



**MINUTES  
OF THE  
DETACHMENT  
OF  
NEW YORK**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 10<sup>TH</sup> 2017  
Leonard H. Hawkins Post #156 City Island, NY**

*SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Detachment of New York  
112 State Street  
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Albany, NY-12207  
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# **MINUTES OF THE FALL D.E.C. MEETING**

**November 10, 2017**

**Leonard H. Hawkins Post #156**

**City Island, New York**

- The Colors in Place, the Colors were saluted.
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco.
- Commander Clancy recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Chaplain Parks offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Ainslee led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
- V/C Guidice led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
- Commander Clancy called the Meeting to order at 12:40 P.M.
- Adjutant Robert Avery took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- ANEC Chang moved to appoint Tom Kurk acting Judge Advocate for this meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

## **1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**1.01 4th District acting Commander Espy made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the Pre DEC Meeting, Convention Meeting and Post DEC Meeting and accept them as printed with corrections. The motion was seconded and carried.**

- **The meeting was recessed by Commander Clancy at 1:00 P.M. for Commission and Committee meetings.**
- **The meeting was reconvened by Commander Clancy at 2:00 PM**

## **2.00 REPORTS**

**2.01 Americanism Chairman Daly** reported; in the beginning of September, Commander Clancy asked the Adjutant and me to inform our membership of the need to donate and support the National Emergency fund because of Hurricane Harvey. Little did we know that there would be other big events that would follow that would put a strain on this Fund. I saw firsthand in my District, County and Squadrons that folds heard this call and responded with additional donations above and beyond any regular line items in their budgets. Thank you to all who have donated! Please remember that unfortunately there will always be a need for the National emergency Fund. In October, the American Legion announced the 2017 Samsung Scholarship winner. There were 2 winners from New York State... Jarod Rios and Sydney Salone. Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. This was meant to show appreciation for U.S. Veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against Communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. To date, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than \$5.3 million to approximately 1,970 applicants. This year our Leading Candidate for National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs will be a judge at the National Level, and also on the Department level our Adjutant Robert Avery will judge for the Oratorical Scholarship Program. The American Legion Oratorical Program exists to develop a deeper appreciation and knowledge of the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws with the ability to speak clearly and develop an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. As most of you know the American Legion college became a family event this past year. The dates for the 2018 session are June 1-3. This again will be held at Morrisville State Collage, The American Legion Family College provides learning for leadership skills for Legion family members as they work in teams to solve problems that they may face in their home Post, Unit, Squadron or Chapter. I can tell you that this is an incredible learning experience that

brings a diverse group of Legionaries together and provides an avenue to learn from each other. Please start now and seek out individuals that will be taking leadership positions within your area, and ask them to consider attending next year. Applications are available on the Legion website. Get your applications in early as the class size is limited to 100. And now I would like to report on this year's Americanism agenda: We will continue to promote to 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grades an Essay Contest "What America means to me". There will be \$50.00 awarded to the winner and \$50.00 awarded for the class. As well as continue to promote to 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8 grades an Essay Contest "What the Constitution of the United States means to Americans". There will be \$300.00 awarded to the winner. The above-mentioned Contest Materials will be available on our website by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and there will be hard copies distributed at Mid-Winter to all District Commanders. Please make it an initiative this year to get the material out to your local school district. 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. We will continue to have a box of handout materials for each District available at Mid-Winter. These will include: The Flag Education Script for grade school children. This can be put on by two people one speaker and one demonstrator, Flag Code pamphlets, Flag Etiquette Brochures, Stick Flags, Flag Comic Books, Pledge of Allegiance Comic books and One item will be adjusted this year... We will be replacing the DVD "For Which it Stands" for one year and replace it with the Centennial publication "Indivisible – The Story of our Flag" 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 and will also be in the handout box at Mid-Winter. We will be providing Flag pins for Boys State. And speaking of Boys State now is the time to be looking for and explaining the program to prospective candidates in your local schools. I would like to take a moment to talk about Consolidated Reports. Again, this year the Detachment on a whole had an opportunity as far as reporting and sending in Consolidated Reports. I would ask the District Commanders to reach out to your County Commanders and have them look at who reported last year. We need to remind all Squadrons the importance of this report especially those who did not send in a Consolidated Report last year. If a Squadron did not report last year we should be reaching out to them to keep track of all money and time donated or spent on programs and projects. This is the way Squadrons are recognized for their good deeds. And the only way the National Commander can give an accurate accounting of what the Sons do when they report to Congress is if all Squadrons fill out a Consolidated Report. This way we can get a full and accurate reporting of what our great Organization does on a yearly basis. And remember a wise Son recently stated, "No Squadron does nothing"

