

# MINUTES OF THE PRE-CONVENTION D.E.C. MEETING

July 28, 2021

Desmond Hotel  
Albany, New York

- Commander George called the Meeting to order at 5:00PM.
  - The Colors of our Nation being in place the membership saluted.
  - Chaplain Kane offered the Opening Prayer.
  - Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco placed the POW/MIA banner.
  - V/C Guidice led the membership in The Pledge of Allegiance.
  - V/C Ainslee led the membership in the Preamble.
- **Adjutant Jarvis** took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- **NEC Change moved to accept the Mid-Winter Minutes as sent out and posted. The motion was seconded and carried with corrections.**

**1.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF**

**1.01 None**

**2.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**2.01 NONE**

**3.00 NEW BUSINESS & CORRESPONDANCE**

**3.01 Finance Chairman Lee** went over the proposed budget. He stated that if you have any question see a member of the finance commission. Please read the expense authorization to find what you are entitled too. The Committee recommended that per diem be increased to \$85.00 per day and the milage to .50 per mile. They also recommended that we pay donations for the year 2019-2020 that have not been distributed out of the investment fund.

**3.02 V/C Giudice** moved to accept the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

**3.03 V/C Parks** moved to increase the per diem rate to \$85.00 and the mileage rate to .50 per mile. The motion was seconded and carried.

**3.04 V/C DeAngelis** moved to pay the budgeted donations from 2019-2020 year that have not been made yet out of the investment fund. The motion was seconded and carried.

**4.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

**4.01 None**

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

- The Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Raymond Jarvis  
Adjutant

**MINUTES OF THE 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION**  
**July 28-29, 2021**  
**Desmond Hotel**  
**Albany, New York**

**FIRST SESSION – JULY 29, 2021**

- Commander George 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 George recited the POW/MIA Ceremony as the Master Sergeant placed the POW/MIA banner.
- Chaplain Kane offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Guidice led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.  
V/C Ainslee led the membership in the Preamble.  
Commander George read Resolution NC-03, Corporate Blue Star Banner.
- Adjutant Jarvis read the Call to Convention, Roll Call of Officers, and Roll Call of Districts, which indicated a quorum was present.
- **NEC Chang moved to accept the printed convention rules; the motion is seconded and carried.**
- **IA Committee member Burtch read Resolution 2021 Convention-01**  
**WHEREAS;** The Sons of The American Legion are proud possessors of a priceless heritage and having been chartered in Nineteen Hundred and Thirty Two as a program of The American Legion, and its membership consisting of male Descendants of All Wars. The Sons of The American Legion is a committee of The American Legion; and  
**WHEREAS;** The Sons of The American Legion is entrusted with fostering and perpetuating a true spirit of Americanism through its dedication and service of its members to The American Legion, its members and Americas Veterans; and  
**WHEREAS;** The Sons of The American Legion has experienced countless volunteers and dedication from its members, who have preserved the memories of our former members and associations of our forefathers, we highlight one member in his untiring efforts to The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York, who having set forth an example for all its members to follow, and keep alive all the great programs and principles of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Detachment of New York and Families in our communities, state, and nation; and  
**WHEREAS;** The Detachment of New York has one such individual who has volunteered his unique administrative talents, organizational skills and continued to demonstrate his dedication to an office responsible with fulfilling the principle programs of the organization; and  
**WHEREAS;** The Detachment of New York in an attempt to recognize this individual and designate special recognition of such service, sacrifice and dedication to the organization; and  
**WHEREAS;** Past Detachment Adjutant Robert J. Avery has fulfilled the duties of his office of Detachment Adjutant of the Detachment of New York Sons of the American Legion for 20 consecutive years and in recognition; Therefore be it;  
**RESOLVED;** This Executive body pause in its deliberations to recognize, commend and celebrate the efforts of Robert J. Avery Past Detachment Adjutant for his years of continued flourishing service to the Detachment of New York; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED;** The Detachment of New York Executive Committee assembled in the town of Colonie, County of Albany, State of New York at the Desmond Hotel at the annual Detachment Convention, July 29, 2021, elevate and bestow upon Robert J. Avery the honorary high office of Past Detachment Commander of The Sons of The American Legion of the Detachment of New York from this date forward.  
**NEC Change moved to accept the resolution. It was seconded and carried.**

**1.00      REPORTS**

- 1.01**      **Finance Chairman Lee** reported the finance committee had meet. The went over the budget. They recommended to increase the Per Diem from \$65.00 per day to \$85.00 per day. They recommended to take funds out of the investment fund to pay the line-item donations that were not paid during the covid pandemic of 2019-2020. At the Pre DEC-Meeting the Executive Committee has voted and passed the above recommendations.  
**6<sup>th</sup> District Member Lee moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.02** **2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Hall** reported; Hello, all nice to finally see everyone again. Things have been slow but starting to pick up in the second district. Our bingo VA&R program at the VA hospital is still postponed until further notice. On May 30 Kings County sons donated a motorized wheelchair to Joshua Luciano age 23 who lost both legs in a car accident. Our June 18 Kings County Sons held their Convention and installation of county officers with a dinner that followed. Kings County sons also have an upcoming pig roast on September 5 which is already sold out with all proceeds going to the Child welfare foundation. A check will be presented at Mid-Winter. Most recently on Monday night I attended a cigar party at Gargulo's Restaurant in Coney Island with all proceeds benefit in American legion baseball. Membership is doing well with most squadrons reaching 100% or close to it. I have been in touch with three delinquent Squadron, and they plan to pay past and current is to get back online with a Detachment Once again it is great seeing all of you again.

**2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Hall moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.03** **The acting 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander Aguado** reported; It has been one very interesting year. Despite the pandemic the 3<sup>rd</sup> District was able to accomplish many goals and continue our participation with veterans and our communities. The 3<sup>rd</sup> District actively expresses the importance of membership and the urgent need to have **active** membership. We need to self-promote our program so people learn what it is that we do not only for the American Legion Family, but for our very own communities. I want to express my admiration not only for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, but for all the Districts in the Detachment of New York for how they persevered throughout the Pandemic. Your dedication is a shining example because New York's Sons of the American Legion leads the way for Squadrons everywhere.

**Albany County** - Squadrons donated an impressive total of almost \$6700 towards Veteran services including Thousands of Dollars for the Walk-A-Thon, Legion Family Programs and Community Projects as well as conducted many fundraisers and assisting with building improvements and renovations at their home posts. Albany County Sons continue their strong efforts to promote The American Legion Family as a whole. **Helderberg Squadron #977** - Participated in Post events to assist Veterans during the Pandemic, Participated in assisting their community during the Pandemic. **Nathaniel Adams Blanchard #1040**, Donated \$150 to Boy State/Girls State, Over \$1000 towards Americanism Projects, \$723 to VA Medical Center, \$500 towards VA&R Projects, Donated over 700 hours in Americanism Projects, Donated over 45 hours at the VA.

**Zaloga Squadron #1520** - \$375 to Boys/Girls State, \$350 to Team Sports Sponsorships, \$100 to Children and Youth, Over \$1100 to VA Medical Centers, \$500 to Fisher house, Over \$2200 to VA&R, Donated over 125 hours to VA&R projects.

#### **Rensselaer County**

Rensselaer County Sons of the American Legion carried on the best they could under the circumstance given us by the pandemic. Made donations to Veteran projects and Community events. Members were very active checking in on our veterans and other members of the community donating over 1000 hours making calls and visiting people to deliver medication and groceries.

**The Gerald O'Neil Squadron #1683** - Made donations to the SPCA., Held fundraiser dinners for the Stratton VA Canteen., Flag placements at veteran burial sites, Collected donations for the Fisher house, Assisted Veterans, and community members during the pandemic, Collected over 2000 toys for Toys for Tots.

