



MINUTES
OF THE
DETACHMENT
OF
NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 17TH 2011
HAMBURG, NY

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Detachment of New York
112 State Street
Suite 1300
Albany, NY 12207
518-463-2215



MINUTES OF THE FALL D.E.C. MEETING

September 17, 2011

Hamburg A.L. Post #527

Hamburg, New York

- Color Guard posted colors.
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco.
- Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Chaplain James Coats offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Robert Myrtle led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
- V/C Vince Green led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
- Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs called the Meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.
- Adjutant Robert Avery took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- Commander Gibbs then asked the Sergeant at arms to escort the Erie County Commander to the podium for a welcome and some remarks.
- The Commander then went over some housekeeping issues and dinner information.

1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 **NEC Thomas Kurk made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the Pre DEC Meeting, Convention, and Post DEC Meeting and accept them as printed with minor corrections, as noted. The motion was seconded by ANEC Jerry Ketchum and was carried.**
- 1.02 **NEC Thomas Kurk** addressed the members on the topic of doing away with the fall DEC meeting and instead, reviving the Spring DEC meeting, possibly in conjunction with the Detachment Commanders Homecoming. The Fall Meeting would be replaced with Committee conference calls and organizational e-mails. Please give this idea some thought, and ask your Districts, Counties, & Squadrons their feelings on this matter. This topic could be reviewed and voted on at Midwinter conference.
- 1.03 **Detachment Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs** then asked Post 527 Legion Commander Pat Nealon to come up to the podium and say a few words. The Commander welcomed everyone to the Post and talked about how the Post Legion family was working well together in support of the Legion and its many programs. Detachment Commander Gibbs then presented a certificate of appreciation to Legion Post 527, Legion Commander Pat Nealon, Auxiliary President Sharon Minderler, and Squadron Commander John Poppenberg for hosting our Fall DEC meeting.
- 1.04 **Detachment Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs** encouraged all the officers and members present to make every effort to attend this years National Legion Convention in Indianapolis Indiana from August 24th to 30th. PDC David Downey reflected on the National convention in Milwaukee Wisconsin last year, and the swearing in of our National Commander Fang Wong. Commander Gibbs then added that the National Convention will be further away and this may be the shortest trip for the next few years.
- 1.05 **Detachment Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs** then asked Past Detachment Commander John Rogers to step up to the podium for a presentation from National Sons of the American Legion for the highest retention rate in the Organization at 91%. The Commander also had the banner from Binghamton Convention available for everyone to sign or leave a message on to our outgoing Commander John Rogers.
- 1.06 **Detachment Chaplain James Coats** requested the members to sign the cards for Kevin Deruso and Linwood Penhallow that were located at the back table.

Committee Meetings – Recess until 12:45 P.M. or sooner if finished.

Meeting Reconvened at 11AM

Detachment Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs informed the members that our Legion Advisor Maurice Arthur had arrived. Commander Gibbs asked the members to challenge themselves to pick just one project or item that they excelled at last year and do it bigger, better or bolder this year. He wanted everyone to make a report at Midwinter Convention on what we did and how we made it bigger, better, or bolder. This idea of doing things Bigger, Better, and Bolder would be his theme this year. The example made by the Commander was to bring a friend to your next Squadron meeting.

Detachment Adjutant Robert Avery then handed out the awards from the 2011 Convention in Binghamton. They were as follows:

Americanism

150 or less members

3 rd Place: Cottreall-Warner Squadron #942	Monroe County	Dist 7
3 rd Place: Walter T. Conley Squadron #1107	Cayuga County	Dist 7
2 nd Place: Antwerp Squadron #916	Jefferson County	Dist 5
1 st Place: John B. Handte Squadron #89	Broome County	Dist 6

Over 150 members

3 rd Place: Cassadaga Memorial Squadron #1280	Chautauqua County	Dist 8
3 rd Place: Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457	Ontario County	Dist 7
2 nd Place: Munnsville Squadron #54	Madison County	Dist 6
1 st Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County	Dist 7

Children & Youth

150 or less members

3 rd Place: Hughes-Skiba Squadron #535	Cattaraugus County	Dist 8
2 nd Place: Levittown Squadron #1711	Nassau County	Dist 10
1 st Place: Walter T. Conley Squadron #1107	Cayuga County	Dist 7

