

**MINUTES OF THE 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION**  
**July 18 - 19, 2013**  
**Niagara Falls Convention Center**  
**Niagara Falls, New York**

**FIRST SESSION – JULY 18, 2013**

- Commander Knapp 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 Knapp recited the POW/MIA Ceremony as the Master Sergeant placed the POW/MIA banner.
- Acting Chaplain Burtch offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Santa Croce led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.  
V/C Green 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 National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Christopher Huntzinger (PA), Leading Candidate for Sons of The American Legion National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD).

*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 Knapp.*

**1.00 REPORTS**

**1.01 Convention / Niagara Falls General Chairman Hewitt** reported that the Meet the Candidates Luncheon will be held at 12 PM just outside the room we are meeting in. The tickets for the Installation Luncheon are still available. Busses will leave the Hotel at 1:30PM to go to the Sikora Post and return at 4:30PM. There will be a meeting judges meeting here at 3PM to go over the rules. Lineup will be at 5:30PM. After the parade a band will be playing and refreshments will be available. CWF Golf tournament went well, there were 5 teams and \$665 was made for CWF.

- **Commander Knapp turned the gavel over V/C Santa Croce.**

**1.02** 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 Coates, Ionia; Chuck Depo, West Chazy; Kirk Tyler, Cassadaga; and Jim Parks, Ontario & Ross Polson, Newark. Over the years the Detachment of New York has built up a strong Americanism Program. It is a lot of work and these are the guys that have made it all work this year. Please join me in showing them our appreciation.

PDC Downey stated that there is a need for counselors at Boy's State. There were 14 new counselors this year at boy's state. There was 1,022 Boys at boy's state this year and they all left as young men.

Here is a summary of our detachment activities and expenses for 2012-2013.

Essay Contest "What America Means to Me"

This year we received 46 essays that were judged during our mid-winter conference in Albany. This increases our total to 639 essays received over the years the program has been in effect. All winners have been notified and awards sent.

THE SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION (AMERICANISM COMMITTEE 2013)  
CONGRATULATES EACH STUDENT THAT PARTICIPATED BECAUSE  
ALL OUR WINNERS, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU ARE PROUD  
AMERICANS!

The following is a list of the winners;

Grade 1

Markus Tompkins, Hammondsport Central School, and Hammondsport NY 14840

Grade 2 No Entry

Grade 3

Ava Graber, Kerrigan Elementary school, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Grade 4

Alex Castle, Alfred Almond Central School, Almond, NY 14804

Grade 5

Cody Noel Slayton, Avoca Central School, Avoca, NY 14809

Essay Contest "What the Constitution of the United States means to Americans "

This was our first year and we had 124 essays that were sent in all were read and judged. All winners were notified and awards have been received.

Grade 6 Chloe Roberson St. Adalbert School P.S. # 11 Staten Island

Grade 7th Vincent Fondacaro - St. Joseph - St. Thomas Staten Island

Grade 8<sup>th</sup> Avori Fouconies St. Adalbert's P.S. # 11 Staten Island

#### Scholarships

We have received the applications for the Lt. Michael L. Lewis, Jr. Memorial Fund and The Cerullo Memorial Scholarships. The applications have been judged by the Americanism Commission and the winners are as follow.

The Cerullo Memorial Scholarship of \$500.00 1st year winner:

Shannon Dole, Seeley B. Parish – Squadron 0457 -Newark - Ontario County

In addition there was one renewal application received for:

Michael DiMartino, Granito Smith squadron 1296, Staten Island, Kings County.

The Lt. Michael L. Lewis, Jr. Memorial \$1,000 Scholarship winners:

Joel Shaver, James S. Moore Squadron 167 – Downsville - Delaware County

John C. Oshei, West Seneca – Squadron 0735 – West Seneca – Erie County

Congratulations to our scholarship winners.

#### Consolidated Reports

We received 92 consolidated reports this year from our 378(+) squadrons of the Detachment of New York. These have been tabulated and judged.

#### 2012-2013 Americanism Commission Expenses

1,300 Flag Lapel Pins for Boys State	\$795.10
400 Be Right on Flag Etiquette	\$320.00
2,160 Grave Marker U.S. Flags	\$1,848.75
4000 Patriotic Stickers	\$60.00
20 Flag Education DVDs	\$199.00
10 America's Vets" DVD & Book	\$39.50
Shipping & Handling Supplies	\$24.95
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Winner Cash Prizes	\$200.00
1 <sup>st</sup> thru 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Winners Class Parties	\$200.00
6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Winners Cash Prizes	\$300.00
Americanism Commission Postage	\$45.67
Scholarships	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total	\$7,532.97

In addition to the expenses above we have included: one boy sponsored for boys state at a cost of \$435.00, 50 hours Essay review & processing, Flag Education - 20 hours assemble and distribute materials to Districts, 30 hours to review and process essays, \$26,000.00 - Donations to other organizations (American Legion, Department of NY), and additional Funds raised by Detachment Commander John Knapp NEF - \$5,626.00, CWF - \$10,761.00 & Walk-a-Thon \$7,832.00 for a total contributions of \$50,649.50 and 50 hours.

A brief summary of the Detachment of New York activities in 12 American Legion Americanism Programs, based on the Consolidated Reports, is as follows.

<u>Boys State</u>			
# Boys Sponsored for Boys State	54	Cost	\$17,375.00
# Girls sponsored for Girls State	8	Cost	\$1,530.00
<u>Education</u>			
# Five Star / Ten Ideals Programs	45	Cost	\$ 149.00
# Flags Presented	4,368	Cost	\$ 3,300.00
Cost of Scholarships		Cost	\$23,000.00
Hours for Educational Programs	940		
<u># Small Flags place on Graves or</u>			
Given away at parades	38,808	Cost	\$ 6,722.00
Hours	1,691		
<u>Oratorical Contests</u>			
# Of Contestants	4	Cost	\$45.00
Hours of Participation	270		
Color Guards	29 - Squadrons Sponsored		
# Appearances	267	Cost	\$10,105.00
NEF Donations		Cost	\$ 5,177.00
Flag Education			
# Flag Etiquette Programs	81	Cost	\$ 1,911.00
Hours	692		
# Flag Retirement Programs	1,082		
Hours	973		
Community Service			
Hours	32,181		
Cost / Donation		Cost	\$33,678.00
Scouting			
Squadron Sponsored Troops	13	Costs	\$6,898.88
# Youth Involved	304		
Junior Shooting Sports			
# Youth Involved	36		
# Hours Service	96	Cost	\$300.00
Baseball			
AL Team Sponsored	12	Costs	\$ 6,942.00
Blood Drives - # Pints	256		
Hours	99		
Other teams Sponsored -		Cost	\$ 7,342.50

To sum up these numbers the Detachment of New York has reported a Grand Total of: \$176,531.85 in program cost and community service donations, 43,176 flags presented and small flags placed on graves or given away at parades, 36,992 volunteer hours, and \$10,803.00 in NEF donations. Those squadrons of 150 members or more with the highest levels of achievement are recognized as follows.

First Place: 7<sup>th</sup> District – Charles E. Westcott Squadron 0173 - Stueben County  
 First Place: 7<sup>th</sup> District – Seeley B. Parish Squadron 0457 - Ontario County  
 Second Place: 3<sup>rd</sup> District – Joseph E. Zaloga – Squadron 1520 – Albany County  
 Third Place: 5<sup>th</sup> District – New Hartford – Squadron 1326 – Oneida County  
 Third Place: 8<sup>th</sup> District – Gowanda – Squadron 0409 – Cattaraugus County  
 Those squadrons of 149 members or less with the highest levels of achievement are recognized as follows.  
 First Place: 6<sup>th</sup> District – John Handte - Squadron 0089 - Broome County  
 Second Place: 2<sup>nd</sup> District – Floyd Bennett – Squadron 1060 – Kings County  
 Third Place: 7<sup>th</sup> District - Cottreal Warner –Squadron 0942 - Monroe County  
 Third Place: 9<sup>th</sup> District – Fred Eller – Squadron 1447 – Rockland County

Third Place: 9<sup>th</sup> District – Moses Taylor Jr. – Squadron 0136 – Westchester County  
 I would like to let everyone know that at the request of the Family of Michael Lewis. The Michael Lewis Scholarship will no longer be available. Congratulations to our winning squadrons and Thank You to all squadrons in the Great Detachment of New York that submitted a consolidated report, our reports speak in numbers so let us increase by reporting your squadrons achievements and let our nation know New York by our deeds. PDC Smallcomb asks if we could find the funds to continue the Michael Lewis scholarship. The answer is no the family does not what to continue it.  
**Albany County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

- 1.03 Children & Youth Chairman Armbrust reported** that we donated 10 Josh throughout the state at a cost of \$350.00. We also raised just over \$400.00 at Mid-winter for CWF and there is a box in the back of the room for donations.