**Melvin Roads Squadron #1231** - Donated to Post renovations and assisted the Post with finances while the bar was closed, \$500.00 to the Fisher House , Worked with Homeless Veterans and Operation Street Soldier to provide clothing and essentials to local homeless (Veterans and non-veterans), Donated to the Veteran's Miracle Center, Helped with 3 Blood Drives, 25 pints of blood donated by members, Collected over 1300 toys for the Marine Corp Reserves Toys for Tots Program to help local children. And has already sign up to do this again for the 2019 Holiday season, Over 500 Flags Presented, \$300 to Wreaths Across America, \$150 to Color Guard, 25 hours doing so, \$100 towards Americanism projects, \$500 to VA&R Projects, \$50 Operation Comfort Warriors.

**North Greenbush Squadron #1489** - Presented over 250 flags, 30 hours doing so, Donated \$1250 to team sponsorships, 6 hours doing so, 24 hours to the color guard, Over \$2300 towards Children and Youth, 350 hours doing so, \$750 to the VA Medical Center, 26 hours doing so, \$6800 towards VA&R Projects, 150 hours doing so.

**Schoharie County.** Sons' members worked tirelessly with their community during the pandemic to help in any way that they could. **Middleburgh #0248** - Donated over 20 hours to Americanism projects, Assisted home Post during the Pandemic, Continues to assist their community.

**Ulster County** Held fundraisers and participated in their community aiding and when needed. **Cook-Taylor #0111** - 250 flags towards flag Education, 8 hours in Flag Education, Donated over 1300 hours presenting flags, \$500 in scholarships, \$250 in community donations, 4 hours in doing so. In

the 3<sup>rd</sup> District we continue to try to educate our community and its leaders on the rampant number of homeless veterans. In 2020 there were about 37,250 Homeless Veterans in the United States (1250 in NY) and these are the ones reported. I find this number appalling and I personally will not rest until that number is down to 0. Once again, I thank you for giving me the platform to move forward with this and I hope to one day stand in front of you and say we did it, because **No Veteran Should Be Without a Place to Call Home**. This is my final report as 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander, and I want to say it has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with you all. I am happy to say that the incoming Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District (Frank Aguado) is already an outstanding leader and will make us all proud.

**3<sup>rd</sup> District Acting Commander Aguado moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.04** **4<sup>th</sup> District Acting Commander Espy Reported**, On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, The Fabulous 4<sup>th</sup> District held their annual Spring Conference Meeting in Lake Placid at American Legion Post 326. I am excited to say that out of 10 Counties there was 9 Counties were represented with 23 members in attendance. We held our elections for the upcoming year. The officers remained the same with Commander Herman Downer, Jr, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Matt Aldi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Dan Lancette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Jim Brown. Appointments were made by Commander Downer for the following Adjutant Gaither Espy, Finance Officer Peter Geleta, Chaplain Brian McKim, Historian Steve Geleta, Sgt-at- Arms Riley Downer, and Judge Advocate David Downey. The 4<sup>th</sup> District American Legion once again appointed Don Zarecki as our Advisor. It was voted on to purchase \$100.00 worth of raffle tickets to help support David Lee for Detachment Commander. The following donations were voted on at our April 10<sup>th</sup> District meeting in Stillwater at American Legion Post 490. Detachment Commander Dennis George Project \$250, Committee to elect David Lee \$250, National Emergency Fund \$250, Wreathes Across American \$500, Child Welfare Foundation \$250, Detachment Walk-A-Thon \$250, Team N.Y. (V James Triola) for National American Legion Commander \$500, Currently the Fabulous 4<sup>th</sup> District is at 93.68% membership and needs 203 to hit 100%. 17 Squadrons and 4 Counties are at or over 100%.

**4<sup>th</sup> District Acting Commander Espy moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.05** **5<sup>th</sup> District Commander Mills reported**, Since our Mid-Winter Conference meeting via zoom on Saturday, January 23, 2021, events were kind of slow due to the levels of Covid-19 still around. As the governor started opening more, events became more available. All during the pandemic, I still attended my County SAL and County Legion meetings. Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, I cancelled our District meeting. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Legion meeting was via zoom at 2:00 p.m., which I attended and gave a report on the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL. On Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, there was a fundraiser spaghetti dinner for Karen St. Hilaire, at The Mattydale Post from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Karen is currently Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President and is on her quest for Department President for membership year 2023-2024. Although I couldn't attend, I sent her a donation. Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, we had our 5<sup>th</sup> District meeting/nomination of officers at Utica Post #229. It was very well attended! I then attended the 5<sup>th</sup> District Legion meeting and gave a report on the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL. Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, was the Walk-a-thon. There were a few donations from the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL. Phoenix post did the cut-out boots and a 50/50 raffle. Oneida and Oswego County gave a donation. Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, we had our 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL meeting/elections. It was very well attended. We had a special guest, which was our Leading Candidate for Detachment Commander, David Lee. Dave gave an excellent report. We also gave him a donation, for his future endeavors. The 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL voted on the new officers. Our newly elected 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Commander is Rich Abel from Oneida County. Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, I attended the 5<sup>th</sup> District Auxiliary Spring Conference. Detachment Commander Dennis, Oneida County Commander Doug Martin, and I represented the SAL. The conference was very well attended. On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Oswego County SAL had the yearly county function and gun raffle at Cleveland Post #858, which I attended. On Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> District Legion meeting/election was at the Antwerp Post, in Jefferson County, at 2:00 p.m. I gave a report on the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL. I was also voted in as 5<sup>th</sup> District Legion Chaplain and liaison for the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL. Membership in the 5<sup>th</sup> District as of July 8, 2021, is 94.64%; 1<sup>st</sup> place out of 10! Big congratulations to Oswego County, for membership total of 107.48%! Excellent job by the squadrons, counties, and the district members! I would be honored to serve as Detachment Vice Commander for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> District, for the membership year 2021-2022. Although it has been a tough year with the pandemic, it has shown us that we can still move forward with our organization and our lives. Nothing shall slow us down or make us quit!

