

MINUTES OF THE MID-WINTER D.E.C. MEETING

January 26, 2013

The Desmond

Colonie, New York

- New Hartford Squadron #1367 Color Guard posted colors
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco
- Commander John Knapp recited the POW/MIA Ceremony
- Chaplain James Coates offered the Opening Prayer
- Commander Green led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- V/C Joseph Santa Croce led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble
- Commander Knapp called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM
- Adjutant Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guests Present Included:
National V/C East, John Waite (VT), and leading Candidate for National V/C East Robert Turner (CT)

1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 Commander Knapp entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the Fall DEC Meeting as printed with any minor corrections, as noted. The motion was made by 5th District Commander Burtch and seconded by NEC Ketchum, so carried.**

2.00 COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS

- 2.01** Mid-Winter Coordinator, Mark Kearsing welcomed everyone to this year's Mid-Winter and is available if there are questions or problems that may arise.
A motion was made by 6th District Commander Hodge and seconded by Chaplain Coats to accept the report, and was carried.
- 2.02 Americanism Commission Chairman Myrtle;** reported the materials for the Americanism Flag Education program for each District Commander is here and I would like each District Commander or person representing their district to please see me to collect their material to be distributed throughout your Counties. These materials will include the following. Be right on flag Etiquette – Booklet, 8” X 12” United States Flags, Our Country’s flag comic, The Proper Display and Care of our Nation’s Flag – brochure, Flag Education DVD, “America’s Vets DVD and Book, A scripted flag education program. This has been a significant investment on the part of the Detachment so let’s make it pay off by getting the materials out there to squadrons that will use them. Last night at the Holiday Inn the Americanism Commission Judged the “What America means to me” Essay contest for 1st thru 5th graders and we have 4-winners out of 46 essays this year. Our new essay contest “What the Constitution of the United States meant to Americans” this year for 6th, 7th & 8th graders can be downloaded from the Sons web site, www.sonsdny.org so please help get the word out. Scholarships – Michael L. Lewis Jr., Virginia and Rocco Memorial, William P. O’Connell applications can be downloaded from our web site. We will also be purchasing Flag lapel pins for Boys State again this year. And, finally, encourage all squadrons to submit a consolidated report this year. Support Boys State, Scouting, take part in a flag retirement ceremony, report your members hours of community service., Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities and all of the many other activities that The Sons of the American Legion do throughout the State.
A motion was made by Historian Mezzapelle and seconded by ANEC Denmon to accept the Americanism report, and was carried.
- 2.03 Children & Youth Acting Chairman Hodge Gave Chairmen Armbrust’s report;** I am sorry I could be there for mid -winter. I would like to touch on something as right now we have \$4,305.60 in Child Welfare donations. If everyone squadron put in a \$1 per member we would be over

\$20,000 dollars right now. I never can figure out why we hesitate to make this happen it not lot money for each squadron to do this. The program that donations are given to every year goes to a good cause. I like to know how many squadron have purchase the Josh Dogs this another great thing to do you are helping out kids. Are commander John Knapp is on road everyday looking for donation to his projects and one of the is Child Welfare and think \$4,305.60 is good for project it's not so please help are commander out as he working hard for are organizations. You also have piggy banks that you can get free and put them on the bar in your legion this money could help you make your goal of \$1 per member. So let get the word out and help are commander make over \$20,000 dollars. Also finally do not forget get out to I Hop on February 5, 2013 from 7pm to 10pm for a donation to Children Miracle Network you get a short stack of pancake so please mark your calendar. Let's make are goal so we can finally get that pony tail and watch that head get shave for commander and his wife.

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

- 2.04 VA & R Commission Chairman Green** reported; the project this year for the National Legion and Son's Commanders is Operation Comfort warriors. This is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. OCW ensures that patients at U.S. military hospitals and warrior transition units are given items like sweat suite, DVDs, puzzles, electronic devices, books, calling cards and more. OCW also provides larger items such as ping pong tables, entertainment centers, computers, kayaks and other recreational goods for use by wounded warriors in common areas. <http://www.legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors>

Walk-A-Thon

Again this year the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion in New York State have joined forces for the 6th Annual Walk-A-Thon to benefit the 13 Veterans administrative Medical Centers in New York State, the 5 New York State Veterans Homes, and the Fisher House in Albany. To help support the needs of veterans returning from areas of conflict from across the globe, the Walk-A-Thon will be held all across New York State on April 13, 2013. It will take place in all the major metropolitan areas as well as other cities and towns in New York State. The public is encouraged to participate. Please seek out the support of community organizations such as Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. Local 4H organizations collage fraternities and sororities for example. We have a goal of raising at least \$120,000.00 during this day which can be obtained by pledges, donations from individuals and business. With your support and love for our country this figure can easily be doubled. All donations and pledges need to be sent to: Detachment of New York sons of the American Legion, 112 State Street, Suite 1300, Albany, New York 12207 Please make out all checks payable to, Detachment of New York Sons of the American Legion and put in the memo line Walk-A-Thon. For more information on how to organize a walk-a-thon in your area please contact Vince Green at vgreen31@twcny.rr.com

A motion made V/C Green and seconded by 8th District Commander Kuczenski to accept the VA&R, report was carried.

- 2.05 Legislative Commission Chairman Gibbs** reported; we are in the process of making early plans for the On-the-Hill visitation to Washington, DC. If you are thinking of going please let me know and I will help to coordinate the rooms and roommates, the box lunch order and the Detachment wreath laying ceremony. The tentative dates for this coming year are Sunday February 24th through Wednesday 27th 2013. We will also be in Albany for the State on-the-hill days on March 11-12. The fall 2012 elections have had everyone campaigning and action on issues has been slow to recover from that political process. Many of the issues have not yet been formalized for the February visitation to our congressmen but it will likely come from the "Our Pillars, Your Platform" document prepared by Ken Governor the Legion Legislative Chairman. This document is available by going to the Legion website. Please go to www.legion.org for this document. Issues surrounding the Legion's four main Pillars will no doubt be the focus. Under Pillar #1: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – issues include protection the VA budget from any reductions, boosting VA construction projects. Speeding up delivery of electronic health records, reducing delay in disability evaluation systems, improving access to health care in rural areas, addressing environmental exposure issues, and increase VA staffing to help with claims backlogs. The Legion supports work opportunity tax credits, the Keystone XL pipeline project, aid to

veterans for education, homelessness and small business opportunities. They are also out front supporting better services for female veterans and a women veteran's outreach program. Under Pillar #2: is National Security, a very big issue with the Legion, and they obviously support a strong national; defense, including appropriate spending levels to keep the military ready, this includes homeland security, immigration enforcement, and a full accounting for American POW/MIAs.