<b>Recipients of Donations</b>	<b>Money / Time Donated</b>
<b>Scholarships</b>	<b>\$27,900.00</b>
<b>Children and Youth Projects</b>	<b>\$31,067.00</b>
<b>Boys State</b>	<b>\$11,920.00</b>
<b>Scouting</b>	<b>\$6,776.00</b>
<b>Baseball</b>	<b>\$3,260.00</b>
<b>Child Welfare Foundation</b>	<b>\$7,836.00</b>
<b>Special Olympics</b>	<b>\$3,045.00</b>
<b>Children's Miracle Network</b>	<b>\$3,204.00</b>
<b>Josh Dogs</b>	<b>\$349.00</b>
<b>Other Teams Sponsored</b>	<b>\$8,182.00</b>
<b>Girls State</b>	<b>\$1,120.00</b>
<b>Donations to Other Organizations</b>	<b>\$12,755.00</b>
<b>Operation Military Kids</b>	<b>\$1,948.00</b>
<b>Junior Shooting</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>Children and Youth Hours</b>	<b>8,750 hours</b>
<b>Special Olympics</b>	<b>1,472 hours</b>
<b>Child Welfare Foundation</b>	<b>1,119 hours</b>
<b>Junior Shooting</b>	<b>96 hours</b>
<b>Children's Miracle Network</b>	<b>316 hours</b>
<b>Boys State</b>	<b>32 Boys Sponsored</b>
<b>Girls State</b>	<b>4 Girls Sponsored</b>
<b>Youth Involvement in Scouting</b>	<b>38 hours</b>
<b>Operation Military Kids</b>	<b>100 hours</b>

149 Under

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. PLACE-Floyd Bennett 1060 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District 75 members |
| 2. PLACE-John B Handte 89   | 6 <sup>th</sup> District 78 members |
| 3. PLACE-Antwerp 916        | 5 <sup>th</sup> District 44 members |

150 Over

- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. PLACE-Greece 468             | 7 <sup>th</sup> District 246 members |
| 2. PLACE-Charles E Westcott 173 | 7 <sup>th</sup> District 398 members |
| 3. PLACE-Mohawk 1450            | 4 <sup>th</sup> District 240 members |

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

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

**1.04 Finance Chairman David Lee** read the current budget and where we stand to date. Chairman Lee read the proposed budget. He then read changes to Expense authorizations and schedule A. Chairman Lee thanked all the members of the commission for their hard work.

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

**1.05 Internal Affairs acting Chairman Jarvis** had the following Chairman give their reports.

**Roy Mezzapelle MT&D.** This report is an update to the report presented at the 2013 Mid-Winter Conference. At the 2012 Fall DEC meeting, the Member Training & Development Committee reviewed our current presentations – the Leadership Workshop, and the Advisors Seminar. We agreed that the Leadership Workshop was fine as-is, but the Advisors Seminar needed to be adjusted to reduce the presentation time. After presenting last year’s Seminar at the 2012 Mid-Winter Conference, I identified items that could further reduce the presentation time for this year’s Seminar, and discussed this with the Committee Members and adjusted the presentation accordingly. Moving forward, I have again identified other content to eliminate that will further reduce the presentation time for the 2014 Seminar. This will be brought to the Committee’s attention at this year’s Fall DEC Meeting. Another issue that will be discussed at the Fall DEC Meeting will be to consider offering the Advisors Seminar every other year, and alternating it with a different presentation. Attendance at the Seminar is steadily decreasing, and I believe it’s because it’s basically the same presentation year after year, as the role of the Advisor hasn’t changed all that much in the recent past, and neither have the many of the Advisors. One topic that comes to mind is “How to Start a Squadron.” This would be a fresh topic, and one I believe will spark some interest and be well attended, and produce a positive outcome for the Detachment.

To offer “Continuing Education” programs to the members of the Detachment & Department, the Chairmen of two Detachment Commissions/Committees conduct workshops during the Mid-Winter Conference, giving formal presentations to the membership, explaining the purpose of the Commission/Committee, with two goals in mind – First, to raise awareness of what the purpose of the Commission/Committee is, how it operates, and how the membership can help, and Second, to hopefully spark interest in the membership to assist the Commissions/Committees in reaching their goals by bringing this information back to their local Districts, Counties, and Squadrons, and putting it to good use. This year’s presentations were “Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation” and “Public Relations”. Any Committee Chairman interested in presenting at next year’s Mid-Winter Conference should feel free to talk to me before the end of Convention.

The Member Training & Development Committee remains committed to furthering the education of our membership by presenting new programs, updating existing programs, and assuring that all training needs within the Detachment of New York are addressed in a timely manner. I sincerely thank the members of the Committee, David L. Downey, Gerald M. Ketchum, Gary W. Denmon, and Thomas G. Smallcomb, for their dedicated service to the Committee and the Detachment.

**Membership Gaither Espy.** As we wrap up our membership year I would like to thank the membership commission for all the hard work they have given to keep our membership strong. Things have been a little tough this year, we as a Detachment have not hit one target date. We can however reach the 105% target date on July 24, 2013 if we all keep plugging away. Currently we are at 97.38%, we only need 758 to reach 100%. There are 27 Counties at 100% or better. Congratulations to all of them and great job to Warren County from the 4<sup>th</sup> District on top of the list with 132.61%. Only 2 Districts have reached 100%, they are the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 101.20% and the 4<sup>th</sup> with 100.65%. Currently our renewal rate is 86.55%, this is about 5% lower than we

usually are at. Let's get working on those renewals so we can get New York to the front of Commander Huntzinger's band wagon.

Detachment vice Commander Standings are;

1<sup>st</sup> place VC Depo for Districts 3&4

2<sup>nd</sup> place VC Santa Croce 2&10

3<sup>rd</sup> place VC Farrell 1&9

4<sup>th</sup> place VC Tyler 7&8

5<sup>th</sup> place VC Green 5&6

Now let's get to the Squadron membership awards for the year.

Largest Squadron;

1<sup>st</sup> place- New Hartford Squadron 1376, 524 members. Oneida County, District 5

2<sup>nd</sup> place- Winnek Squadron 396, 378 members. Ontario County, District 7

3<sup>rd</sup> place-Charles E. Wescott Squadron 173,375 members. Steuben County, District 7

Most New Members;

1<sup>st</sup> place- New Hartford Squadron 1376, 57 new members. Oneida County, District 5

2<sup>nd</sup> place- John P. Eaton Squadron 746, 55 new members. Steuben County, District 7

3<sup>rd</sup> place- Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Squadron 1040, 33 new members. Albany County, District 3

Robert Lee Walsh Squadron 337, 33 new members. Fulton County, District 4

James Harvey Spire Squadron 787, 33 new members. Onondaga County, District 5

Highest Percentage over last year, 300 and over;

1<sup>st</sup> place John P Eaton Squadron 746, 106%. Steuben County District 7

2<sup>nd</sup> place New Hartford Squadron 1376, 105%. Oneida County District 5

Highest Percentage over last year, 299 and under

1<sup>st</sup> place George Washington-Victor Allegretti Squadron 1872, 200%. Kings County District 2

2<sup>nd</sup> place Wayne Middleton Squadron 1839, 180%. Suffolk County, District 10

Oscro Robinson Squadron #617, 180%. Cortland County, District 6

3<sup>rd</sup> place St. Stanislaus Memorial Squadron 1771, 174%. Kings County, District 2

Congratulations to all the winning Squadrons on their awards. In closing I would like to thank Commander Knapp for appointing me membership chairman. Last but not forgotten are all of you, the membership. Without all the hard work and dedication you do and have, we wouldn't be the great organization we are today. Thank You.

**Convention / Binghamton General Chairman Hewitt** reported that next year's convention will be 2014 Albany and 2015 will be in Buffalo. Starting in 2016 all conventions for the following five years will be in Albany per the Department Executive Committee.

Acting Chairmen Jarvis stated that if you are submitting reports for judging on the Detachment and National levels you must fill out the consolidated report form in its entirety. That includes prior year and current year membership.

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

- 1.06 Legislative Chairman Gibbs** Two main events characterized the 2013 year of the Detachment Legislative Commission: the On-the-Hill Days in Albany and in Washington, DC. The first main event was held on February 24-27, 2013 when the SAL Detachment of NY attended the On-the-Hill Days in Washington, DC. Seven (7) members of the Detachment were present; Commander John Knapp Sr., Legislative Chairman Doc Gibbs, National Legislative Chairman David Lee, National Asst. Adjutant Robert Avery, National Executive Committeeman Jerry Ketchum, Commander's Aide John Chang, and Legislative Committeeman from Bath, NY - David Perry. On Sunday we toured the various memorials and went with National SAL Commander Chris Huntzinger where he laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Monday we had a series of meetings including the Legislative Meeting where the Legion legislative priorities were outlined and discussed and then we took time to accompany Commander John Knapp to the Vietnam Memorial

where he placed a wreath in honor of a fallen comrade. Tuesday morning we all attended the “Know before You Go” breakfast meeting and then went to Capitol Hill to meet with our respective Congressman/women. Preset meeting appointments had been arranged by Chairman Doc Gibbs prior to coming to DC. The brochure with our Legislative Priorities had been passed out at the breakfast meeting and was available for distribution to each of our Congressional representatives. We had meetings with representatives or aides of the following: Louise Slaughter, Nita Lowey, Chris Collins, and Thomas Reed. Several members of the Detachment ate lunch at the Senate Cafeteria in the basement of the office buildings. After the visitations an email was sent to Jerry Ketchum, our NEC, that his Congressman, Thomas Reed had co-signed the Stolen Valor Act and an email was sent to Doc Gibbs stating that Congressman Collins will cosign the Tuition Fairness Act HR 357– that just shows the immediate impact that our group can have. The Stole Valor Act was ultimately passed and made law later in the spring.

