

MINUTES OF THE MID-WINTER D.E.C. MEETING

January 25, 2014

The Desmond

Colonie, New York

- The colors being in place a right hand salute was rendered
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco
- Commander Chang recited the POW/MIA Ceremony
- Chaplain Bob Ellis offered the Opening Prayer
- V/C Clancy led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- V/C Depo led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble
- Commander Chang called the Meeting to order at 8:37 AM
- Adjutant Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guests Present Included:
National V/C East, Robert Turner (CT), and John Kerestan, S.A.L. National Liaison and Asst. Director of Internal Affairs for Membership
- PDC Neville introduced the leading candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Mike Helm. Mr. Helm thanks us for hard work on all the American Legion Programs especially the Child Welfare Fund. He looks forward to working with the Sons.
- Internal Affairs Chairmen Williamson read Resolution DEC-1 MW14 (Midwinter2014 To PNC Richard M. Pedro)
NEC Ketchum moved to accept the resolution as read, 2nd by Chaplain Ellis, and carried.
- It was also noted that Assistant Adjutant Kearsing was not present at this meeting as he has just been commissioned a first lieutenant in the army JAG corps and currently in training.

1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 **4th District Commander Bosford moved to accept the minutes as printed with minor corrections, 2nd by 5th District Commander Burtch and carried.**

2.00 COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS

- 2.01 **Americanism Commission Chairman Myrtle;** reported The New Year is now here and squadrons have all been busy supporting many of our programs in Americanism. I had the opportunity to tally up the results of the consolidated reports for Americanism last year and have seen firsthand what our squadrons in New York State do to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism. This year we have two essay contests, one for 1st thru 5th Grade "What America means to me" and one for 6th, 7th & 8th Graders "What the Constitution of the United States means to Americans" the deadline for entries is April 19, 2014. Copies can be printed off our website @ sonsdny.org under Americanism. It is of great displeasure that the Michael L. Lewis Jr. Scholarship is no longer with us. We all thank the Foundation for keeping up the memory of a True Icon of America Michael L. Lewis Jr. a native of Bronx, N.Y. who lost his life in Vietnam in 1968 and in his own words in 1965 "It is the prime duty of a responsible citizen to become aware of his surroundings, to actively participate in them, and to gain a strong sense of responsibility and leadership, which will enable one to become a credit to himself and his community". Scholarships that are still available are Cerullo Memorial Scholarship for all good standing members of the American legion, Sons or Auxiliary and the William P. O'Connell Memorial Veterans Rehabilitation Scholarship. The American Legion Legacy scholarships are for children of a deceased military parent that lost their life in active duty on or after September 11, 2001 and they are eligible for this scholarship through the American Legion, so let's help our legion riders with participation and donations. " Need a Lift" which is a handbook that is published annually as part of the American Legion's Education program, has sources of career and scholarship information for all children. Copies are available at American Emblem Sales. The High School Oratorical contest is running and if anyone has never been to a oratorical contest they should consider going, they will leave the contest with a sense of pride that only our country with its great Constitution and Bill of Rights can give you. Boys State is a five day program for high school juniors held in Morrisville, N.Y.in June and the young men that attend will learn about city, town, county and state government with the help of each other all taking on a responsibility of a government official

and having legislative sessions, court proceeding, law enforcement presentations and assemblies. Every year speaking to young men who have experienced five days at Boys State each one will have a little something different to say, the greatest thing is they enjoyed their experience and always be thankful for going to Boys State. We are always looking for someone to help at boy's state so if you can help us just talk to any officer at your post about volunteering time. Flag Education is on the top our priority we will always fight for the Red, White and Blue it runs in our blood with every pump of our hearts. Every year we distribute literature to each district too finds its way in each county or squadron throughout our state and this year we have flags, being right on flag etiquette Boucher's and flag education literature and DVD. Observe the Patriotic Holidays and fly your flags as you look at them take one moment and remember someone put their life on the line for each of us to protect it, so let us honor it with dignity and honor. Many of the items that didn't get talked about that we do as sons because that just what we do still need to be reported. Like sponsoring a scout troop, baseball team, blood drive, junior shoot competition, community service, color guard, oratorical contest, flag education, boys state, girls state, 5-star or 10 ideals, place flags on graves or give them out at parades, give to the National Emergency Fund and always honor or Veterans. We need any squadron that have done anything to report on the consolidated report this year so that we can say The Detachment of New York State is proud to be part of the Greatest Veterans Organization in this World!

ANEC Denmon moved to accept the report, 2nd by 4th District Commander Bosford, and carried.