**5<sup>th</sup> District Commander Mills moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.06** **6<sup>th</sup> District Commander Grigas report was read by acting District Commander Hooke.** **Commander Grigas reported** that it has been an honor to serve as the sixth district Commander for the last four years. Due to the pandemic the last two years have been difficult. Not be able to have face to face conversations, where so many great ideas are brought to your attention has been tough, and yet, our great organization, guided by our great leadership has not only endured, but thrived. In the 6<sup>th</sup> district at times in the past couple of years, things looked bleak. But as always, our local post and our Legion Family has endured, and rebounding from this crimpling pandemic. Though membership has been down, it is showing signs rebounding, as people come back. I would like to thank Wayne “Chet” Ainslie for all his guidance and support all these years. You are a true friend! I would also like to thank David Lee, who has been our 6<sup>th</sup> District Finance Officer since I’ve been around. He not only served in that role, but instrumental with his knowledge of the inner workings of how our organization works. He will be great a Commander and is a great friend. I am confident that I am leaving the 6<sup>th</sup> district in the hands of an enthusiastic, capable leader in Ed Hooke. I know he has the skills and passion that we all aspire to have. As all Commanders hope for, I have had the privilege to assemble a great group of men to assume our officers in the 6<sup>th</sup> district. They are all ready to go, and I couldn’t prouder. People don’t realize how amazing this organization is, unless its put out there. Let your communities know the charities you support. We are here to serve our veterans and our communities, small towns, or a big city, we are here to assist those in need, **6<sup>th</sup> District acting Commander Hooke moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.07** **7<sup>th</sup> District Acting Commander Cleveland reported;** This last year has been challenging for our while navigating through the global pandemic. There have been many instances where local Squadrons, Counties and the Super Seventh District have come through and addressed the increased needs of our community. An example was last April, Squadrons and Units from across the District and Adjutant James Casey on behalf of the Department of New York teamed together for the Brown Bag Power Pack Snacks that were provided to the Veterans Crisis Hotline at the Canandaigua VA. Also, the Seeley B. Parish Squadron donated \$1400 to the Holiday Giving at the Canandaigua VA in December. We along with the rest of the American Legion Family contributed to the VA Vaccination Clinics in February. These are just a few examples of what we have accomplished to help our community through these trying times. This spring, National announced that the Seventh Districts very own Gabe Cinquegrana was named Department of Veteran Affairs National Advisory Committee Volunteer of the Year. Gabe is the first Son to receive this prestigious National Award. I have been blessed with an awesome team of Officers that have helped me pick up the slack when I have been unable to perform due to my illness which I will be forever grateful for. I see a great future for the Super Seventh District Sons that will continue and grow the accomplishments we have achieved in the past as we emerge from the pandemic. In closing, looking back over the past three years, I know that representing the over 5100 members of the Seventh District Sons and working for the causes surrounding the Four Pillars of The American Legion has been a humbling honor. May God bless The American Legion Family, our armed forces protecting this great land, and The United States of America. **7<sup>th</sup> District Acting Commander Cleveland moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.08** **8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Kuczenski** reported the 2020-2021 year is almost over. These past two years have been the most difficult our organization has ever seen. For me, this completes my responsibilities as Commandeer of the 8<sup>th</sup> District. The year began very slow as fears of the virus kept attendance at a minimum. As the vaccine became readily available that had changed and they returned to almost normal. Activities were very curtailed. Memorial Day and fourth of July activities were kept at a minimum. I was at least able to participate in three services during the Memorial Day Ceremonies. I would like to acknowledge the fine job that Diman Smith, Chautauqua County, did for the walk-a-thon. This is always a difficult job and with all the restriction it made it all the harder. My last activity is a sad one. Two weeks ago, I attended the wake of outgoing Detachment Chaplain and good friend Dale Kane’s wife in Wellsville. The final membership report came out on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> district finished in third place in the detachment with 5272 members, at 93.54%. We lack about 350 members to reach our 100% goal. **8<sup>th</sup> District member Kuczenski moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

- 1.09 9<sup>th</sup> District Commanders Jacobs reported,** The 9<sup>th</sup> District finished at 93.14% this year, only about one and a half percent from first place and less than 1% behind the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> districts. We tried very hard to contact many of the squadrons that were lagging and for the most part those squadrons responded. Our Ninth District Legion Advisor Rich Calbo was very helpful in contacting the post commanders for us when we had difficulty reaching the squadrons. Like everyone else in the state and especially in the downstate regions, we are cautiously optimistic for the future with regards to the pandemic. Everyone is happy to be getting back to business as usual and I am happy to report that our squadrons in the Ninth are still going strong. If anything, positive came out of the crisis it was that it emphasized just how important our squadrons are to the posts they serve. At my home post in Rockland County, post fundraising was limited to only take-out dinners. These dinners were staffed almost exclusively by Sons. In Westchester, Yorktown Squadron 1009 rescued their post by raising the funds to replace the boiler at the post when it failed. The post would have become insolvent with the great expense of the repair. Great job! I'm happy to report that our squadrons in the 9<sup>th</sup> are getting the job done.  
**9<sup>th</sup> District Commander Jacobs moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.10 10<sup>th</sup> District Acting Commander Cerullo reported,** the counties have been talking about they can work and communicate better together. \$2300.00 was raised for the Walk-A-Thon. Membership is coming along.  
**Acting Commander Cerullo moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.11 Historian Van Patten reported,** We all know what a unique year this has been. We were fortunate enough to have the county visitations completed in 2020 before the world came to a screeching halt. With cancellation of most events and others being held via video conferencing there has not been a lot of opportunity for photographs to be taken of what we do. That however is not to say that we haven't been busy. We have still made donations, collected medical and sanitation supplies, and have helped in any way we safely could. We just don't have pictures to publicize it. We do have a history book compiled for entry into the national contest and that will be available if anyone would like to look through it. We also have taken delivery of our step and repeat banner to help give our award presentations a more polished appearance.  
**Historian Van Patten moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.12 Chaplain Kane reported** that he has sent 9 sympathy cards, 4 get well cards, conducted two prayer services, attended 7 memorial day services, attended a flag retirement service, participated in 22 funeral honor guard services, as well as various meetings as travel restrictions allowed.  
**Chaplain Kane moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.13 Judge Advocate Downey reported** that a Constitution and By-Laws that has been bounced around from 2006 have finally been approved it only took 14 years, but it is done. Make sure you change your preamble. Make sure your changes are correct and you have all the signatures.  
Boys State was virtual this year and we still need more help.  
**4<sup>th</sup> District member Downey moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.14 V/C for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> District Guidice reported,** Membership in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Districts has been very good with both districts finishing strong. We still have some work to do but overall, our membership is strong in our area. The Ninth District was leading for most of the year only to be slightly edged out at the finish line. It is truly great news to report to hear that our squadrons in the downstate region are finally able to meet again in-person and can gather again both socially and to raise much needed funds to support our causes. Sadly though, we are not out of the woods quite yet. As you all know from the media, a new variant of this has arisen and with it the very real possibility of restriction being imposed looms over us. I would also like to congratulate the Ninth District officers for the coming year including Commander Mike Jacobs on their elections. Due to the restrictions in the area, it was difficult to meet and following the lead of the detachment the district met online via Zoom to conduct their business and hold their elections. In the coming year my goal is to establish a functioning First District with the counties and squadrons in Bronx and New York counties. It is my hope that by Mid-Winter 2022 we will have a seated 1<sup>st</sup> District commander with us to represent those counties. In closing, I would like to mention that I was honored to have been asked to serve on the Committee to Elect V. James Troiola National Commander of the American Legion. Jim was an old friend of my father, and I am humbled to have been asked to serve. I should also note that Jim is a dual member, belonging to both Squadron and Post 1682 in New City, in Rockland County. There will be fundraisers held in districts across the state, kicking off with one next week,

on August 7<sup>th</sup> in Rockland. If you are available and would like to attend, please see me for details. And please consider helping when the vents come to your area.

**V/C Guidice moved to accept the report which was second and carried.**

- 1.15 V/C for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> District DeAngelis reported, Finally,** I get to see my friends again I've missed you all so much. What can I say thank God this situation is almost over...? I think. I haven't really been that busy in the 2nd and 10th district ...as you all know that the New York City metro area had stricter restrictions than in other areas of the state. So, I am just very happy to still be here. As you heard The 2nd district is doing very well and from what I can see on Facebook so is the 10th District. Thank you to everyone in the 2nd & 10th district for doing a great job at membership again this year, I am looking forward to attending events in the future and getting back to normal. Again, it is great to look out and see all my good friends again

**V/C DeAngelis moved to accept his report which was second and carried.**

- 1.16 V/C for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> District Williams reported,** I would like to say that 2020 was a trying time to process. Right after Mid-Winter everything let loose. Late February I had some health issues don't know if it was covid or not. In March we were at the start of the pandemic, and everything changed for all of us. Quarantine three times by three different counties. I took a step back from everything. In August 2020 I attended 4th District special meeting in Lake George post 374. Detachment Commander Dennis has asked all the squadrons to work with your legion post to ensure the bills and grounds were being kept up. October 2020 I attended the 4th District meeting in Amsterdam post 701 at that time Mid-Winter was on hold for 2021. November zoom conference meeting somehow, I got lucky to connect but no picture, missing the following zoom meeting on equipment needs. December 2020 wreaths across America at Saratoga National Cemetery the 4th District donated \$500. In all there were over 14,000 wreaths laid. April 2021 Dave Bishop and I presented a check for \$2500 to the Fisher House in Albany on behalf of Commander Dennis and the Detachment. Around the 3rd and 4th Districts have been doing what they can for their legion post. Squadrons donated money to help their post in upkeep, cleaning, and supplies, and kept up with donations to Veterans programs such as as the Fisher House, Stratton VA. Hospital, national emergency fund, child welfare fund and walk-a-thons.

