



MINUTES
OF THE
DETACHMENT
OF
NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 2, 2022
George F. Johnson Post #1700 Endicott, NY

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Detachment of New York
1304 Park Boulevard
Troy, NY 12180
518-463-2215



MINUTES OF THE D.E.C. MEETING

April 2, 2022

George F. Johnson A.L. #1700

Endicott, NY

- The Colors in Place, the Colors were saluted.
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco.
- Commander Lee recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Chaplain Parks offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C DeAngelis led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
- V/C Mills led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
- Commander Lee called the Meeting to order at 9:15 A.M.
- Adjutant Jarvis took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- **4th District Commander Downer moved to accept the minutes with corrections. The motion is second and carried.**
- **Chaplain Parks moved dedicate the meeting in memory of James Daley. The motion is seconded and carried.**
- A certificate of appreciation is presented to the Post, Squadron and Auxiliary of Post 1700 for hosting the meeting and all their work to prepare the meal.
- **Commander Lee recessed the meeting at 9:30AM to conduct Committee and Commission Meetings.**
- **Commander Lee called the meeting back to order at 11:40AM**

100 **Reports**

- 1.01 Americanism Acting Chaiman Downer** reported; the National Commanders project is Flying Flags for Heros. The goal is place 1 million flags prior to national convention. Information is on the National website. Boys State will be held June 26 – July 1, 2022. There is an urgent need for staff to help keep the program running. You can also help by sponsoring a boy to attend boy's state. There was a zoom meeting concerning the boxes that are handed out by the commission every year. There are looking for information on what is getting used and what changes if any should be made.
- 1.02 Children & Youth report was read by member Rich Able;** A call to the legion office in Troy I got the name of Michael Moshole. Legionnaire. Department of New York AL baseball chairman. I called the guy introduced myself and gave the basic idea of a challenge across the state. He was very receptive, and I think a little bit excited at the prospect. He said there are approximately 80 legion baseball teams around the state, none in NYC and none in Li. He thinks the timing for this would be mid-July which is the end of their season. I am going to try hard to make that happen and we will kick it off at the end of your year which will be cool. The basic construct would be he will give us the locations of his 80 teams. We get squadrons in those areas to recruit near them to challenge the local legion team. We would start simple. It would not be a tournament would just be a game. Maybe every game would be opened by a color guard. Maybe every kid would get pin or a T-shirt. Anyway. I'm going to give this a shot. Feel free to mention it if you like to anyone.
- 1.03 V.A.R. Chairman Coates Reported;** This is a great opportunity to communicate directly with the leadership of the Detachment of NY about our program and objectives for this year. Here are the major components of the Detachment of New York Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission this year. We need members and squadrons to participate in these initiatives. Veterans Walk-A-Thon – Thanks to Gabe for giving the ALA a presentation during their virtual meeting for Mid-Winter. This did a lot to convey that the Walk-A-Thon is a joint project between the SAL and ALA in New York and that proceeds are divided equally between the benefits chosen by SAL and ALA for the year. Many in

the New York ALA do not realize this is a shared project between the Sons and Auxiliary. We need to continue to raise awareness that this is a joint venture. Members of the commission are already working with the Auxiliary in their areas and are well into the execution of plans for this year. Posters, Boot Cut-Outs, and Information for all to use can be found on the website at www.sonsdny.org under Walk-A-Thon. *Please post your activities on the Facebook Walk-A-Thon page. You can have a walk, plan another type of fundraiser, or have a benefit dinner to mention just a few ideas. Veterans Appreciation Day - This year it is a National VA&R Commission priority to be a major force in encouraging participation in Veteran's Appreciation Day in May 2022. As Sons of The American Legion, we can all spread the word that if there is a Veteran in our community in need of some assistance with yard work, simple repairs or maintenance, painting, etc., and we can rally the troops to help them out. Veterans Appreciation Day is officially May 21st but this date is symbolic and our efforts to help our veterans can and should be on-going. *Start a sign-up sheet at your Post and get the word out to our Legionnaires and other Veterans in our communities to list those jobs that our Veterans could use some help with, get a team together and schedule the day and time. Or organize a Cook-Out or take them to a Ball Game. VA&R Individual Promotion and Awards – Current National and Detachment Awards that we are encouraging people to nominate others for are: The National Charles Rigsby VA Volunteer of The Year Award, the National Marvin P. Nay Veterans Employment and Education Outstanding Contributor Award, the Detachment of New York Joseph L. Santa Croce Service to Veterans Award, and the Detachment of New York Member of The Year Award. Information about all of these awards can be found at www.sonsdny.org. *Please, recognize people you know who stand out by nominating them for one of these awards. VA Voluntary Service Chairman Coates sent the following documents out for review by the commission:

