

MINUTES OF THE 40th ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION
July 17 - 18, 2014
Holiday Inn Albany
Albany, New York

FIRST SESSION – JULY 17, 2014

- Commander Chang 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 Chang recited the POW/MIA Ceremony as the Master Sergeant placed the POW/MIA banner.
- Chaplain Ellis offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Santa Croce led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
V/C Ruthven 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 Joseph Gladden (MD), Leading Candidate for Sons of The American Legion National Commander Mike Moss (CO).

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 Chang.

1.00 REPORTS

1.01 Convention / Albany General Chairman Kearsing 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 Zaloga Post and return at 4:30PM. Lineup will be at 5:30PM. After the parade a band will be playing and refreshments will be available at the Desomd Hotel.

1.02 Americanism Chairman Myrtle reported we received seven applications for the Cerullo Memorial Scholarship. The applications have been judged by the Americanism Commission and the winner of the Cerullo Scholarship of \$500.00 is Kyler Dixon of Lee Center, Squadron 1794 of Oneida Co. There were no renewal applications for a previous year winner which are entitled to resubmit an application for up to three years and receive \$500.00 per year, as long as they continue their Collage.

Detachment paid the following contributions to be recorded for the consolidated report:

2013-2014 Americanism Commission Expenses

1,300 Flag Lapel Pins for Boys State	\$845.14
5,000 Brochures for Flag Education Program	\$720.00
1,000 Flag Code pamphlet's	\$150.00
100 Be right on Flag Etiquette (booklet)	\$80.00
3,600 Stick Flags	\$698.75
400 Patriotic Stickers	\$60.00
1 (book) Knowledge in a nutshell	\$8.95
20 Flag Education DVD's	\$199.00
10 American Veterans & Books	\$39.50
500 Light of Liberty (comic Book)	\$259.00
Shipping and Handling	\$24.95
Scholarship (Cerullo)	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total	\$3610.49

22 hours for manning phone lines for the Center for Disability services; 25 hours to assemble and distribute materials to Districts at Mid-Winter; 2 hours for scholarship data and 100 hours to compile data for squadrons. Total Hours – 149 In addition to the expenses above we had: Donations of \$26,000.00 to the American Legion, Department of NY, Commander John P. Chang collected funds for the National Emergency Fund of \$12,947.55 and 150.00 for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship.

Consolidated Reports received this year

103 consolidated reports were turned in from our Squadrons this year. They have been tabulated and Judged according to our guidelines.

The summary of the Detachment of NY activities report for this year in the 12 Americanism Programs, based on the 103 Consolidated Reports received from our Squadrons are as following

1. Boys and Girls State

# Boys Sponsored for Boys State	64 Boys	Cost \$18,628.00
# Girls Sponsored for Girls State	9 Girls	Cost \$ 2,225.00

David Downey spoke about the Boy's State program; he stated that there were 956 boys registered to attend the program this year down 130 from last year. 22 of the boy's never showed up. He encouraged the squadrons to try to do better in assisting the American Legion with this program. He stated that if anyone wished to be a counselor let him know.

2. Education

# Five Star/Ten Ideals Program	8 Programs	Cost \$ 139.00
#Flags Presented	4,761 Flags	Cost \$ 4,543.00
Cost of Scholarships		Cost \$34,565.00
Hours of Education Programs	876 hours	

3. #Small Flags placed on Graves or given away at Parades

39,360 Flags	Cost \$11,547.95
Hours for Flags	2,389 Hours

4. Oratorical Contest

# of Contestants	72 Contestants	Cost \$ 125.00
Hours of Participation		
Color Guards	31 Squadron Sponsored	
493 Appearances		Cost \$10,855.00
		Cost \$ 5,370.00

5. NEF Donations

6. Flag Education

# Flag Etiquette Programs	65 programs	Cost \$ 1,758.00
Hours	694 hours	
#Flag Retirement programs	57 programs	
Hours	671 hours	

7. Community Service

Hours	41,842 Hours	
Cost/Donation		Cost \$69,234.86

8. Scouting

Squadron Sponsored Troops	17 Troops	Cost \$ 7,293.00
# Youth Involved	394	

9. Junior Shooting Sports

# Youth Involved	10 Youths	
#Hours Service	109 hours	Cost \$1,900.00

10. Baseball

AL Team Sponsored	11 teams	Cost \$11,530.00
11. Blood Drives - # of Pints	273 pints	
Hours	267 hours	

12. Other teams Sponsored

	Cost \$16,972.00
--	------------------

To sum up these numbers the Detachment of New York has reported \$216,215.00 in cost of Programs and Community Donations, 44,121 Flags presented, placed on graves or given away at Parades, 42,220 Volunteer hours, and \$18,317.55 in National Emergency Funds donations.

The awards are:

Squadrons of 150 members or more with the highest levels of achievement are recognized as following;

First Place: 7th District – Seeley B Parish – Squadron 457, Ontario Co

Second Place: we have 3 Squadrons with the same score

Second Place: 5th District – Whitestone – Squadron 1113, Oneida Co

Second Place: 5th District – New Hartford – Squadron 1376, Oneida Co.

Second Place: 8th District – Charles E. Westcott – Squadron 173, Steuben Co

Squadrons of 149 members or less with the highest levels of achievement are recognized as follows.

First Place: 6th District – John Handte – Squadron 89, Broome Co

Second Place: 2nd District – Floyd Bennett – Squadron 1060, Kings Co

Third Place: 5th District – Antwerp – Squadron 916, Jefferson Co

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

- **Commander Chang turned the gavel over to Vice-Commander Depo**

- 1.03 Children & Youth Chairman Armbrust reported the following:** 32 josh dogs were given away, 7 squadrons donated \$1.00 or more per member to the CWF, Operation military kids \$2,425 donated, Special Olympics \$4,160 donated, CMN \$,445 donated, under other \$22,813.50 donated. The awards are;

149 Under

1. PLACE-Squadron 224 4nd District 71 members

2. PLACE- Floyd Bennett 1060 2th District 75 members

3. PLACE- Michael A Rawley JR 1636 2th District 48 members

150 Over

1. PLACE- Charles E Westcott 173 7th District 373 members

2. PLACE- Chili 1830 7th District 183 members

3. PLACE- Greece 7th District 226 members

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

- 1.04 Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson** had the following Chairman give their reports.

MT&D report read by Chairman Williamson; this report is an update to the report presented at the 2014 Mid-Winter Conference. At the 2013 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 and adjusted the presentation accordingly. Moving forward, I have again identified other content to eliminate that will further reduce the presentation time for the 2015 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 "Legislative" and "Membership". We will determine the next two presentations at the next Fall DEC Meeting.

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 for their dedicated service to the Committee and the Detachment.

Convention Mark Kearsing stated that these conventions cost a lot of money to put on. You can help by staying in the hotels that the legions use. For every night that you stay in a legion hotel the convention corporation gets \$3.00. This is used to offset the cost of transportation fees and other things at convention.

Chairman Williams read resolution Det. Conv. 2014-01

2014 Detachment Convention National Memorial Day Museum Donation

WHEREAS; The Sons of The American Legion is a committee of The American Legion Department of New York dedicated to promoting all the great principles for which The American Legion stands and to assist in carrying on for God and Country; and

WHEREAS; As an organization The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York promotes the ideals of The American Legion in an attempt to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; and

WHEREAS; The National Memorial Day Museum located in Waterloo New York is dedicated to promoting the memory and history of all Americas veterans; and,

WHEREAS; The National Memorial Day Museum promotes the ideals of The American Legion and its founding principles of Community, State and Nation, and further promotes all the great principles for which The American Legion Stands; and

WHEREAS; Through the dedication to our communities, state and nation, the untiring efforts, passion and commitment to the memory, history and education of Memorial Day and all of its traditions the National Memorial Day Museum and its staff strive on a daily basis to keep in spirit the memory of all our fallen troops who have served our country so vigilantly so that their memory can be honored for generations to come; **Therefore be it;**

RESOLVED; The Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion in tradition and promotion of Americanism assembled in the town of Colonie, County of Albany, State of New York @ The Holiday Inn Turf Hotel on this 17th day of July, Two Thousand and Fourteen, Donate two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500.00) to the National Memorial Day Museum located in Waterloo, NY.

Membership Chairman Gaither Espy. Well gentlemen with the warmer weather and the beginning of summer our 2014 membership year is coming to a close. I want to thank Commander Chang for having me chair the membership team for the year and what a year it's been. The membership team, District Commanders, Detachment vice Commanders and many others have been working hard to get us to where we are.

Our year started off a little slow then picked up during the fall and winter months. As we approached spring the numbers just slowed down. We were getting the transmittals into Albany but not in big numbers. It is still not too late to get those last renewals sent in to Albany. Currently as of the July 11th update, the Detachment is at 97.36% with 28,357 members. We only need to transmit 761 members to reach our 100%. This is a very reachable

goal seeing how we have 3,655 members from 2013 who have yet to renew for 2014. This gives us a renewal rate of 86.74%. We have no problems with the new members, we have 2,887 it's keeping the ones we already have.

District 8 has taken the top spot with 100.44%, followed by District 1 with an even 100%. District 7 and District 5 are still hanging close with 98.87% and 97.63%. District 3 is in 5th place with 97.36%. Districts 5 and 7 have been battling for the top spot for months, keep up the great job and don't give up yet.