## Priorities

### THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress

#### Protecting veterans and DOD from the harmful VA claims backlog through reorganization

The American Legion strongly supports the need for a clearly responsible government and looks forward to working with the new Congress to develop deficit-reducing programs that do not degrade the nation's ability to defend itself or further assure the earned benefits currently being received by our nation's military veterans. **HR216/218**

#### Mental health care

The American Legion is deeply concerned about access to quality mental health care for veterans. With unprecedented numbers of servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with TBI and PTSD, a full 60 percent of veterans are not even receiving the VA for health care. The American Legion is committed about these veterans facing through the ranks, especially as VA reports indicate as many as 23 veterans died of suicide a day as of 2010. The American Legion urges congressional oversight to ensure full staffing and funding of mental health programs, and increased reliance on other resources to address veterans, such as telehealth treatment centers.

#### Oppose any further increases in TRICARE fees, including prescription drug fees

The American Legion stands along against those who would shake the promise made in the contract with those who serve in our nation's defense. We strongly oppose any proposed degradation of the health care promised to retired servicemembers when they entered through increases in fees by TRICARE for Life, increases in pharmacy or plans or any further breaches of the contract of health care given this nation and those who have defended it.

#### Stolen Valor Act

In United States v. Alvarez, the Supreme Court ruled the 2002 Stolen Valor Act was unconstitutional and left the door open for a more carefully tailored law

to criminalize profiting from lies about military service. The American Legion supports legislation to restore the criminality of false about military service and misused decorations. **HR216/218**

#### VA claims backlog

America's veterans deserve better than a disability claims system mired in delay and backlog, where over 80 percent of claims are delayed over 180 days to complete. The American Legion believes VA can only change the bureaucratic culture causing these delays by implementing a work credit system that places as much incentive on getting a claim done right the first time as it does on the size volume of claims processed.

#### Disabled veterans tax-relief cut

VA disability compensation should not be offset from military retired pay regardless of the VA rating percentage, nor should the Survivors Benefits (SB) from military Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) annuities. The American Legion supports legislation that would completely repeal these unjust offset. **HR333/HR333/HR333**

#### DOL-VETS and TAP

The VETS program should be kept in its rightful place within DOL, OIGVA and OIGVA should be solely focused on getting veterans jobs. Congress has already passed legislation to improve the Transition Assistance Program, but DOD is improperly executing it. The American Legion looks forward to working with Congress to ensure that TAP offers the services and information necessary for transitioning servicemembers and veterans.

#### Small business verification

Businesses owned by veterans have earned the right to compete fairly through federal procurement. The American Legion calls on Congress to ensure that the federal government makes its 2 percent procurement goal for the full time military and demerit/VA address and meet the current small business verification program.

#### End veteran homelessness

The American Legion strongly supports the administration's goal of eliminating veterans homelessness by 2015 and calls on Congress to pledge whatever resources are necessary to accomplish this goal: to include medical, rehabilitation and employment assistance to homeless veterans and their families. **HR499/499**

#### Quality education through Post 9/11 GI Bill

As one of the founding authors of the original GI Bill, the American Legion wants to protect our veterans with programs that include provisions to evaluate post-secondary education institutions on quality factors such as accreditation, affordability, graduation rates and acceptance in the job market. State approving agencies should be assured their original power to protect the GI Bill along with additional funding to ensure their mission. Servicemembers should be allowed to open tuition loans regardless of residency status. **HR337/337**

#### Military to civilian credentialing

DOD spends a lot of money training our military. The skills learned need to directly translate to their civilian equivalents, and standards verification is a long endeavor. Cooperation among the American Legion state governments, private sector employers, institutions of higher learning and the federal government is essential to effect the necessary changes in policies and practices to fully recognize military education, training and experience. We encourage congressional efforts to engage their state and local officials to address credentialing issues within their respective states.

#### The American Flag

The American Legion remains committed to protecting Old Glory, and continues to support legislation that safeguards our nation's flag from physical desecration. **HR693/693**



Copy of inside of 2013 Priorities brochure that is left with Congressmen. The meetings were under the guidance of New York's own legionnaire Kenneth Governor who is the National Legislative Chairman. The speakers at the various Legion Priority Issues this year, more than usual. They included the Stolen Valor Act, Mental Health Care, the Widows Tax, DOL-VETS and TAP issue, small business support, Veterans' homelessness, the Post 911 GI Education Bill, the VA Claims Backlog, the American Flag Desecration issue, the Military to Civilian Credentialing, the TRICARE budget, as well as appropriations. A very professional appearing drop sheet/brochure was developed this year which we left with the Congressional offices after our meeting (pictured above).  
The Dubliner Honored



Photo of Danny Coleman accepting SAL Plaque for “The Dubliner”

The Congressional appointment times and places obviously differ for each visitor, so we select a meeting place afterwards to coordinate travel back to the hotel. Our contingency has met after all Congressional visitations for debriefing at “The Dubliner” restaurant in Washington, DC for the past 7+ years. We presented them with a plaque officially noting that their restaurant is the official meeting place of the Detachment of NY Sons on the Washington, On-the-Hill Days. It will be proudly displayed in their restaurant. Danny Coleman (Syracuse, NY native) accepted the plaque with appreciation.

**Our second main legislative event was held on March 12 - March 13, 2013 when the SAL Detachment of NY attended the On-the-Hill Days in Albany, NY.**

Seven members of the New York Detachment were present: Commander John Knapp, NEC Jerry Ketchum, Past Commander Dave Bishop, Asst. Adjutant Christopher Burtch, and Detachment vice Commander Thomas Farrell, Detachment Legislative Chairman Doc Gibbs, and Sons member Charles Duffy from Mt. Kisco Squadron/Westchester.

The Legion had several items to address as issues (17 in all). The focus after the briefing meeting held on Monday evening at the hotel seemed to be the fact that each County should have their own independent committee that serves veterans; it should not be combined with the office of the ageing or social services. Erie County has that problem solved but other smaller counties still suffer from in-direct representation. The SLA 30 day billing cycle and the Pledge of Allegiance issue is still on the docket as well.

We each visited our respective assemblymen after having breakfast with some legislators at the hotel. We typically sit by county and do the visitations with Legionnaires from the counties. I personally visited the offices of Michael Kearns, Crystal Peoples, Timothy Kennedy, Patrick Gallivan and Raymond Walter. All are assemblymen from the general Erie County area. We got commitments from two assemblymen (Kennedy and Peoples) while visiting to co-sponsor some pieces of legislation.



## Albany Visitation



Photo of visitation in Albany: left to right: Doc Gibbs, Detachment Legislative Chairman, Alwin O'Donnell, District 8 legion Commander, Senator Patrick Gallivan, Erie County Legion Legislative Chairman John Siefert, Legion NEC Charles Herschlag

The Albany On-the-Hill Days are easy to attend and if you are close to Albany require only a few hours of your time. We highly suggest those wanting to get more involved with legislation could start by attending. There were only about 7 Sons present and certainly room for others. Overall the Detachment of NY had a positive year in the Legislative area. We had significant delegations to both the Albany and Washington, DC On-the-Hill Days with positive impacts via personal visitations to assemblymen and Senators. The greatest immediate success was the passage of the Stolen Valor Act this spring and several local Senators co-signing that bill. This now makes it a felony to claim to be a decorated veteran when in fact you are not. In the 2012-2013 year the Legislative Commission held a planning meeting session at each DEC meeting and set plans for the year. Planning will be similar for the upcoming 2013-2014 year.

