



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK

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Commander J. Bruce Ruthven
Adjutant Robert J. Avery

Date: January 23, 2017

RE: Official Communication from the Detachment Adjutant

Adjutant's Summary of the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference & DEC Meeting

Members of the Department of New York American Legion Family met in Colonie, NY from January 20 – 22, 2017 for their annual Mid-Winter Meetings. Sons of The American Legion members met at the Radisson-Albany Hotel. This year's Conference was very well attended by SONS members, who attended the Detachment Executive Committee Meetings, Detachment Committee and Commission Meetings, and their choice of nearly 35 American Legion program meetings.

Highlights included:

- The Membership Committee reported that we are doing very well this year having met two successive target dates. The next target date of 75% on February 8th will require the transmittal of an additional 4,000+ member dues. Squadrons were encouraged to get renewals along with new members in. If our current trends continue, the Detachment hopes to will reach the 30,000 member goal set by Commander Ruthven.
- The Public Relations table at the Desmond was successful again this year. Several PDCs assisted and provided their experience and expertise to interested parties. The table also served as a point of collecting a number of email addresses for our email directory from both Sons and other interested Legion Family members. A number of referrals were generated also for action by Vice Commanders or District Commanders.
- Graduation Certificates were presented to 17 members who attended the Leadership Workshop. The Detachment hopes to increase attendance to at least 20 in the future. District leaders are reminded to submit the names of 3 potential students to the MT & D Chairman each year.
- We were honored to have as our guests National SONS Vice Commander Joe Korba (NJ), and PNVC James Noble (NJ). Vice Commander Korba brought greetings from National Commander Jeff Frain and updated the membership on goals and programs for this year.
- Attendees were pleased to meet the Leading Candidate for National American Legion Commander Denise H. Rohan (WI), who addressed the membership during the Saturday session. Also speaking to the Detachment were Department Auxiliary President Debbie Kryczkowski and Department American Legion Commander John Sampson.
- The Detachment also conducted its Advisors Seminar on Friday evening. On Saturday, Advisor Maurice Arthur and others led the SAL Advisory portion of the Department Internal Affairs Committee Meeting.

- The Detachment collected \$625.00 in Gas Cards and \$490.00 in Walmart Gift Cards for a total of \$1,115, for the PR Project for Supportive Services for Veterans Families in Ballston Spa. This Partner Project proved to be successful again, and the cards were presented by PR Chairperson Gabe Cinquegrana and Detachment Commander J. Bruce Ruthven to the Programs Executive Director Cheryl Hage-Perez at the Conference on Sunday morning.
- Over \$7,500 was presented to the Campaign to Elect Greg “Doc” Gibbs National Commander by various members and individuals from across the state. Also a patriotic-themed quilt was raffled resulting in an additional \$1,220. The Detachment thanks all who participated and also gratefully acknowledges a contribution from the Department American Legion of \$25,000.
- More emphasis needs to be made by all on Public Relations at every level. Letting our community and others know what we do is not only a feather in our cap, but a tool to use to increase funds that we can raise, and increase members that we can attract. Information can be found on the Detachment website to help everyone in that effort. This point was reinforced throughout the conference by a number of guests and speakers.
- William Clancy, III reaffirmed his candidacy for Detachment Commander in 2017-2018; and James Coates announced his candidacy for Detachment Commander in 2018-2019. Announcing for Vice Commander positions next year were Joseph Guidice, Jr. (1 and 9), Peter DeAngelis, Jr. (2 and 10), Wayne Ainslee (5 and 6) and Timothy Van Patten, II (7 and 8). Announcing for Chaplain next year was the current Chaplain James Parks.
- Besides membership, Squadron and member focus from now until April needs to include:
 - ✓ Consolidated Squadron Reports: Due in to HQ by April 30, NOT June 30. Make sure the number of members is entered in the field that asks Membership Year. Forms and instructions will be sent to Squadrons in February.
 - ✓ Walkathon 2017 is being finalized and details will be published soon. It will be held on April 22, 2017.
 - ✓ Essay Contest information for Americanism is on the Website, schools and individuals need to be contacted now. Also reminders of the various scholarships available, including the Richard M. Pedro Memorial Scholarship.
- Details will be forthcoming on our 43rd Annual Detachment Convention to take place in Syracuse on July 16 - 22, 2017.

Thank You!