



MINUTES
OF THE
DETACHMENT
OF
NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 24TH 2015
Brooklyn, NY

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



MINUTES OF THE FALL D.E.C. MEETING

October 24, 2015

Floyd Bennett Post #1060

Brooklyn, New York

- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco.
- Commander SantaCroce recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Chaplain Ellis offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Clancy led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
- V/C Coates led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
- Commander SantaCroce called the Meeting to order at 9:10 A.M.
- Adjutant Robert Avery took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.

- **N.E.C. Denmon made a motion to appoint D. Caldwell acting Judge Advocate. The motion was seconded and carried.**

- **Floyd Bennett Post #1060 Commander Andrew Fronti and Squadron Commander Alan Diaz thanked us for being here and were given certificates of appreciation from Commander SantaCroce.**

1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 4th District acting Commander Espy made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the Pre DEC Meeting, Convention, and Post DEC Meeting and accept them as printed. Under discussion, there were several clerical corrections cited, and the motion was seconded to accept the minutes with corrections and was carried.**
- **Consultant Neville stated that it was great being here where the Long Island Railroad started. He was impressed by how many members were supporting their favorite teams to raise money for the Legion Programs.**
 - **A cake was presented to D. Caldwell for his 80th Birthday.**
 - **Meeting was recessed by Commander SantaCroce at 9:30 A.M. for Commission Meetings.**
 - **Meeting was reconvened by Commander SantaCroce at 10:50 AM**

2.00 REPORTS

- 2.01 Americanism Chairman Myrtle reported; we will be promoting two Essay Contests through our web-site, District commanders all information should go out to our Districts, Counties and Squadrons, with participants submitting their essays to the Americanism Chairman. Hopefully the Squadrons, Counties, and Districts will have judging and award winners for their areas as well. We can exponentially increase the number of winners for this contest throughout the State and create some great incentives for the schools to participate in this program with the help of our American Legion family. Proposal – For 2015-2016 is we challenge each District Commander to provide the Americanism Commission with the names of two Sons Members from their district who will work to get the Essay Contest literature out to more schools. The objective is to get as many children as possible learning about America and the Constitution through their essays. The winners are everyone that helps because our children need direction. There are a great many tools available through Emblem Sales that can also be used to reward all students participating in this program. Mid-Winter handout in the past years flag education materials have been distributed to District Commanders at Mid-Winter. Review packaging and materials to make improvements. Flag Education – The purchase of Stick flags, Squadron Flag Education Scripts for grade school children run by two sons one speaker and one demonstrator. Flag Etiquette Brochures and material for students to learn about our pledge of allegiance. The materials include the following: Stick Flags, Flag Etiquette Brochures, Scripted flag Education Programs, Flag code Pamphlets,**

Pledge of allegiance book markers and Flag Education DVDs and Comic book. Try to get the ways to get the word out, Cerullo \$500.00 and up to three years with a renewal of \$500.00 per year. Supporting our 12 Americanism Programs on the consolidated report form: 1) Boys and Girls state 2) Education (five star/ten ideals, presenting flags, scholarships, hours spend on education programs) 3) Flags given away at Parades, schools or placed on graves and hours spend on flag programs 4) Oratorical contests (no. of contestant's hours of participation) color guards squadron sponsored and no. of appearances. 5) NEF education (National Emergency Fund) 6) Flag education (# of flag education programs, # of Flag retirement programs and hours for each) 7) Community Service (keep track of hours and donations) 8) Scouting (troops sponsored by squadron and no. youths involved) 9) Junior shooting sports (no of youths involved and hours spend on programs) 10) Baseball (American Legion sponsored teams) 11) Blood drives (No of pints and hours spent). 12) Sponsoring other teams. It is important to keep track of money donated or spend on all programs and projects, only by reporting will our deeds be recognized.

A motion was made by V/C Burtch and seconded to accept the Americanism report, which was carried.

- 2.02 Children & Youth Chairman Hodge** reported; in September I traveled to Indy for the National Children & Youth Seminar. It was a great learning experience and I learned a lot. And it's a great experience for us to keep sending a Rep out to Indy every year. At this time Commander Joe, I have a Mission for you, At Indy we were all given a packet of beads and we were asked to wear one and carry one during our travels for a month and then after the Month send it back to Phoenix and they will hand your bead out to a kid that is in the Program with their beads of Courage and here are your beads for you to carry. I am also working with National to see about giving anyone that is interested I will be making a CD available at Mid-Winter with all the Programs out there for the Children & Youth Programs. So if interested please see me this weekend and I will make sure that you get one. I would like to thank the Committee Members: Ike Bosford- Fourth District, Bob Ellis-Eight District and Greg Falco from the Tenth

A motion was made by 6th District Commander Hodge and seconded to accept the Children and Youth report, which was carried.

- 2.03 Finance Chairman Lee** reported; that we need to receipts to go with the vouchers, the turnaround time for vouchers is about two weeks if you do not get your check by that time please contact me as the is a problem. We have started doing pre submitted vouches for meetings. It makes it easier for everyone and you can have your check at the end of the meeting. The Finance Committee is recommending the following changes; budget line item promo for National Legion Commander, change to promo for the campaign of national elected office. Change the per diem for the fall meeting from 1 day to 2 days when you stay in a local hotel. We will also need to look the budget as the N.E.C has changed their call in procedure and will now fully reimburse anyone that gets a call in.

A motion was made by V/C Burtch and seconded to accept the Finance report which was carried.