There are 22 Counties with 100% or better. Allegany County is on top with 116.88%. In addition to these counties there are 8 who are very close to reaching their 100%. We do have 192 squadrons that are at or over 100%.

Our membership awards for the 2014 membership year are;

Largest Squadron

1st place Squadron 1376 New Hartford with 548, Oneida County District 5

2nd place Squadron 396 Winnek with 384, Ontario County District 7

3rd place Squadron 173 Charles E Westcott 350, Steuben County District 7

Most New Members

1st place Squadron 1376 New Hartford with 55, Oneida County District 5

2nd place Squadron 556 Samuel L Derby with 45, Chautauqua County District 8

3rd place Squadron 1560 Limestone Memorial with 35, Cattaraugus County District 8

Highest Percentage over last year

Over 300 members

1st place Squadron 1376 New Hartford with 104%, Oneida County District 5

Under 300 members

1st place Squadron 463 Manning Lilla, 188% Oneida County District 5

2nd place Squadron 1118 Adirondack, 181% Herkimer County District 6

Squadron 1560 Limestone Memorial, 181% Cattaraugus County District 8

3rd place Squadron 617 Osco Robinson, 172% Cortland County District 8.

In closing I would like to remind all Squadrons to make sure and fill out and send in your Officer Certification Form. Even if your officers stayed the same this needs to be done.

Membership cards will not be sent to you without a new OCF. Currently there are 165 squadrons without an OCF in to Albany. Once again thank you to all who have worked hard on our membership this year. Remember membership is the life line to our great organization.

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

1.05 Public Relations Chairman Coates reported The Public Relations Commission met here and the order of business was:

Set up the Detachment Public Relations table, Thanks to Gabe and Daryl for their help. Business at the table has been very brisk. At the table you can purchase 50/50 tickets for Children & Youth. And a 50-25-15-10 Raffle to raise funds for our Leading Candidate for National vice Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs. We have received an e-mail from Ken Kraetzer, one of the Founders of SAL Radio. Ken is proposing that the SAL Radio become a program of the Detachment of NY under Public Relations. Ken is also proposing that one annual award they give for excellence become a Detachment level Award. After Discussion we have to get more information from Ken regarding the level of support needed for these programs and other details before making a recommendation to the DEC. The Public Relations Commission will do this and report back to the DEC. The Web Site – An official call to Volunteers interested in participation in the Detachment of N.Y. Web site design team, "Roll call" The call is in the Mid-Winter addition of the Liberty copy of which one at the PR travel and will be sent out electronically.

Webmaster Cinquegrana introduced himself to the Detachment as he will be taking over the position of webmaster John Walpole. He stated that he is member of Canandaigua Sq. #256, Ontario County Commander, 7th District Adjutant, a VAVS rep at the Canandaigua VA and I do whatever I can to help out in any as I can on any sons event. I have been in contact with John via email and phones as no one has offered to fly me down to talk with John. It is a very complicated system. We can use

help from anyone who has web site skills. We need to evaluate the web site and what we want it to do in order to improve it and make it simpler.

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

- 1.06 **2nd District Commander DeAngelis** reported that after this year's mid-winter conference it was a little quiet in the 2nd district due to a harsher than normal winter but once the weather broke we were off and running
February 4th Kings County Sons Color Guard attended the 4 Chaplains remembrance held at Fort Hamilton Army Base Chapel. February 23rd we attending a 1950's style fundraiser for Diane Gerber for Department Auxiliary president in Staten Island, and yes I did go in costume as the Fonz. March 3rd we attended the Kings County Past Commanders dinner held at the Floyd Bennett Post 1060. At the Park Slope St. Patrick's day parade Kings County Sons Color Guard marched followed by McFadden Brothers Squadron 1380 color guard and many members. March 29th 2nd district sons attended Viet Nam Veterans Recognition day at the Vietnam Memorial Plaza located in downtown Manhattan 55 water street where we assisted laying a wreath at the wall of remembrance and with surprise running into Department Commander Ken in which I have no idea he would be attending this. April 12th we attended the National Commanders Dinner at Anton's catering in Springfield Gardens, Queens. April 24 Kings County Guard attended the American legion Law and Order awards night were awards are giving to local NYPD officers and detectives who go above and beyond their call of duty. May 4th Many Kings County Sons attended the Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade Fundraiser held annually at the Salty dog restaurant and bar we presented checks to the fundraiser chairman Frankie Marra. May 23rd we were invited to attend the Memorial Day Breakfast and awards held at the Bay Ridge Manor where Senator Marty Golden honored my dad with a bronze plaque which will forever hang in Albany at the State House in a hallway honoring veterans. May 25th Kings County Color and Honor Guard were present at the Cypress Hills National Cemetery for a morning of remembrance of our fallen veterans. May 26th We marched in the 147th Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade held along 3rd Ave in Bay Ridge; Kings County Sons Color Guard led the way followed by all legion, ladies and sons. After the Parade we hosted an after party at the Bay ridge Post for the sailors of the U.S.S.Cole, there was food and open bar for them, we played pool and others games well into the evening and made sure the ones left behind that missed the bus departure were put into car service to their ship paid for by a collection up and down the post bar. June 13th we attempted to attend a fundraiser for incoming Department Commander Frank Peters, a ballgame between the Staten Island Yankees and the Brooklyn Cyclones but unfortunately the game was rained out and cancelled.
June 20th Kings County American legion held it's County Convention were we were all installed by county Commander Mike Rodriguez with a great dinner that followed. June 29th Squadron 1636 and squadron 157 assisted Rolling Thunder Brooklyn Chapter 1 with their annual ride and BBQ for Special Operations Warrior Foundation raising over \$4000 for the cause. Membership is doing well as many squadron meeting their target dates and as always we are aggressively collecting donations and raffle items for our annual C&Y fundraiser in Kings County
I hope everyone has a great time here at convention and as voting member I would like to make a motion that my report be accepted as read

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

- 1.07 **The 4th District Commander Bosford** reported **SQUADRON 701**
HELD A 95th BIRTHDAY DINNER AT THEIR POST ON 4|12|14.
THEY ALSO HAD A FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR 701 LEGION MEMBER
JIM YERMAS COMMITTEE TO ELECT HIM DEPT. COMMANDER.

WE HELPED OUR LEGION POST BY HAVING 2 PANCAKE BREAKFASTS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2014. WE MADE A DONATION TO THE BUILDING FUND FOR A NEW AWNING TO ALONG THE BACK OF THE BUILDING AND HELPED WITH INSTALLATION. WE ALSO MADE DONATIONS FOR THE COST OF A NEW WALKIN COOLER. WE HELPED WITH PAINTING THE UPSTAIRS KITCHEN, COOKING FOR A BAR- B-Q CHICKEN DINNER FOR THE 4TH DISTRICT DAVE VARNEY GOLF TOURNAMENT WHICH TOOK PLACE MAY 16TH. HELPED WITH COOKING A BAR-B-Q FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS LEGACY RUN HELD MAY 18TH. ANOTHER CHICKEN BAKE FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY LADIES OF CHARITY ANNAUL COMMUNITY FUND RAISER HELD MAY 31ST. SQUADRON 701 WILL BE HAVING THEIR ANNUAL BENEFIT POKER WALK FOR VETERNS PROJECT ON SAT. SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 2014, FROM NOON TIL 5P.M. AT POST 701 W. MAIN ST. THE WEEK BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY, FLAGS WERE PUT ON ALL VETERNS GRAVES AT ST. MARYS CEMENTERY IN AMSTERDAM; THIS AMOUNTED TO 700-800 FLAGS. THE SON'S 701 COLOR GUARD ALONG WITH THE POST COLORED GUARD MARCHED MAY 25TH AT THE TRIBES HILL MEMORIAL PARADE. **SQUADRON 20** THE SQUADRON DONATES TO THE CHILDRENS HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTMAS PARTIES. THEY ALSO DONATE TO THE CHRISTMAS BASKETS FOR VETERNS OF NEEDY FAMILIES. THEY HAD A MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH FOR OVER 100 PEOPLE. THE EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. **SQUADRON 504** HELD THERE ANNUAL CABIN FEVER DAY. CHICKEN DINNERS FOR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY AND THOSE THAT CAN'T GET OUT THE DINNERS ARE DELIVERD TOO THEM. THEY ALSO RUN THEIR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY FOR THE CHILDREN OF THEIR TOWN AND SPONSOR ACTIVIES FOR SOFT BALL AND OTHER EVENTS FOR THE KIDS. THESE SONS DO A LOT OF THE COOKING AND SEVERING OF ALL MEALS AND ALL ARE PART OF THEIR COLOR GUARD. THEY DO A LOT OF FUNERALS. **SQUADRON 83** IN APRIL HAD A CHICKEN BAR-B-Q-WITH THE PROFITS GOING TOWARDS SENDING BOYS TO BOYS STATE. ON EVERY FRIDAY THE SONS HAVE A FISH FRY OR A CHOICE OF A DINNER ENTRÉE WITH ALL THE MONEY GOING TO THE AMERICAN LEGION, ABOUT 75 DINNERS. IN EARLY MAY THE SONS SCRAPED AND PAINTED THE FACE OF THEIR LEGION POST FOR MEMORIAL DAY. MEMORIAL DAY PARADE THE SONS HANDED OUT OVER 200 SMALL PARADE FLAGS AND WE MARCHED IN THE PARADE. THROUGH THE MONTH OF MAY THE SONS ALONG WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THE BOY SCOUTS INSTALLED OVER 1500 BRAND NEW GRAVE FLAGS ON THEIR DECEASED VETERANS GRAVES AT 3 LOCAL CEMETERIES. ON FLAG DAY (June 1TH) THE SONS WILL HAVE OUR FLAG BURNING CEREMONY IN WHICH WE PROPERLY RETIRE & DESTROY OUR NATIONS NON-SERVICEABLE FLAGS AT OUR LEGION ANNUAL FLAG DAY CELEBRATION. THE SONS INSTALLED AND HELPED FINANCE A NEW AIR CONDITIONIN GSYSTEM AT OUR POST. ON JULY (26TH) WE WILL BE HAVING ANOTHER CHICKEN BAR-B-Q TO HELP SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CHARITIES. **SQUADRON 446** COLLECTED AND RETIRED AN AVERAGE OF 1300 FLAGS IN OCTOBER. COLOR GUARD PARTICIPATED IN 2 PARADES AND A FLAG RAISING PLACED FLAGS ALONG MAIN STREET ANNUALLY WITH THE TOWN HIGHWAY DEPT. HANDED OUT FLAGS AT THE TOWN 9/11 CEREMONY. THEY ALSO RAISED MONEY FOR BOOTS FOR TROOPS AND ASSISTED IN POPPY SALE. THEY DECORATED THE GRAVES IN 13 CEMETERIES IN ATHOL, THURMAN, WARRENSBURG AND UPPER LAKE GEORGE. THEY ARE WORKING ON A JUNIOR FIRING SQUAD TO