- Draft 2022 NY VA Location Guide
 - Draft VAVS Representative and Deputy Handbook
- Become a VA Representative or Deputy Representative - Volunteers from the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion are needed to fill these positions at many of our local VA Medical Centers. And we need the help of our entire organization. This is a long-term effort, and the first step is identifying people in the areas of these VA facilities that are interested in getting involved. We need help from our Vice Commanders, District Commanders, and membership to identify people who would be interested and willing to go through the process of becoming a recognized Representative or Deputy Representative and commit to a minimum of one day a month to attend a Monthly VAVS meeting at their assigned VAMC, identify what the needs of that particular medical center are and communicate those needs to your area Districts, Counties and Squadrons. Assess the need for volunteers at the VA facility and see if we can find people interested in volunteering. This does not have to be every day or every week or even every month. When the VA has a function planned and volunteers are needed for a specific purpose our objective would be to have people we can call on. * If you are interested in getting more involved with volunteering at a VA near you, contact your area District Commander or a Detachment of New York VA&R Commission Member. Contact information can be found in the Detachment Directory at www.sonsdny.org.
- **Commander Lee recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:07PM**
 - **Commander Lee called the meeting back in session at 12:55PM**

1.04 Legislative Chairmen Denmon Reported: The past 2 years as we all know has been difficult with Covid, but I believe we are getting to the end of it. It will always be around, and we must be mindful of this. Washington Conference and Hill day was cancelled again this year but was conducted remotely. Commander Fox still wanted to do the wrath laying ceremonies so Lee And a

small number of people went to Washington D.C. where Commander Lee placed a wreath the Koren war memorial. Several pieces of Legislation that the American Legion is supporting is. **Suicide Prevention & Peer Support S.544 - "Buddy Check Week" Act** Congress to pass legislation requiring VA to establish a national Buddy Check Week to encourage veterans to reach out to those they served with. The American Legion also encourages legislation to establish a peer-support program that would offer grants to place peer-support specialists in local posts of veteran's service organizations. *S.544 - "Buddy Check Week" Act* **Address Toxic Exposure & Burn Pits** The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that (1) creates a list of presumptive illnesses based on scientific evidence, (2) requires VA to presume exposure for veterans deployed to areas with known environmental hazards, and (3) mandates VA toxic exposure studies. *H.R.3967 - Honoring Our Promise To Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act Of 2021 S.3003 - Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act of 2021*

Improve Healthcare for Women Veterans of gender-specific services and awareness about VA benefits are primary reasons. The American Legion urges Congress to diligently oversee implementation of recently passed VA pilot programs, research initiatives, and policy revisions to address this issue. Additionally, The American Legion encourages expansion of child and newborn care services at VA. *S.2533/H.R.4794 - the Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act H.R. 344 - Women Veterans TRUST Act* **Concurrent Receipt** Currently, 42,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for retirement pay for their service from DoD, and compensation for service-connected disabilities from VA. However, for retired veterans with a disability rating less than 50%, their VA compensation is deducted from their DoD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this unfair policy of forcing many military retirees to forfeit their retired pay to receive equal amounts of disability compensation. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset, allowing disabled veterans to concurrently receive both their retirement pay and their disability compensation. *S.344 - Major Richard Star Act* **Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity** National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are being deprived of education benefits that active duty servicemembers enjoy, despite completing the same duties. According to the law, as it is currently written, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only accrue GI Bill entitlement when called to active duty under federal orders. When National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are activated under state orders, they do not accrue eligibility for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits like their active-duty counterparts do. The American Legion believes that every day in uniform counts and urges Congress to recognize the service of National Guard and Reserve servicemembers as eligible for the GI Bill. *H.R. 1836 – Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021* **Citizenship for Honorable Service** Many veteran immigrants say they have been deported after discharge because they failed to acquire U.S. citizenship while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed prior to discharge, to include reinstatement of the USCIS Naturalization at Basic Training Initiative, training for military recruiters and commands about the naturalization process, and the reopening all USCIS field offices abroad to serve servicemembers stationed overseas. We also support providing expedited citizenship applications and the resources to complete the applications to deported honorably discharged veterans. *S. XXXX - Naturalization at Training Sites Act of 2022 H.R.1182/S. 3212 - Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act* **Address the Forever Wars & Restore Congressional War Powers** After decades of protracted military conflicts overseas with little congressional input, Congress needs to reclaim its rightful role in matters of war and peace. Too often, the use of military force, as opposed to diplomacy, is considered the primary instrument of national power. The American Legion urges the renewal of a proper constitutional balance to U.S. foreign policy decision-making by urging Congress to renew its war-making oversight role beginning with repealing outdated Authorizations for the Use of Military Force (AUMFs), reforming the 1973 War

Powers Resolution, and properly resourcing civilian tools of diplomacy. *S.J.Res.10 - Repeal the 1991 & 2002 Iraq AUMFs, S.2391 - National Security Powers Act of 2021* **Pay the Coast Guard U.S.** Coast Guard personnel carry out missions vital to our national security, but they are the only military branch working without pay during government shutdowns, due to their status under the Department of Homeland Security. The repeated and common threat of government shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women, and their families. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act, which would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid without delay, even in the case of a government shutdown. *S.1845 - Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act (USCG) Act* **Protect the American Flag** The American Legion urges Congress to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. Additionally, The American Legion urges Congress to pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021 to amend the U.S. Flag Code to codify multiple common patriotic customs and practices as described in The American Legion Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment. *H.J.Res. 51/S.J.Res.20/H.R. 4212* <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>.