Membership

3rd District has 10 Squadrons over 100% at 87.04% as of July 8th, 2021, 4th District has 16 Squadrons over 100 % at 93.68% as of July 8, 2021.

In closing I would like to say my Heartfelt Condolences to family and friends of the American legion family for the members that we lost. I would like to thank everyone and the Commander Dennis for enduring through this pandemic. Be well and stay safe.

**V/C Williams Moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**

- 1.17 V/C for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> District Ainsley reported** Wow where do you start the last year and a half have been nothing but a challenge and still continues to be a challenge. I am sure everyone in this room felt the effects of this pandemic in one way or another, it will be something that we will remember for the rest of our lives. I want to say great job by Commander Dennis, Adjutant Ray and all the SONS for keeping things moving during these trying times. Being my Squadrons Adjutant I know how hard it was to keep the membership going with our Post being closed. But I think that everybody did a great job to get us to where we are. With the membership for Districts 5 & 6 as of the July 8<sup>th</sup> report are as follows: District 5 is at 94.64% with 22 Squadrons at or above 100% with Squadron 601 Russell Horning the highest at 207.14% and one county Oswego at 107.48%. District 6 is at 89.02% with 13 Squadrons at or above 100% with Squadron 1566 Milford the highest at 271.43% and one county Madison at 100%. I would like to thank the Detachment for letting me be your Detachment Vice commander for Districts 5 & 6 for the last 4 years and I know that Shawn is going to do a great job taking over for me, All the luck to you Shawn. In closing I would like to recite a closing remark that I included in my Mid-Winter report from the year of 2018 it went like this: In my travels around the State, I get to visit many great American Legion Posts, sadly many of them are talking about closing their doors. In my small community the Legion Post plays a very important part in our lives, The Post is where your mother has your baby shower, The Post is where you have your graduation party, The Post is where you have your Wedding reception, The Post is where you have your Birthday & Anniversary parties, & The Post is where they have the Celebration of your Life. We need to help our Posts in any way that we can if not financially at least with the upkeep of the building and grounds because without a house you can't have a home and without a home you can't have a FAMILY.

**V/C Ainsley moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**

- 1.18 V/C 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District Parks reported,** Visitations were made in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> districts. I did not make the 8<sup>th</sup> district Convention due to a scheduling conflict. The 7<sup>th</sup> District Convention was held in Chili the attendance was good. It has been great representing the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> districts as your vice commander. I could only wish that my second year was as good as my first.  
**V/C Parks moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.19 ANEC Ruthven reported,** This will be wrap up my abbreviated term as your Detachment Alternate Executive Committeeman. Thank you for allowing the privilege. I considered it an honor. My only wish is that I could be following in the footsteps of my predecessor Joe Santa Crouse. His guidance and support will be missed. This past year has continued to be a difficult one, cancelled meetings, conferences and conventions substituted with zoom meetings and conference calls. This Detachment Convention shows that things are getting better. I have placed me for nomination as your next National Executive Committeemen. If elected I will be traveling to the Nation Convention in Pheonix in August. Thank you for your support and trust in me to continue serving the Detachment of New York.  
**ANEC Ruthven moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.20 NEC Chang reported,** This will be my final report to you as your NEC. Thank you for the opportunity and honor to serve our Detachment as the NEC for the past three years. It was my pleasure and good fortune of serving under Detachment Commanders Jim Coates and Dennis George, and National Commanders Greg “Doc” Gibbs and Clint Bolt. The support from these leaders was fantastic. The communication was great between us. Relationships and Bonds that were developed will always be there. This last year was a year that will long be remembered due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, which completely shut down our American Legion Family Activities for about 15 months. During that time The Department of N.Y. American Legion Posts were forced to close due to the Covid-19 regulations. There were no longer any in person meetings or gatherings due to the restrictions. The new way of communication was the “Zoom” Meeting or Face Book and other internet services. Buddy checks by telephone were implemented to check on our membership and put out information. This was done at the local and national levels. The American Legion Family never stops, even though this pandemic. Many Posts managed to function in some ways under the Covid -19 restrictions. Leo Ladder’s Post with the help of its SAL squadron put on special meals for members and guests throughout the pandemic. I was very happy to support the Post in attending most of their dinners that were excellent and successful for the Post. A special shout out to Joe Guidice and Mike Jacobs for their dedication and hard work for the special dinners. Through innovation the National Executive Meetings were held on a “Zoom” format for the first time in our history. Though there may have been some minor problems, it was a great success and may be used in the future if needed.

After Priscilla and I received our vaccinations, we were able to travel to our home in The Villages, Florida. During the short time we were down there we got to visit with Legion Family down in Florida. We met up with Mackayla McDaniels, sister of our own Colin McDaniels, at McDill AFB in Tampa, Florida where she is stationed for 3 years with the Marine Corps. Then we met up with Past District Commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> District, Jerry Toepper and celebrated his birthday with a nice lunch and green bottle. We also got a visit from Bob and Patty Myrtle from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> District and enjoyed a lovely dinner in The Villages, Florida. The Kim Lau Squadron 1291 held its election and installation of Officers in June 2021. I can report that my Squadron is doing well with membership and new members joining. Our Past Department Commander Jim Triola made his announcement to run for National Commander of The American Legion. He is a great friend of The SAL and has our total support. He will be the third National Commander from New York, following PNC Fang Wong. Another great honor for The Department of N.Y. I truly enjoyed my 3 years as your NEC and have made many bonds and friendships at the National Level that will last a lifetime. It has been a highlight of my time in the Son's. My work is done, and I feel that I have made a difference representing The Detachment of N.Y. at the National Level.

**NEC Chang moved to accept the which was seconded and carried.**

**1.21**

**Adjutant Jarvis reported,** Membership as of July 22, 2021, we are 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation are currently 90.90% of our 2020 goal. We need 2169 members to reach 100%. There is a new form that needs to be filled out yearly. Please spread the work and make sure you mentor your replacement to make sure they get done. The form is called the Squadron Data Form. This form asks how much your dues are. National needs this information so that your members can pay their dues online. They can also set up reoccurring payments using the debit or credit card. This form must be filled out annually if your information has not changed. Other form that must be filled out is the Consolidated Report Form and the Officer Certification Form. The National Mylegion.org website. It is still a work in progress. There are many of you that are having issues. If you are having an issue, you can email Nation at [cs2@legion.org](mailto:cs2@legion.org) or call 1-833-253-9995. Make sure you have your membership card number handy and be prepared to wait. Please check out the directory and make sure that all the information is correct. If not please let me know by emailing or texting me. If I tell and I don't write it down I will never remember it. If you are a new committee member there are forms in the back, please fill it out and give to me or email me the info. Consolidated report forms. We are going to change our due date to reflect what national is put out. So, our due date will be June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are now scanning and using email which is much easier and faster. So, we don't need all the extra time. Our convention is a little later this year than is years past. With National Convention is right around the corner. The Sons Convention starts on Friday August 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM. And concludes with the transitional meeting on Monday morning at 8AM. So, the is the last call. Forms are at the Legion Office room 112. If you are going to National Convention and have your information, I will be sending an email as we get closer with any updated information and meeting dates and times.

