



**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**DETACHMENT**  
**OF**  
**NEW YORK**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
**BINGHAMTON, NY**

*SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION*  
*Detachment of New York*  
*112 State Street*  
*Suite 1300*  
*Albany, NY-12207*  
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# MINUTES OF THE FALL D.E.C. MEETING

October 20th, 2012

First Ward American Legion Post #1254

Binghamton, New York

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

## 1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 **PDC Jerry Ketchum made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the Pre DEC Meeting, Convention, and Post DEC Meeting and accept them as printed with minor corrections, as noted. The motion was seconded by V/C Kirk Tyler and was carried.**
- 1.02 **Department Consultant Robert Neville** thanked the Detachment for all the hard work they were doing. He talked about the great job the Sons do with Camp Good Days, and how proud the Detachment of NY was of our Children and Youth donations. Bob then told the members that he had recently retired and was looking forward to spending more time with his duties in Department.
- 1.03 **Detachment Chaplain James Coats** requested the members to sign the card that was located at the back table for Tom Kurk.

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

**Meeting Reconvened at 12:15 PM**

## 2.00 REPORTS

- 2.01 **Americanism Chairman Robert Myrtle** recognized the members of the Americanism Committee to be Robert Myrtle (Chairman), Ross Polson, James Coats, Chuck Depo, Kirk Tyler, and James Parks. Chairman Myrtle then asked **Boys State Representative David Downey** to come up and report.

**A.) Boys State Representative David Downey** reported that the program would run the last week of June and some of the requirements to attend. Dave asked the members present to please make sure they vet their candidates better. They still had some boys go home from separation anxiety. Those spots could have been used by boys that would have stayed in the program and completed the course. Dave also asked for anyone interested in being a councilor to please contact him. The program needed more participants and councilors.

**B.) Americanism Chairman Robert Myrtle** then reported the commission would once again deliver the customary flag etiquette and education materials at midwinter to the District Commanders. The lapel pin program would continue for the participants in “Boys State. This year the “What America Means To Me” essay contest would be expanded to the County and District levels in order to promote greater participation. The Commission requested 2 contact people for each District. These representatives would reach out to the various local schools to increase the number of entries in the contest. The

Goal is to have so many essays that we would require more help to judge them. The Commission also was looking to expand the program with a “What the Constitution of the United States means to Americans” contest. This part of the program would cover the middle school children in grades 6 through 9 and would also have a similar \$100 prize for each winner.

**A motion made by James Coats to add \$300 to the program for the required prizes for Grades 6-8, was seconded by Chuck Depo, and passed.**

Mr. Myrtle then went over the other programs the Americanism Committee would be supporting including; American Legion Baseball, Junior Sports, Junior Shooting, Boys State, Boys Nation, and Boy Scouts. Mr. Myrtle then informed the members that he would be sending out a letter highlighting the Americanism Program and the goals for the year. Bob then concluded his report with a plea for every squadron to send in a Consolidated Report Form.

**A motion made by Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the Americanism report was carried.**

2.02 **Children & Youth Chairman Ted Armbrust** went over some of the great programs in need of support under Children & Youth. The Child Welfare program is our most prolific program and this year will be an important priority for our Detachment Commander John Knapp. Ted encouraged every squadron to donate \$1.00 per member to the CWF program to receive a banner for the squadron’s colors. Ted went over the Josh Dog Program and told the members that there were 2 different forms of Josh Dogs. The original program dogs are \$35 and are sent to area hospitals, the other form are GI Dogs and they cost \$26 each and are for children of active duty personnel. Ted reported that \$734,000 worth of Children & Youth grants were presented last year. Ted then asked all the squadrons to try and support the families of our active duty troops during the upcoming Christmas Holliday season. Mr. Armbrust then reported that there will be a table set up at mid-winter conference to support both the Josh Dog and CWF programs. Ted then asked all the Sons to remember to report what they have accomplished on their Consolidated Report Form. Ted was working on a way to increase the amount of consolidated reports received, using an incentive based program of encouragement. Ted then had Robert Ellis come forward and speak about the National Children & Youth Commission meeting held in Indianapolis. Mr. Ellis thanked the Detachment for sending him to the conference and recalled his trip and what he had learned. The presentations were on a wide range of American Legion topics and could be used as a teaching tool at the squadron level. Some of the programs covered include; the Jay C’s, writing Resolutions, The Special Olympics, The National Auxiliary, The Dangers of Bullying, The Ronald McDonald House, Operation Military Kids, The Mercy Medicaid Airlift and The Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. He then encouraged everyone to check out the National Sons webpage and watch the many power point presentations stored there. Ted then thanked Mr. Ellis for his service to the Detachment and said he was looking forward to seeing everyone at mid-winter conference. Ted Concluded his report by asking all the members present to take as many piggy banks for the CWF program that they wanted. A large supply from National Convention was at the back table.

