



**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**DETACHMENT**  
**OF**  
**NEW YORK**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2013**  
**RICHFIELD SPRINGS, NY**

*SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION*  
*Detachment of New York*  
*112 State Street*  
*Suite 1300*  
*Albany, NY-12207*  
*518-463-2215*



## MINUTES OF THE FALL D.E.C. MEETING

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

Hugick-Purcell-Shepard A.L. Post #616

Richfield Springs, New York

- The colors being in place Commander Chang had the officers salute.
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco.
- Commander John Chang recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Chaplain Robert Ellis offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Joseph Santa Croce led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
- V/C Richard Hodge led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
- Commander John Chang called the Meeting to order at 9:04 A.M.
- Adjutant Robert Avery read the meeting call.
- Adjutant Robert Avery took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- Commander Chang then asked the Sergeant at arms to escort Wayne Ainsley and Tony Griegus for a certificate of appreciation for hosting the Detachment's Fall DEC meeting.
- The Commander then went over some housekeeping issues and dinner information.

### 1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 **PDC Gary Denmon made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the Pre DEC Meeting, Convention, and Post DEC Meeting and accept them as printed with minor corrections, as noted. The motion was seconded by Historian Roy Mezzapelle and was carried.**
- 1.02 **Department Consultant Robert Neville** thanked the Detachment for all the work we were doing. He asked everyone to pray for Past Department Adjutant Richard Pedro who was sick. Bob remarked on the many new faces in the Department head offices, and on the new way things were done. He asked for the members' patience during this time of turnover. Mr. Neville concluded with a reminder of the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Legion and a call to increase our membership prior to then.
- 1.03 **Detachment Chaplain Robert Ellis** requested the members to sign the cards that were located at the back table.
- 1.04 **Detachment Finance Chairman David Lee** reminded everyone to fill out and turn in their vouchers.

**Committee Meetings – Recess until 11:45 A.M. or sooner if finished.**

**Meeting Reconvened at 11:00 AM**

**Past Detachment Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs** addressed the members on his upcoming run for National Vice Commander East, and asked for their support. He talked about the ten states that make up the region and his plans to travel to each one.

**Past Detachment Commander John Knapp** presented a check for \$1,000 to Doc in support of his campaign from his leftover funds from last year as Detachment Commander.

**Commander John Chang** requested Past Commander John Knapp along with the appropriate District representatives and Committee Chairman to come forward and present the 2012-2013 Convention Awards.

**Past Detachment Commander John Knapp** then handed out the awards from the 2013 Convention in Niagara Falls. They were as follows:

**Americanism**

150 or less members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Moses Taylor, Jr. Squadron #136	Westchester County	Dist 9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Fred Eller Squadron #1447	Rockland County	Dist 9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Cottreall-Warner Squadron #942	Monroe County	Dist 7
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Floyd Bennett Squadron #1060	Kings County	Dist 2
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: John B. Handte Squadron #89	Broome County	Dist 6

Over 150 members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: New Hartford Squadron #1326	Oneida County	Dist 5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Gowanda Squadron #409	Cattaraugus County	Dist 8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Joseph B. Zaloga Squadron #1520	Albany County	Dist 3
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457	Ontario County	Dist 7
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County	Dist 7

**Children & Youth**

150 or less members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Antwerp Squadron #916	Jefferson County	Dist 5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: John B. Handte Squadron #89	Broome County	Dist 6
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Floyd Bennett Squadron #1060	Kings County	Dist 2

150 or more members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Mohawk Squadron #1450	Saratoga County	Dist 4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County	Dist 7
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Greece Squadron #468	Monroe County	Dist 7

**VA&R**

150 or less members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: John B. Handte Squadron #89	Broome County	Dist 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: James R. Hickey Squadron #120	Wayne County	Dist 7
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Larchmont Squadron #347	Westchester County	Dist 9

150 or more members

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Chili Squadron #1830	Monroe County	Dist 7
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457	Ontario County	Dist 7
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County	Dist 7

