



**MINUTES
OF THE
PRE-CONVENTION D.E.C. MEETING
&
41st ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION**

**JULY 15 – 18, 2015
BUFFALO, NY**

***SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Detachment of New York
112 State Street
Suite 1300
Albany, NY 12207
518-463-2215***



MINUTES OF THE PRE-CONVENTION D.E.C. MEETING
Wednesday, July 15, 2015
Adams Mark Hotel
Buffalo, New York

- Commander Charles Depo called the Meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
 - The Colors of our Nation being in place the membership saluted.
 - Chaplain Robert Ellis offered the Opening Prayer.
 - Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco placed the POW/MIA banner.
 - V/C Bruce Ruthven led the membership in The Pledge of Allegiance.
 - V/C Ike Bosford led the membership in the Preamble.
- **Adjutant Robert Avery** took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- **Adjutant Robert Avery** introduced 2 Guests attending our meeting –
The leading candidate for National Sons Commander Kevin Collier from Alaska and the current National Sons Vice Commander East Greg Gibbs.

1.00 CONVENTION REPORT

- 1.01 Convention Chairman Tim Van Patten welcomed the Detachment members to Buffalo. Tim offered information on Buffalo Bison's Baseball game tickets. He also had extra tax exempt form for those members still needing them. He informed everyone of the Meet the Candidates luncheon to be held in the adjoining ballroom on Thursday. Then on Friday, the Installation dinner would be at the Troop I Post. There would be a bus leaving the hotel lobby at 1 PM to go to the Post, and the Dinner would be at 2 PM. Tim then told the members to contact him with any problems or needs associated with the hotel, and hoped everyone would enjoy themselves at Convention.

2.0 SICK CALL & RELIEF

- 2.01 National Sons Officer Tom Wigmore passed away.

Chaplain Robert Ellis reminded all members present to check the memorial ceremony list, and make sure any names not found there be submitted to him before the service on Friday.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

4.0 NEW BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.01 **Commander Charles Depo** invited our guests **Leading Candidate for National SONS Commander Kevin Collier** forward to receive his credentials and to address the members. Mr. Collier thanked the Detachment for the invitation, and asked to save his remarks for Thursday's meeting.

5.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 5.01 **A motion was made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Ike Bosford to appoint Gabe Cinquegrana as Webmaster for the remainder of Convention. The motion was carried.**
- 5.02 **A motion was made by Vice Commander Richard Hodge and duly seconded by NEC Gary Denmon to reimburse Gregg Doc Gibbs for his expenses incurred at Tom Wigmore's Funeral (\$119.98 Total)**

There being no further business to come before the Meeting, Chaplain Robert Ellis offered the Closing Prayer, Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco retrieved the POW/MIA banner, and the membership saluted the Colors of our glorious Nation.

- The Meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Avery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert J. Avery
Detachment Adjutant

Christopher Burtch
Assistant Detachment Adjutant

MINUTES OF THE 41st ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION
July 16 - 17, 2015
Adams Mark Hotel
Buffalo, New York

FIRST SESSION – JULY 16, 2015

- Commander Depo called the Convention to order at 9:00 AM.
- The Colors of our Nation were placed by the Detachment Color Guard and the body saluted.
- Commander Depo recited the POW/MIA Ceremony as the Master Sergeant placed the POW/MIA banner.
- Chaplain Ellis offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Hodge led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
V/C Clancy led the membership in the Preamble.
- Adjutant Robert Avery read the Call to Convention, Roll Call of Officers, and Roll Call of Counties, which indicated a quorum was present. Present as a guest to the Convention was Greg “Doc” Gibbs, National Vic-Commander east, and Leading Candidate for Sons of The American Legion National Commander Kevin Collier (AK).

Adjutants Note: After addressing the Convention, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to all DEC members, Special Certificate Plaques were presented to Special Guests, and Commander’s Pins were presented to all Guests by Commander Depo.

1.00 REPORTS

1.01 Convention / Buffalo General Chairman Timothy S. Van Patten II reported that the Meet the Candidates Luncheon will be held at 12 PM just outside the room we are meeting in. The tickets for the Installation Luncheon are still available. Busses will leave the Hotel at 1:30PM to go to the Zaloga Post and return at 4:30PM. Lineup will be at 5:30PM. After the parade a band will be playing and refreshments will be available at the Desomd Hotel.

- **Commander Depo turned the gavel over to Vice-Commander Ruthven**

1.02 Americanism Chairman Myrtle reported ... It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Americanism Chairman this past year. Before I begin I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the members of the Americanism Commission for their participation and support this year. Richard Hodge of Sherburne; James Daly of Rochester; Jim Parks of Ontario; and James Coates of Ionia. Throughout the years the Detachment of New York has built up a strong Americanism Program and these are the guys that have made it all work this year. Please join me in showing them our appreciation. Here is a summary of our detachment activities and expenses for 2014-2015.

Scholarships

We received nine applications for The Cerullo Memorial Scholarship. The applications have been judged by the Americanism Commission and the winner of the Cerullo Memorial Scholarship of \$500.00 this year is: Jonathon Deichler. There were no renewal applications for a previous year winner which are entitled to resubmit an application for up to three years and receive \$500.00 per year, as long as they continue their college education.

Detachment paid the following contributions to be recorded for the consolidated report.

2014-2015 Americanism Commission Expenses

1,300 Flag Lapel Pins for Boys State	\$ 845.00
1,000 flag code pamphlet’s	\$150.00
4,320 Stick Flags	\$838.50
500 Pledge of Allegiance book markers	\$145.00
1 (Book) Knowledge in a Nutshell	\$ 8.95

20 Flag Education DVDs	\$199.00
500 Pledge of Allegiance (comic book)	\$295.00
Copies of Essay contest's	\$ 83.97
Shipping and Handling	\$29.95
Scholarship Cerullo	\$500.00
Mailing for Cerullo Scholarship Judging	\$ 38.85
“What America means to me”	
Essay Contest for 1 st – 5 th Grades	\$524.09
“What the Constitution of the United States means to Americans”	
Essay Contest for 6 th , 7 th , & 8 th Grades	\$200.00
Americanism Commission Postage	\$ 25.20
Total	\$3,883.51

22-hours for manning phone lines for the Center for Disability Services telethon; 25 hours to assemble and distribute materials to Districts at mid- winter; 10 -hours for scholarship data review and judging; 35 hours to compile data for squadrons. Total 92 – hours

In addition to the expenses above we had: Donations of \$20,000.00 to the American Legion, Department of NY, Commander Chuck Depo collected funds for the National Emergency Fund of \$ 13,119.74 and for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship.