1.05 Convention Chairmen Demon reported; Binghamton convention will be held on July 20- 23, 2022. The Headquarters hotel will be the Quality Inn and Suites in Vestal, NY. Our pre and post D.E.C Meetings will be held there. Our convention Meetings, Meet the Candidates luncheon and the Installation luncheon will be held at Post #1645. Flying Flags for Heroes has tentatively been scheduled for 4PM Fridy. More information will be in the call.

1.06 P. R. Chairmen Giudice reported: This year I had very big plans for our PR Table at the Desmond Hotel during our Mid-Winter Conference. In addition to getting our message about “Who We Are and What We Do” out there to all of the attendees, we had also planned to continue with our multi-media approach to reaching Legion posts about forming new squadrons. We also had plans to team up with the Children and Youth Commission and do a mini fundraiser for CWF. We have some materials set aside for this and will find a way to make it happen. Publication of our Detachment newsletter, The Liberty, has been delayed for the last couple issues due to many articles and submissions reaching me well past the deadline. Please, get your articles submitted as early as you possibly can. It takes time to compile and edit our publication and prior to the Mid-Winter and Convention issues we need even more time to have printed editions prepared prior to the meetings. I do appreciate all of the articles and submissions that I get from our Officers, Chairmen and the Squadrons from around the Detachment of New York and I try to get everything you submit into the newsletter. Keep up the good work! Our social media page continues to flourish, and our website also continues to grow and run smoothly under our webmaster Gabe Cinquegrana. I urge everyone to encourage your squadron members to subscribe to our website to get updates and emails and also to follow our Facebook page. I also want to mention our companion SAL Radio Facebook page that is run by Ken Kraetzer. Ken continues to shine a positive light on our organization with his hard work. I’d also like to encourage all of our Squadrons to consider starting a social media page. Myself any memebtrs of PR Commission members are willing to help guide you through the process should you need some assistance. Social media is a very powerful tool for promoting our organization at all levels and this free resource is something you should take advantage of wherever possible. In closing I’d like to again stress how much I appreciate of our members that continue to do a great job promoting the great work that our Sons members do across the Detachment and the support they give our Commission by sharing their success with us.

Webmaster report- Progress is being made on securing of Email addresses for Squadrons, but more progress needs to be made. There are currently 105 Squadrons we have no email information for, and still have 42 that have old/outdated information. While we do have a current subscriber count on our Website of 845 valid addresses, those represent not only squadrons, but many past Officers and Legion Family members and associates. In light of new elections just around the corner, we need to strive for 100% return of Officer Notification Forms after the elections. While we continue to do the best we can to publicize programs and provide a repository of information on the Website, it needs to be kept relevant. That job is not just the Webmaster’s, but every Commission and Committee

Chairman and program coordinator in the Detachment. YOU need to check YOUR information to determine if it is up to date and reflects what needs to be displayed. A suggestion is that each Commission and Committee assign one of its members to review their pertinent information on a regular basis. We don't need out of date info!!

