



Sons of The American Legion



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Detachment of New York

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Mid Winter Issue 2011

**Dates of
Special Interest:**

- February is Americanism month
- Feb 6th - Four Chaplains' Sunday
- Feb 9th—75% Membership goal
- Feb 11—19th Freedom Car Racing—New Smyrna, Fla
- Feb 12th— Lincoln's B-day
- Feb 22nd—Washington's Birthday
- March 14th-15th Hill Day Albany
- March 15-17th—American Legion Birthday 1919
- March 20th -23rd Washington Conference
- March 26th—Freedom Car Racing—Greenville, SC
- April 16th—SAL / Aux Walk-A-Thon

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by John Rogers

Well, finally a short break. Yes, visitations have taken me to 38 counties prior to this mid winter conference and during my travels, as other commanders, I can see why they say this state is God's Pallet. While driving through New York, traveling many miles, the colors of the changing leaves during the fall were unreal, the greens, yellows, reds, oranges all blended together. What a WONDERFUL sight.

Now to the real reasons of the visitations, while talking with the blue caps of this great state, I realized that we have to change the Mid Winter Conference. Therefore, this year I have asked the commission chairman to present a workshop on their program to inform and educate all members of the SONS of this Detachment, and have them bring information back to the squadrons/counties and districts about our programs. This was met with great response not only by our members but all the American Legion members. Therefore, I really am looking forward to seeing those I spoke with and many new faces at this year's mid-winter. Come and learn what our organization is about and the programs we support with our Legion Members.



Back to the travels which I know most of you would like to know. First may I thank those in the traveling party (you know who you are) for all the assistance in getting me around and making sure we arrived on time. But the sights we saw were great. First, the monuments and memorials in the towns/cities dedicated to our veterans both old and new were remarkable. Some were even parks to just sit and contemplate and pray for those that gave their lives to keep us safe. But one that I really must comment on without offending others is in Endicott (Binghamton Area). It is in the center of town and on each place of honor is a brief description Continued on page 7...

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

by Robert J. Avery

Welcome to this 92nd Annual Mid-Winter Conference of The American Legion Department of New York. The New York American Legion Family always looks forward to this event with great anticipation. We pride ourselves on the opportunities afforded here, and we appreciate the recharge we will receive that sends us home invigorated to complete the goals of the year, including the ongoing support of our Nation's veterans and their families, our children and youth, and our parent organization, The American Legion. I hope you all enjoy the various meetings, seminars and functions as you renew and form brand new friendships with fellow Sons, Legionnaires, and Auxiliary members!

The final membership numbers for 2010 are out and New York can hold it's head high! We finished in 22nd place in the Nation with another ALL TIME HIGH, with 103.42% of our goal. I am extremely proud of our fantastic renewal rate! Our rate of renewal was 91.25% which is 5th place in the Nation with only 4 much smaller Detachments doing bet-

ter. We even surpassed the National renewal average by nearly 4 points! The Executive Committee salutes all of the hard working members out there bringing in the membership! We mustn't rest on our laurels because there is a still much work ahead of us. The remaining Membership Target Dates are as follows:

February 9, 2011	75%
March 9, 2011	80%
April 13, 2011	90%
May 11, 2011	100%
July 27, 2011	105%

Here are a few more upcoming dates for 2011:

March 9th

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

mid-April

SAL Postcard Renewal Mailing (3rd and final mailing for 2011)

April 30th

Consolidated Reports due in Albany

May 1st

Deadline to transmit current year new members to receive a preprinted card for 2012

June 15th

Cutoff date for various Detachment membership awards

July 13th—16th

Department Convention –

Binghamton

All Squadrons will soon be receiving the 2011 Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR). This form is the most important document that you need to complete. The compilation of all volunteer hours and donations from Posts and Squadrons are reported to Congress each year by the National Commander of The American Legion. Squadrons who have not received a CSR by mid-March should contact Anne Wilsey at Albany HQ 1-800-ALEGION. You are reminded to complete and submit your CSR to Detachment HQ by April 30, 2011 for Detachment judging. Reports will then be forwarded by the Detachment to National HQ.

