



Sons of The American Legion



Suite 1300
112 State Street

THE LIBERTY

Detachment of New York

Albany, New York 12207
(518) 463-2215

Volume 3 Issue 36

www.sonsdny.org

Post Convention Issue 2009

Dates of Special Interest:

- Aug 20—26 82nd AL Baseball World Series
- August 21st–22nd 38th National Convention; Louisville, KY
- Sept 9th– 10% Membership Target Date
- September 11th Patriot Day Battle of Plattsburgh 1814
- Sept 12th Fall DEC Meeting; Albany, NY
- Sept 17th- Citizenship Day
- Sept 19th—POW-MIA Recognition Day
- October 10–11th SAL Fall NEC meeting; Indianapolis
- Oct 14th- 25% Membership target date

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by David Bishop

Fellow Sons Members

I want to once again thank the members of the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New York for electing me to represent you as your commander for the 2009-2010 membership year. I am looking forward to traveling this great state and to have the opportunity to see and hear all the great things our squadrons are doing for our veterans, our children and our communities. I am also looking forward to working with our newly elected officers as well as our commission and committee chairman as we strive to make the Detachment of New York the best that it can be.

I would like to take this time to thank Past Commander, Gary Denmon for the terrific job he has done during his year as commander. Commander Gary has represented our organization with the utmost respect and honor that it deserves. With Commander Gary's leadership, the Detachment of New York has met its 100% Membership goal and our squadrons have increased the number of consolidated report forms by over 30 reports, Great job Commander.



There are three things that I have always put an importance on, no matter what level I have served as commander, and that is membership, communications and reporting. As you all know the stronger our membership as an American Legion Family is, the stronger the voice we will have as we lobby for our veterans in Washington, D.C. Communication, we must make sure that all levels of our organization are up and running so we can get the information that is needed down to our squadrons so they can work our programs and agendas.

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FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

by Robert J. Avery

Gentlemen,

I want to first off congratulate all the Squadrons out there who attained their 100% membership and beyond this year. That made it possible for our Detachment as a whole to receive our 100% and "All Time High" ribbon just before we gathered in Buffalo last month for our Annual Convention. I am very happy and proud of our members for stepping forward and really concentrating on membership this year! Thanks again!

As we begin our 2010 Administrative Year, we need to make sure that all 2010 OCF's are in to Albany HQ. If your Squadron has not received

your 2010 cards, the reason is very simple. Nobody bothered to forward your officer listing to Albany HQ after your election of officers. This is really a very simple task that can now be done on line at our website: www.sonsdny.org. A fill in the blank form can be sent right to Department HQ and printed for your files.

Target Dates need to be adhered to at all times! Guess what? The member that has paid his dues and received his card is not a member until it has been processed though Detachment who then ships it on to National HQ in Indianapolis, IN. Don't hold transmittals! Transmit on a regular basis and in accordance with the

Target Dates. Once again, the Target Dates for next year are as follows:

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009	10%
OCTOBER 14, 2009	25%
NOVEMBER 17, 2009	35%
DECEMBER 9, 2009	45%
JANUARY 13, 2010	60%
FEBRUARY 10, 2010	75%
MARCH 10, 2010	80%
APRIL 14, 2010	90%
MAY 12, 2010	100%
*JULY 28, 2010	105%
*Delegate Strength Target Date	

I thank you all for what you do in support of our parent organization, The American Legion. Remember that keeping our membership strong and growing ever larger is very important as we strive to assist our Nation's veterans in everything we do.

For God and Country

An opportunity to honor our NY National Guard!

2009 American Legion—NY Mets Saturday September 10th

We were able to work out an event with the Mets in September. The only date they have any number of tickets available at a reasonable price is Thursday night Sept. 10th. The Mets have donated game programs and pens that we can send to soldiers in packages (Let me know if you have an upcoming mailing to troops).

Tickets are available from Squadron 50 for \$26 (Email to David Acocella) or directly from the Mets Tom Dissette in Group Sales for ten or more. The tick-

ets will be in the "Big Apple" seats between the Mets bullpen and the batter eye. Citifield, the Mets new ballpark, is a very attractive place to watch a game and spend a late summer evening.

One of the key reasons we have scheduled the event is to take to the game as guests members of the military including Navy, Army, and members of the NY National Guard. As you may know over 2,000 members of the NY Nat. Guard have recently returned from deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq. My goal is to be able to distribute 100 tickets to military members. We need your help to make this happen. Please let me know if your

Squadron can make a donation to purchase tickets for our military members.

