



Suite 1300
112 State Street

Sons of The American Legion

THE LIBERTY

Detachment of New York



Albany, New York 12207
(518) 463-2215

Volume 3 Issue 23

www.ny.legion.org/sal

Mid-Winter Issue 2007

Dates of Special Interest:

- February is Americanism month
- Feb 4th - Four Chaplains' Sunday
- Feb 12th—Lincoln's B-day
- Feb 22nd—Washington's Birthday
- March 5-7th—National VA&R Conference; DC
- March 15-17th—American Legion Birthday 1919
- April is C & Y month
- April 2nd—CWF Week
- April 6th—US Entry WWI

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Albert J. Deichler

I want to thank all of the members of the Sons and their families for the time they have spent with me and the traveling party on the visitations we have been on this year. It has been an honor for me to be represented so well by our members and officers on the visitations. As some of you who have been there know, that the visitations do not always run smoothly and we have to make some quick changes, but I believe we are showing what we the Sons are about and that is being part of a large family and being able to adapt.

A large thanks also goes out to all those who have given to my project, the National Emergency Fund. We have received many donations from Squadrons, members, counties and districts as well as from The American Legion and their members.

As I write this article, I am getting ready for the Mid-Winter conference and also getting ready for the final half of traveling this great state. The traveling this year has been more than I could ever imagine. Meeting members of our family and hearing their stories of what has happened in their areas is unbelievable. Seeing the highlights in each county is amazing. There is so much in our own backyards that we never even see ourselves until a friend or family comes to visit.

As the new year enters, we need to get the membership in and seek out those



Detachment Commander Albert J. Deichler

squadrons that need help. For anyone who needs some assistance with their membership, reach out to the membership committeeman in your area. This ten member team is designed to help in all membership areas. Also do not forget to get these committeemen the email addresses for the squadrons and officers (or anyone from the squadron) to help in the future of our organization.

I hope everyone enjoyed their Holiday Season and are looking forward to a prosperous New Year! Remember this is our 75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR, so let's make this the year to remember with our goals, our membership and with everything we do as Sons of The American Legion.

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

by Robert J. Avery

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I welcome all members to this 88th annual Mid-Winter Conference, and I hope that you will take advantage of all of the opportunities offered to learn more about our organization and to meet new friends from the Legion Family here in the Great Department of New York.

As we now make the turn to head down the home stretch of another Administrative Year, I would like to provide a few upcoming dates to keep in mind:

February 14, 2007: 75% Membership Target Date

March 14, 2007: 80% Membership Target Date

March 15, 2007: Cutoff date for determination of National Membership Citation of Achievement Award (Legion Birthday Certificate)

April, 11, 2007: 90% Membership Target Date

April 15, 2007: Deadline to submit resolutions to amend the Detachment Constitution or By-Laws

April 30, 2007: Lt. Michael L. Lewis, Jr. Scholarship application deadline

Rocco and Virginia Cerullo Scholarship application deadline

May 1, 2007: Deadline to transmit current year new members to receive a pre-printed card in the following year

May 9, 2007: 100% Membership Target Date

Blue Brigade Recruiter Award application deadline

May 31, 2007: Consolidated Squadron Report submittal deadline

Charles B. Rigsby Award application deadline

Detachment Recruiter Award application deadline

History Book pre-submittal deadline

June 15, 2007: Cutoff date for determination of various Detachment membership awards

July 1, 2007: Scrapbook pre-submittal deadline

July 4, 2007: Detachment Convention Delegate pre-registration deadline

July 18-21, 2007: Detachment Convention – Niagara Falls, NY

July 24, 2007: Grassroots Veterans Advocate Award application deadline

July 25, 2007: 105% Membership Target Date

August 24-26, 2007: National Convention – Reno, NV

I will take the liberty of congratulating the Squadrons in advance for helping us to achieve our 100% goal in 2007. With your assistance I know that we will succeed!

I also ask that all Squadrons remember to submit the completed Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) by May 31st.

Thank You!

