



Sons of The American Legion

THE LIBERTY

Detachment of New York



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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE...by Joe Guidice, Jr.

Fellow Sons,

It's hard to believe that we've completed our county visitations for the year and are into the home stretch for our term! What an amazing journey it's been! For me, the highlight of the year has been when I had the chance to visit all of your home posts and see your communities in person. I can't thank everyone enough for the warm hospitality and brotherhood you've all shown me this year and I have so many memories to look back on from the year.

I recently attended the Spring National Executive Committee meetings in Indianapolis and I'm very pleased to announce some very big news. At the Spring Meetings we were informed by The American Legion that the trustees of the National Emergency Fund were in the process of amending their structure to allow Sons of The American Legion members to

again receive benefits from NEF should they be in need and meet the requirements for an NEF grant. This is a HUGE development as in the recent past we were told that Sons were excluded from this benefit. The documents and applications have not yet been updated, but we have been assured that should the need arise, applications from Sons members will be processed even if the forms aren't up to date. Many thanks go out to the trustees of the NEF and to The American Legion National Executive Committee for addressing this and filling this need for our Sons members.



As of our May 8, 2026, membership report we are at 92.73% of our 100% goal for this year. Great work everyone! We only need 2375 more to reach our 100% goal for 2026, and only 1996 more renewals are needed to set another All-Time Detachment record! Please, get those renewals in, and let's hit the phones and reach out to our members that we haven't heard from in a while. Those Buddy Checks DO make a difference!

(Continued on page 3)



ADJUTANT, etc. ...by Robert J. Avery

Fellow Members,

Members of the Sons of The American Legion from across the Nation gathered in Manhattan for the Homecoming Dinner of National Commander Bill Clancy which took place Saturday April 11th. Guests stayed at a hotel in Times Square which provided ample opportunity for exploring the city.

Events took place through the weekend starting with a visit to the New



York Athletic Club AL Post #754 on Thursday evening. Post #754 is over a century old

and has held many fund raising events and activities for wounded and disabled veterans. The success of this Post was recognized in its first few years when the National Organization twice mentioned that Post #754 was one of the best in the United



States. It offers a view of Central Park West just north of Columbus Circle.

Attendees visited the Commander's Post Home Leonard H. Hawkins #156 on City Island in the Bronx on Friday for a meet and greet. City Island was originally developed as a shipbuilding and oystering hub. Following the visit, a buffet dinner was held at a nearby yacht club



which offered a beautiful view of the Manhattan skyline.

Saturday started with a trip to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. Over 2,700 people died in that terrorist attack. Beautiful square fountains are now



positioned in the same location and size of the two towers. The names of those who perished are etched into the marble sides of both fountains. The museum contains in-depth infor-

mation on the buildings and the event. Three members of New York squadrons are among those who died. Today, the National SAL Americanism awards are named in their honor: the Atwood-Beyea-York awards.



The next stop on Saturday was to the USS Intrepid harbored in the Hudson River at Pier 86. This aircraft carrier was commissioned in 1943 and is now a museum. Besides touring the ship, a special presentation from the SAL was presented to Ken Fisher of the



Fisher House. With over 99 houses worldwide, the Fisher House Foundation provides a "home away from home" for families and caregivers of military service



members and veterans, offering free, comfortable lodging near VA and military medical centers.

Guests next visited the Federal Hall National Memorial in Lower Manhattan. This was the first seat of government of our Nation and is also where George Washington's first presidential Inauguration took place. The Homecoming Dinner was held at a nearby steakhouse.



All of our out-of-state guests greatly enjoyed the weekend,

As one who has attended many National Commander Homecomings over the years, I can safely say that this was one of the very best! Thanks go out to all members of the Clancy Committee besides me, which included Commander Guidice, Tim Van Patten, David Lee, Christopher Cerullo, Doc Gibbs, Peter Booth and Raymond Jarvis.

Thank you National Commander Bill Clancy on all that you are doing representing the over 400,000 members of the Sons of The American Legion. You make New York proud!

Thank You!

Robert J. Avery
National Assistant Adjutant
Detachment Adjutant Emeritus

From the Adjutants Desk, ...by Timothy S. Van Patten II

Greetings all,

It has been a busy few months for the Detachment since our last issue of *The Liberty* has been published. A few homecomings, some National meetings, and the last of the official visitations have now been completed.

