

MINUTES OF THE 42th ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION
July 14 - 15, 2016
John B. Handte Post #89
Vestal, New York

FIRST SESSION – JULY 14, 2016

- Commander Santa Croce 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 Santa Croce recited the POW/MIA Ceremony as the Master Sergeant placed the POW/MIA banner.
- Chaplain Ellis offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Bosford led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
V/C DeAngelis 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 Sons of The American Legion Judge Advocate Joe Paviglianti (NY) 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 Santa Croce.

1.00 REPORTS

1.01 Convention / Binghamton General Chairman Tom Smallcomb welcomed us to Binghamton and to Post #89. If you have problems with the hotel accommodations let me know. Please be respectful of the hotel as they have been very gracious and are working well with us. Busses will be running a continuous loop. The installation luncheon is sold out and will be held here. There are busses running from 6PM till 1PM tonight and tomorrow night to the post. We will be having entertainment.

1.02 Americanism Chairman Myrtle reported it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Americanism Chairman this past year and would like to thank our commander for entrusting me the position. Thank You Commander! 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. James Daly of Rochester ; Jim Parks of Ontario; Dennis George of Rome; Charles Depo of Chazy and Michael Rodriguez of Brooklyn, NY with their help we have made it all work this year. Please join me in showing them our appreciation. During Fall I had the opportunity to attend an American Legion Americanism conference in Indianapolis and did a study program on the Oratorical contest. This is an American Legion contest for high school student on the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Scholarships are awarded throughout our states and a finalist from each state complete for a national level scholarship.

Here is a summary of our detachment activities and expenses for 2015-2016.

Scholarships: we received four 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: Gannon Frisbee of Downsville, NY a member of squadron 167. Congratulations to our scholarship winner Gannon Frisbee. 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 they continue their college education. Detachment paid the following contributions to be recorded for the consolidated report.

2015-2016 Americanism Commission Expenses

1,300 Flag Lapel Pins for Boys State	\$ 805.10
4,320 Stick Flags	\$ 838.50

500 Our Country's Flag (comic book)	\$ 295.00
1 (Book) Knowledge in a Nutshell	\$ 8.95
10 Flag Education DVDs	\$ 99.50
500 Pledge of Allegiance (comic book)	\$295.00
200 Pledge of Allegiance (book markers)	\$ 58.00
100 U.S. Flag Sticker Sheet	\$ 15.00
Copies of Essay contest's	\$148.13
Shipping and Handling	\$ 33.95
Scholarship Cerullo	\$500.00
Mailing Cerullo Scholarship for Judging	\$ 27.90
Essay Contest "What America means to me"	
For 1 st – 5 th Grades	\$500.00
Essay Contest "What the Constitution of the United States means to Americans"	
For 6 th , 7 th , & 8 th Grades	\$300.00
Americanism Commission Postage essay contests	\$ 25.20
Total	\$3,950.23

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 for a total of 70 hours. In addition to the expenses above we had Donations of: \$30,000.00 to the American Legion, Department of NY, Commander Joseph SantaCroce collected funds for the National Emergency Fund of \$1,500.00 and \$ 1,500.00 for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship. National commanders project \$1000.00, Nicholas Sallese Scholarship \$ 750.00, American Legion Boys State \$ 750.00 2 – boy's to attend, National Emergency relief fund \$1500.00
Grand Total for Detachment: \$40,950.23

Consolidated Reports received this year

100 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. David stated that it was another great year. We need counselors we were short 16 this year which means that people had to double up. The summary of the Detachment of New York activities reported for this year in the 12- Americanism Programs, based on the 100 Consolidated Reports received from our squadrons are as follows.

Boys State and Girls State

# Boys Sponsored for Boys State	56 - Boys	Cost	\$18,057.33
# Girls sponsored for Girls State	3 - Girls	Cost	\$ 1,025.00

Education

# Five Star / Ten Ideals Programs	3 - Programs	Cost	\$ 0.00
# Flags Presented	1,818 - Flags	Cost	\$ 4,498.00
Cost of Scholarships		Cost	\$ 32,058.00

Hours for Educational Programs	859 - hours		
# Small Flags place on Graves or given away at parades			
38,024- Flags		Cost	\$ 5,073.95

Hours for Flags 1,822- hours

Oratorical Contests

# Of Contestants	3 - contestants	Cost	\$ 25.00
Hours of Participation	151 - hours		

Color Guards 31 - Squadron Sponsored

# Appearances	415 - appearances	Cost	\$11,561.00
---------------	-------------------	------	-------------

NEF Donations Cost \$ 4,635.00

Flag Education

# Flag Etiquette Programs	97 - programs	Cost	\$ 1,671.00
---------------------------	---------------	------	-------------

Hours 462 - hours

Flag Retirement Programs 52 - programs

Hours 611 – hours

<u>Community Service</u>		
Hours	40,864 - hours	
Cost / Donation		Cost \$ 86,565.00
<u>Scouting</u>		
Squadron Sponsored Troops	15 - troops	Cost \$ 5,215.00
# Youth Involved	363 - youths	
<u>Junior Shooting Sports</u>		
# Youth Involved	56 - youths	
# Hours Service	534 - hours	Cost \$ 400.00
<u>Baseball</u>		
AL Team Sponsored	6 – teams	Cost \$ 9,370.00
<u>Blood Drives - # Pints</u>	222 - pints	
Hours	136 - hours	
<u>Other teams Sponsored -</u>		Cost \$ 9,835.00

To sum up these numbers the Detachment of New York has reported \$223,304.51 in cost of programs and community donations, 50,633 - flags presented, placed on graves or given away at parades, 62,852 - volunteer hours, and \$7,635.00 in NEF donations.

Squadrons of 150 members or more with the highest levels of achievement are recognized as follows. First place 2 squadrons in the 7th District tied.

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

First Place: 7th District – Cottreal – Warner Squadron 0942 of Monroe 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: 6th District – John Handle – squadron 089 of Broome County

Second Place: 9th District – Moses Taylor Jr. – squadron 0136 of Westchester County

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

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

Our Essay contest:” What America Means To Me” Winners for 1st Grade thru 5th Grade are:

1st Grade student: Erica Hamdi of Gayhead Elementary School in Hopewell Jct., NY

2nd Grade student: Max Levin of Public School 206 in Brooklyn, NY

3rd Grade student: Isaiah Vanterpoll of St. Adalbert’s School in Staten Island, NY

4th Grade student: Michael D’Amore of Public School 11 in Staten Island, NY

5th Grade student: Aidan Sullivan of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Academy
In Brooklyn, NY

Our Essay Contest: “What the Constitution of the United States Means to Americans” for 6th, 7th and 8th Grades Winners are:

6th Grade student: Andrew Perdue of Brocton Central School in Brocton, NY

7th Grade student: Nayden Villoriente of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Academy in
Brooklyn, NY

8th Grade student: Anthony Disposito of St. Adalbert’s School in Staten Island, NY

Last year at our National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland our Detachment received the National Americanism Award: Gerald Atwood, Edward Beyea and Raymond York for Best Squadron of 2015 this is a very special award for us because it is in honor of three sons of our detachment that were first responders that lost their life at the World Trade Center on that dreadful day 9/11, 15 years ago. The winner of that award was Squadron 089 John Handle of Broome County. I would like to say thank you for bringing home such honorable award.

