



Sons of The American Legion



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Detachment of New York

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www.sonsdny.org

Mid Winter Issue 2010

**Dates of
Special Interest:**

- February is Americanism month
- Feb 7th - Four Chaplains' Sunday
- Feb 10th—75% Membership goal
- Feb 12th—Lincoln's B-day
- Feb 22nd—Washington's Birthday
- Feb 28th—March 3rd Washington Conference
- March 15-17th—American Legion Birthday 1919
- March 18th—Legislative Hill Day in Albany
- April is C & Y month
- April 7th—CWF Week
- April 6th—US Entry WWI

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by David Bishop

Fellow Sons Members

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Since the last newsletter we continued our visitations across the state by visiting the second half of the Sixth District and also visiting the Fifth, Ninth and Tenth Districts as well. I would like to thank all of our sons officers and members who came out for the visitations and I would like to thank all of the Counties, Post, Units and Squadrons for their donations to my project, The National Emergency Fund. I would like to also thank Fifth District Commander, Joe Lenhardt and Tenth District Commander, Roy Mezzapelle for traveling with me throughout their districts. Both Joe and Roy were very instrumental in making sure that the traveling party had their hotel rooms and got us to where we had to be everyday and I thank them for that. It has been a pleasure to travel around the state and to see and hear all the great things we are doing as an American Legion Family. I am so proud to be your commander.

As the second half of the year gets underway we still have to keep focused on working hard to achieve



our goals and agendas. I am happy to report that we were able to reach our last two target dates in membership. But we also know that this is where it starts to get tough on hitting those remaining target dates. Our squadrons have to form a membership team to go after those renewals and to find out why they have not renewed as retention will be the main reason we will be able to hit our 100% membership goal.

We also need our District and County commanders to make sure that our squadrons have the information on deadlines for

Continued on page 3 ...

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

by *Robert J. Avery*

Gentlemen,

Welcome to this 91st Annual Mid-Winter Conference of The American Legion Department of New York. We look forward to this Legion Family event here in Albany each and every year. I hope that you enjoy the various meetings and seminars and functions as we all strengthen our friendships with Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and fellow Sons!

Congratulations go out to all who made it possible for us to achieve the 45% Membership

Target Date on December 9th! We should have over 30 Squadrons receiving a Citation of Achievement for obtaining their 100% by January 15th. The Executive Committee salutes all of the hard working members out there bringing in the membership!

The remaining Membership Target Dates are as follows:

February 10, 2010	75%
March 10, 2010	80%
April 14, 2010	90%
May 12, 2010	100%
July 28, 2010	105%

Please schedule your dues transmittals to have them into headquarters before each of the target dates.

Here are a few more upcoming dates:

Feb. 28-Mar. 3, 2010

Washington Conference 2010

March 6, 2010

Department Oratorical Contest

March 10, 2010

Cutoff date for determination of National Membership Citation of Achievement Award (Legion Birthday Certificate)

April 20, 2010

SAL Postcard Renewal Mailing, 3d notice for 2010 (final for 2010)

April 30, 2010

Consolidate Report Forms due into Albany headquarters

May 1, 2010

Deadline to transmit current year new members to receive a pre-printed card in the following year

May 1-2, 2010

Spring NEC Meeting & NMI 2010

June 15, 2010

Cutoff date for determination of various Detachment membership awards

June 27-July 3, 2010

Department Boys State program – SUNY Morrisville

July 15-17, 2010

Detachment Convention; Syracuse, NY

August 27-29, 2010

National Convention; Milwaukee, WI

Sept. 17-19, 2010

National Children & Youth Conference (tentative)

Sept. 24-26, 2010

National Americanism Conference (tentative)