- 2.04 Internal Affairs Chairman Acting Chairman Ruthven** asked for the report from **Conventions and Meetings Committee.** Gary Demon stated that the name of the Convention Committee is Empire New York American Legion incorporated. The space we will be headquartered in is Quality Inn on the Vestal Parkway, and the room rate is \$104. We have 120 rooms. The American Legion will be staying at the Holiday Inn and the Auxiliary will be at the Doubletree. The pre and post-convention meetings will be at the Quality Inn and the general session at Post 89. Transportation is still being finalized but with the Post being a so close, many can drive. We will be having a golf tournament and will have signup sheets and hole sponsorships available at Midwinter. The Convention Committee will be sending out raffle tickets to be sold for six tickets for \$5 or 15 for \$10 with 3 \$500 Winners. If the winner is present the prize

will be doubled. Adjutant Avery reported that mid-winter will be January 23-25, 2016. Although the staff has for the large part remained the same, the Holiday Inn is now the Radisson. We are working with on room rates and he will get the call out as soon as possible. We will also look at seeing if we can get a bigger room at the Desmond and have all our meetings there.

Member Training and Development Committee Chairmen Jarvis reported that there will be no changes to the advisors seminar or the leadership classes. We will be asking to change the advisors seminar from yearly to every other year. Please submit 2 names and 2 alternates for the leadership class as soon as possible. We will be holding 2 breakout sessions at the Desmond on Americanism and Children & Youth. Please check you schedules when they come out. We will check with the Legion to see if we can do something to get Advisors to attend the seminar.

Membership Committee Chairman Espey reported. As a Detachment we need to get our Squadrons moving sooner on Membership. We are not hitting our target dates. Our Squadron Officers for this year have been in office 5 months and we have many Squadrons with NO membership turned in. If all officers paid their dues and sent in a transmittal, we would have no problems reaching these early target dates. The 2nd and 9th Districts have been doing well in the early innings of the game. The 5th and the 4th Districts are playing well but have not quite reached the goals. As for our other Districts, please get the word out that you want to be in the game. Send in your membership. Currently the Detachment is at 19.70%. Our next target date is November 13, 2015 for 35% of goal. This is 3 weeks away, which is plenty of time to get all our Squadrons into the ball game.

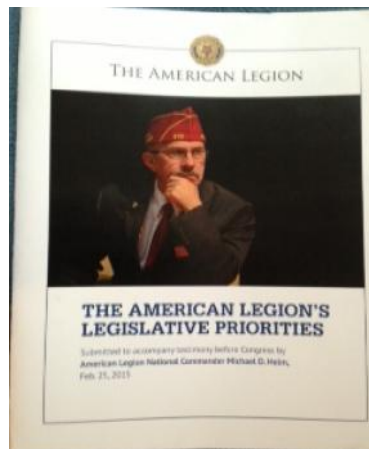
Liam from the office and Gabe our Webmaster are generating and posting Membership reports. Everyone please take a look at these and help get the word out about sending membership in to Albany. Our website is sonsdny.org and you can access these reports right from the main page.

There have been questions about membership being sent in and it taking up to (or over) 2 weeks to post. Liam has assured me that everything is posted within the week. There will be a delay if you are looking at National reports or using mysal.org. Our membership is sent to National 2 times a month depending on the target dates. Then National needs time to get them posted.

A motion was made by V/C DeAngelis and seconded to accept the Internal Affairs report which was carried.

- 2.05 Legislative Chairman G. Gibbs** reported as a recap of our Committee's actions from this past year: 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 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. 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. Crystal People's Legislative Aide, Robert Anderson III, also became a SAL member since our visitation.



New for October 2015:

Nothing new has been planned as of yet. I have checked with the Legislative Action Center and the Legion website. This is an intense political year with the Presidential elections and campaigning in full swing, but little legislation has come up recently that involves veterans or military that we should act upon at this time. I will continue to monitor the Legion for legislative items and as we get closer to planning for the Hill Days we will be in touch on key legislative issues and the Legion Priority Sheets for the spring of 2016. If you are planning to attend the Washington, D.C. Hill Days and/or the Albany Hill Days make sure your intentions are known so we can adequately plan and align travel plans and roommates. The Washington, D.C. On-the-Hill Days are scheduled for Sunday, February 21- through Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016. National Vice Commander East, Bill Hill from Maryland, may be having his homecoming event connecting with the Washington Days (Feb. 19-20). You may wish to plan accordingly and arrive early to take in the Eastern Gathering. For planning purposes; the National Commander Kevin

Collier's homecoming is the following week after DC, Fri., March 4-Sun., March 6th in Fairbanks, Alaska

A motion was made by Acting 4th District Commander Espey seconded to accept the Legislative report which was carried.

2.06 Public Relations Chairman Gabe Cinquegrana reported the role as the Public Relations Commission for the Sons of The American Legion is two-fold, in that our obligation is to provide information about our Organization not only to those outside of the Sons of the American Legion Organization, but also within the Organization. Anyone who is a member of the Sons of the American Legion is indirectly a member of the Public Relations Commission, as everything they 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. So we need to remind our membership, and in the same context train our membership, on the importance of Public Relations and how to accomplish it effectively.

What are the Goals we want to accomplish this year??

- Keep our membership informed of what has taken place and what is coming up.
- Keep the Public informed of what has taken place and what is coming up.
- Effectively use electronic methods and social media to engage people.
- Effective use of the Detachment Website
- Continued Publication of The Liberty Newsletter
- More effective use of Social Media
- Encourage new membership through the use of Public Relations.
- Teach our membership to better utilize Public Media
- Long Term- Improve PR Tools for members and Conduct a PR Seminar at Midwinter

What are the Obligations and Responsibilities we need to continue to work on??