As our administrative year draws to a close, it is imperative that we start getting our mandatory reports submitted. The Squadron Data Form requirements have changed and it only needs to be submitted, if there is a change to the information, ie: dues increase, change in meeting date, time, or location, etc.

The Officer Certification Form should be completed and sent in as soon as your elections are concluded, even if it is the same officers that were re-elected.

The Consolidated Squadron Report is the most crucial document we have. The numbers that we report are compiled on a State and National level, and are reported to The American Legion for use to exemplify to Congress what an impact we have within

our Communities, States, and Nation, and why those elected officials need to hear what we have to say on the treatment and care of our Country's veterans and active duty service personnel. If you opt to fill the form out through the MyLegion website, please be sure to save a copy and email it to me (Tsvp2@aol.com) or Charlie LaHaise Charlie@NYLegion.org at the Department Headquarters. When the forms are submitted online they only go to National and we are only informed that a squadron submitted the form, not what the totals are, therefore your squadron will not be in the running for any Detachment awards at the upcoming convention in Syracuse.

Speaking of the Convention in Syracuse, we are awaiting a few more bits of information and then we will be sending the official call to all the squadrons that I have contact information for. If you have not received any communications via email this past

year, please reach out to me at the above email address to be added to the distribution list.



Finally, as we get closer to Memorial Day, I want to remind everyone of the change in the Flying Flags for Heroes reporting website. The new web address is

www.FlyingFlagsForHeroes.org.

The reporting deadline for National Convention is August 8th. Every flag placed helps National with their goal of 1 Million flags.

Thank you for all you do!!!

Timothy S. Van Patten II
Detachment Adjutant

Commander Continued -

Another important update from National pertains to the Squadron Data Report (SDR). A recent policy change from National is that if there are no updates to your SDR then you do not need to file a new form each year. **THIS ONLY APPLIES TO THE SQUADRON DATA REPORT!** Your Officer Certification Forms (OCF) still need to be filed each year, even if there are no changes. As of now, 78% of our squadrons

have the SDR on file, yet last year only 57% of our squadrons filed an OCF and only about 30% of our squadrons completed a Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR). Guys, we need to do a better job with our paperwork. The CSR especially, takes into account all of the great work that you and your squadron do for our Veterans, our Children & Youth, and our communities. It only



takes a few minutes to fill out and the impact of the service hours and donations reported on the form is huge.

Let's show everyone that the Detachment of New York is a strong force in our state and nation!

For God and Country,

Joe Guidice, Jr.
Detachment Commander

Internal Affairs Commission— Dennis George

The Internal Affairs Commission has been quiet since the Mid-Winter Conference.

So, in keeping with The Commission's Project for Commander Guidice, here is some more information on Buddy Checks.

The American Legion Buddy Check Program In the first four years after The American Legion launched Buddy Checks as an official program, more than 1 million veterans have been reached and assisted.

The number of local American Legion posts conducting Buddy Check operations in those first four years has grown from 3,683 to 4,456.

Buddy Checks are not membership or fundraising calls; they are simple check-ins with veterans and our members in the community to see how they are doing, and to learn if the you or the local post can help with anything.

While Buddy Checks can be

conducted year- round, American Legion posts are strongly encouraged, by resolution, to make Buddy Check calls during Veterans Week (mid-November) and American Legion Birthday Week (mid-March). Many American Legion posts have assembled Buddy Check teams that make calls monthly or even more frequently. Buddy Check teams are urged to have at their fingertips a list of local re-

sources available if needed. These may be American Legion service officers, Vet Centers, VA health-care facilities, or others who can help.

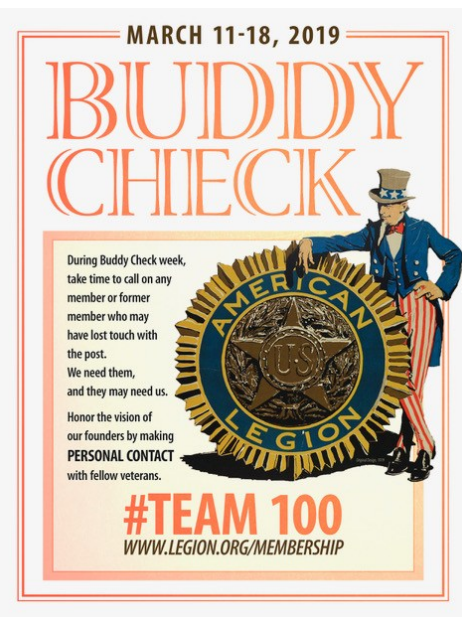
Veterans may be reminded of the 988 Crisis Line in case they know of someone who needs urgent assistance, or if they need it themselves.