National commanders project	\$1000.00	
Nicholas Sallese Scholarship	\$ 750.00	
American Legion Boys State	\$ 750.00	1 – boy
Color guard paid	\$ 690.00	

Commander Chuck also presented a check of \$500.00 to the Center for Disability Services at the Telethon held in Colonie, N.Y. after Mid-Winter.

Presentation of a check to the National Memorial Day Museum in Waterloo, N.Y. the birthplace of Memorial Day of \$2,500.00.

Consolidated Reports received this year

120 consolidated reports were turned in from our Squadrons this year. They have been tabulated and judged according to our guidelines.

Before I give the results of the consolidated reports, I would like to call up our Boys State chairman and Judge Advocate Mr. David L. Downey for purpose of a report on Boys State. The Boy's state program ran from June 26th – July 2nd this year. It was one of the best programs yet. We had 979 Boy's this year and only one boy went home this year. It rained every day except the first day. Due to the rain the only sports program that was completed was basketball. We still marched every day to and from classes.

The summary of the Detachment of New York activities reported for this year in the 12-Americanism Programs, based on the 120 Consolidated Reports received from our squadrons are as follows.

- Boys State and Girls State

# Boys Sponsored for Boys State	52 - Boys	Cost	\$16,600.33
# Girls sponsored for Girls State	4 - Girls	Cost	\$ 1,175.00
- Education

# Five Star / Ten Ideals Programs	6 - Programs	Cost	\$ 146.00
# Flags Presented	2585 - Flags	Cost	\$ 4,215.80
Cost of Scholarships		Cost	\$ 26,133.00
Hours for Educational Programs	831 - hours		
- # Small Flags place on Graves or Given away at parades

35,359 - Flags	Cost	\$ 9,627.00
Hours for Flags	1,575- hours	
- Oratorical Contests

# Of Contestants	9 - contestants	Cost	\$ 75.00
------------------	-----------------	------	----------

	Hours of Participation			
	Color_Guards	49 - Squadron Sponsored		
	# Appearance	569 – appearances	Cost	\$13,041.00
5.	<u>NEF Donations</u>		Cost	\$ 5,821.00
6.	<u>Flag Education</u>			
	# Flag Etiquette Programs	57 - programs	Cost	\$ 1,716.00
	Hours 678 - hours			
	# Flag Retirement Programs	90 - programs		
	Hours 585 - hours			
7.	<u>Community Service</u>			
	Hours 43,434 - hours			
	Cost / Donation		Cost	\$ 94,015.00
8.	<u>Scouting</u>			
	Squadron Sponsored Troops	20 - troops	Cost	\$ 6,726.00
	# Youth Involved 407 - youths			
9.	<u>Junior Shooting Sports</u>			
	# Youth Involved	22 - youths		
	# Hours Service	409 – hours	Cost	\$ 667.00
10.	<u>Baseball</u>			
	AL Team Sponsored	8 - teams	Cost	\$ 9,950.00
11.	<u>Blood Drives - # Pints</u>	219 - pints		
	Hours	146 - hours		
	<u>Other teams Sponsored -</u>		Cost	\$ 13,312.00

To sum up these numbers the Detachment of New York has reported \$252,413.38 in cost of programs and community donations, 37,944- flags presented, placed on graves or given away at parades, 47,750 - volunteer hours, and \$18,940.74 in NEF donations.

Squadrons of 150 members or more with the highest levels of achievement are recognized as follows.

First Place: 7th District – Seeley B. Parish- Squadron 0457 of Ontario County

Second Place: 7th District – Charles E. Westcott – Squadron 0173 of Steuben County

Third Place: 5th District – New Hartford – Squadron 1376 of Oneida County

Squadrons of 149 members or less with the highest levels of achievement are recognized as follows.

First Place: 3rd District – Melvin Roads – Squadron 1231 of Rensselaer

Second Place: 6th District – John Handte- Squadron 0089 of Broome County

(There is a Tie for Third Place)

Third Place: 2nd District – Michael A. Rawley Jr. Squadron 1636 of Kings County

Third Place –5th District –Antwerp- Squadron 0916 of Jefferson County

Congratulations to our winning squadrons. Great Job to all squadrons that submitted a consolidated report and special thanks goes to the second district and Fifth Districts for their reports.

Let us all work together to continue making our squadrons aware of the importance of making contributions to the twelve programs of Americanism and please keep reporting.

Albany County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

Commander Depo turned the gavel over to Vice-Commander Ruthven.

• **1.03 Internal Affairs acting Chairman Santa Croce** had the following Chairman give their reports.

MT&D report read by Joe Santa Croce; the leadership class and Advisors seminar were given at Mid-Winter. The Committee will continue to review and update the programs as needed.

Convention Timothy Van Patten II reported A few quick answers to questions brought up yesterday, the parade on Friday will start at the Corners of West Genesee St and Franklin St. The parade will head south on Franklin, turn East onto Court St, Turn North on Pearl St, pass the reviewing stand at Pearl just before East Huron, Turn east onto East Huron and end at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. There will be shuttle transport to the starting area and from the Hyatt back to the Adams Mark. I'm still working on procuring more tax exempt forms; I should have some by tomorrow session. The Installation Luncheon has sold out; the bus will leave the Adams Mark at 1pm, stop at the Hyatt, and then proceed to the Troop I Post on Franklin St Tonight at the Canal side Concert Series, which is free event in front of the Naval and Military Park, the Buffalo Philharmonic will perform an all-star tribute to the music of Stevie Wonder. There will be food trucks as well as beverages available for your partaking. Along with the various other welcome rooms that are operating, the Eighth District would like to invite you to room 839 from 6 – 10 this evening and from a half hour after the conclusion of the parade until 10pm on Friday.

Membership Chairman Gaither Espy reported Commander Depo, Officers on the Dias, Mr. Avery and fellow Sons and guest Good Morning/Afternoon. Our theme for membership this year was “Building Bridges to the Future”. National Commander Mike Moss was the Superintendent of the job, I was the Detachment Foreman. All of you the Blue Caps were the Journeymen. I would like to thank every member for your help with our membership this year. Our Lead Journeymen the Detachment membership Commission have worked on a daily basis getting word down to the Districts, Counties and Squadrons. Liam and Gabe had membership reports posted on a weekly basis. Things seemed to flow a lot better like concrete from the truck. Our goal for members this year is 29,343. The latest report dated 7/10/15 has the Detachment at 96.36% or 28,276 members. There are 21 Counties who have reached or exceeded 100%. Another nine Counties are less than a handful away of reaching 100%. As for the Districts and how our Vice Commanders stand this year. We have the 5th District at the top with 99.58% of their goal of 6,623. The 8th District in second with 97.83% of their goal of 5,246. Then the 7th District 96.80% of their goal of 5,188. Excellent job to the top three Districts. These three Districts represent over half of our membership for the Detachment. Vice Commander

Bruce 7/8 takes 1st, followed by Vice Commander Rich5/6 in second, Vice Commander Ike 3/4 3rd, Vice Commander Peter 4th and Vice Commander Clancy still digging. With National Convention a few weeks away, we still do have time to reach that 100%. There are 2,735 new members across our great state. We have 3,802 members who have yet to renew their membership for the 2015 year. We only need 1,067 members to reach goal. We have 17 Squadrons who have not transmitted 1 member yet this year. We always get new members, let's keep working on the members we already have. Let's not let them slip off our unfinished bridge. Let's get them to complete our bridge. In closing thank you to the membership commission for all of their dedicated and hard work. Thank You to Commander Depo for appointing me chairman. And once again thank you to all of you, because without you there would be no us.