- Getting better input from members for The Liberty
 - Manning the Public Relations Table at Mid-Winter Conference
 - Continuing and Improving participation at the Center for Disabilities Telethon
- Landmarks for Public Relations Reporting and Involvement:**
- Fall DEC Conference – Present Goals and Objectives for the year, a report on the workings of the Commission, distribute copies of the Post Convention issue of The Liberty.
 - Mid-Winter Conference – Present a report on the workings of the Commission, progress on goals, Set-up and man the PR Table, assist in the Disabilities Telethon, distribute copies of the Fall issue of The Liberty.
 - Detachment Convention – Present a report on the workings of the Commission, progress on goals and accomplishments, establish our Commission membership for the new year, distribute copies of the Convention issue of The Liberty.

Suggested Publication and Deadline dates for The Liberty:

Issue	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
Fall Issue	November 5	November 15
Mid-Winter Issue	January 10	January 20
Spring Issue	April 5	April 15
Convention Issue	June 30	July 10
Post-Convention Issue	August 10	August 20

A motion was made by 6th District Commander Hodge and duly seconded to accept the Public Relations report which was carried.

- Meeting was recessed by Commander SantaCroce at 11:55 AM for lunch.
- Meeting was reconvened by Commander SantaCroce at 12:40 PM

- 2.07 VA & R Chairman Cox** reported we have not had an official meeting yet although we have been in contact via e-mail. The biggest thing we have had to do is set the date for the 2016 Walk-a-thon. After conversations with Commander Joe, Ray Jarvis and members of the VA&R Commission we have settled on Saturday April 16, 2016 for the Walk. We would still like to see as many walks around the state as possible because of the visibility it gives to our organization. Additionally this year we would like to see groups that for logistical reasons may not be able to organize a walk in the area to try and get both individual and corporate donations. If we push this approach it may be possible to raise a significant amount of money through donations without the hassle of actually holding a Walk. I need to meet with Gabe to update the information on the website so the form letters and donor forms have the proper information. I would suggest that if you are going to ask for corporate donations you get donation letters to the companies before the beginning of December because many organizations set up their donation schedules for the following year before the first of the year. The website does contain sample letters that you can personalize for individual or corporate donors. If each county and/or squad would approach just ten companies, that would cover a lot of ground statewide. I will be attending the 5th District Ladies Auxiliary Fall Conference this week and will ask the Auxiliary to assist us with the requests for corporate donations. I would like each District commander to approach their respective District presidents and see if they would be willing to assist with getting donation requests to companies in their area. As I always do, I encourage each of you to consider volunteering at your local VA Hospital or other veteran's assistance facility.
A motion was made by 5th District Commander Cox and seconded to accept the V.A. &R report which was carried.
- 2.08 2nd District Commander Rodrigues** reported. Since the close of our Department Convention this July, I have visited 3 of Kings County S.A.L. Squadrons, and on 3 Richmond County Squadron, also attended the following: On September 13, 2015 Kings County held a very successful Department Visitation affair to honor our Department Officers. Flatlands American Legion family #391 & Michael A. Rawley Jr. American Legion Family #1636 successfully held a "New years in July fund raiser", \$3,172.00 was raised, and these monies will be used for distributing Holiday Gifts to 164 Children with Autism. Giving will be held December 10, 2015, at Saint Finbar's Heart school, Brooklyn New York. November 7, 2015 Revitalization Sheepshead Bay Veterans memorial located Emmons Ave. Between Brown and Batchelder Street, project starts at 7am Media "Sheepshead Bytes"
A motion was made by 2nd District Commander Rodrigues and seconded to accept the 2nd District report which was carried.
- 2.09 3rd District Representative Commander Myrtle** reported that the 3rd District is working with our Squadrons to promote and support the programs of the American Legion. We have had one visitation so far and had a few Sons in attendance. We will be having our next visitation on the Thursday before Mid-Winter. We are working on our membership, it is slow going right now and it will improve.
A motion was made by 3rd District acting Commander Myrtle and seconded to accept the 3rd District report which was carried.
- 2.10 4th District Representative Gaither Espey** reported at this time Commander Joe has finished visiting all 11 Counties within our District. We hope Marie and himself had a wonderful time traveling through the Fabulous 4th. Commander Joe is doing an excellent job representing the Sons of The American of this great state. District Commander Martel and Detachment Vice Commander Bosford were also at all the County visitations. We have held our first District meeting in Amsterdam with 19 members in attendance. As it is still early we are working with our Squadrons to get their membership turned in to Albany. We were close to the 25% target date but didn't quite make it.

The members have decided to sponsor a raffle which will help with cost of our Spring Conference in Lake Placid. As the Squadrons start working their programs I am sure District Commander Martel will have more to report at the Mid-Winter Conference.

A motion was made by 4th District Acting Commander Espey and seconded to accept the 4th District report which was carried.

- 2.11 5th District Commander Robert Cox** reported it is still early in the year so we have not had a chance to do too much yet this year. We had our first official meeting in Lowville on October 11, 2015. I had the pleasure of attending the Commander's Visitation to all six counties in the 5th District. The District made a \$100.00 donation to the Commander's Projects. I would also like to thank all of the Sons who were able to attend the Dinners in each County and all the Counties and Squadrons that made contributions to the Commander's Projects. There were a number of points of interest during the visitations. The Tour at Fort Drum was probably the high point with a presentation on the re-integration of the soldiers back into civilian life upon discharge from the service as well as tours of some of the virtual training operations. Additionally we visited two organizations dedicated to assisting our veterans. In Oneida County we visited the Sitrin Health Care Center and in Onondaga County the Clear Path for Veterans Facility. Both organizations operate on donated funds and do not receive government assistance although they work closely with the VA and other government agencies. They both work with the veterans overcome both physical as well as mental problems associated with their military service. We visited various Legion Posts throughout the District some with their own veteran's memorial parks. The tour of the bowling pin manufacturing facility in Lowville was also a treat. Ask Commander Joe about the bowling pin he received.