- 1.07 Judge Advocate Downey reported:** That 3 Constitution and Bylaws were received and sent to Department. Make sure that you follow all the procedures for submitting new or changes to them
- 1.08 Historian VanPatten report;** that he is collecting pictures of Commander Lee for his book. He stated that he will help anyone a squadron history book.
- 1.09 Chaplain Parks reported;** that he has received word that we have lost 12 members to the squadron everlasting. He has sent 3 get well, 4 sympathy cards and 2 flower arrangements.
- 1.10 V/C Guidice reported;** Since the 9th District visitations this past November, things have been rather slow as the latest variants of this pandemic began to once again restrict our ability to hold events and gather again. Through all of that though our squadrons in both districts continued to work for our veterans and communities with toy drives, Wreaths Across America events, donations to our VA Centers and all of the fine work that they could do and continue to do despite everything that is going on in our world. Membership number in both the 1st and 9th Districts are excellent with the 9th District in 2nd place and the 1st District in 4th place. Congrats to both districts on a job well-done, but not completed yet. We still have several squadrons showing zeroes or low numbers that I'm sure will now rise as the 2021 cards have expired. I recently received a call from our newest 9th district squadron, Rye Squadron 128, Valhalla #1038 They have just received their charter from National and have asked me to help install their new officers at a meeting in the coming weeks. I'm honored to be invited and plan to attend. On a personal note, I have again been asked by the Rockland County American Legion to chair this year's Law and Order Recognition Night. As a retired police officer and a past recipient of one of these awards I am very honored to chair this American Legion event. Rockland hasn't held this awards dinner since the onset of the pandemic, and I plan to make this the very best it can be and honor our local first responders for their heroic acts of service.
- 1.11 V/C DeAngelis Reported** As we come out of 2 years of being closed down, we are finally back to regular monthly meetings. Membership has been up and down hopefully will get better now that the squadrons are having events and meetings again. I look forward to traveling around the area again and seeing other members. I have recently stepped down as the Kings County and Squadron Adjutant. Looking forward to pushing hard for donations to this years walk-a-thon.
- 1.12 V/C Mills reported;** Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, many events were cancelled. Since my last report I have county meetings in Oswego. District meetings and the junior shooting sports state championship. The Nation Commanders Visitation to the 5th District will take place on April 6th and 5th District Auxiliary spring conference will be held on April 9th. I will be attending both. The 5th District is at 86.82% with 16 squadrons at or over 100%. The next 6th District meeting will be on June 12th. The 6th District is currently at 87.48% in membership and has 9 squadrons at 100% or higher.
- 1.13 3rd District acting Commander Bishop reported;** First, I'd like to start by sending my apologies for not attending this year's Spring DEC Meeting. As you're reading this, I am currently assisting with a fundraiser at my home post. Total membership for the 3rd district currently sits at 1,217 paid members towards our goal of 1,487, for a total of 81.84% attainment. 11 of our 23 Squadrons met our March 9th Goal of at least 80%, with 7 of them also exceeding our April 13th goal of at least 90%. Squadron 1520 Zaloga Post is holding a fundraiser on April 2nd to benefit the Veterans Miracle Center, as well as donating to the American Legion Little League. Squadron 1493 Voorheesville Post is hosting a polish dinner fundraiser, as well as a Sunday breakfast fundraiser. Our Squadrons are starting to get back into the swing of things and I'm excited to see the upcoming fundraisers and events they will be hosting. I have been spending some time coordinating a plan to visit many of my Squadrons in the coming months.

1.14 V/C Kane reported; I hope that everyone is looking forward to spring and the warmer weather. This year has been a difficult for us to conduct our normal activities, let's hope things will continue to get to a more normal for us. I have been reminding the various Squadrons to get memberships turned into headquarters and to also be starting to put together information for the Consolidated Report Form that will be due in the next couple months. I have attended several functions and activities that are as follows:

Mar. 04 Attended the Squadron meeting in Cassadaga at Post #1280, Mar. 13 Attended the 7th District meeting in Port Byron at Post #257, Mar. 19 Went to the Posts in Bolivar and Friendship and handed out material for the Walk-A-Thon, Mar 20 Helped out with the Post breakfast in Belmont, Mar. 20 Went to the Posts in Angelica and Canaseraga and handed out material on the Walk-A-Thon, Mar. 26 Participated in 2 funeral services at the Wellsville Post

1.15 I.A Reports; Membership Chairmen VerStreate reported. Membership Report
National Report – As of 28 Mar 22 Goal of 29,246 at 87.03% needing 869 more for 100%
Detachment – 31 Mar 22 88.33%

Need another 471 for 90% goal on April 13th as of March 31, 2022

Detachment SDR - There is a new column to allow Detachment to keep track of what squadrons are still missing SDR. Once we reach a certain percentage Nationally the ability to go live to pay dues will be active.

District 1 – Have 5 of 9 = 55.55% (4)

District 2 – Have 4 of 17 = 23.52% (13)

District 3 – Have 10 of 23 = 43.47% (13)

District 4 – Have 15 of 28 = 53.57% (13)

District 5- Have 29 of 66 = 43.93% (37)

District 6 – Have 22 of 50 = 44% (28)

District 7 – Have 22 of 47 = 46.80% (25)

District 8 – Have 22 of 67 = 32.83% (45)

District 9 – Have 11 of 38 = 28.94% (27)

District 10 - Have 14 of 36 = 38.88% (22)

Need 227 squadrons out of 381 = 59.48%

Have 154 out of 381 = 40.4%

CI – There is a new column to allow Detachment to keep track of what squadrons are still missing a form of Contact Information. Gabe will elaborate more.

The idea of placing these two columns on the membership report is to bring the attention to the District Commanders and Vice Commanders. Please help get these reports sent into Detachment, Myself, and Gabe. We have 8 new or restarted Squadrons this year, though 2 of them are still in the process of finalizing the paperwork on their end (0833 and 0834).

0833 – Smithtown, Suffolk County, NY

0834 - Arthur Ellis Hamm Suffolk County, NY

The new Squads that are active: 0128, 0954, 1038, 1338, 1449, 1532

0128- Rye, NY Westchester County

0954 – Harvey Noone – Monroe County, NY

1038 – Adolph Pfister – Westchester County, NY

1338 – Prattsburg NY – Steuben County NY

1449 – Thomas Tehan – Erie County NY

1532 – Hamlin Weldon – Oswego County, NY

Last year at Midwinter it was approved to present a shirt to District Commander in First Place prior to Convention. 2020-2021 is Shawn Mills it will read Membership Challenge 2020-2021

MTD Chairman Espy reported; Legion Family College June 3-5, 2022 @ Morrisville.