Under Pillar #3: Americanism – the Legion backs flag protection, eliminating illegal immigration, supporting voter registration and participation.

In the area of Children and Youth, the 4th Pillar, Legion supports legislation that will keep child pornography laws strong, they support legislation that will help to provide assistance to families with children who suffer catastrophic illnesses, and also support early intervention for children with intellectual disabilities. The Legion is against media violence, drug abuse, and sexual exploitation of children, and supports family integrity and many family networks around the Country. Several resolutions authored by the National Sons Legislative Commission will be presented at the Spring NEC meeting. They are in the formulation stage but will likely be: 1) supporting the stolen valor act; 2) support to eliminate the widows and disabled veterans tax issues; 3) a resolution supporting the limiting of hate speeches at veterans' funerals. Look for these items to form the basis of the Legion's stand on legislative issues. The election this November may also focus specific actions. Encourage everyone you can to register and vote this year especially our youth. Getting them involved in our Country's legislative issues early on is good for us all. Helping to provide transportation to the polling areas for the elderly of shut in can be one way we can serve. Look for more information to come your way from in the coming months as the platforms become more focused on specific bills and actions within the legislature.

A motion made by 5th District Commander Burtch and seconded by Chaplain Coates to accept the report, was carried.

- 2.06 PDC Robert Neville** introduced The Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Daniel Dellinger (VA). I am a 26 year member of Sons of the American Legion. I would like to thank you for the work you do helping with Veterans issues and helping at Veterans Hospitals.
- 2.07 Department Staff: Membership Coordinator, Paul DeLair addressed the DEC and membership in attendance.** He stated that the membership needs to be transmitted in a timely fashion, please do not hold on to membership and work on retention.
Department Staff: Program Coordinator, Annie Wilsey addressed the DEC and membership in attendance. She stated that we need to get our OCF turned in in a timely fashion. She also spoke about how to go about getting a new charter or reinstating a squadron.
- 2.08 Webmaster Walpole** reported that the web site has been moved to a new server. If you are having issues please contact him. He will need to know exactly what the problem is so that it can be addressed. The site is always a work in progress. A detachment video contest is being kicked off today. Rules are as follows; 2 to 3 minutes in length you must discuss how the Sons help are Veterans, and Children and Youth. The prize will be \$100.
A motion was made by 10th District Commander Walpole and seconded by Historian Mezzapelle to accept the report, was carried.
- 2.09 8th District Commander Kuczenski** reported I attended the National Commander visitation at Hamburg Post 527 on October 26 and presented the National Commander a check for \$100. Due to work responsibilities I was unable to attend the Fall DEC meeting. November 11th I participated in a Veterans Day ceremony at Post 1286. On Dec. 2nd I held an SAL 8th District Meeting at Post #575 in Bergen, NY , Genesee County. I will hold the next SAL 8th District meeting Feb. 3rd at LaSalle Post #1142, Niagara Falls in Niagara County.
Visitations:
I plan on making visitations in 5 counties', Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Niagara and Erie County. I will be unable to attend Wyoming County's visitation due to work requirements. The 2nd week's visitation schedule use to be from Thursday to Sunday. This year's Visitation schedule for week two will be Tuesday to Friday. I will be unable to attend Orleans and Genesee Counties visitation due to available vacation time.
I have asked my staff if anyone could fill in for me on those dates.

Membership: I had a bad time accessing current membership total since late November. I finally called and I received the 1/14/2013 totals. I wish to thank Paul at Headquarters for that information. The 8th District, as of 1/14/13 had membership of 2254 which is 44.07% of our 2012-2013 quotas of 5115 and is currently in 9th place. I'm in the middle of sending reminders to all Squadron Commanders in the 8th District. I hope to have this completed by the 1st week of February.

County Membership: Wyoming 46.33%, Erie 47.52%, Cattaraugus 62.07%, Niagara 35.10%, Orleans 40.18%, Chautauqua 26.40%, Genesee 45.12%, Allegany 53.16%, and Canada 0.00%. There are 16 Squadrons that have not transmitted since last year. Phone calls are being made to those squadrons. I have written letters that informs the squadrons what they owe. I also reminded them to send membership in monthly and listed Target dates.

A motion was made by 8th District Commander Kuczenski and seconded by V/C Tyler to accept the report, was carried.

- 2.10 Judge Advocate Downey** reported; I have no report, I have not received anything.
A motion made by V/C Farrell and seconded by V/C Depo to accept the report, was carried.
- 2.11 Public Relations Commission Chairman J. Bruce Ruthven** reported; Communications – Why do so many of us have a problem with it. Look at our everyday lives – family, friends and at work most of us don't do very well communicating. No wonder when it comes to communicating our programs and project within the American Legion we fail. But, there are a lot of our American Legion family members and community members who don't know who we are, what we do or what our programs are. If we continue to not tell them they will never learn. So, what can we do? We must instill in ourselves that as a part of our program we must publish and communicate everything we are doing. National American Legion is looking for a new "Tagline" and wants your help. Information on how you can win a \$500.00 cash prize if they accept your tagline is at tagline@legion.org Deadline for submissions is April 19, 2013. Social media is an effective tool we can all use to promote Public Relations in our Squadron or American Legion Family. You can learn how to use this "Social Media" thing today at 2:15 pm. The Detachment Public Relations Commission will be putting on a seminar on Social Media. Ken Kraetzer will be talking about the SAL radio program and how it educates and informs the public about a wide range of American Legion programs. He will also fill you in on how you can listen to the program over the internet. John Walpole Jr. will teach us everything you wanted to know about social media but were afraid to ask. Some of your questions like – What is it? What will it do for us? How do we use it? Will be answered or bring your own question. Public Relations are communications that involves promoting a positive image for our group. Some of your main goals should be to create, maintain and protect our organization's reputation, enhance its prestige and present favorable image through social media. Don't let your hard work go un-noticed. Let the public know what the Sons of the American Legion does and how they support the causes and programs of the American Legion. When our communities, current and future members see our organization shown in a positive light they are more likely to back our causes. Take pride in belonging or willing to fill out an application. Good public relations equal new members! The Mid-Winter issue of the Liberty is at the Public Relations table. Thank you; to all who contributed, without your dedication we would not have a newsletter. The next issue of the Liberty will be the spring issue with a news dead line of April 5th, 2013. I would also like to thank our members manning the Public Relations table; your service is appreciated by the sons and Legion members.
A motion made by 8th District Commander Kuczenski and seconded by V/C Myrtle to accept the report, was carried.
- 2.12 Advisor Arthur** reported that it has been a wonderful conference so far. He learned something new at every meeting about the Sons. We are definitely noticed by The Legion for all of our hard work! He stated that our reports mean something and urged us to submit our reports.
- 2.13 Commanders Advisory Chairman PDC Gibbs** stated that he had nothing to report as the Commander Knapp is doing a good job.
A motion made by Historian Mezzapelle and seconded by Chaplain Coates to accept the report, was carried.