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

- 1.07 Public Relations Chairman Bruce Ruthven** reported this year's public relations commission consists of me as the chairman, and members Daryl Verstrete, James Connolly, Peter DeAngelis, Ken Kraetzer and Timothy Van Patten II. Thank you, for your dedication and contribution to the Detachment of NY. Together we successfully published five issues of "The Liberty" newsletter. We are grateful to everyone who contributed news articles and stories to us. I am pleased with the Sections called "Squadrons in Action" and "Squadron Notes & Quotes". Here we publish photos and short stories of the events of our "Blue Cappers". Please help us get the word out to Squadrons to submit stories of their programs and projects. Also help us promote our newsletter "The Liberty" by getting more members signed up for email delivery of Detachment mailings. Copies of the convention issue are at the registration table of can be downloaded from the Detachment website. It is with joy and sorrow that I step down from the Public Relations Commission, This Convention Issue of "The Liberty" is my 55<sup>th</sup> and final as its editor. After 13 years,

two as a Committeeman and eleven as Chairman it's time for a change. It is a time for a change for me and for the commission. Rest assured the appointment of a new chairman will lead the Public Relations Commission into bigger and better things. Looking back, I asked myself "What was the single most satisfying accomplishment and what was the most disappointing shortcoming". I am proud of the success of our Detachment newsletter. We have engaged out members in reporting and Communication there functions and events. A disappointment was failing to get the newsletter mailed to every Squadron member in the Detachment. Throughout the years I have realized the importance of education, mentoring and supporting our members in the functionality if the American Legion. I want to thank my mentors for their support in my upbringing into the American Legion, Tom Kurk, Frank Gutschow and Jerry Ketchum. Oh, I almost forgot my biggest and most important mentor, my father John Ruthven. You too can do your part in bringing someone new as an active member in your Squadron, County, District and / or Detachment. Give them a reason to belong, a feeling of importance, the satisfaction of being a useful productive member. Mentoring new members into the Sons of the American Legion may become our future leaders.

As a reminder a Post-Convention issue of "The Liberty" will be published in August. I will ask all of the reporting chairmen to email a copy of their convention report to the Public Relations chairman. Anyone having articles or photo's for this issue please email them to a PR committeeman by August 5<sup>th</sup>

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

**1.08 V.A. & R. Chairman Green** report The VA&R Commission held a workshop in January during the Mid-Winter Convention in Albany with many people in attendance. The workshop was focused on the programs and information available to our Veterans and how we as Son's can assist our Vets by becoming more familiar with these programs. We also were fortunate to have the Department Chairman in attendance to add his support, Insight and answered many questions. Again this year the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion in New York State joined forces for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk-A- Thon which was held on April 13 in most areas around the State. And I am pleased to announce \$20,359.00 was raised from 50 different individuals, Squadrons, Units and County organizations. This money has been divided up by the Detachment and the Department Auxiliary each receiving \$10,150, with \$59 to be held for next year's event start up. The Detachments portion of these funds was distributed between the 13 Veterans Administrative Medical Centers in New York State, the 5 New York State Veterans Homes and the Fisher House in Albany.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a few organization that raised \$1,000 or more:

Windsor Terrace Sq. 1175 & Friends	\$1,495.00
Hudson Falls Sq. 574	\$3,400.00
Albany Co. Posts, Units & Friends	\$4,026.00
Ontario Co. Posts, Units & Friends	\$4,900.00

This year the Commission received three applications for the William P. O'Connell scholarship and I am pleased to announce the winner of the \$1,000.00 scholarship is Joel Shaver of Downsville NY

This year's VA&R donation winners based on the consolidated reports are

Squadrons under 150:	Squadrons over 150:
3 <sup>rd</sup> place= Vestal Sq. 89	3 <sup>rd</sup> place= Chili Sq. 1830
2 <sup>nd</sup> place= Hickey Sq. 120	2 <sup>nd</sup> place= Parish Sq. 457
1 <sup>st</sup> place= Larchmont Sq. 347	1 <sup>st</sup> place= Westcott Sq. 17

Although our administration year is coming to an end, please remember our Veterans need are not, there are many homeless and veterans in need, and they don't end by a calendar so please reach out to them.

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

**1.09 PDC Gibbs** reported he has no written report. He and the commander have had a few phone conversations and the Commander is doing a good job.

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

**1.10 The 2<sup>ND</sup> District Commander DeAngelis** reported since the Mid-Winter Conference, the 2<sup>nd</sup> district sons have been keeping busy, starting with on march 3<sup>rd</sup> we attended the Past County Commanders dinner for Kings County held at the El Caribe with myself being one of the honorees. In April we attended the American Legion Youth recreation facility dinner at Gargulos restaurant in Coney Island raising money for American Legion baseball. On April 28 we held our annual fundraiser for the Brooklyn Memorial Day parade at the salty dog restaurant attended by 6 squadron's. The Sons Kings County Color Guard participated in the annual Law and Order awards night, Cypress Hills National Cemetery on the Sunday before Memorial Day and also marching in the 145<sup>th</sup> Brooklyn Memorial Day parade. Immediately following the parade we attended the Floyd Bennett Post memorial ceremony and BBQ held by Past Detachment Commander John Rogers. On May 31<sup>st</sup> we attended the Kings County Auxiliary Installation also held at the Floyd Bennett Post. Many Squadrons attended the Kings County Convention held at Saint Finbars gymnasium where son's staff was installed by the Kings County Commander Mike Rodriguez. Kings County Sons helped and participated in Rolling Thunders 14<sup>th</sup> Annual veterans Recognition day ride and BBQ held on June 23 at the Bay Ridge Post where money raised was donated to Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Most squadrons in the district held there annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ's which I attended 3 on that day. On June 31 we did a used clothing drive and dropped all goods off at the Vietnam Veterans of America's fundraiser party held at greenwood parks beer garden were 2 box trucks were loaded with household goods and clothing.....and I feel very honored by each squadrons membership chairman for getting their dues transmittals out on time bringing us to 1<sup>st</sup> place as a district.....we are aggressively getting ready for our C&Y fundraiser coming up just before mid-winter .....Wising all of you another successful year in your programs

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

**1.11 The 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander DeRusso** reported Detachment Commander John, members of the Executive Committee, SAL members, Advisors, Legion family, & guests, welcome to Niagara Falls. This past year has seen the 3<sup>rd</sup> District once again bring home many squadrons with 100% membership including Rensselaer County. I would like to take this tie & thank all who not only made the 100%, but to all of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District squadrons for all their efforts in membership. I would also like to thank Bob Myrtle for all of his hard work as 3<sup>rd</sup> District Adjutant. Once again we pressed home & made several accomplishments in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District from our very own District adjutant Bob Myrtle pushing SAL squadrons to get formed to many, many fund raisers in support of our different Counties, Cities, & Towns, not only for our residents but also our Veterans, Wounded Worrier Project, the Stratton VA, & Boys State just to name a few. My thanks go out to all for their hard work in all their fund raisers & keep up the good work. I would also like to take this time to say to Rensselaer County Adjutant Chris Gulley, don't appreciate the scare but thank God you are still with us, for those of you that didn't know, Chris was involved in a severe motor Vehicle accident where Chris was stopped on his motorcycle for a school bus & was not only struck from behind but literally run over by the vehicle pinning him under the vehicle. Chris is on his way back to good health, Chris, Gods speed & God bless. John, I would like to say that it has been my privilege serving as your 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander, all the best to you & your family & I look forward to working with you in the future.

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

- 1.12 **The 4<sup>th</sup> District vice Commander Williams** reported Five Counties over 100%, Warren, Fulton, Clinton, Washington and Saratoga, 4<sup>th</sup> District is in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at 100.65%. Commander Ike Bosford mad all visitations in Fourth District. Squadron 20; Sons placed flags on Graves and replaced worn and tater flags. Also gave 2 Scholarships for \$500.00 each to members that are going to Collages. Squadron 1619; Sons put on a Rabbit Derby in March, Served Dinner to a full house of Guest and Contestants. Donated food to 120 families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Squadron 1618; The Sons donated chicken BBQ monies to Local charities. Squadron 912; Sponsored 1 boy for Boys State \$300.00. Also Blood drives and Visitation to Nursing home for about 39hrs. Squadron 504; Sons Sponsored kids Halloween and Christmas party at a cost of \$300.00 and cooked all Holiday meals. Squadron 701; Sons Held Annual Chicken Bake to raise Funds for Commander's project. Squadron 1450; Donated \$2000.00 to local High School for Student Lunches. Sponsored 2 boys for Boy's State and 1 for Girls Stated @ \$300.00 for each. Man Hours worked is over 1000 hours at many events. Sons Boberser Bake is Aug 10.

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

- **The Meeting was recessed by Commander Rogers at 11:40AM.**
- **The Meeting was reconvened by Commander Rogers at 1:20PM.**

- 1.13 **5<sup>th</sup> District Commander Burtch** reported; that Membership is in good shape, thank Onondaga for being over 100%. Onondaga has been very active with chicken BBQ's Clam Bakes and other functions. Oneida County put on our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual wounded warrior golf tournament and raised \$4,000. Onondaga and Oneida Counties sponsored two boys for Boys State. Donations made from the District, \$100.00 to Scouting, \$405.00 to CWF, \$100.00 to Special Olympics, \$570.00 to other C&Y Projects. \$100.00 to Veterans Homes, \$100.00 to Fisher House, \$750.00 to other V.A. &R. Projects and \$2,000 to other projects.