**A motion made by Clarence Bosford, and duly seconded by James Coats to accept The Children & Youth report was carried.**

2.03 **Acting Finance Chairman David Caldwell** reported on a few recommendations made by the Finance Committee. They included;

- 1.) The establishment of a \$2,000 line item for printing and materials related to promotion of a National Candidate for office.
- 2.) Changing the Fall DEC meeting to a spring DEC meeting to be held in conjunction with the Detachment Commanders Homecoming.
- 3.) A one time temporary increase of Per-Diem expense reimbursement from \$65/day to \$80/day for the 2013 Convention dates in Niagara Falls.  
(Rate will return to \$65/day after 2013 Convention)

**A motion made by David Caldwell, and seconded by Christopher Burtch to accept the Finance Report was carried.**

2.04 **8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Ronald Kuczenski's report was read by David Caldwell,** and he reported that the year had just begun, but that the 8<sup>th</sup> District was off to a slow start. Ron had attended the first District meeting held by the Chautauqua County SAL. Ron also reported that Mayville Squadron 493 had raised \$4,600 for Hospice by organizing a Tractor Poker Run. Ron also attended the closing ceremony of the 2012 Boy Scout Camp-o-ree at Camp Merz on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Membership for 2012 ended at 100.69%, and so far this year membership is at 4.56% paid. Ron was planning on mailing out membership reminders as soon as he received the new 8<sup>th</sup> District directory.

**A motion made by David Caldwell, and seconded by Kirk Tyler to accept the 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander's Report was carried.**

**Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson** reported Ray Jarvis, Joe Lenhardt, John Bogart, Chris Cerullo, John Chang and himself met for the committee meeting. There were two issues brought up. The first was in relation to Pearl River Squadron #329 but Dave Downey had taken care of the concerns. The Other problem would be taken care of by Mr. Chang.

**A. Conventions and Meetings Chairman Kevin Hewitt's report was read by Dean Williamson** - Kevin reported 2013 Convention would be held in Niagara Falls July 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> and would run \$140/night. More information would follow at Mid-winter Convention. The following year, the 2014 Convention would be in Albany. The Call to Mid-Winter was going out soon according to Mr. Avery.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson** then asked Member Training and Development Committee Chairman Roy Mezzapelle to come up and give his report.

**B. Member Training and Development Chairman Roy Mezzapelle** reported that the presentations for both the Advisors seminar and Leadership Workshop had been updated and reviewed by the commission. The committee reviewed some of the information and edited the length of the presentations to keep it short and to the point. Roy then announced that the commission would continue to showcase 2 commissions/committees at mid-winter convention in Albany. Last year they focused on "Americanism" and "Children & Youth", so this mid winter should focus on different committees. Roy then asked the VA&R and Public Relations Committee's to prepare one hour power point presentations for mid-winter. Roy concluded his report with an Idea for an advanced "level 2" version of the Leadership Workshop Class for the 2014 mid-winter convention. He also reminded the District Commanders to send two primary and two backup candidates to attend the Mid-Winter Leadership Workshop. The list would be first come first serve so get the names in ASAP.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson** then asked membership Chairman Gaither Espey to come forward and give his report.

**C. Membership Chairman Gaither Espey** reported that the Detachment of NY was currently in 42<sup>nd</sup> place on the National Level. Gaither then informed the members that this years' theme is "We're on the Bandwagon" and encouraged everyone to get to work and jump on the membership bandwagon. He then reported that the Detachment still had 61 Squadrons that had not turned in their Officer Certification Forms. Gaither then passed out a list of the delinquent squadrons and asked all the members to please check with the ones located in their districts ASAP. He then went over the problems of retaining members, and encouraged the officers present to go out and teach the districts, counties, and squadrons how to keep our members involved and informed about the many Legion programs we support. Gaither talked about the value of a quick call or letter to the

member. This personal contact approach helped the casual member feel more involved and helped to keep them informed on the goings on at the post. Gaither then concluded his report with his contact information and an offer to assist anyone that may have membership questions.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson asked Ray Jarvis** to report on the new background check requirements for all members of the American Legion Family that work with children. Ray passed out a sample form and went over the process of filling out the form, and what would happen with the results. Dean then thanked the Chairmen for their reports and for the time the commission spent in the meeting.