150 or more members

3 rd Place: Chili Squadron #1830	Monroe County	Dist 7
2 nd Place: Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457	Ontario County	Dist 7
1 st Place: Fountain Brothers Squadron #1619	Clinton County	Dist 4

VA&R

150 or less members

3 rd Place: Greenwood Lake Squadron #1443	Orange County	Dist 9
2 nd Place: Floyd Bennett Squadron #1060	Kings County	Dist 2
1 st Place: Antwerp Squadron #916	Jefferson County	Dist 5

150 or more members

3 rd Place: Northeast Squadron #1645	Broome County	Dist 6
2 nd Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County	Dist 7
1 st Place: Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457	Ontario County	Dist 7

Membership

Largest Squadron:

3 rd Place: Winnek Squadron #396	Ontario County	Dist 7	390 members
2 nd Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County	Dist 7	405 members
1 st Place: New Hartford Squadron #1376	Oneida County	Dist 5	468 members

Most new members:

3 rd Place: New Hartford Squadron #1376	Oneida County Dist 5	65 members
2 nd Place: Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Squadron #1040	Albany County Dist 3	73 members
1 st Place: John P. Eaton Squadron #746	Steuben County Dist 7	161 members

Highest percentage increase over prior year(Under 300)

3 rd Place: Greenlawn Squadron #1244	Suffolk County	Dist 10	137%
2 nd Place: Sorrell-Woodward Squadron #1623	Clinton County	Dist 4	150%
1 st Place: Michael L. Rawley, Jr. Squadron #1636	Kings County	Dist 2	240%

2.00 REPORTS

2.01 **Americanism Chairman Jim Coates** recognized the members of the Americanism Committee to be James Coats (Chairman), Chris Burtch, Robert Myrtle, Chuck Depo, Kirk Tyler, and James Parks. The commission would once again deliver the customary flag etiquette and education materials at midwinter to the District Commanders. This year the "What America Means To Me" essay contest would be updated and put on our website. In order to promote greater participation, the Commission requested 2 contact people for each District. These representatives would reach out to the various local schools to increase the number of entries in the contest. The Goal is to have so many essays that we would require more help to judge them. This may in turn create the impetus for Squadrons, Counties, & Districts to create local essay contests. Last year the Americanism Commission judged the essays at Midwinter Convention. This worked out well for the winners because we were able to furnish the pizza parties for the winners and their class before school recessed for the summer. This year the Commission will be looking to raffle off a laptop computer to support the program, with tickets expected to be sent to the District Commanders, and the drawing to take place at Convention in Rochester. Mr. Coats then went over the Lewis & Cerullo Scholarship information, as well as the William P. O'Connell Memorial Scholarship and mentioned having an informational meeting at midwinter to get the info out.. The rules and applications can be found on our website, www.sonsdny.org . Jim requested that we as members make our Sons and Junior Auxiliary aware of these very valuable opportunities. Jim then concluded his report with a plea for every squadron to send in a Consolidated Report Form. This year we had 105 reports turned in, but that number could have been much greater since there are 378 Squadrons in the Detachment of New York.

The Americanism totals of the Detachment of New York for last year were as follows:

\$336,844.75 in program costs and community service donations.
33,271 flags presented or place on graves or given away for parades.
71,643 Volunteer hours and \$16,209.50 in NEF Donations.

A motion made by Jim Coates and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the Americanism report was carried.

2.02 **Children & Youth Chairman Gaither Espey** went over some of the great programs in need of support under Children & Youth. The Child Welfare program is our most prolific program and this year will be an important priority for our National Commander Fang Wong. He then suggested asking each member to donate \$1.00 to the CWF when paying their membership, in support of our one dollar per member goal for National. Gaither then went into some specific details on Camp Good Days and Special Times, Double "H" Hole in the Woods Ranch, CMN, and Josh Dogs. He then concluded his report with a list of some of the other programs we as Sons could support including; Autism, Boy Scouts, Special Olympics, Junior Shooting and youth sports. Gaither then asked all the Sons to remember to report what they have accomplished on their Consolidated Report Form.

A motion made by Thomas Kurk and duly seconded by Ray Jarvis to accept the Children & Youth report was carried.