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

- 1.14 **6<sup>th</sup> District Commander Hodge** reported as your Outgoing 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander it's been an amazing 2 years. Have met allot of nice people and seen allot of great things. Commander John it's been a great year for you and it's been an honor being with you this year. Would like to wish the new 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander Wayne Ainslie Good luck. And last I made out good on my Commanders Project; I gave the Oxford Vets Home \$1,445 for the tree of life, Thanks for your support.

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

- 1.15 **7<sup>th</sup> District Commander Parks** reported I am very proud of all my Squadrons and County Organizations with all they have done through the years. As you know I support my Vets and Children throughout my entire District on my Bike as a District Commander, Legion Rider and also a PGR member, check out the 7<sup>th</sup> District Facebook site. Donations that have been made include \$100.00 for Fisher House, \$100.00 to CWF, and \$100.00 towards the Walk-a-thon.

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

- 1.16 **8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Kuczenski** reported since my report at mid-Winter I have attended the following activities: I was able to attend 5 out of eight Commander Visitations. Due to employment responsibilities I was unable to attend Wyoming, Orleans and Genesee County Visitations. I attended Chautauqua SAL County Meetings from January thru May and attended the SAL County Convention at Dunkirk Post 62 on June 1st.

I presided over the final two SAL 8th District Meeting at Niagara and Chautauqua. Due to a family commitment I was unable to attend the 8th District Convention at South Buffalo Post #721. In March I attended ROTC Seneca Battalion Spring 2013 and presented the William P. O'Connell Memorial award to a MS III Cadet. Memorial Day Weekend I attended three Memorial Services and participated in two parades. I completed mailing for membership, attended local fund raisers and during the past year donated 12 hours of entertainment for various Children and Youth, Legion and SAL Functions.

Membership

The 8<sup>th</sup> District, as of 7-12-2013 had membership of 4839 which is 95.56 of our 2012-2013 quotas of 5064 and is currently in 9th place.

County Membership

Cattaraugus	1191	102.41%
Wyoming	259	100.78%
Chautauqua	1396	94.90%
Erie	916	92.99%
Niagara	317	92.96%
Allegany	513	91.12 %
Orleans	100	90.91%
Genesee	147	90.74%
Canada	0	0.00%

I will begin writing letters remind squadrons to get their OCF in and mail any remaining 2013 membership and any 2014 membership.

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

**1.17 10<sup>th</sup> District vice Commander Mezzapelle read 10<sup>th</sup> District Commander Walpole's** report; since my last report, members of Squadrons in the 10<sup>th</sup> District have participated in many events, and have been visible and active in the many communities throughout the 10<sup>th</sup> District. Some of these events include Memorial Day Parades and ceremonies, visiting VA Hospitals and NYS Veterans Homes, flagging graves, hosting fund-raisers, and visiting students in local schools to educate them on Americanism and Flag Etiquette. The members of our organization are always well-received in our communities, and have become and will remain a driving force for many local activities. As of July 12, 2013, the 10<sup>th</sup> District is in 10th Place in membership, with our current percentage being 97.38%; accounting for 1,032 out of our 1,108 member goal. I do anticipate a last minute surge of dues transmittals that will bring the District to at least its goal of 100%. I am sorry I am unable to attend this year's Detachment Convention, but my work has taken me to the State of Georgia. I have asked 10<sup>th</sup> District Adjutant, Roy Mezzapelle, to deliver this report to the membership, in my absence. The 10<sup>th</sup> District remains committed to our cause, and I thank the membership for all they do for our organization and our veterans. I also thank and congratulate Commander John Knapp for his leadership, guidance, commitment, and vision throughout the 2012-2013 year; we have achieved much under his leadership

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

**1.18 Historian Mezzapelle** reported for the 2012-2013 year, my goal was to document the travels, activities, and accomplishments of our Commander as he represented the great Detachment of New York during his visitations, meetings, conferences, and conventions. As I was unable to travel to all the places the Commander did, I asked you, the membership, for your assistance in capturing his travels in the form of photographs or video, so that I may compile it as the year went along. I would like to thank those of you who sent me material, and ask that you keep it coming, as the Commander's year isn't quite over yet, and there are several Counties noticeably absent from the book. If you have photographs or news articles you'd like to have

included in the book, please see me during our time here in Niagara Falls. I consider the book a work-in-progress until the end of the National Convention. It's obvious that our Commander, as well as the Department Commander and President, represented us well this past year as they traveled to every County in New York State. They delivered their messages, worked to achieve the goals they set for their projects, and continued to grow our Legion Family one member at a time. As is evident from the materials I received regarding the Commander's visitations, the pace was fast and focused; it was all about service to our Veterans – past and present. I thank you all for your assistance in helping me achieve my goals, and congratulate all of you on your accomplishments for the year as well. To Commander Knapp, well done! Thank you for taking this past year to further dedicate yourself to our Organization and our Veterans. You are a force to be reckoned with, and it was a privilege to serve as Detachment Historian for 2012-2013.

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

- 1.19 **Chaplain Coates** report was read by Acting Chaplain Burtch the following Get Well cars were sent;

CEC Louisiana, Camille

Debbie Yerdon

Linda Weegar

Past Detachment Commander Mike Rowald

Department of NY Adjutant Richard Pedro

The following Condolence Cards were sent:

The Family of Bruce Beebe, Squadron 1700

Al Carpenter for the death of Al's Sister

Beth Gullo for the passing of her husband Ron Gullo, Squadron 428

Greg Falco for the loss of Greg's father

May our prayers go out to those who are ill in body and/or spirit and to the families and friends of those no longer with us!

I would like to remind everyone to please review the list of names to be read during our Squadron Everlasting Ceremony tomorrow. Please write in additions to the list as needed. In closing I would like to say that I am sorry I am not able to be with you this year. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Detachment Chaplain for these past four years and I sincerely thank Chris Burtch for standing in for me during this difficult time.

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

- 1.20 **Acting Judge Advocate Downey** reported there has been nothing that came to me. Some are mailing to Albany. Please send them to me. There was \$105 collected from the skins game and it was all donated the CWF.

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

- 1.21 **Leading Candidate for National Commander; Joseph Gladden (MD) was introduced by N.E.C. Ketchum.** Candidate Gladden spoke about he became a member of the Sons of The American Legion. Since then has made a lot of friends in the Sons. He stated that you do more for friends than for strangers. I went to my first meeting and started to hear about all these programs that the membership is supporting and sponsoring, I.E. CWF, CMN, NEF, V.A. &R., Americanism, and C&Y. Those things did not mean that much to me at the time. It was through the friendships that I actually learned about the programs and started work on them. I then started to learn what true Americanism is. I learned that our Veterans are what true Americanism is. What they have done for our County and the sacrifices that they made is what Americanism is about. I never had conversations with my dad about what he did during the War. I found out that he was an M.P. in Germany. I learned that my Fathers service was important. My project next year will be the

American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Commander Knapp presented candidate Gladden with a check for his campaign fund from the Detachment.

- **The Commander Recessed the Convention for Lunch, we will reconvene at 1:15PM**

**1.22 V/C Santa-Croce** reported well, it's been 8 ½ months since Sandy wreaked havoc with portions of all five counties in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Districts. As you look at the progress being made in these areas, it ranges from complete restoration to "nothing has changed" from that October 29<sup>th</sup> day. In our five counties, most of the beachfront areas and the related businesses have reopened, except for some that just decided to close down. Gary Denmon will be happy to know that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Nathan's Hot Dog eating contest was held in Coney Island. Also half of the New York Aquarium in Coney Island was reopened but will not be fully available until 2016. In Staten Island, you see the progress that has been made, but then you realize there are neighborhoods in New Dorp Beach and Oakwood Beach that are still waiting to find out whether the State is going to declare their homes condemned and buy them out. Meanwhile these properties remain as they were on October 30<sup>th</sup>. In the aftermath of the storm, Sons from the Cespino-Russo and Granito-Smith Squadrons did great work in the community distributing food and baby supplies in these areas. In Queens, while some residents in Rockaway are back in the homes, some are not and the people in Breezy Point are still waiting to find out how the government is going to help them after the Sandy-related fire destroyed over 200 homes in this beach community. The sticking point in these areas is waiting for the federal government to decide if the residents have to rebuild their houses a certain number of feet off the ground. If that decision is made, it would force the residents to comply with the law or face ridiculous increases in the insurance. Nassau & Suffolk Counties, for the most part are back to normal, but don't tell that to the people in Long Beach who are still awaiting help in getting their neighborhoods rebuilt. Most noteworthy in this area was the effort of members of the Babylon Squadron, who banded together to make emergency repairs on houses in their community. As for the American Legion, all five counties are basically back to normal in scheduling their activities. In Queens, the repairs to the Broad Channel and Rockaway Legion Halls have been ongoing and the Halls are in use, even though the work continues. The Oceanside Post in Nassau County suffered major water damage on their first floor, but repairs have been made and the building has reopened. In all, 198 grants were approved under the National Emergency Fund with over \$120M distributed to Posts and members of the Legion families.