We do not yet have an invitation for a color guard, but a strong showing on the event could help us. We will have scoreboard recognition.

Kenneth G. Kraetzer
kgk914@aol.com— 914-450-9554



The Convention Golf Tournament held on July 9th, raises \$2008 for CWF. This years annual CWF golf outing attracted fourteen team (56

players), including SAL National Commander, Tommy Cisna and leading National Commander candidate, Mark. Tournament chairman, Dean

Williamson was grateful for the large turn out and for the 20 hole sponsorships.

Photo's from Detachment Convention



Department Commander Ed Bertrand is presented a plaque of appreciation from Commander Gary



Detachment Color Guard post our colors to open the convention!



Department President, Sue Britton brings greetings to the Detachment of New York membership



National Commander Tommie Cisna greets the membership and gave some words of praise to the Detachment of New York



Department President, Sue Britton accepts a \$16,000 check and an award for their participating in the "They Marched For Us, We Walk For Them" Walk-A-Thon from Detachment Commander, Gary Denmon and VA&R Chairman, Tom Kurk.



Installation of Detachment 2009—2010 officers

Americanism Commission

by James Coats, Chairman

It has been my privilege to serve as your Americanism Chairman this year. Here is a summary of our activities and expenses for 2008-2009.

Essay Contest We received 219 entries for the "What American Means to Me" essay contest. This is up from 53 entries last year and we continue to get positive feedback about this program. Transcripts of the winning essays will be posted in various issues of the Liberty. Once again this year we purchased light of Liberty comic books and distributed them to all of our participants. Our winners are as follows.

Sam Arnts; 1st grade; Bath
Tyler Meca; 4th Grade; Amsterdam

We have also received the applications for the Lt. Michael L. Lewis, Jr. Memorial Fund and The Cerullo Memorial Scholarships and the winners are as follows.

Lt. Michael L. Lewis, Jr. Memorial Scholarship (Two scholarships of \$1000.00 each).

Jason Hagerman, Baldwinsville; Squadron 113; Onondaga County

Michael O'Toole, Utica; Utica Squadron #229, Oneida County

Cerullo Memorial Scholarship of \$500 went to Janel Shaver

Downsville and James S. Moore; Unit 167 of Delaware County. There was one Cerullo Scholarship renewal application for: Darrin French, Philmont, Joseph E. Zaloga Squadron 1520, Albany County.

Consolidated Reports

We received 105 Consolidated Reports, up from 45 last year, which have been tabulated according to the following guidelines. . GREAT JOB SONS!!

A brief summary of squadron activities base on the squadron consolidated reports:

Total Programs 13
Cost / Donations \$230,639
Number Flags 30,118
Total Hours 59,983
NEF Donation \$6,460

The Commission would like to announce the winners of this year's Detachment Americanism Awards.

Squadrons with 149 members or less are as follows:

1st Place—John B Handte Squadron # 89 from Vestal, Broome County in the 6th District.

2nd Place—Squadron # 54 from Munnsville, Madison County in the 6th District.

3rd Place—Montgomery Squadron # 429 from Rinebeck, Dutchess County, in the 9th District.

For Squadrons with 150 or

more members the winners were:

1st Place—Charles E. Westcott Squadron # 173 from Bath, Steuben County in the 7th District.

2nd Place—Joseph E. Zaloga Squadron 1520 from Albany, Albany County in the 3rd District

3rd Place—Chili Squadron # 1830 from Chili, Monroe County in the 7th District

The Americanism Commission would like to congratulate these Squadrons on their accomplishments. Let's not forget that, as the Detachment of New York, we are all winners. By promoting the Americanism programs, we are making our citizens young and old, aware of what our forefathers had set up to make this country so great.

I would like to thank all of the Americanism Commission members; Boyd Shaffer, Robert Myrtle, Larry Montello, Arthur Maggy II, and Shawn Hathaway for their help this year.



Detachment of NY presents a \$10,000 donation to elect Fang Wong National Commander.