**5<sup>th</sup> District Commander Mills moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.22**

**Department President Tome,** thank us for electing Commander George it has been a pleasure traveling with him even if we have been here for two years and only traveled for one. I thank the Sons for all the support of our programs and those of the American Legion Family.

- **Commander George Recessed the Convention till tomorrow at 1PM.**

## Second Session July 30, 2021

- Commander George called the Convention to order at 1:00PM.
- The Colors being in place, the membership saluted.
- Adjutant Jarvis read Roll Call of Officers, and Roll Call of Counties, which indicated a quorum, was present.
- **Department Commander McDermott thanked** the sons for all they do for the American Legion assisting with all the programs. It was a pleasure traveling with Commander George and President Tome the first year we all enjoyed seeing everyone. The second we all know what happened.
- **Consultant Neville introduced Legion National Vice-Commander East Frank McDonald (MA).** He stated that the Sons do a lot of work supporting the the Legion programs. He stated that we need to choose a program and do the well then let the community know what we did, then report it.
- **Commander George excused the members on the dais for the duration of the Annual Memorial Service.**
- **Chaplain Kane** 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 deceased members (41).

### 1.23

**Americanism Commission member Parks gave the Americanism report.** First, I would like to recognize and thank my fellow Americanism Commission members for their dedication and support this past year. Jim Parks, Herman Downer Jr., Gary Manzer and Jim Brown. Thanks to their hard work, they have made this Commission as strong as it is. Please join me in showing them our appreciation. We are proud to announce that Alayna Trautman is the 2021 winner of the Rocco and Virginia Cerullo Memorial Scholarship. Alayna is a member of Unit #1593 in Cattaraugus County. We also had 2 previous winners that reapplied and won, they are Victor Gelfuso (2020) of Squadron #616 of Otsego County and Tyler Frey (2019) of Squadron #44 in Nassau County. The Americanism Commission is pleased of the fact that this year we had an increased number of Essays submitted. The winners are Grade 1 - Vivienne Riecker of Poland Central School, Grade 2 - Anthony Carpio of Fr. Vincent Capodanno Catholic Academy, Grade 3 - Emily Penrose of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Grade 4 - Jacob Cyr of Holland Patent Elementary, Grade 5 - Amina Ivackovic of P.S. 11, Grade 6 to 8 - Valarie Mangual of St. Ann School. Please keep up the effort of getting the word out on these contests and hopefully we will have more submissions to judge next year! The information for the upcoming contests has been posted on the Detachment Website. The idea behind this is since we can have our foot in the door at most schools around Memorial Day and Flag Day, we will be able to reach the teachers directly with the Contest information. Boys State was held virtually June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>. American Legion Boys State is a week-long program that immerses high school youth (currently completing their junior year) in citizenship and leadership training. I would ask David Downey to approach to give a report on the week. The Detachment Americanism Commission 2018-2019 expenses were a total of \$4791.51 and will be recorded for the Detachments Consolidated Report. Also, a total of 165 hours were donated towards the Commissions causes. A total of 85 Consolidated Reports were submitted into the Detachment from our Squadrons this year. Some important totals to note: A total of \$130,518 donated along with 37,196 hours and 11,039 Flags donated. I realize I am speaking to the choir but imagine what these totals would be if every Squadron completed and submitted in a Consolidated Report. Now we will announce this year's Americanism winners of highest level of achievements for Squadrons 149 members or less:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Hugick/Purcell/Shepard Squadron #616 of the 6<sup>th</sup> District
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - John J. Welch Squadron #381 of the 8<sup>th</sup> District
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Honeoye-Hemlock Squadron #1278 of the 7<sup>th</sup> District

This year's Americanism winners of highest level of achievements for Squadrons over 150 members:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457 of the 7<sup>th</sup> District

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Mohawk Squadron #1450 of the 4<sup>th</sup> District
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Squadron #1040 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Congratulations to this year's Americanism winners! Thank you to all who submitted a report this year. I would ask that in the coming year, as we travel our Detachment, we emphasize the importance of completing and submitting a Consolidated Report every April. Americanism, one of the Legion's four pillars, is simply the love of America, loyalty to its ideals and institutions, allegiance to its flag, willingness to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and a desire to pass on the blessings of liberty to future generations.

**NEC Chang moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.24**

**Children And Youth Chairmen Clancy reported.** There has been a lot of sadness and sorrow this last year. We should be prideful we have acted. Our kids are seeing and asking questions about what they are seeing on TV. It is time for us to stand up for our kids. The American Legion is asking for all post to have an open house for the kids. We need to teach them to be good citizens.

Over 150 Members

#1 Chili Squadron #1830 (Chili also won "Top In The East" on a national level

#2 Crowley Barnum #25

#3 Steely B Parish #457

Under 149 Members

#1 North Greenbush #1489

#2 Manning Lila #38

Tie

#3 Newell Faulkner # 880

#3 Harrison Lee #283

**1st District Member Clancy moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.25**

**Internal Affairs Member Burtch read the Internal Affairs report.**

There are two resolutions that were read.

**Resolution Convention 2021-2**

Appoint Sons of the American Legion Radio as a Detachment of New York Project Under Supervision of the Public Relations Committee and State Adjutant

Submitted by Public Relations Committee

WHEREAS, Sons of the American Legion Radio (SAL Radio) has conducted weekly a live radio show focusing on Veterans and Military members since October 2009 on WVOX 1460 AM New Rochelle, New York presenting the stories of veterans, military members, American Legion and Sons of the American Legion members.

and WHEREAS,

SAL Radio has presented stories of veterans needs for health care, education, and career transition, has interviewed members of the Department of Veterans Affairs health care staff, in past year weekly provided updates on the challenges being faced in the care of veterans at VA facilities and nursing homes.

And WHEREAS:

SAL Radio has been invited to provide reporting at events originating at the White House, the Pentagon, New York City Fleet Week, Navy League of NYC, State University Maritime College, the US Military Academy, the NY State Army National Guard, has conducted trips to meet veterans and cover Army football games played at U of Buffalo, Penn State, Oklahoma, Michigan, the Air Force Academy, the Army-Navy Games, the Armed Forces Bowl and basketball played at the US Naval Academy.

And WHEREAS,

SAL Radio has provided for eleven years extensive coverage of Athletics at West Point, with a focus on the nationally prominent Black Knight football team and college basketball at perennial NCAA Tournament qualifying Iona College, providing opportunity to cover on-site

twelve Army-Navy Football Games, four major college bowl games, and three NCAA Tournament Basketball games.

And WHERAS,

SAL Radio utilizes contemporary media “Best Practices” to produce nearly 1,500 video interviews with cadets, midshipmen, military members, veterans as well as military events and parades presented on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Linked In reaching an estimated audience of two million annually,

And WHERAS,

Sal Radio presents the brand of the organization in every report and video published, and by wearing shirts, caps, and jackets identifying the organizations at events, in press boxes, and visits to military installations,

And WHERAS,

Sal Radio has been recognized with awards from The American Legion Media Alliance TALMA, the NY State American Legion Press Association, the NY State Broadcasters Association, and the Department of the Army, in 2021 Sal Radio contributor Jack McGuirk was recognized with an “Honorable Mention” Editorial Award from TALMA, the only award issued to a New York State member.

And WHERAS,

Sal Radio has recruited veterans and fellow Sons of the American Legion members to work as photographers, videographers and writers and sees the opportunity to support other squadrons in producing stories, photos, and video about their local communities.

And WHERAS,

Sal Radio has attracted sponsorships to support its programs from local and national businesses.