Military Records on Line

Now military service records are available online at www.archives.gov for next of kin family member of a veteran. Has your Squadron ever had to turn down a potential member because they couldn't locate a DD214 for their eligibility into the Sons? Direct them to the Veterans "archives" website, click on most requested, then Military Service

Records. Then go to e-vet recs and request copies of military personal records. Note that this information is only available to the veteran or next of kin. Click on "request military records" and fill out the four steps required. Print out a signature page that you can fax in or mail within 30 days. You should receive the veteran's records within two to four weeks.



Christmas at
Arlington National Cemetery

3rd District Commander's Report

Membership for the 3rd District has been coming in steadily, I have contacted the squadrons who have yet to meet their target dates and we are trying hard to get these memberships in.

I am looking forward to Mid Winter Conference and the upcoming Department Visitations to the 3rd District. I have received a few reports from squadrons on activities that have been going on and would like to share them with you.

Joseph E Zaloga Squadron 1520- Reports that once again this year they were able to support the three transitional and rehabilitation houses located throughout it's area. They were able to purchase some of the household items needed to maintain these houses. They were also able to adopt 20 children from the needy veterans program and provide these children with clothes and gifts for Christmas. Both of those projects were coordinated with the Stratton VA Hospital located in Albany. The Sons of The American Legion members are also volunteering for its Post functions.

North Albany Squadron 1610- Sons of the American Legion Commander, Michael Connors reports that his squadron took on a project called the Wounded Warriors Project (WWP). After listening to the COO of the WWP, Sal Giordano at a speaking engagement Commander Connors wanted to get involved in this great project. Commander Connors told Mr.

Giordano that he was going to set a goal of \$2,500 for the WWP. Through the hard work of Squadron 1610, the Post Leadership, and the Committee, they were able to raise \$10,051 for the WWP. I would like to congratulate North Albany Squadron 1610 on the wonderful job they did on this project. A project they can be very proud of. If anyone would like to know more about the WWP, you can log on to: www.woundedwarriors.org.

Melvin Roads Squadron 1231- Has been very active in our county and district levels. They have hosted many county meetings and a district meeting. This year they have participated in a fundraiser picnic in support of our troops. Squadron 1231 also held their annual 9/11 Remembrance, Pearl Harbor Ceremonies and a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Squadron member, Sean Bagnardi, was the winner of the NYS American Legion Press Associations Scholarship, which was presented at the state convention in Rochester, NY.

Members from the Rensselaer County and Greene County Sons of The American Legion assisted Boy Scout Evan Wolberg's (of BSA Troop 41) work on an Eagle Scout project as he achieved his Eagle Scout ranking. Rensselaer County Sons also made a contribution to the USS Slater on behalf of deceased Rensselaer County and 3rd District SAL Advisor Robert Thibault, who is greatly missed.

Lt. Fred H. Clark Squadron 91

The Squadron started an annual Food Drive this year. The first deliveries we made, we collected a Ford F150 Pickup full of food for the Mechanicville Food Pantry.

Mohawk Squadron 1450 of Halfmoon has been very busy. Most recently the squadron held it's annual Fall Breakfast on October 29th. This year a total of 310 adults and children were served. A total of 120 hours were used in the preparation and serving of this event. It was decided that the proceeds be split into the following programs; Camp Good Days & Special Times \$250, Saratoga County Homeless Veterans \$250, Thanksgiving needy Families (3) \$100 and Christmas presents for children in need through a local school \$350.

This event is one of their larger fundraisers and they are always proud to be giving back to the community.

TAPS: William Dallas, Past Sargent of Arms, Rensselaer County and Squadron; Randy Ritter, Past Squadron Commander.

For the good of the Sons,
Dave Bishop

3rd District Commander



Squadron & Post 1610 members present a \$10,051 check for the Wounded Warriors Project.

Americanism Committee Report by Tim Casselman, Chairman

I would like to remind all Squadrons, Counties, and Districts on the importance of filling out the Consolidated Report Form. These forms give due recognition to your Squadrons for all of your hard work throughout the year, and are used as a support link to address legislative concerns of our organization to Congress. The Consolidated Reporting form is very easy and simple to complete. A sample of the 2006-

2007 form can be viewed at www.sal.legion.org under reporting forms. Many Squadrons still fail to complete and send in their reports each year, and that is a great shame. Why not be recognized for your service to the community, State and Nation? Be proud of your Squadron's accomplishments!