V. A. & R. Commission

by Thomas Kurk, Chairman

It has been a banner year for our veterans and their families with the help and support from the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion. First of all our second annual "They Marched For Us, We Walk for Them" Walk-A-Thon realized \$31,148 this year in pledges and donations. Many new ideas were used to help achieve this total. The sale of walk-a-thon T-shirts in Ontario County to the selling of paper boot cut outs at American Legion Post # 20 in Clinton County. Washington County collected over \$7,000 in local business donations. Scott Henry a Sons of The American Legion member from Candor, Tioga County and his wife Donna organized a motorcycle ride and collected \$4,734 for this year's walk. This was done the same day as Unit members from the American Legion Auxiliary in Candor held their walk and turned in over \$3,900. Scott by the way will be recognized at a ceremony later this month at his American Legion Post in Candor. As we did this year the Department of New York American Legion Auxiliary has received there half of the proceeds with the carry over from last year gained them a check for \$16,000 for their VA&R programs and the checks have been sent out to the 13 VA Hospitals, the 5 New York State Veterans Homes and the Fisher House for \$842 each. This is an increase from \$631 that was sent last year. At this time I would like to hand out special Certificates of Appreciation to Sons of The American Legion members who responded to the call and organized walks and special fund raisers to make this project a success.



Commander Gary & VA&R Chairman Tom present Auxiliary President Sue with a \$16,000 check from the Walk-A-Thon.

We received one application for the William P. O'Connell Memorial Scholarship this year. This young man is a most deserving winner of this scholarship. He belongs to Vernice Suttle Squadron # 113 in Baldwinsville NY. The Detachment VA&R Commission is proud to announce that **Jason M. Hagerman** is this year's scholarship winner.

Now it is time to announce the winners of this year's Consolidated Reports. We received reports from 82 Squadrons and 2 District for a total of 84 Consolidated Reports. The numbers on the reports are outstanding. To highlight some of our accomplishments this past year I am proud to inform all the delegates here at this convention that we as a Detachment did the following for VA&R:

3446 visits to Veterans Homes

Cash donations at Veterans homes totaled \$19,795

Number of Visits to VA Hospitals totaled 1,981

Dollar amount donated to the VA's was \$69,883

Fisher House hours donated were 1,500

Fisher House donations came to \$7,959

Other VA&R Projects total hours donated totaled 5,672 hours

Total cost of Other VA&R Projects \$122,253

NATIONAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE DAY

- 1304 veterans were helped
- 8,003 hours donated

\$6,694 was spent on National Veterans Day

These figures plus the numbers from the other categories represented a tremendous increase from last year.

This year winners for Squadrons with 149 members or less are:

3RD Place - August Mauer Squadron # 286
2ND Place - Continental Squadron #1424
1ST Place - Antwerp Squadron #1424

This year winners for Squadrons with 150 members or more are:

3RD Place - Chili Squadron # 1830
2ND Place - Charles B. Westcott Squadron # 173
1st Place - Seeley B. Parrish Squadron # 457

Congratulations to the winners and most of all to the members of the Sons of The American Legion here in New York who worked diligently for our veterans and their families. At this time I want to thank the Detachment VA&R Commission Members who promoted our projects throughout the Detachment.

MEMBERSHIP

by Ted T. Armbrust, Chairman

Membership is a vital part of our organization. Without our membership being strong, we are unable to support all of The American Legion programs.

Well, Gentlemen, here we are at the Dick's Open, and we have our leader, Gaither. He's ahead by three strokes. This has been the best golf game in the history of Detachment. We couldn't ask for any better competitors for Gaither than Dean, Lefty, Ken, and John. They've all done an outstanding job at this golf game. This has been one of the tightest games you'll ever see.

A special appreciation goes out to the caddies and all of the people who helped make this happen. Without them, this Dick's Open would not have been a success. At the end of this game, one of the sponsors, Dave Downey, will surely be impressed enough to buy dinner for the golfers for such an outstanding game!

Detachment Golf Game

Report:

First Place: Gaither Espey, 3rd/4th District, 99.99% with Eagle-2

Second Place: Dean Williamson, 5th/6th District, 99.95% with Eagle-2

Third Place: David Caldwell, 7th/8th District, 98.48% with Par

Fourth Place: John Rogers, Jr., 2nd/10th District, 97.11% with Par

Fifth Place: Ken Kraetzer, 1st/9th District, 89.99% with Double Bogey-2

Membership Awards for 2009

Greatest Percentage Increase Over Prior Year:

First Place: Sixth District, Chenango County, Squadron 376, Fort Hill, 284%

Second Place: Fourth District, Saratoga County, Squadron 278, Old Saratoga, 215%

Third Place: Seventh District, Wayne County, Squadron 394, Williamson, 200%

Most New Members

First Place: Fifth District, Oneida County, Squadron 1376, New Hartford, 70 Members