Since most Squadron elections occur in the same month as their sponsoring Post (May), please remember to complete and forward an Officer Certification Form (OCF) to HQ immediately afterwards. This is required even if your officers remain the same. Squadrons will not receive 2012 cards without an OCF. The OCF and much more information are always available on our Detachment website (www.sonsdny.org). Also check out our National website at www.sal.legion.org.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Detachment of New York, I thank all members for their support of our Nation's veterans, and I wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

Membership

The fourth lap of the Sons of The American Legion 365 has been complete. As of December 21, 2010 New York is in 33 place with 47.7% and we need 3,418 for the January 20th 2011 60% target date.

Many of our Squadrons are working hard to get the membership mailed into headquarters on time helping us reach the national target dates. Please continue to make it your priority to mail your membership into Albany at least once a month before the target date.

Please remind your Post officers to check SAL membership cards

for members to retain club privileges. Let's get our engines going as we complete the final laps of the SAL 365 and take care of business to make NY best in the nation.

God Bless
Ted Armbrust

Americanism Commission

by James Coates, Chairman

At the American Legion charter convention at Minneapolis in 1919 The American Legion National Americanism Commission was established. "Among its first responsibilities were combating anti-Americanism, educating citizens in the ideals of true Americanism, distributing information about the real nature and principles of American government and fostering and teaching Americanism in all schools.

In order to "foster and perpetuate 100 percent Americanism", a large segment of The Americanism Commission's efforts are channeled into education programs and citizenship programs for the leaders of tomorrow - America's youth. As a program of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion are encouraged to support these efforts. As part of the Detachment of New York's Americanism Program this year we will again distribute materials for the Americanism Flag Education program to

each District at our mid-winter conference. These materials will include the following:

A scripted flag education program that our squadrons can use in their flag education programs. Each District Commander can distribute these to squadrons in your district. There are enough scripts, flags, and brochures for several flag education programs.

This has been a significant investment on the part of the Detachment so let's make it pay off by getting the materials out there to squadrons that will use them.

In addition essays have been coming in for "What America Means To Me" Essay contest and these will be reviewed and judged this year at Mid-Winter. We can make our presentations before the end of the school year.

We will also be purchasing Flag Lapel pins for Boys State again this year.

Finally, encourage all Squadrons to submit a consolidated report this year. Support Boys State, Scouting, take part in a flag retirement ceremony, report your members hours of community service., Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities and all of the many other activities that The Sons of The American Legion do throughout the state.

As part of Detachment Commander John Roger's initiative, on Saturday afternoon, January 22, 2011, at the Desmond there will be a short program given on the Sons of The American Legion Detachment Americanism Commission along with programs of other Detachment Commissions. This will include some more historical information about the Americanism Commission and specific guidance on completing the Consolidated Report Form.

I hope to see you all there. Yours for The American Legion Family



American Legion Emblem Sales has announced a "Flag Rewards" program to benefits posts. Posts are now invited to participate in a new "Flag Rewards" program, which is based on American-flag purchases made by a post and its local community.

Participating posts can receive a 10-cent credit for each dollar

spent on the purchase of American flags. The credit is good toward the future purchase of any Emblem Sales catalog item. Qualifying purchases include those made by the post as well as by the post's members, friends, neighbors, local schools and businesses that choose to sponsor the post by buying their flags from

The American Legion. The goal is to make The American Legion the primary source for communities to purchase their American flags.

To register for the program online, visit: emblem.legion.org/flag_rewards.asp

V. A. & R. Commission

by Thomas Kurk, Chairman

Here we are half way through the 2010-2011 year already. The members of the Detachment V A & R Commission hope that all of you had a great holiday season and that you did not forget our veterans during this time of year. At this year's Mid-Winter Conference, the Detachment is offering a work shop on Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation Saturday January 22, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 26 High Street at the Desmond. The subjects that will be covered will be How to fill out the Consolidated Report Form, Walk-A-Thon 2011, Voluntary Service at out VA Medical Centers, William P. O'Connell Memorial Scholarship and a Question and Answer session. We urge all members to attend this work shop. It is scheduled for just 30 minutes in length. Please take the time to attend this and attend the other workshops that the other Commissions and Committees are putting on that afternoon.

Another opportunity that will be available at this year's Mid-Winter is a project that the American Legion Auxiliary has asked us to help them with. It is called **Socks For Soldiers**. The 3rd Marine Combat Engineer Battalion stationed in Afghanistan need socks to help stay warm during the cold months. They are asking us to donate socks to be sent over to our troops. I will collect these socks and get them to the drop off location that the Auxiliary has set up at their hotel. Please bring the socks Saturday morning.