- 2.02 Children & Youth Acting Chairman Hodge Gave Chairmen Armbrust's report;** The Children & Youth Commission is asking that squadron take a piggy bank and fill however you can. The squadron that raises the most money for CWF will get a fifty dollar gift card. The commission has received a donation of ten Josh Dogs from Gregg "Doc" Gibbs. Each District will receive one to raffle of. The District that raises the most amount of money will receive and &25 gift card from me. We also need your help in getting the word out about the Children & Youth programs. Do not forget to fill out your form and send it in if you donated at least a dollar per member the CWF so that you can get your banner for your flag.
Forth District Commander Bosford moved to accept the report, 2nd by Chaplain Ellis, and carried.

- 2.03 VA & R Commission Chairman Green** reported; Again this year the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion in New York State joins forces for the 7th Annual Walk-A-Thon which will be held on April 12 in most areas around the state. Last year we raised \$20,359.00 from 50 different individuals, Squadrons, Units and County organizations. As in the past the money was divided up between the Detachment and the Department Auxiliary each receiving \$10,150. The Detachments portions of these funds were distributed between the 13 Veterans Administrative Medical Centers in New York State, the 5 New York State Veterans Homes, and the Fisher House in Albany. At the Fall DEC meeting it was discussed that our website does not mention that the money from the Walk-A-Thon is first split between the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons before the funds are distributed (only our half), we are working to correct this. Also discussed was an effort to get a VAVS rep in every VA in the state as we have in past years. If interested please let us know. Last year the Commission received only three applications for the William P. O'Connell scholarship, so please make sure you let your Squadron's know this scholarship exists and the application is available on the Son's website. Each year the VA&R donation winners are based on the consolidated reports. Last year we had no choice but to invalidate several due to not being filled out correctly. The top of the form lines 1-8 (2012-2013) must be completed correctly. The biggest issues being with Current and Prior year membership. This does not mean the year 2014, or one less, or 5 more, it means how many members are in your Squadron this year, how many members where in your Squadron last year. Without this information your report we not be judged. One note your total donation in hours and dollars will still be reported up to National.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION | CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT

Please Check one box indicating the reporting entity: Detachment District Squadron

Please print or type clearly:

1 _____ Detachment (State) 2 _____ District

3 _____ Squadron Number 4 _____ Squadron Name

5 _____ Current Year Membership 6 _____ Prior Year Membership

7 _____ City/Town 8 _____ Zip Code

NEF helps those affected by well-known disasters such as Hurricanes and Superstorms, and lesser-publicized tragedies such as flooding or wildfires. The fund provides up to \$1,500 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$5,000 for posts. If you know of any Legion family member who has been displaced from his or her primary residence due to a declared natural disaster they may be eligible for NEF assistance. The applicant must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, and their membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application. Please remember our Veterans needs are not, there are many homeless and veterans in need, and they don't end by a calendar so please reach out to them.

5th District Commander Burtch moved to accept the report, 2nd by 4th District Commander Bosford, and carried.

2.04 **Legislative Commission Chairman Gibbs** reported; Your Detachment Legislative Commission consists of: Greg "Doc" Gibbs, Chairman, and members, David Perry, Vince Green, Gary Denmon, Jeff Jordan, and Gerry Shepard.

The Commission is busy planning for the March On-the-Hill visitation Days for both Albany and Washington, DC. Letters seeking appointments will be mailed in early December and we will coordinate the visitation schedules (March 14-15 Albany, NY and March 20-23 Washington, DC). If you are contacting Congress yourself, besides your own local representative you may wish to be aware of these two national level Congressmen: Jeff Miller from Florida, who is the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Bernie Sanders from Vermont who is the Chairman of the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee. They both are key and deal with Legion issues on a daily basis. The New York State Senate Chairman for Veterans' Affairs is Greg Ball and the Assembly Committee Chairman is Phil Ramos. What kind of impact can you make towards improving Legion-friendly legislation Get new members. Each new member increases our power with the Congress; the strength of our positions clearly depends upon the breadth and depth of our membership. Hearing from us as members is magnified substantially by our numbers. Do not underestimate that fact. Attached is a four page listing of the current legislative issues that the Detachment of NY is following. The Legion has an eye on these 14 items for potential action on during our 2013-2014 legislative years. Some of these items we have seen before others are new this year. Also enclosed in this list is a group of five bills that were successfully acted upon this past year including the Veterans' Cemetery Bill that allows for the creation of a NY State Veterans Cemetery through the Federal VA program, pushed by Senator Ball! Our committee will meet at the Fall DEC meeting and move forward to represent the NY Detachment of the SONS in a positive manner. We will have a strong presence again at the legislative visitation opportunities this year and put forth a strong message for support for the SONS and Legion agendas. Our Commission remains in constant contact with Legionnaire Joseph Barry the Department of NY Legislative Chairman as well as the Co-Chairman Bill Mahan. Our own David Lee also represents us at the SONS National Legislative level and remains a key player in all our Detachment efforts. If you are planning to go to the On-the-Hill Days in Albany on March 14-15, they precede the DC trip which is a bit unusual. Please contact your own County Legion team (Legion Commander or Legion Legislative Chairman from your home County). The Albany trip is organized through the Legion County Chairmen. You sit by County at the Legislative breakfast and they need to know a count of attendees as well as provide you with the ability to purchase a breakfast ticket. After the breakfast with the Legislators you travel up to the Office Building and visit with your local Congressmen and leave for home on your own schedule. We generally have a dozen or so Sons attend. If you are close to Albany it can be an easy trip for you. It is centered at the hotel on Lodge and State Streets and we walk up to the capitol from there. Plans are currently underway to send (7) seven Detachment members (Gaither Espey, John Chang, David Perry, Bob Avery, Doc Gibbs, Dave Lee, Jerry Ketchum) to DC in March. Commander Chang will post the Detachment wreath at the World War II Monument at

