She then told the members that they should be proud of the Job Commander Dave Bishop is doing and to keep up the good work, especially in regards to the CWF.

Detachment Commander David Bishop then Presented Department President Karyn L. Porempski with a Certificate of Appreciation for attending our Mid-Winter Conference.

Boys State Chairman – David Downey spoke to the members assembled about the Boys State Program and some of the upcoming changes to the program. The cost of sending a boy will be going up from \$250.00 to \$275.00 for a 6 day stay. Dave also requested that the squadrons work harder at recruiting members to attend Boys and Girls State. The total number of Boys attending last year was 1008 compared to 1100 just two years prior to that. Nationally the trend is the same, with 1500 less boys attending the Boys State Programs, so remember to explain how great the program looks on a resume or college application. Dave also reminded the Sons that we can also sponsor Girls State members as well, and can be added to the consolidated report.

- 2.20 **ANEC, Raymond Jarvis** reported that the new Consolidated Report Forms will be out soon, and to fill them out and return them ASAP so the numbers can be tallied up before convention. Ray told the members to make sure they get the reports in before May 1st for judging and to use the line marked **Other** for any items not covered somewhere else on the form. Ray also advised squadrons not to attach any other sheets or forms to the report because they tend to get separated and lost. Next Ray talked about the Fang Wong for National Commander Project. Ray stated that the committee no longer needs any Liquor donations, but would welcome any monetary donations that squadrons would like to make. Ray then encouraged any interested squadron to put on a fundraiser just for that purpose and make the Donation at Convention to show how hard we are working to promote our Past Detachment Commander Fang Wong. Raymond then concluded his report with some reminders of upcoming events such as; Washington Conference, Hill Day, the National Commanders Visitations, and the Spring NEC in Indianapolis on May 1st to 3rd.
A motion made by Ray Jarvis and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the ANEC report, so carried.
- 2.21 **Finance Chairman, David Lee** reported that some member reimbursements will be held if verification of attendance can not be confirmed. Please sign into meetings and make sure you are there for roll call because the Detachment only pays officers if they fulfill their duties. David also addressed a question as to where a donation to the Fang Wong Committee was paid for by explaining that the budget all ready had a line item set aside for it. David then requested that a loophole in the mileage reimbursement language be closed by way of a motion. David and the committee were worried that an officer for the Detachment of New York could live out of State and receive mileage reimbursement from their out of State residence to the event that they are to officially attend. Mr. Lee and the Finance Commission recommended changing the wording to "Mileage will be based on actual mileage driven or the mileage from the State Capital to the actual meeting location, whichever is less." to insure the integrity of the reimbursement policy. David commended the members on their timely and accurate use of the vouchers and pointed out that the Midwinter Conference this weekend cost \$16,000 to put on.
A motion made by Ray Jarvis and duly seconded by Ross Polson to accept the Finance report, so carried.
- 2.22 **Legion Advisor, Maurice Arthur** thanked the members for their hard work and dedication to the Legion and told the members present that he is learning a lot about our meetings and the rules we use in them. Maurice then offered his help and guidance to the Detachment when needed.
A motion made by Ray Jarvis and duly seconded by William Lutz to accept the Advisor's report, so carried.
- 2.23 **NEC, John Bogart** reported on the functions and activities he attended since the fall DEC meeting including; The National Commanders Visitations, the fall NEC meeting in Indy, the Wreathes across America ceremony in Bath, and the 7th District meeting at the Hornell Post. John then talked about the National Commander Mark Arneson's Triple Nickel Project, and asked the squadrons how they were coming along with starting up 10 new squadrons in the State. John also informed the members that he is still pursuing the PUFL program for the Detachment of NY, and that more info was to come. John concluded with a reminder that the National Commanders homecoming is March 12th to 14th and the National Vice Commander East homecoming is March 19th -21st and planned to be in attendance at both.
A motion made by John Bogart and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the NEC report; so carried.
- 2.24 **Master Sgt. at Arms, Fred Merscher** reported a total of \$22.00 in fines collected, and David Downey was responsible for \$20.00 worth of the fines for signing in under a false name.
A motion made by Ray Jarvis and duly seconded by Ross Polson to accept Master Sgt. at Arms report, so carried.

- 2.25 **Detachment Adjutant, Robert Avery** congratulated the Detachment Sons for making 3 membership target dates, and reminded everyone that February 10th was the 75% target date and May 12th was the 100% target date. Bob was proud to report 48 squadrons had made the 100% by January 15th cutoff date.

The Adjutant then went over the following dates;

Feb. 28 - March 3 rd 2010	Washington Conference
March 6 th 2010	Department Oratorical Contest
March 10 th	Cutoff Date for National Membership Citation
April 10 th	3 rd mailing of membership renewal postcards
May 1 st	Deadline for preprinted membership cards
May 1 st -3 rd	Spring NEC in Indianapolis
June 15 th	Cutoff date for Detachment Membership Awards
June 27 th – July 3 rd	Boys State – SUNY Morrisville
July 15 th – 17 th	Detachment Convention in Syracuse
August 27 th - 29 th	National Convention – Milwaukee, WI
September 17 th – 19 th	National Children & Youth Conference
September 24 th – 26 th	National Americanism Conference

He then informed the members present that the new consolidated report forms will be out by February, and that there would be very few extra copies available. Bob then reported on the recovery status of Annie Wilsey, and then read a Thank You card she had sent about the Flowers the Detachment sent to her. Then Bob read 3 Thank You cards sent from the CWF for the donations of \$2,000 \ \$855 \ \$2,500 sent over the year in support of the project. Bob then concluded with a reminder to send in the Officer Certification Forms ASAP or better yet, fill them out online on the SONS website. Bob also encouraged all the members of the Detachment to check out the website and look at all the information available 24/7 at your fingertips.