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

- **Commander Santa Croce turned the gavel over to Vice-Commander Clancy.**

1.03 Children & Youth Chairman Hodge reported Consolidate Reports that were turned in was pretty low. Only had 99 Reports turned in this year, don't forget that the consolidated reports are an important thing that has to be done, don't forget it is great to toot our horn, and so don't forget to turn them in. Again I had 99 reports turned in, 71 reports that were judged 28 not judged (Filled out wrong incomplete) Member #'s Wrong, Dates. If you need any help just ask. We are all here to help, Squadron Commanders, County Commanders, District Commanders and Advisors ask for help if needed. We had 11 reports at 150 Members or more. We had 60 Reports at 149 members or less. We had 28 Reports with no donations or hours to report, and 1 District Report the 5th District. Here the totals; \$15,972 donated to the Child Welfare Foundation, total hours for CWF 1,357 hrs. \$24,227 donated to the Special Olympics, and 2,284 hrs. Served, \$22,826 donated to the Children's Miracle Network and 809 hrs. Served, 12 Josh Dogs given at a cost of \$465, \$320 donated to Operation Military Kids along with 190 hours given, \$36,167 to other C & Y Projects with 13,670 hours given. And the awards go to,

For squadrons with 149 members or less;

1st Michael A. Rawley Jr. Squadron 1636, Kings County 2nd District

2nd Terrence Windsor Sq. 1175, Kings County 2nd District

3rd Carmine Granito – Smith Sq. 1296, Richmond County 2nd District

For squadrons with 150 or more members the awards go to;

1st Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173, Steuben County 7th District

2nd Chili Squadron #1830, Monroe County 7th District

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

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

1.04 The Finance Chairman Lee; Thanked the members on the Finance Commission for their work and commitment. He read the current budget and where we stand to date. Finance Chairman Lee read the proposed budget. He also stated the office staff, accounting firm and the investment firm have been a great help with communicating where we stand at any given time which helps us with setting up our budget. There was a question regarding how much money we currently have in our investment account. The answer is approximately one and one half of our annual budgets. That is a guideline that our accountant firm has suggested we have at any given time.

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

1.05 Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson had the following Chairman give their reports. **Membership Chairman Gaither Espy** reported Membership- What is membership? Membership is the lifeline of our great organization. Without membership we have no organization. Who is responsible for membership? We all are responsible for membership, from Detachment Commander Joe right down to the member who joined today. Through this past year I have been in contact with the Detachment membership commission members, Detachment Vice Commanders, District Commanders and other past or current officers across the State. The goal of this communication is for the information received on the Detachment level, gets filtered down through the levels of our organization to the blue cappers in our Squadrons. 95% to 100% of this information does make it to our Detachment web site@sonsdny.org. Please do not think we are nagging you about membership. We are trying to get membership goals and membership tools out to you, to make your job easier. This year right before Mid-Winter we did reach our 60% target date. It was the only one reached this year. We seem to be a week off reaching these. Our Detachment currently has 28,903 members paid for 2016. This puts us at 98.56%. This is only 421 members shy of our goal. Unfortunately we have 9 Squadrons throughout the State who have not even transmitted. The membership goals of these 9 Squadrons account for 212 of our members needed. We currently have 4 Districts, 27 Counties and 191 Squadrons who are at or over 100%. Congratulations to all of you, great job. There are 2 Districts and 15 Counties that are so close I can taste it. Throughout the State we have signed up 2,665 new members. This is great, but at the same time we

are seeing 3,086 members not yet renewed. Our current renewal rate is 89.03%. Gentlemen, the members are out there. We need to reach these guys and get them to renew. On the National Level, New York is currently in 35th place. 19 States have reached their 100%. 4 of those States are in comparison with our membership numbers. So yes it can be done. Within the Eastern Region we sit in 7th place from 14 Detachments. The 1st District has been leading this year with 109.43%. The 2nd District has been right their heels with 103.57%. The 7th District not to be forgotten comes with 100.85% The 5th District our largest 100.10%. Once again, great job to these Districts for reaching over 100%. The 10 District 98.45%, 4th District 97.84%, 8th District 96.25%, 6th District 95.95%, 9th District 95.76% and bringing up the back the 3rd District 94.89%. Our top 3 Counties are Warren County in the 4th District 130%, New York County in the 1st District 118.33% and Schoharie County in the 3rd District 116.67%. As for our Vice Commander's, with a combined total of 100.39% is Vice Commander DeAngelis from 2&10. Followed by V/C Clancy 98.82% 1&9, V/C Coates 98.82%, V/C Burch 98.70% 5&6 and poor V/C Bosford 96.88% 3&4. Annie in our Albany office has the 2017 membership cards ready to be mailed IF your Officer Certification Form has been mailed. So if your Squadron has not gotten your cards, please make sure you get that O.C.F. mailed. Once cards are received please get started on your 2017 membership year. Our 1st target date for the 2017 year is September 14, 2016 for 10%. In conclusion I want to express my thanks to the membership commission on a great job this year. To the Detachment Vice Commander's, District Commander's and the entire membership, thank You.

MT&D report read by Chairman Jarvis; the leadership class and Advisors seminar were given at Mid-Winter. The Committee will continue to review and update the programs as needed. The committee is looking at giving away thumb drives as handouts instead of cd,s. We will have more information at the Fall D.E.C meeting.

Convention Chairman Smallcomb reported welcomed everyone to Binghamton. If you have problems with the hotel accommodations let me know. Please be respectful of the hotel as they have been very gracious and are working well with us. Busses will be running a continuous loop. The installation luncheon is sold out. He thanked members of the Broome County Sons for their help and support. We will be raffling three pop up awnings with the proceeds going to the CWF.

Chairman Williamson read resolution 2016 DC-1 "Sons of The American Legion Everlasting" submitted by Cassadaga Memorial Squadron #1280.

Onondaga County motioned to accept the internal affairs report minus the resolution which was seconded and carried.

1.06 Parade Chairman Junker reported that the parade will be Friday and will start at post #80 at 6:30PM and will be just less than one mile long. You can register here forms are available. You will have a chance to meet the judges at 2PM and they will go over the rules. The results will be available on Saturday.

1.07 Cassie Green Broome County Chamber of Commerce that us for being here. She thanked us for choosing Binghamton for our convention. Enjoy your stay and if there is anything I can help you with please let me know.

1.08 Public Relations Chairman Coates reported the active portion of the Legislative agenda began on February 21, 2016 for the American Legion Legislative On-the-Hill Days. Seven members of the Detachment of NY participated in the Legislative weekend: Ken Kraetzer, Charlie Duffy, Natl Legislative Chairman David Lee, Commander Joe Santacroce, PDC Ray Jarvis, leading candidate Bruce Ruthven, and NY Legislative Chairman and PNVC Doc Gibbs. All appointments for Congressional visitations were confirmed and made in advance. When we all arrived in Washington, we were prepared with notebooks with maps, appointments, and legislative points were given to all participants. This legislative trip was the most bizarre over the seven years that I have been helping to organize them. We were unable to stay at the headquarters hotel so we had to travel by cab to and from our hotel to the headquarters site for meetings, I got sick on Saturday and was confined to bed for days, missing several important meetings and appointments. Ray Jarvis also got sick a day later and similarly was also out of

commission. Bruce Ruthven and Joe Santacroce were the healthy survivors of the original travelling group and did make their congressional meetings and attended the Know before You Go sessions as well. They also managed to have a tour of the capitol building while in DC. Several of the Congressmen were not in DC this weekend so meetings were held with aides, Bruce Ruthven did have a meeting with his Congressman along with several other Legion Family members (see photo). Charlie Duffy was complained by his family and he made his own plans and met with his representative as well. Ken Kraetzer had a meeting with the Superintendent of the Arlington Cemetery while there to continue plans for his Chaplains' Hill Monument and walk-way Project.