ASSIST THE LEGION. THEY ASSISTED WITH 2 COIN DROPS HELPED COOK AT THE LEGION RIDERS BREAKFAST, AND TWO SONS HAVE BECOME EAGLE SCOUTS. **SQUADRON 1619** HELD THEIR WINTERFEST AND ABOUT 4000 PEOPLE WERE THERE ON FRIDAY FOR THE FIREWORKS. OVER- ALL A TOTAL OF ABOUT 10,000 CAME OUT FOR THE WEEK-END. THEY RAISED \$16,000 DOLLARS BETWEEN A DOLLAR MENU AND RAFFLES. BETWEEN 5 TO 6 HUNDRED CHILDREN ENJOIED THE WEEKEND OF SLIDING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OFFERED. THE FIRE WORKS WERE THE BEST SHOW YET GREAT JOB LEGION FAMILY. THEY DONATED \$8,000 DOLLARS TO THE VETERAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND \$2000 DOLLARS TO THE HONOR FLITE. THEY HAD THEIR SECOND ANNUAL CONCERT ON THE POND WHICH BENEFITED THE LEGION RIDERS. THEY TOOK 1ST PLACE ON THE FLOAT THEY ENTERED IN THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE AT ROUSES POINT. THEY ARE A GREAT LEAGION FAMILY! PREPARATIONS ARE STILL GOING ON FOR THE **BIG EVENT OF THE 200TH ANNIVSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH.** **SQUADRON 574** HAD A WALK-A-THON AND RAISED \$6,125.00 AND RAISED \$358 FOR THE CHILD WELARE FUND. CATERED SEVERAL WEDDINS AND EVENTS ALSO HAD A CRAFT FAIR WITH THE BOY SCOUTS, PREPARED MEMORIAL DAY COOK OUT FOR THE COMMUNITY AFTER PARADE AT THE POST AND BOUGHT FLOWERS FOR THE POST MEMORIAL AROUND THE FLAG POLE. THE SONS REGULARLY HELP WITH LEGION ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BINGO, PARTIES, COMMUNITY EVENTS AND BLOOD DRIVES FOR MISSION AND ASSISTED LEGION MAINTENANCE PROJECTS. THEY DONATED MONEY AND RESOURCES TO THOSE IN NEED GREAT JOB WELL THEY DO A LOT OF CUMMINITY SERVICE.

SQUADRON 1450 HELD AN EASTER EGG HUNT FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS. SQUADRON COMMANDER PARTICIPATED IN A BOWL- A -THON FOR BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS HE RAISED \$1200 DOLLARS. DISTRICT 4 VC TIM WILLIAMS RAN 13.1 MARATHON LAKE PLACID, THEY RAISED \$1, 000 DOLLARS IN DONATIONS FOR RURAL PRESERVATION FOUNDATION AND PARTICIPATED IN THE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT OUR POST .THE SQUARDON COMMANDER AND VICE COMMANDER RAISED THE FLAG. THERE ANNUAL LOBSTER BAKE PLANS ARE WELL ON THERE WAY WITH THE DATE AUG 9TH. THEY ARE PLANNING A BREAKFAST IN SEPT. TO BENEFIT THE QUEST OF GRACE, FOR CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.

DISTRICT VC TIM WILLIAMS ALSO WORKED AT BOYS STATE AS A 1ST YEAR COUNSELOR. **GERALD ONEIL SQUANDRON 1683** THEY HAVE RAISED FUNDS FOR THE FOLLOWING; PATRIOTS FLIGHT INC. TO SEND OUR VETERANS TO SEE THE MEMORIALS IN WASHINGTON DC. THE RENSSELAER GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION TO HELP WITH SOLDIER ON. THEY DONATED TO CIRCLES OF MERCY FOR EASTER BASKETS FOR EASTER, MIRACLE LEAGUE, VA IN ALBANY AND THE N.E F., ALSO FOR UPGRADES TO OUR POST.

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

- 1.08 **6th District Commander Ainslie** reported I'd like to start thanking Commander John for the great Job he has done representing our great organization for the past year. Thank you John! Membership in the 6th District is currently at 96.2% with 26 out of 48 squadrons a 100% with our highest being squadron 617 coming in at 172%. Last weekend the District held its annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Oxford home. This was the first year entire Legion Family was also included in this event.

Reports I have heard are that everything went well and the Legion Family is welcome for Years to come. For those of you who that don't know my project for this year has been the Fisher house. Currently I have raised \$1845.00 with \$445.00 coming in from the Grill Raffle that I had tickets for at this year's Mid-Winter Conference. I'd like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and let you know that the winner was 5th and 6th Vice Commander Rich Hodge. At this present time I am scheduled to meet with Albany Fisher House when I'm here at this convention to present them with a check from the 6th District for the amount mentioned above. In closing I have to tell you a story about our Squadron presenting a Josh dog to a young boy in our community with a rare blood disease. Just the other day I was talking to his father and to this day he is clinging on to the dog unless his 2 year brother robs it from him. It is amazing what power that a small stuffed animal brings to these Children, I would recommend that you and your Squadron try to present one because I would have say it has been one if not most rewarding things I have in the 23 years that I have been a member. Thank you for allowing me to represent the S.A.L. in the Great detachment of N.Y. god bless America and the American Legion and this great Organization.

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

1.09 5th District Commander Burtch reported; I would like to start by thanking all my 5th District officers for all the help and support I have received over the last 2 years, and my Oneida County Crew. Dennis George – Oneida Co Commander & 5th Dist. Historian, Joe Lenhardt – Past 5th Dist. Commander & Membership Chairman, Bill Murphy – Past 5th Dist. Commander, Bill Ryan Oswego Co. Commander, Chris Beaman – Lewis Co. Vice Commander/Boys Scout Chairman, Ray Jarvis – Jefferson County Vice Commander and Adjutant, Dave Goodnough – Jefferson Co. Past District Commander, Dean Williamson – Past 5th District Commander and Current Vice Commander, Robert Cox – 5th District Sgt.-at-arms, Vince Green – Past 5th District Commander/5th District Chaplain, George Mann – Our Advisor Bill Lutz – Not an Officer, but always a source of good ideas and advice. Membership – The 5th District is currently at 97.23% 6473 Paid Members with 622 new members. That puts us in 4th place in the Detachment. I would like to recognize Lewis Co. for making 100% first in our District, and would like to mention that Oneida Co. our largest County made 100% at 2753 Members. We had a great year in Membership and we helped our Detachment Vice Commander Richard Hodge stay in the Middle of the membership mix. Mr. Hodge has been a great man to work with and I have worked hard to help him look good in his position and head off any headache or problems that I could. Thank You for all your support. Our Counties were very busy this year and I'd like to Highlight just a few things; Lewis County is very active in boy Scouts and puts on a Parade for Veterans every year; Oswego County has a great Veteran's rides and Party's at "Vet Fest". Jefferson County has a Huge Chili Cook-off in Watertown and lots of activities involving Fort Drum and local Military families. Onondaga County has Golf outings for everything, From Veteran Programs to Autism and Children's cancer Treatment. They run great fundraisers like dart tournaments, Like Hockey nights and Reindeer Horseshoes. Needless to say I spend a lot of time in Onondaga County and enjoy every minute of it. Oneida County also has many Golf Tournaments, Including the "Veterans Rehab Tournament to benefit our Wounded Warriors at the Sitrin Home" and the County also supports Tournaments for Suicide Prevention and other Veterans support Programs.