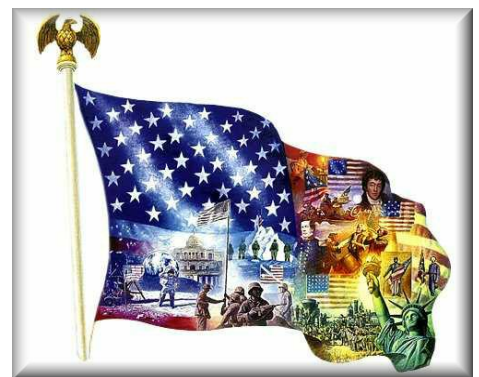
Squadrons are reminded to complete and submit their Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) to Detachment HQ by

April 30, 2009 for Detachment judging. Reports are later forwarded by Detachment to National HQ. You will be receiving the CSR within the next several weeks. Squadrons who have not received a CSR by mid-March should contact Anne Wilsey at Albany HQ 1-800-ALEGION. **Please always remember that it is extremely important to complete the reporting form!**

As we look ahead to May, please remember that you must complete and forward an Officer Certification Form (OCF) to HQ following your Squadron elections. The form and a wealth of other information are always available on our Detachment website (www.sonsdny.org). Also check out our National website at www.sal.legion.org.

In closing, and on behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank you for all that you do in support of our Nation's veterans! May you enjoy a healthy and successful New Year!

Robert J. Avery, Detachment Adjutant



Commander from page 1

scholarship, essay contest and consolidated report forms. You must inform our squadron commanders the importance of the consolidated report form as these numbers reflect what we do as an organization for our veterans, children and our communities. It will also give us a stronger voice when we lobby for our veteran issue's, which is why we belong to the largest veterans service organization in the world the American Legion.



Westchester County visitation
December 9, 2009

I want to thank all our members for all you do to make the

Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New York what it is today, an organization committed to our veterans and our children. May God bless each and every one of you and may God bless our veterans, the men and women who serve our great nation and as always may GOD BLESS AMERICA

For the good of the Sons

Commander, Dave Bishop Sr.

**Kings County
Children and Youth Fundraiser**

On October 25, 2009, Kings County SAL held their 1st annual Children and Youth Fundraiser event at the Bay Ridge Post in Brooklyn. I'm pleased to report that the event was well attended, by members of the entire American Legion Family. I made a

comment that there were more Past County Legion Commanders, and more

Past County Auxiliary Presidents, and one Past Department President, in attendance then at the Past Commanders Dinner, which brought about laughter from all. Also in attendance was the Sons 2nd District Commander, Joe-



The Post Hall fills with those attending the Kings County SAL Fundraiser.



John Rogers, DET. VCMDR announcing the Distinguished Guests with event

seph Santa Croce, and Kings County Sons Commander, John Norton. This was the very first time the county C & Y Chairman, Peter DeAngelis took on this type of event. A raffle was held with all of the prizes donated by Legion family members, along with a selection of larger prized donated by the local business owners in Brooklyn. Everyone had a great time, especially

the food which was all cooked by Peter's Dad, Peter DeAngelis, PCC (Kings).

Pete advised us all that we raised lots that day, and can't wait to donate it to the various organizations that the Sons support. Pete is already looking forward to running next year's event, and hopes it will be even bigger than this year.

John Rogers, Detachment Vice Commander

Americanism Commission

by James Coates, Chairman

Happy New Year to All! Americanism materials will be distributed to District Commanders at mid-winter again this year. These materials will include a scripted flag education ceremony and examples of literature handouts and giveaways that our squadrons can use in their flag education programs. I encourage all squadrons to arrange to give a flag education program at your local grammar school or with a local scouting troop. If you do not receive materials through your district but would like to get some contact me at CoaJam@aol.com.

It's time to get the word out to your local schools about the "What America Means to Me" essay contest for Grades 1 through 5 throughout New York State. A winner will be awarded to each grade level and the winners will receive a \$100.00 savings bond and a pizza party for their class. You can download the flyer and literature for the schools from the Detachment website at www.sonsdny.org. Just look for 2010 Essay Contest.