RESOLVED, By the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New York in regular meeting assembled in Albany, NY July 29-30, 2021, That The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New York, appoints Sons of the American Legion Radio to operate as a project of the Public Relations Committee, under the supervision of the Committee Chairman and Detachment adjutant, and be it further RESOLVED, that sponsorship fees generated be submitted to the Detachment of New York treasurer.

and be it further RESOLVED That Sal Radio will be eligible to be reimbursed for preapproved expenses by the Detachment of New York.

and be it finally RESOLVED that Sal Radio will provide an annual report describing the activities it has conducted, media content produced, estimated viewership, sponsorships generated, and expenses incurred.

### **Resolution Convention 2021-3**

Authorize Sons of the American Legion members in New York State to contact their Members of Congress to ask they cosponsor legislation as described in Resolution No. 17, Updates to Chaplains Hill Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery, passed by The American Legion National Executive Committee on May 5, 2021 Submitted by Public Relations Committee

WHEREAS the motto of the American legion is “For God and Country” and WHEREAS,

Members of the Detachment of New York on a visit to Chaplains Hill located in Section 2 of Arlington National Cemetery, discovered that US Army chaplain Lt. Alexander D. Good one of the iconic “Four Chaplains” lost in the February 1943 sinking in the North Atlantic of the troopship Dorchester was not recognized on the monuments,

And WHERAS:

Members of the Detachment of New York organized a committee that resulted in unanimous support of the US Congress for the donation of the Jewish Chaplains Monument that recognized Chaplain Good as well as 13 other Jewish chaplains who have died in service dedicated October 24, 2011,

And WHERAS,

Members of the Sons of the American Legion developed a plan in conjunction with the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces to provide further updates to Chaplains

Hill, adding names of 25 chaplains who died in service during Korean War, Vietnam, Cold War and Post 9-11 conflicts to the Protestant Chaplains Monument and one name to the Catholic Chaplains Monument, and secured the donation on a new granite monument upright to replace the aging cement Protestant Monument,

And WHEREAS,

Members of the Detachment of New York has participated in the leadership team which submitted an 85 page project proposal to ANC officials in July 2019, organized a meeting to review the proposal at ANC in March 2020 attended by PNC Brett Reistad and PN Chaplain Randy Cash, contributed to a public hearing on July 24, 2020 and wrote the first draft of resolution supporting the project approved by the Department of Virginia in July 2020 and the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on May 5, of 2021.

And WHEREAS,

Members of the Detachment of New York has worked with the leadership of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces to secure the introduction of required legislation to the US Senate and US House of Representatives.

And WHEREAS,

In May 2021 Senator Raphael Warnock of Georgia and Senator John Boozman of Arkansas introduced to the US Senate The Chaplains Hill Memorial Preservation Act, and In July 2021 Representative Doug Langford of Colorado, Rep. Vicki Hartzler of Missouri, and Rep. Bill Keating of MA introduced matching legislation to the US House of Representatives,

And WHEREAS,

For the required legislation to be approved by each House of Congress, cosponsors are needed to encourage the legislation advance through committees for a floor vote,

RESOLVED, By the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New York in regular meeting assembled in Albany, NY July 29-30, 2021, that members of The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New York, be requested to contact their Members of Congress to ask they cosponsor and vote for.

Senate Bill 1850 House TBD: The Chaplains Hill Memorial Preservation Act and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Detachment of New York will propose a resolution at the national conference of the Sons of the American Legion to be held in August 2021, that members across the country be asked to contact their Members of Congress to be cosponsors and vote for this legislation.

**Convention Chairman Denmon** reported all meetings as well as the meet the candidate's luncheon will take place Post 1700 in Binghamton.

**M.T.D. Chairman Espy** reported, On July 29<sup>th</sup> the MTD commission met with all members present and a few guests. As members of the commission hold leadership positions, it was determined who would be instructors at the different sessions during Mid-Winter. (Leadership workshop, Advisor Seminar, and our Breakout sessions.) Discussion was held about what our breakout sessions should entail. It was decided there would be a Membership session to go through the changes to mylegion.org. A "Form" session which would go over all the new forms that Squadrons are required to submit. Currently we are open for suggestions on the possibility of a third session. More information will become available on times and locations when things get finalized for Mid-Winter. (January 21-23, 2022) District Commanders for the 2021-2022 year are asked to have 2 guys signed up for the Leadership workshop, which will be held Friday evening of Mid-Winter. This workshop is set up and designed for 20 guys in attendance. All other sessions are open to everyone attending Mid-Winter.

**Membership Chairman VerStreate** reported that membership reports from National at this point and time are non-existent. Membership cards have been sent out. We know that there are issues with the website be patient they are working on it. Membership Awards are as followed.

#### Largest Membership

1<sup>st</sup> Place New Hartford squadron #1376 484 Members – as of March 15, 21 Goal 549

2<sup>nd</sup> Place James Harvey Spore Squadron #787 321 Members – as of March 15, 21 goal of 365

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Mohawk Squadron #1450 267 Members – as of March 15,21 goal of 283

#### Most Members recruited

1) Squadron #0490 Earl Manning 32 – as of March 15, 2021

2) Robert J. Hydon #0239 – 16

2) James Harvey Spire #0787 – 16

2) Levittown #1711 - 16

3) Cottreall-Warner # 0942 – 15

3) Samuel L. Derby #0556 – 15

Highest Percentage increase over last year over 300 Member

(no winner no one over 100%)

Squadron 1376 New Hartford 88.16% 484/549

Squadron 1787 James Harvey Spire 87.95% 321/365

Highest percentage increase over last year under 300 members

Squadron 0601 - Russell-Horning 159.52

Squadron 1504 - Robert W. Howden 175.00

Squadron 0660 - Bradley-Jessop 176.92

**5<sup>th</sup> District member Burtch moved to accept the Internal Affairs report which was seconded and carried.**

#### 1.26

**Legislative Chairman Denmon** reported The legislative commission met yesterday with me and 2 members present. Discussion was had and how to get better information. It was decided that we should try To get in on the national legislative conference calls. Currently information is not getting back to us like it should. We try our best to obtain information where we can and when we can But feel we're not succeeding completely. Dates for Washington conference and hill day were announced. Meeting was closed at 2:05 p.m.

**6<sup>th</sup> District member Denmon moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

#### 1.27

**VE&E Chairman Coates** Reported I would like to thank NEC John Chang, Bob Avery, and our Detachment of New York Leadership for putting my name forward for a position on the Veterans Employment and Education Commission. It has been and continues to be an honor and huge learning experience serving on this commission. I am now completing two years on the commission assisting The American Legion in ensuring that America's Veterans can provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families.