Second Place: Sixth District, Chenango County, Squadron 376, Fort Hill, 59 New Members

Third Place: Fourth District, Clinton County, Squadron 619, Fountain Brothers, 36 Members

Large Squadrons with largest increase in membership

First Place: Fifth District, Oneida County, Squadron 1376, New Hartford, 386 Members

Second Place: Eighth District, Cattaraugus County, Squadron 181, Randolph, 250 Members

Third Place: Third District, Albany County, Squadron 1520, Joseph Zaloga, 231 Members

Small Squadrons with largest increase in membership

First Place: Sixth District, Chenango County, Squadron 376, Fort Hill, 91 Members (Their goal was 32 Members: 284%)

Second Place: Seventh District, Wayne County, Squadron 394, Williamson, 28 Members (Their goal was 14 Members: 200%)

Third Place: Fourth District, Saratoga County, Squadron 234, Henry Cornell, 45 Members (Their goal was 28 Members: 101%)

Detachment Awards: Top Recruiters

First Place: Fifth District, Oneida County, Squadron 1376, New Hartford, 70 New Members

Second Place: Sixth District, Chenango County, Squadron 376, Fort Hill, 59 New Members

Third Place: Fourth District, Clinton County, Squadron 1619, Fountain Brothers, 36 New Members



Detachment Officers display their "Membership—Future SAL" t-shirts

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT

William Lutz, Chairman

Another very successful but challenging year is coming to a close. With the upheaval in the economy, job uncertainty and parents being deployed, more kids and youth organizations needed our help more than ever before, and that was only on a local level. All of the National Programs supported by the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Family experienced the very same situations, whether funding shortages or lack of volunteers, they all needed our help.

It makes me so proud to say that, again, WE STEPPED UP!!!! With our own members experiencing some of those very same issues, we put our own personal travails aside and gave of ourselves, and then we gave some more. Whether it was monetary donations, or manpower hours, we answered the call. Last year our total donations under C & Y were \$76,651.00 and 6842 hours of our time. This year, with everything we are experiencing, our donations were \$75,874 and 14,887 hours of our time, these are numbers of which, we should be very proud!

And you all know, without beating up on this poor horse much more, this isn't even close to all that you have done. But, we can only share what has been reported, so please, please, make every effort to track your hours and donations throughout the year to make it easier to report, and make reporting a priority for your squadron! We received 81 reports this year, and I know we have done so much more!!!

I want to announce the Squadrons

that excelled (even though anyone that did anything, is excellent).

Under 149 Members:

3rd - Windsor Terrace - #1175
Kings County - 2nd District

3rd - Charles Harbell - #892
Cattaraugus Co- 5th District

2nd - Herkimer - #0038
Herkimer Co - 5th District

1st - Walter Conley - # 1107
Cayuga County - 7th District

Above 150 Members:

3rd - West Seneca - #735
Erie County - 8th District

3rd - Seeley B Parish- #457
Ontario County - 7th District

3rd - Chili Squadron - #1930
Monroe County - 7th District

2nd - Fountain Brothers - #1619
Clinton Count - 4th District

1st - Charles E Wescott - #0173
Steuben County - 7th District

Thank you so much for all of your hard work.

For those of you that were at mid-winter, I want to say thank you on behalf of the 20 children that have or will benefit from receiving a Josh Dog during their illness or hospital stay. For those of you that aren't aware, National Vice Commander East, David Downey pointed out that one of National Commander Tommie Cisna's "pet projects" was Josh and Friends. Well, in about ½ hour, we raised enough money (over \$1000) to present each Detachment Vice Commander with 5 Dogs to deliver in their area. I know in my county,

Onondaga, we have formed a committee to carry this on in our area and are working to include all Legion Post and Auxiliary Units to participate and grow the program and I hope that others have adopted a similar program, in fact the chairman for that committee, Dave Edgin is here today.