As for my activities: **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**- 4 Chaplain's Service at Fort Hamilton Army Base **March 3<sup>rd</sup>**- Legion Family Past Officers Dinner was held in King's County where last year's Commanders of the Legion and Sons were honored in addition to the Auxiliary President. **March 16-17<sup>th</sup>**- The Department Officers were hosted by Nassau and Suffolk Counties as the Visitations cancelled last November were held. **April 13<sup>th</sup>**- I attended the Legion's CWF Fundraiser **May 26<sup>th</sup>**- I was an invited guest and gave an address at the King's County Memorial Day commemoration at Cypress Hills National Cemetery. **May 27<sup>th</sup>**- The annual Memorial Day Parade was held in Bay Ridge Brooklyn. Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons marched together. Color Guard was made up by 3 Sons.

**June 12<sup>th</sup>**- Attended the Wounded Warriors Dinner in Richmond County. My squadron purchased a table along with the George Washington Squadron. The event was organized by the Richmond County Knights of Columbus and the united Veterans' Organization of Staten Island. Over 650 people attended the event with over \$23,000 was raised. A guest at the dinner was Bryan Dilberian, a young man from my neighborhood who played basketball and baseball with our Sports program as a young teen. Bryan is a triple amputee from his service in Afghanistan. He will be the second recipient in New York City of a customized "Smart Home", which will be built for him in a joint effort of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation

and the Homes for Heroes Foundation. The house will be built in Staten Island and the funding is already in place.

Membership- District 2 did a nice job of getting the membership in and was the first district in the Detachment to reach 100% for the year. At the other end of the spectrum we have the 10<sup>th</sup> District that had a tough year with membership, which could be Sandy-related. Both Districts did great in signing up new members as a combined 183 new members were signed up this year. This doesn't sound like much, but you have to realize that number represents 10% of the combined membership of the two Districts. But, what this also indicates is that we are having trouble with renewals as we have over 250 members that did not renew their membership. Again, this could be Sandy-related but in our area we do have a different issue that, as the younger Sons get older, they eventually move out of the city and lose contact with their Squadrons. We have to do a much better job in retaining our existing members. In Kings County we have been able to extend their activities and we have also co-sponsored more events with the Legion and the Auxiliary. In 2013, the Kings County Sons contributed \$1,250, to CWF and over \$2,800, to the Walkathon with the help of the ladies of the Auxiliary. While accomplishments are good in the County, it is achieved the hard work of a core of dedicated individuals. We need to reach out to our squadrons and get more people involved with County activities. I've already had conversations with the incoming County Commander to work on plans to achieve this goal. As most of you know, my wife, Marie, endured a bout with leukemia, spending a good portion of 2011 in New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Now, two years later, she's doing great after undergoing a stem cell transplant. Marie has been working closely with the hospital to find ways to make the hospital stay for patients in the transplant unit a little more pleasant. While they're working these ideas, one goal she had has come to fruition. Last month we purchased 10 Josh Dogs and delivered them to the Komansky Center for Children's Health at New York-Presbyterian on behalf of the Windsor Terrace Squadron and Auxiliary. The staff is being judicious in handing out of the dogs and wants to present them to children that they think will benefit the most from the "story of Josh."

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

- 1.23 V/C Depo reported; Squadron 20, The Sons worked a Chicken & Biscuit dinner for the benefit of the American Legion. They worked about thirty hours on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Flag retirement day dinner, the Sons cooked a Spaghetti dinner on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Sons worked Thirty-two hours. Bottle Drive was held on May 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> the Sons worked Twenty-two hours. These three events were worked the Legion family. The Sons attended the Flag retirement service at Post 20, also attended the Memorial Day service. Two Scholarships of \$500.00 were given out this past June. Two Sons from Squadron 20 received them. The Legion family is coming together very nicely and is working great to get things back to the way they were. The Sons sponsored three dart teams \$150.00. The American Legion family has formed a committee to bring events to the Post, so far the Sons have worked 120 hours the same as the Legion and Auxiliary.

Squadron 1619

They had their 2013 winter fest in February. The three day event Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Host 5000 people, Adults and Children 400. They had over 2000 people there on Friday night for the fireworks that lasted about 1 hour. Guest speakers were past district Commander Steve Bowman, Membership chairmen Gaither Espey, Detachment vice Commander Chuck Depo, Assemble Women Janet Dupery, Congressman Bill Owens, Town Supervisor Bernie Bissonitt. The Chair People were Irene Rock and Dave Mayatt. Great Job done by all! The number of hours by the Sons was 2000 to 3500 hours. They had skating, sliding, broomball, Hockey, snowball tourney and curling with teams from all over, even Canada. This was a family event. The Community supports this in a big way. They raised \$19,000 and donated \$8,000 to the veteran assists program. This is a great time; if you ever



get a chance to attend do so. They start in September to get ready for February's winter fest. The Sons put on a rabbit Derby in March. Three different Classes, women, men and kids prizes were given out to three places in each class. Moneys made help support, food baskets, Children and Youth, scholarship, Metrical network. The Sons give out about \$4,000 for their projects or more. There number of hours is 600 hrs. There dinner is always a great success. They help with many benefits such as Cancers of all kinds, family in need of food, Medical, almost anything. 1619 Squadron does a great job working with Auxiliary, Legion and Legion Riders. A great Legion family

#### Squadron 1618

The Sons work at the Post doing whatever is asked of them from Cooking, serving, attending funerals. They also donate to Charity's and to their Community in any way they can. They also have two annual Chicken Bar-B-Qs the Money made goes for Charity's. About 350 hours worked by the Sons donated to Boys State.

#### Squadron 912

They sponsors Boys State \$300.00. They do Blood drives about 42 hours. They also visit the nursing homes, 39 hours and just helped put a new parking lot in for the Legion. They Donated 6 Scholarships to NNCS of \$250.00 each. \$250.00 to the food shelf and \$300.00 to an accident victim in their Community, \$150.00 to the Youth Commissions, \$100.00 to NNCS outdoors project and \$2,450.00 for relay for life. They worked around the post doing odd jobs about 800 hours

#### Squadron 504

The Sons work all the Legion Holiday events, Memorial Day, Veteran Day, Flag retirement service, plus participate on Color Guard for funerals. Sons Co-sponsored the Children's Halloween and Christmas parties cost \$300.00. The Sons sponsored there annual golf tournament for their Scholarship of \$500.00. They cook the annual Chicken Bar-B-Q, cabin fever night. The whole town comes out for this event. The Sons work to raise funds for little league and youth Soccer. They held a TV raffle and raised \$400.00. The number of hours they worked was 394.

#### Squadron 701

Squadron helps out with their annual Christmas dinner. They severed over 1,200 meals with total hours 1,300. They hold their annual Chicken Bake/Poker run to raise funds for their project, Scholarship; they have Boys State, \$300.00. They also have a breakfast for the Boys going to Boys State. They hold Sunday cook-outs at the post. They do Various Chicken bakes for Charity.

#### Squadron 1450

They did an Easter egg hunt and severed Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. There Breakfast severed about 150-300 people the Community really supports Squadron 1450. They help children in foster care with clothing and essentials. They donate money to local High Schools around \$2,000.00 that goes for lunches for students who might not meet the criteria to get a nice lunch while at school. They also sponsor Boy Stat, \$300.00. The number of hours worked by this Squadron is 1,000 to 1,500 at their breakfast and Chicken and Lobster bakes

The Third District; Squadron 1520, they had their Albany County Walk-a-thon and Raised \$4,175

#### Squadron 11

Has two raffles going one for their Blue Berry festival and one for their local play house

#### Squadron 111

Quarterly food shopping for family of 11 spending at least \$150.00 each time. Purchasing and receiving (through donations) contents for Holiday bags these are assembled and delivered to the Five Senior Citizen homes in the Ellenville area along with bags for each person in the local Hospital 20 items are given to each person. They also do the placing of Flags on graves of Veteran in five cemeteries. Two scholarships were presented to Graduating Seniors for meeting Son's Scholarship requirements. An annual Donation was made to the Auxiliary holiday toy fund.

Donations were made to the Detachment of New York Walk-a-Thon. Have held raffles for a 4 wheeler, Large screen, TV's GPs, VCR's and cash awards Sunday Breakfast are held in Conjunction with the Legion and Auxiliary members. Coin drops are held one to two times a year to collect monies for our various functions. Provided Money to help send a young girl (who won an essay contest) to meet the President of the United States. They helped in the cleanup of the local cemeteries. Provide school Children with community service hours by including them in breakfast and flag placement/removal activities. They donated \$1000.00 to Ellenville High school playground committee and Provided Donations to the American Legion Child welfare foundation.