Detachment Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs informed the members of an Idea he had while visiting the four corners party at National Convention. He wanted to print up a Detachment T-Shirt to sell for \$10 or \$15 to make \$5/Shirt for the CWF or other worthy project. The shirt would be a very recognizable way to show off our strength in numbers at the many events we attend, and would be a more affordable way for some members to participate and show their support. The shirt would be two sided with the Sons Logo on the front and a print on the back. The Commander said he would print up 60 or so and bring them with him on Visitations, as well as to the Fall NEC, and Midwinter. Please contact him if your interested.

2.03 **Internal Affairs Chairman Ray Jarvis** asked Conventions and Meeting Chairman Gerald Shepard to give his report.

A. Conventions and Meetings as given by Robert Avery reported 2012 Convention would be held in Rochester July 18th to the 21st. The Sons will be staying at the Rochester Plaza Hotel on State Street, and the room rate is \$115.00 per night. The Sons Golf Tournament will be Wednesday at either Chili Country Club or Craigie Brae golf course. The Luncheon will follow at Chili Post 1830. Gerald then told the members that the committee was thinking about having the Officer Installation luncheon at the Sons hotel to avoid all the running around and expense of renting a bus for transportation to and from a local Legion Post or the local 40&8.

Internal Affairs Chairman Ray Jarvis then asked Member Training and Development Committee Chairman Roy Mezzapelle to come up and give his report.

B. Member Training and Development Chairman Roy Mezzapelle reported that the presentations for both the Advisors seminar and Leadership Workshop had been updated and reviewed by the commission. The committee tweeked some of the information and edited the length of the presentations to keep it short and to the point. Roy then asked for help from the District Commanders in finding interested Sons to attend the Commanders Training Course. He stressed the necessity of having a full class of 20 students, 2 members from each of the 10 Districts, and asked each District Commander to have a list of alternates in case vacancies opened up. Roy also reminded the members of the incentive of a \$65 Per-diem payment for those that sign up and complete the course. This course is open to any member, not just the current or incoming Squadron Commanders. Everyone can learn and take something useful away from this course. The commission also decided to cut down on the number of comity and commission presentations and concentrate on just a few each year. This year the Training would concentrate on Americanism at midwinter, and would consist of a 1 hour presentation on the many facets of the Americanism program. Detachment Commander Gibbs then asked all the Sons that attended Legion College to stand and be recognized, because this was the first time the Department had allowed Sons members to attend. Commander Gibbs hoped to add to this program as well, and encouraged more Sons to sign up for the class this year.

The meeting was Adjourned for Lunch at 12 Noon and Reconvened at 1PM

C. Internal Affairs Chairman Ray Jarvis then read membership Chairman Ted Armbrust’s report. In his report Ted asked all Detachment, District and County officers to review the membership reports on the Sons website and contact those squadrons that have not transmitted membership or are slow to do so. Lend a hand and help increase our membership percentages. Ray then read a list of Squadrons that had not transmitted dues to Detachment for two years. He then asked the District Commanders to reach out and see how we could help get those Squadrons back on the right path, or if the Squadrons are not going to fix the problem then they will need to turn in their Charter. Many of the Squadrons are inactive or disbanded, but will continue to count against our membership

numbers until they are removed from the Nationals list. Ray then explained that these Squadrons could always be reactivated at a later date if the Legion contacted National and went through the process of chartering again.

A motion made by Jerry Ketchum and duly seconded by Thomas Kurk to accept the Internal Affairs report was carried.

- 2.04 **Finance Report given by Thomas Thibault** – Tom asked for any vouchers that needed to be submitted, to please turn them in to him ASAP. He then went over the Per-diem and mileage rates and asked that the members please try to write neatly and provide documents when possible for tolls and expenses. He then welcomed new member Dave “Wheelie” Edgin to the Finance Committee.

A motion made by Thomas Kurk and duly seconded by Robert Myrtle to accept the Finance report was carried.