Applications for to attend college are online. If anyone is interested in being an instructor, those applications are also online. Applications for instructors will be processed like a job application. Just because you fill one out does not mean you will become one. Leadership Workshop: District Commander's did not provide many names for attendance. Need to stress that we need 20 guys for this class. Advisor Seminar: Discussion was held about holding the seminar every other year. Turnout may improve doing this. On the opposite year possibly hold a Accomplishment/Good of the

Sons presentation. Will discuss more as Mid-Winter approaches. Discussion on the possibility of holding an Adjutant Class. Same set up as leadership. 20 guys, 2 from each District. Attendees will receive per diem (\$1,700) Bob Avery will work on the class material. This would be an hour-long class. Discussion on how to make it easier for Squadrons to file the proper forms and reports. Speak to Web Master about making quick links on the website main page. (Squadron Data Report, Consolidated Report, Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants)

- 1.16 Finance Chairmen Rowald reported;** The committee recommends holding a breakout session on how to fill out a voucher and about finance. They recommend a motion to pay for all delegates that attend the National Convention get there 50th Anniversary dinner paid for.
- **9th District Commander Jacobs moves to have all delegates that attend the National Convention have their 50th Anniversary Dinner Paid for. The motion is seconded and carried.**
 - **5th District Commander Able moved to have Cristopher Cerullo, Greg Falco, and Robert Avery reimbursed for there cost to attend the National Commanders Homecoming. The motion is seconded and carried.**
- 1.17 ANEC George reported;** Participated in Oriskany Post 1448 Veterans Day Ceremony on 11/11/2021. I did the Benediction as the Squadron Chaplain. Also, I presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Patrick Mahar, who I, as Detachment Commander, sponsored for Boys State. Attended Oneida County Sons meeting on 11/21/2021 and 5th District Sons meeting on 12/12/2021. I talked about the National Commander's Project, "Flying Flags for Heroes", and asked that the squadrons keep track of the flags that they post, list it on their CSR, and submit them. This way we accumulate a total to submit on their website. Commander Fox's goal is 1,000,000 flags posted during his term. Attended the Oneida county American Legion meeting on 12/20/2021. I asked the Legionnaires in attendance to encourage their squadrons to fill out and submit the Squadron Data Form (SDR) and to fill out and complete the Consolidated Squadron Report by April 30, 2022. Contacted members of Congress regarding H.R. 3405, supporting Battle Buddy Check Week. This bill would require the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to designate one week as Battle Buddy Check Week, intended to promote outreach events and educating veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks. It also requires the VA to prepare for a possible increase in calls to the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL).
Contacted members of Congress regarding S. 1040 and H.R. 5562. H.R. 5562, the identical House companion bill to S. 1040, was introduced on October 12, 2021, by Congressman Josh Harder (CA) and was referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where it awaits further consideration. As you may know, this bill would expand eligibility for Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to include veterans of World War II who are not already covered. I have noted your comments and will be sure to keep them in mind should this legislation come to the House Floor for a vote. Accepted an invitation from Commander Lee to identify a Son to represent the Detachment for the Century Committee (CentCom), which will hopefully identify younger members to help guide the future of our organization. Riley Downer has accepted the invitation.
- 1.18 Commanders Advisory Chairmen George reported;** The Committee of PDC Jim Coates, PDC Robert Avery (in place of excused PDC Bill Clancy), and I met to discuss Commander Lee's term so far. Commander Lee has persevered through the various barriers of visitations being canceled. He was able to visit the 9th District and New York County and has represented our organization well. He has done a great job communicating with the Detachment and was able to set up a Spring DEC to replace the canceled Mid-Winter Conference. He is encouraging members to support all American Legion programs. He has learned to relax. Final report card will be at Convention in Binghamton.
- 1.19 NEC Ruthven reported;** One of my duties as your NEC is to sit in and report on the Detachment of NY at the Eastern Regional monthly conference calls. The reports include updates on our programs, projects, and functions we are involved in on the Detachment level. Changes are being made in the Sons of The American Legion on the National level. Most of the directives are coming from the