Photo of SAL NY Commander Joseph Santacroce laying wreath at Washington, DC World War II Memorial in honor of his deceased father-in-law and his father's service. Assisted by leading candidate for NY Commander J. Bruce Ruthven.

Since this is a presidential election year issues were not as forthcoming as usual, the legislative priorities were the exact same ones that were presented last year, so no major re-education process was necessary to prepare the Legion Family members as they brought those issues to their Congressmen. It was an unusual year of illnesses and multiple cab rides and cancelled appointments. Follow ups with Congressional offices was held to keep the integrity of our initial plans and responses from our representatives seemed as strong as ever.



While at the Legislative weekend the participants had the opportunity to go to Arlington Cemetery with National SAL Commander Kevin Collier and place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

For the On-the-Hill Days in Albany, New York scheduled for February 29- March 1, 2016; we had a contingent from the Detachment of New York present as well. Doc was unable to attend due to travel plans for Alaska that same week for the Natl Cmdr. Collier's Homecoming. Commander Joe Santacroce and Leading Candidate Bruce Ruthven attended the Legislative Breakfast along with ANEC David Bishop, and went on up to the hill immediately afterwards and met with their local representatives to share the Legion priorities in our state. Commander Joe Santacroce got one of his local representatives to co-sign a bill that involves sending un-claimed remains of veterans to the American Legion for further honorable disposition. This is a bill that has been in the house for a while and we are hoping for action on this congressional year. While we were in Washington, D.C. several many members of the Detachment of New York contingent attended National Vice Commander Bill Hill's homecoming events in Maryland just prior to the On-the-Hill Days. Ray Jarvis, Bruce Ruthven, Joe Santacroce and Doc Gibbs attended the Eastern Gathering hospitality for leading candidate for National Vice Commander East from New Jersey Joe Korba and attended the homecoming dinner the next night for Bill Hill from Maryland. We have had another successful legislative year at the Detachment level, in spite of the craziness of the actual Washington, DC visit itself. Much has been accomplished during the on-the-hill days. After a banner year last year with Commander Helm - Congress is now paying attention to the National Commander Barnett at the various hearings and this has been a good legislative year for our Detachment and the Sons in general with progress being strengthened in many areas.



SAL leading candidate for NY Commander J. Bruce Ruthven with additional Legion Family Members meeting with Congressman Reed.

We have also had several official “Action Alerts” this spring since our face-to-face meetings on the hill. These alerts require immediate attention by voters since specific “Legion impacting” bills are being considered. When those action alerts come to my attention, they are immediately forwarded on to our Detachment and National contacts as appropriate. It appears that, although this is a presidential election year, some legislation is being pushed through without all the usual notification and within some bills are roll-backs on some of the issues we thought were solid. We not only must continue to support new legislation and oppose legislation that does not serve our constituency but we also must be on guard for roll-backs that threaten legislation that we have already had passed, specifically elements of the New GI Bill that was passed just a year ago or so. Please stay in contact with the Legislative Commission from both our Detachment and the National organization so you can act in a timely matter and influence legislation that impacts our veterans and our military. I remain on Congressman Collins Legislative Veterans Advisory Committee which usually meets several times a year. During this past spring Congressman Collins passed a bill that allowed women members of the WASPs (Women’s Air Service Patrol) to be buried at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia. Many SAL members wrote to our congressmen about the issue of a women being denied burial because she was not considered a “veteran”. The Congressman acted quickly and within 3 months was able to get such legislation passed. We can make a difference through our impact as voters and Legion family members. The Congressman’s next committee meeting is scheduled for Sat., July 9, 2016 in Batavia at the Legion Post. At this meeting there were about 25 people present from many different service organizations (the big 6). I was the only Sins member present. The Congressman updated everyone on his efforts to open the new VA Clinic in Rochester as well as updated us on the planning of the new National Veterans Cemetery. The cemetery is planned to open in 2018-2019 for burials. When the construction phase begins a ground breaking ceremony will be held, hopefully in 2017. Funding has already been earmarked and things are on schedule. Collins big push is for the passing of HR 2218 – Renovation and Enhancement of Veterans Meeting Halls. He has over 31 co-sponsors including Congressmen Higgins and Congresswoman Slaughter. This bill will help Posts secure grants to fix their posts and it is hoped that this will pass during next year’s Congress. He is also pushing for the HR 4640 bill – the Veteran Suicide Prevention Act. Canandaigua still has the only veterans’ suicide hot line in the country and it has its problems as well. He is also pushing for the VA funding to increase 4% from this year’s levels; improve the VA health electronic record data exchange, and a plan to attack the Claims Backlog. He encourages people to contact his office if they are having delays in medical issues and his staff will try to cut through the red tape, etc. It was a fruitful meeting that went on for about 1 ½ hours. He had much time devoted for open questions from the floor. His parting comments were to make sure that people vote and elect a veteran friendly president. He has mentioned a level of disappointment in the current administration on that front.

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

- 1.09 Public Relations and Webmaster Cinquegrana** I would first like to acknowledge the members of our Commission: Jim Coates, Timothy VanPatten II, William Clancy, Kevin Harrington, and Ken Kraetzer. We are all there to help and assist, so please call on us at any time. Our contact information is on the Detachment Website and on the back page of The Liberty Newsletter. Speaking of The Liberty, thank you to everyone who submitted information and pictures for the Convention issue, which was emailed and posted last week. It is really important that we continually herald what we do, and tell people and show them what we participate in and what we can accomplish. There are also hard copies of this issue available here at Convention. I am also happy to report that we received word that The Liberty has been named 3rd place winner of the George W. Hooten Award by the National American Legion Press Association. Thank you to everyone’s input, helping to make that happen. As you may recall from Mid-Winter, we were very successful at our first Public Relation’s Project at a statewide event, collecting over 800 personal care items for Catholic Family Charities in Albany. We agreed to continue that, and here at Convention are conducting a sale of tickets for a \$100 Lottery

Tree; proceeds to benefit the local Southern Tier's Twin-Tier Honor Flight Program. We will be selling tickets at the Auxiliary and Legion locations, and will draw the winner on Friday afternoon. A presentation will be made Saturday morning. We will then be looking forward to the Fall DEC for the next PR project to benefit a local charity. SAL Radio, directed by our own Ken Kraetzer has done some remarkable things this year and continues to represent the Sons in a number of events at the highest levels. SAL Radio has received State and National recognition, including 1st place this year by NYALPA, and has been at the center of work being accomplished on Chaplains Hill at Arlington National Cemetery. Ken is also working on a plan with the Metro Atlantic Conference, Iona, Manhattan, Marist, Siena, Niagara, and Canisius, to provide color guards to their men's and women's basketball games and other veteran support activities. This is great exposure potential for the SAL, and anyone interested in helping is welcome and should contact Ken. We continue to tweak our Website, hopefully making it a useful tool for everyone, as well as an easy source for information. We hope you check it frequently, and please get on the mailing list if you have not done so already. If you just want to send me an email, I will do it for you. After the Convention, we hope to start our review of our current PR tools and PR Manual, and provide updates and additional information that can be useful to everyone. I know I always repeat this, but everything you do, is as a representative of the Sons of the American Legion, and is thereby the face of the Sons of the American Legion to the Public. We need to remind ourselves and our members, and train our membership, on the importance of Public Relations and how to accomplish it effectively. Our Commission's plan is to help you do that.