Although membership started out very slow this year we have made a strong recovery and are hoping to continue with the recent strong showing. Three of our six counties (Lewis, Jefferson and Onondaga) have surpassed the 25% October goal. Also the largest county in the state (Oneida) is very close to the goal. The 5th District (the State's largest with a goal of 6751) as a whole is in 3rd place in the state at 25.39%. Squadron 890 in Oneida County is at 106 %. Squadron 904 in Jefferson County is at 80% and Squadron 893 in Herkimer County is at 73%.

A motion was made by 5th District Commander Cox and seconded to accept the 5th District report which was carried.

- 2.12 6th District Commander Hodge** reported The Sixth District is starting off a little slow we have had only one district meeting that I wasn't able to attend because my Mom had a bad spell and I had to be with her. The Sixth District is getting ready for the Holiday Season, help is needed in Bath, Binghamton and Oxford to get things ready....Also we start Visitations next Friday. Squadrons in the District are busy with Breakfast, Chicken Bar-B Q's, Dinners, and Keep up the good work. On October 18, 2015 we had the National Commander Dale Barnett in the 6th District for his visit; we had a pretty good showing, Thanks you Sixth District.

A motion was made by 6th District Commander Hodge and seconded to accept the 6th District report which was carried.

- 2.13 7th District Commander Rose** reported I'm excited to tell you about the projects planned for this administrative year. After June's election, the process began to identify ideas for our District project. After meetings, conference calls and e-mails between key personal from Canandaigua VA, Adjutant Gabe, and me, it was evident that a need existed to target our younger Veterans who are transitioning from military life to civilian life. Thus, we are having a Welcome Home event for participants in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn and their families who reside in the Canandaigua and Bath VAMC catchment areas. These are our younger veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, many who have just returned from deployment, many having unique issues, and many needing assistance integrating back to civilian life. The Welcome home will be an Open house, Picnic, and informational Fair that will appeal to

the Veteran and their family with food, refreshments, entertainment, formal and informal presentations. The VA plans to reach out to service providers to set-up and man informational tables such as job placement, VA benefits, and educational opportunities. It's been decided to have the Welcome home at the Johnson Costello Post 355 in Penn Yan on May 21st, which is also Armed Forces Day and Sons of the American appreciation Day. In addition to the Welcome Home, we are expanding our Youth Bowling Program. This program is currently designed for Sons under the age of 18 and for Junior Auxiliary members. This year, we are including youth from the Family Readiness Groups located in the area surrounding the bowling establishment. The Family Readiness Groups were created to help spouses and children during the time a parent is deployed. The program includes 2 games of bowling, pizza, and prizes at no cost to the participants. Both of these events have the potential of bringing new members into our organizations. On October 17th, my wife and I went to Canisteo for National Commander Dale Barnett Visitation. After the meet-and-greet in the hotel lobby, a bus took us to the Arthur H Cunningham Post 440 in Hornell for lunch. After lunch, we toured the HP Hood factory (where they make cultured products-Crowley, Hood and Heluva Good products) Dinner was held at the Canisteo Memorial Post 846 where 190 people attended- the largest crowd at a Post so far for the National Commander's Visitation, with the 7th District Sons being well represented. Commander Barnett's project is the National Emergency fund and total of Donations were almost \$7,500.00. The District Legion Commander has proposed that the Sons participate in the Top-Dog Award. Detachment Vice Commander, Jim Coats, has suggested that the 7th and 8th Districts compete with the District with the highest percent in membership would win. Details for the Top Dog award are still being developed. As of October 21st the 7th District is at 18.34% and the 8th is at 13.29%

A motion was made by Rose and seconded to accept the 7th District report which was carried.

- 2.14 8th District Commander and Historian Van Patten** reported since the conclusion of the Detachment Convention in Buffalo, the 8th District has had one organizational meeting and one general meeting, I have attended both. The Erie County American Legion Family hosted various fund raisers leading up to a 5K race on October 11th to support the Homeless Woman Veterans Shelter being established in Buffalo. I attended a few events and volunteered as the photographer for the actual race. On October 15th I ran the A/V for Congressman Brian Higgins presentation on Armed Services Academy Appointments that he along with representatives of all military branches gave to area high school students. On October 16th I traveled with the National American Legion Commander through his day in the Mighty 8th District which comprised of a tour of the Batavia VA facility with a luncheon on site and a very well attended dinner at the Batavia Downs Gaming Center that evening. On October 17th I traveled to Steuben County in the Super 7th District to attend National American Legion Commander Dale Barnett's dinner in Canisteo.

A motion was made by Van Patten and seconded to accept the 8th District and Historians report which was carried.

- 2.15 10th District Commander Connelly** reported the 10th District is going strong and doing well. There recently was a 9/11 tribute in our area and Squadron 1006 was acknowledge for having Sons members on the field. We are working on starting a new Squadron in Long Beach. I look forward to seeing the Commander at his upcoming visitation in Babylon.

A motion was made by 10th District Commander Connelly and seconded to accept the 10th District report which was carried.