The Membership Awards are as follows;

-Largest Percentage Increase 300+ members

1st Place New Hartford Squadron 1376, Oneida County, 5th District 103%

-Largest Percentage Increase 299 members and under

1st Place Baldwin Squadron 246, Nassau County, 10th District 155%

2nd Place New Rochelle Squadron 8, Westchester County, District 9 153%

3rd Place Oneida Squadron 169, Madison County, District 6 148%

-Most New Members

1st Place New Hartford Squadron 1376, Oneida County, 5th District, 48

2nd Place James Harvey Spire Squadron 0787, Onondaga County, 5th District, 40

3rd Place Fountain Brothers Squadron 1619, Clinton County, 4th District, 38

-Largest Squadron

1st Place New Hartford Squadron 1376, Oneida County, 5th District, 564

2nd Place Charles E Westcott Squadron 173, Steuben County, 7th District, 371

3rd Place Winnek Squadron 396, Ontario County, 7th District, 341

Acting Chairman Santa Croce read the following resolution,

Resolution No.: CONVENTION 15-1

Title: Endorsement of Greg K. Gibbs for National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion

Submitted by: Hamburg Squadron 527

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs is a member in good standing of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New York; and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs derives his eligibility for the Sons of The American Legion through his deceased father, Richard C. Gibbs, who honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs has served as Commander (2003-2005 and 2006-2007), and 1st Vice-Commander (2001-2003) for Hamburg Squadron 527, Hamburg, New York; and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs has demonstrated his commitment to the Sons of The American Legion by serving Erie County as Commander (2007-2008), 1st Vice-Commander (2008-2009), and District 8 as Commander (2008-2010), Vice-Commander ((2005-2007 and 2010-2011), and Scholarship Committee Chairman (2006-2012) and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs was one of the very first Sons to graduate from the American Legion College of New York State in 2011, and is the first son to ever serve as American Legion College of NY faculty (2013-2015) and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs is currently serving (2013-2015) as an Executive Board member of the Erie County American Legion Family Project under the Vets 4 Vets to construct the first Homeless Women Veterans Center in the state where homeless women veterans can come with their children and find residence, housing 40-60 women and their children and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs has been an active American Legion Riders since 2007 as a member of the Southern Tier Riders group from American Legion Post 567 in Orchard Park, New York, and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs has been a member of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club since its inception under the call sign N2PWS, and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs has served as the official VAVS Representative from the Detachment of NY SAL to the Buffalo Veterans Hospital since 2009, and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs was nationally recognized by National American Legion Commander Paul A. Morin receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for making significant contributions to the Legion Education Program at the 2007 National American Legion Convention for his actions in forming the William P. O'Connell Memorial SAL ROTC Scholarship program that is now in its ninth year (9th) across two districts in New York State, and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs was nationally recognized by the Sons of The American Legion as the sole recipient of the George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the Year Award in 2013 for his legislative work and further honored as a Distinguished Guest at the National Sons of The American Legion Convention by National SAL Commander Christopher Huntzinger in Houston, Texas, and

WHEREAS, Greg K. Gibbs has further demonstrated his commitment to the Sons of The American Legion by serving the Detachment of New York as Detachment Commander (2011-2012), Legislative Chairman (2007-2010, 2013-2015), Member of the Member Training and Development Committee (2009-2011, 2012-2013) and was appointed by National SAL Commander Christopher Huntzinger to serve the National Organization as Children and Youth Commission member for another member's unfinished term (2012-2013), and was then re-appointed to the Children and Youth Commission by Commander Joseph Gladden for the (2013-2014) year as well, and served as National Vice Commander East (2014-2015) and

WHEREAS, Hamburg Squadron 527 of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New York at a regularly convened meeting held on the 1st day of April, in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen, endorsed and pledged their unequivocal support for Greg K. Gibbs for the high office of National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion; be it

RESOLVED, that the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New York conveyed for their 41st Annual Convention held July 16-17, 2015 in the City of Buffalo, New York endorses Greg K. Gibbs for the high office of National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon said endorsement by the Detachment of New York, the Adjutant of the Detachment of New York shall forward this Resolution for consideration and approval by the Department of New York and subsequent submittal to the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion.

Kings County made a motion to accept the reports minus the resolution which was seconded and carried.

1.04 Public Relations Chairman Coates reported

Webmaster Cinquegrana stated that the new website went live on February 20th five months ahead of schedule and at half the cost of the previous website. The most important item on the website is what you the membership asked for. That would be in the center of the homepage. It is a quick link to what people thought was the most important items they wanted to see IE; membership postings, Documents, Mailings, fillable forms and links to other sites. I have been working with Department Headquarters to make everything run smooth and will continue do so. I will be receiving an award from the American Legion Press Association for the website.

Ontario County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- **1.05 Vice-Commander Ruthven turned the gavel over to Commander Depo Legislative Chairman Gibbs** reported that your Detachment Legislative Commission consists of: Greg "Doc" Gibbs, Chairman, and members, David Perry, Vince Green, Gary Denmon, Jeff Jordan, Gerry Shepard and Ken Kraetzer. The Commission planned the March On-the-Hill visitation Days for both Albany and Washington, DC. Letters seeking appointments were mailed in early December and we coordinated the visitation schedules (February 22-25 Washington, DC and March 1-3 Albany, NY). When you contact 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 Johnny Isakson from Georgia who is the Chairman of the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee. They both are key members 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 Michael Benedetto. We had 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 Harvey McCagg 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. The key issues are available to all at the national legion website (www.legion.org) under the Legislative Action section. The general focus continues to be joblessness, suicide, homelessness of veterans, and improving the VA. (Jobs, homes, VA).