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

- **Vice-Commander Clancy turned the gavel over to Commander Ruthven**
- 1.10 V.A. & R. Chairman Cox** reported Since the Mid-winter Conference one of the primary concerns of the Commission has been promoting the Walk-a-thon. Through the efforts of many, including the Auxiliary, We were able to do better than last year, although we were still down from some of the previous years, We raised \$20,600.00 which will be divided evenly between the Sons and the Auxiliary with a check presented to the Auxiliary by Commander Joe, myself on Thursday morning. The members of the Commission met briefly last night to review the results reported on the Consolidated Reports and also judge the William P. O'Connell Scholarship. Although the awards will be presented later, here is brief summary of the numbers. We had 563 visits for 6,097 hours and \$16,891.00 to Veteran's Homes; 1,334 visits for 7,422 hours and \$18,671.00 to VA Hospitals; 2,744 hours of field service and 2,227 hours of home service; 58 hours and \$1,985.00 donated to Fisher House; 2,517 hours and \$25,656.00 donated for troop support; 1,923 hours and \$4,765.00 donated for family support; 3,895 hours and \$77,471.00 donated for other VA Projects; 309 veterans assisted with 630 hours and \$1,468. 00 on Veteran's Assistance Day; and \$9,687.00 donated to the Comfort Warrior Project. I have not calculated a statewide percentage of squadrons submitting reports, but based upon my district we are receiving reports from about 1/3rd of the squadrons. Think about what the above numbers would look like if we multiplied them by 3. After a review of these numbers by the Commission, we picked the following squadrons as this year's award winners. The awards are based on an overall body of work. Some squadrons have reported impressive numbers for individual categories, but very little in other areas. For squadrons with 149 members or less; 3rd place goes to Maine Squadron #1390, 2nd place to Melvin Roads Squadron #1231 and 1st place goes to Michael A. Rawley Jr. Squadron 1636. For squadrons with 150 or more members the awards go to; 3rd place goes to New Hartford Squad #1376, 2nd place goes to Chili Squadron #1830 and first place goes to Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457. Unfortunately, as usual, we had quite a few reports that did not have the prior and current year membership enter and also a number of reports that arrived too late to qualify for judging. Some of these reports had impressive numbers. Those numbers have, however, been entered into the overall results. We also reviewed the applications for the William P. O'Connell Memorial Veterans'

Rehabilitation Scholarship. This year's winner is Gannon Frisbee, a 10 year member of Downsville 167 Squadron. Gannon will be attending Clarkson University. I continue to volunteer at the VA Hospital in Syracuse have over 3,000 hours of service to our veterans. I encourage everybody to consider volunteering. You will find it a very rewarding experience.

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

- 1.11 2nd District Commander Rodriquez** reported that they have solicited local schools to participate in the Essay Contests conducted by Detachment Sons of the American Legion, March to June – Assisted in obtaining 11 candidates for the American Legion Boys State Program, 7 Boys did complete this program, 4 dropped out of the program, also raised over \$5,400.00 to pay for transportation and the boys state program. Kings County Sons of the American Legion sponsored one boy. Assisted Bob Myrtle by reviewing 87 2nd grade essays “What America means to me” and reviewed 4 scholarship submissions, April 3rd – attended the “Four Chaplains” ceremony at Fort Hamilton Base. June 5th – Swore in newly elected S.A.L. officers of Floyd Bennett Squadron #1080, June 17th – had the honor of swearing in newly elected S.A.L. officers of Kings County, this was conducted at Kings County Convention

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

- 1.12 The 3rd District Commander's report was read by acting Commander Bill Baker;**
Good Afternoon: Commander Joe, Adjutant Bob, Detachment Officers and Fellow Sons. I am not able to attend the Convention this year and my report will be read by our Second Vice Commander, Bill Baker who will be representing me throughout our sessions. Membership has been steady with a District goal of 1618 members; we now stand at 1549 members with 1416 and 133 new, with 69 needed to reach 100%. Albany County, Squadron #1520 Joseph E. Zaloga, Squadron #977 Heidelberg, Squadron #476 Edward T. Ruane and Squadron #248 Timothy Murphy all have reported activities thought out the year. Attending parades, Memorial services with their color guards and members holding fundraisers for American Legion programs and our Veterans Halloween and Christmas parties for their Communities Helping in any way they can with their Posts in order to make a difference.
Rensselaer County, Squadrons #471 Fort Crailo, Squadron #1683 Gerald O'Neil, Squadron #1231 Melvin Roads, Squadron #1489 North Greenbush Memorial; All reported on their activities. Hosting Breakfast and dinner Fundraisers Holding raffles Raising money for our Veterans, Children and Youth as well as local community charities. Sadly, I report that North Greenbush Memorial Legion and Squadron #1489 lost a Dual member and Past Department Commander Kenneth Governor in December, Ken was a good friend and a mentor to many and was always dedicated to Service first as this was his motto throughout his career.
Ulster County, Squadron 111 Cook-Taylor reported that they are Holding coin drops, Breakfasts, Flag Placements, Providing food baskets to seniors in need, working with the Boy Scouts, Veterans and many Community projects. At this time, I would like to introduce myself; I am Bill Baker Past Squadron Commander of Melvin Roads Squadron #1231 in East Greenbush, NY. I became a member of the Sons 6 years ago and have not looked back since. I became fascinated with the work of the American Legion family from the first moment I stepped into the Melvin Roads Post. As a proud Husband and Father, Son, Grandson and Brother of Veterans I found it was profound honor to assist in any way I can, I am looking forward to serving this coming year as Third District Commander

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

- 1.13 The 4th District Commander Martel's report was reads by acting commander Tim Williams** the Biggest though I would like to pass on is the (SRPC) The SRPC is a place for Homeless Veterans with Warren, Washington, Saratoga and Montgomery County and Squadrons, all add to help this cause. Many Squadrons are doing fund raisers for local

Scholarships, Children & Youth and Supporting the National Commander project. Riders are adding to the Legacy fund and it grows every year.