**A motion made by Kirk Tyler and duly seconded by John Walpole to accept the Internal Affairs report was carried.**

2.05 **Legislative Chairman Greg “Doc” Gibbs report was read by PDC Gary Denmon and read as follows;**

Legislative Update Report from Chairman Doc Gibbs} PDC

By the time you read this we will be making early plans for the On-the-Hill visitation to Washington} DC. If you are thinking of going please let me know and I will help to coordinate the rooms and roommates, the box lunch order, and the Detachment wreath laying ceremony. The tentative dates for his coming year are Sunday 24 February through Wednesday 27 February 2013. We will also be in Albany for the state On-the-Hill Days on March 11-12. The issues have not yet been formalized for the February visitation to our congressmen but it will likely come from the “Our Pillars Your Platform” document prepared by Ken Governor the Legion Legislative Chairman. This document is available by going to the Legion website. Please go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) for this document. Issues surrounding the Legion’s Four main Pillars will no doubt be the focus.

**Under Pillar #1:** Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - issues include protection the VA budget from any reductions} boosting VA construction projects} speeding up delivery of electronic health records} reducing delay in disability evaluation systems} improving access to health care in rural areas} addressing environmental exposure issues} increase VA staffing to help with claims backlogs. The Legion supports work opportunity tax credits, the Keystone XL pipeline project, aid to veterans for education, homelessness, and small business opportunities. They are also out front supporting better services for female veterans and a women veteran}s outreach program.

**Pillar #2** is National Security, a very big issue with the Legion, and they obviously support a strong national defense, including appropriate spending levels to keep the military ready. This includes homeland security} immigration enforcement} and a full accounting for American POW/MIAs. **Under Pillar #3:** Americanism- the Legion backs flag protection} eliminating illegal immigration} supporting voter registration and participation. In the area of Children and Youth} **the 4<sup>th</sup> Pillar**} Legion supports legislation that will keep child pornography laws strong} they support legislation that will help to provide assistance to families with children who suffer catastrophic illnesses, and also support early intervention for children with intellectual disabilities. The Legion is against media violence, drug abuse, and sexual exploitation of children, and supports family integrity and many family support networks around the country.

Several resolutions authored by the National Sons Legislative Commission will be presented at the Spring NEC meeting. They are in the formulation stage but will likely be: 1) supporting the stolen valor act; 2) support to eliminate the widows and disabled veterans tax issues; and 3) a resolution supporting the limiting of hate speeches at veterans' funerals.

Look for these items to form the basis of the Legion's stand on legislative issues. The election this November may also focus specific actions. Encourage everyone you can to register and vote this year especially our youth. Getting them involved in our country's legislative issues early on is good for us all. Helping to provide transportation to the polling areas for the elderly or shut in can be one way we can serve. Look for more information to come your way from in the coming months as the platforms become more focused on specific bills and actions within the legislature.

**A motion made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the Legislative report was carried.**

- 2.06 **The Public Relations Chairman Bruce Ruthvan** reported the Detachment PR Commission would make itself available to other commissions in assisting and promoting state wide events. Bruce then stressed the need to update and use the Email lists gathered by the Detachment of NY. The Committee was also looking for volunteers to help man the Public Relations table at mid-winter convention, especially 5-8PM Friday and 8AM to 2PM Saturday . There was a need for SAL imprinted plastic bags to give away at the table to hold the materials supplied by Detachment. (Probable cost of \$200 for 500 bags) Bruce then informed the members that the current 5 newsletters per year would continue, and articles from the Commander, Adjutant, Americanism, VA&R, and Children & Youth Commissions should be submitted for each issue. Bruce also reminded the members about the “Squadrons in Action section, and encouraged everyone to send in articles on what their squadrons are doing. Bruce concluded his report with the promise of a Mid-Winter PR Program addressing the use of Social Media and Webinars, to be put on by our Webmaster John Walpole.