that time. Please confer with me if you plan to attend, I will help coordinate the trip efforts and legislative briefing. Appointment letters and emails have already been sent. Room reservations are now due at the DC hotel.

V/C Hodge moved to accept the report, 2nd by 2nd District Commander DeAngelis and carried.

2.05 Department Staff: Membership Coordinator, Paul DeLair addressed the DEC and membership in attendance. He stated that the membership needs to be transmitted in a timely fashion, please do not hold on to membership and work on retention. He also stated that with some new changes in our accounting firm slows down how often membership is getting mailed out.

Department Staff: Program Coordinator, Annie Wilsey addressed the DEC and membership in attendance. She stated that we need to get our OCF turned in in a timely fashion. She also spoke about how to go about getting a new charter or reinstating a squadron and if you do ask please follow up to make sure it is getting done.

2.06 Public Relations Commission Chairman James Coates reported; I would like to begin by thanking my public relation commission members and everyone who sent in articles for the Liberty. Your public relations commission consists of Ken Kraetzer - White Plains, James Connelly - Bohemia, Timothy Van Patten II - East Amherst, Daryl Verstrete - Newark and Gabe Cinquegrana - Canandaigua. It really helps when you have an abundance of material to work with, especially squadron news clips and information from National. Of course, information from our own commission activities and programs is especially important. The public relations commission will continue to work with the other commission chairmen to use the Liberty to communicate and enhance the great programs we have here in the Detachment of New York. I have just published my second Liberty and am happy to say that they are going out somewhat on time. I have a tough act to follow in my predecessor Bruce Ruthven but I am learning. However, it is your articles and information that ultimately make our newsletter successful. We will be continuing with our information table at Mid-Winter in January. Bruce assures me that we have plenty of the bags left that we purchased last year and Adjutant Avery is working on getting the hand out materials. Last year at the Mid-Winter conference there was discussion about participating in the Telethon that always takes place at the Holiday Inn Turf on Sunday of that weekend. At this time I would like to make a motion that our Detachment Officers and members participate in this Telethon after our DEC meeting concludes on Sunday. Of course this will be on condition that a satisfactory time slot can be obtained and details worked out. I make this motion now for purposes of discussion. If the motion is approved the Public Relations Commission will work to see if arrangements can be made and communicate to the Executive Committee well in advance of Mid- Winter.(A motion was not required for this. Discussion was held and David Downey was going to check with the people involved in the Telethon to see if the Sons could participate during the times needed.) Last fall the DEC voted to include the webmaster into the public relations commission to provide assistance to the webmaster with the website. The public relations commission stands ready to work with the webmaster and provide whatever assistance is needed at the pleasure of the Detachment Commander and Executive Committee. Just let us know. The Public Relations committee met with Adjutant Avery this morning. Web master John Walpole has sent Adjutant Avery a letter announcing that he will be stepping down as web master at the end of the 2014-2015 year. In transition I will be working with Adjutant Avery over the next week or two to acknowledge John's letter and start transition plans. Gabe Cinquegrana, a member of the PR Commission, is familiar with websites and has communicated with John previously about helping out with the website. Our hope is to have Gabe work with John on the existing website and take care of the immediate needs. Long term we will be sending out a call for members of the Detachment of New York interested in being part of a 3-5 person sub-committee of the PR Commission to work on the development of the Detachment of New York website. We will have more information at Mid-winter and hope to have the sub-committee established by or at Convention.