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

- 1.14 5th District Commander Cox** reported; First of all, I would like to thank the Sons of the 5th District who placed their trust in me and assisted me over the last two years. I would also like to congratulate Dennis George who will be the new 5th District Commander. Since the Mid-winter Conference I have been able to attend County meetings in Oneida, Oswego and Onondaga Counties. I also participated in the Oneida County Sons Golf outing with the proceeds going to help Sitrin Group in Utica, a Veterans support group. I enjoyed the National Commander's 5th District visitation in Little Falls in Herkimer County. I also helped place flags at two cemeteries in Skaneateles and marched in the Skaneateles Memorial Day Parade with a large group of Legion and Sons members. I would like to thank those squadrons of the 5th District took the time to fill out and submit their Consolidated reports. Unfortunately out of the 55 Squadrons in the District only 17 sent their reports in. this is approximately 30%. We need to do better than this. As far as membership I am disappointed that the 5th did not achieve the 100% goal by Convention although I am confident that we will reach that number by the National Convention. We are currently in 4th place in the state at 99.85%. However we still have the largest district in the state with 6,860 members, who is over 1,600 members more the closest other district. Two of our counties, Oneida and Oswego, have reached the 100% goal.

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

- 1.15 6th District Commander Hodge** reported we have been busy. We are working on our membership we are currently at 92.5%. We had a big loss to our district Carol and Ray Johnson have step away from the Oxford Veterans Home gift shop. This is my project and so far we have raised \$4,000. We now have 17 leaves on the tree of life. Leafs cost \$250 apiece. Wayne Ainsley will be the next 6th District Commander.

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

- 1.16 7th District Commander Rose** reported The 7th District Sons donated \$100 to Walk-A-Thon. We presented a plaque and \$100 to Cadet Daniel Frasch, an ROTC graduate from Rochester Institute of Technology. We gave \$300 to the District VA medical centers, \$500 to Camp Good Days, and \$500 to Nathan Karlson, from Romulus, the winner of the Quentin Smith Scholarship for writing an essay on what America means to me. This year's junior bowling was held at Lakeside Lanes in Penn Yan, Yates County, chaired by vice commander Jesse Parks. It was our biggest turn out in years with both junior sons and junior auxiliary bowlers. Last October, I outlined our plans for a Welcome Home event for Bath and Canandaigua VA veterans and their families. I'm pleased to report that the day, which was held at the Penn Yan Post, was a huge success, and it's estimated that 260 people attended and enjoyed the food, music, and activities. The 40+ community partners were busy answering questions and providing information to our veterans. The VA representatives were pleased with the support and information the community partners provided. Special thanks to Chairman Gabe Cinquegrana and the Penn Yan Legion Family for all their hard work. The next day was another successful and well-attended event—the annual 7th District Sons flag education and retirement ceremony held in Hornell, Steuben County, and chaired by Chaplain Jim Daly. Participants in the ceremony included Boy Scouts, Junior Auxiliary, Legion family color guards, the Hornell high school choir, local and state government officials, and the Hornell fire department, who displayed a spectacular giant flag that flew from the hook and ladder truck. Also in attendance were Detachment Vice Commanders Bill Clancy, Jim Coates, and leading candidate Bruce Ruthven who coordinated the color guards. There were many comments that this ceremony may have been the best the Sons ever had! Special thanks to Detachment Assistant Sergeant at Arms Joe Cleveland and Colin McDaniel, and the entire Hornell Legion Family who did a fantastic job and provided lunch for all. As of the July 11 membership standings, it is with great pleasure to inform

you that the 7th District Sons is at 100.72 percent. This achievement would not have happened without the persistence and dedication of Vice Commanders Jerry Toepper, Joe Cleveland, Jesse Parks, and our secret weapon Past District Commander and current District Advisor Daryl Verstrete.

1.17 Wayne County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried. 8th District Commander/ Historian Van Patten

reported that the Mighty Eighth District has been pretty busy since we last gave report at Mid-Winter. We were honored to host Commander Joe, along with his counterparts Commander Yermas and President Mahoney during their visitations to Western New York. Our membership chairman Ron Kuczenski did a remarkable job in helping the district reaching over 5,100 members, a great turnout for our district but just a tad shy of Charlie's numbers over in District Seven, but more on that in a few reports from now. The Eighth held their District Convention on June 18th in Genesee County and I'd like to Welcome Vice Commander Dale Kane to the merry misfits of the mighty eighth.

On the Historian side, our book is nearing completion for this year, now, while sifting through all the photos of the different visitations and events throughout the year, I have noticed a fantastic turn out of Sons at the Testimonial dinners. Now I need a favor from you all, if anyone has articles from their local papers could you please send them to me so we can add them to the book for this year. It could be anything from the State leaders coming to town to articles on any other activity your squadron did, my e-mail is in the liberty or come see me and I'll give it to you Directly

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

reported that there are many ways to raise money for our projects. I have an example, there was a girl at girl's state that approached my wife and stated that her and her family raffle of a heifer every year and donate the money to a veteran's project, this is approximately \$3,000. Last year they donated the money to the wounded warrior project. This year we got her to donate the money the wounded warrior alliance of New York. The family is so thankful that they can trace what the money is being used for. They were disappointed that they never even received a thank you from the wounded warrior project. Think of the little things when making donations you do not have to give a large amount of money to make a difference.

- **Recessed for the meet the candidate's luncheon at 11:45AM.**

- **Reconvened at 1:15PM**

1.19 Department Commander Yermas addressed the delegation. He apologized for being late. He stated that he had stay to make Doug Malin an honorary Department Commander. He is the shortest serving commander in the history of the department. If you are going to National Convention we will be marching in the seconded division thanks to everyone helping with our membership.

1.20 9th District acting Commander Guidice reported that we are moving forward. We held our first District Meeting last fall, we followed that up with a meeting in the spring and we had a bigger turnout. Our membership is not too bad. We have a couple of Squadrons that we need to reach out to. We have 34 Squadrons and 5 Counties. One county has formed and our short term goal is to get the remaining counties formed. Rockland and Orange County are getting close to being formed.

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

1.21 10th District Commander Connelly reported The District is still having the same problems, all Squadrons are doing 100% on the Post level but it is hard to get them to form a county or District. I still have the key players Chris Cerullo and Greg Falco and myself, we have had a successful County meeting back in February in Suffolk County and I know Greg is doing his best in Nassau County but the this is our members are doing their work on the local level

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

1.22 Chaplain Ellis reported As Chaplain, over the past year, I sent out 12 cards to members of the American Legion family. I sent 9 sympathy cards expressing our condolences for a lost family member and 3 Get Well cards for those with an incapacitating illness. At

the invitation of the Seventh District, I attended their Flag Retirement ceremony on May 22nd. As was indicated by many folks, it was an impressive ceremony supported and attended by many from the community. I highly recommend that everyone make the effort to attend their ceremony if you have the opportunity. On Memorial Day, I participated in our Legion Family ceremony of paying honors with a 21-gun salute to our Veterans at 10 different rural cemeteries. Thank you for your support this past year and I would like to remind you that we will be having a Memorial service for all Sons who have passed on in the past year and if you know someone from your squad who has passed please check the list on the back table and if they and their squad are not listed, please add them to the list so that they can be recognized during our ceremony.

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

- 1.23 **Judge Advocate Downey** reported that we are now getting Constitutions and Bylaws approved by department now. Please attach a contact person when submitting them, so if we have a problem or question we will know who to contact.