**Membership**

Largest Squadron:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Charles E. Westcott Squadron #173	Steuben County	Dist 7	375 members
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Winnek Squadron #396	Ontario County	Dist 7	378 members
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: New Hartford Squadron #1376	Oneida County	Dist 5	524 members

Most new members:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Robert Lee Walsh Squadron #337	Fulton County	Dist 4	33 members
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: James Harvey Spire Squadron #787	Onondaga County	Dist 5	33 members
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Squadron #1040	Albany County	Dist 3	33 members
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: John P. Eaton Squadron #746	Steuben County	Dist 7	55 members
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: New Hartford Squadron #1376	Oneida County	Dist 5	57 members

Highest percentage increase over prior year(Under 300)

3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: St. Stanislaus Memorial Squadron #1771	Kings County	Dist 2	174%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Wayne Middleton Squadron #1839	Suffolk County	Dist 10	180%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: Osco Robinson Squadron #617	Cortland County	Dist 6	180%
1 <sup>st</sup> Place: George Washington-Victor Allegretti Squadron #1872	Kings County	Dist 2	200%

Highest percentage increase over prior year(Over 300)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: New Hartford Squadron #1376                      Oneida County    Dist 5    105%  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Michael L. Rawley, Jr. Squadron #1636            Steuben County   Dist 7    106%

**2.00    REPORTS**

2.01    **Americanism Chairman Robert Myrtle** reported his committee consisted of himself as chairman, Chuck Depo, Kirk Tyler, James Parks, James Coats, and Ross Polson. They as a committee put forth an agenda consisting of the following programs.

- “What America Means to Me” Essay Contest (1-5<sup>th</sup> Grades)
- Flag Education Materials
- Scholarships – Cerullo, & William O’Connell
- Boy’s State, Girls State & Boy’s Nation
- “What the Constitution of the United States means to America” Essay contest
- Supporting American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, Boy Scouts, Blood Drives, and observing Patriotic holidays
- The Ten Ideals and five point program of service
- Support our Veterans and service personnel

Bob reminded everyone to send in their Consolidated Report Forms. They are the only way Detachment has of tracking all the contributions of time and money to our Legion programs.

Chairman Robert Myrtle asked for a motion to cover the \$4,000 in expenditures for the upcoming 2013-2014 year, the same amount as last year for flags and other materials.

**A motion made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Jerry Ketchum to cover the Americanism expenditures was carried.**

**A motion made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Clarence Bosford to accept The Americanism report was carried.**

2.02    **Children & Youth Report was given by Detachment Chaplain Robert Ellis** – Bob reported that Chairman Ted Armbrust was going to support 2 main projects to promote this year. The first was a Josh Dogs raffle with more info to come at Mid-winter. The second was the Convention golf tournament for CWF. Robert then talked about his experiences at National Legion Headquarters while attending the National Children & Youth council on September 21<sup>st</sup> in Indianapolis.

**A motion made by Robert Ellis and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the Children & Youth report was carried.**

2.03    **Finance Chairman David Lee** reported receiving all the vouchers for the meeting. Expenditures were right in line with previous years. Scholarship Chairman were responsible for filling out the proper paperwork for payment of scholarship money. Current cost of Fall DEC meeting was \$5,639.00 for all vouchers and costs presented. David went over the new process with Department for submitting vouchers and who is now involved with the process.

**A motion made by Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by Clarence Bosford to accept the Finance report, was carried.**

2.04    **Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson** commented on the need for the commission to review and update the Detachment bylaws. He then asked MTD Chairman Roy Mezzapelle to give his report.

