



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK

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Commander Dennis A. George
Adjutant Robert J. Avery

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RE: A message from Detachment Commander Dennis A. George

My Fellow Sons,

Thank you for the opportunity to lead our organization. It is truly an honor and I look forward to having a great year with the Detachment. I have a very basic approach as to how we, as Sons, can set ourselves above and beyond our previous expectations and goals.

My word for you to remember is “Key”. We are Sons of the American Legion because of a family member, or members, who joined the military to defend our country during times of conflict or war. We, as Sons, are representatives of these veterans who have served and made us proud. We are the **Key** to open doors to help in the growth of our organization and the American Legion.

The first door is **Membership**. We are the **Key** to opening that door by renewing our membership, recruiting new members, and retaining our current members. Our strength, as an organization, depends on a strong and active membership. We cannot hope to open other important doors without going through this one first.

The next door is **Accountability**. We are the **Key** because of the time we spend volunteering representing our organization and the American Legion Family. The volunteer hours that we put in at our Posts and other places adds up to a significant number when converted to Dollar\$. These numbers are sent to the American Legion to be presented to our government. We should be tracking these hours, maybe on a monthly basis, then recording the totals on the Consolidated Service Form (CSR) in April. The present conversion amount is \$25 per hour. If you want to be impressed, multiply your volunteer hours by the dollar amount. These reported numbers are “gold” for the American Legion.

The next door is **Support of Legion Programs**. We are the **Key** because we are a program of the American Legion and we should be actively supporting our fellow programs. Some of these programs are: Boys State, Legion Baseball, Legion Riders, Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), National Emergency Fund (NEF), American Legion Veterans and Children Fund, Oratorical Contest, Legion Shooting, Walk-ATHons, Operation Comfort Warrior, and a variety of Scholarship programs. Our support can be either by volunteering or by financial means. Our support is very necessary to keep these programs going.

The final door I want to mention is **Communication**. We have heard previous Commanders talk about communicating. If you are doing an event, get the information out to the public. We have a variety of ways to do this, e.g., posters, signs in front of the Post, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), a newspaper listing in community events, as well as, the finest webmaster in the Sons organization. We are the **Key** because if we do not communicate, no one will know the efforts that are being put forth by our organization.

I am not a fan of comparisons to other Detachments, but I feel the Detachment of New York is the best in the country. I think by us being the **Key** to successfully opening these doors, we can prove that we are. Remember that “**You Are The Key**”.

For God, Country, Our Veterans, and our Organization