The Albany trip is organized through the Legion County Chairmen (not SAL). We sat by County at the Legislative breakfast, you may reserve a ticket for breakfast by calling the headquarters office in Albany. After the breakfast with the Legislators we travelled up to the Office Building and visited with your local Congressmen and left for home on your own schedule. We had about ten or so Sons attend. If you are close to Albany it is an easy trip. It is centered at the hotel on Lodge and State Streets and we walked up to the capitol from there. We sent (9) nine Detachment members (Chuck Depo, David Perry, Doc Gibbs, Dave Lee, Gary Denmon, Bob Avery, Bruce Ruthven, Ken Kraetzer, Charlie Duffy) to the DC visit in February. Not all those going receive compensation from the Detachment of NY, several were attending on their own. Commander Depo (and his wife Nancy) posted the Detachment wreath at the Vietnam War Memorial at that time. We all had successful visits to our Congressmen. We were called back to the hotel directly after our visits to be in a meeting with the National VA Director who issued a public apology for some of his miss-statements. This meeting was thoroughly covered by the National News media. Doc Gibbs stayed on in DC an extra day to represent the Sons at the request of National SAL Commander Mike Moss during the Congressional Testimony with National Legion Commander Mike Helm. Commander Moss could not attend and Doc Gibbs served as the National SAL Representative to that testimonial. During the spring we had several "action" issues come up and all were forwarded to Legislative Commission Members and the Detachment for dissemination to the members. The Commission remains in touch with Legislators throughout the year and shares pertinent news and action items with the membership. As an aside, Congressman Chris Collins accepted the invitation to join the SAL and was issued his membership card late in the spring. His father was the youngest serving officer in the US Army in WWII. In a bizarre story that he shared with us during our Congressional visitation. Crystal People's Legislative Aide, Robert Anderson III, also became a SAL member since our visitation.

Erie County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.06 The V.A. & R. report was read by Robert Cox;** total dollars donated was \$110,312, Total Hours 31,676, Value of goods donated \$1,622 and the Walk-A-Thon generated approximately \$13,000.

Onondaga County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.07 Commanders Advisory PDC Chang** reported, Commander Depo as well as all the officers have done an excellent representing the Detachment and we should all be proud.

New York County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.08 2nd District Commander Rodriguez** reported that Richmond County and the Squadrons in the County have been very active and are doing what needs to be done to help the Veterans, Posts and Children in their communities. The Squadrons and Brooklyn County have been active as well and it shows as many of the Americanism awards for schools were won by the local schools.

Brooklyn County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.09 The 3rd District Commander's report was read by Robert Myrtle; the 3rd District is currently in 5th place in membership with 95%. The following Counties have made 100%, Albany, Greene, and Schoharie. Zaloga sq.1520 held a fund raiser and donated \$2134 to the OCF. Gerald O'Neil Sq. 1683 Donated \$378 to the Stratton VA., \$356 to the Fisher House, and \$1880 to Children and Youth Projects. Wynantskill Sq. 1489 donated \$529 to the Fisher House, \$700 to OCF, and \$1600 to Children and Youth Projects. Cook Taylor Sq. 111 donated \$1000 to the Ulster Veterans Home and gave a \$500 scholarship to a deserving student.

Albany County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.10 The 4th District Commander Martel's report was read by 1st Vice Commander Williams; 4th District is in 4th Place in Membership with 95.87%, Squadrons in the 4th District: Schenectady – 113.04%, Clinton – 102.03%, Fulton – 100.40%, Montgomery – 96.37%, Washington – 94.40%, Saratoga – 93.15%, and Warren – 73.17.

Whitehall, Squadron 83 – Chicken BBQ donation to the soup kitchen. Sponsor Scholarship for High school student, sponsored an Eagle Scout, and placed flags at cemetery for Memorial Day. Broadalbin, Squadron 337 – donated \$210.00 to Varney Golf Tournament. Cooked food for annual luau fundraiser for American Legion Auxiliary. Donated \$100.00 to Memorial Day flower wreaths. Donated \$200.00 to Broadalbin Boy Scout troop. Donated \$100.00 to Fulton County Sheriff K9 program. Held annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser. Held Spring cruise – in (Community event) Donated \$200.00 to St Jude's Children's. Donated Dell computer for fundraiser raffle in support of Jim Yermas for State American Legion Commander (raised \$1,000) Cooked for Jim Yermas fundraiser event. Chinese auction to raise additional money.

Halfmoon Squadron 1450 – held 2 chicken BBQ fundraisers, held Easter egg hunt and party for children. Hosted Memorial Day service and cooked food at our post. Tim Williams Sq. 2nd Vice Commander and 4th District 1st Vice Commander ran a half marathon Sunday, June 14th following our Spring Conference in Lake Placid to benefit the Rural Preservation Co. which has two veterans' houses in Ballston Spa, NY. The men's house accommodates 12 vets and the Guardian House accommodates 7 female vets. The Guardian House is only the 2nd house for female veterans in New York State. Total monies raised through family, friends and Goat brothers MC was \$4,750.00. Gave \$50.00 spending money to 6 boys for Boys State. Tim Williams 4th District VC also volunteered a week at Boys State as a city counselor.

1.11 5th District Commander Cox reported; Since Midwinter things have been slow. The primary project I had planned had to be cancelled because of family illness that required me to be out of town. I was attempting to organize a walk for the Walk-a-thon at Fort Drum. I plan to attempt this again next year. I was able to attend the National Commander's visitation to the 5th district in April. We were able to have a tour of the base at Fort Drum. Additionally I participated in two Sons sponsored golf tournaments. The Oneida County Sons held a tournament in May and the Mattydale Sons held theirs in June. In the Footwedge Open (Mattydale) I was partnered with Current 5th District Legion Commander Dave Graham as well as two Past 5th District Legion Commanders. We probably had the oldest team, but Dean still wouldn't let us play from the senior tees. As far as good news the 5th District is currently in first place in membership at 99.58% of our goal. We need only 28 more to make 100%. Three of the six counties have reached or exceeded their goals. As usual I would like to encourage who is able to volunteer at the local VA Hospital. Please do all you can to assist our Veterans.

Onondaga County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.12 6th District Commander Ainslie's Report was read by Ted Armbrust; The Squadrons in the District consists of 10 county and 52 Squadrons all of which do their own great job at the Squadron level and it would be impossible report on one and not another. All I can say is keep up the good work guys. Membership in the 6th District is as of 7/6/15 stands at 94.02% with 18 Squadrons at 100% or more with the largest being

Squadron 169 Oneida at 148%. My Commanders Project for the past 2 years has been Albany Fisher House and I am very happy to report that with everybody's help and donations I have been able to raise a total amount of \$4,400.00 dollars, Thank you to everyone who helped me reach that amount.