We should be keeping track of any of our members and others who may need assistance, encouragement, and our concern. We are Brothers in this part of the American Legion Family. Let us look out for each other. This could be done by a phone call, a card, or a message.

SHARE THE STORY OF
YOUR BUDDY CHECK
PROGRAM

at legiontown.org/buddychecks

For God & Country,
Dennis George
IA Chairman



MEMORIAL DAY Honoring Those Who Gave All

On Memorial Day, we pause to remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Their courage, devotion, and love



of country continue to inspire the work of The American Legion Family.

As Sons of The American Legion, we honor their memory through service — supporting veterans, strengthening our communities, and ensuring future generations understand the cost of freedom.



Let us never forget their sacrifice.

Membership—Dusty Quick, Chairman

Helpful Membership Ideas!

Look at your members as customers!

One of the easiest way to lose a member is to ignore them.

How do you recruit new members and retain existing members.

Communication-Communication-Communication

Keep your members informed to the activities of the Post, The American Legion, and your members. Give them a feeling of pride to belong to your Legion family and have a reason why they joined.

Squadron activities – create programs that interest your members

Activities create membership!

Appoint your members into key committees; Americanism,

Children & Youth, Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, and Membership. Have them bring ideas and reports to your meetings.

As of May 15, 2026 the current 2026 membership stands at 30,602 (93.66% of year end goal). We obviously missed our 100% membership target date goal. Our new goal is to reach 100% by the Detachment of New York Convention in July so please continue to send 2026 renewals in. We need 2,073 more 2026 renewals to reach 100%.

For the May 13, 2026 100% target date 0/10 Districts, 16/60 Counties and 153/384 Squadrons have reached their 100% membership goal.

To set a new Detachment of New York Membership record

(32,296) we need 1,694 more 2026 renewals.

The Three Reports season is here. Here are the due dates:

The Officer's Certification form is due by 6/1/2026.

The Consolidated Squadron Report is due by 6/1/2026. We have only seen 15 CSR's to date so please get these in.

Thank you for all you do as Sons of the American Legion.

Dusty L Quick,
Detachment Membership
Chairman



INDEPENDENCE DAY Celebrating the Birth of Our Nation

On July 4th, we celebrate the founding ideals that shaped the United States — liberty, equality, and the enduring promise of democracy. The American Legion Family proudly upholds these principles through service, citizenship, and community engagement.

The Sons of The American Legion continue this tradition by supporting veterans, promoting patriotism, and helping ensure that the freedoms declared in 1776 remain strong for future

generations.

Squadrons are asked to join in with The American Legion Family and their community in celebrating America 250th birthday.

**Freedom is our legacy — and
our responsibility.**



Ed Hooke Shirts

Below is information if you would like to purchase a shirt that Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion Leading Candidate Edward Hooke will be wearing next year if elected. I just ordered my shirt, just click on the link below if you are interested.

Order deadline is May 31st!

Dave Lee

<https://26maysonsam.itemorder.com/>

Americanism...by Herman Downer, Jr,

People always ask what Americanism is, so here is a brief history on how The American Legion established Americanism.

Americanism was established as one of the Four Pillars to combat anti-democracy. During World War I Communism was being pitched to soldiers stationed in Europe. Soon Fascism and Nazism were being recruited in America and to our youth. The founders of The American Legion felt these ideologies went against what they had fought for, which was to make the world safe for Democracy. They felt the best kind of "ism" is Americanism. The American Legion took a proactive approach in forming a National Commission to advance the concept and programs. Here's a timeline on Americanism –

1920 Citizen and Naturalization programs formed at local post, and The American Legion offered its services to Congress to provide education on the programs.