**A motion made by Kirk Tyler and duly seconded by Christopher Burtch to accept the Public Relations report was carried.**

- 2.08 **VA & R Chairman Vince Green** reported on the National Legion Commander and National Sons Commander’s project would be “Operation Comfort Warriors. The program is dedicated to providing items not usually supplied by the government to injured and ill military personnel. The items provided include things like; sweat suits, DVD’s, puzzles, electronic devices, books, calling cards, and recreational goods like kayaks, ping pong tables and computers. . More information could be found at their website – [www.legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors](http://www.legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors) and Vince recommended everyone take a look. Vince then went over the details of the 6<sup>th</sup> annual “They marched for us, We walk for them” walk-a-thon to be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2013. In conjunction to the walk-a-thon this year, we are also using “The boots” as a charitable tool to raise money by allowing people to purchase a paper set of boots for a donation. The member signs their name on a picture of a pair of combat boots and are then displayed in the post. Vince then asked the members to remember Veterans Appreciation Day, and to try to sponsor a lunch or dinner for your local veterans on this day. This is our holiday, so we needed to make sure we show our Veterans how important they are to us. Vince concluded his report with information on the Mattydale breakfast that follows the VA visit on Christmas Day. He encouraged anyone with some time to go to the VA hospital with Dean Williamson and the other Sons to help hand out gifts.

**A motion made by Vince Green and duly seconded by Richard Hodge to accept the VA & R Report was carried.**

- 2.09 **4<sup>th</sup> District Commander Clarence Bosford** reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> district had not yet held a meeting. He then reported he just finished a successful visitation with Department Commander Tim Van Patten, Department President Sally Johnson, and Detachment Commander Knapp. Clarence then reviewed several projects and listed some local events he attended in the 4<sup>th</sup> District, including; A membership drive at Stratton Airbase, The installation of a flagpole for an 86 year old WWII veteran in Ticonderoga NY, The 42<sup>nd</sup> celebration of gold star mothers, and a pig roast to benefit CWF. Clarence then concluded his report by stating his goals for the year were to increase the 4<sup>th</sup> District membership and continue to serve our Veterans.

**A motion made by Clarence Bosford and duly seconded by Kirk Tyler to accept the 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander’s Report was carried.**

- 2.10 **5<sup>th</sup> District Commander Christopher Burtch** reported on his 6 visitations with Detachment Commander John Knapp and company. He then went over the 5<sup>th</sup> District membership, and reported 1367 members paid. That equates to 25.41% and lead the 5<sup>th</sup>

District. Chris then reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> District ended 2012 with 300 new members, and this year they had 113 more so far. Christopher concluded his report with the pledge to attend at least one meeting in each county this year.

**A motion made by Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the 5th District report was carried.**

- 2.11 **6<sup>th</sup> District Commander Richard Hodge** reported on an organizational meeting held on August 12<sup>th</sup> at West Endicott Post #1700 in Endicott. He went over the dates for the visitations and 6<sup>th</sup> district meetings. Richard looked forward to serving again as 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander and was making “The giving tree project” at the Oxford Vets Home his commander’s project. He was selling “Tree of Life “ Wristbands for \$5.00 each, and requested the members help support this worthy cause.

**A motion made by Richard Hodge and duly seconded by Chuck Depo to accept the 6<sup>th</sup> District report was carried.**

- 2.12 **7<sup>th</sup> District Commander James Parks** reported that the District was just starting up. November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> is the gift wrapping project at the Canandaigua VA. The 7<sup>th</sup> District will have it’s annual wheelchair escort for the veterans and their families that would like to attend church on Christmas eve. Jim was looking forward to giving a full report at mid-winter convention.

**A motion made by James Parks and duly seconded by Vince Green to accept the 6<sup>th</sup> District report was carried.**

- 2.13 **10<sup>th</sup> District Commander John Walpole** reported that he had good news, the Hemstead Squadron #392 is finally getting it’s charter. John was also sending letters to all Posts that do not currently have a Sons Squadron, and asking those Posts to try and start a squadron. John attended the 2/10 District membership workshop, held on September 9<sup>th</sup> at post #411. The workshop was put on by the Legion, but had many of the same themes and information. One good idea was to put a membership application on the back of a business card. They also discussed the many features on the [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) website. John was planning on attending the Nassau and Suffolk County visitations with Detachment Commander John Knapp.