Broome County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.13 7th District 1st Commander Rose Flag Retirement;** Event was held at Winnek Post in Geneva, and it was a beautiful day a huge success. There was excellent participation, and thanks to the Geneva Sons, District Officers, and all who attended and took part. Next year it will be in Steuben and Squadrons need to step up and indicate an interest in hosting. Hornell has already made application, but all others are encouraged also. Planning will start late summer/early fall. **Member of the year;** Award winner was James McGeary from Squadron 282 in Lima. His application was read, however he could not be here so he was presented the award at the Francis M. Dalton Post in Lima. He was one of only 4 applicants received and the decision was difficult; Squadrons need to be encouraged to submit more applicants in the future. **Membership;** unfortunately as of today 9 July 2015 the 7th District is in 3rd place with 96.78%. Short 167 members from making our goal with 419 new members meaning the district as a whole lost 586 members from renewing. Let us not forget that retention must always remain a high priority. I would encourage the Detachment to publish a form/questionnaire that can be given to each District Commander and mailed to members who do not renew to inquire as to why they did not renew, what they hoped to gain from the American Legion and how we can meet that goal in an effort to bring them back into the fold. **Quentin Smith Scholarship (Jim Coates):** Special guest Chris Plate Jr was introduced as the Quentin B. Smith Scholarship winner, who is from Waterloo. A high School Senior, Chris was awarded a \$500 check, and read his winning essay on "What America Means to Me". He will be attending college in the fall. **Bath V. A. Hospital;** 1.) 6 Members of the 7th District Sons spent Christmas Morning at the Canandaigua VA taking Veterans to Christmas Church Service. 2.) 7th District assisted in getting over 700 toys distributed to Cadence Square families, as well as to families of low income and Homeless Veterans at the Canandaigua VA. 3.) See attached Annual report just completed for VAVS services for calendar 2014 by 7th District Sons at the Canandaigua VA: 1,413 volunteer hours, or an increase of 88.6% over last year, spent by 7th District members of the Sons. 958 volunteer hours, or an increase of 201.3 % over last year, by the 7th District VAVS Representative. \$2,314 in cash contributions, or an increase over last year of 54.3% by 7th District Squadrons. (Not including the \$6,024 contributed to the Cadence Square Veterans Housing Project. \$3,006 in non-cash contributions, or an increase of 16.3% over last year by 7th District Squadrons and members. **Camp Good Days;** 17 June 2014, District presented a check of \$500 to Camp Good Days to help recover from the devastating damage at the camp for children with cancer.. **RIT;** 17 May 2015 Bruce Ruthven and I presented a plaque to an RIT Cadet graduating at from the ROTC Program.

- 1.14 Wayne County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.** **8th District Commander Ellis** reported On October 14, 2014 attended the luncheon for the National Commander at the Fredonia Legion and the dinner at the Cassadaga Legion; On October 26th I attended the Fall DEC meeting in Vestal; On January 23 -25th I attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Albany; On February 11th I attended the State Commander's Testimonial Dinner in Cattaraugus County; On February 13th I attended the Commander's Testimonial Dinner in Chautauqua County (Brocton) and was only able to walk with Difficulty after that; On March 28th I presented the William P. O'Connell ROTC Scholarship to a Cadet (Paul Ryckman) at St. Bonaventure University; On April 12th I announced my intention of not continuing as the 8th District Commander at the 8th District meeting; On April 17th & 18th I attended National Vice Commander Greg Gibbs informal homecoming at his Hamburg Post. On the 18th, at that meeting, I participated in an all-day training put on by two past National Commanders and attended the testimonial

dinner; On May 8th I attended the meeting of the 7th District where I reported that District 8 supported the Candidacy of Jim Coates for Detachment Vice Commander for 7th and 8th District; On May 22nd I participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony conducted by Cassadaga Memorial Post, 1280, where we visited and paid respects at 13 rural cemeteries: with 21 gun salute and Taps; On June 11th I attended the Flag retirement ceremony at the Roger Torrey Picnic Grounds put on by Post 1280 of Cassadaga.

Chautauqua County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.15** **Chaplain Ellis** reported Since the Conference this past summer the Chaplains have sent eleven 'condolence' cards and fourteen 'get well' cards. We were particularly saddened to mark the passing of past Detachment Commander John Rogers, A patriotic spray was provided for his funeral from his presence and good humor at our meetings. Please remember his family in your thoughts and prayers. Unfortunately, we also lost T Thomas Wigmore earlier this month who was past National Vice Commander for the East from Massachusetts. Please allow me to repeat, as I have done on earlier presentations from the podium, if you have any information regarding a Son who is having a difficult medical time, please contact me and I will send an appropriate card from the Detachment. And, for those who have passed, a card will be sent. I would also appreciate a listing of their squadron number. I can be contacted at: rhellis45@gmail.com and my phone numbers are: Home: (716) 595-2282 Work: (716) 397-9539. Please note that I have semi-retired and my other phone numbers are no longer readily available (716-450-1908 & 716-661-4741) so please strike them from your contact list for me. Finally, I would like to ask that for our Memorial Service, we would like a list of all of our Brothers who have passed on in the last year. You will find a list in the back of the room and would appreciate your help in developing a complete list. Do not forget to include their Squadron number.

Chautauqua County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.16** **American Legion Riders Director David Davis** stated that I am a Vietnam Veteran; brown water you are allowed Agent Orange coverage, blue water you were not; there has been a change if your ship was in three specific ports you are now considered brown water. Please let everyone know. The Riders presented the Legion Commander a check for \$1,000,001 for the Legacy Fund.

- 1.17** **10th District Commander Rivera's** report was read by district vice Commander Connolly. Membership is a bit slow, but every member of the District is doing a phenomenal job.

Suffolk County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.18** **Judge Advocate Downey** reported that he has received two Constitution and Bylaws changes and will submit them via email. He also stated that there is a dress code when you are giving a report on the stage and that is suit and tie. If you are a member of the executive committee and will not be at any executive committee meeting or convention it your responsibility to notify the Commander and Adjutant who will be talking you place and giving you report.

St. Lawrence County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.19** **Department Convention Chairman Jim** Bojankowski welcomed everyone to the Buffalo Convention. He stated that a lot has changed since the last time you were here especially around the waterfront. There is a Legion discount that you can use for the Buffalo Bison's game tonight and tomorrow and also area restaurants.

- 1.20** **V/C Clancy** reported Westchester County, Yorktown Heights Post 1009 will be forming a new squadron early fall. Post Commander Gerry Knapp has pushed the creation of a Squadron. Prodded and encouraged by PC John Chang and myself. They have members and a commander identified but the prospective Commander is travelling for work until October, they hope to submit paperwork upon his return, District 9 Squadron Summit meeting. Set for Thursday Sept 17th at 7pm at the Mt Kisco Squadron 136. All District Squadrons and their Legion liaisons are being asked to attend, Food and Beverages will be served, Agenda includes the election of a District Commander establishment of a

District Organization and discussion of high profile County specific events for Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Dutchess County, Fliers will be distributed and as well as a direct mailer and Charlie or myself will invite each post by phone.