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

- 1.10 **The 3rd District Commander DeRusso** reported These past few years as the 3rd District Commander, I have experienced many new adventures, both good and bad; but most of all as I said at Mid-Winter, I am honored to see that Squadrons in the 3rd have put their best foot forward in many ways from membership to fundraisers for many projects, to just the camaraderie shared between all of the 3rd District Squadrons. A big thank you for all you have done and for all I know you will all keep doing and a great job goes out to all. I would like to take this time in saying thanks to John for the Honor of having Melvin Roads Squadron 1231 Color Guard serve as this Conventions color Guard and to act as the color Guard in the upcoming Department Parade

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

- 1.11 **7th District 1st Commander Rose** reported that this year there were many accomplishments within the district that has brought not only district attention but also State attention to the Detachment in a positive way. Accomplishments; Per capita dues from every squadron was current from five years ago to present Squadrons well over two years late on membership where brought current. District Commander made all 8 visitations; District Commander attended meetings in all 8 counties and squadron meetings in counties that had no county level. District Commander attended midwinter, District Commander attending opening ceremony for Cadence square and housing, District Commander attended Commander John Chang home coming. District is now in a strong 3rd place for membership chasing the 8th for second place and first amongst the larger districts. District Commander located Commander Chang mothers' transportation papers to America. Jr Bowling day for the Jr Aux and sons of the American Legion, Presentation of RIT award for Cadets, District Commander attended wreaths across America in Bath along with District Aux President, Money was raised for Children's Miracle network, Golisano Hospital Rochester NY, The Ontario County Sons, with help from Sons in Wayne and Steuben County, provided and served all the food and refreshments to 600 Marines and Support Vendors at a Mega Muster held at the Canandaigua VA in May. 7th District Sons conducted a District-Wide fundraising event to provide the Flag and Flagpole Infrastructure and Illumination, as well as benches and landscaping, for the new Cadence Square 47 bed Veterans housing facility in Canandaigua.

The number of volunteers and Squadrons from the 7th District participating in events at the Canandaigua VA increased by over 100%, and the number of hours volunteered by District members increased to 749, or 45% this past year. Cash and In-kind contributions by District Squadrons to the Canandaigua VA increased to \$3,700 or 43%, The 7th Districts VAVS Representative received a 500 hour pin from the Canandaigua VA, and was elected as a Board member of the VA's Voluntary Services Executive Committee. Highlights; District Commander issued two Kentucky Colonel commissions to John Chang and Wife, District Commander conducted ceremony for Flag dedication at Canandaigua VA, Livingston County currently ranked number 2 in the state and First in the state for most membership increase at +49 and one squadron with most membership of +61. 7th district has a marker on VA property acknowledging the purchase of the flag pole and donation of over \$6000. 7th District received congressional recognition for the over achievement in honor of Veterans at the VA. 7th District received Certificate of appreciation from FLACRA the sponsors of the VA, District donated \$500 to Camp Good days during

their devastation of flooding this spring. Articles with accomplishments of 7th District Squadrons appeared in the last 3 National Newsletters. The 7th District is not only called the super sevenths but is the super seventh with the best leadership that is available amongst all of its officers with notable and memorable accomplishments throughout the Detachment of New York that has brought Congressional recognition to the Detachment Sons of the American Legion as can be seen by the attachments.

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

- 1.12 **8th District Commander Kuczenski** reported Since Mid-Winter I was able to attend seven out of eight visitations. I only failed to attend Wyoming. I had a very busy Memorial weekend. I participated in three ceremonies and two parades. I also supplied entertainment for a benefit chicken BBQ for a Legionnaire that passed away. He was a veteran of over twenty years. We raised over two thousand dollars and were able to make payments on their mortgage, taxes and utilities. On June 14th, Flag Day, I participated in a flag retirement ceremony at my home post Lakewood 1286. **Membership**; I'm proud to announce as of July 11th the 8th District had a membership total of 5051. This represents 100.44% of our quota of 5029. This places the 8th District in first place of the ten Districts in the Detachment. Seem all the letters I sent made a big difference. I can't think of a better send off my District could have given me. I am also pleased to announce that we have a new squadron in Erie County. Earlier this spring Doc Gibbs contacted me about Skip Stowe from Troup I Post #665 in Buffalo wanting to organize a squadron. Both Doc and I sent Skip information for forming a new squadron. Since that time the squadron has organized To close, I lost my job of 38 years in September due to a plant closing. Three days before Thanksgiving, my birthday I woke up and discovered that I had suffered a hearing loss over night. Attempts to restore my hearing have failed and due to distortion in my remaining hearing I have had only limited success with hearing aids. Due to this my participation in the SONS organization will be mostly on the local level. With this being my final report I would like to thank all my officers, Legionnaires and members over these past five years that help make my tenure a success. Special thanks To Lefty Caldwell, Jeff Jordan, Kirk Tyler and Doc Gibbs for all they have done for me.

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

- 1.13 **10th District vice Commander Rivera** read **10th District Commander Mezzapelle** report; Since the last 10th Districts report, members of Squadrons in the 10th District have participated in many events, and have visible and active in the many communities throughout the District. Some of these events include Memorial day Parades and ceremonies, visiting VA Hospitals and NYS Veterans Homes, flagging graves, hosting fundraisers, 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 become and will remain a driving force for many local activities. As of July 16th the District is in 6th place in membership, with our current percentage being 97.17%; accounting for 1,063 out of 1,094 member goal. As for our component Counties in the 10th District, I report that Queens County is in 4th place in the state, at 115.25% of its goal; Nassau is 6th in the state, at 110.00% of goal, and Suffolk 54th in the state, at 84.6% of its goal. As usual, I do anticipate a last minute surge of dues transmittals that will bring the District and Suffolk County to their goals of 100%. The 10th District remains commit to our cause, and I thank the membership for all they do for our organization and our veterans. I also thank and congratulate Commander Chang for his leadership, guidance, commitment, and vision throughout the 2013-2014 year; we have achieved much under his leadership. **Nassau County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

- **Vice-Commander Depo turned the gavel over to Commander Chang.**
- 1.14 **Department Convention Chairman Bill Kearsing** stated that he thanked Commander Chang for appointing Mark Kearsing as the Sons Convention Chairman and the he is proud his son for what he has done and for being a dual member. Welcome to Albany and thank you for support.
- 1.15 **Legislative Chairman Gibbs** The active portion of the Legislative agenda began on March 18, 2014 for the Albany American Legion Legislative Breakfast. We met the day before at the Hilton Hotel on State and Lodge Streets in Albany and were briefed by Department of New York Legislative Commission Chairman Joe Barry. The priority legislative issues were reviewed in advance of our visitations after the breakfast. The group wanted Chairman Barry to list the issues by priority which was not done. So many of the issues are complex and there is no one item that takes precedence over another. At the state level the key items are jobs, the homeless, and the veteran suicide rate. The American Legion Legislative Breakfast was well attended as usual. My county (Erie) had three tables and several of our congressional representatives attended. Our delegation from Erie County was made up of 13 Legion Family members from Auxiliary, Legion and Sons; we divided into 3 teams and between us we visited 12 representatives that morning after the breakfast. Here is a brief synopsis of legislation that is being addressed by the New York contingent: JOBS – bill by Ortiz – A5872, SUICIDES – bill being solicited now, HOMELESSNESS – bill by Rozie – A7259-A, MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT – bill by Cusick – A4936, FREE HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES – bill by Giglio – A6011, NYSLA 30 DAY BILLING – bill by Ortiz – A2894, TUITION FOR VETS – bill by Lentol – A7686, PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION – bill by Lavine – A2283, ELIMATE SCHOOL TAX ADD BACK – bill by Cusick – A565. It also happened to be “Fort Drum Day – 10th Mountain Division” at the Capitol Building while we were there. Some of the military were in place to greet people and explain what the duties and missions of the Tenth Mountain are. They had a display that included vehicles and one of the unmanned drones. One of our local Congressmen had his photo taken with the troops there and spoke with us at length while in that area of the capitol. For the On-the-Hill Days in Washington DC, scheduled for March 24-27, 2014; we had a strong contingent from the Detachment of New York present as well. National Legislative Chairman David Lee, Alternate Executive Committeeman Gary Denmon, Auxiliary member Sandy Denmon, Legislative Committeemen David Perry and Ken Kraetzer, Legislative Chairman Doc Gibbs, Detachment Commander John Chang, and National Committeeman and Past Detachment Commander Ray Jarvis attended. Booklets were prepared in advance concerning the legislative issues and necessary details of the three days in Washington, D.C. also appointments were pre-arranged by the Detachment Chairman. All our Detachment members present attended the “Know Before You Go” session briefing us on the issues to stress as we meet with our representatives. We heard from the main key-note guest speaker Senator Lindsey Graham on the level of military preparedness and potential defense cuts that are being discussed at the National level. There were some alarming possibilities including going back to pre-1940 levels. The seven attendees met with their respect Congressmen on March 25th and all reported positive conversations and overall support for veterans and military issues. Legislative Priority sheets were left with each of the Congressional contacts that were made. Congressional connections that were made included: Thomas Reed, Bill Owens, Richard Hanna, Chris Collins, Nita Lowey and Elliot Engel. Legislative issues continue to be ensuring the stability of the VA budget so that sequestration will not become a future issue on benefits, keeping costs of TRICARE stable, protecting National Defense from drastic budget cuts, VA claims backlogs elimination, ending homelessness and establishing an American Flag protection bill. Again support for many of these issues was obvious in discussion with our Congressmen but budgetary cuts were stressed as a threat to our issues and we solidly supported moving forward without balancing the budget on the backs of

our military or veterans' benefits. While we were in Washington, D.C. several many members of the Detachment of New York contingent attended National Commander Joseph Gladden's homecoming events in Maryland just prior to the On-the-Hill Days. We have had another successful legislative year at the Detachment level. Much has been accomplished since the on-the-hill days. Congress is now paying attention to the National Commander Dellinger at the various hearings and action is actually beginning to effect the Veterans Administration. The head, Secretary Shinseki has stepped down this spring and other changes appear to be on the horizon to change the culture of the VA into a more veteran friendly, accountable organization. Time will tell but this has been a banner year in the legislative arena. People are finally listening. This has been a solid legislative year for our Detachment and the Sons in general with progress being made in many areas.