2.14 Detachment Historian Mezzapelle reported; for the 2012-2013 year, I have set my primary goal to be to accurately document the travel, activities, and accomplishments of our Commander, John Knapp, as he represents the great Detachment of New York during his visitations, meetings, conferences and conventions. To properly accomplish this, I am again asking for your assistance. As I am unable to travel to all the places the Commander will go, I am asking you, the membership, to capture these moments in the form of photographs or video, and send this information to me along with a brief description of the event, location, date, time, etc. So that I may compile it in chronological order as the year goes along. Our Detachment webmaster, John Walpole, has created the email address Historian@SonsDNY.org to facilitate this. Of course, printed photographs, or photos or data on CD's, thumb drives, etc. Are also encouraged and appreciated. I would like to thank those of you who have already sent e material, and ask that you keep it coming. My other goal is to properly record the accomplishments of our Detachment. I know that every level of our organization accomplishes so any great things throughout the year, whether it's participating in Children & Youth programs, visiting our State's VA Hospitals, or saluting our Veterans by marching in parades, the Sons of the Detachment of New York are active, visible parts of our local communities, and deserve to be recognized and have their activities commemorated. Again I ask for your assistance in getting this information to me throughout the year. I thank you for your assistance in helping me accomplish my goals, and wish all of you continued success throughout the year.

A motion made by Historian Mezzapelle and seconded by 5th District Commander Burtch to accept the report, was carried.

2.15 Chaplain Coates reported; on 10/27/12 I attended the 7th District National Commanders visitation in Geneva, 11/4/12 I attended my Squadron meeting, 11/10/12 I worked my Post turkey Raffle, 11/11/12 I participated with my Post in the Veteran's Day Ceremony, 12/2/12 I attended my Squadron Meeting, 12/9/12 I worked at my Post breakfast and attended the 7th District SAL meeting in Shortsville, Ontario County, 12/15/12 our Squadron and Auxiliary sponsored a Santa Party at our post, 1/6/13 I attended my Squadron Meeting, 1/13/13 I worked at my post breakfast. The following get well cards have been sent: 7th District SAL Adjutant Gerry Shepard. The following Condolence Cards have been sent: Family of Past Department Commander Paul Cortright, Family of Oswego SAL County Commander Art Nelson, Family of David Juby, Family of Richard Blaisure, Squadron 1645, Family of Rich Embleton Jr. Squadron 1645, To Past Seventh District Commander Ernie Bacon and Family for the loss of Ernie's wife, Anthony and Charles Naverrino for the loss of Anthony's mother Angie, SAL Membership Coordinator Paul DeLair for the loss of Paul's Mother Marie, 7th District Commanders Aide for Ontario County Norma Weissend and family for the loss of Norma's son Mike, an SAL member from Squadron 256, Family of Richard Crouse, distinguished Legionnaire and life member of Vestal Squadron 89. 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!

The Detachment did donate \$100.00 to St. Jude the Apostle Church in memory of Paul DeLair's mother Marie DeLair Kennedy.

I would like to remind everyone to please send me the names of those SONS departed for our Squadron Everlasting Ceremony at Convention this year, and also to submit a member data form for those members who are deceased so that their names may be remember in or National Squadron Everlasting.

A motion was made Chaplain Coates and seconded by V/C Santa Croce to accept the report, and carried.

2.16 Vice Commander 1/9 Farrell reported; Members from my Squadron 1080 in Putnam County Mahopac Post held their annual Pig Roast on July 28, we had a good turnout and great foods, raffle, and door prize also D.J. Music. Spite of the downpour rain, we held inside the Legion Hall. Everyone enjoy themselves at the outing. On Sept 8th, I attended 1st annual meet and greet Marine Corps and Veterans Past and Present at BBQ, which was sponsored by Marine Corps League in Rockland County Detachment Auxiliary and Kearsing-Edward American Legion Post 1600 in the 9th District Rockland County, they served hot dogs and Hamburgers. Members of American Legion Post 1080 held a Putnam County American Legion BBQ at Putnam County Veterans Park in Carmel, NY, SONS and POST MEMBERS enjoy the day for good foods and raffles 50/50 and D.J. I sent Facebook messages to Chris on his election to National Commander Sons of the American Legion and wished him the best, I know that Chris will do a great job as National

Commander for the SONS, he said WE don't have a problem getting new members, if we educated them, they will stay and we a viable force in the organization. Sept 21st at New York State Veterans Home in Montrose, NY I did the POW-MIA Ceremony for residents and the staffs at the State Home, also show video of POW-MIA about 50 residents attend the service. Sept 27th, I visit 9-11 Memorial in NYC with my Wife, to pay and honor World Trade Center Victims who cherished on Sept 11th, 2001 of the terrorist attack of the World Trade Center and saw North and South pool where WTC once stood, it was a quiet and beautiful memorial that you ever see, to remembrance all our heroes NYPD, FDN, PAPD, and United flights for those gave their lives on 9-11-01, this was my first visit to 9-11 Memorial in 2012. On November 4, Senator Greg Ball held a free Thanksgiving dinner to honor all Veterans and their family and thank them for the service to their Country. At the Department Commander Visitation on November we welcomed Department Commander Timothy Van Patten, Department President Sally Johnson and our own Detachment Commander John Knapp to Westchester, Dutchess and Rockland Counties. In Orange County Detachment Commander John and Department Commander Timothy and I March in the Veterans Day Parade and went on a tour to the 9th and 1st District, and we need to get every member to keep up with their dues, so that we can do better keep on getting new members. At New York State Veterans Home I was named the Volunteer of the Year award 2011-2012 for excellent job I done the residents and the staffs. I want to thank Gaither for sending me an e-mail for an excellent job I done for the Sons Membership in the 9th District, Rockland County miss and Westchester County need help, I am getting in touch with Westchester County Sons Squadrons to have a meeting with them after the Mid-Winter Conference, to make sure they are up to date on their membership and their dues. Our Squadron Mahopac 1080 made a top list on County and District Membership at 89% this year; hope we will make a 100% Goal.