ANEC Denmon moved to accept the report, 2nd by 6th District Commander Ainslie and carried.

2.07 2nd District Commander DeAngelis reported; Membership seems to be doing well with several Squadrons meeting the target dates. Since our Fall D.E.C. the holidays were pretty festive in the 2nd district. In Kings County Squadrons were very successful on their Toys for Tots drives. Our

annual coat drive as received almost 200 coats already this season. Squadron members from across the county gathered where they served food and gave gifts at the annual Christmas party at Saint Albans V.A. hosted by Rolling Thunder NY Chapter 1. Kings County Sons Continue to volunteer at Bingo every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Brooklyn V.A. at the Annual New Year's Day party we helped serve food for 100 Veterans and their guest at the Michael A. Rawley post #1636. And most recently we had our annual Children and youth fundraiser at the Floyd Bennett Post were very successful in raising enough funds to donate to the Child Welfare Fund, Boys State, Josh Dogs and various other well deserved causes. On Staten Island, Richmond County 100% of Turkeys was delivered senior centers and veteran's homes Thanksgiving week. The Clothing drive continues to give homeless vets, seniors and needy families across the island. Membership across the island shows lots of progress also meeting their goals and target dates. **2nd District Commander DeAngelis moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by 3rd District Commander DeRusso, and carried.**

2.08 3rd District Commander DeRusso Reported; Detachment Commander John, members of the Executive Committee, SAL members, Advisors, Legion family, & guests, it seems like it was just a couple of months ago we were all here at Mid-Winter & that is was only yesterday that we were all in Niagara Falls. Time does sure fly, faster it seems as we get older especially for me. The past few months has seen the 3rd District once again bring home many squadrons above membership goals including my home County of Rensselaer. I would like to say a special thanks to 3rd District Adjutant Bob Myrtle for all his hard work from the squadron level up through the District Level. I am honored to see that squadrons in the 3rd have put their best foot forward in having many fundraisers to help our Veterans & communities in many ways, from commissary cards at the V.A. to helping families whose homes have been destroyed by fire. A big thank you goes out to all. Once again the Stratton VA, held a "Veterans cancer awareness day" by the Fisher House. Again it was very heartwarming to actually see so many survivors from all over in one place. This is all brought together through donations that & yes as crazy as it sounds, the Stratton VA "cannot" go out & solicit themselves. As it so happened, Sam's Club which is part of the Wal Mart Family showed up with a tractor & 30 foot trailer which contained a huge verity of breakfast items both food & drink, then as the event started to wind down lunch was served which included hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, salads, soda, & water. All of which including tent, table & chairs were all courtesy of Wal Mart/Sam's Club including the staffing which included employees from "hourly all the way up to & including managers" all donating their time on their day off for Veterans; not only did they volunteer their time but they "All" walked up to the folks in attendance including the 3 of us in the Color Guard & thanked each & every one of us Very very heart warming. John, I would like to say that it has been my honor & privilege serving as your 3rd District Commander; I know that I can always come to you for advice or help, & "Brother" the same goes for you, within the length – I'm just a phone call away. John, thank you. **3rd District Commander DeRusso moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by Chaplain Ellis, and carried.**

2.09 6th District Commander Ainslie reported; Visitation's for my District started in October when I attended our National Commander Daniel M. Dillinger's visitation in Binghamton N.Y. After that my county visitations started on November 1st thru Nov. 5th which I was able to attend 4 of the 5 county dinners. After a short break the final 5 county visitations were on November 20th thru Nov 24th which I was able to attend another 4 of the 5 county dinners only because of the fall D.E.C. Meeting which was held at my home post 616 Richfield Springs N.Y. I hope everyone who attended felt welcome and at home at our small but humble Post. I would like to thank everybody who attended and especially all who also attended our Otsego county visitation that night. Sorry about the weather as Mother Nature is one thing I have no control over. I certainly hope everyone had a safe trip home that night. All in all I had a great time at all the visitations with Commander Ken, President Barbara and Detachment Commander John or which he prefers to be called The Chinese Guy. In closing I have picked the Fisher House as my Commanders project for this year and am currently running a Grill raffle which your can see me or some of my 6th District members at this Mid-Winter conference and purchase your chance to win a Beautiful deer hunter themed gas grill. **6th District Commander Ainslie moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by V/C Hodge, and carried.**