Photo of National Legislative Chairman David Lee and Detachment of NY Alternate National Executive Committeeman Gary Denmon visiting with their Congressman Richard Hanna during the On-the-Hill Days in Washington DC, March 2014.

- 1.16 Erie County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried. Commanders Advisory report from PDC Knapp was read by Adjutant Avery;** Clearly Commander Chang has done a great job this year, there have only been a few phone calls. I would also like to thank everyone for the phone calls and cards as I have been recuperating.
- 1.17 Monroe County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried. The Historians report was read by Adjutant Avery** reported for the 2013-2014 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 for those of you that posted items on your Facebook pages, and ask that you keep it coming, as the Commander's year isn't quite over yet. If you have photographs or news articles you'd like to have included in the book, please email me at son1033@aol.com, please include place, date, and time. I consider the book a work-in-progress until the end of the National Convention. 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 Chang, well done!

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

- 1.18 **Chaplain Ellis** reported since my election in Niagara Falls in 2013, I have been able to accomplish several of my goals during the past year. Of most importance, I was able to send Sympathy and Condolence cards within one or two days after receiving notice. During the past year, I sent 8 Sympathy cards, 9 Condolence cards, 1 'thinking of you' card for a member whose wife was in Hospice. In addition, I purchased a wreath for Mr. Pedro's funeral and I understand that it was placed at the entrance to the church so that the first wreath seen going in was from the SAL. I also purchased a new wreath for our Morning Memorial Service. The one we had been using was starting to show what appeared to be a considerable age. Let me know what you think after Sunday's service and, if needed, I will look for a better one. It is also my sad responsibility to report that my wife of 47 years told me she had a stomach ache in late February and on April 22 she passed away. As you can imagine, it was a difficult 6 weeks but she was at home where she wanted to be when she lost consciousness. I missed a couple of Squadron and District meetings during and after that time. Please allow me to repeat, as I have done before, If you have any information regarding a Son who is having a difficult medical time, please contact me and I will send an appropriate card from the DEC.

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

- 1.19 **Major Brian Murphy was escorted to the dais.** I am the director of the Veterans outreach program at NYU Langone Center. We do strictly mental health services. We are filling the research gap that VA does not cover. We will treat any Veteran from any era for free. We are able to do this through generous donations from wealthy benefactors from New York City that support Veterans. We are trying to find an objective diagnostic to put the problem back on the VA doctors. My job is to find veterans in the tri-state area and bring them to Manhattan for three days of testing. We pay them well and cover their expenses. If they have been subject to a Traumatic Brain Injury and suffer from headaches, hearing loss, memory loss or other head injuries we are trying to find a way to diagnose this by using a blood test. I will leave my business cards here so if you know of someone within a few hours' drives of Manhattan please have them contact me.

- 1.20 **Leading Candidate for National Commander; Mike Moss was introduced by N.E.C. Ketchum.** Candidate Moss spoke of how he became a member of the sons. Our plan is to build bridges to the future; our bridge will be anchored by the four pillars of the American Legion. Our span of our bridge links the American Legion Family. In order for our bridge to become stronger our membership needs to become stronger, that way we can support our programs and that is what we will continue to do 2014-2105 and beyond. My project this year will be the National Emergency Fund and the National Endowment Fund.

- **The Meeting was recessed by Commander Chang at 11:55AM.**

- **The Meeting was reconvened by Commander Rogers at 1:20PM.**

- 1.21 **Advisor Arthur** thanked us for supporting the legion and to keep up the good work.

- 1.22 **Judge Advocate Downey** a member handed me an amendment form completely filled out in proper form and a second page that states what is being changed. My problem now is that they have to be sent to three different areas and in electronic form. I have never had to do it this way before. They will not accept them on paper any more. There three areas that have recently sent me amendments, you will have to resend them electronically now.

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

1.23 V/C **Clancy** reported that the Bronx County Sons have been reorganized and our Commander is Bob Stokes. The County has participated in the Bronx County parade with about 100 members present. They have also taken on the task of renovating one of the larger post but least active post in the County. The Legion has there County Conventions there and it can seat approximately 400 people. The renovation is now complete, with materials and manpower donated by businesses with apprentices from the local unions. This fall we are planning a blowout event. It will be a charity event with half the proceeds going the Child Welfare Foundation and the other half to charity to be named. We will get a lot PR through TV, Radio and print and also use this as a recruiting tool for membership. I have asked PDC Troiola for help with reforming Rockland County, there seems to be some interest there. We are also working on the other Counties in the 9th District. New York County is really different. I have met with Kevin Macadam who is a duel member. He was a treasurer with the fireman's union and now is a banker. I have known him for some time and we are good friends. I have talked to him about setting up a black tie affair at Manhattan Athletic Club or other elegant place as a membership/ fund raising event. He is completely onboard and is a member of the Manhattan Club American Legion and champion the event.

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

1.24 V/C **Santa-Croce** reported 2013-14 has been a strong year downstate as we continue to work closely with the legion and the auxiliary to service the veterans in our communities and promote the programs that our organizations have long loved and supported. As for my activities: **February 2nd**- 4 Chaplain's Service at Fort Hamilton Army Base, **February 23rd**- Attended a fundraiser for Frank Peters, the Legion's leading candidate for Department Commander next year. **March 2nd** - 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 23rd**- Attended a fundraiser for Diane Gerber, the Auxiliary's leading candidate for Department President next year. **May 2-4th**- I attended my first National Spring Conference in Indianapolis where Chuck Depo and myself attended the NMI- 1 Seminar. NEC Jerry Ketchum took Chuck and me on a tour of the Legion's national headquarters. At the Conference I met next year's leading candidate for National SAL Commander, Mike Moss, of Colorado and the Leading Candidate for National Commander in 2015-16, Kevin Collier of Alaska. It was an enjoyable and learning weekend. **May 25th**- I was an invited guest and gave an address at the King's County Memorial Day ceremony at Cypress Hills National Cemetery. **May 26th**- The annual Memorial Day Parade was held in Bay Ridge Brooklyn. Kings County Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons marched together. **May 31st**- I Attended Department President Barbara Corker's Homecoming in Hopewell Junction. **June 11th**- Attended the Wounded Warrior Dinner in Staten Island. The Windsor Terrace Legion Family purchased a table at the event which was attended by over 600 people.

June 13th - Attended another Fundraiser for Frank Peters which was at a Staten Island Yankee- Brooklyn Cyclone Baseball game in Staten Island. **June 20th**- Attended the Kings County Convention where the Kings County Legion and Sons elected their County Officers for 2014-15. I was honored to be elected for a 2nd year as Kings County Commander. What made it better was that the night before my wife, Marie, was elected as President of the Kings County American Legion Auxiliary. So, we now have a 2/3 majority on all County issues. I guess what makes it particularly strange is that I guess my wife, is now my Legion Mom. **June 28th**- Attended our Detachment Commander's Homecoming in Rensselaer County. A few brief items: The Kings County Sons continue to support the American Legion twice a month as they conduct Bingo for the veterans at the Brooklyn VA Hospital. The Stephen Siller Foundation and the Homes for Heroes Foundation have started building a customized house for Bryan Dilberian, who was wounded in Afghanistan,

losing both legs and one arm. The house is being built in Staten Island and will be the 2nd "Smart Home" built in our area by these Foundations for our wounded heroes. Bryan grew up in my neighborhood in Brooklyn and, as a young teenager played basketball and baseball in our Sports program in the early 2000's. Over the year I have reported my involvement in my wife's Children & Youth Josh Dog Project for this year. Well as the year ends the project has purchased a total of 65 Josh Dogs with 56 given to two hospitals in our area for distribution. In addition, as she starts the new Legion year in September, she has enough donations on hand to buy another 40 Josh kits. **Membership-** What a difference a few hours make! I'm at work last Friday, my report completed, hoping that a new membership report would appear on the website so I could somehow rewrite my membership paragraph with a better picture. Well, later in the day, the Cavalry arrived in the form of membership cards from a few squadrons, which enables me to report a much better result. Both Districts 2 & 10 are now in the 96 to 97% range and are both only about 30 members from reaching 100%. Kudos to the counties of Richmond, Queens and Nassau for achieving 100% in membership. It really could have been a better year because the two Districts were able to recruit 166 new members, which means, that we have a combined retention rate of 88%. That's 228 members who have not renewed their membership.....WHY! I know every year we write off a few members with whom we have lost contact, but 228. We still have 3 squadrons, one in Kings County and two in Suffolk County who have not sent in any cards to Albany. If these squadrons would submit their membership, both the 2nd and the 10th Districts should be able to reach 100% membership. This will be the final report I will submit as Vice Commander for the 2 & 10. In my four years of service I have seen the Sons become more integrated with the overall Legion programs and activities in certain areas but their remains a few areas without meaningful county organizations. Some of the squadrons do good work with their Posts and their communities, but they do not function as a county organization. We need to work more with these counties. Also, while the other counties do function very nicely, it is usually a few people who are willing to take on leadership roles. We need to identify members who can ultimately take on more responsibilities in the county and work with them to feel more comfortable taking on leadership roles. I want to thank all the Sons in Districts 2 & 10 for giving me the opportunity to serve them as Vice Commander and also for all their continued efforts as we serve our veterans and assure them that all the programs that the American Legion value are carried on for God and Country.