A motion made by V/C Farrell and seconded by Chaplain Coates to accept the report, was carried.

- 2.17 Vice Commander 2/10 Santa Croce** reported: As always, our year started with the Department visitations as we welcomed Department Commander Tim Van Patten, Department President Sally Johnston and our own Detachment Commander, John Knapp to the Downstate area. It was a hectic, but rewarding weekend as the three dinners celebrating their visits to Queens, Kings and Richmond counties were basically held in a 24 hour period. The month of October saw many Posts hold their Memorial Masses and also was a planning month for most of the organizations in the two districts. Then came October 29th and an incident that would affect all events over the next two months in the two districts and is still affecting events in certain areas. Hurricane Sandy left devastating damage in areas of all five counties in the two districts. While events in certain areas had to be cancelled, the Legion families in other parts of the area did their best to continue with events which had become tradition in their areas. While these plans were being worked on, all members of the Legion families certainly held their share of drives to help affected members of their community, whether through food and clothing drives, monetary donations or volunteering their time in the communities to help their neighbors clean up their properties. The first direct casualty of the storm was the cancellation of the Department visitations to Nassau and Suffolk counties, which were scheduled for the first weekend of November. Members of the Legion families did their best to continue as normal, where possible, but the aftermath of storm made it difficult. The various events scheduled for Veteran's Day were held, but were sparsely attended as some people were busy cleaning up or volunteering somewhere and other people were affected by the gas shortage and were preserving what gas they had in their tanks. In Queens County, the monument where the Legionnaires held their Veteran's Day ceremony was not available as that location was being used by FEMA and by local officials as a supply distribution area. But the Legionnaires made sure they celebrated our veterans and held a small ceremony across the street from the monument. The 2nd District Oratorical contest was cancelled as affected high schools and students did not have enough time to prepare. Also Queens County cancelled their past commander's dinner and their county and most Posts' Christmas parties. As I mentioned, while damage was seen in all five counties, the most devastation was seen in sections of Staten Island and the Rockaway and Breezy Point area of Queens. It was here that the most people were displaced and needed basic help to survive. Members of the Legion families were involved in both areas delivering ready-to-eat meals and also deliver blankets, clothes and cleaning supplies. Granito Smith squadron did their best to distribute diapers and baby food in Staten Island. Also, two groups of Sons from upstate New York, some of whom had ties to the Rockaways, delivered two truckloads of food, clothing and cleaning supplies to the area, which were greatly appreciated.

The members of the Babylon Squadron #94 on Long Island got together to make repairs on a member's home. Then, trying to keep things as normal as possible, Granito-Smith Squadron and Cespino-Russo Squadron, which is located in South Beach, were able to distribute turkeys for Thanksgiving in their Staten Island communities, in addition to their Christmas toy drives. Toys for Tot drives were also conducted in Brooklyn and on Long Island. While the application process for the National Emergency Fund went smoothly in most areas, it was a nightmare in others. Well over 100 applications were submitted in a rather timely fashion from Brooklyn, Staten Island and parts of Queens, but the residents from Rockaway had a terrible time submitting their forms. The residents were told that the applications were available on the Legion and Sons websites, but without electricity, it's hard to download them. Recognizing this problem, a group of Legionnaires made copies of the forms and distributed them to the homeowners, but invoices and pictures were needed to accompany the application. Well some of the residents were restricted from entering their homes for long periods of time, which prevented them from getting estimates and with the water damage and devastation in the houses, most people did not have access to their cameras and computers, that's if they had their electrical service restored. Also, there was a problem with the Post Office providing mail service in and out of the Rockaway area for an extended period of time and phone service in the area was impacted. There is a 90 day time limit to submit the NEF applications, which is this Tuesday, so there is a real question as to whether some residents will be able to submit completed applications on time. To the best of my knowledge, while some of the Legion facilities in the two districts sustained some water damage, the only hall that sustained major damage and can't be used is the Broad Channel Post in Queens. Luckily, most posts in the other counties were far enough from the shoreline to escape major damage. One note is that the customized house that was built 2 years ago in Staten Island for serviceman, Brendan Marrocco, who lost all four limbs in Iraq, received only minimal damage. This is somewhat miraculous since the house was built by Great Kills beach and the boat marina and restaurants that were on the Great Kills shoreline were completely destroyed as well as some houses in Brendan's neighborhood. So, while life in the 2nd and 10th Districts has been anything but normal over the past few months, what **was** normal was the resiliency shown by the citizens of New York City and Long Island and the selfless work performed by the members of the Legion family, who demonstrated their sense of community by trying their best to help their neighbors, while some, themselves, were dealing with their own personal issues. So, now, as we enter 2013, things are edging a little closer to normal. People are starting to get back out to events and plans are underway for upcoming events in both districts. Two weeks ago the Kings County Sons held their fundraiser where money was raised for the Child Welfare Foundation. Enough money was raised to also sponsor a boy for Boy's State and to make a donation to the upcoming walkathon. Also, the Legion Family is planning a fundraiser in Kings County for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. The event will be finalized when some minor week, not hurricane related, is completed in the County Memorial building. The Queens County American Legion has scheduled a meeting, their first since Sandy, to get everyone together to plan their events for the rest of the year.

A motion made by V/C Santa Croce and seconded by Historian Mezzapelle to accept the report, was carried.