**A. Member Training and Development Chairman Roy Mezzapelle** reported that the presentations for both the Advisors seminar and Leadership Workshop had been updated and reviewed by the commission. The committee tweaked some of the information and edited the length of the presentations by adding information on [mysal.org](http://mysal.org). Roy asked the members present if they were in support of adding a course on “How to start a Squadron” during midwinter conference. The Department of NY has over 1,000 Legion Posts, but only a little over 300 Squadrons, so the membership growth potential is enormous if we work at adding these Squadrons. Roy then announced that the two workshops being put on at midwinter were Legislative – presented by Greg Doc Gibbs & Membership – presented by Gaither Espey. The membership seminar will have lots of new information on the [mysal.org](http://mysal.org) website and tools available for squadron use. The Leadership Workshop will be put on by Gary Denmon and Ray Jarvis. The Advisors seminar will be presented by David Downey and Christopher Burtch. Roy then asked for help from the District Commanders in finding interested Sons to attend the Leadership Workshop. He stressed the necessity of having a full class of 20 students, 2 members from each of the 10 Districts, and asked each District Commander to have a list of alternates in case vacancies opened up. He was willing to take names right up to the start of class if needed. Roy also reminded the members of the incentive of a \$65 Per-diem payment for those that sign up and complete the course. This course is open to any member, not just the current or incoming Squadron Commanders. Everyone can learn and take something useful away from this course.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson** then asked Membership Chairman and Gaither Espey to come up and give his report.

**B. Membership Chairman Gaither Espey** reminded everyone that the holiday season is coming up, and membership gets busy at the same time. We need to make sure we send things in early to make our quotas and membership deadlines. The Department office has changed a little but still runs very smoothly. We just missed the last two target dates but the Next one is December 11<sup>th</sup> at 45% and we stand currently at 38% with 922 new members so far this year. So go out and get those renewals. We dropped about 5% in our renewal rate last year, and it hurt our totals for 2013. Gaither told the members that on several occasions we missed our Quota because hundreds of cards came in a day or two after the deadline. We have post offices closing, and mail volumes rising, so mail those cards in early. This year, National Commander Joe Gladden has chosen “Shooting for the moon” as his theme for membership. Detachments will fuel their rocket ship with membership. So remember to just ask to get the renewals in ASAP. Mysal.org is now up and running. Please see the website and sign up for passwords if you are eligible. The site has great tools for renewals and can change almost everything that a member data form can, including; date of birth, address corrections, number of continuous years, and if a member is deceased. The Squadron adjutant needs to contact the Post adjutant and get permission and a password to log on.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson** then asked Meetings and Conventions Committee member Christopher Burtch to give the Committee’s report.

**C. Meetings and Convention member Christopher Burtch** reported Bob Avery, David Downey, and himself - attended the Conventions and Committees meeting. The next Convention is in Albany with Mark Kearsing as Convention Chairman. The following year the Convention will be in Buffalo NY with Tim Van Patten as Convention Chairman. The CWF Golf Tournament held at Convention will be coordinated by David Downey – all information including hole sponsorship and team registration sheets will be available at midwinter.

**A motion made by Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by Clarence Bosford to accept the Internal Affairs report, was carried.**

**The meeting was Adjourned for Lunch at 11:30 AM and Reconvened at 12:10 PM**

- 2.05 **Detachment Commander John Chang** reported that the Visitations were going very well, but it was very hot traveling near the city. Commander Chang congratulated the Detachment of New York for Winning the O'Neil Trophy at National Convention – A trophy taller than many of our members. The Commander thanked Queens, Richmond and King Counties for their wonderful hospitality. The Commander went over his trip through the 4<sup>th</sup> District and reminded the members to never be late to a caravan take off. The Commander told the story of how he was left behind when he was late for the caravan's departure. John had a fabulous time in the 4<sup>th</sup> District touring St. Lawrence, Warren, Saratoga, Montgomery, Warren and Essex Counties. John recapped his visits to the 5<sup>th</sup> district including Herkimer, Oneida, Lewis, Jefferson, Oswego and Onondaga Counties - with the highlight being the tour of Remington Arms in Illion. John thanked The Vice Commanders and District Commander that have helped him on the Visitations So far. Commander Chang then apologized for needing to leave. The Commander was needed for the Department Visitation in Oneonta and needed to leave ASAP. The Commander wished everyone safe travels home and urged us to finish our business quickly to avoid the impending snow storm.