Included in this newsletter is a flyer that explains more about this project.

We have just learned about a tremendous project that a SAL member from New Hartford Squadron # 1376 in Oneida County has started. Richard Syneck is the founder and Executive Director of a not for profit organization called **Feed Our Vets**. This service is set up to help feed our Homeless Veterans their spouses and their children.

The Mission of the Feed Our Vets a non-profit food pantry organization is to provide good, nutritious food to United States Veterans whose circumstances have left them on the battlefield of hunger. The Objective of Feed Our Vets non-profit food pantry organization is to have fully stocked veteran food pantries set up in accessible locations all across the country. Currently one is located on Genesee St. in Utica New York. I have learned that many Posts, Units and Squadrons in Oneida County are actively supporting this organization by raising money to stock the food pantry and help with the renovations at the building they are working out of. For more information please visit their web-site at feedourvets.org.

Our 4th annual **"They Marched For Us, We Walk For Them"** Walk-A-Thon is just around the corner. It is scheduled for April 16, 2011. Have you started organizing committees for the Walk-A-Thon yet? As some of

our members have learned this can not be done alone. Reach out to the members of the American Legion Family in your county. The counties that have banded together have raised incredible amounts of donations. They have exceeded the goal of \$2,000 per county. Get with other community organizations to help with recruiting walkers and pledges. This event is open to everyone. Lets show our communities what we as members of The Sons of The American Legion do to support our veterans. We have donated over \$90,000 dollars to our veterans and their families here in New York State in the last three years with the donations from this annual event. Let's make this years Walk-A-Thon the best ever.

National Veterans Assistance Day is May 21, 2011. This is the fourth year of this project started by our National VA&R Commission. It has been a success here in New York since the first year. Please have your Squadrons continue to use this day to show our appreciation to our veterans who have served our nation. Please remember that National Veterans Assistance Day is a reportable item under Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation on our Consolidated Report. Please do your best to honor our "Heroes" that have made our nation what is today.

In closing, we thank all of you for the hard work and dedication that you do for our veterans. This commission is here to help you in any way we can to make the lives of veterans easier each and every day.

Please live by this quote in regard to our veterans. "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them". – **John F. Kennedy**

Legislative Update

by Greg "Doc" Gibbs, Chairman

We are busy planning for the **On-the-Hill Days** this Spring. The SONS will send a team to Washington, DC for the On-the-Hill Days on March 20-23, 2011 to help meet with legislators and support Legion-based issues.

As I reported out this past fall in the newsletter, there still are pressing issues. The VA Medical Centers reported that many had still not yet received their funding for 2010 as late as this past March. This was six months into their fiscal year. We need to do all we can to stop such practices. Without prompt action on the 2011 funding bills this is quite likely to happen again this year!

The American Legion has identified 210 resolutions that have legislative impact at their national convention. They will be following these resolutions this spring. These issues form the basis for the American Legion Legislative efforts for the 112th Congress that we visit in Washington this spring. The SONS will come out with their own platform on these initiatives as the time goes on this year and we will stay on top of that and report it out to you as it evolves. We literally expect that to be available within the next few weeks.

Having an open line of communication with our elected officials is key. Remember to write letters, send e-mails, faxes, and

make phone calls to share your opinion and point of view with elected officials on legislative issues. Ask legislators how they will vote on specific issues and ask for their response in writing. Be sure to thank them immediately after a vote is taken on an issue. Continue to maintain frequent contact with your officials; do so as an individual and as a squadron as well. At one of your spring meetings write letters to your Congressional representatives supporting an issue of your choice. This helps remind them we are out there and what they do matters to us. Only with active involvement will we be able to accomplish the American Legion legislative agenda.

Greetings from the 7th & 8th Districts Ross Polson, Detachment VC

have no one to share the holidays with.

As our year reaches its' mid point, our squadrons are very busy promoting all of The American Legion Family programs. Our tremendous passion for sharing is not only with our families, but with our veterans, active-duty service personnel and their families, as well as the families of our deployed service personnel.

Let us continue to visit our shut in veterans, without the American Legion Family, many of these men and women would

I am asking everyone to continue to provide food, clothing, and continue to encourage those in need in our community.

Since my last DEC meeting, my travels have been many to the 7th & 8th Districts. I am encouraging squadrons to continue to send in any outstanding OCF's and send in their membership transmittals on regular basis. We are trying to let everyone know how important it is to meet our goals. We are reminding the squadrons how important it is to start gathering

their data for the consolidated reports that are due in April.