National American Legion. At the Fall NEC meeting in Indy, all of the NEC were asked to pick three committees/commissions that they would like to be involved with. In early December 2021, thirteen NECs were called on to be part of the NEC Liaison Committee, each placed on a different committee/commission to serve as an observer for the year. I was chosen for Public Media & Communications Commission. We are to report to Ron Roberts and Cliff Smith. Some of the things this commission is working on include rebranding the SAL with a new logo, similar to that of The American Legion, looking into ways to attract new younger members, revamping the national website to be more user-friendly, increasing the member email list and send out monthly SAL updates. In February we had five members from NY, Commander Lee, Adjutant Jarvis, Clancy, Coates, and me attend the National Wreath Laying Ceremony in Washington, DC. It was a good feeling getting back to a personal meeting with our fellow sons. Two weeks ago, there were six members of the Detachment of NY and four guests who attended our National Commander, Mike Fox's Homecoming in California. Members included Commander Lee, Adjutant Jarvis, National Assistant Adjutant, Avery, National Assistant Sgt-at-Arms, Falco, PNC, Cerullo, and me enjoyed an event-filled weekend. Events include a breakfast brunch and tour of the Hollywood American Legion, a tour of Ronald Regan Library and Museum with lunch under Air Force One, and of course the homecoming diner. I just finished with my recommendations for the Detachment of NY members to serve on National Committees/Commissions. The list includes Bill Clancy - Internal Affairs, David Lee - Legislative, Gabe Cinquegrana - VA & R, and Jim Coates - VE & E. We also have three members serving the national organization in appointed positions; Bob Avery - Assistant Adjutant; Joe Paviglianti - Judge Advocate; and Greg Falco - Assistant Sgt-at-Arms. Coming up we have the Spring NEC meetings in Indy. These meetings will include MNI training which the Detachment of NY will be sending four members to. Gather Espy and Peter DeAngelis will attend MNI 1; Dennis George will attend MNI 2, and Tim Van Patten II will attend MNI 3. In total, we will have fifteen Detachment of NY members in attendance at the Spring NEC meetings.

- 1.20 Master Sgt. At Arms Falco reported;** that everyone has been following all the rules. He thanks everyone as no fines have been collected.
- 1.21 Adjutant Jarvis reported;** We are coming up to a very busy time of the year, As everyone is having their election of officers. Let us remember to fill out a Squadron Data Form as well as an officer certification form. You can find them on our websites under manuals and forms. Make sure you send them in to department headquarters via mail 1304 Park Boulevard Troy, NY 12180, or email charlie@nylegion.org. For Districts please also send a copy to me at rjarvis5@twcny.rr.com. These are critical forms and must be completed every year. If you need help reach to your District or Vice Commanders. You can also contact me. As a Detachment we currently stand at 87.03% of our goal. We need 869 members to achieve 90%. Please continue to do buddy checks to see if members in your area need help and are all right. We will be having a Detachment Convention and it will be held in Binghamton on July 13-16. Our Headquarters Hotel will be the Quality inn & Suites located in Vestal, NY. As information comes it will be placed on our webpage. As everyone is having their election of officers. Let us remember to fill out a Squadron Data Form as well as an officer certification form and send them in to department headquarters via mail 1304 Park Boulevard Troy, NY 12180, or email charlie@nylegion.org. For Districts please also send a copy to me at rjarvis5@twcny.rr.com.
- 1.22 Commander Lee reported;** I am honored to be the Commander of the Detachment New York Sons of The American legion. I am one of 30,000 members of the detachment that make it work. The information for the homecoming is in the back of the room.

The following reports were pre submitted and sent out prior to the meeting.

3rd District Commander Aguardo First, I'd like to start by sending my apologies for not attending this year's Spring DEC Meeting. As you're reading this, I am currently assisting with a fundraiser at my home post. Total membership for the 3rd district currently sits at 1,217 paid members towards our goal of 1,487, for a total of 81.84% attainment. 11 of our 23 Squadrons met our March 9th Goal of at least 80%, with 7 of them also exceeding our April 13th goal of at least 90%. Squadron 1520 Zaloga

Post is holding a fundraiser on April 2nd to benefit the Veterans Miracle Center, as well as donating to the American Legion Little League. Squadron 1493 Voorheesville Post is hosting a polish dinner fundraiser, as well as a Sunday breakfast fundraiser. Our Squadrons are starting to get back into the swing of things and I'm excited to see the upcoming fundraisers and events they will be hosting. I have been spending some time coordinating a plan to visit many of my Squadrons in the coming months.

4th District Commander Downer On January 8th, 2022, the Fabulous 4th District held their winter meeting was held at Plattsburgh American Legion Post 20. Squadrons in attendance were reminded to get their updated Officer Certification Forms in as well as their Squadron Data Forms. It was voted to ear-mark future funds from the 4th District Spring Conference book for the purpose of supporting candidates from the 4th District for Detachment Commander. It's up to the discretion of the District to use some of those funds for Legion and Auxiliary Department Candidates from the 4th district. At this meeting it was also discussed who was going to run for District Officer positions for the upcoming year. Commander Herman Downer has served 3 years which is the maximum term in the 4th District. Squadrons continue to support our post throughout the Covid Pandemic. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2nd in Stillwater at American Legion Post 490 at 1:00 pm.