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

- 1.24 **V/C Clancy** reported Membership is going well. Bronx County has been formed and is functioning well. We had a joint county convention with the legion. I had the privilege of attending the American Legion Collage, and as a fringe benefit I had the opportunity to spend an hour talking to the commander of the 9/11 post. He is committed to getting the Manhattan Sons of The American Legion up and running. You have heard what is happening in the 9th District.

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

- 1.25 **V/C DeAngelis** reported I have been many places supporting our Veterans. Fundraisers; I've hosted just to name a few for Marines where we raised \$8,000.00 for the Marine Corps league toys for tots program. At the Brooklyn Memorial Day parade fundraiser we raised \$13,000.00 for our next parade. Recently did a Veterans friends and family fundraiser at the riding academy along the Belt Parkway Called Therapeutic riding for vets with PTSD get to ride horses for free to release some of their anxiety created by PTSD Placing American flags at the National Cemetery on Long Island, My Squadron's color guard and honor guard at Cypress Hills National Cemetery on Memorial day weekend we also attended a Civil War Cemetery on Staten Island and invited Past President Diane Gerber. Membership did very well this year the Second District is very well Kings County at 104%, Richmond County 101% and in the Tenth District Queens did very well this year currently at 101% Nassau and Suffolk are real close at 100%

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

- 1.26 **V/C Bosford** reported that since mid-winter ha has completed the visitations in the third district. He also attended a few fund raisers and the zone and finals of the oratorical contest and was very impressed by the participants. We recently reorganized the Lake George Squadron and they are currently over 100% in membership. I have been working with the Glens Falls Legion to start a sons Squadron and I am happy to report that they have sent in there paperwork for their charter. I would like to thank all the members in the third and fourth district for their help. We still need to work on our membership in both districts.

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

- 1.27 **V/C Burtch** reported Since Mid-Winter I have had very few official Duties, But I did attend the National Commanders Visitation in Little Falls, it was well attended and the Commander gave a great speech. I also made it o the Homecoming in Albany and really enjoyed the dinner. I had 3 Post ask about starting Squadrons while we were out on Visitations, but only 1 has followed up with a phone call to me. I will be getting together with rich Hodge to help them out since they are in the 6th District. Membership has been strong this year; we had 3 counties in the 5th make 100% (Oswego, Oneida and Onondaga). And 2 Counties in the 6th District (Delaware and Cortland) 5th District made the 100% by Convention and 6th District finished at 95.95% Very good job - But will do

better next year! I personally made 3 trips to Wick Staley post to get them back up and reporting. I would like to give my Thanks to Rich Hodge, Dean Williamson, Robert Cox, Ray Jarvis and Dennis George for making my job Easy. These Gentlemen are 1st Rate and do a great job for our Detachment. I would also like to thank and apologize to Bob Avery and Ray Jarvis for taking up my slack! I have worked on and off for our Detachment for over 10 years and by far – this was the easiest the most Enjoyable, thanks to our Commander Joe SantaCroce. He has been an excellent Commander and made my year.

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

V/C Coates reported the week after Mid-Winter we started our visitations. Through the middle of February and into the middle of March we completed our visitations to the 16 counties in the 7th and 8th Districts. Commander SantaCroce it was a pleasure traveling with you and Marie and on behalf of the 7th and 8th districts I would like to thank you for doing such a great job representing and promoting the Detachment of New York. Thank you very much! On April 2nd I had the pleasure to attend the St. Bonaventure University's ROTC award ceremony with 8th District Vice-Commander Bob Ellis as he presented the William P. O'Connell Award to Cadet Alexander Miinte. And the additional pleasure on May 6th to join 7th District Commander Charlie Rose at the Rochester Institute of Technology ROTC award ceremony as he also presented the William P. O'Connell Award to Cadet Daniel Frasch. Presenting the William P. O'Connell Award at St. Bonaventure University and the Rochester Institute of Technology is a tradition started by Doc Gibbs from the 8th District and Jerry Ketchum from the 7th District, and it is truly an honor to see this award presented to young cadets who exhibit the ideals of the Sons of The American Legion; fostering and perpetuating a true spirit of Americanism, displaying a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation, and safeguarding the principles of justice, freedom and democracy. This is also a tradition that you can carry on in your own area if you have a college with an ROTC program and you would like to experience the privilege of attending one of these award ceremonies. Just let me know or Doc Gibbs, Jerry Ketchum or Chaplain Ellis and we will be happy to help you get you the information you need to get started. On April 16th I attended the Veteran's Walk-A-Thon sponsored by the Ontario County Sons of The American Legion at the Canandaigua VA, which raised \$4,000 toward the impressive total of \$20,600 that Commander SantaCroce reported. April 29th through May 1st I attended the National Management Institute training in Indianapolis, along with a couple of committee meetings and the Spring NEC meeting. And on May 9th I had the honor to install the officers of Honeoye-Hemlock Squadron #1278 in Ontario County. On May 14th, along with many of you, I attended the first American Legion Family Homecoming event in Albany for Commander SantaCroce, President Mahoney and Commander Yermas. This was followed the 7th District's Welcome Home Event in Penn Yan on May 21st and Flag Retirement Ceremony in Hornell the following day. And on that note I thank Vice-Commander Bill Clancy and Chaplain William Ellis for coming to Hornell and joining us for the Flag Retirement Ceremony. On June 19th I drove to Morrisville to stand in for Commander SantaCroce alongside Commander Yermas in congratulating those members of the Sons of The American Legion who attended The American Legion College this year. And while this college does not make us experts about everything, I have to agree with Vice Commander Clancy in that knowledge is power and having more knowledge about our American Legion and American Legion programs makes the entire American Legion organization stronger. This year we had four or five Sons attend the college and there was room for at least five or six more. So apply if you are interested and if there is room you will get in. It is well worth the experience. I missed the 7th District Convention on June 11th due to my daughter's wedding, but the next week end was able to make the 8th District Convention meeting and still make it home for my Stepson's wedding that afternoon. While here, I would also like to acknowledge one of our own. A short time ago I had the privilege to attend the high school graduation party for Colin McDaniel's. Colin graduated from Hornell High School this past June. As you all know Colin has served as assistant Sergeant-At-Arms for the Detachment of New

York for several years and as the Seventh District Sergeant-At-Arms. Colin attended American Legion Boy's State in 2015 and received his Eagle Scout award this past year. In the fall Colin will be going off to Corning Community College. Please join me in congratulating Colin on his achievements and wishing him the best of success as he goes on to college and beyond.

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

- 1.29 A.N.E.C Bishop** reported like my previous reports my A.N.E.C. report will be brief as I'm sure N.E.C. Gary Denmon will be touching on the business of our National organization in his report which is to follow. Once again my duties as the ANEC are to assist our NEC and to be available to represent the Detachment in the event our NEC is unable to attend an event for function that is required. So with that said I would like to thank our NEC Denmon for making my job that much easier as Gary has done a terrific job in representing the Detachment of New York as our NEC these past two years. Since my last report that was given at Midwinter I have attended the On the Hill day which is held in Albany. I had the privilege on attending the legislative breakfast along with representatives of both the Senate and assembly. Several speakers spoke on some of the issues and concerns facing our veterans. One of the topics that were discussed was to explore an alternate way than just mediation to treat our veterans with PTSD. They believe that therapy both physical and mentally could benefit our veterans with PTSD and will be looking into it further. I also attended our Commander Joe's County visitations in Albany and Greene counties. It is always a pleasure to see Commander Joe and Marie and listen to our Commander speak on behalf of the American Legion and the American Legion Family. Next I attended the National Commanders Visitation to the 3rd and 4th Districts which was held in Saratoga and again enjoyed listening to the National Commander of the American Legion, Dale Barnett's Message, After the National Commanders visitation I attended the Spring N.E.C. meeting in Indy. As a member of the National Member training and development Committee the weekend was very busy as the MTD committee holds our MTD committee meeting on Friday night and the National Management institute 1,2 and 3 courses on Saturday. I also attended the first joint homecoming dinner for all three of the American Legion family leaders which was held at the Desmond Albany. Thought the homecoming went well and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

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

- 1.30 Credentials Chairman Alex Anderson** gave the credentials report which indicated 89 registered delegates.