The Americanism Committee would also like to remind you that it is promoting a statewide essay contest

for schoolchildren grades 1-5 entitled "What America Means To Me." The winning entry will receive a one hundred dollar (\$100) United States Saving Bond and a Pizza Party for their classroom. It is essential that our children have a fundamental knowledge and understanding of their own great country. Information and flyers for this project may be found in the December mailing under communications by going to: www.ny.legion.org/sal. Copies will also be given to the District Commanders at Mid-Winter in Albany so they may distribute them throughout their Districts.

Yours for God and Country

History of 'In God We Trust'

The motto IN GOD WE TRUST was placed on United States coins largely because of the increased religious sentiment existing during the Civil War.

It was proposed that upon the designs either OUR COUNTRY; OUR GOD or GOD, OUR TRUST should appear as a motto on the coins. In a letter to the Mint Di-

rector on December 9, 1863, Secretary Chase stated:

I approve your mottoes, only suggesting that on that with the Washington obverse the motto should begin with the word OUR, so as to read OUR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY. And on that with the shield, it should be changed so as to read: IN GOD WE TRUST.

The Congress passed the Act of April 22, 1864. This legislation changed the composition of the

one-cent coin and authorized the minting of the two-cent coin. The Mint Director was authorized to develop the designs for these coins for final approval of the Secretary. IN GOD WE TRUST first appeared on the 1864 two-cent coin.

On July 30, 1956, the President approved a Joint Resolution of the 84th Congress, declaring IN GOD WE TRUST the national motto of the United States. IN GOD WE TRUST was first used on paper money in 1957, when it appeared on the one-dollar silver certificate.

USS New York, a San Antonio class amphibious transport dock, is the sixth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the state of New York. Shortly after September 11, 2001, Governor George Pataki wrote a letter to Secretary of the Navy Gordon England requesting that the Navy bestow the name USS *New York* on a surface warship involved in the War on Terror in honor of September 11's victims. In his letter, the Governor said he understood state names presently are reserved for submarines, but asked for special consideration so the name could be given to a surface

ship. The request was approved on August 28, 2002. This new class of warship, designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft. Twenty-four tons of the steel used in its construction came from the rubble of the World Trade Center, with seven tons melted down and cast to form the ship's "stem bar," part of the ship's bow. The construction workers reportedly treat it with "reverence usually accorded to religious relics," touching it as they

walk by. The contract to build *New York* was awarded to Northrop Grumman Ship Systems of New Orleans, Louisiana in 2003.

The ship's motto? – "Never Forget"



7th District Commander's Report

Since my last report at the Fall DEC meeting, there has been a lot going on. As Commander of the 7th District, I have had the privilege to visit all of my county committees. I have learned what the Squadrons are doing in support of all The American Legion Family programs.

For example, Winnik Squadron #396 in Geneva has purchased and installed a new hardwood floor in the Post Memorial Room. Squadron 396 members try to do at least one big project for the Post every year. On November 4th 10 to 12 members got together purchased and installed a new oak faced laminated floor in the Post Memorial Room. "It was a full day of work to tear out the old and install the new floor" commented Bernie Peck, Squadron Commander, "our members had a good time doing it and the satisfaction for a job well done will last a long time".



Squadron 396 members Howard Bailey, Ben Desio and Drew Spencer installing a new floor in the Post home.

Squadron #457 in Phelps has assisted with decorating their Post and has held many events for the holiday season. Squadron #428 in Ontario has worked with their Post in holding a sportsman raffle, and Squadron #286 in Newark held a breakfast with Santa. The list goes on and on.

Our District joined together and assisted The American Legion Auxiliary with their Veteran's Christmas Gift Wrap and Shop at the Canandaigua VA.

I have had the privilege to travel with the National Commander of The American Legion and attend a testimonial dinner for a Legion member in Canandaigua. I attended the Batavia VA wreath

hanging ceremony and the 8th District meeting.