The Americanism Commission concerns itself with the

promotion of the "true spirit of Americanism" throughout our Nation. Most Americanism programs are highly visible programs designed to benefit America's young people. American Legion Boy's State and American Legion Girl's State are two such Americanism programs. Others include American Legion Baseball, the High School Oratorical Contest, and the Junior Shooting Sports Program. All are very competitive and highly structured.



Other recognizable programs falling under Americanism are Boy Scout unit sponsorship, "Get out the Vote" initiatives, Flag Education, and Education and Scholarship programs and information. The later would include distribution of the American Legion's financial aid handbook, "Need A Lift", The American Legion Samsung Scholarship

and the Legion's American Legacy Scholarship for the children of America's fighting men and women who died in active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

The Detachment of New York very specifically offers the Lt. Michael L. Lewis Jr. Memorial Scholarship and The Cerullo Memorial Scholarship. The rules and applications for these scholarships can be downloaded from www.sonsdny.org or by contacting a member of your Americanism Commission, or "contact us" from the web site.

Community Service activities also fall under the Americanism category and may include Adopt-A-Highway, Citizen Corps, and Meal on Wheels to name but a few.

You can find information or links to many of these programs at www.sonsdny.org. You can also find guidelines for completing the Americanism section of the Consolidated Report Form under Programs/Americanism.

Yours for The American Legion Family

The Americanism Commission for the Detachment of New York

V. A. & R. Commission

by Thomas Kurk, Chairman

Here we are half way through this administrative year already. It is this commission's busiest time of the year. The Detachments Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission have laid out the programs for our Squadrons either through mailings or on our Detachment Web-Site. We have many opportunities to serve our Veterans as we continue to show our appreciation for the men and women who have served or are serving our nation.


Items that need to be prioritized are as follows:

1. We need to have at least One (1) Sons of The American Legion member be officially registered at each VA Medical Center here in New York. Presently we have Four (4) VA's with either a Representative and or Deputies. We have Thirteen VA's in New York State. The VAMC's that have representation are Buffalo VAMC, Canandaigua VAMC, Bath VAMC and the Syracuse VAMC. Locations that do not have representatives are Batavia, Albany, Brooklyn, Bronx, Montrose, Manhattan and St. Albans. Our National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Mark Arneson has asked every Detachment to meet this goal. We can do it. Please contact any member of the VA&R Commission for information on how to become either a Rep or Deputy.

2. "They Marched For Us, We Walk For Them" Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for April 17, 2010.

The last two years we have raised over \$58,000.00 that has gone directly to our Veterans here in New York. This project

**"They Marched for Us ,
Let's Walk for Them"**



**Have you scheduled
your walk?
Date: April 17, 2010.**

A successful event requires
advance planning.

has partnered well with our Units of the Department of New York American Legion Auxiliary the last two year and we expect the same for this year. Please get with the members of your Unit and start preparing for a successful walk again this year. Working together as a team will bring happiness to our Veterans that are in need of our help that are in one of the five New York State Veterans Homes or one or VA Medical Centers and of course to the families that are staying at the Fisher House at the Stratton VA in Albany.

3. May 15, 2010 is the date for National Veterans Assistance Day. This Saturday is once again set aside for us members of the Sons of The American Legion can show our appreciation

for our Veterans We can do this in a number of ways. Seek out a veteran or veteran's family needing help by getting a family member to an appointment, getting groceries, yard work, simple home or car repairs take them prepared meals; honor them on this special day in some small way. Involve the squadron in repairs or clean up around the Post or hold a special dinner or breakfast for these veterans. Visit VA nursing homes and local nursing homes and sit and talk with them. Publish Thank you letters for service in the newspapers, websites and newsletters.

4. We have been very supportive to the NEADS program in the last few years. Let's Continue our financial support of helping our veterans with a canine companion to assist a wounded veteran with every day household tasks.