- 2.05 **The Public Relations Chairman Bruce Ruthvan** went over his committee members and those that were present at the committee meeting. He encouraged the use of press releases for news and promotion. He also went over the materials that would be available at the reception table at midwinter conference and suggested that we purchase bags to hold the materials with the Sons Logo on the one side. Bruce Then reported that the Liberty would have 5 issues this year. The September issue was all ready sent out, and the deadline for the Fall Issue would be October 5th. Bruce then gave the other three deadlines as; January 5th for the New Year issue, April 5th for the Spring Issue, and June 5th for the Convention issue. Bruce concluded his report with a new request for articles, stories, reports, photos and small one line bullet statements on the projects and happenings of the squadrons, Counties and Districts. A new section called “Squadrons in Action” is in the works that will highlight one line statements about functions that quickly state the; who, what when, where and how of our activities throughout the Detachment of New York. This concept will let everyone know what the Squadrons are doing and share the good ideas that work, with the members all around the State.

A motion made by Jim Parks and duly seconded by Roger Hodge to accept the Public Relations report was carried.

- 2.06 **VA&R Chairman Robert Cox** requested more members volunteer to be VA Representatives at their local VA hospital, fisher house or clinic. Currently we have 5 VA Representatives for 13 VA Hospitals, so more needs to be done. Bob reported that some upcoming activities scheduled for this year included; The State wide Walk-a-thon on April 14th (April 21st in Syracuse), helping the homeless Vets, Hero’s to Hometowns, and The Wounded Warrior Project. All the projects are on the web and more info will be available at midwinter. For help anytime for veterans and troops returning from overseas call 1-877-4-AID-VET.

A motion made by Thomas Kurk and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the VA&R report was carried.

- 2.07 **Commanders Advisory Committee Chairman John Rogers** reported that our Commander was doing an excellent job of representing the Detachment on his many visitations. John said Commander Gibbs was the first Sons Commander to have a joint Visitation in **Queens Kings** County, and started a new tradition. John then concluded his report with a request that everyone please get the word out and have plenty of Sons members present at all the Visitations, and to show our Commander a good time during his travels.

A motion made by John Chan and duly seconded by Chuck Depo to accept the Commanders Advisory Committee Report was carried.

- 2.08 **2nd District Commander Peter DeAngelis, Jr.** reported on an August 16th BBQ at the St. Albans VA that featured a blues band. He also talked about the Kings County Firing Squad, and a July 31st Fundraiser that made \$1,400 for the County Color Guard to buy new uniforms. He concluded his report with a review of Commanders Rogers Homecoming and was proud to report 68 Sons members were in attendance.
A motion made by Peter DeAngelis, Jr. and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the 2nd District report was carried.
- 2.09 **3rd District Commander Kevin DeRusso** was looking forward to working with Commander Gibbs this year. The Third District had scheduled a meeting for October 8th to be held on the U.S.S. Slater, a WW II Navy Destroyer Escort, and a full tour will follow. Kevin concluded his report with a pledge to help organize the Ulster County Sons and keep that County working.
A motion made by Kevin DeRusso and duly seconded by Chuck Depo to accept the Commanders Advisory Report was carried.
- 2.10 **4th District Commander Chuck Depo** reported on two events he had attended in the district, and they were, Commander Bowens membership workshop and the American Legion Auxiliary Fall Conference September 5th & 6th. Chuck then reported on the activities of several of his squadrons including; **Squadron 1450** had a Lobster and chicken bake that served 229 people and benefitted the Children & Youth programs, **Squadron 91** helped put on their 90th Legion Birthday Party, **Squadron 1644** worked with their Legion and Auxiliary on their Polish-Polka Day that featured Polish food, beverages, music, & dance, **Squadron 20** was having a Labor Day Raffle and Steak Bake, and **Squadron 1619** was getting ready for their Winter-fest with baskets of food going to needy Vets and their families. Chuck looked forward to the upcoming Visitations and seeing everyone at midwinter.
A motion made by Chuck Depo and duly seconded by Robert Myrtle to accept the 4th District report was carried.
- 2.11 **6th District Commander Richard Hodge** reported that the District had an organizational meeting on August 14th, and had scheduled the first District meeting for October 16th at Cortland Post 489 at 11:00 AM. The Commander was looking forward to the new year, but it was still early and no real business had been discussed yet.
A motion made by Richard Hodge and duly seconded by Robert Myrtle to accept the 6th District report was carried.
- 2.12 **7th District Commander James Parks** reported to be looking forward to the upcoming year as 7th District commander. The District had its first meeting on September 11th at Dansville Post. The discussions at the meeting centered on membership problems and solutions. There was also discussion on the District fund raiser that will feature a hand made red, white, & blue "Chariot of Cheer", with tickets going for \$5.00 each. The raffle will be drawn at the 7th District Convention in 2012. The Squadrons were busy with several activities including; Williamson Squadron #394 had a breakfast on September 18th, Ontario Squadron #428 has a gun raffle on October 1st, and Newark Squadron has a Chicken BBQ on October 9th. The Commander also announced that his project this year would be CMN and that he was selling mouse pads for \$10.00 each to support the Galisano Hospital in Rochester. Jim then concluded his report with some information on the 7th District's new Facebook site, and a story of his Legion College experience.
A motion made by James Parks and duly seconded by Jerry Ketchum to accept the 7th District report was carried.