- 2.16 Chaplain Ellis** reported Since the Conference this past summer, there has been no get well cards and three Condolence cards. In short, it has been a very Quiet period of time and it is my hope that quiet continues. Please allow me to repeat, as I have done 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 should be sent. I would also appreciate a listing of their Squadron number. Thank you and I can be contacted at: rhellis45@gmail.com or at my home 716-595-2282 and my cell phone is 716-397-9539. Please note that I have semi-retired and my other phone numbers are no longer readily available, so please strike them from your contact list for me.

A motion was made by Chaplain Ellis and seconded to accept the Chaplains report which was carried.

- 2.17 Vice Commander Clancy** reported that the 9th District recently held the first meeting it has had about 19 years. There were 33 members from 18 Squadrons and every County was represented. They have a full slate of Officers and the new Commander is Charles Duffy. Membership is going well because of this. In the first District we are trying to start a Squadron in the New Your Athletic Club.
A motion was made by V/C Clancy and duly seconded to accept the Vice Commander report. This was carried.
- 2.18 Vice Commander DeAngelis** reported Since the Convention in Buffalo which was a blast, loved the old Post that we visited often. Troop 1, it was great to see Buffalo change for the better. I am not going through the list but I have been on many Motorcycle runs supporting our Veterans since Buffalo I have been on 20 runs. Visitations came early to my area where I attended Queens, Kings and Richmond Counties. Back on September 26th I attended a street naming for Bill Clancy Sr. on City Island. So many people showed up, the guy was definitely well liked and the food was amazing. Membership is doing well in the 2nd District at 34 ½% and the 10 with 20%. We are starting new Squadrons in Long Beach 10th District and Staten Island 2nd District. Let's get those dues up to Albany guys and hoping to get the numbers by Mid-Winter.
A motion was made by V/C DeAngelis and duly seconded to accept Vice Commander's report. This was carried.
- 2.19 Vice Commander Bosford** reported there is not a lot to report at this time as all squadrons are just starting to get going after the summer. I did attend a few functions over the summer on August 8th I attended a Lobster bake at Squadron 1450 Half Moon. On August 15th I attended a Clam Bake at 337 Broadalbin. On October 3rd I attended a poker walk at 701 Amsterdam, On September 17th I started our Visitation in the 4th District and traveled 11 days covering over 1100 miles, I finished the 4th on into the 27th. I then went into the 3rd District on the 28th. During one of our visitation we were taken for a tour of Saratoga County Rural Preservation Co, which is a non-profit organization which includes VETHELP and Saratoga Regional Housing Services. They work with the Department of Veterans Affairs. They do Transitional housing for their families. They also help veterans with employment and training assistance. They help veterans with employment and training assistance. They help veterans with Mortgage assistance and rental. There are 2 Houses the Vet house which just male veterans and the Guardian house which houses female veterans.
A motion was made by V/C Bosford and seconded to accept the Vice Commander report which was carried.
- 2.20 Vice Commander Burtch** reported I would like to start my report with heartfelt congratulations to Department Commander James Yermas, Department President Jan Mahoney, and our Detachment Commander Joe SantaCroce on their election to Office for the 2015-2016 year. So far I have made the first 6 visitations in the 5th District and must say, our elected officers are doing a stand up job, representing our organization while touring the state. Since convention in Buffalo I have been busy answering questions pertaining to membership eligibility, membership reporting, and Legion questions regarding squadron activities. That being said, I think we need to do a better

job educating our Legionnaires on what the Sons do, and who they report to. Most of the answers I gave were right from the Sons handbook, and should be common knowledge for the Legion. Membership is looking good right now with the 5th district at 25.39% and the 6th District at 14.53%. It is still early in the membership year and I know the numbers will improve greatly after Veteran's Day. I would like to congratulate George Glen Hughes Squadron 890 in Oneida county for attaining 106% membership already, and Truman C. Tobey Squadron 32 in Delaware County for attaining 114% membership. Both Districts should be proud of their work on recruiting new members, currently 6th District is reporting 48 new members and the 5th District has 165 new members. Thank you for all the great work being done by our membership chairmen. As I earlier stated I have made all the 5th District Visitations including; Herkimer, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Jefferson and Lewis Counties. The turnout has been large, with many blue cap Sons members at every dinner. Detachment Commander Joe SantaCroce and his wife have been great traveling companions, and I look forward to all ten Visitations we have left in the 6th District. In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Legion Family that work so hard at putting the Visitations together. Anyone who has worked on planning and putting on a visitation knows all the hard work that goes into just one day's activities. Very few of us realize, just how many people and how much time goes into making the Visitations work. I look forward to Midwinter conference and hope to see a great turnout in Binghamton for Convention.

A motion was made by V/C Burtch and seconded to accept Vice Commander's report which was carried.

2.21 **Vice Commander Coates** reported I would like to thank you all for electing me as Vice Commander. I am honored to be representing the Super Seventh and Mighty Eighth Districts in the great detachment of New York and I have a couple of great district commanders to work with in Charlie Rose for the 7th and Tim Van Patten II for the 8th. On Sept. 13th I attended the Seventh District meeting at Hammondsport Post #407. Commander Rose announced his project to conduct a welcome home event for veterans who have returned and are returning from deployments in conjunction with the Canandaigua VA and Bath VA. On October 4th I attended the Eighth District meeting at Canaserega Post 1582 in Alleghany County where Commander Van Patten, I believe, will be recruiting to gain more participation at the district level from the membership of the 8th District. This is a problem that could be shared by at least half of our districts in the detachment and I encourage you, if your district struggles with participation and you find yourselves recycling people to fill officer's positions, to network and share your ideas and experiences to solve this problem. On October 16th I joined Commander Santa Croce for the National Commander's Visitation for the Eighth District in Batavia, Genesee County. This included a tour of the Batavia VAMC, PTSD programs, and Women's Facility. On October 17th, also with Commander Santa Croce, I attended the National Commander's Visitation for the Seventh District at Canisteo Post #846 in Steuben County. This visitation included a tour of H.P. Hood LLC in Arkport where they make "Helluva" Good Cheese dips, Crowley products, cottage cheese, and yogurt. At each of these visitations I would like to thank Districts 7 & 8 for their hospitality, the great showing they had, the meal they put on and their generous gifts towards Commander Barnett's projects. I would also like to say how impressed I am with National Commander Barnett's ability to engage his audience and speak "off the cuff" with so much enthusiasm about "what we do" in The American Legion. As of October 21st the Seventh District is in 7th place in the detachment with 18.34%, and the 8th is in 10th place with 13.29%. Now, I urge you all not to become too complacent with these numbers. Following our American Legion lead the 7th and 8th Districts have entered into a "Top Dog" membership competition with each other this year. The results of which, I am sure, will blow you away.