We are part of the Great American Legion Family. Our eligibility comes from our veterans and we must continue to support our veterans who have sacrificed for our freedom. Take the time to say visit a veteran either one who has served in past conflicts or a returning veteran from our present day conflicts. It is a rewarding feeling and it is most appreciated by our veterans.



Membership -

Is everyone's job!

Good Morning Team

Lets get the word out about the recruitment pin award given out by National and recognize those members that work so hard at recruiting new members. It is our chance to award our blue cap member in a small way for all the hard work they do in recruiting. Lets make the East the largest distributor of these pins. If your Detachment, District or Squadron has a newsletter maybe you can include this in it to let everyone know about this great award. Below are the rules, I have attached the application forms which can be mailed back

to me:

Gary Denmon; 503 N. Page Ave.; Endicott, NY 13760 and I will get a pin out to that member and thank them for all their hard work.

*Yours for Service
Gary Denmon*

The National Membership Committee offers a recruitment pin award for those members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. You must meet and complete the requirements listed below.

Recruit five (5) new members into the S.A.L., no renewals

All information must be clearly printed or typed. Non-readable forms will not be processed

The new members membership record must be received at the Detachment and National Headquarters This form must be post-marked prior to midnight of August 31, 2010

Only one (1) award pin per member regardless of the total new members recruited American Legion Family members are also eligible for this award.

No Abbreviations. Information must be spelled out and complete.

Quiz

What do you know about our nations capital and the National Mall?

1. Where is the National Mall located?
A) Pittsburg, Pa; B) Washington, DC; C) New York, NY
2. Name 3 memorials located in the National Mall.
3. The Capitol Building lies at one end of the National Mall, but what lies at the other?
A) A tour guide; B) The Smithsonian Institution; C) Washington Monument
4. Who designed the layout of our nation's capitol?
A) Pierre L'Enfant; B) George Washington; C) unknown
5. What official plan must all developments to the National Mall conform to?
A) Great Plan of 1910; B) 1901-02 McMillan Plan; C) Reconstruction plan of 1976
6. The National Air and Space Museum maintains the largest collection of what in the world?
A) Air & Space; B) UFO'S; C) Historic Air & Spacecraft
7. In what year did construction for the United States' Capitol Building begin? A) 1793; B) 1776; C) 1801
8. In what year did the Art and Industries Building open?
A) 1800; B) 1881; C) 1901
9. The Smithsonian Institution Building is also known as what? A) The Castle; B) Empire; C) Big House
10. In what year was the Smithsonian Institution Building completed?
A) 1855; B) 1885; C) 1905

Answers on page 10



STATE WINTER GAMES - SYRACUSE FEBRUARY 5th - 6th

Special Olympics New York is pleased to announce that the State Winter Games will be held in Syracuse in February of 2010 and 2011. State Winter Games showcase the achievements of Special Olympics athletes and is one of three annual state games and 4,000 competitive experiences held each year throughout New York.

On the weekend of February 5-6, 2010 in Syracuse, more than 400 Special Olympics New York athletes and coaches from across the state will join the State Winter Games. Athletic competitions will be held in Alpine and Nordic skiing, speed and figure skating, floor hockey and showshoeing. More than 450 volunteers from surrounding communities are needed to support the event and are key to its success.

Co-Honorary Chairs of the State Winter Games are Joanne Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive and James Gaspo, President, Citizens Bank. Co-Games Organizing Committee Chairs are William Fisher and Ann Rooney, also from the Onondaga County Executive's office. Citizens Bank and Wegmans Food Markets are Premiere event sponsors.

All State Winter Games events are free and open to the public. Opening Ceremonies: Friday, February 5 at 7:00 PM at the

On Center Complex, featuring the Parade of Athletes, entertainment and the lighting of the Special Olympics Cauldron. Olympic Village, a recreation area for athletes and the public, will be open at the On Center prior to Opening Ceremonies. After Opening Ceremonies, floor hockey pairing games will be held at the Oncenter to division the athletes for the following day's competition.