1st District Bob Stokes, elected Bronx County Commander only last year, lost a foot this week to Diabetes, Bob recently led the SAL renovation or of their whole Post was destroyed in the Hurricane Sandy, and more impressively unveiled a new memorial wall honoring vets of all the services. Bobs illness leading up to this diminished his ability to move things along in Bronx City. But he is undergoing therapy and we hope for his full return to leadership of the Bronx. On the bright side of a bad situation, an SAL Barbecue is being planned to raise some funds for him. I look forward to nice attendance and it building organizational spirit in the Bronx. Bronx County is at 100%. Squadron 156 is planning their 25th anniversary dinner with a tentative date of 10/15 at the Waterfront Ballroom of the Morris Yacht club on City Island. Members of all district Squadrons will be invited with the plan that will have a district 1 meeting before the event. City Boys – John Chang and Joe Santacroce will be honored. Not a Sons event, but of interest to many Sons, Cross St, the Street outside of Hawkins Post 156 is being renamed by the City of NY, Commander William G Clancy Way. All Sons and friends are welcomed, September 26th at 10:30am with festivities to follow. We have had little Manhattan specific activity, but continue conversations to from another squadron in Manhattan, and from that Squadron hold a high profile big money event. John Chang and Sean Posers are trying to arrange a sit-down with a Sons member who has made significant \$\$ donations in the past to get his views of recruiting members for a new Squadron.

Bronx County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.21 V/C DeAngelis reported Starting with the Past Kings County Officers Testimonial Dinner on March 22nd. On April 11th I attended a MS Fundraiser where we raised over \$5,000 for the cause. On April 17th several of us from the 1st and 9th District attended the National Commanders Dinner held in Queens County at Anton's Catering. April 23rd was law and order awards night held at a local school in Brooklyn where we give awards to about 40 deserving NYC police officers sponsored by the Kings County American legion family. On April 25th I attended another successful fundraiser for Autism again raising around \$3,000 for the cause. Then the very next day on April 26th getting together with some Richmond County Sons to raise money for the family of SSG Michael Ollis who lost his life in Afghanistan. Later that day we all headed over to the Salty dog in Bay Ridge Brooklyn where we helped raise over \$20,000 for our very own Brooklyn Memorial Day parade. Kings County Sons Continue to do Bingo with the Vets at the VA every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. So sorry I could not attend Commander Chuck's homecoming, Memorial Day weekend as we had to be at our Cypress Hills National Cemetery on Sunday May 24th where we had a ceremony and wreath laying. Followed the next day by our 148th Memorial Day parade attended by many Squadrons. May 31st many of us from the 2nd & 10th districts did attend Department Commanders Frank Peters Homecoming celebration with many others who travel from all over our State. One week later we did it all over again at President Diane's Homecoming on June 6th. And most recently on June 19th we had our Kings County Convention where all new Sons Officers were installed. Richmond County continues doing great things around the Island, doing Flag etiquette presentation's at local schools. Flag retirement program at Boy Scout camp pouch. Other events included veterans Ice Cream Social, Operation Toasty Tootsies where they collected socks for Homeless Vets. Membership: Queens 108%, Richmond 99%, Suffolk 94%, Nassau 85% and Kings 84%. I know we can do better so let's get it together and get those last minute transmittals in.

Kings County made a motion accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.22 V/C Bosford reported I completed all Visitations in March, finishing up in the 3rd District. Membership – the Fourth District is in 4th place at 95.87% and the 3rd District is in 5th place at 95.24%.

On Memorial Day I participated in 3 parades. I attended the Flag Day ceremony at Warrensburg Squadron. I was invited to attend the POW/MIA ceremony on Prospect Mountain. I was honored to be asked to be on the Committee to Elect Jim Yermas for

Department Commander as the liaison for the Son's. I have assisted with several fund raisers for him. Held a fund raiser for one of our Sons who is battling Cancer, we raised over \$2,500.00 dollars in 3 hours. I would like to recognize Tim Williams who ran a half Marathon in Lake Placid for the Veterans home in Ballston Spa. I also attended Commander Depo's Homecoming. I made all District meetings in the 4th District. In June I attended the Spring Conference in Lake Placid and while I was there we went to Saranac Lake where we able to talk to some of the Son's. They took us on a tour of their Kitchen and we were amazed at all the work that they have done. They built new cabinets and remodeled the Kitchen.

Warren County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- **Recessed for the meet the candidate's luncheon.**
- **Reconvened at 1:15PM**

1.23 V/C **Hodge** reported I would like to thank you all for your Support and Confidence in me as your 5th and 6th Vice Commander for the last 2 years; it's been a pleasure and a great experience one that I will last a life time. Commander Chuck thanks for the great year, you have given this great State of New York during your year as our Commander. Also would like to thank Robert Cox 5th District Commander and Wayne Ainslie 6th District Commander for your help and support over the last year it's been a pleasure working with you two. Membership in the 5th and 6th Districts is going good and would like to thank you guys for your help and I am sure Doc will say the same on trying to build that bridge for our Membership Goal in New York State. We have heard all the membership number but would like to say thank you to the 5th District for being in first place with 98.84% membership in the State.

Madison County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried

1.24 V/C **Ruthven** reported this report will wrap up my 2nd year as your Detachment vice commander. Thank you, for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Detachment vice Commander the past two years. I considered it an honor. It was an enjoyable learning experience with ever changing circumstances. I witnessed the joys of successful Squadron programs brought to completion and the agony of problems between a Post and its Squadron. You may think that your Squadron is unique but, we all have similar goals and difficulties that we must work thru year after year. One of the benefits of conventions such as this is getting together with Son members from around the state and learning from each other. On top of everyone's list should be membership, congratulations to Bob Ellis and the 8th District; you are just 132 members short with 97.83% of your goal and to Daryl Verstrete and the 7th District; you are 166 members short with 96.8% of your goal. If the right connections are made I know you both could reach the 100% mark by National Convention and complete your bridge. This past year I had the honor to participate with the Department traveling party at two National Commander's visits and all 16 county visitations throughout the 7th and 8th Districts. Thank you, Chuck for the leadership you have shown and the message you carried throughout your travels. This year marked my first attendance to the Washington Conference and a second trip to the National Spring meetings in Indy, both rewarding and educational experiences. In August I am planning on attending this year's National Convention in Baltimore. In closing I would like to congratulate Commander Chuck on a great year. It has been a pleasure traveling with you and Nancy this past year.

1.25 **Credentials Chairman Alex Anderson** gave the credentials report which indicated 90 registered delegates.

1.26 **Leading Candidate for National Commander; Kevin Collier (AK) was introduced by N.E.C. Demon.** Candidate Collier stated that his theme would be R.O.C.K.E.D. remembering or commitment and keeping it every day. His membership theme will be baseball. His goals are \$1.15 per capita for CWF, \$.50 per member for NEF, and \$.25 per member for the Endowment Fund. All of the membership target dates are posted.