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

SECOND SESSION – JULY 15, 2016

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

1.31 N.E.C. Denmon reported After Mid-winter; came the Washington Conference where we had several members attend. I was unable to attend because of work and with the upcoming Commanders homecoming. Which was held on March 4-6th in Anchorage Alaska? We were well represented in addition to myself we had PNC Cerullo, Adjutant Avery and PDC Doc Gibbs in attendance as well as my wife Sandy. On Friday night we went to Spendard Post 28 for a meal and entertainment. On Saturday Morning we walked up the street for the ceremonial start of the Iditarod dog sled race. It was amazing how well these dogs are loved and cared for by their owners. After that we went on a tour of the Alaska Native Heritage Center, where we were show some live demonstrations of Alaskan games that I must say not a one of us could have done. There was so much to see here and enjoy that words cannot describe, after that we went to the Rasmussen Anchorage museum. Where we were able to learn how the early Alaskans lived and dressed as well as how they survived. That evening was the Commanders dinner and reception which was well attended by members from across the nation. For those of you wondering, yes I did find a hot dog stand. Sunday we were on our own so we decided to take a drive Adjutant Avery wanted us to go to the Glaciers and we wanted to go to the animal preservation park. So we got a early start driving, the State was so beautiful with all of the snow top mountains, but I must say the weather was warm so we didn't need all of the heavy cloths we had brought. While driving and looking at the mountains it was amazing that you couldn't see the tops because of the fog. We were told if we went another 10 miles up the road we would come out of the fog and would have great views which we did. Every one of us had a great day and will remember for years to come. One thing that was amazing to me was that it was dark till about 8:30 I myself had a hard time adjusting to the time difference and would stay up till 3 and be back awake by 6. I would like to Thank National Commander Collier and his committee for the great hospitality shown to all of us. Up next was my final Spring NEC meeting where our Commander graduated from NMI Congratulation Commander we knew you could do it. Bruce Ruthven and Bill Clancy started NMI and Jim Coats was in MNI 2. Some topics covered at the meeting Americanism Commission reported oratorical contest over \$135,000 was given to contestants during the weekend, where the overall winner had the potential to leave with over \$20,000 to spend on education. We need you back to go back and get the squadrons get more involved with or oratorical contest. Children & youth Conference will be held this year September 16th and 17th in Indianapolis. Child welfare foundation reported a total 24 grants worth \$640,395 was voted on at the fall conference by the foundation. Finance commission discussed the possibility of a dues increase but at this time they do not recommended a increase but the matter may be looked at in the future. Membership committee recommending we really push this year to get the member profile cards done this year when member pays their 2017 dues. But one of the biggest moments came when PNC Cerullo, Adjutant Avery and Detachment Commander SantaCroce present Joe Paviglianti a copy of the Resolution in memory of Al Paviglianti. Up next and last was the joint homecoming which I thought went very well and was well attended.

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

1.32 Department President Mahoney thanked us for the invitation to address the Sons. She thanked for electing Commander Joe, he has been a pleasure to travel with. He is knowledgeable, genuine and dedicated to the principles that the Sons adhere to. We need to continue to work together on our programs and membership. I have met so many sons who have made a positive impact and have it easy to walk this road. Joe's quiet and friendly manner with a quick smile have made being with Joe on this journey has made this the most favorable, memorable thing I am going to remember in this chapter of my life.

1.33 Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco gave his report. There have not been too many fines this year; only \$79.00 has been collected. He thanked his Assist Sgt. At Arms and the Binghamton County sons for their help at support.

1.34 Adjutant Avery reported. Congratulations to all of our membership on a terrific year, especially the blue cap members who worked so hard raising monies and working the events at the Post level. Your dedication is exemplary! Our parent organization, from which we exist, is also thankful for all of your efforts. Many Posts would not be able to survive without a concerted family effort by Legionnaires, the Auxiliary, the SONS, and the Riders. I also thank the Detachment officers and committeemen for their commitment, working our programs and helping us to raise the funds that we donate each year. I especially want to thank our Detachment Commander Joe SantaCroce who (in case you were not aware) did a fantastic job this year as he traveled the State's 62 counties with Commander Jim and President Jan. They made a terrific team, and our Commander thanks all members who presented donations to him during the visitations, and also thanks everyone for their involvement in this year's Walk-a-Thon. As for membership, the July 5th report puts us at 98.92% of goal, needing 421 members to reach 100%. We are in 36th place in the Nation and within the Eastern Region we are in 7th place. Our figures are an improvement over last year at this time. As a matter of fact we are over 700 members above last year. We are still the 4th largest Detachment in the Nation. We are STILL separated by 2,000 members from Ohio. 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 Cincinnati for National Convention! 2017 cards have been mailed to all Squadrons who have submitted an Officer Certification Form (OCF) for the 2017 year. Send in your OCF if you have not done so already. The first Target Date will arrive quicker than you think!

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

1.35 Commander Santa Croce gave his final report. I want to take this time to thank all members of our Detachment for their service to our veterans this year. Traveling throughout our great state was such a rewarding experience as we visited all the sights that are a source of pride to the citizens of that particular area. We also had the opportunity to meet so many great people in all corners of the state. Thank you to the Vice Commanders and District Commanders who accompanied Marie and I on our tours through the Districts, for not only making our visits more enjoyable but also for their friendship. I also want to thank all Sons who attended the Visitation dinners and made donations to my projects, Operation Comfort Warriors and the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. I also want to thank the Commission Chairmen and all the members of the Commissions and Committees for their hard work this year and for assuring that our Detachment is focused on supporting our Legion programs. Since this is my last opportunity to address you as your Commander, I would like to make a few observations based on what I have experienced over the past year. I feel we have a great nucleus of hard working members here in our Detachment. I also think we have some very active squadrons in our communities. But I feel that in too many of our areas we have a lack of succession between the two levels. We have to identify our Sons at the Squadron levels that might have the ability to become County, District officers and possibly beyond. We have to try to eliminate the need of the same County or District officers serving year after year. The Detachment Vice Commanders and the District Commanders must work closely with their County organizations to assure that we are cultivating future leaders. Next year's Visitation schedule is already posted on the website!! Too many times last year it was me, the VC and District Commander attending the dinners without any local Sons. Too often I saw Sons during the daytime tour who said they weren't coming to the dinner because they just found out about it and couldn't get the word out. We need to get the word out to our members ahead of time and not wait for the counties to pass the word down. I ask that the Vice Commanders and District Commanders look at the schedule and work together to notify someone in each county so they can go to their County Legion leadership and make sure they are involved with the Visitation. We complain at times that we feel we do not receive the proper respect from the Legion in our area. Well, it's tough to make that complaint when we are no-shows at the visitation. I know it sounds like I'm putting the onus on our Detachment VC and District Commanders, and,