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

- 1.25 **V/C Depo** reported **SQUADRON 701 HELD A 95th BIRTHDAY DINNER AT THEIR POST 4|12|14. ALSO HAD A FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR 701 LEGION MEMBER JIM YERMAS COMMITTEE TO ELECT DEPT. COMMANDER. THEY HELPED OUR LEGION POST BY HAVING 2 PANCAKE BREAKFAST IN FEBUARY AND MARCH 2014. MADE A DONATION TO THE BUILDING FUND FOR A NEW AWNING TO ALONG THE BACK OF THE BUILDING AND HELPED WITH INSTALLATION. THEY ALSO MADE DONATIONS FOR THE COST OF A NEW WALKIN COOLER. THEY HELPED WITH PAINTING THE UPSTAIRS KITCHEN, COOKING FOR A BAR- B-Q CHICKEN DINNER FOR THE 4TH DISTRICT DAVE VARNEY GOLF TOURNMENT WHICH TOOK PLACE MAY 16TH. HELPED WITH COOKING A BAR-B-Q FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS LEGACY RUN HELD MAY 18TH. ANOTHER CHICKEN BAKE FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY LADIES OF CHARITY ANNAUL COMMUNITY FUND RAISER HELD MAY 31ST. SQUADRON 701 WILL BE HAVING THEIR ANNUAL BENEFIT POKER WALK FOR VETERNS PROJECT ON SAT.SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 2014, FROM NOON TIL 5P.M. AT POST 701 W. MAIN ST. THE WEEK BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY, FLAGS WERE PUT ON ALL VETERNS GRAVES AT ST.MARYS**

CEMENTERY IN AMSTERDAM; THIS AMOUNTED TO 700-800 FLAGS. THE SON'S 701 COLOR GUARD ALONG WITH THE POST COLORED GUARD MARCHED MAY 25TH AT THE TRIBES HILL MEMORIAL PARADE. **SQUADRON 20**; THE SQUADRON DONATES TO THE CHILDRENS HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTMAS PARTIES. THEY ALSO DONATE TO THE CHRISTMAS BASKETS FOR VETERNS OF NEEDY FAMILIES. THEY HAD A MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH FOR OVER 100 PEOPLE. THE EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. **SQUADRON 504** THEY HELD THERE ANNUAL CABIN FEVER DAY. CHICKEN DINNERS FOR MEMBERS AND COMMIUNTY AND THOSE THAT CAN'T GET OUT THE DINNERS ARE DELIVERD TOO THEM. THEY ALSO RUN THEIR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY FOR THE CHILDREN OF THEIR TOWN AND SPONSOR ACTIVIES FOR SOFT BALL AND OTHER EVENTS FOR THE KIDS. THESE SONS DO A LOT OF THE COOKING AND SEVERING OF ALL MEALS AND ALL ARE PART OF THEIR COLOR GUARD. THEY DO A LOT OF FUNERALS. **SQUADRON 83**; IN APRIL WE HAD A CHICKEN BAR-B-Q-WITH THE PROFITS GOING TOWARDS SENDING BOYS TO BOYS STATE. ON EVERY FRIDAY THE SONS HAVE A FISH FRY OR A CHOICE OF A DINNER ENTRÉE WITH ALL THE MONEY GOING TO THE AMERICAN LEGION, ABOUT 75 DINNERS. IN EARLY MAY THE SONS SCRAPED AND PAINTED THE FACE OF THEIR LEGION POST FOR MEMORIAL DAY. MEMORIAL DAY PARADE THE SONS HANDED OUT OVER 200 SMALL PARADE FLAGS AND WE MARCHED IN THE PARADE. THROUGH THE MONTH OF MAY THE SONS ALONG WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THE BOY SCOUTS INSTALLED OVER 1500 BRAND NEW GRAVE FLAGS ON THEIR DECEASED VETERANS GRAVES AT 3 LOCAL CEMETERIES. ON FLAG DAY (June 1TH) THE SONS WILL HAVE OUR FLAG BURNING CEREMONY IN WHICH WE PROPERLY RETIRE & DESTROY OUR NATIONS NON-SERVICEABLE FLAGS AT OUR LEGION ANNUAL FLAG DAY CELEBRATION. THE SONS INSTALLED AND HELPED FINANCE A NEW AIR CONDITIONIN GSYSTEM AT OUR POST. ON JULY (26TH) WE WILL BE HAVING ANOTHER CHICKEN BAR-B-Q TO HELP SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CHARITIES. **SQUADRON 446** COLLECTED AND RETIRED AN AVERAGE OF 1300 FLAGS IN OCTOBER. COLOR GUARD PARTICIPATED IN 2 PARADES AND A FLAG RAISING PLACED FLAGS ALONG MAIN STREET ANNUALLY WITH THE TOWN HIGHWAY DEPT.HANDED OUT FLAGS AT THE TOWN 9/11 CEREMONY. ALSO RAISED MONEY FOR BOOTS FOR TROOPS AND ASSISTED IN POPPY SALE. DECORATED THE GRAVES IN 13 CEMETERIES IN ATHOL, THURMAN, WARRENSBURG AND UPPER LAKE GEORGE THEY ARE WORKING ON A JUNIOR FIRING SQUAD TO ASSIST THE LEGION. ASSISTED WITH 2 COIN DROPS HELPED COOK AT THE LEGION RIDERS BREAKFAST2 SONS HAVE BECOME EAGLE SCOUTS. **SQUADRON 1619** THEIR WINTERFEST TOTALED ABOUT 4000 PEOPLE ON FRIDAY FOR THE FIREWORKS. OVER- ALL A TOTAL OF ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE WEEK-END. THEY RAISED \$16,000 DOLLARS BETWEEN A DOLLAR MENU AND RAFFLES. BETWEEN 5 TO 6 HUNDRED CHILDREN ENJOIED THE WEEKEND OF SLIDING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OFFERED. THE FIRE WORKS WERE THE BEST SHOW YET GREAT JOB LEGION FAMILY. THEY DONATED \$8,000 DOLLARS TO THE VETERAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND \$2000 DOLLARS TO THE HONOR FLITE. THEY HAD THEIR SECOND ANNUAL CONCERT ON THE POND WHICH BENEFITED THE LEGION RIDERS. THEY TOOK 1ST PLACE ON THE FLOAT THEY ENTERED IN THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE AT ROUSES POINT. THEY ARE A GREAT LEAGION

FAMILY! PREPARATIONS ARE STILL GOING ON FOR THE **BIG EVENT OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH.** **SQUADRON 574 HAD** A WALK-A-THON AND RAISED \$6,125.00 AND RAISED \$358 FOR THE CHILD WELARE FUND. CATER SEVERAL WEDDINGS AND EVENTS ALSO HAD A CRAFT FAIR. WITH THE BOY SCOUTS, PREPARED MEMORIAL DAY COOK OUT FOR THE COMMUNITY AFTER PARADE AT THE POST AND BOUGHT FLOWERS FOR THE POST MEMORIAL AROUND THE FLAG POLE. THE SONS REGULARLY HELP WITH LEGION ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BINGO, PARTIES, COMMUNITY EVENTS AND BLOOD DRIVES FOR MISSION AND ASSISTED LEGION MAINTENANCE PROJECTS. THEY DONATED MONEY AND RESOURCES TO THOSE IN NEED GREAT JOB WELL THEY DO A LOT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE. **SQUADRON 1450** THEY HELD AN EASTER EGG HUNT FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS. SQUADRON COMMANDER PARTICIPATED IN A BOWL- A - THON FOR BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS HE RAISED \$1200 DOLLARS. DISTRICT 4 VC TIM WILLIAMS RAN 13.1 MARATHON LAKE PLACID, THEY RAISED \$1, 000 DOLLARS IN DONATION FOR RURAL PRESERVATION FOUNDATION AND PARTICIPATED IN THE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT OUR POST .THE SQUADRON COMMANDER AND VICE COMMANDER RAISED THE FLAG. PARTICIPATED IN THE CLIFTON PARK FOURTH OF JULY. ANNUAL LOBSTER BAKE PLANS WELL ON THE WAY WITH THE DATE AUG 9TH. THEY ARE PLANNING A BREAKFAST IN SEPT. TO BENEFIT THE QUEST OF GRACE CHURCH, COLLECTING CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE. DISTRICT VC TIM WILLIAMS ALSO WORKED AT BOYS STATE AS A 1ST YEAR COUNSELOR.