- 2.10** **7th District Commander Verstreate** reported; we currently have five squadrons lacking an OCF... All are being worked with to completion. February 7, 2014 will be the ribbon cutting ceremony for Cadence Square at the Canandaigua VA. Addiction recovery and subsidized housing for veterans. 7th District jumped from about fourth place to 1st place in the detachment with 3,680 memberships submitted with a percentage of 71.50 percent. 12 of Feb is the next target date of 75% leaving us needing a total of 3,861 or 181 more to reach that goal. Five members were able to attend the leadership workshop. 2 From Chili Squadron, 2 from Hornell, and Dave Perry Accomplishments so far this year; we have donated \$6,024 to the Canandaigua VA to sponsor lighting, new flag pole, and beautification for years to come. Have visited all 8 counties and am now visiting squadrons with mainly those where there is no county seat. Have managed to have standing room only at District Meetings with approximately 30 members showing to some of the meetings, have attended the District Oratorical Contest, Will be an assistant tabulator for the zone oratorical contest 7+8 District, Attended several Legion Post and Legion County meetings, and attended one 8th district meeting.
7th District Commander Verstreate moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by V/C Depo, and carried.
- 2.11** **Advisor Arthur** reported that it has been a wonderful conference so far. He learned something new at every meeting about the Sons. We are definitely noticed by The Legion for all of our hard work! He stated that our reports mean something and urged us to submit our reports.
- 2.12** **Judge Advocate Downey** reported; I have no report, I have not received anything.
A motion made by V/C Farrell to accept the report, 2nd by V/C Depo, was carried.
- 2.13** **Chaplain Ellis** reported; that he has sent six condolences cards to the following, to Ray Jarvis for the passing of his mother, Gary Denmon for the passing of his Brother, John Poppenberg for the passing of his mother, Chris Huntzinger for the passing of his father, the family of Richard Pedro for the passing of Richard Pedro, John Waite for the passing his mother. Get well or sympathy cards were sent to the following Al Amo, Willie Bero, Ron Kuczenski, and a thinking of you card to Tom Kurk. I would like to remind everyone to please send me the names of those SONS departed for our Squadron Everlasting Ceremony at Convention this year, and also to submit a member data form for those members who are deceased so that their names may be remember in or National Squadron Everlasting.
Chaplain Ellis moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by V/C Hodge and carried.
- 2.14** **V/C Clancy** reported; I will continue to focus on membership. The 1st and 9th district still has a great potential for membership growth. We need to work on our county and district organizations.
V/C Clancy moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by V/C Hodge and carried.
- 2.15** **Vice Commander 2/10 Santa Croce** reported: There's not much new to report since the Fall Conference! Squadrons in all 5 counties in the two Districts conducted their annual Thanksgiving turkey dinner drives that were donated to families in their communities, while Toys for Tots and coat drives for the Holiday season were also held. Now we start to look with anticipation toward upcoming events with hopes of some spring weather. The first weekend of February we will celebrate the selfless acts of the 4 Chaplains with services in both Districts. In Kings County, the annual dinner to honor the junior past Commanders of the County Legion and Sons along with the junior past President of the County Auxiliary will be held in March. In Richmond County there will be fundraisers to support the candidacy of Frank Peters and Diane Gerber for Department Commander and Department President, respectively. Also individual squadrons are sponsoring events, such as a spaghetti dinner by the Joseph Loffler Squadron in Suffolk County. Last Sunday, the Kings County Sons held their annual Children & Youth fundraiser which was well supported by the three organizations. From this event we will be sending a \$1,500.00 donation to the Detachment for the Child Welfare Foundation. In addition we will send a young man to Boys State this June, make a donation to the Auxiliary's Josh Dog Project and we will be in a better position to help support more of our local organizations and events. As for membership, District 2 has reached the 60% goal while District 10 is still a little short of that number. Altogether we have signed up 97 new members in the two districts, which, represents about 10% of our submitted membership. Now, if we can renew our existing members, it will turn into a great year.
V/C Santa Croce moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by V/C Depo and carried.