**A motion made by John Walpole and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the 10<sup>th</sup> District report was carried.**

- 2.14 **Webmaster John Walpole** then reported on conferencing over the internet and recommended that the Detachment look into buying webcams for the Committee Chairman if needed. John then went over some uses of Face-book and how to get onto and read the daily emails through your Face-book account. John then reviewed the criteria for web content, and asked the members to check with him or Bob Avery before posting anything to the website. John was working on giving the PR Commission and the Adjutants the ability to post content directly to Face-book to get information out as quick as possible. John has also fixed all the links on the webpage, so there should be no more dead pages. John thought that it was very important to start to use social media to get the word out in real time, about Sons activities and programs. John was looking to have monthly meetings with the PR Committee to go over content for the website. John was also experimenting with internet and Face-book ads to reach more people. He was hoping to work with the finance committee to explore ways of cheaply expanding our reach in social media outlets and grow our membership. John then asked that the Vice Commanders, and Commanders’ Aids try to Tweet pictures of the Commander at his visitations to give a real time account of the nights activities. John concluded his report with an Idea for a U-Tube contest to promote the Sons of the American Legion, and hoped to have more info at mid-winter.

**A motion made by John Walpole and duly seconded by Christopher Burtch to accept the Webmaster’s report was carried.**

- 2.15 **Historian Roy Mezzapelle** asked the members for their help when Commander John Knapp was out on visitations. Roy wanted anyone with pictures or video to send them to him, along with any information relevant to the submission, such as place, dates, times and names of people in the picture or video. To help facilitate the collection of these items, the webmaster has created the Email account [Historian@sondny.org](mailto:Historian@sondny.org) to link to our website. Roy would also like to make sure that everything else the Sons do can also be documented and saved in similar fashion. So make sure you take some pictures of Sons and their activities and submit them to the Historian.  
**A motion made by Roy Mezzapelle and duly seconded by Chuck Depo to accept the Historian's report was carried.**
- 2.16 **Chaplain James Coats** reported attending several functions, including; The VAVS meeting in Canandaigua, Squadron meetings, Post Breakfasts, A chicken BBQ and cash giveaway, and the 7<sup>th</sup> District meeting. Jim also sent out get well cards to; Bob Cox, Paul DeLair, David Quagliata, Frank Fazio, and Ben Hall. Condolence Cards have been sent to the Family of American Legion PNC Michael Kogutek of Orchard Park, and to Americanism Chairman Robert Myrtle for the loss of Bob's brother.  
**A motion made by James Coats and duly seconded by Ted Armbrust to accept the Chaplain's report was carried.**
- 2.17 **2/10 Vice Commander Joe Santa Croce's report was read by Adjutant Bob Avery** – Joe reported on his visitations with Detachment Commander John Knapp in Queens, Kings, and Richmond Counties. Joe looked forward to the remaining visitations in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Joe was working hard to resolve some membership problems that have cropped up after membership chairman have quit or moved away. Joe then concluded his report with an idea to resurrect the District 2 vs. District 10 softball game next summer, to benefit CWF.  
**A motion made by Chris Burtch and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the 2/10 Vice Commander's report was carried.**
- 2.18 **3/4 Vice Commander Chuck Depo** reported on the membership workshop held at Mohawk Post #1450 in Saratoga. Chuck also attended the Veteran Appreciation Day in Plattsburgh at the Crete Center, where he set up a table and handed out information and Membership applications for the SAL. Chuck had attended all the 4<sup>th</sup> District Visitations, and was looking forward to the visits in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Districts that were coming up soon. Chuck was getting the word out to the local schools about the "What America Means To Me" contest, and greatly enjoys working on the Americanism Commission. Chuck closed his report by asking the members to really listen to the Department Commanders speech when he visits your County. The message is that we are more than just a social club, but we do socialize, after we take care of our Veterans and their families.  
**A motion made by Chuck Depo and duly seconded by Kirk Tyler to accept the 3/4 Vice Commander's report was carried.**
- 2.19 **5/6 Vice Commander Vince Green** reported that he 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Districts were in the lead for membership at 1402 members paid so far. Vince commented on the squadrons that had not submitted OCF's and pointed out that many of the 0's could be phantom squadrons that no longer exist. He asked that the members present look into resolving some of these issues by either helping to fix the problem or by retrieving the squadron's charter to remove these 0's from our membership lists. Vince then reviewed the 5<sup>th</sup> District visitations he attended and thanked Detachment Commander Knapp and 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander Burtch for their help with a problem in Herkimer County. Vince concluded his report with news of his daughter Erin's election to National Vice President of the Eastern Region for the Jr. Auxiliary. Vince also looked forward to attending as many of the 6<sup>th</sup> District Visitations as his schedule would permit.  
**A motion made by Chuck Depo and duly seconded by Kirk Tyler to accept the**