GERALD ONEIL SQUADRON 1683 THEY HAVE DONE SEVERAL FUND RAISERS. PATRIOTS FLIGHT INC. TO SEND OUR VETERAN TO THERE MEMORIALS IN WASHINGTON DC. RENSSELAER GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION TO HELP WITH SOLDIER ON. THEY DONATE TO CIRCLES OF MERCY FOR EASTER BASKETS FOR EASTER, MIRACLE LEAGUE, VA IN ALBANY AND N.E F. UPGRADES TO OUR POST.

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

1.26 **V/C Hodge** First off I would like to Congratulation Commander John on a great year, I would like to say John it's been a pleasure to get to know you and you're Wife Percila. I am not going to Ramble on and on with what you have already herd from my 2 Districts. Commanders, All I can say is Thank U to Chris Birch 5th District Commander and Wayne Ainslie 6th district Commander, Thank you both for a great year and look forward to another great year with the two of you Membership in the 5th & 5th District are very good this year, 5th and in 4th place and 6th is in 7th place. Great job, Thank You
It was a very busy year, went to the National Commanders Dinner at Post 358 in Pulaski then off to Department President Homecoming in May. Made my last leaf Purchase to the Oxford Vets home for \$575.00 in the name of Pat Mayso in June. Went to Morrisville New York to be a Boys State Consular for the first year, We won the cleanest County for the week. It was a great Experience, Can't wait for next year. Lastly I want to thank you all for all the support as your 5th & 6th Vice Commander for the Great Detachment of New York and look forward to another great year.

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

1.27 **V/C Ruthven** reported thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as a Detachment Vice-Commander this past year. I consider it an honor. The rewards

outnumbered the required duties. The camaraderie within the American Legion family was outstanding. The sixteen county visitations throughout the 7th & 8th Districts this past February were successful. The high points included visiting with our members and hearing all of the projects and programs we are doing within our legion, our community and service to our veterans. A disappointing note occurred during one county visitation; a county commander was telling me about the problems with a squadron at his post, back when he was the Post Commander. He stated that he was ready to through them out for lack of participation. I explained to him that the squadron was a program of the American Legion and he needed an active appointed advisor. Instead of giving up on the squadron, improve your post participation, have better communication between the Post and the Squadron and work on changing the leadership in the squadron. At the end of our conversation, I learned that he was eligible to be a son and asked him to join. I filled his application and paid his first yeas dues. A month later I received my check returned with a note, "membership Declined". I have since visited with him; he is working on legion county programs and has given up on the Post-SAL problems. Congratulations Ron Kuczenski and the entire mighty eight district. You guys kept telling me that the 8th district was slow in turning in membership and I said they needed change. Well you came from the back of the pack at midwinter to pull into 1st place by convention. How did they do that? By communicating, they contacted each of the non-performing squadrons by email, letter, or phone. They let the squadron know that their membership needed to be worked on and they answered with transmittals. A really great job and a thank you go out to Commander Ron and the entire 8th district. This past June, I had the privilege of attending the New York State American Legion College in Morrisonville. What a great opportunity and learning experience this program provides for our members. This is a great leadership program put on by our legionnaires for legion and sons members. I encourage more of our members to sign up and participate in the program. We are welcomed and encouraged by legion members to learn about the structure and workings of the American Legion.

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

1.28 Credentials Chairman Alex Anderson gave the credentials report which indicated 79 registered delegates.

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

SECOND SESSION – JULY 19, 2013

- Commander Chang called the Convention to order at 9:00 AM.
- The Colors being in place, the membership saluted.
- Adjutant Robert Avery read Roll Call of Officers, and Roll Call of Counties, which indicated a quorum, was present.

1.29 Department President Barbara Corker; good morning to the Detachment New York, the greatest Detachment in the Country. On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary I would to express our sincere appreciation for all of your dedication to our Veterans, our active duty military, their families and our communities. During this past year I have personal witnessed your love, loyalty and friendship for our heroes.

- **Commander Change excused the members on the podium for the duration of the Annual Memorial Service.**
- **Chaplain Ellis** conducted the Annual Memorial Service, a ceremonial parade of service caps, placement of the Memorial Wreath, and the playing of taps. The Adjutant read the names of our 17 deceased members.
- **A motion was made by Broome County to close the registration table which was seconded and carried.**

1.30 The V.A. & R. report was read by Robert Cox; Again this year the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion in New York State joined forces for the 6th Annual Walk-A-Thon which was held on April 13 in most areas

around the State. And I am pleased to announce we raised over \$23,000 it was raised from Individuals, Squadrons, Units and County Organizations. This money has been divided up by the Detachment and the Department Auxiliary each receiving \$11,953.26. The Detachments Portion of these funds was distrusted between the 13 veteran's administrative 3 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 four organizations that \$1,000 or more

Hudson Falls Sq. 574	\$6,483	(Over \$1,000 in 2013)
Ontario Co. Posts, Units & friends	\$4,109	(Over \$1,000 in 2013)
Windsor Terrace Sq. 1175 & friends	\$1,700	(Over \$1,000 in 2013)
Phoenix Sq. 418	\$1,061	(Over \$1,000 in 2013)

This year the Commission received four applications for the William P. O'Connell scholarship and I am pleased to announce the winner of the \$1,000 scholarship is Joel Shaver from Downsville, NY. He is an 8 year member of the Downsville Squadron. The VA&R Commission met or meting during this Convention week to select the top VA&R donation winners based on the consolidated reports both for Squadrons under and over 150 members

Squadrons under 150:

3 RD Place-	Squad – 527	Hamburg Squad
2 nd Place-	Squad – 1390	Maine Squad
1 st Place-	Squad – 1060	Floyd Bennett Squad in Brooklyn

Squadrons over 1500:

3 RD Place-	Squad – 460	Greece Squad
2 nd Place-	Squad – 183	Scottsville Squad
1 st Place-	Squad – 457	Phelps Squad

Although our administration year is coming to an end, please remember our Veterans needs are not, there are many homeless 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.

1.31 The Finance report was given by Mike Rowald; he read the current budget and where we stand to date. Finance Member Rowald read the proposed budget.

Member Rowald thanked all the members of the commission for their hard work.

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

1.32 Program Coordinator Annie Wilsey; Commander Change presented Annie with flowers from the Detachment. Annie stated that she enjoys her work and does the best that she can.

1.33 A.N.E.C. Denmon reported we like to review our publications each year as much as possible. In your packet is the new 2014 SAL Handbook. We did a lot of work on the SAL Handbook by taking out some of the photos and rearranging some of the items which made it a little better. Also in your packets is the new Youth Handbook in which we only printed enough for this meeting. I'm waiting for a recommendation from Children & Youth Commission before printing more for National Convention. On the Legion side of the house there has been a lot of changes as far as organizational structure. The Children & Youth Commission is now a Committee that reports to Americanism; Public Relations no longer exists and it has been absorbed by Media and Communications; The American Legion Trophies Awards and Ceremonials Committee is now under Internal Affairs. There are a lot of other Committees on The American Legion side that no longer exists that were absorbed into other Commissions. There are also changes to the call-ins for American Legion for example Internal Affairs Committee are called in the Spring but in the Fall just the Chairman gets a call-in as well as Membership. We are going to look into this and may be doing some restructuring for the Sons

CWF

Sons for raising over \$6 million dollars for CWF. The Detachment of Florida put the CWF over the six million dollar mark. A couple of new promotional items that we are doing for CWF. We have a new Facebook page. We will have a new CWF Brochure that will be available by National Convention. We still have the 100% Banner Program, in which, if you achieved \$1 per capita you will receive a flag banner. These forms are available online. Our Children's Action Team (CAT) membership dates have changed to June 1st – May 31st to coincide with Legion membership dates. We also have new incentives for any CAT that signs up two (2) new members will receive a special emerald stone CAT paw pin; three (3) new members will receive a Guardian Coin.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

The Washington Conference for this year has been rescheduled for August 9th because this year was during "Cherry Blossom Season" so it was hard to get a time slot to lay a wreath at Arlington. We have rescheduled the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Ceremony on August 9th at 1:15 pm. The 2015 Washington Conference will be held February 22, 2015 at 11:15 am at Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

The CPR is now a fill able format on the SAL website and MYSAL.org. If your Squadron submits their form from the website a copy is **NOT** sent back to your Detachment– print and sends copies.

The "Snapshots of Service" photo contest forms are available on the website. The

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION

Last October we had 21 grants submitted totaling over \$644,000 in which the Sons sponsored or co-sponsored 11 and we were awarded 10 of the grants. You can go the American Legion website to make a donation.