Squadron 1683

They held two dinners, organized their own walk-a-thon, placed and removed flags on Veterans graves for Memorial Day and Marched in their Memorial Day parade. They also participated in a Christmas in July party to benefit St. Margaret's Children's Center in Albany. They were proud to donate an I-pad with Bluetooth keyboard, and case to the Fisher House in Albany, a \$500.00 check to Team Albany Adaptive Sports at the Stratton VA and also \$600.00 worth of Wal-Mart gift cards to Volunteer Services also at the VA.....They are looking forward to another full year in 2014.

I attended all visitations in the Fourth and Third District. I also attended all Legion County and Sons Meetings. I have also worked on Membership with Gaither Espey trying to get our District at number one. The third also doing fine, the times are hard for Membership. I am also on the Americanism committee and pass out essay forms at local high school Grades 1-5 also talking about Son's Scholarships trying to get more students to apply that Qualify. I attended Legion Birthday, Veterans Day dinner, Flag Retirement, Memorial Day Ceremonies, Help with thanks giving food Baskets and Christmas food Baskets, also help put Flags on the Graves of our Veterans at Local Cemeteries. I attend POW-MIA Memorial service in Clinton County. I attended the Clinton County Oratorical, District, and Department Oratorical. I attended the National Commander Dinner also attended the Spring Conference.

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

- 1.23 **V/C Green** reported I am proud to report that as of July 12<sup>th</sup> Membership report, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts combined for 9714 members transmitted for 2013. We currently have one Squadron that has not transmitted membership and according to the records they transmitted their last membership in August of Last year so hopefully this is a pattern. I am very familiar with this Post and they as many have experienced declined membership, and in fact many of the Post members are dual members to keep the SAL going until they see better times. Never the less I will be visiting this Post this coming week and once again offer my assistance in restoring a strong Squadron. As of Oct 15<sup>th</sup> there were 12 Squadrons in our two Districts that hadn't submitted their OCF's. These forms are our directory for the Districts and only with them can we support strong membership, therefore I encourage all of you at the Squadron Levels to ask, "Did we submit our OCF?" I was fortunate to make all but one visit in the 5<sup>th</sup> District with Commander John and District Commander Chris, with my apologies going to Oneida County which I missed due to family obligation. I'll be honest, we have been dealing with a sticky situation in one county for some time now and I wasn't really looking forward to the visit. But as many of you know it's not always a party, sometime we have to roll up our sleeves and get down to business, So I would like to thank District Commander Chris, Commander John and Legion Vice Commander Dale Dingman for their efforts as we may finally be close to a resolution. Without going through the total itinerary I would like to say I enjoyed each visit throughout Herkimer, Lewis, Jefferson, Oswego and Onondaga Counties and extended my total appreciation and thanks to all the people who put in countless hours arranging the wonderful luncheons, tours and dinners.

My visitations throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> district were a little more limited as I attended two counties.

On a personal note, I attended the National Convention in Indy in August.

In closing I would like to say thank you for letting me serve as your Vice Commander, and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in helping to support our Veterans and our programs.

I would especially like to thank District Commanders Christopher Burtch and Richard Hodge for all their support.

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

- 1.24 **V/C Tyler's report was read by Adjutant Avery**, Due to business related circumstances, just closed on a new property and building Monday. I am unable to be at this Convention meeting of the Sons of The American Legion. Enjoyed touring with Commander Knapp in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District Visitation in February. Membership is still coming in slow, but we are planning to be 100% by National Convention. I attended the 7<sup>th</sup> District home coming for the American Legion Family leaders. Had a nice tour of Phelps post, the home of the new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District vice Commander this year was a busy one with work, Family and Sons events. In closing I had a great time representing the Sons Organization these past two years

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

- 1.25 **Credentials Chairman Alex Anderson** gave the credentials report which indicated 91 registered delegates

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

- 1.26 **Department Commander Van Patten** thanked us for supporting our Legion Post, Programs, Veterans, and his project the NEF fund. Commander Van Patten presented PDC John Rogers with a plaque for his service in helping veteran's process NEF applications during hurricane Sandy.

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

#### **SECOND SESSION – JULY 19, 2013**

- Commander Knapp called the Convention to order at 9:07 AM.
- The Colors being in place, the membership saluted.
- Adjutant Robert Avery read Roll Call of Officers, and Roll Call of Counties, which indicated a quorum, was present.

- 1.27 **Honorary Junior Auxiliary President Erin Green** stated that it has been her pleasure to represent the Department of New York as the Honorary Junior Department President. It seems like just yesterday that I attended my first Department Meeting and was elected as the Historian. At the time I did not know what that meant. Now I am glad that I jump in. Over the past few years I have learned so much. After being elected as the Honorary Junior President in July, It was off to the National Convention in Indianapolis where I was elected as the Nation Vice President. I would like to thank my parents for supporting me, and my grandfather who recently passed away for given me my membership in the American Legion.

- 1.28 **Department President Sally Johnson** stated I bring greetings from our 47,000 strong members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you for all that you have done for our Veterans and their families. I would also like to thank you for all the monies that you have donated to my project. I would like to thank you electing such a great Commander. We have worked as a family throughout the year.

- **Commander Knapp excused the members on the podium for the duration of the Annual Memorial Service.**

- **Acting Chaplain Burtch** 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 22 deceased members.
  - **A motion was made by Broome County to close the registration table which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.29 **A.N.E.C. Denmon** reported First I would like to congratulate our Commander John Knapp on a great year to all of the Commission and Committee members great job on all of your hard work and that has been seen by the Reports that we have had heard. But is the hard work of you the members that have made all of the accomplishment possible. I will touch on a few of the National Items as I know our NEC man Jerry has them also and will touch on more at the Spring NEC, Next year Washington Conf. will take place March 23-26 to find out about how Legislative topic go to Legion.org and click on Legislative Issues. In regards to membership you probably already have your 2014 cards but we need to continue to renew those 2013 cards. I would encourage all squadrons to send their own renewal notices n may over 89,000 post cards were sent out by National. National is working more access to mylegion.org Reporting was also Emphasizes last year. Only 23 Detachments reported. Reporting is one of the most important things that we need to do. So Please keep track all year of what you and Squadrons do, which will make do that report at the end of the year that much easier
- Broome County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.30 **N.E.C. Ketchum** reported as your NEC, in February I attended luncheon and dinner Visitations in Livingston, Monroe and Ontario Counties in the 7<sup>th</sup> District. Also in February I attended the Washington Conference to lobby for our Veterans. While there I had the privilege of seeing National Commander Huntzinger lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, I also had the honor of accompanying Commander Knapp along with the New York Contingent to the Vietnam Wall where he placed a wreath. During the Conference I attended the Public Relations Commission meeting and met with Congressman Tom Reed along with Dave Perry and Legionnaires and Auxiliary members from New York. This was one of the most productive conferences that I have attended in the last few years. I would like to thank our Legislative Chairman, Doc Gibbs for a great job coordinating this for the New York Contingent. In March I attended Hill Day in Albany, I also traveled to Vermont for the unofficial gathering of the Eastern Region Sons and the Homecoming of National vice Commander East John Waite. May, I attended the NEC meeting in Indy, along with the New York NMI attendees. At the NEC Meeting our Candidate for Vice Commander East, Greg “Doc” Gibbs, was appointed to the Children & Youth Commission. Also Commander Knapp presented a donation of \$11,823.00 to the Child Welfare Foundation on behalf of the Detachment of New York. I attended the homecoming of our Department Commander Tim Van Patten in Buffalo. I attended the 7<sup>th</sup> District Flag Education and Retirement Ceremony. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, I had the honor of installing the newly elected Officers of the Turner-Schrader Squadron #34 in Shortsville. On the 14<sup>th</sup> I presented a Flag Education Program to the Children at Honeoye Central School. In closing I would like to thank Commander Knapp for a very productive year and my personal thanks for all he has done for the Child Welfare Foundation within this year. And I’d like to leave you with the information that out of the 5 Detachments in the Nation that have a foreign affiliated Squadron, New York is one of them. Also we have Charted 3 new Squadrons; there 927 Posts in New York 600 of them have Squadron that leaves us a lot of room to grow next year.
- Ontario County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

1.31 **Advisor Arthur** stated the he just had the pleaser of hearing our National Commander Speak. Wow what a speaker. Commander Knapp has done an excellent job this year. I encourage you all to keep up the good work.

1.32 **Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco** gave his report. There have not been too many fines this year; only \$12.00 has been collected. He also thanked his assistances and everyone or their support.