**5/6 Vice Commander's report was carried.**

- 2.20 **7/8 Vice Commander Kirk Tyler** thanked the Detachment for its generosity and compassion shown to him and his family after their recent family business fire. Kirk talked about losing everything and how happy he was to still have his family and friends there to support him. On a brighter note, Kirk was elected Chautauqua County Commander at the same time his wife was elected County President. He has attended 2 County meetings, one last night that was a joint meeting of the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons. Commander Kirk attended a 7<sup>th</sup> District Sons meeting at the August-Mauer Post 286 in Wayne County on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and an 8<sup>th</sup> District meeting at VFW Post 5009 in Wyoming County on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tyler was looking forward to the upcoming year and hoped to do better than last year when they were in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in membership.  
**A motion made by Kirk Tyler and duly seconded by Richard Hodge to accept the 7/8 Vice Commander's report was carried.**
- 2.21 **Judge Advocate David Downey** reported that several Constitution and By Law changes have been submitted, but all of them had errors that need to be corrected before they were resubmitted. Some of the problems included, using the wrong forms and not submitting a complete copy of the revised Constitution and Bylaws or by leaving off the squadron number in the heading.  
**A motion made by Clarence Bosford and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the Judge Advocate's report was carried.**
- 2.22 **ANEC Gary Denmon** reported on the National Convention in Indianapolis and on the election of our new National Commander Chris Huntzinger from Pennsylvania, and National Vice Commander East - John Waite from Vermont. Gary attended the membership, legislative and VA&R meetings while out at National Convention. Gary also reported that 302,000 renewal cards had been sent out from National so far this year, and it was time we all "get on the bandwagon" and turn in those membership cards. Mr. Denmon then talked about the honorary life code now available on the member data form. He also gave out the dates for Washington Conference and said that the legislative issues were on the Legion website. Gary then talked about the National Commanders goal of raising \$100,000 for Fisher House and his support of Operation Comfort Soldier. Gary concluded his report by listing Joe Glenn from Maryland as the leading Candidate for National Commander, and Bob Turner from Connecticut as the leading candidate for Vice Commander East.  
**A motion made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Jerry Ketchum to accept the ANEC's report was carried.**
- 2.23 **NEC Jerry Ketchum** reported that he attended the National Convention In Indianapolis, and was appointed to the standing committee on Children & Youth. While at the meeting, Jerry was appointed secretary of the committee. CWF donations totaled \$506,000 for last year. Jerry reviewed the many Donations the Detachment made, including: \$1,000 to NEF, \$1,050 to CMN, and \$130 to CWF. The Detachment of NY also received some attention for our Walk-A-Thon and membership renewal rate. Jerry then reported on his trip to Cassadaga Post on October 6<sup>th</sup>, to address the Sons during their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Jerry talked about the history of the Sons of the American Legion and presented the Squadron with a certificate of achievement on behalf of the Detachment. Jerry then reported on Commander Knap and Vice Commander Chang's attendance at Commanders School during the Fall DEC meeting in Indianapolis. At the fall meeting, NEC Jerry Ketchum attended the Children & Youth meeting where a resolution was passed to require background checks of members appointed to the National Americanism, National Children & Youth Commission, and the National Child Welfare Program. The National Sons Organization also recommends that Detachments begin to adopt similar screening procedures. The reason for this was, to prevent sex offenders and people with criminal convictions from working closely with children. Mr. Ketchum then proudly informed the

members that \$9806 was donated to CWF , and our Detachment Commander John Knapp was a presenter of a \$2,500 check towards that total. Jerry concluded his report with a DVD presentation by our new National Sons Commander Christopher Huntzinger. The Video went over Chris's personal history with the Sons, and gave details on his project and goals for the year. After the DVD Jerry made mention that the National Legion Commander Jim Koutz's Project is Operation Comfort Warriors, and to keep that project in mind when donating this year.

**A motion made by Jerry Ketchum and duly seconded by Gary Denmon to accept the NEC's report was carried.**

- 2.23 **Legion Advisor Maurice Arthur** reminded the members that if it was his turn to report, the meeting must be almost over. He then thanked the members for their hard work on the committees and commissions. He said he had learned a lot about the SAL and enjoyed the afternoon with the Detachment DEC officers.