2.16 Vice Commander 3/4 Depo reported; 812 – They did a pig Roast and a Raffle in December, they also helped Veterans who fell on hard times Squadron 337 - They did a pig Roast Compaction in October, 4 pigs were roasted and over 400 people were served. They raised \$1,400.00 for the Flood victims. They also had a Golf Tournament for Make a wish. Their time was donated for working the Legionnaires Clam Bake which they also has 1st annual cruise Hot Rod contest for 55 cars. Squadron 137 – They worked with the Post doing a Bar-B-Q in September. They donated \$100.00 to the Veteran’s day Parade. Squadron 83 – They held a Flag retirement Ceremony on Flag Day, Also held a Gold Mother Celebration. They had a Chicken Bar-B-Q in October and Adult Halloween Party. Squadron 701 – They helped the Legion with their Legacy ride also did a Chicken Bake for Montgomery County Ladies of Charity. They also held their annual Poker walk this year. Money went to NEF and Project Warrior fund. Over 1000 meals were served; the Son’s helped prep the dinners. The Sons are helping to Elect Jim Yurmas by different fund raisers. Money was also donated to the post for their building fund. Squadron 20 – Donated to the Children’s Halloween and Christmas party for \$100.00 each and the Christmas Bureau for \$100.00. Two scholarships of \$500.00 each, also helped the Legion with their Labor Day bash Squadron 574 – Held a Chicken Dinner were they served 400 meals for their annual Legion Riders benefit! They do Monthly Breakfast’s, they did over 6 funerals. They held a raffle for a pre lite Christmas tree. On the 22nd Santa visited a Dozen Children at a Benefit for a Local Wounded Soldier. Squadron 91 – they had a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Senior Citizens, also did a dinner for Veterans Day. The Son’s also helped with their Family Christmas party. Squadron 1450 – They served over 300 people at their fall Breakfast. They gave \$25.00 gift cards to the Homeless Vets at Rural Preservation house in Ballston Spa for a total of \$500.00 Donated. They also donated \$1,000.00 to Cohoes High school for their Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets to needy families in the area. Squadron 533 – Their Color Guard Marched 5 parades and 12 funerals they helped with 862 meals this past year. Squadron 1619 – They are holding their Annual Winter fest in February. They raised \$16,000 Dollars and gave Veteran Assist program \$8,000 Dollars. They had about 3,000 people there on the first day. The Dates for the winter fest were Jan 31st, Feb 1st and Feb 2nd. They have been working on plans for the 200th Anniversary, September 11th 2014. This is sure to be a big Hugh Success!!!! Don’t miss this function. I attended all Fabulous 4th District Visitations, Attended all County Meetings of the Son’s and Legion also attended Aux Fall Conference. All 4th District meetings and will be attending Mid-Winter and the Third District Visitations Also attended Flag Retirement and Memorial Day Ceremonies.
V/C Depo moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by 4th District Commander Bosford, and carried.

2.17 Vice Commander 5/6 Hodge reported; we started the year off with visitations in the 5th District, I made 4 out of 6 visitations. I would like to thank the 5th District Commander Chris Burch for the great hospitality during my stay. Next came the National Commander, Daniel Dellinger’s visit to 6th District. We had a great dinner in the Binghamton at Post 1645 and had a great showing of SAL members at the dinner. Then started the first round of visitations in the 6th District which lasted 5 days, followed by a short break and a 2nd round of visitations along with the Fall D.E.C. meeting at Richfield Springs Post 616. Now that’s enough of what I have been doing this year. Let’s see what our Squadrons have been up to. In the 5th District, a lot of the Squadrons are having fundraisers, such as raffles, clambakes and dinners to help support our local Veterans. Mattydale put on a lunch for Department Ken, Madam President Barbara and SAL Commander John. Membership in the 5th District is currently at 64.60%, with 3 Squadrons at 100% and 4 Squadrons at 0%. The 5th District has a total of 4,283 paid up members so far this year. Keep up the good work. In the 6th District, a lot of the same things are happening, clambakes, raffles, dinners, fish fries and wing nights. On Dec 14th Christmas was scheduled at the NY State Oxford Vets Home, but was rescheduled to the 21st thanks to Mother Nature. They had a great turnout of volunteers from the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL to help the residents participate in Christmas shopping. It is always great to see the smiles on their faces when visitors arrive. Membership in the 6th District is still going slow. We are at 61.82%, with 4 Squadrons at 100% and 10 with 0%. I know we have heard this before, but let’s try as a team to get rid of these zero’s. In the 6th District we have 2,166 paid members currently for the year. Keep up the good work and see if we can get these numbers higher. So the total for both 5th & 6th District is 6,499 paid members for the year. Let’s give ourselves a hand, good work gentlemen. Last thing I would like to discuss is the problem I am hearing about some SAL members that think they can tell the Legionnaires what to do and that

is just wrong. For one thing, we wouldn't be here as an organization without our Veterans. Let's try to work together as a Legion Family and build our organization with pride
V/C Hodge moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by V/C Depo, and carried.