Athletic Competition : Saturday, February 6, starting at 8:30 AM in six Olympic-style sports: floor hockey at the On Center Complex, Speed and Figure Skating at the War Memorial Arena, Alpine Skiing at the Toggenburg Mountain Winter Sports Center in Fabias, Nordic Skiing at Highland Forrest Park in Fabias, and Snowshoeing at Thornden Park in Syracuse .

Special Olympics New York, which does not charge athletes to participate, provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for more than 47,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

According to Neal J. Johnson, president and CEO, Special Olympics aims to demonstrate that when people with and without intellectual disabilities are brought together by its



year-round program of training and competition, myths are dispelled, attitudes are changed and new opportunities to embrace and celebrate people with intellectual disabilities are created.

Volunteers are needed to: Set up and break down sports venues, present medals, distribute lunches, sell merchandise, and help with Opening Ceremonies and Olympic Village.

Staff the following athletic venues: Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Snowshoeing and Floor Hockey.

The deadline for volunteer assignments given is January 27th; after that date walk-in volunteers are welcome. Website:

<http://nyso.org/WinterGames/home.php>

For more information contact:

Bryan Norris
Director of Competition
bnorris@nyso.org
518-388-0791
800-836-6976

Stacy Gioeli
Director of Volunteer Management
sgioeli@nyso.org
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7th & 8th District Report

by: Detachment Vice Commander, Ross Polson

Since our last newsletter, the 7th & 8th Districts have been very busy. On my visits to both Districts we have discussed membership. Emphasizing the importance of why we need to follow up with the Squadrons that still have zero transmittals, to continue to recruit new members, and to also follow up on our members who haven't been around. Retention is just as important as new members.

We also discussed the various American Legion Programs and why we should do a better job in promoting these programs.

The 8th District has been active in many fundraisers and one of their main events was the annual Wreath Hanging at the Batavia VA and VA home.



The 7th District is also busy as well. One of their main events was assisting the Ladies Auxiliary with

their Veterans Gift Shop and Wrap both at the Bath and Canandaigua VA.

Both Districts are working hard and everyone is planning for the upcoming Department Visitations. We are promoting these visitations so that we can have a nice turn out to show our support for our Department and Detachment Leaders.

Everyone, keep up the excellent work you do for our organization.

I will be seeing all of you during the Department visitations to the 7th & 8th Districts.

8th District News

by: 8th District Commander, Doc Gibbs

District 8 Boasts A New County Committee!

After almost 8 years of inactivity, Allegany County again has an active county level SAL Committee. Doc Gibbs helped to install the new officers of the Allegany County Committee on December 15, 2009. The weather was rough that evening but about 17 people showed up to help the county reorganize at a meeting held at the Kenyon Andrus Post #772 in Boli-

var, NY. The effort was started by the American Legion 8th District Sons Chairman, Virgil Garner. Past Detachment Commander Jeff Jordan and Past Detachment Vice Commander David Lefty Caldwell were present that evening as well.

Election of officers for the new county committee was held. Congratulations to Jim Carlson, Commander from DeLong Squadron #808 and 1st Vice Commander, Steve

Ritter from Friendship Post #1168. Other new officers represent the variety of Allegany county squadrons coming from the Cuba Post #655, the DeLong Post #808 and the Friendship Post #1168. Their next official meeting will be held on Sat., February 13 at 7PM at the DeLong Post #808 in Belmont. We wish them success in their upcoming endeavors.



National Mall & Memorial Parks

National Mall and Memorial Parks, where American and the world come to reflect, honor, and celebrate. The National Park Service jewel set in the heart of the nation's capital features iconic memorials and monuments.

