

# AMERICANISM REPORT

Jim Daly

I would like to recognize the Commissions members James Parks, Herman Downer Jr., Jim Brown, Gary Manzer and Doug Martin.

And now a report on this year's Americanism Agenda:

- We will continue to promote the 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grades an Essay Contest "What America means to me". There will be a \$100.00 awarded to the winner
- We will continue to promote the 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades an Essay Contest. It is pick a topic: United States Bill of Rights, United States Declaration of Independence or United States Constitution. From the three grades there will be \$300.00 awarded to one winner.
  - The above-mentioned Contest Materials have been available on our website since the beginning of April. Please make it an initiative this year to get the material out to your local school districts. It seems with each passing year that there is less emphasis on teaching Americanism in our schools at an early age so if we can get our foot in the door, hopefully we can spark an interest in teaching American ideals again in our schools!
- The Cerullo Memorial Scholarship. As a reminder this has up to four Scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each that is awarded annually. There is one new and up to three renewal scholarships to previous winners.
  - Information for this scholarship is available on our website
- We will be providing Flag pins for Boys State if this takes place next year
- Since there has been limited parades and abilities to get into schools this past year, the Commission will put on hold the traditional box of materials that is provided at Mid-Winter. Information printed for the Essays and Cerullo Scholarship are available online for individuals to print on their own.

We will continue to maintain the Detachments Americanism Facebook page. Many thanks to Herman Downer Jr. for setting up and maintaining this page where we have had over 800 folks view our page since we brought it online late 2018. An interesting fact is that over the past few weeks, we have seen an increased interest in this page. Hopefully this is a sign that there is an increased feeling of Americanism within our communities.

Respectively Submitted,

James E. Daly

Americanism Chair  
Detachment of New York

Detachment of New York  
Communications Committee

**Report to the D.E.C.**  
**November 1, 2020**

On behalf of the Communications Committee, this report is being submitted to provide an update on progress relative to obtaining contact information for every Squadron in the Detachment. Our Committee has met by teleconference and group emails since being formed for the purpose of reaching 100% compliance so that the entire Detachment can be kept informed about the organization.

We have sent notification by mail to all Squadron Commanders, Squadron Adjutants and their associated Post Commanders and Post Adjutants requesting contact information.

We contacted the Detachment Vice Commanders, District Commanders and County Commanders in May of 2019 to enlist their assistance in contacting the Squadrons we need contact information for. Last month, we contacted Detachment Vice Commanders, District Commanders, County Commanders, other Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairmen and the balance of the Executive Committee to again request their assistance. We included our current database to assist them in this endeavor.

Where we stand:

1. We do not have CURRENT information from 33% of the Squadrons (approx. 131 Squadrons).
2. 43% of the Squadrons submitted Officer Reports this year (approx. 171 Squadrons).
3. We have NO information for 24% of the Squadrons (approx. 96 Squadrons).

The current database is being included with this report. Non-highlighted Squadrons reflect item 1 (no current information). Blue-highlighted Squadrons refer to item 2 (they submitted reports this year). It will be a great accomplishment if we could first focus on the nearly 100 Squadrons in yellow -highlight that we have no information for (item 3 above). We request everyone's assistance in gathering contact information and we thank you in advance.

We are discussing other recommendations, such as requiring ALL Squadrons to submit an Officer Report before they get their cards. All cards could be made available at an early membership meeting or DEC meeting and released ONLY upon receipt of an Officer report. It would be a requirement that all Districts and/or Detachment Vice Commanders (and the few formed Counties) get this information directly from the Squadrons in their responsible areas. We know that we do not have a representative from each of the 400 Squadrons at these meetings, but cards could be released to a responsible area representative if they have the Officer Report. This has worked in several other Detachments.

We thank the Executive Committee for their support as we work towards our goal!

Communications Committee  
Chair Robert Avery  
David Lee  
Gabe Cinquegrana  
Daryl VerStreate

Public Relations Commission Chairman's Report - Fall 2020

Submitted by: Joseph Guidice, Jr. PR Chairman

Fellow Sons,

At this time, the Public Relations Commission would normally be planning what we will be doing at our Mid-Winter Conference in January. Unfortunately, at this time we still don't know if Mid-Winter will happen, or what it will look like if it does happen. This of course has a direct impact on our yearly Public Relations strategy.