in a way, I am. As a Detachment we meet maybe 5 or 6 days a year. For the rest of the year, it is up to our local areas to make sure we are a successful organization. It's up to our VC's and District Commanders, as our leaders in the field, to lead the communication to the blue cappers to make they feel they are integral parts of our Detachment. As far as the Walkathon is concerned, I want to thank everyone who made contributions to this year's event. We were able to increase our total by \$8,000 to \$20,600. However, I think we can do better!! The reason I say that is because over \$16,000 of the total raised came from 5 counties!! That means the other 57 counties raised less than \$5,000. By the way, in those 5 counties, three sponsored Walkathons and two just solicited donations from the Legion Family and/or the community. I ask that we keep the momentum going next year and hopefully we can get more areas involved in this event which, I feel, is the primary reason why the Sons of the American Legion exist, to support our recovering veterans. Finally I would like to speak a minute about Operation Comfort Warriors. We raised over \$13,000 for this project this year, but now we have to make sure our local facilities realize the benefit of the program. Some of you know that as we were conducting our visits this year, Commander Jim would ask the staff of the VA Hospitals if they heard of OCV. In almost every case, the answer was no. This was disappointing since there were always members of the local Legion Family that were volunteers at the facility. During the past six months Gabe has obtained a grant for the Canandaigua VA and I recently had a grant approved for the Brooklyn VA. I ask any of you who volunteer at your local VA Hospital to please make use of this program. The process is extremely easy and the money is readily available for their use. Your Squadron can be a sponsoring organization. If you have any questions about the program feel free to contact Gabe or myself. There are also brochures available at Department. I was extremely proud to serve as your Detachment Commander this year. It was an honor to be your representative throughout our travels in the State. It was an experience I'll never forget. Again, many thanks for giving me this opportunity.

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

1.36 **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.

- **Commander Santa Croce directed the Sgt. At Arms to place two pictures of Albert Paviglianti, Dual Member and friend of the Sons on the head table. He then placed his credentials there also dedicated the rest of the convention in his honor.**
- **N.E.C. Denmon introduced the National Judge Advocate and son Al, Joe Paviglianti.** Joe he stated that it is bittersweet and surreal to be here today. It was 49 years ago in this same Post and room that I became a member of the Sons of The American Legion. Though my father Al, we did lose him late last year lost him but we have not lost him. His presence is still here and with me every day. Joe state that although he does not live here his heart and membership will always be in the great State of New York. He stated that this Detachment is looked up to by many in other detachments and is well represented on the National Level. He present Commander Joe and Adjutant Avery with pins from the first ever New York Detachment Convention. Joe was presented a special certificate from the Detachment.
- **PNC Cerullo** thanked Joe for his support and guidance throughout the years he was my Detachment adjutant and I was blessed to have him as my National Adjutant.
- **N.E.C. Denmon introduced our National Commander from the last frontier Kevin Collier (AK).** Kevin thanked us for the invitation to be here. My theme is R.O.C.K.E.D. remembering our commitment and keeping it every day. After listing to your reports the last two days I can say that New York has remembered its commitments. You are continuing to work on your membership. I would like to thank the Detachment for sending many members to my homecoming. I would like to thank you for all you do for the community, state and nation.
- **Consultant Neville** stated it is always great to come and speak to you; this is my 18th year as your consultant. I came to thank you on behalf of the Department of New York

for all you do to help the Legion. If it were not for your help in many posts there would not be any vitality. There was first this year, the Department Commander, Auxiliary President, and Sons Commander held a joint homecoming. This is good for everyone it helps bond and work together. When you go out and put this hat on represent this organization, be proud of yourself and this organization, wear the hat well and represent us well. When are in the community or the post or any meeting of any organization carry yourself on well, be respected and respectful it goes a long way it shows the professionalism organization.

2.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

None

3.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 3.01 A motion was made by Onondaga County to accept resolution DC-01 which was seconded and carried.**

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.**
 - **Commander Santa Croce appointed Mike Rodrigues, Greg Gibbs, and Kevin Collier as tellers for elections. There will be a 10 minute recess the head table is excused.**
- 4.01** Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Chaplain by Roll Call of Counties. Chautauqua County nominated Bob Ellis. Wayne County Nominates Jim Parks. **There was a roll call vote for Chaplain. The vote was Ellis 44, Parks 47. Jim parks won the election for Chaplain.**
- 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. St. Lawrence nominated Peter DeAngelis. Ontario County nominated James Coates. Oswego County nominated Chris Burtch. 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 Burtch, Clarence Bosford, and Bill Clancy Jr. as Vice Commanders, was carried.**
- 4.06** Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Alternate National Executive Committeeman by Roll Call of Counties. Bronx County nominated John Change. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Wayne County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot John Change for Alternate National Executive Committeeman was carried.**
- 4.07** Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for National Executive Committeeman by Roll Call of Counties. Albany County nominated Dave Bishop. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Warren County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Dave Bishop for National Executive Committeeman was carried.**
- 4.08** Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Commander by Roll Call of Counties. Ontario County nominated J. Bruce Ruthven. **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 J. Bruce Ruthven as Commander was carried.**

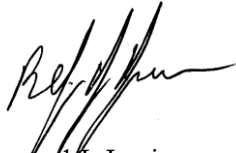
5.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 5.01 Broome County made a motion to support Joe Korba (NJ) for National Vice-Commander; the motion was seconded and carried.**
- 5.02 Stueben County made a motion to support Jeff Frain (AZ) for National Commander; the motion was seconded and carried.**
- 5.03** PDC Smallcomb congratulated all the new officers and thanked everyone for making this a great convention. The post D.E.C. Meeting will be held in the Hotel at 10AM. All the new officers meet in the lobby at 8:30AM to go to the Legion Convention.
- 5.04** The public relation committee raised \$1400 for the Twin Tiers Honor Flight.
- 5.05** Parade attire is as usual the bus leaves the hotel at 5pm.
- 5.06** Squadron #130 Rockland County made a donation to operation comfort warriors in the amount of \$1850.00.
- 5.07** We need to get more involved in the oratorical contest and try getting more youth involved.
- 5.08** We need to get more applicants to apply for the Samsung award scholarship.
- 5.09** We need to get more applicants to apply for the O'Connell ROTC Scholarship.
- 5.10** There was a resolution passed at national convention to get out the vote.
- 5.11** The Auxiliary has instituted a patch program similar to the Boy Scout merit badge. The Auxiliary has opened this up to the young son's members and the National Sons Americanism Commission is supporting this.
- 5.12** Please take the time to consider either teaching or going as a student to the American Legion Collage.
 - 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.

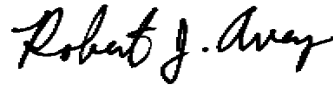
 - The Convention was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed:



Raymond J. Jarvis
Assistant Detachment Adjutant



Robert J. Avery
Detachment Adjutant