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

1.33 **Adjutant Avery** reported we have heard some great reports this week, and I congratulate all of our Detachment Officers and Commission and Committee members for their hard work and dedication as evidenced by these reports. I just want to touch briefly on a few items this morning:

Membership:

Our membership now stands at 28,222 and we are at 97.4%. We need 758 members for our 100% goal. We are in 38<sup>th</sup> place in the Nation and within the Eastern Region we are 10<sup>th</sup> place. As for renewals as mentioned by others, we are below 87%, which is not good. We always fare better than most in this area, so PLEASE contact these members who have not renewed. As we wrap up this membership year, everyone's assistance is needed in reaching our goal and we need 758 members. Let's be at 100% when we arrive in Houston for National Convention! 2014 cards have already gone out to the Squads that have submitted an OCF, but there are still many Squads without cards. I be forwarding on the current listing to the Membership Chair and the Vice Commanders and District Commander Let's push these Squadrons to submit their OCF as soon as possible please. You may have to physically go to these Posts to assist them in submitting an OCF. As we think about next year....remember the first 2013 Target date is on September 11<sup>th</sup> when you should be at 10% of goal. It will be difficult for Squads to obtain that number without cards. Squadrons should be sending out their initial dues notices for 2014 soon and no later than August. I thank all of our counties that did make their 100% in 1012 (27 to be exact).

National Convention

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will take place in Houston Texas from Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 2013. The Department of New York HQ Hotel is the Hyatt Regency Houston. Room rates are \$126.00/day. All delegates and guests need to forward a completed Housing Form to me no later than July 25<sup>th</sup> which is next Thursday. I want to thank and congratulate our Detachment Commander John on a fantastic year! John has represented up throughout this state at all functions, and I call him the energizer bunny for his fortitude, even with a broken foot. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Adjutant. You have continued in our illustrious line of excellent Detachment Commanders.....Thank you for dedicating a year of your life sir!

I thank all of our Detachment Officers and Commission and Committee members for their hard work.....and I ESPECIALLY want to congratulate all the blue cap members in this Detachment. Let's continue improving ourselves with even more service to our Nation's veterans, our children and youth, and our local communities.

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

1.34 **Commander Knapp** gave his final report. Since Mid-Winter I did my Visitations from Jan 31<sup>st</sup> to Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> t Feb 17<sup>th</sup> attended Washington Conference, Visited Arlington National Cemetery, laid a wreath at the Korean War and World War II Monument and also laid a wreath at the Vietnam wall in Memory of Lester R. Stone Jr. because he and I went to school together and he was a good friend of mine and his mother was a friend of the family for years.... His mother is our Gold Star Mother and she is 87 years old. Lester was killed trying to save his platoon when a machine gun malfunctioned. March 1<sup>st</sup> went to Oratorical Banquet. March 10<sup>th</sup> attended Hill day. March 23<sup>rd</sup> went to Commander Hunsinger Homecoming.

April 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> national Commanders visitations. April 21<sup>st</sup> Sixth District meeting. May 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup> NEC I attended the meetings in Indy. May 14<sup>th</sup> Department Commander Tim Van Patten Homecoming, it was a great party. May 19<sup>th</sup> went to Ontario, N.Y, for a flag retirement ceremony with the 7<sup>th</sup> District this ceremony is outstanding if you can you should go to it. Great job James Parks May 23<sup>rd</sup> I did a POW/MIA table ceremony at Harpursville Elementary School and handed out Flags May 26<sup>th</sup> attended a Memorial Service at Lester Stone Jr. grave; I was in the honor guard. May 27<sup>th</sup> attended a Memorial Day Parade at Maine, NY and Binghamton, NY; June 7<sup>th</sup> – June 9<sup>th</sup> attended Forth District Conference and went to White Face Mountain for a rededication Ceremony, it was nice but a cold and foggy day. June 14<sup>th</sup> attended a Flag retirement at my Post 1390; June 15<sup>th</sup> Department Presidents Homecoming at Lake Placid had a great time went shopping all the little shops; June 23<sup>rd</sup> was Boys State, there was a total of 1220 boy's there it was very interesting, Now a little bit about my year was the best year I could have ever wanted. I did make all 62 counties. Tim, Sally and I all talked about membership and how we are an American Legion Family. We started out down in the city the first tour was 20 days long and it was long. By the time we got into Amsterdam we were looking for a laundry mat to do our laundry. After that is was five days here and there. I see some outstanding places and met some outstanding people. But I was able to see what the squadron out there does to help our Veterans, raising money or just taking them to the Dr. or etc. ....I was asked to be Santa Clause at a Christmas party that I was very happy to do. We still have a little problem getting membership in. We cannot hold them they must be sending in and our COF must get in on time. We need to report all that we do. The tour around your great State was great and all of you that met me at the hotels and at dinners was a good turnout. In the Fourth District the Visitation to the Sanitation you did an outstanding job we got to meet a WWII Veteran and his family. That place is a place to remember we need to put God in everything we do. Coming to my won District was great to see the backing that I got from them. Christmas time was there before I knew it; I was Santa at Oxford and at Roger's Service Group where I was a truck driver. But taking gifts around to the residents at Oxford VA Home and just seen their face was more than words can say and my little helpers was two Son's members under the age of five and they thought that was great to do things for our Veterans. Then it was Mid-Winter Conference and back out on Visitations again, we had to make up five visitations down in the City area because of Sandy and the Northeastern that came through there. The school that my Wife worked at, one young lady did supplies donates for them and my wife's care was packed full of things. I didn't get to see some of the places because of the Storm but next year I am going to try to get to see them. This year went by so fast. I am glad that you had me be your Detachment Commander and I hope you were happy with what I did out there this year. I try to do a good job for the Sons and our County. Thank You all for the support that you gave me.

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

- 1.35 **PDC Neville introduced The American Legion National vice Commander John Nielan (NH).** He stated that it was a pleasure to have Bob introduce him. 15 years ago when Bob was my National vice Commander when I was a Department Commander. We have remained friends throughout the years. I thank you all you have done to support the Sons and the American legion Family.
- 1.36 **National Commander Huntzinger was introduced by N.E.C. Ketchum.** National Commander Huntzinger stated that he wished to thank the dual members and the veterans for their service to our great nation. I started to work for the American Legion in 1985; I did not know much about the organization. In 1988 the Commander of the post I worked at was starting a Squadron and thought I was eligible. I went home and talked with my father and he told me that he would help me in any way he could. I then asked him why he had never joined the American

Legion. He told me that he had never heard of it and no one had ever asked him to join. We have jumped on the bandwagon of just ask. It does work; most people if eligible will join if asked. The hard part is keeping them. That is where education comes in; if you educate them you will more than likely keep them as members. I suggest that you educate yourself by taking the American Legion online extension course. Education is part of one of the four pillars of the American Legion. Education, plus communication, plus motivation equals success. We need to work on membership. Our goal is 105% by national convention. We are currently at approximately 98% nationally. That you for your donations to my project; Fisher House. We are more than a member; we are more than just a person carrying a card; we are more than a nine digit membership identification number; we are that voice; we are a strong and driving force for our American Legion.

- 1.37 **Credentials Chairman Alex Anderson** gave the final credentials report which indicated 94 registered delegates.

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

**2.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF**

None

**3.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 3.01 None

**4.00 NEW BUSINESS**

- 4.01 **A motion was made by Oneida County to present Mr. Pedro an award for his many years of service to the American Legion. The motion was seconded and carried.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- 4.02 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Historian by Roll Call of Counties. Suffolk County nominated Roy Mezzapelle. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Clinton County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Roy Mezzapelle as Historian was carried.**
- 4.03 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Chaplain by Roll Call of Counties. Chautauqua County nominated Bob Ellis. **There being no further nominations, a motion duly made by Albany County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Bob Ellis, was carried.**
- 4.04 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Vice Commander by Roll Call of Counties. Nassau nominated Joe Santa Croce. Ontario County nominated J. Bruce Ruthven. Broome County nominated Richard Hodge. Saratoga County nominated Charles Depo. Westchester County nominated Bill Clancy Jr... **There being no further nominations, a motion made by Otsego County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Joe Santa Croce, J. Bruce Ruthven, Richard Hodge, Charles Depo, and Bill Clancy Jr. as Vice Commanders, was carried.**
- 4.05 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Commander by Roll Call of Counties. St. Lawrence County nominated John Chang. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Oneida County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for John Chang as Commander was carried.**

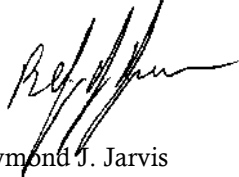
**5.0 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

- 5.01 **A motion was made by Ontario County to support Joseph Gladden for National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. The motion was seconded and carried.**

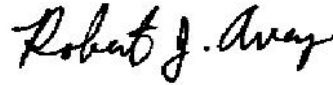
- 5.02 A motion was made by Ontario County to support Robert Turner for the office National vice Commander. The motion was seconded and carried.**
- 5.03** Commander Knapp's homecoming will be August 30, 2013. Reservations must be in by July 27, 2013.
- 5.04** PDC Gibbs announced that he will be running for National vice Commander for the years of 2014-2015.
- 5.05** Gaither Espy announced that he will be running for Detachment Commander for the years 2014-2015.
- There being no further business to come before the Convention, Chaplain Burch 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 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed:



Raymond J. Jarvis  
Assistant Detachment Adjutant



Robert J. Avery  
Detachment Adjutant