- 2.18 NEC Ketchum introduced leading candidate for National V/C East Gregg "Doc" Gibbs.** He thanked us for all that we are doing. He stated that he is looking forward to being National V/C East and is looking forward to our support.
- 2.19 NEC Ketchum introduced National V/C East Robert Turner (CT).** He thanked us the invitation to be here this week-end. He brings greeting from National Commander Gladden. He spoke about Commander Gladden's projects including membership, V.A. & R., and CWF.
- 2.20 NEC Ketchum introduced John Kerestan, S.A.L. National Liaison and Asst. Director of Internal Affairs for Membership.** He thanked us for all we do to support the American Legion. He stated that we need continue working on our membership. He stated that the American Legion is working on membership issues with the IRS. He also gave us an overview of the new membership tool called MAYSAL.
- 2.21 Auxiliary President Corker** stated that Commander Chang is doing a great job. We have and are promoting the Walk-A-Thon. Thank you for your support and that she is looking forward to the visitation in the 7th & 8th Districts.
- 2.22 American Legion Adjutant Casey** stated that there are a lot of changes going on in the office so bear with them as they work through them. He stated that Mr. Pedro did a wonderful job for 29 years.
- 2.23 PDC Kearsing gave the upcoming convention report.** He stated the Sons Hotel will be the Holiday INN and that rooms will be \$119 per night. June 20th is the deadline for hotel reservations. The parade will be only 4 tenths of a mile and that they are working on the golf tournament and information will be forth coming.
Commander Chang called the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York in recess until 8:30AM tomorrow, January 26, 2014

**MINUTES OF THE MID-WINTER D.E.C. MEETING
January 26, 2012
The Desmond
Colonie, New York**

- Chaplain Ellis offered the Opening Prayer
- V/C Hodge led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- Commander Chang called the Meeting to order at 8:35 AM
- Adjutant Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guests Present Included:
National V/C East, Robert Turner (CT), and John Kerestan, S.A.L. National Liaison and Asst. Director of Internal Affairs for Membership

2.0 COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS (continued)

- 2.24 Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson** called forth committee chairmen:
PDC Jarvis gave the membership report; that we just missed the last target date by a couple of hundred members. We need to work on our renewals. National sends three renewal post cards a year. Squadrons should also be sending renewal notices and do not forget to include what is going on in your squadron. National Commander Gladden has asked that we create a family tree and see who members are and who are not and asked those that are not members to join. Squadrons who achieved 100% in membership before January first were presented certificates by Commander Chang.
Member Training and Development Chairman Roy Mezzapelle reported; at the 2012 Fall DEC meeting, the Member Training & Development Committee reviewed our current Presentations – the Leadership Workshop, and the Advisors Seminar. We agreed that the

Leadership Workshop was fine as-is, but the Advisors Seminar needed to be adjusted to reduce the presentation time. After presenting last year's Seminar at the 2012 Mid-Winter Conference, I identified items that could further reduce the presentation time for this year's Seminar, and discussed this with the Committee Members and adjusted the presentation accordingly.

To offer "Continuing Education" programs to the members of the Detachment & Department, the Chairmen of two Detachment Commissions/Committees will conduct workshops during each Mid-Winter Conference, giving formal presentations to the membership, explaining the purpose of the Commissions/Committees is, how it operates, and how the membership can help, and Second, to hopefully spark interest in the membership to assist the Commissions/Committees in reaching their goals by bringing this information back to their local Districts, Counties, and Squadrons, and putting it to good use. This year's presentations are "Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation" and "Public Relations". Any Committee Chairman interested in presenting at next year's Mid-Winter Conference should feel free to talk to me this weekend. The Member Training & Development Committee remains committed to furthering the education of our membership by presenting new programs, updating existing programs, and assuring that all training needs within the Detachment of New York are addressed in a timely manner.

4th District Commander Bosford moved to accept the report, 2nd by 5th District Commander Burtch, and carried.

2.25 Finance Chairman Lee gave the finance report. The Finance Commission is held accountable for the Finances of the Detachment. If you are looking to spend money on a project you should check with the finance commission first. Washington conference and the National Commanders Homecoming are coming on the same weekend. The Commander is already authorized to rent a car to travel from D.C. to the Commanders Homecoming.

5th District Commander Burtch moved to accept the report, 2nd by 4th District Commander Bosford, and carried.

2.26 Department Commander Governor thanked for us for are work for the legion. He also presented a plaque to our commander from the Child Welfare Foundation for our donations.