A motion made by Ray Jarvis and duly seconded by John Rodgers to accept the Adjutant's report, so carried.

- 2.26 **Detachment Commander, David Bishop** reported making all of his first 40 Visitations, and could not wait to get back at it and finish them off. David then went on about his travels and his relationships with his counterparts of the American Legion Family. The Commander finished with a request that all the members present, redouble their efforts to aid and comfort our Veterans and to protect the reputation of The Sons of The American Legion.

3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

None reported

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None reported

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

- 5.01 **A motion was made by Ross Polson and duly seconded by Ray Jarvis to Donate \$2,500 to Leading candidate for National Commander Fang Wong, so carried.**
- 5.02 **A motion was made by Ross Polson and duly seconded by Ray Jarvis to change the expense authorization for mileage of out of State members to read "Mileage will be based on actual mileage driven, or the mileage from the State Capital to the actual meeting location, whichever is less." To take effect immediately after this meeting, so carried.**

- 5.03 Ken Kraetzer gave a POW\MIA update on the status of the program and how the Sons can help. Currently the American Legion and DOD are still looking for over 75,000 MIA's of World War II. The newest and most accurate means of identification of missing remains is with the use of DNA samples. JPAC is now collecting and cataloging DNA of relatives of lost service members in hopes future matches can be made when remains are discovered, and the search goes on.
- 5.04 **A motion was made by Robert Myrtle and duly seconded by Ray Jarvis to pay per diem to leadership workshop attendees, so carried.**

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 6.01 **ANEC, Raymond Jarvis** announced that the Jefferson County Chile Cook Off - raised \$32,000 for the transport of sick and elderly patients. This money covered 460,000 miles of travel for doctors' appointments. Ray also had raffle tickets available for a TV and TomTom GPS unit.
- 6.02 **PDC, Gary Denmon** made a Donation of \$1,000 to the CWF from money left over from his year as Detachment Commander.
- 6.04 **Children & Youth Chairman, Bill Lutz** reported that he had only 4 CWF shirts left for sale. Bill reminded the members that sales of these shirts can go on our Consolidated Report as funds donated to the CWF. Shirts are \$25.00 each and can be ordered using the information on the Sons website.
- 6.05 **Historian, William Lutz** presented the Commanders year in pictures to past Detachment Commander Gary Denmon.
- 6.06 **PDC, Thomas Kurk** announced his intention to run for NEC at convention in Syracuse.
- 6.07 **Historian, William Lutz** announced that he will be seeking another term.
- 6.08 **PNC, Christopher R. Cerullo** thanked the Detachment for allowing him the 3 extra days at National, and indicated that it was a very wise investment.
- 6.09 **Vice Commander 7/8, Ross Polson** announced he was seeking a second term.
- 6.10 **Vice Commander 2/10, John Rodgers** announced his intention to run for Detachment Commander 2010-2011.
- 6.11 **Legislative Chairman, Gregg "Doc Gibbs** announced that he is seeking the high office of Detachment Commander for 2012-2013.
- 6.12 **Vice Commander 5/6, John Knapp** announced his was seeking a second term.
- 6.13 **Children & Youth Chairman, William Lutz** announced that we all ready raised \$7,500 for CWF. Then **2nd District Commander Joseph L. Santa Croce and Mr. DeAngelis** made another \$1,000 donation to CWF. Bringing the total amount raised for CWF to \$8,500.
- 6.14 **ANEC, Ray Jarvis** reminded the County Commanders present that they must report to the District so that their work can be accounted for, because National does not have a County Consolidated Report.
- 6.15 Dean Williamson announced that February 20th was Hockey Night in Syracuse and encouraged all to attend the outdoor game.
- 6.16 **PDC, Thomas Smallcomb Jr.** – announced the November 11th opening of the NY State Veterans Facility in Oxford. The Past Commander and a select few toured the building and picked a wall for PDC Smallcomb's Tree of Life Project. This tree allows sponsorship through the purchase of

leaves for the tree's branches with a name etched on each leaf. This project had taken 11 years to become reality and Tom wanted to thank all those that helped.

- 6.17 **NEC, John Bogart** reminded the membership that Commander David Bishop could receive \$550 in American Emblem credit if we obtain the 85% renewal rate. So keep working hard for the Detachment Commander and get the cards sent in.
- 6.18 **Historian, William Lutz** spoke on the NEADS Project and how the VA is pushing for the government to cover the costs of these dogs for our wounded Veterans. Bill reminded the members that the dogs cost \$10,000 each, and the Detachment of NY had given \$1,000 last year.
- 6.19 **National SONS Vice Commander EAST, Keith Murdough (NH)** addressed the membership and thanked them for all the outstanding hospitality shown to him during his visit. Keith was very impressed with our Detachment meeting and the leadership shown by our Commander and his officers.

With no further business to be brought before the Detachment Executive Committee,

- Commander Bishop requested that Acting Chaplain Christopher Burtch offer the closing prayer
- Master Sergeant at Arms retrieved the POW/MIA flag
- Joseph E. Zaloga Squadron #1520 Color Guard retrieved colors as the membership saluted

Detachment Commander, David Bishop declared the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New York adjourned at 10:43 AM.