Last year's PR table featured a slight change in format and overall, I think it was a positive one. Through the use of promotional signs and a video slideshow, we not only highlighted the great work the our members do, but also reached out posts that don't have squadrons and asked them to consider starting one and offering assistance with starting a squadron if they needed it. Our handouts included a card that had contact info for our detachment vice commanders and our District Commanders so a post could quickly get the answers and help they might need to get started. We conducted brief interviews with post and county American Legion commanders on the value of a Sons squadron to a post and incorporated those interviews into our presentation. This was very well received by the visitors to the table. I also want to thank all of the members who helped out at the Desmond. Both DEC members and members at large helped staff the table. I never realized how long of a day it was, and without all your help it certainly couldn't have been done. Going forward, when we are able to have our PR table again I would like to begin to focus some attention each year on at least one of the programs that the Sons support, such as CWF, NEF, and any of the many others and use the table and traffic at the Desmond to sell an inexpensive "Booster". For small donation, each person would get a little booster sticker or some other small recognition. All the proceeds would go to whatever fund we are promoting that day. With the consent of the DEC and the Department I would like to begin planning for this once we know the status of the Mid-Winter Conference and of course we will back burner this if there is no meeting and re-visit it at a later time.

I want to thank everyone who has answered the call and submitted pictures, articles and other items for inclusion in the Liberty Newsletter and also for our Facebook page. Please keep them coming! All of our squadrons and members are working hard to help our veterans and our communities and we should be using this time to share the stories and photos of those efforts to share our great work with our communities and also with other squadrons who might be inspired by your ideas. Send photos and brief write-ups into the PR Commission and we will share it online and in our newsletter! I would also like to repeat my request that all Detachment Officers, District Commanders and Commission and Committee chairmen submit ONE article for the year for publication in The Liberty. Any member wishing to submit an article on your area of expertise or on any topic you feel would be of interest to our membership is welcome to do so as well.

In closing, I want to congratulate PR Commission member Ken Kraetzer and his SAL Radio program on his winning first place in the 2020 contest of The American Legion Media Alliance. Judges selected Ken's entry in the "Social Media – Up to 249 members" category from over 100 entries nationwide. Members of the National Headquarters staff served as judges. Ken's dedication to the Detachment and his work on our social media efforts are remarkable and worthy of our thanks and congratulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Guidice, Jr. – Public Relations Commission Chairman

# FALL DEC 2020

## VA&R COMMISSION REPORT

- The Commission held 7 Conference calls during the membership year. Thanks to members Dave Bishop, Diman Smith, Dale Kane, Bill Baker, and Bob Cox. Also thanks to Jim Coates, National VE&E Commission Vice-Chairman who has been embedded on our VA&R Commission to provide a conduit for information from VE&E, and to Commander George who participated in some of our calls.
- The Commission has been represented with at least 1 article in all of the issues of The Liberty this past year, and continues to post Veteran relevant information on our VA&R Facebook page. Thanks to our Commission members for their contributions.
- 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 also encourage SAL members in general to volunteer at their local VA.
- Walk-A-Thon 2020 faced a number of hurdles this year, including taking place during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic. While we were not able to generate the results from last year, our total was \$21,878; \$16,648 from Walk proceeds and \$5,230 in donations in memory of Joe Santacroe. Thanks to all who participated, and to the SantaCroce Family for their beneficiary designation. With our split, we contributed \$516 to each of the 18 VA Medical Centers and Veteran Homes in NYS. We are developing plans to partner in 2021 with the Auxiliary on another Walk-A-Thon. Stay tuned for details.
- As you may be aware, PDC and Vice Chairman of the National VE&E Commission Jim Coates, has been sitting as a “guest member” of our Commission this year. His insights and opinions have been valuable, and his connection with VE&E correlates closely to the work of VA&R. While it may not be in the foreseeable plans to have a Detachment VE&E Commission, we would therefore recommend that Jim be made an outright member of the VA&R Commission.
- This past year we received 2 excellent and very qualified nominations for the new Joseph L. SantaCroce Service To Veterans Award. We are happy to report that the winner of the Award is Robert Reeg. Bob is a Vice Commander of Leo Laders Squadron 130, living in Stony Point NY. He is a retired Fire-Fighter, Red Cross Volunteer, and current VAVS Representative to the Montrose VA Medical Center. He will be invited as our guest to attend (hopefully) the Sons Detachment Convention. Thank you Bob for your service to our Veterans, to the Community, and to our Sons Organization.
- My participation this past year in VA&R activities has also included the following: 12 National VA&R Commission and Zoom calls, 12 Eastern Region Conference Calls, 2 Department of Veterans Affairs National Advisory Council Zoom calls, and 1 VA Washington Central Office leadership training.