My time is coming to start my visitations in the 7th & 8th Districts traveling with the Department officers and our Detachment Commander. Congratulations to Commander John for having a great year so far and serving our Detachment with much pride.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again at Mid-Winter.

Take time to say a prayer for all of our brave men and women who are keeping us safe and free.

News from the 3rd & 4th Districts Robert Myrtle, Detachment VC

To all the Fabulous 4th District Sons that have taken time to attend their County visitation and met some of our officers and other members it was greatly appreciated. The 3rd District County visitation starts on January 20th and continues in March so please mark your calendar and come out to visit your officers and let us all help our organization "The AMERICAN LEGION" become stronger and more informed as you bring back information to your County and Squadrons.

Our rewards will be felt by the efforts of each squadron, reporting is our biggest concern as many squadrons do so much in their post and community that is never reported. It is very important that projects be recorded within your squadron and district as soon as possible so when doing your consolidated report you can compile each deed and it will become easier to fill. Please try to appoint a committee to see that every deed is documented.

The Fabulous 4th District visitations started on September 29th 2010 in St. Lawrence County at

It is a pleasure to represent the 3rd District. Reporting is our greatest way of communication so please report so that we may inform others of our efforts.

Last year our consolidated reports were up and this year I look forward even more.

Post 79 in Massena. Our Detachment Commander John Rogers brought a sense of togetherness as he is also a legionnaire from the Vietnam Era. Spreading his word using a Four Leaf Clover with each leaf representing a committee of our organization. We have joined forces that gives a message that must be heard.

We traveled the 4th as a family with one purpose, to support and enhance The American Legion. In Franklin County we stopped at the Akwesasne Indian Cultural Library in Hogsburg where there were many interesting artifacts. In Clinton County at Saranac Lake Post 1618 we saw they had remodeled and added a new banquet building. It was great to see the American Legion Family working together as one big family. Post 1619 put on a video of the reenactment of the war on Crab Island which is done every Summer on Lake Champlain to honor the Americans that died there during the Revolutionary War. The 4th District Commander, Chuck, presented a check for \$1,050 for the V.A. from the Sons of Clinton County to Steve Bowman,

Lastly my mother Mrs. Marjorie DeRusso who is a life time member of the Ladies Auxiliary at Melvin Roads and VFW Ladies Auxiliary of East Greenbush, was awarded a 75th year consecutive pin & certificate for the Eastern Star which is the Ladies Auxiliary of the Free and Accepted Masons. My

4th District Commander of the American Legion. Later that day, we visited the Plattsburgh Air Force Base to see the war memorial that they are working so diligently on to honor all past service members from Clinton County.

In Lake Placid in Essex County we were treated to a visit to the Jim Brown estate where he had a hide out with his family until the government caught up with him and brought him to justice. It was sad to see that we don't have a squadron in the Hamilton County. We talked with legion family to find a way for the Sons to be represented in their county. Due to such a small number of family members left in the area, it isn't possible to start a squadron at this time.

This year with our commanders in the 3rd & 4th the top priority will be communications with our Squadrons and promoting the sound programs of the American Legion. I look forward to working with everyone in the Legion Family and, for the good of our Country, let each of us be guided by Gods Grace.

family is greatly proud of having a mother of such honor and dedication.

Thank You!
For the Good of the Sons,
Kevin DeRusso, 3rd District
Commander

Hudson Falls Squadron 574 in Washington County has been very busy and productive with their American Legion programs. Members helped cook a chicken BBQ for the Legion Riders Poker Run, put on monthly breakfasts and worked with the Auxiliary to serve the County Visitation Dinner, Post Early Bird Dinner and the Veterans Day Dinner.

It was a rewarding experience when they distributed

Veterans Day cards and visited with the veterans at Stratton VA Hospital. Members also participated in a flag line dedicating a head stone for a forgotten Civil War Soldier in



Crown Point.

In the Christmas spirit, they worked a Toys for Tots Holiday Parade, bringing toys and food. Another trip to Stratton VA Hospital with cards, candy and blankets for 40 veterans, placed wreaths at Saratoga National Cemetery and marched alongside the Patriot Guard and Legion Riders at the National Guard Christmas Eve Road March.