As a VE&E Commission we have worked to:

- encourage all Detachments to create a VE&E commission or sub-Committee under VA&R,
- created a S.O.P (Standard Operating Procedure or Practices),
- created a Tri-Fold Brochure that joins the S.O.P. with available resources and sources of information,
- created a PowerPoint presentation to be used in educating our membership about VE&E. Unfortunately, the wheels of progress sometimes turn slowly and getting the go ahead to make these materials available is taking some time. But we are cheating just a little bit to provide some guidance. As we have stated before, the creation of a VE&E Commission or Committee can greatly benefit the sons of The American Legion. There is just too much material to cover in Veterans Affairs under VA&R. The Detachment of New York has taken the steps to create a VE&E Committee under VA&R and now we need to take advantage of that, and we are looking forward to taking VE&E up a notch or two in the upcoming year. One of the ways we disseminate information is through the National VE&E Division's Weekly Update (now renamed to "The Weekly Report"), a publication of current information

related to the Economy, Employment, Education, Homelessness and Housing, Small Business and more as it relates to our veterans, distributed to Sons of The American Legion contacts throughout the detachments. We will soon be making this available on the website so that it can be accessed by all of our membership in the Detachment of New York. Also, taking advantage of Gabe's connections within the VA, in particular the Homeless Program, we are working to volunteer at a couple of upcoming Stand Down events and see how we, as an organization, can contribute. As many of you are aware, the VE&E Commission recently created the Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Contributor Award, and our first recipient of that award will be recognized at the SAL National convention in Pheonix at the end of August. But what struck us about this is the activity related to VE&E already taking place across the country. Gentlemen Thank You for all that you do, daily, for our Veterans and their families. **7<sup>th</sup> District Member Coates Moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.28 Public Relations Chairman Giudice** reported The difficult times we have all faced this year have been challenging for us from a public relations standpoint as one of the greatest "tools" that we have at our disposal, our direct interaction with our own members and with the public, was deeply affected by the restrictions imposed on us. But our organization rose to the challenge. We asked our members to keep doing what they could do and very importantly let us know what you were doing, both for your posts and squadrons, for our veterans and for our communities. And our members responded! I am very proud to report that over the last year I received so many submissions for our newsletter that I couldn't always fit them in the issue I was working on, and I had to hold them for the next edition. This year we also heard from many squadrons who were submitting photos and news for the very first time. I was overwhelmed by the amount of response from our membership. I want to thank EVERYONE that submitted their photos and shared their stories with us, and I especially want to thank those that submit articles for each edition. My special thanks to Gabe Cinquegrana, our Webmaster and a regular contributor, Ken Kraetzer for his contributions to the newsletter and to our Facebook page, Jim Daly and Herman Downer who never fail to give us something from Americanism, Daryl Ver Streate, and of course, Commander Dennis George for his contributions and for his trust and faith in appointing me to this chairmanship. I hope you have enjoyed our newsletter over the last two years, and I hope you all will continue to help spread the word about our great Detachment!

**3<sup>rd</sup> District Acting Commander Aguado moved to accept the report which was second and carried.**

**1.29 Webmaster Cinquegrana** reported that the website serves as a repository of information and history. We need more members to sign up on the site so that we can get information out to those members.

**7<sup>th</sup> District member Cinquegrana moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.30 VA&R Chairman Cinquegrana** reported, I want to thank my Commission members who for the last couple of years have helped me look good with their cooperation, direction, and suggestions. Thank you, Dave Bishop, Diman Smith, Dale Kane, Bill Baker, and Bob Cox (RIP), for your attendance at our many Conference Calls, and for your ideas and counsel. I look forward to working with you again. Also, thanks to SAL Commander George who participated in all of our calls, and to Jim Coates, SAL National VE&E Commission Vice-Chairman, who we used to set a precedent, by embedding him on our VA&R Commission as a conduit for VE&E. My participation this year in VA&R activities has also included Monthly National VA&R Commission Zoom calls, Monthly Eastern Region Conference Calls, the Department of Veterans Affairs National Advisory Council Quarterly Zoom calls, and inclusion in Voluntary Service Central Office Committee's Recommendations Committee. The American Legion should be proud that we as Sons are one of just 16 Organizations Nationally that make up the National VA Advisory Committee's Executive Committee, and one of three Organizations that sit on the National VA Recommendations Committee. We continue to encourage our Detachment

Officers, Vice Commanders, and District Commanders to recruit members to serve as VAVS Representatives or Deputies at your nearest VA Facility. Minimum requirement is to attend Quarterly meetings, which are important to gain information on VA needs, as well as learn what Sons can do for Veterans. We have lots more work to do in this area as we have now lost 2 Representatives in 2 years. I will recommend to our next Detachment Commander and VA&R Chairman that this be a priority next year. As you are all aware by now, our Walk-A-Thon this year was record setting, with \$35,772.26 raised by our members of the American Legion Family. Considering this was the continuation of a pandemic year, it is a remarkable accomplishment. Our half of the proceeds are already in the hands of the 18 VA Medical Centers and Veteran Homes in NYS, designated for the needs of Homeless Veterans. The Auxiliary has been presented their share as well, and they will be using their funds for their many VA&R Programs this coming year. Thank you to our Auxiliary partners, and my sincere gratitude to all who participated in Walk-A-Thon 2021. My last duty today is to present our winner of the Joseph L. SantaCroce Service to Veterans Award. There probably isn't much about this person you have not heard in the past, as he has held a multitude of positions with the Sons at every level. But until you see what this individual does live and in person, and until you experience all of the things he does and spearheads for the benefit of Veterans, again at every level, you really have no idea how much he deserves this award. As the plaque reads "For his devotion of time, talent, and treasure in making a difference for Veterans and their families; and for carrying on the commitment and tradition of past Detachment Commander Joseph L. SantaCroce in providing outstanding service to Veterans and improving their quality of life". It is my honor to present this award on behalf of the VA&R Commission and the Detachment of NY to J, Bruce Ruthven.

**7<sup>th</sup> District Member Cinquegrana moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.30** **Commanders Advisory Chairman Coates** reported that the commander has done a good job during the pandemic. He thanked Commander George for all he has done for the past two years.

**7<sup>th</sup> District Member Coates moved to accept the report which was second and carried.**

**1.31** **Master Sgt. At Arms Falco** reported that he had collected \$2.00 for one fine. He donated \$100.00 to the commander project.

**10<sup>th</sup> District member Falco moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.32** **Commander George** reported that his report is the same as his article in the Liberty. He thanked everyone for condolences for the passing of his mother.

**5<sup>th</sup> District Member Jarvis moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**2.00     SICK CALL & RELIEF**

**2.01     None**

**3.00     UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**3.01     None**

**4.00     NEW BUSINESSs**

**4.01     Motion made by 5<sup>th</sup> District Member Jarvis to purchase a Pass Detachment Cover for Robert Avery. The motion was seconded and carried.**

**4.02     A motion was made by 10<sup>th</sup> District Member Falco that the Detachment reimburse the National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman for the lettering that spells out the office on their official Caps. The motion was seconded and carried.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- **5<sup>th</sup> District Member Jarvis moved to close the Convention for the purpose of Election of Officers. The motion was seconded and carried.**
- **Commander George appointed three tellers for elections. There will be a 10-minute recess the head table is excused.**

**4.03     Adjutant Jarvis opened the nominations for Detachment Commander by Roll Call of Districts. 6<sup>th</sup> District nominated David Lee.**

**There being no further nominations, a motion was made by the 6<sup>th</sup> District and seconded to close the nominations and have the adjutant cast one unanimous ballot for David Lee.**

**4.04     Adjutant Jarvis opened the nominations for Vice Commander by Roll Call of District. 1<sup>st</sup> District nominates Joseph Giudice Vice- Commander 1<sup>st</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> District, 2<sup>nd</sup> District nominates Peter DeAngelis V/C 2<sup>nd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> District nominates James T. Williams V/C 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> District nominates Shawn Mills V/C 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> District nominates Dale Kane V/C 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. **There being no further nominations, a motion made the 6<sup>th</sup> District and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Peter DeAngelis, Shawn Mills, Dale Kane, James T. Williams, and Joe Giudice as Vice Commanders, was carried.****

**4.05     Adjutant Jarvis opened the nominations for Alternate National Executive Committeeman by Roll Call of Districts. 5<sup>th</sup> District Nominated Dennis George. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by 5<sup>th</sup> District and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot Dennis George for Alternate National Executive Committeeman was carried.****

**4.06     Adjutant Jarvis opened the nominations for National Executive Committeeman by Roll Call of Districts. 7<sup>th</sup> District nominated J. Bruce Ruthven. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by the 7<sup>th</sup> District and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for J. Bruce Ruthven as National Executive Committeeman was carried.****