## **11-1-20 National SAL VE&E Commission Summary**

### **for the Detachment of New York Fall DEC Meeting given by Jim Coates.**

The mission of the Sons of The American Legion Veterans Employment and Education Commission is to assist The American Legion in ensuring that America's Veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families.

The National S.A.L. VE&E Commission last met on 10/21/20. Thankfully the commission is fully staffed once again as Bill Sheehan (MA) and Fred Vaccarella (VA) were appointed to VE&E at the Fall NEC meeting. Bill will be responsible for the Western Region and Fred will be responsible for the Southern Region.

Each month we post Job Fairs and VA Stand Downs in the different regions. I post for the Eastern Region in my Eastern Region Report. There has been a decline in their numbers due to Covid-19 and most Job Fairs are being held virtually. I do have an Eastern Region contact list which several of you are on. If anyone is not receiving my emails and would like to please let me know and I will add you to the list.

Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events during which VA staff and volunteers provide food, clothing and health screenings to homeless and at-risk Veterans. In addition, Veterans also receive referrals for health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, mental health counseling and other essential services.

I pull my information about VA Stand Downs from [www.VA.gov/homeless](http://www.VA.gov/homeless) and career fairs from [www.legion.org/careers](http://www.legion.org/careers). I have also used [www.militarycareers.com](http://www.militarycareers.com) at times as well.

This past month we also included a copy of our "Suggested Operating Procedures for Detachments" created by the VE&E Commission. This has been one of the documents we have worked on this year to give better direction to detachments and squadrons on what we could be working on related to VE&E.

The VE&E Commission has been asked to create a slide show this year and we will be looking for pictures showing SAL interaction with veteran's employment and education and homelessness that can be included. So if you have any photos that show this interaction, please pass them on.

And finally, we are also distributing the National VE&E Commission Weekly Update on what is happening with the Economy and Veteran Unemployment, Conference Calls, Tracking Legislation, Employment, Veteran Housing and Homelessness, Career Fairs, Small Business and Education.

And that is all for now as we continue "Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead." Thank you for your time.

## Legislative Report

First off I would like to say I hope everybody is doing well and you and your families are staying safe and well during this pandemic. This is a a very trying time for all of us and the Detachment of New York, thru the leadership of Commander George we have continued to move forward and do the work of the Sons of American Legion. I signed up for the voter voice newsletter, which provides legislative update. I have not received anything as of yet but look forward to the legislative priorities to come out soon. You can also sign up yourself at <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/home> I would encourage everyone to sign up To keep up to date with legislative priorities. Currently Washington conference is going to take place February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are making plans to attend. We will know more hopefully by the beginning of the year as to whether Washington conference is going to take place. Once we know who is attending we will be ordering a wreath to be laid at Washington in visiting with our congressman or Congresswoman. We will we doing our best to share rooms with others so after the first year I will be in contacting some other individuals to see if they would like to attend.

Your for The Sons of The American Legion

Gary Denmon Legislative Chairman

## Member Training & Development

The MTD commission held a teleconference on October 28<sup>th</sup> with 4 members calling in and 1 excused.

With Covid-19 guidelines and plans for a limited Mid-Winter Conference, commission members have proposed we video tape our “would be” breakout sessions.

During Mid-Winter we will have a presentation on Membership and the Consolidated Report procedures. These presentations will be 15 minutes in length and be video taped. The plan is to have them uploaded to the Detachment Web page for the general membership to view.

Material is being gathered and composed for a future Leadership II workshop. This workshop's intent is to give our sitting Detachment Vice Commander's and District Commander's more information to successfully guide them in their current positions. We are hopeful this workshop can roll out at the 2022 Mid-Winter Conference.