- 2.18** **Vice Commander 3/4 Depo** reported; Squadron 20 Donated to the Children's Halloween party, Christmas party's (\$200.00) / Donate to the Christmas Bureau (\$100.00) / Gave out Two \$500.00 Scholarships per year / Sponsor Boys State (\$250, 00) / The Sons work their Paddle Raffles, the number of hours (60) / They also do the Legion Family Labor Day bash, Son's hours about (200), Plus any event they need help. / They sponsor Two dart teams cost about \$75.00 dollars each. / They also have Volleyball Tournaments, they worked (200) hrs. , This pass year. Squadron 504; The Son's cooked and served Legion Birthday Dinner total (48) hours worked, they also cooked the Veteran Day dinner and served it, total (54) hours worked / They Participated in the Color Guard for Several Funerals, the hours were (60) / Co-Sponsored the Children's Halloween and Christmas parties total hours (46), the cost was \$200.00 / Helped cook the Annual Chicken BBQ for 504 people, hours worked (36) / Sponsored Squadron Golf Tournament. Money went to the Annual \$500.00 Scholarship fund from the Squadron / Donated Money to Post for winter oil Bill (\$200.00) / Held TV raffle to raise funds for area youth project (\$300.00) goes for Little League Baseball, Youth Soccer ETC. And Sponsor Boys State. Squadron 1619, Ran a big Buck, Doe and Bear Contest / Had their Annual Paddle raffle that raises funds for their food Baskets for needy Veterans and Community people in need. / They help Sponsor the kids Halloween and Christmas parties. / They sponsor Boys State / they have run

Benefits for Families that help with Medical Bills, Cancer and all kinds of Expenses. / They did 80 food baskets for Thanksgiving and 60 for Christmas, with 80 people working, 25 Sons and 140 hours for the two events. / They also do fishing Tournaments for the kids, about 40 kids attend, prizes given out and Hot dogs, chips and soda given to the kids / Getting ready for their Winter fest in February 1st to the 3rd, the biggest event of the year, Last year 4000 people were there, more is expected this year. / Fire works the best in up-State / Also March is their Rabbit Derby that packs the Post. / They give out a yearly Scholarship a transitionally that pays for everything. Squadron 1618, There are Chicken BBQ's twice during the summer hours / They have done Several funerals in the Community / They have sponsored boys State and donated \$250.00 / They work at the Post doing anything they ask of them Cooking, Serving, Maintenance. / Donated to Charity's total hours 300

Squadron 912, They sponsored \$250.00 to Boys State / They gave \$500.00 to a yearly Scholarship They did a blood drive, 20 hours / They visit the Veterans at the Nursing homes total 24 hours. / Donated \$1,200.00 to Children and Youth programs in the Community. / They work events at the Post with too many hours to count

Squadron 91, Provided a holiday meal with all the fixings for the local Senior Citizen Apartment Building, in all there were 80 Residents that were served meals in the Hall, Those that couldn't attend Members delivered the meals to their door. Every summer they served a Picnic in Pavilion of hot dogs, Hamburgers, Salads and Refreshments. The Residents are very Grateful to these fine young men for taking the time to cook for taking the time to cook for them and having fun doing it.

Squadron 1644, The Squadron and Legion family put on a Community Holiday meal with over 250 people served, 135 meals were delivered around the Community with the rest at the Post. This has become an annual event with the Community always looking forward to the next one.

Squadron 1450, They have been very active for the first part of the year, They had their fall Breakfast served 295 people, Adults and Children with the Proceeds Benefiting the Quest for Grace Foundation, This is a Non-Profit that provides clothing and essentials to Children in Foster Care / Members were on hand to help with Veterans Day Festivities on Sat. / The Post made a donation of \$750.00 to Schenendehowa School for their Lunch program, which provides students who might not meet Criteria to get a nice Lunch while at School. / Cohoes School Donated \$1,000.00 to help families with a Thanksgiving meal and Christmas Presents to students who might otherwise not receive any, we have members that work at these schools and see how well our Donations are being used and how much the Students benefit from these Donations / Visited one of the Homeless Veterans house in Ballston Spa and provided each resident with a \$25.00 Gift card to Wal-Mart and also \$25.00 gift cards to the Female house with a total of 22 cards given out to the Veterans who have fallen on hard times. / There Squadrons also provided Breakfast for our Children's visit with Santa, a total of 85 Kids and Parents got to see Santa with a full Belly. / It is always a pleasure for Squadron 1450 to help Veterans and Children of our Community / They also sponsors Boys State with a \$250.00 Donation.

Squadrons 91-1450-1644, Attended Services for a Marine Killed in Combat Overseas, the Marine was a Legion Member of 1644

Squadron 701, Squadron helps out every year with the Annual Christmas Dinner the Legion puts on, This involves prep working serving and Delivery of meals, about 1000 to 1500 meals for any one in need. All they have to do is call. / They Sponsor Boys State and Donated \$250.00, There are several Boys from Montgomery County. The Squadron has a Breakfast for them and their family before they leave for Boys State. / They are sending supplies to one of Post 701 Legion members who is overseas / The Squadron holds various Dinner's and cookouts throughout the year to help support the American Legion and Legion projects / There Annual Chicken Bake/Benefit walk is held every September which helps with the Commander Project and N.E.F. / They also raised funds for the Montgomery County Veterans Memorial park that is being built by Third District sons, Squadron 1683, They have been very busy since our last Convention. They have participated in Flag Retirement Ceremony, Veterans Day event at the local School, and a Pearl Harbor day Observance at their Post. / They also assisted the Auxiliary with their Fall Festival, also have had two dinners and 50/50, with another dinner planned in February. / Over the Christmas Holidays \$500.00 worth of toys were donated to the Toys for Tots program and another \$1,000.00 worth of goods donated to Volunteer services at the Stratton V.A. Medical Center in Albany, as of their last Report there not done yet.

Squadron 1520, Squadron 1520 held a Elvis night fundraiser, money raised will enable us to continue to show our support for the 3 Veterans Transitional houses located in the Capital region /

Squadron adopted 40 children of Veterans for Christmas, we will also be able to provide clothes and gifts for the Children and provide new bedding and household needs for the Transitional houses.

Commanders Report, Attended Veterans Day service for Clinton County at Post 504 & 20, Flag Retirement Service at Post 20 / Attended all County meeting of Son's and Legion Clinton and attended some Sons County meeting in St. Lawrence. / Worked Paddle Raffle at Post 20, and getting food Baskets ready at Thanksgiving for about 80 families and another 60 baskets at Christmas at Post 1619 / Attended the Clinton County Oratorical. (Chazy, NY), also attended the 4th District Oratorical (Plattsburgh, NY) / will be attending 3rd District Visitation on January 24th / would like more contact from all Squadrons in both District's to let me know how things are going.

A motion made by V/C Depo and seconded by 4th District Commander Bosford to accept the report, was carried.