1921 The American Legion formed an allegiance with the National Education Association to develop a program that would make all, whether native or foreign-born "Good American Citizens". This allegiance led to National Educational Week.

1923 The American Legion held the first of two Flag Conferences which included representatives of 68 others of the same interest. This which eventually established the U.S. Flag Code in 1942. Also, in 1923 The Americanism Commission launched the Nationwide Community and Civic Betterment Bureau. In which brought pools, parks, theaters, clinics, bands and

sports programs in existence led by American Legion Post.

1925 American Legion Baseball was formed to serve not only as entertainment for the posts but to serve as Citizen training.

1926 The Five Points Program was established to recognize honor, courage, scholarship, leadership and service to school students.



1932 The Sons of The American Legion was formed at the National Convention in Portland, OR. It is a program of the American Legion to promote American values and ward off communism, fascism and Nazism ideals to our youth.

1935 Boys State was formed to teach how the government functions in a successful democracy. This was a direct response to the communist-inspired Youth Pioneer Camps attempting to lure American boys.

1938 the first National Oratorical contest was held.

1962 a Resolution was passed on what Americanism is.

2025 The American Legion updated the resolution of what Americanism is:

That "Americanism" is hereby defined as a steadfast and heartfelt devotion to the founding principles, enduring values and civic responsibilities of the United States of America, a devotion inspired and exemplified by those who have honorably served in uniform, including: Loyalty to the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law as the unshakable foundation of American democracy, individual liberty and justice; Reverence for sacrifice, upholding the dignity of selfless service as demonstrated by veterans and citizens who have placed duty, honor and country above self, even at the cost of their lives; Commitment to democratic principles, defending the sanctity of free and fair elections, individual rights and accountable governance as the cornerstone of a free people; Patriotic citizenship, demonstrated through civic responsibility, public service and deep respect for the national symbols and institutions that define the American identity;

Respect for God and Country and all Americans, grounded in liberty, equality and justice for all, regardless of race, religion, creed, gender or cultural background; Recognition of national unity, embracing the belief that our strength as a nation flows from mutual respect, shared sacrifice and the unbreakable bonds of freedom.

Herman Downer Jr

Detachment Americanism
Chairman

National Americanism Consultant

Children & Youth—Wayne Ainslie

Hello fellow Sons hope everybody survived the long winter that we just had. I see from Facebook that many of our squadrons held a family fun day at their Posts. There were lots of great pictures and ideas for activities for the community and members that attended.

The Detachment of NY has been very busy starting with the Washington Legislative Conference, the Northeast Regional Homecoming & Testimonial dinner for Jeremy Revell in Vermont, National Commander Bill Clancy's Homecoming in Manhattan, and finally the National Executive Committee meetings in Indianapolis.

Congratulations to the Detachment of NY in supporting

National Commander Clancy's project, Child Well-being Foundation! Commander Joe Guidice presented a \$16,000 check to Commander Clancy at the NEC. Sales of the CWF challenge coins so far have raised \$7,000, Ike said that there are still some coins left if anyone wants one.

For God & Country,
Wayne Ainslie

American Legion
Child Well-being Foundation



Flag Day, June 14th

Flag Day is celebrated in America on June 14, commemorating the day the first flag resolution was passed.

On June 14, 1777, less than one year after Betsy Ross had received the order from General Washington to make the first flag, the Second Continental Congress passed a flag resolution stating: *Resolved, That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.*

The first national observance of Flag Day was on June 14, 1877; 100 years after the flag resolution was adopted by the Continental Congress.



In the late 19th century, schoolteachers all over the United States began conducting patriotic ceremonies commemorating Flag Day as a way to teach children about history. One such schoolteacher, Bernard J. Cigrand, is often referred to as the "Father of Flag Day." He lobbied Congress for many years for Flag Day to be officially observed.

Other patriotic groups, including the Colonial Dames and the Sons of the American Revolution, also spent years trying to convince Congress to make Flag Day official. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation stating that June 14 shall be National Flag Day, and in 1949, it was made official by an Act of Congress.

VA & R

Serving Those Who Served Supporting VA—CDCE

Strengthening Our Commitment: How Squadrons Can Support VA CDCE Programs

Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) now known as Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) is in need of the SAL services. Our donations of volunteer hours and dollars are needed to support our veterans' receiving services at VA hospitals and activities throughout our communities.