**4.07     Adjutant Jarvis opened the nominations for Chaplain by Roll Call of Districts. 7<sup>th</sup> District Nominated James Parks. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by the 7<sup>th</sup> District and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for James Parks for Chaplain was carried.****

**4.08     Adjutant Jarvis opened the nominations for Historian by Roll Call of Districts. 8<sup>th</sup> District Nominated Timothy VanPatten II. **There being no further nominations, a motion was made by the 8<sup>th</sup> District and seconded to close the nominations and direct the Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for Timothy VanPatten II for Historian was carried.****

**5.00     FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

**5.01     The 8<sup>th</sup> District Sons presented a plaque to Ron Kuczenski for years of service to the 8<sup>th</sup> District.**

- 5.02** The 4<sup>th</sup> District donated \$140 to CWF.  
**5.03** The 8<sup>th</sup> District donated \$100 to CWF.  
**5.04** the 6<sup>th</sup> District moved to support Richard “Dickie” Huntley (ME) for National Vice-Commander East. The motion was seconded and carried.  
**5.05** The 7<sup>th</sup> District moved to support Michael Fox (CA) for the office of National Vice-Commander. The motion was seconded and carried.  
**5.06** 7<sup>th</sup> District Member Cinquegrana moved to create a new award. The award will be to honor a Squadron Member of the year. The criteria have been submitted to Internal Affairs Commission who will administer the award. The motion was seconded and approved.  
**5.07** The delegation was made aware the James Coates won the National VAVS Member of the year Award.  
**5.08** The 8<sup>th</sup> District Sons will be hosting a golf tournament on September the 11<sup>th</sup>.  
**5.09** Timothy VanPatten II announced that he is running for Detachment Commander for the years 2022-2023.

- The Convention was adjourned at 11:13 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Raymond J. Jarvis  
Detachment Adjutant

# MINUTES OF THE POST-CONVENTION D.E.C. MEETING

July 31, 2021

Desmond Hotel  
Albany, New York

- Commander Lee called the Meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
  - The Colors of our Nation being in place the membership saluted.
  - Chaplain Parks offered the Opening Prayer.
  - Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco placed the POW/MIA banner.
  - V/C DeAngelis led the membership in The Pledge of Allegiance.
  - V/C Guidice led the membership in the Preamble.
- **Adjutant Jarvis** took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.

## **1.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF**

**1.01** None

## **2.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**2.01** None

## **3.00 NEW BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**3.01** **Commander Lee** announced Commander David Lee's projects this year are the National Emergency Fund and Camp Eagr. Epilepsy is a hidden disorder. Despite how common it is fear and stigma exist. It's easy to feel isolated and alone. But at Camp EAGR, everyone knows what it's like to have epilepsy. Campers don't have to be embarrassed by taking medications, having seizures, or having epilepsy. Everyone at camp understands! Kids with epilepsy can be just KIDS! And siblings connect with other siblings who know what it's like to have epilepsy in the family. Camp EAGR is held at the YMCA's beautiful Camp Weona, halfway between Buffalo and Rochester.

**3.02** **Commander Lee** announced that we will make 100% in membership by the end of the year with everyone's help. He thanked Membership Chairman Verstrete and the entire committee for their work on membership during this past year. Now let's get an early push to see what we can do this year.

**3.05** **Commander Lee** stated that the Detachment Executive Meeting will be held November 13<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow.

**3.06** **Commander Lee** read his list of appointments:

Adjutant Raymond Jarvis

Asst. Adjutant Christopher Burtch

Asst. Adjutant Gary Manzer

Judge Advocate David Downey

Webmaster Gabe Cinquegrana

Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms David Perry

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Riley Downer

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Joseph Cleveland

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Colin McDaniel

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Tim Broward

Commander's Aide 1st District James Livingston

Commander's Aide 2<sup>nd</sup> District Daniel Joseph McKinzie

Commander's Aide 3<sup>rd</sup> District Frankie Aguado  
Commander's Aide 4<sup>th</sup> District Austin Montello  
Commander's Aide 5<sup>th</sup> District Tyler Mills  
Commander's Aide 6<sup>th</sup> District Black Sarpriacone  
Commander's Aide 7<sup>th</sup> District Jesse Parks  
Commander's Aide 8<sup>th</sup> District Dennis Boquin  
Commander's Aide 9<sup>th</sup> District Chris Thiesing  
Commander's Aide 10<sup>th</sup> District Joseph Bellinger  
Color Guard Seeley B. Parrish Squadron #457  
Americanism Chairman James Daley  
    Committeeman Jim Brown  
    Committeeman Herman Downer  
Children & Youth Chairman William Clancey  
    Committeeman William Clancey  
    Committeeman Wayne Ainslee  
Commander's Advisory Chairman Dennis George  
    Committeeman Jim Coates  
    Committeeman William Clancey  
Convention and Meetings Committee Chairman Gary Denmon  
    Adjutants Represented Chris Butch  
    Mid-Winter Coordinator Gaither Espy & David Bishop  
    Committeeman Dean Williamson  
Credentials Chairman Alex Anderson  
    Committeeman David Englert  
    Committeeman Alan Anderson  
Finance Chairman Michael Rowald  
    Committeeman Michael Rowald  
    Committeeman Peter Geleta  
Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson  
    Committeeman John Chang  
Legislative Chairman Gary Denmon  
    Committeeman James Coates  
    Committeeman David Perry  
Membership Chairman Daryl Verstrete Jr.  
    Committeeman Peter Booth (District 1)  
    Committeeman Joseph Hall (District 2)  
    Committeeman Jim Prime (District 3)  
    Committeeman Matt Aldi (District 4)  
    Committeeman Joe Lenhardt (District 5)  
    Committeeman Ted Armbrust (District 6)  
    Committeeman Kevin Kirkwood (District 7)  
    Committeeman Diman Smith (District 8)  
    Committeeman Joseph Guidice Jr. (District 9)  
    Committeeman Joseph Bellinger (District 10)  
Member Training and Development Chairman Gaither Espy  
    Committeeman David Downey  
    Committeeman J. Bruce Ruthven  
    Committeeman Gary Denmon  
    Committeeman Ray Jarvis  
    Committeeman Chris Burtch

Public Relations Chairman Joe Giudice  
Committeeman Tim Van Patten II  
Committeeman Kenneth Kraetzer  
VA&R Chairman James Coates  
Committeeman Riley Downer  
Committeeman Diman Smith

**ANEC George moved approve all the Commander's appointments, which was seconded and carried.**

**5.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

- 5.01** It has been noted that there needs to be more representatives from the Sons to help with the Boys State program.
- 5.02** Gabe Cinquegrana thank everyone that has congratulated him for him receiving the American Legion V.A. &R. volunteer of the year award. He stated that he has accepted the award on behalf of The Sons of The American Legion.
- 5.03** September 7, 2021, in Suffern, Rockland County there will be a fund raiser for Jim Triola candidate for National Commander of The American Legion.
- 5.04** Diman Smith asked everyone to remember and support the new Space Force.
- 5.05** V/C Mills thanked everyone for their support. He looks forward to working with the team. There is a new Squadron starting in New Haven, NY.
- 5.06** PDC Robert Avery thanked everyone for support through the years and for bestowing him the honor being a past Detachment Commander.
- 5.07** Children & Youth Chairman Clancey asked that as Fall is around the corner now would be a good time to hold open houses in out post to let the community know what we are doing.
- 5.08** **Chaplain Kane** thanked the Detachment for the flowers for his Wife. May she rest in peace.

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

- The Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Raymond Jarvis  
Detachment  
Adjutant