- 2.19 Vice Commander 5/6 Green** reported; I'm proud to report that as of the January 24th membership report, the 5th & 6th Districts are reporting in at 67.75% & 61.73% respectfully, both exceeding the last target date. I am also glad to report that although percentage of Membership is important, I would like to acknowledge both districts for transmitting over 6,600 (6,623) members so far this year, this is an improvement over last year at this time. However there are still many Squadrons out there that have not reported any membership this year according to the last report. There are approximately 12 Squadrons within the 5th & 6th that may have members that paid dues and are not aware that they are not currently a "member in good standing", With the exception of one Squadron, these primarily are smaller Squadron of around 20 or less members. We all know some of these smaller Squadrons typically may wait to send all them in at once, But as County, District and Detachment Officers we owe these members to make sure we do our best to make sure their membership gets transmitted. I would like to recognize the following Squadrons within the 5th and 6th who have already met or surpassed the 100% mark for 2013; Squadron 920, Ilion Memorial (Herkimer County) 117%, Squadron 1788 Klock-Smith (Jefferson County)102%, Squadron 569 Kelly-Phillips (Oneida County) 107%, Squadron 1448 R. Kirk Parkhurst (Oneida County) 101%, Squadron 1128 Hastings-Gorski (Oswego County) 107%, Squadron 1492 Johnson-Rogers (Madison County) 100%, Squadron 787 James Harvey Spire (Onondaga County) 102%

It was my pleasure to attend the Commanders visitation within the 5th & 6th Districts that I was able to attend. Spending days and or weeks at a time with all these legionnaires, Auxiliary and Son's Officials can be a very educational experience. There were too many visits to address individually, and I do not wish to offend anyone by high lighting one over the other, so I would just like to say I totally enjoyed each and every tour throughout the visit and extended my total appreciation and thanks to all the people who put in countless hours arranging the wonderful luncheons, tours and dinners. Unfortunately we lost a good friend and fellow son's member this year, Art Nelson was the Oswego County Son's Commander at the time of his passing. I attended Art's services and I'll tell you, there must have been multiple Representatives from every Squadron in the County there because there were 12 to 15 Son's in Caps there at any given time. They provided the honor guard alongside Art the entire time; it truly was very impressive how great this County organization has pulled together.

A motion made by V/C Green and seconded by 5th District Commander Burtch to accept the report, was carried.

- 2.20 PDC Casey** thanked the Sons for our support and donations after Hurricane Sandy hit the NYC area. I would like to especially thank the Sons from Mechanicsville for renting a truck filling it with clothing and food and driving to Broad Channel. It was so full that it took us two and half hours to unload it.
- 2.21 Department Commander Van Patten** stated that our commander is doing a good job. He also thanked us for all we do in helping American Legion.
- 2.22 Vice Commander 7/8 Tyler** reported; I have been busy rebuilding my business after a fire, I have attended the National Commanders Visitation to the 7th & 8th District, Membership is coming in Slowly, I am looking forward to Visitation starting This Thursday.
- A motion made by V/C Tyler and seconded by V/C Green to accept the report, was carried.**

- 2.23 NEC Ketchum introduced leading candidate for National V/C East Robert Turner (CT).** He thanked us for all that we are doing. He stated that he has learned some things and will take them back and share with his Detachment and the rest of the Eastern Region when his is elected as National vice Commander east. He also thanked NY for hospitality shown to him here at Mid-Winter.
- NEC Ketchum introduced National V/C East John Waite (VT).** He thanked us the invitation to be here this week-end. He brings greeting from National Commander Huntzinger. He stated that we must Educate, Communicate, and motivate our members if we are to achieve all of our goals. Our Troops, our Children, and our Communities are the benefactor of the things that we do. We are strong and powerful force when joined with the American Legion Family. Thank you for supporting Commander Chris's project this year, Fisher House. Keep the membership bandwagon moving forward. Renew, Reinstate, and Retain, and we will make 105% by Houston.
- 2.24 Auxiliary Junior President Erin Green** stated that she has been coming to the Mid-Winter Conference for the past 11 years. He has had the opportunity to meet many of the Sons. She thanked us for our hard work and dedication. She was elected to be the National Honorary Junior Vice President for the Eastern Region in Indianapolis. She thanked us for here invitation to be here.

Commander Knapp called the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York in recess until 8:30AM tomorrow.

**MINUTES OF THE MID-WINTER D.E.C. MEETING
January 27, 2012
The Desmond
Colonie, New York**

- Chaplain James Coates offered the Opening Prayer
- V/C Farrell led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- Commander Knapp called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM
- Adjutant Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guests Present Included:
National V/C East, John Waite (VT), and leading Candidate for National V/C East Robert Turner (CT)

2.0 COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS (continued)

- 2.25 Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson** called forth committee chairmen:
- Convention and Meetings Chairman, Hewitt** reported; The Sons of the American Legion headquarters hotel is the Holiday Inn, room rate is \$140 per night. Typical room rate without discount would range from \$196.00 to \$242.00. I know there has been a lot of under the breath discussion about room rates this year, but we do have to keep in mind we will be in Niagara Falls during prime tourist season. The other hotels in use are as follows:
The Sheraton – American Legion Headquarters \$144.00 per night
The Quality Inn – American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters \$124.00 per night
Seneca Niagara - \$140.00 per night plus a resort fee of \$15/night. Comfort Inn - \$144.00 per night
All convention sessions will be held at the Convention Center for all 3 groups. Our hotel is approximately ½ blocks away, Convention Parade will start in the Seneca Casino Parking lot directly across from the American Legion headquarters hotel and will finish in front of the convention center, total length of the parade will be .06 miles.
The installation luncheon has not been finalized yet but should be within the next 30 days. If anyone has any questions, Concerns or special needs please feel free to contact me.
- Membership Chairman, Espy** reported: Well here we are in the middle of January and halfway through our 2012-2013 year. Membership has been coming in to the Albany office steady but not

steady enough. We have not met a single target date here in New York. January 16th was the latest with a 60% goal. We fell a little short by 330 members coming in at 58.86%. On the National level we are in 35th place and for the Eastern Region we are in 8th place. Currently our renewal rate is at 52%. Congratulations to the 27 Counties and 5 Districts that did meet our goal and are at or above 60%. Throughout the Detachment we have 35 Squadrons who have 100% or better. Congratulations to them and thank you for all your hard work. On the down side, we still have 71 Squadrons who have not transmitted at all. Please take a look at the membership report on our web site (sonsdny.org) and see how your Squadron is doing. February 13th is our next target date for 75%. We need to get 3,715 members transmitted to Albany to reach this goal. Please have your transmittals in to Albany by February 11th to give Paul time to post them.

Standings for the Detachment vice Commanders are; 1st place Chuck Depo 3rd and 4th Districts; 2nd place Vince Green 5th and 6th Districts; 3rd place Tom Ferrell 1st and 9th Districts; 4th place Joe Santa Croce 2nd and 10th Districts; and 5th place Kirk Tyler 7th and 8th Districts

I would like to thank everyone on the membership commission and the many others for your help with membership. Membership is the lifeline of our organization and cannot be done by one person. If everyone works together we will come out ahead and have our team riding the front of Commander Huntzinger's Bandwagon. Certificates for 100% Membership by Mid-Winter were handed out.