Across New York, the Sons of The American Legion continue to demonstrate our unwavering dedication to serving America's veterans. As the needs of our veteran community evolve, so too do the opportunities for Squadrons to make a meaningful impact. One of the most effective ways to expand our service footprint is through greater involvement in the Department of Veterans Affairs' **Community Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE)** programs.

CDCE is the modern evolution of the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. Its mission is simple but powerful: **connect volunteers, civic organizations, and community partners with VA facilities to improve the lives of veterans.** For the SAL, this mission aligns perfectly with our founding principles of service, citizenship, and devotion to our nation's heroes.

Why CDCE Matters to the SAL

Every Squadron, regardless of size, has the ability to support CDCE initiatives. These programs directly benefit veterans in VA hospitals, Community Living Centers, outpatient clinics, transitional housing, and community outreach programs. By strengthening our presence in CDCE, we reinforce the SAL's reputation as a reliable, compassionate, and mission-driven partner within the Legion Family and the VA system.

Simple Ways Squadrons Can Get Involved

- Connect with your local VA CDCE office
- Support Community Living Centers
- Assemble comfort or welcome-home kits
- Participate in VA Stand Downs
- Encourage youth volunteers
- Adopt a VA unit or clinic

Building a Stronger Detachment Through Service

The Detachment of New York encourages every Squadron to explore at least one CDCE project this year. Whether it's a small donation drive or a recurring volunteer activity, every effort contributes to a statewide culture of service.

Service is our purpose. Let's honor our veterans together.

J. Bruce Ruthven,
VA Deputy
Representative

SERVE THOSE WHO SERVED
Support VA Community Development & Civic Engagement Programs

VOLUNTEER	DONATE	SUPPORT
 • Bingo Nights • Socials & CLC Visits	 • Comfort Kits • Hygiene Items • Clothing	 • Stand Downs • Outreach Events • Youth Involvement

LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED

DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK
 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
SERVICE IS OUR PURPOSE.

Squadrons in Action

Share The Pride-Build the Pride



St. Patrick's Day
at Post 1796



Sons of the American Legion Squadron 1796-New Windsor-NY- held their annual St Patrick's Dinner on St Patrick's Day. Volunteers from the Sons prepared the food for the day. Commander Callahan-Vice Commander Schaffner-Alan Duff cooked the corn beef-potatoes-carrots. The hall was packed during the event. Special thanks to Auxiliary and legion members that helped out. Member/Sons Joe Stankiewz played the bag pipes for all to enjoy.

American Legion Family Day



On Saturday, April 25, 2026, the Oriskany American Legion Family hosted a Family Fun Day. Free hot dogs, root beer floats, popcorn, and snacks were available, as well as, games, Legion literature, a demonstration of the "Jaws of Life " by the Oriskany Volunteer Fire Department-which includes members of Squadron 1448, and equipment from the Oneida County DPW for viewing.

**Have some news or event you'd like to Share??
We want to hear from you!!**

Squadron Commanders, County and District Commanders, ALL members of the Sons, please let us know what you are doing and what you have accomplished in pictures and in words. We don't need long essays, just captions to pictures showing your members in action. (PLEASE: Send pictures in .JPG or .PNG format, and make them individual image files, not in collage or combined formats). SEND SUBMISSIONS TO PR CHAIRMAN JOE GUIDICE libertysalnveditor@gmail.com

Squadrons in Action

Share The Pride-Build the Pride



National Commander, Bill Clancy stopped by the Detachment Public Relations table set up at this years Mid-Winter Conference.

Canandaigua VA "Making Christmas Bright"
Squadron 457 donated 210—\$20 gift cards and \$2,500 in gifts which were distributed to Finger Lakes VA Health Care veterans for a total Christmas donation of \$6,700.



Canandaigua VA held a live concert for veterans and community on May 7.

Music was provided by students and staff from the Eastman school of music in Rochester, NY.

Highlighted was the restored 1947 Steinway Baby Grand piano. The restoration was made possible by a \$2,000 donation from Squadron 457.



In celebration of the American Legion Birthday, Squadron 457 in Phelps, NY held a breakfast on March 15th for the Canandaigua VA hospitalized veterans and Post 457 officers.