Washington, DC, is filled with famous national monuments. As the world's tallest free-standing stone structure, the Washington Monument honors George Washington, the first president of the United States and the father of his country. Its base is surrounded by a circle of fifty American flags symbolizing the states of the Union. Is the most prominent structure in Washington, D.C. and one of the city's early attractions. The Monument is shaped like an Egyptian obelisk, stands 555' 5 1/8" tall, and offers views in excess of thirty miles. It was finished on December 6, 1884.

At the Lincoln Memorial Americans pay homage to the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, and the enduring ideals of union, freedom, and democracy. The 36-column Greek temple houses the colossal statue of a seated Lincoln; the words from two of his famous speeches are engraved upon the interior walls. "In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is en-

shrined forever." Beneath these words, the 16th President of the United States—the Great Emancipator and preserver of the nation during the Civil War—sits immortalized in marble. As an enduring symbol of freedom, the Lincoln Memorial attracts anyone who seeks inspiration and hope.

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in West Potomac Park is divided into four outdoor galleries, one for each of FDR's terms in office from 1933 to 1945. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." These are the words of our 32nd President, a man who embodied the meaning of the word courage. Despite being stricken with polio at age 39 and paralyzed from the waist down, he emerged as a true leader, guiding our country through some dark times: the Great Depression and World War II. The memorial honors this man, his story, and his era.

The last room commemorates his death and recognizes his wife Eleanor; it is the only presidential memorial to pay tribute to a first lady.

The World War II Memorial, located at 17th Street between Constitution and Independence Avenues, was dedicated during Memorial Day weekend 2004. This memorial honors America's "Greatest Generation"

that served and sacrificed during World War II.

Korean War Memorial - "Freedom is not free." Here, one finds the expression of American gratitude to those who restored freedom to South Korea. Nineteen stainless steel sculptures stand silently under the watchful eye of a sea of faces upon a granite wall—reminders of the human cost of defending freedom. These elements all bear witness to the patriotism, devotion to duty, and courage of Korean War veterans.

Viet Nam Memorial - Deliberately setting aside the controversies of the war, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the men and women who served when their Nation called upon them. The designer, Maya Lin, felt that "the politics had eclipsed the veterans, their service and their lives." She kept the design elegantly simple to "allow everyone to respond and remember."

Each of these majestic landmarks inspires the respect and pride of the American People. Today the term National Mall includes the area historically referred to as the Mall (which extends from the grounds of the U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument), and West Potomac Park (including the Lincoln, Jefferson, Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans, World War II, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorials).



Detachment of New York

elected officers for the 2009—2010 year.

David Bishop, Sr - Commander
Kenneth Kraetzer - Vice Commander
Districts 1 & 9
John Rogers — Vice Commander
Districts 2 & 10
Robert Myrtle - Vice Commander
Districts 3 & 4
John Knapp, Sr - Vice Commander
Districts 5 & 6
Ross Polson — Vice Commander
Districts 7 & 8
James Coates- Chaplain
William Lutz - Historian
Fred Merscher— Master Sgt-at-Arms
John Bogart— N.E.C.
Raymond Jarvis—A.N.E.C.
Randall Lewis— Judge Advocate



Lincoln Memorial

Public Relations Commission

The Detachment Public Relations Commission would like to thank every member for their contributions and support. Our goal is 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.

We are looking for you to brag about what is going on in your Squadron, County or District. What have you been up to, a service project, fundraiser, outstanding member or are you chartering a New Squadron? Photos tell a good story!

Please send your news articles into the Commission for the Spring issue **by April 5, 2010**

Please note my email address jbruce457@gmail.com

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What do you know about our nations capital and the National Mall
Answers to quiz on page 6

1. B) Washington, DC
2. Washington Monument; Lincoln, Jefferson, Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans, World War II, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorials
3. C) Washington Monument
4. A) Pierre L'Enfant

5. B) 1901-02 McMillan Plan
6. C) Historic Air & Spacecraft
7. A) 1793
8. B) 1881
9. A) The Castle
10. A) 1855