**A motion made Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by Richard Hodge to accept the Detachment Commander's report was carried.**

**Detachment Commander John Chang appointed Detachment Vice Commander Joe Santa Croce to run the rest of the meeting in his absence.**

**Past Detachment Commander John Knapp made 2 Presentations to Detachment Commander John Chang. The First Check was for \$477.56 for CWF project, the second check was for 477.55 for the NEF project. The money was left over from John Knapp's year as Commander and was donated to John Chang's current project's.**

- 2.06 **Legislative Chairman Greg "Doc" Gibbs** reported that the committee was made up of himself as Chairman, and members, David Perry, Vince Green, Gary Denmon, Jeff Jordan and Gerry Shepard. The commission was busy planning for the upcoming March 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Albany on the hill days, and the March 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Washington DC conference. The Detachment will be supporting the main bills found on the National American Legion Website under the legislative program. If members are contacting Congress on their own, two men in particular are influential for Veteran's. They are Jeff Miller from Florida who is the Chairman of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, and Bernie Sanders from Vermont, who is the Chairman of the Senate's Veteran's Affairs Committee. If members are looking for someone at the state level for assistance, they should contact Greg Ball who is the Chairman of the State Senate on Veteran's Affairs or Phil Ramos who is the Assembly Chairman for Veteran's Affairs. Doc then reminded the members that the single largest thing they can do to increase the political influence of the American Legion is to recruit more members. The politicians see every organization as a number of votes, so as the legion gains more members, it gains more influence. Doc went over many of the current legislative issues and encouraged everyone to check out the Detachment website for more information. The department of New York was still working on the Flag & Pledge Protections. The State Liquor Authority 30 day billing cycle legislation is still around. The Department is looking at a Veterans' Cemetery Bill - for placement of a new National Veterans Cemetery in N.Y. state. The Detachment Legislative Chairman is Joe Barry, and the Co-Chairman is Bill Mahan. Our own Detachment Finance Officer David Lee is also on the National Legislative Committee and remains a key player for all our Detachment efforts.

**Special Note - At National Convention in Houston Texas - Greg "Doc." Gibbs was the recipient of the George B. Evans Grassroots Veteran's Advocate Award for 2013 for his work in the Detachment of N.Y..**

**A motion made by Clarence Bosford and duly seconded by Robert Myrtle to accept the Legislative report was carried.**

- 2.07 **The Public Relations Chairman James Coats** reported that this years' committee included; James Coats Chairman and members, Ken Kraetzer, James Connolly, Tim Van Patten, Daryl Verstreat, and Gabe Cinquegrana. Jim thanked the committee and everyone what sent in articles for the Liberty newsletter. It helps to have many reports and articles when composing the newsletter. The Liberty is a great way to support and promote the many great projects and community services the Sons provide. Jim stated that the Sons would continue with the information table at midwinter. The supplies have been ordered and personnel are ready to work the table. Jim then talked about participating in the CMN Telethon held at midwinter convention. It was brought up that Mark Kearsing's mother was on the Telethon Committee. It was agreed that she should be contacted to set up for the first hour on Sunday for 10-15 of our Sons to work the phones. Mr. Downey volunteered to get a hold of Mark Kearsing and set everything up. Next Jim addressed the Issue of our Webmaster, John Warpole, and his recent letter of future termination. Our Webmaster is resigning at the end of the 2014-2015 Convention and wishes to assist us in finding his replacement. Gabe Cinquegrana has some website experience and is a new member to the Public relations commission, and could prove to be invaluable in this change over. The commission is recommending the creation of a 5 member committee to oversee the website development. The commission hopes the committee could be appointed by Convention this year in Albany. Anyone interested in serving on the committee, or if you know a member with webpage experience or computer skills, Please contact James Coats to set up a meeting at midwinter.