Remember that there is a free \$1,000 life insurance policy for all members and if you are working a project for the Legion it is \$5,000.

1.27 National vice Commander East Greg “Doc” Gibbs was introduced by N.E.C. Demon. Vice Commander Gibbs stated that NY is at 37% of goal for CWF. Remember that the National Commanders theme is building bridges, we need to keep working membership, it does count when the Legion National Commander goes to Congress to lobby for the Veterans. New York is doing a great job keep up the good work.

- **Commander Depo recessed the convention until 9:00 AM tomorrow.**

SECOND SESSION – JULY 16, 2015

- Commander Depo called the Convention to order at 9:00 AM.
- The Colors being in place, the membership saluted.
- Adjutant Robert Avery read Roll Call of Officers, and Roll Call of Counties, which indicated a quorum, was present.

1.28 John Kasmer Department Parade Chairman stated that the parade will only be 5/8 of a mile. The Detachment Color Guard will be Sheley B. Parish Sq. #457. There are prizes and trophies for color guards and bands are the parades that are registered.

- **Commander Depo excused the members on the podium for the duration of the Annual Memorial Service.**
- **Chaplain Ellis** conducted the Annual Memorial Service, a ceremonial parade of service caps, placement of the Memorial Wreath, and the playing of taps. The Adjutant read the names of our deceased members.

1.29 Children & Youth Chairman Hodge reported I would like to thank the members of the Children & Youth Commission Dean Williamson, Greg Falco, Ted Armbrust, Ike Bosford, Willy Bero and Robert Ellis. 150 Members or More; 3rd place Squadron 181, Randolph 8th District. 2nd place Squadron 457 Phelps 7th District. 1st place with a donation of \$3,690.00 and a total 3,315 hours Squadron 173 Bath, 7th District. Now 149 and less members: 3rd Place Smith Squadron 1296 2nd District, 2nd Place, Squadron 224 Ticonderoga 4th District, 1st Place with a donation of \$5,000.00 and 1,000 hours Squadron 1636 Michael Dawley Jr. 2nd District. Total Donations from Squadron’s from the State are \$54,027.71. Total hours Donated 15,760. You can still donate \$1.00 per member, Purchase Josh Dog; also go on line to find more donations to give to the Children & Youth foundation to keep this great State of New York Strong. There is a foundation in New York City called Hugs for Brady. Hugs for Brady manufactures a wagon in the form of an animal with an IV pole attached. They cost about \$1,000 per unit. I have fliers here if you are interested. You can contact Joe Santa Croce for more information.

Chenango County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.30 Consultant Neville stated that there are not as many people here as usual as is this same case in the Legion and Auxiliary and we need to fix that. The American Legion Family is a team and we should be proud of that. The Legion will be embarking on a campaign to get new members; the sons can help us do this. Also remember that new members have Sons and Daughters. I would like to thank Commander Depo for doing a good job this past year.

1.31 The Finance Chairman Lee; he read the current budget and where we stand to date. Finance Chairman Lee read the proposed budget.

Broome County made a motion to change the expense authorization for pre submitted vouchers which was seconded and carried.

Broome County made a motion to accept the budget and report as read which was seconded and carried.

1.32 Dave Lee and PNC Gladden has a fundraiser going based on weight loss challenge with all funds raised going to NEF.

- 1.33 A.N.E.C Bishop** reported that the duties of the A.N.E.C. are to assist the N.E.C with the goals and programs of the National Organization and keep the Detachment of New York informed. My duties are limited do too the great job the N.E.C. Denmon is doing. With that my first office duty was attending the fall N.E.C. meeting in Indianapolis where National Commander Moss laid out his theme Building Bridges to the Future, stressing membership and mentoring of our younger members. Mid- winter came next with our guest Bill Hill from Maryland leading candidate for National Vice Commander East and our own Greg “Doc” Gibbs National Vice Commander East. We all went to the Fisher House and presented a check for \$2,500. I also attended the entire visitation with in the 3rd District, and then attended the Legion National Commanders visit to the 3rd and 4th District.
- 1.34 Albany County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried. Advisor Arthur** Congratulated Commander Depo on a fine year. He also thanked Art Maggy on mentoring the right person. Remember where you come from and go back and help your Squadrons. Coping is probably the best form of flattery. I have heard of a Squadron that has gimmick that they used to get membership. I am going to take that back with me and see if it will work for my Squadron.
- 1.35 A.N.E.C. Denmon** reported First let start of by thanking you Mr. Commander, for the job you have done this past year. I know it isn’t easy but have done it congratulations. Now onto my NEC report. After Mid-winter came the Washington Conference where we had several members manage to fight thru the worst winter storm Washington DC has had in years to get there. Unfortunately no matter what type of changes the Commander tried to make he was not one of the lucky ones to make it. As many of you know David Lee and me always travel together we had our share of troubles. We arrived in Philadelphia to find out or flight to Washington had been cancelled but they had booked onto another flight on Sunday which was not going to work, so we manage to get onto a flight late Saturday night. By the time we had gotten to the information desk we had determined that flight might not leave as well so we decided to take the Amtrak Train to Washington. But first we wanted to get our luggage, after about 2 hours they informed us that it had to make it to its final destination, so off to Amtrak we went, hoping our luggage would arrive early Sunday morning. Sunday was the day to lay the wreaths but wait we still didn’t have any cloths. So however disrespectful I thought it was not to be in a suit and tie I went out of respect to our Veterans. Mr. Lee was able to garner cloths from people through the nation so he didn’t look to bad. (But I thought who really would have cloths that size.) Monday was filled with meetings and yet no cloths and several hours on hold to USAIR I wasn’t able to get any answers. Tuesday we were all getting prepared to go to the Hill after attending the Commanders call. We would be going to the Hill to meet with our respective representatives and encourage them to support legislation that wanted passed. Oh but wait what I am I supposed to do I have no clothes. I finally got to get into Bob Avery’s pants that he wasn’t going to need. They were big so I had to put them over my other cloths because Bob is a little BIGGER than me. After we got done on the Hill we went to the official meeting place of the New York SONS but were promptly summoned to return to the hotel for a press conference by VA Secretary McDonald. After that it was time to pack to go home oh wait that will be easy I have no clothes. Late that Tuesday evening my luggage did finally arrive. I was never so glad to put on clean socks and change my underwear, yes Gaither underwear.....
- Up next was the unofficial gather of the Eastern region as well has the Homecoming for National vice Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs in Hamburg NY. On Saturday morning those of us in attendance attended the leadership work shop put on by PNC’s Cliff Smith and Bill Sparwasser. Saturday evening was the homecoming dinner for NVCE Gibbs it was well attended but was not many Sons were in attendance. This was a great opportunity to meet many other SONS from the Eastern region.
- May brought the Spring NEC in Indianapolis we had 11 members present. There are many Committee and Commission meetings that took place this weekend where valuable information is gathered so you must decide what meetings you want to go to as many are held at the same time in other rooms. We had three members attend the National

Management Institute class. Jim Coates attended NMI 1 and Commander Depo and Joe Santacroce attended NMI 2. There was over \$177,000 dollars in donations given this weekend with the largest going to the Child Welfare Foundation at over \$122,000. There were several resolutions that were passed some that may affect us and others that were just a formality. Those that could affect us are--- Realignment of Committees and Commissions. Change the name of the Children and Youth Commission to Children and Youth Committee which will report to the Americanism Commission.