2.27 ANEC Denmon reported: Our National Commander Joe Gladden from Maryland has chosen his project(s) for the year as the Legacy Scholarship fund and CWF both with a goal of \$250.00. He is also looking to us to grow the Whole American Legion Family by doing a family tree and identifying those in our families who do not belong and get them involved thus increasing membership for the entire family. His membership theme is "Shooting for the Moon" He has a goal of 375,000 members for the Son's which is 106.3% which by doing the Family tree can be achieved. He also wants us to toot our own horns on all of the activities that we do thru press releases. At the Fall NEC we were introduced to MYSAL.org you need to go in and sign up to use it but it will be a great tool as you view and edit membership information, do a squadron inquiry, download and print rosters, mailing labels and you can work with the membership using CSV files if you know what they are. Hopefully many of you have done this already and are using it to its fullest ability. I myself am using it and am working on figuring it all since it will do so much for us. I have some application available for you to sign up for it if you haven't already
ANEC Denmon moved that his report be accepted, 2nd by V/C Hodge and carried.

2.28 NEC Ketchum reported; seeing as how our DEC meeting was in November and then we went into the holidays, not too much has gone on. I could talk about Membership but being that the National Membership chairman is Ray Jarvis, and our ANEC also sits on this committee and our Guest NVC Bob Turner I'm sure you will hear a lot about Membership! In December, I went to Dundee Post 660, in Yates County to help reorganize their Squadron and educated them on paperwork and how Squadron relates to the Post. We did an election of Officers that I swore in and the officer's Certification for was sent to Department, this was done with their Legion Commander and 7th District SONS Commander Daryl Verstreat. I also participated in local fund raisers with my Squadron and legion Riders Chapter, such as The Children's Christmas party, Fish Fries, Breakfasts & Wing nights. I was contacted in December by an individual, who was interested in being on a Detachment Commission; I contacted the Leading Candidate, with a letter of introduction and my endorsement. This individual has also sent in his Bio. I would like to encourage anyone that is interested in being on a commission or committee, to make contact with our Leading Candidate so he can put his appointments for next year in order. In my year as

Detachment Commander, we tried to have people serve on just one committee at a time, to ensure better focus and results for each committee. We need all of the Districts to help find new people to serve at the Detachment Level. Find a spot you're interested in and give it 100% Yesterday, Commander Chang, Vice Commander East Bob Turner, PDC Dave Bishop and I visited the Fisher House, and Commander Chang presented them our Detachment Donation. Also last evening we attended the Rennslear County Visitation. In the upcoming months, I intend on attending the Visitations in the 7th & 8th Districts and the National Commander's Homecoming in March. In closing, remember that our Walk-A-Thon is in April, and get your Squadron involved with our Veteran's Appreciation a Day.

NEC Ketchum moved to accept his report, 2nd by V/C Hodge, and carried.

2.29 Master Sergeant-at-Arms Falco reported that the Sgt's at Arms had collected \$31 in fines so far. He requests that you make sure your cards are signed. All fines go to the Commanders Project.
V/C Depo moved to accept the report, 2nd by 4th District Commander Bosford and carried.

2.30 Detachment Commander Chang reported; that he has completed over half of the county visitations. He thanked us for our support and looks forward to seeing everyone as he completes the rest of the visitations. So far approximately \$8,000 has been raised for my project the National Emergency Fund this year.

5th District Commander Burtch moved to accept the report, 2nd by V/C Santa Croce, and carried.

2.31 ANEC Denmon moved to accept the pre submitted reports, 2nd by NEC Ketchum and carried.

3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

PDC Knapp in the Syracuse V.A. Hospital.

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

NONE

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

6.01 Joe Santa Croce announced that he will be running for Detachment Commander 2015-2016

6.02 V/C Hodge announced that he will be running for V/C for the 5th and 6th Districts.

6.03 V/C Clancy announced that he will be running for V/C for the 1st and 9th Districts.

6.04 2nd District Commander DeAngelis announced that he will be running for V/C for the 2nd and 10th Districts.

6.05 Robert Ellis announced that he will be running for Chaplain.

6.06 D. Caldwell announced that there are raffle tickets with proceeds to go to the committee to elect Greg 'Doc' Gibbs National Vic-Commander East.

6.07 ANEC Denmon announced that he will be running for the NEC position.

6.08 PDC Bishop announced that he will be running for the ANEC Position.

6.09 Assistant Adjutant Burtch reminded everyone that when filling out the Consolidated Report Form to remember to use last year's final membership on the report where indicated.

6.10 Children and Youth chairmen Armbrust reported that the 50/50 raised \$212 for CWF.

6.11 Ross Polson reported that his Congressmen have asked him to stay his Veterans Committee. He also ask that you contact your local officials to get on their committees, that way we can keep them informed on what is going on in their areas.

6.12 The National Memorial Museum is looking for donations.

With no further business to be brought before the Detachment Executive Committee,

- Commander Chang requested that Chaplain Ellis offer the closing prayer
- Master Sergeant at Arms retrieved the POW/MIA flag

Detachment Commander Chang declared the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York adjourned.