I think we have a consensus between the 7th and 8th District Commanders that the deadline for this competition will be the final membership report coming out before our convention in Binghamton and the winner will be announced at convention.

A motion was made by V/V Coates and seconded to accept the Vice Commanders report which was carried.

2.22 ANEC Bishop reported since my last report which I gave at our Detachment Convention I have attended the National Convention which was held in Baltimore Maryland and also the NEC Fall Meetings in Indianapolis. At the National Convention I was appointed to attend the VA &R Commission Meeting. At the meeting they announced the winner of the Charles Rigby Award. This award goes to the Sons of the American Legion volunteer of the year. The award was won by a fellow Sons member from the Detachment of Maryland. Finishing in second place and missing by just 2 votes was our own Detachment of New York webmaster Gabe Cinquegrana. Gabe should be very proud of his entry and I would encourage Gabe to summit again next year. At the Fall NEC MEETING in Indy I was appointed to chair the Member Training and Development Committee for the weekend. The MTD Committee had a busy weekend presenting the Commanders Class for 2015. This year the class had 53 participants with 36 being Detachment Commanders from across the country including our Detachment of NY commander Joe Santa Croce and our leading candidate Bruce Ruthven. In closing I would like to once again thank the Detachment of NY for electing me to represent our members as their ANEC.

A motion was made by A.N.E.C Bishop and seconded to accept the ANEC report which was carried.

2.23 NEC Denmon reported Since Detachment convention I have attended the National Convention and the fall NEC. National convention was held in Baltimore Maryland this year we had approximately 11 members in attendance. With the minutes for this meeting not available yet I will give you a brief synopsis of what transpired. 100% membership was achieved as of convention there were still 40000 renewals missing. New York had a 90% renewal rate. Over 365000 dollars was raised for Child Welfare Foundation 58% of the donations came from the Sons of the American Legion. There were 11 resolutions presented at convention one of the biggest in my opinion was endorsement of Greg Gibbs for national commander which was received and filed. Now this is no guarantee that he will become national commander but it is a step in the right direction to let the nation know that New York does have a viable candidate for national commander. Other resolutions, reaffirming In God We Trust as official motto of the United States of America, commitment to service and god. National member of the Year award titled the Son that shines this is referred back. Resolution to go to electronic copy of the newsletter it was suggested that there be a opt-out instead of an opt-in option. Suspension of renewal postcards which is referred back to membership, resolution for an annual article in the American Legion magazine many of these referred back but it did cause heated debate. Awards received by the detachment we're for Americanism the Atwood/Beyea/York Memorial Award to John Handte squadron 89. Also we elected a new national vice commander for the eastern region Mr. William Hill from Maryland and a new national commander Kevin Callier From detachment of Alaska whose theme is R.O.C.K.E.D. remembering our commitment and keeping it every day I look forward to working with both of them this year. Next up was the Fall NEC in Indianapolis where we had 11 members in attendance. Again I would like to say thank you to the Department of New York for providing us with tickets to attend the Commander Barnett's homecoming at Post 64. During the fall NEC meeting Sons of the American Legion Liaison John Kerestan with some not so good news. Date of birth are still on the low side MYSAL is going on three years and is not being used enough, last year the portal for the Detachment Adjutants was opened is slow in get all involved. Consolidated reports are also low again this year. The next newsletter was not able to be done because they had not received the articles yet they are still getting emails kicked back. The National commander Kevin Callier is looking for \$1.50 per member for Child Welfare Foundation \$0.50 per member for national emergency fund and \$0.25 per member for the endowment fund.

Americanism commission Greg Gibbs gave a review of the Commission's priorities from last year and indicated they will continue to apply this year they will highlight the various programs of Americanism and plan to go into greater depth with different Authors producing articles about them regularly. Finance Commission Hoping to have a fillable form for your expense voucher that will hopefully be made available on the website and printed prior to the attendance of fall and spring meetings. Member training and development it was mentioned that there was still a few spots available for an NMI 1 I did confirm that we do have Bruce Ruthven in that class in the spring I attempted to add a second but was denied. Resolution 2-5 5th 2015 was resolved by the Sons of the American Legion that the National Veterans employment and education inform the Detachments, Districts and squadrons of the existence of and the purpose of this new National Commission and assist in getting valuable employment and assist in get this information out and being resolved at the National Veterans employment and education information courage all levels of the organization to get involved Resolution 4- fall 2015 resolved by the Sons of the American Legion that the Sons of The American Legion endorses and supports the building of Harry W, Colmery Memorial resolve the Sons of the American Legion donate \$5,000 to the Harry Colmery Memorial Fund.. If any Committee or Commission member wants a copy of their respective meeting provide me you name and email and I will scan and send it to you.