I want to take a couple of minutes to commend 2 individuals. The first person I want to single out isn't here and in fact, isn't even a Sons Member. But, I want to talk about her because she is a great example of taking an adverse situation and turning it into an incredible positive. That person is Pat Martin. Pat is the President of the Mattydale Auxiliary Unit #1832 and the mother of our Squadron Commander, George Martin, Jr. A couple years ago, Pat had very serious and extensive back surgery, to the point that 2 rods were inserted the length of her back. After being told by her doctor she will be lucky to walk normally, let alone resume any other extensive activities, Pat told her doctor, and I will censor the conversation that not only would she do many things she did in the past, but, on her 68th birthday, she would bike 68 miles from Syracuse to Rome over 2 days to raise money for the Gollisano Children's hospital in Syracuse. She recruited 24 others (including one dumb Children and Youth Commission Chairman) to join her. Well, not only did she do the 68 miles, but, as of Monday, the donations are up to \$10,000 which is enough to pay for a special sensory therapy room at the Children's Hospital. There were several Sons members that served as volunteers for this bike ride and helped pull this off.

Continued on page 8

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Doc Gibbs, Chairman

We again, had a successful year with Legislation. Our On-the-Hill Days in Washington went smoothly this past February with at least 10 SAL members present from the Detachment of New York. Our On-the-Hill Day in Albany also was productive.

Our numbers do make a difference, some of our districts are not represented in the Albany Days which could always be stronger but we do set up meetings with state representatives and senators and our issues and the issues of the Legion are shared. This year we had the opportunity to meet with several representatives as well as both Senators Gillibrand

and Schumer. That was a first, in at least the last few years. We hold a briefing before we go out on the Hill to set the priorities for everyone's visitation and coordinate whenever possible with the Legionnaires.

Our presence is known. The SAL connection is strong on both the national and State levels but we could always use your involvement. The legislation that was passed this year was quite remarkable. Almost every major Legion issue was addressed or approached. The benefits to Veterans both current and past received much attention this year and significant in roads were

made for all.

As an editorial, it is difficult to determine if it was the fact that the Legion and SAL presence is finally paying off or whether the newer congress simply has made a difference. I guess I'd like to think it was a combination of both of those facts but the bottom-line is that Veterans have reaped the benefits this year.

We look forward to preparing for the 2009-2010 legislative year. I wish to thank all the committee members that have paid serious attention to our charge as well as all those who joined us in our visits to our representatives. Committee members this past year were David Perry, Jerry Shepard, Al Deichler, Jeff Jordan and Vince Green.

... C & Y continued from page 7

This is not only an example of turning a negative into a huge positive, but, also points out that we don't have to run the event ourselves, but any level of participation can help create a successful event.

The second is Mike Murray, the commander of the Walter Conley Squadron #1107 in Union Springs. Mike, by profession is in corrections and law enforcement....but, if you read the supporting documentation included in their Consolidate Report...you would think that was only one of his jobs. It appears that he has dedicated his professional life to working with our youth, as well as his SPARE time (if he has any). Last year alone, through his efforts he logged over 1400 hours of time working with and for the youth of his community. If it wasn't running to raise funds, it was

coaching youth football and wrestling, it was working with Special Olympics or it was helping to organize and run an after prom party....you get the point.

Pat and Mike, on behalf of the Children and Youth Commission, and all the kids, thank you!

As many of you are aware, we had really pushed to hold a statewide His and Hers Harley raffle, but, after consulting in depth with The Legion, Department of New York, a decision was made to not pursue the raffle due to many hoops that would have had to have been jumped through with the State and IRS on some levels and I want to thank David Lee and Mike Rowald for their tireless efforts in weeding through the multiple layers of potential issues. But, in keeping with theme of turning negatives into positives....remember the enthusiasm everyone demonstrated at the

thought of being able to pull this off....the potential good we could of have done....Take that same enthusiasm and do something in your area...do it with the same vigor and belief in what you are doing...and remember how much good you will be doing for the children in your town.

Think of how much good we can do, if we can change ONE CHILD'S LIFE? You could never know how much of a different world it will be...but, we can never know WHICH child's life we are changing....and that should be what drives us to continue to work to reach as MANY CHILDREN as we can....because through our efforts, we can and do make a difference.

Respectfully Submitted,
William Lutz - Chairman C&Y

Commander—from page 1

.. And reporting is very important, once again the numbers that we generate from are consolidated report forms on what we do as an organization are presented to our representatives in Washington D.C. It is also important to let our communities know what we do as an organization as well. If they know the terrific things we do they may want to become a part of it.

Thanks to all our blue capers for all the hard work you do.

It's because of the things you accomplish during the year that our organization is what it is today. It is because of you that the Detachment of New York is one of the most respected in the country. I want to wish all our squadrons across the state a very productive and successful year ahead.