- 2.13 **8th District Commander Ronald Kuczenski** reported on contacting the last of the 13 Squadrons that had failed to turn in an OCF. Ron also participated in Falconers Squadron #638 HUGO walk to fight ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. He then gave the 8th District meeting dates including; October 2nd in Allegany County, December 4th in Orleans County, February 12th in Erie County, and April 1st in Cattaraugus County. Ron concluded his report with some membership news, and the year was early with already 2% reporting before any meetings had really been held. His goal was to reactivate Niagara Squadron #1322 and Niagara-Frontier Squadron #1041 this year.
A motion made by Ronald Kuczenski and duly seconded by Chuck Depo to accept the 8th District report was carried.
- 2.14 **Detachment Historian Thomas Thibault** thanked the Detachment for giving him the opportunity to serve as Historian again after a long absence. He planned on attending all the Visitations in the 3rd District and asked anyone attending other District Visitations to please email him any pictures to be included in Commander Gibbs yearbook. Tom then concluded his report with a request that all District, County, and Squadron Historians please fill out and send in a scrapbook and report. Please contact him if you need help with this task because awards are given for the best each year.
A motion made by Thomas Thibault and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the Historians report was carried.
- 2.15 **Detachment Chaplain James Coates** reported sending 5 cards since Convention in July. Get-Well Cards were sent to Sharon Polson and PDC Thomas Kurk. Sympathy Cards were sent to; Carol Gloss and Family in Orange County CA, Dale Abrams in Skaneateles NY, and Margaret Wetsall in Hamburg NY for the loss of her husband, and Commander Gibbs mentor, Gary Wetsall. Jim also attended his local Squadron and District meetings. Some activities he attended included a steak roast at his home post in Lima, and helping with his Post's Breakfasts.
A motion made by James Coats and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the Chaplain's report was carried.
- 2.16 **Detachment Vice Commander 1/9 John Chang** reported attending an August 14th fundraiser for John Knapp who is running for Detachment Commander next year. Then he reported on a motorcycle memorial run put on by the Legion Riders of the 911 memorial Post 2011. The ride included 2,000 motorcycles on a ride from NY city to Pennsylvania and back. John also attended a party put on By the 911 memorial post members for the sailors of the USS New York. It was a great honor to meet the men & women that work on that ship day to day defending our freedoms, and for anyone who doesn't know this already – the USS New York is made from some of the steel recovered from the twin towers. John also attended Legion Commander Bowen's seminar on membership in Beacon NY.
A motion made by John Chang and duly seconded by Chuck Depo to accept the Vice Commander 1/9 report was carried.
- 2.17 **10th District Commander Roy Mezzapelle** reported that the 10th District had not yet met for the year, but their first meeting would be in October. Roy commented on surpassing the 2011 membership goal for his District, and County, and hoped to do the same again in the upcoming year. Roy was running into delays with some Squadrons not turning in OCF's and not receiving their membership cards. This problem would be cleared up at the next District meeting. Roy then wrapped up his report with a list of goals for the 10th District that included; Increasing Membership, Establishing New Squadrons, Educating Younger Members, Visit VA Hospitals and VA Homes, and promoting the many fundraising activities of the American Legion and the Legion Family.
A motion made by Roy Mezzapelle and duly seconded by Ronald Kuczenski to

accept the 10th District Commander's report was carried.