Our membership is doing well although just like everyone else, we still have a lot of work to do. Congratulations go out to Squadron #468, Greece for being the first Squadron in the Detachment to reach 100%. We have many Squadrons that are close to their 100% goal and a number of Squadrons that have problems that need to be addressed. Our District continues to grow, not only with membership but with Squadrons. We are in the process of starting two new Squadrons in Wayne County.

February will be extremely busy and I am really looking forward to traveling with all of the Department Officers when they visit the Super 7th District. I am also looking forward to traveling with Vice-Commander Jerry to the Eighth for another visit.

I am looking forward to participating in the events that are coming up in the 7th District; our annual American Legion Junior Auxiliary and Young Sons Bowling Tournament, our Camp Good Days and Special Times work day, our participation with CMN's Stroll-A-thon, and the list goes on and on.

In closing, I hope everyone had a great holiday season. To everyone- God Bless all of you and your families.

Ross Polson,
7th District Commander



Youth Bowling



Flag Retirement



Camp Good Days

Membership Report

by Ross Polson, Chairman

Membership, as we all know, is a vital part of our organization. We have all heard the many excuses for not sending in transmittals. Now that it is January, we as an organization, must remind those Squadrons that have not transmitted that they are now delinquent.

I am asking the District Commanders to PLEASE make contact with those Squadrons and ask for assistance from the Membership Committee members to assist you in getting these Squadrons up to date.

We still have, believe it or not, Squadrons that have not sent in their OCFs. This is totally unacceptable. These are issues that need to be addressed ASAP.

On a positive note, the overall Detachment has been doing well. We are ahead of last year and must

continue our efforts to keep on this track.

As Membership Chairman, I congratulate everyone on my committee for working together with the Districts they have been assigned. Working together as a team that encompasses all of the Detachment, can and does make a big difference.

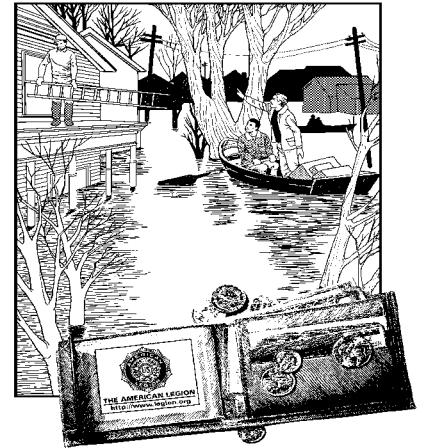
Let us continue to work as a team and we will make all of the accomplishments that we need to make to get our Detachment recognized.

Remember, we are an organization that can achieve ALL of our goals by working together. That is what separates us from other organizations.

In closing, thank you for all of your support this year and remember, the membership committee members are only a phone call away.

For myself, my phone is always on. We are here to assist you, answer questions, and to make the Detachment of New York bigger and better in all ways.

Keep up the great job being done by all of you.



The most important card
in your wallet!

Post 50 Pelham news

SAL Squadron 50 Pelham was written up for our support of Fleet Week in the December SAL National Update newsletter. Post 50 Pelham has just created a website www.legionpost50ny.com.

Developing a website is an activity that every SAL squadron in New York should be looking into. Websites are how volunteer organizations can promote themselves and bring attention to the projects and goals of not only the

SAL but the overall American Legion.

Post website projects can be done jointly with the sponsoring American Legion Post and Auxiliary, individual pages can be devoted to each group. The website should be a place to present officers, contact information, meeting dates, and upcoming activities. It is amazing how much easier it can often be to click on a website to check an event than to try to find a piece of paper. A website can be a form of a low cost newsletter

that even out of town members can check. The website should serve as a credential for the squadron which is important when recruiting new members and discussing projects with other organizations. The effective presentation of the Nassau County website got me going this fall on developing a website for our squadron and post.

More on websites continued on back page.

Ken Kraetzer

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT

Gaither E. Espey, Chairman

I hope you and your families had a Happy & Safe Holiday Season.