A motion was made by N.E.C. Denmon and seconded to accept the report which was carried.

2.24 Master Sergeant-at-Arms Falco reported that he has collected fines for the commander's project.

A motion was made by V/C Burtch and duly seconded to accept the Sergeant-at-Arms report which was carried.

2.25 Adjutant Robert Avery spoke on membership, reminding the members of the remaining Target Dates:

NOVEMBER 13, 2015	35%
DECEMBER 9, 2015	45%
JANUARY 20, 2016	60%
FEBRUARY 10, 2016	75%
MARCH 9, 2016	80%
APRIL 13, 2016	90%
MAY 11, 2016	100%
*JULY 26, 2016	105%

***Delegate Strength Target Date**

Renewal Postcard Schedule and Mailing (2016) – The schedule for the mailing of the annual SAL renewal postcards will be in September, followed by the second mailing in January, then the final renewal mailing in April. These mailings are made in conjunction and subsequent to membership target dates. Therefore, please follow the membership target dates closely. Above all, “transmit”, as too many Squadrons are holding membership. This saves the organization considerable postage costs. All three mailings will be made usually within a couple of days following the target date in that respective month of mailing.

SAL ‘Honorary Life’ Code – Honorary life is something that can be awarded by a Squadron/Post to an individual for a specific deed or act. He must be an existing SAL member in good standing and eligible for membership in accordance with the established eligibility criteria as outlined in the SAL National Constitution. This is only a Squadron/Post award, where authorized. To report this information, you can submit a member data form and mark the appropriate block “Honorary Life”. The record will be coded at National Headquarters. When the annual membership cards & registers are printed, a code “H” will appear on the membership register that denotes “Honorary Life”.

Older versions of the member data form do not contain this block. In that case, just write on the form wherever space is permitting. Squadron/Post Adjutants should sign this form to confirm this status. As for PUFL (paid up for life), this is NOT a program available from the National organization and only a very Detachments currently offer this and New York is one that does NOT offer that option.

Future National Dates

Washington Conference	February 21-24, 2016
American Legion Birthday	March 15-17, 2016
National Oratorical Contest	April 15-17, 2016
Spring NEC & NMI Training	April 30 – May 1, 2016
Veterans Assistance Day	May 21, 2016
Junior Shooting Sports National Championship	July 14-24, 2016
American Legion Boys Nation	July 22-30, 2016
National Convention – Cincinnati, OH – 2016	August 26-28, 2016

Future National Convention Sites

Reno, Nevada – August 25-31, 2017

Minneapolis, Minnesota – August 24-30, 2018

Indianapolis, Indiana – August 23-29, 2019

Louisville, Kentucky – August 28 – September 3, 2020

Now in its 61st year, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) has awarded \$640,395 in grants to 24 nonprofit organizations. The grant recipients were selected by CWF's Board of Directors October 11th during their annual fall meeting at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. The recipients have been awarded the grants to support youth-serving projects and to assist in the dissemination of information to the general public and to specific target group.

Four of this year's recipients are from New York: **Autism Speaks, Inc. of New York, N.Y.**, was awarded \$32,070 for their project, "The Transition Tool Kit." This grant will be a guide for families and children on the journey from adolescence to adulthood.

Sponsored by The Sons of The American Legion **Huntington's Disease Society of America of New York, N.Y.**, was awarded \$41,500 for their project, "Live Out Loud: A Guide to HD Advocacy." This grant will provide the Huntington's disease community with a comprehensive guide to grassroots advocacy efforts, and help create awareness for youth and young adult involvement in HD advocacy and the HD community. **National Hemophilia Foundation of New York, N.Y.**, was awarded \$17,000 for their project, "Playing It Safe for Kids." This grant will fund a booklet that targets teens and parents of younger children, educating them on the importance of physical activity, weight maintenance and how to be active in a safe way when living with a bleeding disorder.

Sponsored by The Sons of The American Legion **Songs of Love Foundation of Forest Hills, N.Y.**, was awarded \$25,000 for their project, "Songs of Love Outreach Project." This grant will relieve suffering and bring joy to children who are coping with a chronic disability or life-threatening illness through music. The children are the ones who benefit from our efforts as we continue to support The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The Sons of The American Legion continue as the largest contributor to CWF. National Commander Kevin Collier's goal for this year is \$1.50 per member. Keep that in mind as we get **R.O.C.K.E.D. (Remembering Our Commitment, Keeping it Every Day)**. I wish the very best to all Squadrons in the Detachment of New York as they continue their work in assisting our Nation's veterans, supporting our children and youth, and for all the other good deeds they do in their local communities this year! Please remember to keep a record of your hours and donations this year and to fully report all you do on the Consolidated Report Form which you will receive in late winter.

A motion was made by V/C Burtch and seconded to accept the Adjutant's report which was carried.

2.28 Detachment Commander SantaCroce reported: Again, I would like to thank the members of our Detachment for having the faith in me to elect me as your Commander! We started our Visitations down in this area the weekend of September 12th and 13th with Queens, Kings and Richmond County. We call that weekend the “Dress Rehearsal” because it’s the first time the three State Officers are together and we get to hear each other’s speeches. The hope is we are not repeating each other. Well luckily, the weekend went very well and we learned that although our speeches carried basically the same message, it was coming from three different directions.

After a few days off, we started our trek into the 4th District, starting with Saratoga County. The tour included a stop at the top of Whiteface Mountain in Essex County, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Our 11 days in the District went extremely well as the traveling party was a pleasure to be with and the weather was great! I want to thank VC Ike Bosford and District Commander, Rick Martell, for their friendship and support during our time in the District.

