



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK

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Commander William Clancy, III
Adjutant Robert J. Avery

Date: January 31, 2018

RE: Official Communication from the Detachment Adjutant

With the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion less than eight months away, where it is hoped that New York's Candidate Greg K. "Doc" Gibbs will be elected as National Commander, there have been many members expressing an interest in attending that have questions. We encourage all members to experience a National Convention, especially where one of our own hopes to be elected Commander. To assist members for the cost of attending, the DEC voted at its recent Mid-Winter meetings to pay up to three days per diem (\$65 x 3) to any SONS member in good standing who is not currently reimbursed by Detachment or National. This will assist many and will likely cover lodging if two members were to share a room.

Q. When is the National Convention?

A. The 47th Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will take place Friday August 24 – Sunday 26, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN. Our meeting sessions take place Friday through Sunday. Other activities include the Annual SONS-CWF Charity Golf Tournament on Thursday; the New York Department Reception that takes place on Saturday evening; the National Convention Parade later on Sunday; and the Four Corners Reception (a social event that many choose to stay for) is on Monday afternoon at a nearby Legion Post. It should be noted that The American Legion and Auxiliary Conventions run through August 30, 2018. There are a host of other events including Color Guard competitions, the Vendor/National Emblem Sales Hall, National American Legion and Auxiliary President Banquets, to name but a few. You will find some information already posted on The American Legion website: legion.org.

Q. What day should we be there in Minneapolis?

A. The Convention starts on Friday August 24, 2018 at 1:00 PM. But you could arrive on Saturday if you only want to be there for the election of the National Commander for The Sons of The American Legion.

Q. What hotel is New York staying at?

A. New York is staying at the Millennium Minneapolis. Reservations must go through the Detachment Adjutant (for S.A.L Members). Housing Forms will be available at a later date and must be submitted to the Detachment Adjutant. You may NOT make reservations at the HQ hotel until the Official Call has gone out which is typically not until late April or May.

Q. Where is the actual meeting?

A. All meetings will take place at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Room location TBA. The hotel is a short walk from the Convention Center.

Q. When is the vote?

A. The vote to elect the National Commander will take place at about 8:30 AM Sunday morning August 26, 2018 after the SONS Memorial Service. You are encouraged to be to the Convention Center by 8:00 AM.

Q. What time will the installation will take place?

A. The Installation will take place after the Joint Memorial Service, at about 12:30 PM on Sunday August 26, 2018 at the Convention Center location TBA.

Q. Who can vote?

A. All duly registered delegates of The Sons of The American Legion are eligible to vote. We are entitled to at least 61 delegates. You must submit your name to the Detachment Adjutant to be registered. (This Is for SONS members only.)

The Annual Mid-Winter Conference was held January 19 – 21, 2018 in Colonie, NY at the Radisson-Albany Hotel. We had a great turnout of SONS members, who attended the Detachment Executive Committee Meetings, Detachment Committee and Commission Meetings, and their choice of nearly 35 American Legion program meetings at the nearby Desmond-Americana.

- We were honored to have as our guests National SONS Vice Commander Kenneth Warner and his wife Kathy (PA), and Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander Michael Cotton and NEC Toby Cullen, both from Delaware. Our guests accompanied Detachment Commander Clancy and others to the Fisher House to present our annual donation.
- The Membership Committee reported that we are doing well this year having met the 60% Target Date immediately prior to Mid-Winter. We had nearly 30 Squadrons who made their 100% prior to January 15th.
- The Public Relations table was set up at the Desmond-Americana again this year with good interest generated as usual.
- Graduation Certificates were presented to 24 members who completed the Leadership Workshop.
- The Detachment also conducted its Advisors Seminar on Friday evening.
- The Children & Youth Commission did a tremendous job in accepting donations for their CWF Challenge Coin. All of the coins the Detachment had ordered were distributed.
- The Campaign to Elect Greg “Doc” Gibbs National Commander reported that everything is running smoothly in advance of this year’s National Convention for our candidate, who was unable to attend as he was a guest of the Detachment of Ohio at their Mid-Winter Conference. Members were able to hear from Candidate “Doc” via phone during the committee report.
- James Coates reaffirmed his candidacy for Detachment Commander in 2018-2019. Dennis George announced his candidacy for Detachment Commander in 2019-2020. Announcing for Vice Commander positions next year were Joseph Guidice, Jr. (1 and 9), Peter DeAngelis, Jr. (2 and 10), Robert Myrtle (3 and 4), Wayne Ainslee (5 and 6) and Ronald

Kuczenski (7 and 8). Announcing for Chaplain next year was James Parks and for Historian William Ryan.

- Besides membership, Squadron and member focus from now until April needs to include:
 - ✓ Consolidated Squadron Reports: Due at HQ by April 30th. Forms and instructions will be sent to Squadrons as soon as they have been shipped from National HQ.
 - ✓ Essay Contest information for Americanism is on the Website, schools and individuals need to be contacted now. Also remember the various scholarships that are available including Cerullo, O'Connell, and the Richard M. Pedro Memorial Scholarship.
 - Details will be forthcoming on our 44th Annual Detachment Convention to take place in Rochester on July 19 - 21, 2018.
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11th Annual Walk-A-Thon April 21, 2018

The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion in New York State are proud to announce a Walk-A-Thon to benefit the 13 Veterans Administrative Medical Centers in New York State, the 5 New York State Veterans Homes along with Fisher House in Albany, New York. We have a goal of raising at least \$50,000 during this day, which can be obtained with pledges and donations from both individuals and corporations. With your support and love of our country, this number could even be doubled!

This Walk-A-thon will benefit the Veterans residing at each of these facilities, assist in their care and meet some of the needs of their family members while they are visiting. These funds will help voluntary service departments purchase personal hygiene products, board games, home computers, DVD's, coffee makers, movies passes, tickets to sporting events, phone cards, along with renovating and upgrading recreation and therapy equipment. Funds are always needed for the upkeep of the Fisher House. The Fisher House provides veterans families a place to stay at no charge while their loved ones are receiving medical care at Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center. The New York State Veterans Homes are assisted living homes for veterans. Recreational and social donations are welcomed and improve the quality of life for our Veterans residing there.

With the amount of veterans returning from active duty from the conflicts in the Middle East these young men and women need the services provided at our VAMC's in New York State and their family's need help to adjusting to their loved ones medical condition suffered in our time of war. Let's not forget our aging veterans who have served our country in the past. They with no doubt deserve the best in recreational and socialization programs that can be offered to them.

All forms and support information regarding the Walk-A-Thon is available at our website sonsdny.org.

Any questions can be answered by contacting VA & R Chairman Thomas Kurk at 585-905-7202 or e-mail at tekngk@aol.com.