Member Training and Development Chairman Roy Mezzapelle reported; 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.

To offer "Continuing Education" programs to the members of the Detachment & Department, the Chairmen of two Detachment Commissions/Committees will conduct workshops during each Mid-Winter Conference, giving formal presentations to the membership, explaining the purpose of the Commissions/Committees 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 are "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 this weekend.

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.

A motion made by Chaplain Coates and seconded by 6th District Commander Parks to accept the report, was carried.

- 2.26 Finance Chairman Lee** gave the finance report. The Finance Commission is held accountable for the Finances of the Detachment. If you are looking to spend money on a project you should check with the finance commission first. We are recommending that we increase the per diem to \$85 for this year's convention in Niagara Falls. We would like the Voucher changed. We would like to have a line added for an e-mail address and phone number. We are requesting that we increase the NEF donation from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and that the extra funds come out of the miscellaneous line item. We are also requesting that the area under National Convention payment for delegates. That all delegates who attend national Convention shall pay their own delegate fees be removed from the expense reimbursement authorization; as The National Organization has changed the National Constitution stating that all Detachments will for their full delegate strength. The Commission feels that if we are paying for all delegates and not everyone attends then we should not make those do attend have to pay delegate fees. The Commission also is requesting that we reimburse \$2,619.15 that was spent by the Americanism Commission for Flags, Brochures and other patriotic items to be disbursed by the Districts. We have done for the past few years.

A motion made by Historian Mezzapelle and seconded by 4th District Commander Depo to accept the report, was carried.

A motion was made by Chaplain Coates and seconded by NEC Ketchum to increase the per diem to \$85 for this year's convention only in Niagara Falls was carried.

A motion was made by 2nd District Commander DeAngelis and seconded by 6th District Commander Hodge to increase the NEF donation from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and that the extra funds come out of the miscellaneous line item was carried.

A motion was made by NEC Ketchum and seconded by 5th District Commander Burtch to remove from the expense reimbursement authorization That all delegates who attend national Convention shall pay their own delegate fees be removed from the expense reimbursement authorization effective this year was carried.

A motion was made by 5th District Commander Burtch and seconded by Historian Mezzapelle to reimburse \$2,619.15 that was spent by the Americanism Commission for Flags, Brochures and other patriotic items to be disbursed by the Districts, was carried

2.27 Auxiliary President Sally Johnson stated that John has been a good Commander and we are a good family. We have and are promoting the Walk-A-Thon. Thank you for your support.

2.28 ANEC Denmon reported: We need to get on Commander Hunt zingers band wagon and get that membership. As Paul said yesterday we have not made a target date, we have been close. We have a lot of members out that have not renewed as is shown by our renewal rate of 46%. So let's get playing our instruments and move to the front of the band wagon and make some loud music. This year's Washington Conference will be held February 24-27, 2013 so let Doc no if you are planning to attend. Even if you aren't Legislative is something we can and should do every day be sure to check out the American Legion website for legislative points to be addressed and get your letter out to your Congress Person and Senators. Without our involvement many of the laws affecting our Veterans would not be in place to please get involved. Public relations are vital in getting our message out there. There's better use of the internet as a tool for communication through Facebook, Twitter and other social media. The children of our community are our future so get out there and get involved with your local oratorical contest. You will be amazed at how smart these kids are and in my case well you get the idea. A couple of other important dates that are upcoming are the Unofficial gathering March 8 & 9 in Vermont. This will also be the Homecoming for our National Vice -Commander East John Waite. The Spring NEC meeting will be held in the first part of May. Lastly if you haven't donated to Commander Huntzinger's projects yet which is the Fisher House and Operation Comfort Warrior please consider bring this up at one of your meetings and make that donation.

A motion was made by ANEC Denmon and seconded by NEC Ketchum to accept the report, and was carried.

2.29 NEC Ketchum reported; as your NEC, in October, I attended the National Commander's visits to the 8th, 7th and 6th Districts with Commander Knapp. On December 14th I stood a Flag line with the Patriot Guard at the Canandaigua VA in remembrance of Pearl Harbor. December 23rd and 25th I was at the Canandaigua VA for wheel chair escorts. A contingent consisting of Vice Commander East Waite, Candidate Turner, VA&R Committeemen, Commander Knapp and myself went to the Fisher house. There Commander Knapp presented a donation on behalf of the Detachment. Thursday night I attended the Department Visitation in Rensselaer County. In February I will attend Visitations in the 7th and 8th Districts. Also in February I will attend the Washington Conference and lobby for our Veterans. In March I will lobby in Albany, attend the unofficial gathering of the Eastern Region Sons and the Homecoming of Vice Commander Waite in Vermont and the National Commander's Homecoming in Pennsylvania. In May I am attending NEC meeting in Indy, June the District Conventions, and July the Detachment Convention.

A motion made by NEC Ketchum and seconded by ANEC Denmon to accept the report, was carried.

A motion was made by NEC Ketchum and seconded by 5th District Commander Burtch to support Robert Turner (CT) for National Vice-Commander East was carried.

2.30 Master Sergeant-at-Arms Falco reported that the Sgt's at Arms had collected \$52 in fines so far. He requests that you make sure your cards are signed. All fines go to the Commanders Project. **A motion made by 5th District Commander Burtch and seconded by 7th District Commander Parks to accept the report, was carried.**

2.31 Adjutant Avery reported; According to the December 31, 2012 National Membership Report, there are 353,295 members in our organization which is an increase of 4,934 over the prior year. Nationally we ended at 101.416% of goal. Although we had 1,472 more members renew this year as compared to last year, the disturbing figure is better here in New York ending with a 90.36% rate which is 10th highest in the Nation. That being said, we had 2,760 members who did not renew. As for our membership total, we finished in 27th place in the Nation with another ALL TIME HIGH, with 101.22% of our goal which is 1.43% less than last year. Our final total was 28,980 members. As for the current membership year, yesterday's report has us at 18,020 members which are 62.18% of goal. We are 29th in the Nation and 5th in the Eastern Region. Congratulations to the leading Districts: 3 at 74.78%, 5 at 67.75% and 2 at 67.69%. The top 3 Counties are Warren at 96.74%, Dutchess at 89.44% and Schuyler at 88.99%. The 75% target Date is fast approaching on February 13th and we need 3,715 transmitted members in order to reach that goal. The second renewal postcard mailing was scheduled to be mailed this past Friday. Let's get out there and after those zero and under goal Squads..... membership is everyone's responsibility so let's not just talk it.....let's do it!!!!!!