It is hard to believe we are already seven months into the Legion year; it seems to be going fast. I am hoping that your Squadron has not forgotten about our Children & Youth Programs.

CMN chairman Bill Lutz has been working very hard on a raffle with

State wide interest and involvement! More details will be given at the Mid-Winter conference, but I can tell you that N.Y. Yankee tickets are part of the package. Thank you Bill for all your hard work.

CWF has been having a wonderful year thus far. The Detachment of New York is in first place in the Nation with over \$16,000 in dona-

tions. Do you realize how much higher this number could be if every Squadron would donate just \$1 a member for CWF? At our Mid-Winter meeting, there will be stuffed CATS available. This is a fundraiser for The Child Welfare Foundation. They will be limited so get them fast. See CWF chairman, Jerry Ketchum or me.

On a final note, please keep in mind that in order for The Great Detachment of New York to stay number one, we must REPORT ALL our Squadron activities.



“Not all Children grow up inside the comfortable definition of “normal childhood development”. For thousands, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer and perseverance. Many of these youngsters require specialized care. To overcome their obstacles, they need help from YOU and The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.”

This paragraph is from the new brochure titled “The American Legion Family”. It depicts the strongest programs most supported by The Legion, The Auxiliary and The SONS. The Child Welfare Foundation is singled out under the Sons of The American Legion Logo. As we are the largest contributor to the CWF, and it has been one of our major programs, let’s keep that tradition alive!

This year is off to a GREAT start! As of 12/14/06, the Detachment of New York is first in the Nation with \$16,907 in donations.

At Mid-Winter there will be

stuffed CATS available. This is the CAT which was auctioned at our last DEC Meeting! It is the national fund raiser for the Child Welfare Foundation. They are just \$5.00 each! Please purchase one or order some to sell in your area.

On December 13th, I sent in a donation of \$132.00, which is a \$1.00 per member from Squadron #286!

Please put The Child Welfare Foundation in your budgets, or host a fund raiser. Please just donate! You may send your donations to me to: Jerry Ketchum, CWF Chairman P.O. Box #40 Honeoye, NY 14471 or to CWF directly at: American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Inc. P.O. Box #1055 Indianapolis, IN. 46206. Either way, please be sure to put on the memo line: DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK SONS! This way it will be properly credited without confusion. If you would like any posters, flyers, or stuffed CATS, etc. e-mail your request to me @ ketchum-sons@frontiernet.net and I will get them out to you.

On behalf of The American Legion

Child Welfare Foundation and the Children it supports, I would like to thank ALL Squadrons who have, and who will be donating to this Great Program.

Jerry Ketchum, CWF Chairman & “CAT” Member



What if...

Last October, in its 51st year of service, the Foundation awarded \$611,381 to 21 organizations. The demand for grant money to serve our nation’s children continues to rise. The Board has initiated a campaign to appeal to Posts and Units to include a line item for the Child Welfare Foundation in their annual budgets. If Posts alone earmarked as little as \$25 a year, this would raise over \$700,000 in yearly contributions. With these added funds, The American Legion could touch the lives of thousands of children throughout this nation.

VA & R Committee Report

by Thomas Kurk, Chairman

Greetings from the Detachment VA&R Committee, we hope every Squadron in the Detachment of New York is working hard for our veterans. We have countless numbers of opportunities to thank our men and women who have served our nation in times of war and conflict, and we must take these opportunities to do so. Not only can we help at the VA hospitals and the New York State Veterans homes, but lets not miss the opportunity to offer assistance to our veterans who are at home and do not have a way of getting out to do errands. We can invite veterans who live in our communities to our American Legion Post homes and put on a breakfast, lunch or dinner for them. Possibly, host a card party or just let them socialize with our

members and the other members of our American Legion Family.

I have said that we need more of our members to get involved at our VA hospitals as either representatives or deputies. We have increased that request by one member. Tim Casselman of Squadron # 286 in Newark has been approved as the representative for the Canandaigua VA hospital. Congratulations Tim. We still have a lot of work to do. We have fourteen VA hospitals in New York State. The Sons of The American Legion have only two representatives from the Detachment serving as representatives or deputies. We ask all of you to get more involved with the Volunteer Services programs.