**A motion made by Roy Mezzapelle and duly seconded by Jerry Ketchum to accept the Public Relations report was carried.**

- 2.08 **VA & R Chairman David Bishop** reported that Committee Chairman Vince Green was unable to make the meeting due to a prior engagement, so Dave Bishop would act as chairman in his absence. The meeting this morning contained members; David Bishop, Charlie Rose, John Knapp and PDC John Bogart. The main discussion was about the 7<sup>th</sup> annual "They marched for us, we walk for them" Walk-a-thon, to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2014. The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary in conjunction with the Sons of the American Legion have raised \$120,000 over the last six years of putting on the walk-a-thon. We need to have more Squadrons, Counties and Districts participate in this program. The sale of paper boots, that can be purchased for \$2.00 and displayed in the post, is a great fundraiser that takes very little effort. Please encourage every squadron to donate to this very special cause. Remember to make all checks out to the Department of New York and on the memo line write – Walk-a-thon and mail it to Detachment. David then discussed how the money collected is distributed. First the money is split down the middle between the Sons and Auxiliary. Then the Sons split up their half between the various hospitals and VA facilities we support, like fisher house. The committee also talked about National Veterans Appreciation Day held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> which is also armed forces day. Ideas for ways to help and honor our vets were discussed. Ideas included; putting on a free lunch or dinner for local veterans, yard-work or chores, taking vet's to a ball game, or just visiting. David encouraged anyone that was interested in becoming a VAVS Representative or Deputy Representative to see Chairman Vince Green. The commission plans on meeting at 6PM on Friday Night at Midwinter, and the VA&R workshop will be at 1PM on Saturday at midwinter.

**A motion made by Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the VA & R Report was carried.**

- 2.09 **Commanders Advisory Chairman John Knapp** reported that the Commander was doing a terrific job. John had talked to Commander Chang on many occasions and all was going well on the visitations.

**A motion made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Christopher Burtch to accept the Commanders Advisory report was carried.**

- 2.10 **Historian Roy Mezzapelle** reported that his goal was to document the travels, activities, and accomplishments of Commander Chang as he represented the Detachment on his travels and visitations. Roy then asked the members to help him with his job this year by submitting photos with names, places, dates, and times so they can be added to the Detachment Commander's history book. Newspaper stories and clippings are also welcome, along with other printed materials associated with the Commanders year or visitations. Last year Roy came in Second Place for his history book at National Convention. Please help us get 1st Place this year!

**A motion made by Roy Mezzapelle and duly seconded by Christopher Burtch to accept the Historian's Report was carried.**

- 2.11 **Detachment Chaplain Robert Ellis** had no written report, but thanked all the members for their help and support as he learns the job of Chaplain. He had sent two cards out, and had two cards in the back of the room for all members to sign. The Chaplain ended his report with a statement - "God is still there!"

**A motion made by Robert Ellis and duly seconded by Clarence Bosford to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> District report was carried.**

- 2.12 **1/9 Vice Commander William Clancy** reported that he too was new to the job. Bill was interested in increasing membership. Bill went over a list of posts in the New York City area that he had visited, including the 911 memorial post located on the USS Intrepid. Bill then went over his history as a 25 year member from the Bronx. The Vice Commander was looking to put together an event in the Bronx that would include all the posts and the whole legion family. The idea would be to show case American Legion programs and projects, while recruiting new members that are drawn to the same interests in public service. Bill hoped that if this program worked, he would be able to duplicate the same idea in Manhattan. Bill was also busy with Visitations in District 9 and was working to form a Westchester County Sons organization. The Vice Commander had a wonderful time traveling with Detachment Commander Chang on the Visitations. Bill was very proud of his 2 year old son and wife who traveled with him. His son was a hit with the crowd, and loves to wear his sons cover.