**A motion made by Roy Mezzapelle and duly seconded by James Parks to accept the Legion Advisor's report was carried.**

- 2.24 **Master Sergeant at Arms Greg Falco** reported that he Attended both the National Sons & Legion Conventions in August, and learned a great deal about both organizations. He recommended to everyone present to try and make the trip out to National Convention, because it was worth the time and cost to go. Greg informed the members present that our own Legion Adjutant Richard Pedro received an award for his service to the National Legion Organization, and praised the great job he does for our Detachment. Greg then thanked the Officers for obeying most of the rules, and handed over only \$14 in fines for the Commander's CWF Project .

**A motion made by Richard Hodge and duly seconded by Christopher Burtch to accept the Master Sergeant at Arms' report was carried.**

- 2.25 **Adjutant Robert Avery** commented on the great job the Committees and Commissions did during the meeting. He then went over many items of the 41<sup>st</sup> annual National Convention. Bob Reported that donations totaling \$59,369 with \$45,000 going to CWF, \$9,500 to NEF, and other donations to Fisher House, Legacy, Ride to Recovery, and Operation Military Kids, just to name a few. Bob reviewed the National Membership goal of 400,000 members and asked the officers to work hard to obtain this goal. Currently The Detachment is in 44<sup>th</sup> place around 15% collected. Bob asked for everyone to redouble their efforts and send in those transmittals ASAP. Mr. Avery then reviewed the current standings of the Counties in regard to membership. The Detachment still had 61 Squadrons with no OCF's turned in, and Bob asked that we concentrate on fixing that problem. Mr. Avery was working on updates for the Detachment manual and National accomplishment sheet. This is a great tool to inform people on how much time and money, we the Sons, donate to this organization on a yearly basis. Bob is currently working with Mr. Walpole on a similar document for just the Detachment of NY and it's accomplishments. The next target date is November 15 and everyone should be at 35% paid. Last mid-winter convention we were at the 65% goal, so let's get out there and find those renewals and new members. Bob then went over his 2 email contacts – [adjutant@sonsdny.org](mailto:adjutant@sonsdny.org) and [rjf.avery@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rjf.avery@rochester.rr.com) and asked for a motion to accept his report.

**A motion made by Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the Adjutant's report was carried.**

- 2.26 **Detachment Commander John Knapp** reported on the wonderful time he had at his first National Convention out in Indianapolis. John went over his travels so far on visitations, and remarked on several of the experiences he had while touring. Some of the more memorable included; A trip on the J.F. Kennedy to the Statue of Liberty, Tour of the Old Fort Museum, Tour of the Wilder Homestead, The Silas Wright Museum, The Tour of Paul Revere Copper and Brass, the Tour of the Salmon River Fish Hatchery,

and the tour of the Syracuse Airport Active Duty/Veterans Receiving Room. Commander Knapp then reviewed his trip out to the Fall NEC meeting and what he learned in National Commanders School. John thanked all the members of the Sons for the great hospitality shown to him and his wife while touring the state. John was looking forward to the remainder of his visitations and many new people he would be meeting. **A motion made by Jerry Ketchum and duly seconded by James Coats to accept the Detachment Commander's report was carried.**

**3.00 SICK CALL**

3.01 None

**4.00 AWARDS**

**Commander John Knapp** requested Past Commander Greg Gibbs along with the appropriate District representatives and Committee Chairman come forward and present the 2011-2012 Convention Awards.

**Past Detachment Commander Greg Gibbs** then handed out the awards from the 2012 Convention in Rochester. They were as follows:

**Americanism**

150 or less members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Cottreall-Warner Squadron #942	Monroe County	Dist 7
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Antwerp Squadron #916	Jefferson County	Dist 5
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: John B. Handte Squadron #89	Broome County	Dist 6

Over 150 members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Munnsville Squadron #54	Madison County	Dist 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457	Ontario County	Dist 7
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County	Dist 7

**Children & Youth**

150 or less members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: John B. Handte Squadron #89	Broome County	Dist 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Mattydale Squadron #1832	Onondaga County	Dist 5
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Walter T. Conley Squadron #1107	Cayuga County	Dist 7

150 or more members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Mohawk Squadron #1450	Saratoga County	Dist 4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Chili Squadron #1830	Monroe County	Dist 7
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Fountain Brothers Squadron #1619	Clinton County	Dist 4

**VA&R**

150 or less members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Wolcott Memorial Squadron #881	Wayne County	Dist 7
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Babylon Squadron #94	Suffolk County	Dist 10
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Floyd Bennett Squadron #1060	Kings County	Dist 2

150 or more members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Robert Lee Walsh Squadron #337	Fulton County	Dist 4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457	Ontario County	Dist 7
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Whitestown Squadron #1113	Oneida County	Dist 5