- 2.18 **Vice Commander 3/4 Robert Myrtle** reported on a District wide membership workshop held in his post on August 20th. Bob talked about the problems associated with starting Squadrons in Schoharie and Sullivan Counties, because there are no Legion Posts in those counties. Mr. Myrtle then talked about the Legion College and what he learned. Bob then thanked Gaither Espey for all the hard work he was doing as the 4th District Adjutant. Robert concluded his report with a piece of advice for all the members – pick just one project or activity and make it the best you can. By doing one thing well and promoting it, others will notice and hopefully learn from your experience and copy it. “It is better to do one thing and succeed, than to try to do everything and fail.”
A motion made by Robert Myrtle and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the Vice Commander 3/4 report was carried.
- 2.19 **Vice Commander 5/6 Vince Green** was proud to report the 5th/6th Districts were in 1st place in the Detachment with 529 members paid. He then commented on the Squadrons still missing their OCF's and membership cards. Vince was making a point of contacting all the Squadron that are two years delinquent in membership, and would personally follow up with each one to either get the membership fixed or the Squadron Charter turned in. Vince thanked the Oswego County Sons for the BBQ that he attended in Parish on August 8th. Then asked the Sons to do all they could for our fellow members affected by the recent flooding. He mentioned Lou Matthews a Sons member in Maine who had his house ripped off it's foundation and moved a football field away into a farm field, and our own Past Detachment Commander Tom Smallcomb, who had his house condemned because of flood water damage. Vince closed with a pledge to make as many Visitations in the 5th & 6th Districts as his schedule would allow.
A motion made by Vince Green and duly seconded by Thomas Kurk to accept the Vice Commander 5/6 report was carried.
- 2.20 **ANEC Jerry Ketchum** reported on his trip to National Convention in Minneapolis where he was appointed to the National Children & Youth Committee. Jerry also reported \$392,000 was the total donation for CWF last year, and that the Military Kids Program would be added to the Consolidated Report Form. Jerry also mentioned that the CMN has a new logo. Jerry congratulated the Detachment of New York for receiving the award for Highest Membership Renewal Rate and New York Tied with Maryland and another state for first in Americanism, but lost the tie breaker to Maryland. Special thanks to Jim Coats for all his hard work on the Americanism Commission. Jerry was very proud to see \$62,000 raised on the floor of the convention for CWF and even prouder to see Detachment Commander John Rogers donate \$7,330 to CWF on behalf of our Detachment. Other news from National Convention included; Election of James Nobles from New Jersey to Vice Commander East, and Election of National Sons Commander Jim Roberts. Mr. Roberts Membership Theme is “The Great 2012 National Membership Trail Ride” with the ride having 11 stops along the route that will end in Indianapolis at National Convention in August. Each stop will coincide with one of the National Membership Target Dates. Jerry concluded his report with a very nice story of Past National Commander David Dew, and his complimenting The Detachment of New York on the professionalism in the way the Detachment conducts meetings.
A motion made by Jerry Ketchum and duly seconded by Roger Hodge to accept the ANEC report was carried.
- 2.21 **NEC Thomas Kurk** thanked everyone for their cards, letters, and phone calls regarding his recent surgery. He then thanked Jerry Ketchum for taking over at National Convention for him. He concluded his report with thanks to all the members that helped and support Fang Wong for National Commander from New York, and went over the many members that serve on National Committees from the Detachment of New York.

A motion made by Thomas Kurk and duly seconded by John Chang to accept the NEC report was carried.

2.22 **Judge Advocate David Downey** reported he was present and happy to be representing the Detachment.

A motion made by Chuck Depo and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the Judge Advocate's report was carried.

2.23 **Master Sergeant at Arms Greg Falco** reported that there were get well cards in the back that members could sign. Thanks were given for obeying the rules, Greg was short handed, but everyone seemed to follow the rules, so the meeting went smoothly.

A motion made by Roy Mezzapelle and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the Master Sergeant at Arms report was carried.

2.24 **Adjutant Robert Avery** thanked the Commander for his private parking space, and all the members for making the trip out to Hamburg. Bob then went over some of the membership goals and target dates. Bob congratulated the 10 Squadrons and 2 Districts that made the 10% quota. Bob then went over the list of squadrons that still need to pick up their membership cards. He also informed the members about the Legion Commanders membership pin that could be obtained by signing up 5 new members in the Legion, Sons or Auxiliary this membership year. Mr. Avery informed the members that they could sign up for the Legion magazine for \$6.00 per year, and commented that it was a great way to keep up on Legion issues and political news. Bob continued his report with information on new American Emblem items available for the Sons members, like shirts, hats, pins, and Legion Rider apparel. Bob then went over all the upcoming dates for; midwinter January 27-29th, Hill Days in Albany on March 12th & 13th, Washington conference February 26th to 29th, Oratorical Contest in Albany on March 3rd, National Commanders Visitation, Convention in Rochester July 18th to 21st, and National Convention in Indianapolis on August 23rd to 30th.