**A motion made by William Clancy and duly seconded by Peter DeAngelis to accept the 1/9 Vice Commander's report was carried.**

- 2.13 **2/10 Vice Commander Joe Santa Croce** reported that he had lots of fun with Detachment Commander Chang on the Visitations in Queens, Kings and Richmond Counties. Two weeks prior the Visitations were in Nausea & Suffolk Counties during the Veteran's day holiday. The Visitation party was invited to participate in the ceremonies At Long Island National/Pinelawn Cemetery. Thanksgiving weekend in Richmond County will mean 100 turkey dinners served by Granito-Smith and Cespino-Russo Squadrons to the needy on Staten Island. Recently the members of Granito-Smith Squadron participated in Veterans Day celebrations at PS11 and St Adalbert's elementary schools on Staten Island. Joe then announced there would be a fund raiser for the leading candidate for Commander for 2014-2015, Frank Peters. Sons from both



Richmond and Kings County would attend. The first meeting of the year was in Kings county. They discussed the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser for Children & Youth scheduled for January 19th. The Sons were also trying to organize a dinner or small get together for the staff of the Brooklyn VA for all they do for our veterans. Joe then talked about his wife Marie, and her new personal project of supporting young patients of New-York Presbyterian Hospital with Josh Dogs. Marie joined the Children & Youth Committee for Kings County and has raised enough money to purchase 33 Josh Dogs for the Hospital. Joe Reported Broad Channel Post & Squadron in Queens County was almost back to normal after Hurricane Sandy. The Oceanside Post in Nassau County had also recovered and back in operation. Joe reported starting a new Squadron in Queens County - Auburndale Squadron #123, and possibly restarting Squadron in the Oceanside Post in Nassau County. The commander finished his report with good news in membership. The 2 Districts together had 62 new members with 46 coming from the 10<sup>th</sup> District. He hoped to keep the membership renewal rates up and reach the next quota.

**A motion made by Joe Santa Croce and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the 2/10 Vice Commander's report was carried.**

- 2.14 **7/8 Vice Commander Bruce Ruthven** reported that 2 members had approached him to raise \$4,500 for a flagpole, lighting, and landscaping for the Canandaigua VA facility. The two members were Gabe Cinquegrana, and Daryl VerStreete, and they raised \$6,000 in one day by putting on a Jamboree and music show. Bruce then thanked all the Sons members that turned out to welcome National Commander Dan Dellinger to the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Districts. He also thanked them for their many contributions to the National Commander's Project – the NEF. Bruce concluded with a suggestion to help the Squadrons with no membership turned in. It not only helps our membership numbers, it helps new officers learn the job they may have just started. Bruce still had many Squadrons with 0's for membership and pledged to work on getting all the Squadrons to report.

**A motion made by Bruce Ruthven and duly seconded by Christopher Burtch to accept the 7/8 Vice Commander's report was carried.**

- 2.15 **ANEC Gary Denmon** reported on his recent trip to National Convention in Huston Texas. The Detachment of New York received an award for having 90% renewal rate. The total raised for CWF this year was \$453,559, and over \$734,000 was given in grants to 20 Non-Profit Organizations to help children. The History book award went to Vermont, but NY was in second place thanks to our Historian Roy Mezapelle. Gary then congratulated Greg "Doc" Gibbs for receiving the George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans advocate of the year award and made a distinguished guest. Gary then told of the election of Joe Gladden from Maryland as our new National Sons Commander. Joe's membership campaign theme is "Shooting for the Moon" and his projects include the National Scholarship Fund and the NEF. Joe asked all Sons to do a Family Tree to find any members left behind. His goal is 375,000 members or 106.3%. ANEC Gary Denmon then concluded his report by going over the many tools found on [mysal.org](http://mysal.org) and encouraging members to check out the website presentation found at [WWW.members.legion.org/legion/mysal.zip](http://WWW.members.legion.org/legion/mysal.zip)

**A motion made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Clarence Bosford to accept the ANEC report was carried.**