Let us not forget our veterans who are returning home now from Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the world. We can help those who are serving our nation in a couple of ways. There is the American Legion Family Support Network and the Heroes to Hometowns programs. Both of these programs are designed to help both the soldier returning home and their families. More information can be found at the National American Legion website at www.legion.org. Please click on the links for both of these programs and get involved not only as a Squadron but also as an American Legion Family.



Paying Respect to our Departed Veterans

Wreaths across America, the holiday wreath ceremony honors fallen veterans at more than 200 national cemeteries across the country. The wreath laying tradition that originated 15 years ago at Arlington National Cemetery, in Washington, DC. The hope according to organizer, Nancy Kurk, is to begin a nationwide holiday tradition that recognizes the sacrifices of past members of the US armed services.

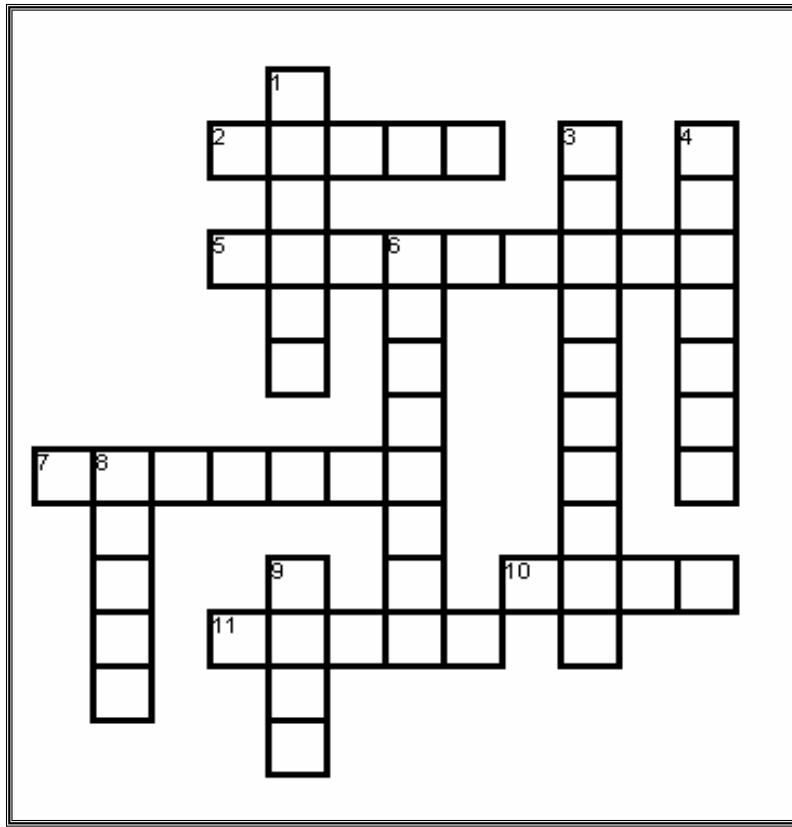
PDC Thomas Kurk presided over the ceremony at the Bath National Cemetery, paying respects to the country's veterans, prisoners of war and the missing in action. One by one, members of each of the United States Armed Services carefully laid holiday wreaths at the base of the central monument, saluted, and

took a moment to pay respects to their fallen comrades.

While the rest of the world continued to hustle and bustle for the holidays, time stood still at Bath National Cemetery. For a few moments, the only sounds heard on the hilltop of the cemetery was the gentle flap of the flags, a gun salute, and, finally, the melody of a bugle echoing through the valley.