Commander from page 1

of the honored person, with a large monument in the center. I went back on a school day and watched the students walk through and to my amazement watched them stop and read and learn the reason why this was erected in the center of town. What an education these children are getting reading about our greatest hero's (our veterans) who gave all to keep us safe.

Meeting the people of Upstate NY certainly gives me a knowledge of what this organization is really about. Seeing the members working together as ONE, yes Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons, does my heart proud to also be a member of the Greatest Veterans Organization in New York, actually the World. All I have to say is that New York really puts its' best foot forward to make sure their Veterans are taken

care of, one of which was a visit to the new Oxford Home. May I suggest you make a trip there, a must. Talk with the Veterans in residence. They are well taken care of, the way they should be.

Of course with traveling comes the good times and the bad.....One of those days happened to me. During my visit, I went out to my car, and sat on the back of the tailgate having a smoke, and then remembered I left my brief in the hotel room, I got up, and well, the hatch came down locking my keys in the car. We had to call the police to open it and when

they did it set the alarm off and all the electric went off in the car. I would like to thank your Past District President Ida Knapp for climbing in the car, over the seats and through my suits hanging in back to retrieve my keys so that we could continue our travels in the Sixth District. So, to all I say, carry a spare set of car keys.

So far, this year is going to be a year I will never forget. I have met many and I would like to say they are now my friends, yes Legion, Auxiliary and of course Sons.



Thank you, to all of the District and County Commanders/ Presidents for all your hospitality shown to me during my visits to your County. Let me not forget the Legion Riders, thank you for your support.

You are the Legion Family,
John Rogers, Commander

Sons Pitch In For Wounded Warrior

By Joseph L. SantaCroce

Easter Sunday 2011 will be a bittersweet day for U.S Army Specialist Brendan Marrocco of Staten Island. It was Easter Sunday two years ago that the then 22 year old infantryman was on patrol in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded under his vehicle costing him his arms and legs. Brendan became the first serviceman in Iraq and Afghanistan to lose all four limbs and survive.

Since that time Brendan has worked hard to rebuild his life spending most of the last two years in Washington D.C.'s Walter Reed Army Medical Center learning to use his new prosthetic limbs. During that time fellow members of the Staten Island community have banded together to plan the construction of a customized house for Brendan on the Island. If all goes well the plan is for Brendan to move into his new home on Easter weekend, 2011.

The drive to raise the \$500,000 necessary to build the home was spearheaded by the Stephen Siller Children's Foundation. The organization is named for Stephen Siller, a member of the New York Fire Department, who was a victim of 9/11. Stephen was on his way home from work when he heard the news of the attack on the World Trade Center.

Stephen parked his car in Brooklyn, grabbed his equipment and ran through the closed-down Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to help his comrades at the Trade Center.

Stephen's family started the charity to serve the needs of



Detachment V C, Joe SantaCroce presents \$1,000 check from the Detachment of N Y to Frank Siller of the Stephen Siller Foundation to be used toward the construction of a house for Wounded Warrior, Brendan Marrocco, on Staten Island.

children who have lost their parents by offering educational scholarships, counseling and financial support. The Siller family, through their foundation, organized the fundraising effort, culminating with an announcement on Veteran's Day that they have reached their intended \$500,000 goal. The Sons of the American Legion contributed to the cause with a \$1,000 donation approved by the DEC at the Detachment of New York Fall Conference last

September in Brooklyn.

The fundraising included a concert in August featuring CSI-New York and Forrest Gump star Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band, which raised over \$150,000. Then on Veteran's Day a golf outing was held on three Staten Island courses that attracted over 400 golfers. That event and subsequent dinner that night raised over \$50,000.

The customized home is being built by the Siller Foundation, Building Homes for Heroes, and a group of local builders and merchants who are donating labor and materials to complete the project. At this time the foundation has been laid, the water and sewer lines are in and the construction is underway.

The home will be equipped with wheelchair ramps, elevators and an electrical system that will operate doors and lights through verbal cues. There will also be a two car garage attached that will allow Brendan to continue to work on cars, one of his favorite pastimes.

Though the quality of Brendan's life has been compromised by his injuries, his Staten Island neighbors are providing him with a home that will allow him to live with some degree of independence. They have also made Easter Sunday 2011 a day that Brendan is anxiously awaiting with his ever-present smile and eternally positive outlook.

2nd District News!

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new squadron in our District as Flatlands Post #391 of Kings County has formed. Flatlands is the home Post of Kings County American Legion Commander Michael Rodriguez, who worked very closely with us to make sure the required paperwork was submitted to Albany. We thank Mike for his diligence and hard work.