- 2.16 **NEC Gerald Ketchum** reported that he also attended the fall NEC Meeting in Indianapolis. There were ten members from NY at the Fall NEC meeting. He attended the NEC training on parliamentary procedure, the Children & Youth meeting, and the Public Relations Commissions meetings. Commander John Chang and Gaither Espey attended the Detachment Commanders School. Mr. Ketchum reported how proud he was

to see Greg Doc Gibbs in the receiving line with National Commander Gladden, while our ANEC Gary Denmon worked the floor in his support. Gerald then went over many of the topics discussed at the general session. Our own Commander John Knapp gave \$2,500 to CWF, and the total donations to CWF were \$12,000. New York received 2 grants. The first was for Autism Speaks of N.Y. for \$32,350 and the other was Songs of Love Foundation of Forest Hills N.Y. for \$25,000 - great work. On Sunday the Detachment members watched John Chang & Gaither Espey receive their diplomas from Commanders School. Jerry then recalled his visit to Post 282 to honor Sons member James Coats for his outstanding service to Veterans. Jerry also visited post 905 at the request of the Legion Commander in hopes of restarting the squadron, and was pleasantly surprised to find James Coats there to help. Jerry concluded his report by asking any member interested in attending the National NMI program to contact him, but to be ready to commit 3 years for the complete training. This year Joe Santa Croce will enter NMI 1.

**A motion made by Gerald Ketchum and duly seconded by Christopher Burtch to accept the 7th District report was carried.**

- 2.17 **SGT-AT-ARMS Greg Falco** reported a total of \$11.00 plus a person fine of \$9.00 brings the total to \$20.00. Greg checked into ordering a new Detachment Flag Topper with the Sons Emblem on it. He hoped to have it for midwinter.

**A motion made by Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by Roy Mezzapelle to accept the 8th District report was carried.**

- 2.18 **Adjutant Robert Avery** thanked the host post for their hospitality and the use of the room for the meeting. Bob then thanked all the Committee and Commission members for their hard work and participation. Bob asked for some feedback on the 50 minute time slots for meetings. (Should they be longer or shorter?) Bob went over mysal.org and encouraged all squadron Adjutants to sign up and get a password. Bob then reported \$3071 donated to CWF, or 10% of our goal of \$1.00/member. Bob then reported that he would soon be updating the information for the Walk-a-thon on the Detachment website. He would clarify what projects were supported and how the money would be divided. Bob went over midwinter room rates, and housing form deadlines. Bob concluded with a discussion of email vs. snail mail and the costs we are trying to control.

**A motion made by Christopher Burtch and duly seconded by Clarence Bosford to accept the Adjutant's report was carried.**

**A motion made by Gary Denmon and duly seconded by Gerald Ketchum to accept the presubmitted District reports was carried.**

### **3.0 SICK CALL**

- 3.01 Robert Ellis – Duel member Oneida County – Passed away.
- 3.02 Willie Barrow – Srgt at Arms – Colon Cancer.
- 3.03 Robert Avery's father in law – Passed away.
- 3.04 Ernie Musthieser – Brain Injury.
- 3.05 Gary Denmon – Thank you for the cards on the passing of his brother.
- 3.06 Chuck Depot – knee replacement – card in back.
- 3.07 Al Arnold out of Shortsville – Past Ontario County Commander – Heart surgery.

### **4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**5.00**    **NEW BUSINESS**  
NONE

**6.00**    **FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

- 6.01    NEC Jerry Ketchum presented Chaplain Ellis with the Detachment Cross and Interfaith service pin. These pins have been handed down by past Chaplains to the incoming Chaplain.
  - 6.02    Ray Jarvis reminded the reporting officers needed to submit their reports on thumb drives and in word format.
  - 6.03    Doc Gibbs talked about a display at midwinter for Josh Dogs and GI Dogs.
  - 6.04    Dean Williamson - anyone interested in ordering a Detachment shirt is to contact him.
  - 6.05    David Lee – Fax for vouchers is 607-777-4656
  - 6.06    David Downey – New Phone is 315-600-6057
  - 6.07    Jeff Jordan was reappointed to the Finance Commission.
- There being no further business to come before the Meeting, Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco retrieved the POW/MIA banner, Chaplain Robert Ellis offered the Closing Prayer, following which, the membership saluted our Nation's Flag.
  - The Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Assistant Adjutant Christopher Burtch



Adjutant Robert J. Avery