After a quick stop at Schoharie in the 3rd District, we headed for the 5th District, starting in Herkimer County. That District included a tour of Fort Drum, where I was able to shoot an M4 rifle in the “Arms Simulator” Room. I actually had some hits, according to my instructor. Thanks to VC Chris Burtch and Commander Bob Cox for their presence through the District.

Then off to the NEC in Indianapolis and last weekend was spent with our National Legion Commander Dale Barnett in the 8th, 7th & 6th Districts.

Visitations- Please keep track of the dates of the Visitations in your Districts. I would like The Vice Commanders and the District Commanders to keep in touch with their County Commanders to make sure we have some Sons at these events. Too many times, it has been only me, the VC, the Dist. Commander and maybe one other Son. We need to have a better showing at the Visitations to show our strength. NEC- 1) My SAL- out of 6,000+ squadrons nationwide, 1,060 has registered. 2) 1,478 CSR’s received from these 6,100+ squadrons. When I talk about our National fundraising or volunteer hour numbers, that’s with only about 25% of the squadrons sending in reports. We’re missing a lot of work being done throughout our organization.

3) Big push for dates of birth and e-mail addresses to be added to the membership rosters. This is where My SAL comes into play. This is info that can be easily added on by the squadron. There’s was a big push at the National Convention to start having the National Newsletter sent out electronically, but out of 358,000 members, there were only 9,968 e-mails on file, with 1,000 of those being invalid addresses. So in order for National to get the info out electronically and save a bundle in postage expenses, we need to get the addresses on file.

Projects- A reminder that my projects are Operation Comfort Warriors and the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Any checks for donations should be made payable to the “Detachment of New York” with a notation in the memo section of the check as to which program you are contributing too.

Facebook- For those on Facebook, my wife has been posting pictures on the Detachment’s Facebook page after every Visitation. If you are a Facebook user, type Detachment of New York, Sons of the American Legion, in the search box, and “like” the page. You will be able to keep track of all the events that occur throughout the year.

Homecoming- Saturday, May 14, 2016 @The Desmond Hotel in Albany Dinner tickets-\$65.00, Hotel Rooms- \$119.00 Hospitality Rooms will be available Friday Night and Saturday afternoon. Cocktail Hour with Open Bar before dinner and Cash Bar will be available during and after the dinner. There will be a committee with a representative from each of us coordinating the event. They will work together on a letter for all three organizations to use for their membership. There will be a need for volunteers to help out with the Hospitality Rooms for Friday and Saturday, which we have plenty of time to work on. Hope to have as many Sons as possible to attend the Dinner. I will be giving up

friends and relatives from my area to make it more convenient to members throughout the State.

Walkathon- For those who have heard my speech at the Visitations, you know that I include a plea for support for our annual Walkathon. The Walkathon raises money for needed medical, rehab and recreational equipment in our 13 VA hospitals and 5 VA Homes in New York State. Last year, we only raised \$13,000, which is about half of what we usually receive. We have six months until April when the Walkathon is scheduled. I'm asking the VC and Dist. Comm. to emphasize the event in their areas.

You don't have to worry about scheduling an actual Walkathon, just raise some money. Ask your Post if you can put a bucket in your Post and mark it support our veterans in the Hospitals and Homes. If your Post has an active bar, see if they'll contribute half the proceeds of a night at the bar for the veterans. Run a fundraiser or a 50/50 at your Post. Do whatever you can. I'm not looking for everyone to contribute big money, but if we simply received \$100.00 from each squadron, that would total about \$35,000. Guys', supporting our veterans is the gist for why we exist!!! Please start discussing this in your areas now. At the mid-winter conference, I will be discussing this topic at the "Commander's Rally" and will be asking what your area is planning, so please start working on it. I look forward to seeing our members as we resume our tour this week and hopefully, will see everyone at Mid-Winter.

A motion was made by 6th District Commander Hodge and seconded to accept the Detachment Commander's report which was carried.

3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

3.01 Greg Falco's aunt passed away. Al Paviglianti is in the hospital and is not doing well.

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 The great weight loss challenge between PNC Gladden and Dave Lee has concluded. Joe lost more weight and beat Dave. However Dave raised more money than Joe. Dave collected \$2300 dollars.

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

5.01 A motion was made by V/C Bosford to place Greg Falco on the Children & Youth Commission which was seconded and carried.

5.02 Motion made by 4th District Acting Commander Espey to change the call-in for the Fall D.E.C. Meeting from one day per diem to two days per diem based on two nights lodging in a local hotel. The motion was seconded and carried.

5.03 Motion by N.E.C. Denmon to change the line item in the budget that reads "promotion for National Commander Candidate" to "Candidate for National S.A.L. Office". The motion was seconded and carried.

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

6.01 Dave Lee stated that we can use other organizations that we belong to to help us achieve our goals. Like unions, VFW's, Elks etc.

6.02 Leading candidate for Detachment Commander Ruthven stated that he has attended the National Convention in Baltimore and the Fall NEC meeting and was impressed with what is happening and how our Detachment is doing. Fund raising is going well, there are raffle tickets available and he thanked the committees and commissions for their work.

6.03 Gabe Cinquegrana asked that we all collect our hotel toiletries and bring them to Mid-Winter so that they may be collected and delivered to the local VA Hospitals.

- There being no further business to come before the Meeting, Master Sgt.-at-Arms retrieved the POW/MIA banner, Chaplain Ellis offered the Closing Prayer, following which, the membership saluted our Nation's Flag as the Color Guard retrieved them.

- The Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Assistant Adjutant Raymond Jarvis



Adjutant Robert J. Avery