### Membership

#### Largest Squadron:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Winnek Squadron #396	Ontario County Dist 7	379 members
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County Dist 7	395 members
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: New Hartford Squadron #1376	Oneida County Dist 5	494 members

#### Most new members:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: New Hartford Squadron #1376	Oneida County Dist 5	52 members
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: John P. Eaton Squadron #746	Steuben County Dist 7	72 members
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Squadron #1040	Albany County Dist 3	82 members

#### Highest percentage increase over prior year(Under 300)

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Mamaroneck Squadron #90	Westchester County Dist 9	84%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Edwin Wilbur, Jr. Squadron #1478	Chenango County Dist 6	115%
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Orchard Park Squadron #567	Erie County Dist 8	174%

### 5.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.01 **Gary Denmon made a motion to accept the list of Commanders appointments for 2012-2013, and was seconded by Christopher Burtch and passed.**
- 5.02 **Jerry Ketchum made a motion to spend up to \$200.00 on Merchandise Bags for the PR table, and was seconded by Chuck Depo and passed.**

### 6.00 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.01 **PDC Raymond Jarvis Made a motion to rescind his endorsement for National Commander, and was seconded by Christopher Burtch and passed.**
- 6.02 **8<sup>th</sup> District Representative David Caldwell made a motion to create a \$2,000 line item for publications and promotion of a National Sons Candidate, and was seconded by NEC Jerry Ketchum and passed.**
- 6.03 **8<sup>th</sup> District Representative David Caldwell made a motion to raise the per-diem reimbursement rate from \$65 to \$80 for the duration of the 2013 Convention in Niagara Falls, and was seconded by Roy Mezzapelle and passed. Mr. Caldwell then clarified that the rate would return to \$65/day at the conclusion of the 2013 Convention.**
- 6.04 **5<sup>th</sup> District Commander Christopher Burtch made a motion to hold a Spring DEC meeting to be held in conjunction with the Detachment Commanders Homecoming, but was rescinded when the Judge Advocate acknowledged that the Detachment Commander has the right and power to call a meeting without a motion of the DEC. Mr. Burtch then asked for the Internal Affairs Committee to review the proposal and report at mid-winter on costs and the viability of a Spring DEC meeting.**
- 6.05 **ANEC Gary Denmon made a motion to change the expense authorization provision on mileage reimbursement to read "From the point of entry into the state to Convention" where it now says "distance from Albany to the Convention", and was seconded by David Caldwell and passed.**
- 6.06 **Webmaster John Walpole made a motion for a contest to pick the best U-tube video promoting the Detachment of NY Sons and award a \$100 prize to the winner, the motion was seconded by James Coats and carried.**
- 6.07 **NEC Jerry Ketchum made a motion to spend up to \$200 on merchandise bags for the PR table at mid-winter, the motion was seconded by Chuck Depo and passed.**

**7.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

- 7.01 **PNC Christopher Cerullo** submitted the name of Greg “Doc.” Gibbs for endorsement by the Detachment of NY for the office of National Vice Commander.
- 7.02 **Chaplain James Coats** informed the members present on his intent to update and Improve the Chaplains webpage on the Sons Website.  
**Chaplain James Coats then made a motion to integrate the webmaster into the Public relations commission, the motion was seconded by John Walpole and passed.**
- 7.03 \$46.05 was raised for the CWF by passing the piggy bank around the meeting.
- 7.03 **Judge Advocate David Downey** commented on the fact that the turnout for the CWF Golf Tournament may be low this year due to cost and location of the Convention.
- 7.05 Clinton County made a donation of \$462 to Commander John Knapp’s CWF fund.
- 7.06 **VA&R Chairman Vince Green** announced that there were extra Walk-A-Thon materials in the back and to help themselves to what they need.
- 7.07 **NEC Ketchum** reminded the members present that his pony tale is still up for grabs if we raise \$1/member.
- 7.08 **Detachment Commander John Knapp** reminded the members that if we reach \$6,000 for CWF by May, his wife would shave her head into a Mohawk and have it colored blue and gold.
- There being no further business to come before the Meeting, Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco retrieved the POW/MIA banner, Chaplain Robert Myrtle offered the Closing Prayer, following which, the membership saluted our Nation’s Flag as the Color Guard retrieved them.
  - The Meeting was adjourned at 3:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Assistant Adjutant Christopher Burtch



Adjutant Robert J. Avery