My project this year is the National Emergency Fund. I would encourage all squadrons to contribute to this much needed project because it benefits all of our American Legion Family members who are need. You can

make your contribution at your County Visitation, which I would prefer because, I would like to thank you personally, Or you can send your contributions to :

Detachment of New York
112 State Street, Suite 1300
Albany N.Y. 12207

May God bless are 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.

A memo from Iraq by Lt. Riordan, Navy to Ken Kraetzer after having learned of the identification of the remains of MIA Lt. CDR Speicher.

I had just turned nine-years old when the air-strikes began and Lt. Cmdr. Scott Speicher was shot down over western Iraq. A catalog of my memories from the first Gulf War consists of writing letters to soldiers in school, collecting Desert Storm trading cards (I still have an extensive collection, which my wife is about to discover when some boxes arrive from long-term storage in a few weeks), and a parody on a local radio station of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" visiting one of Saddam Hussein's palaces. I didn't know anyone that went to Iraq during that time. There was no great shake-up in my life. (For reference: Most of the people I currently work with participated in Operation Desert Storm.)

I was in high school when I read the Wilfred Owen's anti-war poem. Under the title, "Dulce Et Decorum Est Pro Patria Mori" [It is sweet and fitting to die for one's homeland], Owen describes the horror of a gas attack, asking who could ever tell their child about the

glory of war if they knew the reality.

I was a plebe at the Naval Academy when I learned about Scott Speicher. We were not at war. He was a young Naval Academy graduate who had been shot down during the first Gulf War. I immediately clung to his story...he was the closest I was to someone who had sacrificed their life for our country - there was no doubt in my mind he was a hero...and he had not yet been brought home. I wore a POW/MIA bracelet with Captain Speicher's name for several years (until I replaced it with one more personally related).

*Military Uniform trivia: In 1972, the Secretary of the Navy added a provision to uniform regs: "Wearing of POW/MIA bracelets is authorized for Navy and Marine Corps personnel -- at any time they desire, including while in uniform -- as an expression of concern for their fellow servicemen who are prisoners of war or missing in action."

**Livestrong bracelets are NOT authorized.

I was at the Naval Academy, when I studied the Classics and learned where so much about the birth of

our military ideals.

I was sitting in my CHU just a few weeks ago, when I had the opportunity to see the film "Taking Chance," about a Marine officer who escorts the body of a fallen Marine. The film follows the great care with which the body is returned, while Lt. Col. Strobl contemplates the value of his own service.

How is all this related? These are the memories that race through my mind over and over as I try to deconflict my thoughts...usually while on the treadmill, with no other work to distract me. There is no reprieve from the reminders that war is terrible...but there are greater evils. The ranks of those that serve in uniform are filled with idealists...idealists who will never "lose" their lives, although some will "give" their lives for this country and more importantly the ideals it represents. In exchange for what they do, we that live on will fulfill our duty as a grateful nation. We will render honors as has been done since the time of the Classics. We will carry our heroes home on our shoulders and more importantly, we will tell their story. We will never forget.

Welcome home Captain Speicher. We never forgot. We never will.



Newly elected Detachment Commander David Bishop addresses the American Legion Convention in Buffalo, NY on July 11, 2009.

Detachment of New York

elected officers for the 2009—2010 year.

- David Bishop - Commander
- Kenneth Kraetzer - Vice Commander
Districts 1 & 9
- John Rodgers — Vice Commander
Districts 2 & 10
- John Knapp - Vice Commander
Districts 3 & 4
- Dean Williamson- Vice Commander
Districts 5 & 6
- Ross Polson — Vice Commander
Districts 7 & 8
- James Coats- Chaplain
- William Lutz - Historian
- Fred Merscher— Master Sgt-at-Arms
- John Bogart— N.E.C.
- Raymond Jarvis—A.N.E.C.
- Randal Lewis— Judge Advocate

Public Relations Commission

The Detachment Public Relations Commission 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.

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 Fall issue **by October 5, 2009**

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Convention Parade Results

Sons Color Guard

1st Place—Seeley B. Parish
Squadron # 457; Phelps, NY

Newsletter schedule for 2009—2010 year:

- Fall Issue October 5th
- Mid-Winter Issue January 5th
- Spring Issue April 5th
- Convention Issue June 15th
- Post Convention Issue August 5th

All Detachment officers, Commission Chairman and District Commanders are asked to participate in providing news stories for the newsletter. It is your obligation to report what your District or Committee is doing to our membership. Please have articles into the commission by the dates listed above. Any member can and is welcomed to submit news stories and photo to the committee for publication.