Change the Child Welfare Committee to report to the Americanism Commission.

Change the Name of the Public Relations Commission to be Public and Media Communications Commission

--- Removal of members from Commissions, Committees Boards or Sub Committees of the NEC. This was done because there members who do not attend or get involved with their Committees or Commissions and there was nothing in place to remove them.

--- Restructuring of the Per Diem call-in for National Meetings. This may require the finance committee to adjust certain line items and reallocate those funds. This should result in a saving to the Detachment or even allow the Detachment to have more members get involved at the National Level

--- There was another resolution that was rejects for not being in the proper form but this may come back again and that was the election of a Sg.t of Arms. If this does come back I plan to oppose it unless this body directs me otherwise. My reason for opposing it is that several years back National eliminated the election of a Chaplain to fall in line with our parent organization and to elect a Sgt. of Arms would be in direct conflict of how the American Legion as they do not elect a Sgt. of Arms.

I attended Commander Depos homecoming in Plattsburg those of that were in attendance had a good time and enjoyed the hospitality shown to us and we even got a great meal...

Yours for the Sons Gary Denmon NEC

Broome County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.36 Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco gave his report. There have not been too many fines this year; only \$31.00 has been collected. He also thanked his assistances and everyone or their support.

Suffolk County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.37 Adjutant Avery reported. As we gather to complete the business of the year, I want to thank all members for their support for our parent organization and our Nation's veterans. The level of volunteerism and monetary donations to our programs from the Squadrons in New York are unmatched. We continue to stress the importance of reporting your good deeds on the annual Consolidated Squadron Report. These numbers are very important, as they are included annually in The American Legion Commander's report to Congress. As of the Last Membership Report, we stand at we need 1,067 members for our 100% goal. As we wrap up this membership year, everyone's assistance is needed in bringing in those last renewals. Let's be at 100% when we arrive in Baltimore, MD for National Convention! The 2016 cards have already been mailed to Squadrons who have submitted an Officer Certification Form (OCF) for the 2016 year. Your Squadron's membership cards are NOT sent out unless we have received an OCF. There are still many Squadrons cards at HQ awaiting an OCF. Let's obtain this year's 100% membership NOW and get going on the 2016 year. The first Target Date is fast approaching! Our Detachment Commander Depo is completing a fantastic year in service to our organization. He has traveled all across this State to each and every county to speak about the Sons of The American Legion. Speaking of all we have done and all we are currently working on. He talked about his project and encouraged the membership to fulfill the goals of the organization. His commitment to the task at hand has been exemplary. Commander Depo, we thank you very much for leading the Detachment of New York and for a job well done! Our Detachment Commission and Committee members are also thanked for their hard work and accomplishments this past year. And to you...the blue-cappers, keep on assisting our veterans, children and youth, and local communities as you always have.

You are the most important part of our organization and I thank each and every one of you.

Kevin Collier from Alaska has been a very active member on the National level for years. He hopes to represent us well this year, and New York will provide him with full support. We wish him a successful year as our National Commander!

Monroe County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- **Broome County made a motion to close the Registration table which was seconded and carried.**

1.38 Commander Depo gave his final report. I have gotten a lot of thanks you's as I have traveled. You all have been there and took care of me and my wife all over the state. I would like to thank all my officers and committee chairs for doing a great job. I will now go home restart a Squadron and a County as Advisor Arthur stated we cannot sit on our laurels. If anyone needs anything at all please call me.

Clinton County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.39 Credentials Chairman Alex Anderson gave the final credentials report which indicated 96 registered delegates.

Broom County made a motion accept the final credentials report which was seconded and carried.

2.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

The following are sick; Bob Lloyd, Dave Slater, and John Bogart.

3.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.01 None

4.00 NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- **Motion by Jefferson County to close the Convention for the purpose of Election of Officers. The motion was seconded and carried.**

4.01 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Chaplain by Roll Call of Counties. Chautauqua County nominated Bob Ellis. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Broom County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Bob Ellis as Chaplain was carried.**

4.02 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Historian by Roll Call of Counties. Erie County nominated Tim Van Patten II. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Saratoga County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Tim Van Patten II as Historian was carried.**

4.05 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Vice Commander by Roll Call of Counties. Kings nominated Peter DeAngelis. Ontario County nominated James Coates. Oneida County nominated Chris Burch. Saratoga County nominated Clarence Bosford. New York County nominated Bill Clancy Jr.. **There being no further nominations, a motion made by Saratoga County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Peter DeAngelis, James Coates, Chris Burch, Clarence Bosford, and Bill Clancy Jr. as Vice Commanders, was carried.**

4.06 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Commander by Roll Call of Counties. Kings County nominated Joe Santa Croce. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Broome County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Joe Santa Croce as Commander was carried.**

4.07 Erie County made a motion to accept resolution Det. Conv. 2015-01, the motion was seconded and carried.

- **Broome County made a motion to close the elections and return to the convention. The motion was seconded and carried.**

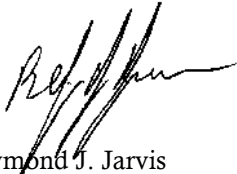
5.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 5.01 Broome County made a motion to support William Hill (MD) for National Vice-Commander; the motion was seconded and carried.**
- 5.02 Broome County made a motion to support Kevin Collier (AK) for National Commander; the motion was seconded and carried.**
- 5.03 St. Lawrence County made a motion to do away with the Golf Chairman; the motion was seconded and carried.**
- There being no further business to come before the Convention, Chaplain Ellis offered the Closing Prayer, the Sgt.-at-Arms retrieved the POW/MIA banner, and the membership saluted the Colors of our glorious Nation as they were retrieved by the Detachment Color Guard.

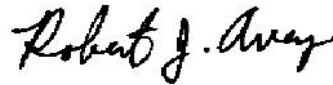
 - The Convention was adjourned at 11:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed:



Raymond J. Jarvis
Assistant Detachment Adjutant



Robert J. Avery
Detachment Adjutant