A motion made by James Coates and duly seconded by John Chang to accept the Adjutant's report was carried.

2.25 **Detachment Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs** thanked the Commanders and Committee Chairmen on hitting almost all the news and major topics for him. The Commander mentioned the National Convention, the 8th District Auxiliary conference in Batavia, and numerous meetings with Department Commander Michael Bowen and Auxiliary President Anne Geer. This years' Legion message will be delivered, one piece at a time, by the three leaders of the Legion family. Commander Gibbs looks forward to using his list of speeches when, and where they are appropriate during the many Visitations throughout the Detachment. Greg closed with a few words on the wonderful opportunity that has presented itself to the Detachment of New York in the form of National Commander Fang Wong and the prestige of having the National Legion Commander from your home state speak so highly of our work for the Legion.

A motion made by Thomas Kurk and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the Detachment Commander's report was carried.

3.00 SICK CALL

3.01 Coronel Crawford – Veteran who passed away.

3.02 Hamburg Post Auxiliary President Sharon Minderler's mother passed away.

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 **Correspondence from Department** – 2 Thank You letters were sent from the American Child Welfare Foundation for the recent donations of \$51.00 and \$2,149.00 for a grand Total of \$2,200 donated at Convention.

- 4.02 **Correspondence from Michael D. Martino** – Thank you to the Detachment of New York Sons for receiving the \$500 Cerullo Scholarship.
- 4.03 **Correspondence from PDC Thomas Kurk** – Thank you for the thoughtful gift of a fruit basket and get well card for his recent surgery.

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

- 5.01 **Thomas Kurk made a motion to Discontinue the practice of a Fall DEC meeting, and in stead, creating a Spring DEC meeting to be held in conjunction with the Detachment Commanders Homecoming, but the motion was tabled – pending more info from Department and the Legion Judge Advocate.**
- 5.02 **10th District Commander Roy Mezzapelle** addressed the membership with the idea for a multi colored cover that would indicate the member was both a Legionnaire and a Sons member. There is a patch that says duel member, but a unique cover would be a better fix. This idea may be reviewed at midwinter for submission to National.
- 5.03 **Adjutant Robert Avery** addressed the members and gave some information on websites that offer free conference calls or video meetings. Bob thought this could be a quick, cheap, and easy fix to some of the meetings the committees and commissions have.
- 5.04 **Correspondence from Department** – Thank you for the Donation of 1,200 Flag Pins for the Boys State Program.

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 6.01 **Jerry Ketchum made a motion to donate \$1,000 to Chris Huntzinger’s Campaign as Leading Candidate for National Sons Commander, and was seconded by Chuck Depo and passed.**


PDC David Downey happily agreed to present the check to Chris at the Fall NEC in Indianapolis in October.

- 6.02 Adjutant Avery noted that Floyd Bennett Post is unique in that they have produced a State leader for all three parts of The Legion Family: Department Commander John Harris, Department President Regina Harris, and now Detachment Commander John Rogers. They are also all from the same actual family. The Post is proud of the achievement and would like to display all three banners in the Post Home. It was noted that a Detachment banner was presented a number of years ago to PDC David Downey who served with PDC Paul Mitras in the same year, both from the same Post. After discussion, a motion was made by NEC Thomas Kurk to purchase a Detachment banner for PDC John Rogers for the Post display. The motion was seconded by 2nd District Commander Peter DeAngelis, Jr. and was carried.

- There being no further business to come before the Meeting, Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco retrieved the POW/MIA banner, Chaplain Jim Coats offered the Closing Prayer, following which, the membership saluted our Nation’s Flag as the Color Guard retrieved them.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 3:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Assistant Adjutant Christopher Burtch


Adjutant Robert J. Avery

*****Revisions in RED: January 15, 2012