Addresses continue to be a big problem, Squadrons are encouraged to check and verify the mailing address on the membership register when members renew their membership. Also, personal contact is the key to success as well as good record keeping at the Squadron level to maintain this contact. Squadrons are encouraged to stay in contact with their members though mailings of bulletins, flyers, telephone calls, e-mail, and other personal contact with your members throughout the year. Once again, it is imperative that continued emphasis be place on renewing our members for 2013. The remaining Membership Target Dates are as follows:

February 13, 2013	75%	Membership Target Date
March 13, 2013	80%	Membership Target Date
April 10, 2013	90%	Membership Target Date
May 8, 2013	100%	Membership Target Date total percentage
July 24, 2013	105%	Membership Target Date

Here are a few more upcoming dates: February 24-27, 2013 Washington Conference 2013, March 3, 2013 Department Oratorical Contest, March 12-13, 2013 Albany Hill Day March 15, 2013 Cutoff date for determination of National Membership Citation of Achievement Award (Legion Birthday Certificate), Mid-April 2013 SAL Postcard Renewal Mailing, 3rd notice for 2013 (final for 2013), May 1, 2013 Deadline to transmit current year new members to receive a pre-printed card in the following year (2014) May 4-5, 2013 Spring NEC Meeting & NMI Training 2013, May 18, 2013 Veterans Assistance Day, June 15, 2013 Cutoff date for determination of Various Detachment membership awards, June 23-29, 2013 Department Boys State program – SUNY Morrisville, July 18-20, 2013 Department Convention – Niagara Falls, NY, August 23-25, 2013 National Convention – Houston, TX, September 16, 2013 The American Legion Day, October 12-13, 2013 Fall NEC Meeting & Detachment Commander's & Adjutant's Conference 2013

All Squadrons will soon be receiving the 2013 Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR); National is sending these out to the various Detachments within weeks. This form is the most important document that you need to complete. The compilation of all volunteer hours and donations from Posts and Squadrons are reported to Congress each year by the National Commander of The American Legion. You will notice certain changes to the form this year. Not only is it more user-friendly, the National organization will have the capability to scan the forms as they currently can with the Consolidated Post Reports.

The form is split into the categories of "Americanism" with 40 possible entry lines: "Children & Youth" with 12 lines: and "VA&R" with 20 possible entries. The category of "Internal Affairs" is the place to enter hours and donations that cannot be placed in the other categories. The form is clear and concise. Remember.....Only a very, very few Squadrons will be able to fill in every single item. Even if you have just 2 or 3 item to list.....please do so! Your dollars and hours are just as important as every other Squadron. Simply leave item blank that you are not involved with. Squadrons who have not received a CRS by the end of February should contact Anne Wilsey at Albany HQ 1-800-ALEGION. You are reminded to complete and submit your CRS to Detachment HQ by April 30, 2013 for Detachment judging. Reports will then be forwarded by the Detachment Adjutant to National HQ. Since all Squadrons elections occur in the same month as their sponsoring Post (May), please remember to complete and forward an officer Certification form (OCF) to HQ immediately thereafter. **This is required even if your officers remain the same.** Squadrons will not receive 2014 cards without an OCF. The OCF and much more

information are always available on our Detachment website (www.sonsdny.org) Also check out our National website at www.sal.legion.org

A motion made by 5th District Commander Burtch and seconded by Historian Mezzapelle to accept the report, was carried.

2.32 Detachment Commander Knapp reported; In October we attended the National Commanders Visitations to the 8th, 7th, and 6th Districts. In November was an interesting time as we were visiting the 3rd district we had a nor'easter. Travel was though and everyone help use out. December was busy, helping out buying gifts for the Veterans at the Bath V.A. Hospital, Distributing gifts at the Oxford Veterans Home. It is a very rewarding to help a fellow veteran. Playing Santa Claus at a children's Christmas Party. Then Christmas dinner at my Legion post for the less fortunate.

A motion made by Chaplain Coates and seconded by ANEC Denmon to accept the report, was carried.

A motion was made by Historian Mezzapelle and seconded 6th District Commander Hodge to accept the pre submitted reports, was carried.

3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

Oswego County Sons of The American Legion Commander Art Nelson Past away.

Squadron #979 Tom Sellingham Passed away.

David Downey's wife Linda will be having surgery in April.

Tom Ferrell's Uncle past away this month has was a WWII Veteran.

7th District Advisor Charlie Shane wife had surgery.

Linwood Penhollow's Wife is on life support.

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

NONE

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

6.01 Tom Smallcomb stated that there is a new brochure at the Oxford Veterans Home mentioning the donation that was given by the Sons.

6.02 2nd District Commander Peter DeAngelis donated \$1250 for CWF, Squadron #862 \$100 donation to CWF, Oneida County \$75.00 donation to CWF, Squadron #1864 \$50.00 donation to CWF; we raised \$265.00 for CWF by raffling of a donated Josh Dog. The winner of the Josh Dog is Ron Kuczenski; Squadron and Post #83 \$300.00 for CWF.

6.03 6th District Commander Hodge announced that he running for V/C 5th and 6th.

6.04 V/C Farrell announced that he will be running for V/C 1st and 9th again.

6.05 Robert Ellis announced that he will be running for Chaplain.

6.06 R. Bruce Ruthven announced that he will be running for V/C 7th and 8th.

6.07 ANEC Denmon stated that if we have members running programs and are using the Sons name they must pay their dues to Detachment.

6.08 There is a telethon that is being held in our Hotel that could use some help this could be a good Children & Youth project and give use some PR, We will look at working on this next year.

6.09 Chuck Depo announced that he is running V/C 3rd and 4th.

6.10 Gaiter Espy announced that he is running for Commander in 2014-2015.

6.11 John Walpole has some copies of the 1938 movie Sons of The American Legion if anyone is interested, all movies have been sold and a donation of \$170.00 was made to CWF.

With no further business to be brought before the Detachment Executive Committee,

- Commander Knapp requested that Chaplain Coates offer the closing prayer
- Master Sergeant at Arms retrieved the POW/MIA flag
- New Hartford Squadron # 1376 Color Guard retrieved colors as the membership saluted

Detachment Commander Knapp declared the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York adjourned.