5th District Commander Able reported; We in the 5th District are alive and well though Covid has dampen are efforts to gather and participate in many group activities. We hope that the worse is behind us now and we all see the light at the end of the tunnel. Our membership is doing well as we are at 86.82% as of the last membership report dated March 25, 2022. During our December meeting we were introduced to the leading candidates for the '22-'23 year. Dave Riley as the leading candidate for Commander of the American Legion for New York and Tim Van Patten as the leading candidate for Sons. They both provided us a brief bio of themselves and their vision of both great organizations and the direction they are heading. Attendance at our December meeting held at Smith Post 24 in Rome, NY was well represented with many activities being reported at the squadron levels. The 5th District had made a \$500 donation to each of the leading candidates for their respected campaigns. We didn't have a quorum for our February meeting in Onondaga County at Post 1276 as only 7 were in attendance; at that point we held an informal discussion about the activities, events and membership that is happening within everyone's areas.

I will be attending the dinner for our National Commander for the American Legion Paul Dillard in Adams, NY in Jefferson County on Wednesday April 6, 2022. I was invited and will be attending the 5th District Conference of the Auxiliary at Adirondack Post 1118 on April 9 in Cold Brook of Herkimer County. In closing I would like to reiterate that we in the 5th District are active participants within our specific Posts and communities and now with rules and regulations are beginning to loosen up we can get back to core values as a group.

6th District Commander Hooke reported; The last sixth district meeting was held in Sidney at post 183 on October 10, 2021. The Winter meeting scheduled for January 9, 2022, at the Homer post 465 was cancelled due to bad weather. Our next meeting which is our spring meeting is scheduled for April 10th in Candor at post 907. At our fall meeting membership was at 89.02%. All squadrons have been contacted and have been working on improving those numbers since then. I contacted squadron 876 in Sherburne because they have not submitted any current membership for 2022. I spoke to the post commander as well as the squadron commander and advised them of the situation. The membership adjutant was contacted and advised to send in the memberships instead of holding onto them. Which he since has done. At our meeting Children and Youth state chairman William Clancy III sent a letter to encourage all squadrons to have a fun day for kids to let them know what the American legion is about. Hopefully with nicer weather starting squadrons will act on this request and start to schedule. Squadrons have continued to support their posts and pillars of our organization by having Christmas parties with Santa for the children, barbecues, fish fries and various fundraisers. With visitations throughout the sixth district being cancelled I have tried to make as many squadron meetings at different posts as possible to keep the lines of communication open and trying to answer any questions or concerns that may arise. There was discussion at our last district meeting regarding per capita dues and how some squadrons have not submitted any. The suggestion was made to send a letter to each squadron explaining what the district does with these dues. I believe there are many squadrons that do not realize. I plan on addressing this issue again during our next district meeting on April 10th in Candor at post 907.

7th District Commander Kirkwood reported; The last few months' schedule was affected greatly by the COVID mandates. The second and third 7th District meetings were held in person as scheduled. We were proud to host Commander Lee at the March meeting. The District visitation was cancelled. Despite the challenges, we were able to make an impact. Membership – The 7th District is at 78.37% attainment as of March 4. This is a disappointing eighth in the Detachment. I am working with the Vice Commanders to contact some of the Squads with the lowest percentage to make sure they can submit their dues. Only 22 of the 47 squads have submitted the SDR form. This is another area of emphasis to make sure all squads submit a report in April. C&Y - We were not able to host our annual junior bowling event due to Covid virus mandates being place in January. We plan to host the event next year. Americanism - The 7th District will host a flag retirement ceremony June 18th at the Meyers-Ingraham Post 428 in Ontario. All are welcome to attend the ceremony. VA/VS - The 7th District is proud to support the Walk-A-Thon for the benefit of homeless veterans.

8th District Commander Smith Reported; The mighty 8th District continues to help lead us into the future. Even in this troubling time the Sons of the Western New York District are excited to start 2022 with encouragement going ahead. Our Officers have been planning for a great second half of the year. I have contacted and visited the County Squadrons in our north part of our District. The 8th District Legion Vice Commander, Henry Link has joined me by providing transportation to these County meetings for myself and our Sergeant-at-arms, John (Knobby) Walsh. Ken Barnes, as our 8th District American Legion Department Commander, invited us to do this together and it is much appreciated. Commander Ken has set a great example for the Sons, and we thank him for his caring insight in this matter. Gaining the knowledge and wisdom of our experienced members gives us invaluable information for our growth. Happy birthday Commander Ken, sorry I couldn't make it to your 80th. Cancellations have been the word of the times. We must address this and not pull back on our efforts but increase them. Online communications need to be exploited as much as we can. Young members of our family should step up to help all of us in this fast-changing world of technology. Commander Lee has emphasized this in his beginning comments at Convention this year. District Commanders were given the task of collecting information on every Squadron in our District's to better address our online membership issues along with other reasons. The 8th continues to do our part. Membership is strong and going forward should have us growing as our Legion membership grows with the latest expansion in eligibility. Let us all encourage dual membership to help us make an impact. New members need to be added every year. I have participated in 8 Honor Guard ceremonies this fall for Post Everlasting. We honor our past to continue our future. Our greatest tool for Americanism and freedom is the American Legion Family. It is the Family's business! Online membership has begun so let's go get them signed up. Visitations have been cancelled too often in New York. The 8th District as of now stand ready to engage. Hopefully this can be done properly and safely in February. Honoring our hard-working leaders is important and all efforts will be made. The mighty 8th of the Empire State proudly impacts the world with great men like past National Commander Gregg Doc Gibbs, National Historian Tim Van Patten II, and resolution 1601 Sons Everlasting. The presence of men like these and Resolution 1601 put us at the tip of the spear. Ready to launch into the future.