PATRIOTS



ACROSS

- 2. "Give me liberty or give me death"
- 5. Author of the Declaration of Independence
- 7. Best known for his signature
- 10. Maker of the First American flag
- 11. Author of "Common Sense"

DOWN

- 1. "The Midnight Ride of Paul ___".
- 3. Father of our Country
- 4. The Great Emancipator
- 6. Founding Father
- 8. Organizer of the Boston Tea Party
- 9. "I regret I have but one life to give"

She Stands for Freedom

Nowhere else on earth is there a symbol that expresses the concept and ideals of personal freedom as dramatically as the Statue of Liberty. Her official birthday is October 28, 1886. She has stood tall and proud in New York's harbor for 120 years. In 1982 after signs of wear and tear were showing, President Ronald Reagan appointed Lee Iacocca to head up a

private sector effort to restore the Statue of Liberty. Fundraising for the \$87 million restoration was very successful under a public/private partnership between the National Park Service and the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation.

Statue of Liberty web site:
<http://www.statueofliberty.org>



Detachment of New York

Elected Officers for the 2006—2007 year:

Albert Deichler - Commander
Peter Booth - Vice Commander
Districts 1 & 9
Robert Ganga — Vice Commander
Districts 2 & 10
Arthur Maggy, II- Vice Commander
Districts 3 & 4
Gary Denmon - Vice Commander
Districts 5 & 6
Jerry Ketchum— Vice Commander
Districts 7 & 8
Dean Williamson - Chaplain
Vince Green - Historian
David Downey— NEC
John Bogart— ANEC

Doing Good, by spreading the word -

Bring your Squadron's public relation personal up to speed by getting the word out about the activities of your members. We know that your Squadrons are active and doing good work, but does the community, your non active members or your Post members know? Its not bragging it's informing!

Public Relations Committee

The Detachment Public Relations Committee would like to thank every member for their contributions and support. Our goal to report all newsworthy items, to educate ourselves and others of the activities and programs of The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion.

Please send your news articles into the Committee

for the Spring issue **by April 5, 2007**

Bruce Ruthven, Chairman
1372 White Rd.
Phelps, NY 14532
(315) 548-9639 (H)
(315) 781-2939 (F)
(315) 374-6157 (C)
Email: sal457@intergate.com

Jerry Ketchum, Committeeman
4920 Morrow Hill Rd
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 229-5549 (H)
(585) 229-4564 (W)
(585) 229-4564 (F)
Email: ketchumsons@frontiernet.net

Tim Casselman, Committeeman
129 Phoenix St.
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 393-1069 (H)
Email: tcasselman@rochester.rr.com

Roy J. Mezzapelle, Committeeman
591 Bauer Court
Elmont, NY 11003
(516) 354-3588 (H)
Email: sons1033@aol.com

John Walpole, Jr., Committeeman
218 Kellum St
West Babylon, NY 11704
(631) 884-1212 (H)
(631) 433-1218 ©
Email: jwalpolejr@sal1634liny.org

Pelham Squadron 50 launched a website on Veteran's Day highlighting our sponsoring Post, the link is www.legionpost50ny.com. In designing the URL, we tried to keep it short and logical. There are Post 50s in several other states so, I made sure to add the NY reference. There are many website hosting packages on the internet, I tested Yahoo, "Site builder" and went ahead to build a trial website and have stayed with their program. The cost was modest at about \$12 per month with a \$25 set-up fee, and the software was much more user friendly than one I used for a past website. You find out that the real investment is the time to learn the system add and maintain content. The American Legion website has several web hosting options that provide preplanned pages.

On the site, we have pictures of Post and SAL activity such as our Memorial Day parades, Veteran's Day events, mailing packages to troops, ROTC support etc. Because we have made an effort to get the Legion and SAL into the public eye, we have pictures of Fleet Week, Shea Stadium color guards, and our trip to the American cemeteries in Italy. Links are provided to a variety of American Legion and military support websites.

We are most proud of the memorial section we have to the 86 residents of the Town lost in five wars over the past ninety years. Recently, we found the accounts of two of our residents lost at Iwo Jima. The nice thing about this is anyone anywhere can access and read these stories of heroism.

I see websites being one of the ways we help the Legion get the message out about support for veterans and active military. Being able to reference politicians to our websites, is another way to attract their support. In some cases, the SAL may be better staffed than the Legion to build websites and provide other key PR roles at the Post and County level for the overall organization.

Best regards, Ken Kraetzer; kgk914@aol.com