Kings County Sons Commander, Pete DeAngelis Jr, has helped bring Michael A. Rawley Squadron back in a big way. Re-established last year, Rawley conducted a coat drive this fall, benefitting veterans in the VA Hospital. In addition they held a toy drive for a homeless shelter and recently initiated a scrap metal collection drive. The Squadron has arranged for a local vendor to collect the scrap and convert it into cash which will be donated to the Wounded Warriors project.

Floyd Bennett Squadron recently held a "Beatles Night" with proceeds going toward their programs and Kings County. They also staged a Toys-for-Tots campaign, which were sent to a homeless shelter in Bay Ridge.

Windsor Terrace Squadron also participated in a Toys-for-

Tots campaign by purchasing \$200 worth of toys for Northfield Bank Foundation's campaign for distribution to needy children in their community.

Recently, members of the Kings County Sons joined forces with the Kings County Auxiliary to help with the Auxiliary's "Holiday Gift Shop" for the benefit of the veterans hospitalized at the Brooklyn VA facility. Kings County held their 2nd Annual C & Y fundraiser, chaired by County Commander DeAngelis, on Sunday, January 9th at the Rawley Post. The county is hoping to exceed the \$1,000 it raised last year for CWF.



Joseph Santa Croce, 2nd & 10th District VC; John Rogers, Detachment Commander and Peter DeAngelis, Kings County Commander at the Kings County C & Y Fundraiser held on January 9th at Rawley Post, in Brooklyn.

Over in Richmond County the Sons have also been extremely active in the community. Sons District Commander Anthony Navarino and the members of Granito-Smith Post spearheaded a county-wide project to de-

liver Veterans' Day DVD's to the local elementary schools. In the weeks leading up to Veterans, Day, visits were made to 44 schools in Richmond County.

Commander Navarino is also trying to organize a Defensive Driving Class to be instructed by a member of Granito-Smith Post. The plan is for the instructor to equally share the proceeds of the class with the Sons, which will ultimately be donated to the annual walkathon for the VA Hospitals and Homes.

As is their history, the Cespino-Russo Squadron has also been a presence in their community. For Thanksgiving the Sons distributed full dinners, from turkey to dessert, to 50 needy families in the South Beach community. Then, the squadron played Santa Claus by bringing \$1,000 worth of toys to the children of the active servicemen living at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island.

The squadron was able to accumulate that number of toys through donations and a subsequent shopping trip financed by the squadron.

Public Relations

is difficult to define. It depends on what point you are trying to get across and who you are trying to reach. For the American Legion the words "communication" and "service" seem appropriate.

When you assign tasks for your PR Chairman keep in mind the importance of communication to your member and non member audience. Using a wide array of tools, including: media, news release, editorials, campaign ads, internet and social sites to meet specific program objectives.

The varied service responsibilities include speeches and public addresses on special holidays and at Legion programs. A good public relations program is key to drive growth and progress into your organization.

Come learn more about Public Relations and how it can help you at the SAL Public Relations 101 workshop being held at 26 High St in The Desmond at 3:30 pm on Sat Jan. 22, 2011.



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 and photos into the Commission for the Spring issue **by April 5, 2011**

Click on the link at: www.sonsdny.org to submit articles or to download current and past issues of The Liberty.

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"They Marched for us—Let's Walk for them"

Walk—A—Thon is planned for April 16th.

The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion in New York State are proud to announce a Walk-A-Thon to benefit the 13 Veterans Administrative Medical Centers in New York State, the 5 New York State Veterans Homes along with Fisher House in Albany. The Walk-A-Thon will take place on April 16, 2011, [in a city near you](#).

This Walk-A-thon will benefit the Veterans residing at each of these facilities, assist in their care and meet some of the needs of their family members while they are visiting. These funds will help voluntary service departments purchase personal hygiene products, board games, home computers, DVD's, coffee

makers, movie passes, tickets to sporting events, phone cards, along with renovating and upgrading recreation and therapy equipment.

This Walk-A-thon will be held all across New York State on April 16, 2011. We have a goal of raising at least \$120,000 during this day.

Any questions can be answered by contacting Tom Kurk at 585-393-0636, or Barbara Corker at 914-489-7101. We thank you in advance for your support and please remember:

"Our Veterans Are Our Greatest Resource."



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS