

**MINUTES OF THE POST-CONVENTION D.E.C. MEETING**  
**Saturday, July 18, 2015**  
**Adams Mark Hotel**  
**Buffalo, New York**

- Commander Joseph SantaCroce called the Meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
  - The Colors of our Nation being in place the membership saluted.
  - Chaplain Robert Ellis offered the Opening Prayer.
  - Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco placed the POW/MIA banner.
  - V/C Christopher Burtch led the membership in The Pledge of Allegiance.
  - V/C Peter DeAngelis Jr. led the membership in the Preamble.
- **Adjutant Robert Avery** took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- **Adjutant Robert Avery** introduced 2 Guests attending our meeting –  
The leading candidate for National Sons Commander Kevin Collier from Alaska and the current National Sons Vice Commander East Doc Gibbs.

**1.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF**

1.01 None

**2.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2.01 None

**3.0 NEW BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE**

3.01 **PDC Kevin Harrington** stepped up to the podium to present the NY State American Legion Press Association awards.

- The Past Department Presidents 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award went to “The Bugle” Seeley B. Parish Squadron 457 – Editor Bruce Ruthven
- The Past Detachment Commanders Award – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Detachment of NY Website – Webmaster Gabe Cinquegrana

3.02 **Detachment Commander Joseph SantaCroce** announced that his Commanders Project would be Operation Comfort Warriors & The National Legacy Scholarship Fund.

**Commander SantaCroce** also stated that one of his main goals in membership this year would be to include all the District Membership Chairmen in monthly video conferences to discuss the membership goals and any problems that have come to light.

**Commander SantaCroce** then asked the members to take a more active role in supporting the Sons Annual Walk-A-Thon. The amounts raised have dropped from \$31,000 down to \$13,000 per year. The Commander will be pushing this effort at the Fall DEC and Midwinter Conference.

3.03 **Detachment Commander Joseph SantaCroce** read his list of appointments, including;

Detachment Adjutant – Robert Avery  
Assistant Adjutants – Christopher Burtch  
Raymond Jarvis  
Mark Kearsing  
Judge Advocate – David Downey  
Web Master – Dave Cinquegrana  
Master Sergeant at Arms – Greg Falco  
Assistant Srgt. at Arms – Dave Perry  
Collin McDaniel  
Joseph Cleveland  
David Perry  
Peter Geleta  
Tim Broward

Commanders Aids

District 1 – James Livingston  
District 2 – Anthony Creso  
District 3 – Chris Galuley  
District 4 – Ike Bosford  
District 5 – Raymond Jarvis  
District 6 – Tony Grigas  
District 7 – Daryl Verstreat  
District 8 – Kirk Tyler  
District 9 – John Chang  
District 10 – Roy Mezzapelle

Color Guard – TBD

Americanism Chairman - Robert Myrtle

Committeeman – Charles Depo & Michael Rodriguez

Children & Youth Chairman – Richard Hodge

Committeeman – Wayne Ainslee & William Bero

VA & R Chairman – Robert Cox

Committeeman – Robert Cox & Vince Green

Legislative Chairman – Gregg Doc Gibbs

Committeeman – David Perry & Charles Duffy

Public Relations Chairman – Gabe Cinquegrana

Committeeman – Timothy Van Patten & William Clancy

Internal Affairs Chairman – Dean Williamson

Committeeman – Dean Williamson & John Chang

& Bruce Ruthven will fill Commander SantaCrose's  
position on the committee

Finance Commission Chairman – David Lee

Committeeman – Michael Rowald & Tim Williams

Membership Chairman – Gaither Espey

District 1 – Ling Lung

District 2 – Tony Navarino

District 3 – David Bishop

District 5 – Joe Lenhardt

District 6 – Anthony Grigas

District 7 – Daryl Verstreat

District 8 – Ron Kuczenski

District 9 – John Peters

District 10 – Joseph Bellinger

Membership Training & Development Chairman – Raymond Jarvis

Committeeman – Gary Denmon, Roy Mezzapelle, Jerry Ketchum,  
Greg Gibbs, Ray Jarvis & David Downey

Conventions & Meetings Chairman – Tom Smallcomb

Dean Williamson 2016 Chairman

Tim Van Patten 2015 Chairman

Committeeman – David Downey, Chris Burtch,

Midwinter Coordinator - Mark Kearsing

Commander Advisory Chairman – Charles Depo

Committeeman – John Knapp & John Chang

Credentials Chairman – Alex Anderson

Committeeman – David Englert & Alan Anderson

**A motion was made by NEC Gary Denmon and duly seconded by David Bishop to accept the Commanders appointment list as read. The motion Passed.**

**Commander Joseph SantaCroce** then announced that the Fall DEC Conference would be October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> at the Floyd Bennet Post in Kings County Brooklyn. Rooms are available for \$106.00/Night at the Navy Lodge or \$116.00 at the Comfort Inn in Staten Island. The Commander was hoping to have a trip to Conie Island on Friday night to Nathan's Hot Dogs. More Info will be put out on the Detachment Website and Emailed to all officers.

**Department & Detachment joint homecoming will be May 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> in Albany at the Desmond Hotel.**

**Department Commander Elect James Yermas extended an invitation to all Sons members to his victory party from 1-6PM at the Niagara Frontier Post.**


#### **4.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

- **The leading candidate for National Sons Commander Kevin Collier** from Alaska thanked the Detachment for the hospitality, and Congratulated the outgoing Commander Charles Depo and NEC Gary Denmon on their excellent year of service. Kevin also congratulated Greg Doc Gibbs on his year as Vice Commander East, and looked forward to watching Doc continue his service in the National organization.
- 4.01 **Adjutant Robert Avery** reminded everyone that was traveling to National Convention in Baltimore would need to see him for housing forms and delegate fees. All forms need to be back in by August 7<sup>th</sup>, please contact him ASAP.
- 4.02 **5/6 Vice Commander Christopher Burtch made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the "David Lee Weight Lose Challenge vs. Past National Commander Joe Gladden" to benefit the NEF. The motion was seconded by Ike Bosford, and passed.**
- 4.03 **Bruce Ruthven** announced that the Detachment Color Guard from Seeley B. Parish had won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Department parade yesterday, and displayed the trophy to the members.
- 4.04 **Finance Chairman David Lee** reminded the District Commanders that they needed to submit their OCF's in order to be reimbursed by Department.
- 4.05 **Convention Chairman Tom Smallcomb** informed everyone that he was Convention Chairman for the upcoming year in Binghamton. The Quality Inn on Russel Parkway will be the Sons Headquarters Hotel. The meetings will be held at the Russel American Legion on Jensen Road. A bus will be provided for transport to and from the Hotel and Legion. The Russel Post will also host the meet the candidate's luncheon. The Installation luncheon is still being planned with more info to come very soon. The Sons Golf Tournament will be at Muni Park on July 13<sup>th</sup> with tee off at 9AM. The golf fee is going up to \$60.00 per person this year. See Tom Smallcomb with teams or hole sponsors. Tom looked forward to seeing everyone at Broom County this July.
- 4.06 **Member Training & Development Chairman Ray Jarvis** reminded the District commanders that he needed 2 names and 2 alternates per district for the midwinter Leadership Workshop. Please forward any names of interested members to Ray Jarvis ASAP.

There being no further business to come before the Meeting, Chaplain Robert Ellis offered the Closing Prayer, Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco retrieved the POW/MIA banner, and the membership saluted the Colors of our glorious Nation.

- The Meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Avery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert J. Avery  
Detachment Adjutant

Christopher Burtch  
Assistant Detachment Adjutant