Thank you to the commission members for your continued dedication to our great organization.

Everyone stay Safe, Healthy and Happy.

Gaither E. Espey  
Chairman



## Step One – Challenge Your Squadron to Host an Event!

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**To:** All 6,100+ Squadron Commanders / All Detachment Commanders

**From:** The Sons of The American Legion, National Children & Youth Committee

**Re:** Take the Challenge – Be Part of a National Effort to support American Legion Children & Youth Programs (Next April 2021)

### Squadron Commanders:

- April is “American Legion Children & Youth Month”
- We challenge all 6,100+ Squadrons Nationally to host a youth-oriented event in support of one of the American Legion Children & Youth programs
- Publicize your event locally - invite the public - Let them know what the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Family is all about - and all we do for Kids
- Find Young Veterans with Kids and invite them!!!
- Use this event to Pump up your guys up about being Sons, get new members - get inactive members back in the door with an added reason to belong
- Show the public that the SAL is helping kids who are the Leaders of Tomorrow
- Include Kids and Young Members as much as possible in hosting your event!
- Make this an annual springtime activity
- Have FUN!

We encourage support of ANY of the American Legion Children & Youth Programs but we’re highlighting 3 Legion Youth Programs which the Sons Support Nationally.

- The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
- The American Legion National Emergency Fund
- The American Legion Veterans & Children’s Foundation

Host Your Squadron C&Y Event and Carry on For God & Country!

Serving Those Who Served - Full Steam Ahead!



## Step 2 -There are Many American Legion Youth Programs Your Squadron Can Support!

Here are 3 We Recommend! Pick One and Plan your Squadron Event for April 2021.

American Legion Child Welfare Fund (CWF)	American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF)	American Legion Veterans and Children's Funds
<p>The CWF awards grants to nonprofit organizations for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children. Grants are only given to entities that help U.S. children and are not awarded for day-to-day operating expenses</p>	<p>The NEF helps Legion Family Members and Posts affected by disasters such as Hurricanes, Floods Wildfires Etc.</p> <p>The fund provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for posts.</p>	<p>The fund provides Temporary Financial Assistance and Veterans Affairs &amp; Rehabilitation</p> <p>Temporary Financial Assistance grants are available to military and veteran families with minor children that have encountered unexpected financial crises. Families facing homelessness, hunger or loss of utilities in their homes etc.</p>
More Info at: <a href="http://www.legion.org/childwelfare">www.legion.org/childwelfare</a>	More Info at: <a href="http://www.legion.org/emergency">www.legion.org/emergency</a>	More info at: <a href="http://www.legion.org/donate/endowment_fund">www.legion.org/donate/endowment_fund</a>
<b>National Goal 2021</b> <b>\$500,000</b>	<b>National Goal 2021</b> <b>\$0.50 Per member</b>	<b>National Goal 2021</b> <b>\$0.50 Per Member</b>



## Sons of the American Legion – PRESS RELEASE for Upcoming EVENT

### Step THREE - PUBLICISE YOUR C&Y EVENT!

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Directions)

TO: Insert a name of local newspaper, TV station, Radio or Website  
Include their address/ email/ phone or fax if Needed

From: Your Squadron Commanders Name, Squadron (Your #) Post Address,

RE: Promoting (Your Squadron Event Name) to raise money for the American Legion (XXX Fund) and raise awareness about the what the Sons of the American Legon does to support Kids Event:

Event Name, Date , Time of Event Details

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Note: Last Year the Sons of The American Legion donated over \$2 Million Dollars to Children Oriented Causes

Next (DATE) Squadron (###) will be having an event, the \_\_\_\_\_ which will raise money for the (American Legion Fund Your Squadron Chooses to Support Here). All are welcome and encouraged to come to this fun event. Details are \_\_\_\_\_

We appreciate your support of The SAL, The American Legion, and your support of this event to help children

#### About the ( American Legion Fund Your Squadron Chooses to Support Here)

Cut and Paste Info Here for the American Legion fund you are choosing to support.

Find that info on the American Legion Website (Web Address Provided on the prior page, Step TWO, Pick a Fund You Want to Support

#### About the Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Founded in 1932, The Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires and support Veterans, Children and Youth. The SAL has over 360,000 members nationally which along with the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and American Legion Riders comprises the American Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million