9th District Commander Reported; Membership numbers in the 9th District are nothing short of excellent as we head into Mid-Winter this year. The district is at almost 70% and in first place. We are still showing some zeroes and lower numbers in a couple of our counties, but we are hopeful that now that we are into the New Year those number will continue to rise, and we will achieve 100% or higher this year. Many of our squadrons are already well over 90%. Since our Fall Meeting I attended the 9th District visitations in early November. Attendance was rather light at a few of the dinners mostly due to the pandemic, but it was also evident that we need to encourage our Sons members to participate more in these events. In my previous report I mentioned that a new squadron was being chartered in Rye, NY, in Westchester County. I'm happy to report that their charter has been issued and very soon they will be holding their first meeting and installing their officers. Recently one of 9th District Squadrons was recognized by the American Legion National website for helping a WWII veteran in their community celebrate his 102nd birthday. Admiral Farragut Squadron 1195 in Westchester County along with their parent post organized a drive-by parade for the veteran, who couldn't celebrate his previous two birthdays due to the pandemic. Congrats to the Squadron and Post for their efforts.

10th District Commander Belanger Reported; I am pleased to again say that we are regaining communications with our squadrons. There has been some growth in our ranks this year and some losses due to the times we are living in. As for membership i would like to outline a few of our membership stars of the district:

Queens 1404 Broad Channel 102% Nassau 0128 East Meadow Memorial 206%

Suffolk 0094 Babylon 105% 0185 Burton Potter 125% 0419 East Hampton Town 103% 0651 Smith-Weaver 100% 1006 Joseph Loeffler 106% 1146 Joseph Kovarik 100% I would also like to add that there were a lot of other squadrons that hit in the high nineties. While our world is returning to a sense of normalcy. For too long communication was hard, if not impossible. Now we can move forward and regain what was so Vitaly lost to our membership, communication!

A few of my executives attended legionnaires district meetings. We are hoping through further cooperation we can together keep growth and reconnect moving forward. I would also take the time to introduce you to Sonsofthelegionli.com. It was created with the hopes we can further connect to our members through electronic communication. The site has been redesigned and in its early stages. Some of the followings are already accessible on the site and some are upcoming additions.

→ Key features are as follows

- ◆ Membership
 - Reports
 - Ways to sign up
- ◆ Lines of communication direct from sites
- ◆ Training videos / articles
 - Social media
 - Website creation management
 - Creating free phone numbers
 - Multiple phones ring
 - Creating emailing and sending
- ◆ Basic recruitment tactics
- ◆ Tutorials
- ◆ Advertising
- ◆ Press releases
- ◆ leadership

It is our hope that over the next year we will implement these changes. We need to move toward technology. Embracing it and teaching what we know is the way we grow! Lastly, I would like to take the time to acknowledge my executives as they are what keeps the wheel turning. We have great hopes for this coming year. I would also like to thank all of you who do the great work of the New York Sons of the American Legion.

4th District Commander Downer moved to accept all the reports. The motion is seconded and carried.

3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

3.01 NONE

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.01 NONE

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

5.01 NONE

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 6.01 Squadron #457 Donated \$1375 to 9 different Legion Charities.
- 6.02 Timothy VanPatten announced that he is running for the office of Detachment Commander 2022-2023.
- 6.03 Peter DeAngelis announced that he is running for the office of Detachment Commander 2023-2024
- 6.04 Joe Guidice announced that he is running for the office of Vice-Commander 1&9 District
- 6.05 50-50 drawing for the Commanders Project Camp Egar was \$220
- 6.06 PNC Gibbs announced that the leftover money from his campaign is now a perpetual veteran scholarship at Fredonia University.
- 6.07 Herman Downer Jr. announced that is running office of Vice-Commander 3rd & 4th District.
- 6.08 Joeseph Belanger announced that he is running for Vice-Commander 2nd & 10th District.
- 6.09 Shaun Mills announced that he is running for Vice – Commander 5th & 6th District.
- 6.10 **NEC Ruthven moved to purchase a full page add for \$50.00 in the Eastern Region book. The motion is seconded and carried.**

- There being no further business to come before the Meeting, the Master Sgt.-at-Arms retrieved the POW/MIA banner, Chaplain Parks offered the Closing Prayer, following which, and the membership saluted our Nation's Flag.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond P. Jarvis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "J".

Adjutant Raymond Jarvis