Resolution Chairman Robert Brown (GA) read resolution SAL 3-Spring 2014 titled "Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$1,000 in Memory of The American Legion Past National Commander Richard M. Pedro (NY)". A motion was made by Robert Brown (GA) to accept the resolution, seconded by New York. Motion carried.

We have a goal of \$250,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. We currently stand at \$60,000 with the challenge coins we're collecting for. We have a way's to go to meet this goal. Don't give up on the National Commander's Project of the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

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

- 1.34 **N.E.C. Ketchum** reported Since Mid-Winter my travels and representation of the Detachment are as follows. February I attended Commander John's visitations in the 7th and 8th Districts.

April I attended Walk a Thon at the Canandaigua VA and the Easter Region get together and National VC homecoming. May 3rd & 4th I attended the Spring NEC Meeting there our Commander donated \$2500.00 to CWF and \$1000.00 to CMN. We had two Detachment members start their three year commitment to the NMI school. I went to children & youth meeting. In the meeting two resolutions were passed the first was to donate \$4000.00 to CWF the other was to donate \$1000.00 in memory of Past National Commander Richard Pedro. Also in the meeting we proof read the new Sons youth hand book witch should be out at National Convention. May 18th I went to the 7th District Flag Education and Retirement ceremony. June I was at the 7th District Convention than I went with the Commander of Squadron 1278 and the 7th District Commander to Camp Good Days to present two checks for flood damage to the camp. Next I went to Commander Chang's Homecoming to celebrate a great year. Next I represented the Detachment at a Flag Dedication Ceremony at The Cadence Square Housing Project for Veterans this was

donated by the Sons. In closing I would like thank the Detachment members for your support in my four years representing you on the National Level. Commander John we owe you Thanks for committing a year of your life to us. Many have asked me what I will do next. I will always work for my Squadron and whatever is needed by the Detachment but my hope is to get an appointment on a National Commission or Committee to continue to serve on the National level.

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

- 1.35 **Department Commander Governor thanked** us for supporting our Legion Post, Programs, Veterans, and his project the NEF fund. It was a pleasure traveling with Commander John and I thank you for all you did while we were on the road.
- 1.36 **Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco** gave his report. There have not been too many fines this year; only \$20.00 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.**
- 1.37 **Credentials Chairman Alex Anderson** gave the final credentials report which indicated 106 registered delegates.
- Broome County made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

- 1.38 **Adjutant Avery** reported I would like to welcome all members to our 40th Annual Detachment Convention here in Albany, NY. As we gather to complete the business of the year, I want to thank all members for their support for our parent organization and our Nation's veterans. The level of volunteerism and monetary donations to our programs from the Squadrons in New York are unmatched. We continue to stress the importance of reporting your good deeds on the annual Consolidated Squadron Report. These numbers are very important, as they are included annually in The American Legion Commander's report to Congress. As of the June 30th Membership Report, we stand at 95.65% and we need 1,266 members for our 100% goal. We are in 35th place in the Nation and within the Eastern Region we are 8th place. As we wrap up this membership year, everyone's assistance is needed in bringing in those last renewals. Let's be at 100% when we arrive in Charlotte, NC for National Convention! The 2015 cards have already been mailed to Squadrons who have submitted an Officer Certification Form (OCF) for the 2015 year. Your Squadron's membership cards are NOT sent out unless we have received an OCF. There are still many Squadrons cards at HQ awaiting an OCF. Let's obtain this year's 100% membership NOW and get going on the 2015 year. The first Target Date is fast approaching! Our Detachment Commander John Chang is completing a fantastic year in service to our organization. He has traveled all across this State to each and every county to speak about the Sons of The American Legion. Speaking of all we have done and all we are currently working on. He talked about his project and encouraged the membership to fulfill the goals of the organization. His commitment to the task at hand has been exemplary. Commander John, we thank you very much for leading the Detachment of New York and for a job well done! Our Detachment Commission and Committee members are also thanked for their hard work and accomplishments this past year. And to you...the blue-cappers, keep on assisting our veterans, children and youth, and local communities as you always have. You are the most important part of our organization and I thank each and every one of you. We are so pleased that the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion is here with us for Convention. Joe Gladden from the great Detachment of Maryland has had the most successful of years. Totally committed to our organization and its programs, we thank Mr. Commander for a tremendous year leading us to new heights in donations and membership. Many of us in New York have good friends in the Detachment of Maryland, and Commander Gladden is definitely one of them! He has been a mentor and an inspiration to us all. Thanks

Joe, we wish you the very best! I hope you will all get an opportunity to meet our Commander on his official visitation to New York. Be sure to stop and greet him during this week's events! We are pleased to also have the Leading National Commander Candidate with us this week. Mike Moss from Colorado has been a very active member on the National level for years. He hopes to represent us well this year, and New York will provide him with full support. We wish him a successful year as our National Commander!

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

- 1.39 **Commander Change** gave his final report. I would like to thank all the sons that are here and all the members across the Detachment for your support throughout the year, I could not have done it without you. The memories of my visitations will last me my life time. I look forward to supporting Chuck Depo as your next commander.

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

- 1.40 **National Commander Gladden was introduced by N.E.C. Ketchum.** Commander Gladden stated that I bring you greeting on behalf the 365,000 members of the Sons of the American Legion. We are united in service, with the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and the legion riders we can accomplish so much together. Congratulations on your walk-a-thon and the amount of money you raise for our veterans. I also had a theme for membership and was shoot for the moon. I set a lofty goal of 375,000 members. I also challenged my commission chairman to pick one special program to promote. Under Children & Youth, Special Olympics, I believe that when you help someone else you are really helping yourself, Josh Dogs, when you give that sick child a josh dog you are showing the parents and the hospital how much we do for our kids. Under V.A. & R. the missing in America project, there are veterans who served our Country and passed away that are still sitting on a shelf in funeral homes that have been given a proper burial because they had no family to claim their remains, and the fisher house. Under Americanism, the boys state program. The legion needs our help as counselors, and to go the schools and find the boys for the programs.

2.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

A card was presented to Chaplain Ellis for the loss of his wife.

3.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 3.01 **None**

4.00 NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 4.01 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Alternate National Executive Committeeman by Roll Call of Counties. Albany County nominated David Bishop. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Broom County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for David Bishop for Alternate National Executive Committeeman was carried.**
- 4.02 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for National Executive Committeeman by Roll Call of Counties. Broome County nominated Gary Denmon. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Ontario County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Gary Denmon for National Executive Committeeman was carried.**
- 4.03 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Chaplain by Roll Call of Counties. Allegany County nominated Bob Ellis. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Saratoga County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Bob Ellis as Chaplain was carried.**

- 4.04 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 St. Lawrence County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Roy Mezzapelle as Historian was carried.**
- 4.05 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Vice Commander by Roll Call of Counties. Kings nominated Peter DeAngelis. Ontario County nominated J. Bruce Ruthven. Broome County nominated Richard Hodge. Saratoga County nominated Clarence Bosford. New York County nominated Bill Clancy Jr... **There being no further nominations, a motion made by Saratoga County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Peter DeAngelis, J. Bruce Ruthven, Richard Hodge, Clarence Bosford, and Bill Clancy Jr. as Vice Commanders, was carried.**
- 4.06 Adjutant Robert Avery opened the nominations for Commander by Roll Call of Counties. St. Lawrence County nominated Chuck Depo. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by New York County and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Chuck Depo as Commander was carried.**
- 4.07 Broome County made a motion to support Greg "Doc" Gibbs for National Vice-Commander; the motion was seconded and carried.
- 4.08 Stueben County made a motion to reimburse Greg Gibbs for his airfare and hotel room at national convention; the motion was seconded and carried.
- 4.09 Jefferson County made a motion to accept resolution Det. Conv. 2014-01, the motion was seconded and carried.

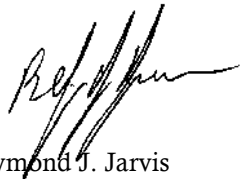
5.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 5.01 Broome County made a motion to support Greg "Doc" Gibbs for National Vice-Commander; the motion was seconded and carried.
- 5.02 Stueben County made a motion to reimburse Gregg Gibbs for his airfare and hotel room at national convention; the motion was seconded and carried.
- 5.03 Golf report; we had 11 teams and 9 hole sponsors we raised \$1735.00.
- 5.04 Robert Myrtle reminded us that we have donated an additional \$4,150 that needs to add to our Detachment consolidated report form before sending to National.
- 5.05 The buses will leave the hotel for the installation luncheon at 1:30PM.
- 5.06 The buses will pick up at the hotel for the parade; parade dress is dark pants, white shirts, cover, black socks, and black shoes.
- 5.07 Post-convention meeting will be in the room at 8AM tomorrow.
- 5.08 All of the sons have been invited to the Department Presidents Diane Gerber's installation tomorrow.

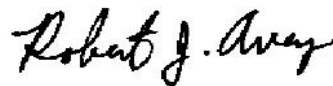
- There being no further business to come before the Convention, Chaplain Ellis offered the Closing Prayer, the Sgt.-at-Arms retrieved the POW/MIA banner, and the membership saluted the Colors of our glorious Nation as they were retrieved by the Detachment Color Guard.
- The Convention was adjourned at 12:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed:



Raymond J. Jarvis
Assistant Detachment Adjutant



Robert J. Avery
Detachment Adjutant