**A motion was made by V/C Myrtle and duly seconded to accept the Americanism report, which was carried.**

- 2.02 Children & Youth Chairmen Bosford reported** donations to the CWF for 2017 totaled \$11324.00 with a membership of 29,031. We have a goal of \$33,385.00 for 2018. To date we have donated \$2,500.00 and are in 10<sup>th</sup> place in the eastern region out of 14 Detachments and stand at 7.5% of our goal and 37<sup>th</sup> nationally. We really need to push for \$1.00 a member this year. I have been talking to emblem sales and we have designed a 3D challenge coin. The cost of these coins is \$1,500 for 500 coins. The goal is to get a \$10.00 donation per coin. I am also asking that you get your Squadrons to also donate or do fund raisers for this project. I would like to see us in the top 10 nationally. There were a couple of grants given in New York State. Autism speaks of New York was awarded \$31,000.00. Songs of love foundation of Forest Hills was given a grant of 25,000.00, this will provide personalized songs to seriously ill children up to the age of 21.
- A motion was made NEC Bishop and duly seconded to accept the report which was carried.**

**2.03 Finance Chairman Lee** reported; the commission went to all the other commissions and committees to ask if they were if they were planning on spending monies from the budget to let the finance commission know so that we can have an idea how to budget the funds. Vouchers are getting better. When you are turning in receipts please number them it makes it easier for the accounting firm to audit. Anyone who has not sent in a voucher please do so.

**A motion was made by V/C Guidice and duly seconded to accept the Finance report which was carried.**

**2.04 Internal Affairs Chairman Acting Chairman Jarvis** asked for the report from **Conventions and Meetings, chairmen Daly reported** that the planning for the 2018 convention in Rochester is well under way. Monroe County is excited to host during our centennial celebration from July 18-21. The American Legion and the Sons will share the same hotel. We will be housed at the Radisson downtown and the auxiliary will be across the street at the Hyatt. The Chili Country Club will host or annual CWF golf outing. More information will be out at mid-winter. Chili Squadron will host the luncheon after golf. The meet the candidate's luncheon will be across the street at the Hyatt. The installation Luncheon will be held at the Webster American Legion. We are looking forward to seeing you all in July in Monroe County.

**Member Training and Development Committee Chairmen Espy** reported Mid-Winter Conference

-Friday 6pm Leadership Workshop, Raymond Jarvis and Gary Denmon will teach/present. Raymond will have auto visual equipment with material.

-Friday 7pm Advisor's Seminar, Dave Downey and Chris Burch will present. Chris will have auto visual equipment with material.

We are trying to get Past Detachment Commanders to sit in on these, so if needed down the road they could assist. Currently Bruce will be in attendance at the Advisor's seminar.

-Saturday breakout sessions at Desmond

Membership

Public Relations

Raymond will be taking care of the thumb drives needed. We will be asking the Finance Commission for \$1000.00 from the 2018-2019 budgets.

Jerry brought up that we get a scaled down version of the Leadership workshop out to District Commanders. This way people who don't attend Mid-Winter can get some of the information from the District level.

Legion Family College is the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June 2018. Word needs to get out so there are more Sons members in attendance. With the college being a "family" college, there is a possibility there will be a class on the Sons of The American Legion. This commission should work on a class style curriculum. (1 hour) We would also need instructors.

Speak with Adjutant Casey about the possibility of mailing an Advisors booklet to the squadron Advisors.

**Membership Committeemen Acting Chairman Guidice** gave Chairmen Verstrete report. We are currently 27 members short of our 2017 goal of 29,671 members.

Everyone should be able to reach there 2018 goal. The goal is currently set at whatever you finished with in 2017. There was a son's presence at all of the Legion membership seminars across the state. This has helped our membership grow as far as I can see.

Thank you to all the sons that participated and attended this event. I would like to see Vice Chairmen appointed to the committee, the legion already does this. This would help the chairmen if there is an issue. The chairmen could also mentor this person to take over as chairman down the road. I would also like to see that the chairmen not be appointed for more than three years. This would help in keeping fresh ideas coming. We currently stand at 28.03% of our 2018 goal. Keep up the good work.

**A motion was made by 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander George and duly seconded to accept the Internal Affairs report which was carried.**

- 2.05** **Legislative Chairman Duffy** reported that the Sons legislative commission actively follows the same legislation issues as the American Legion. The Commission also assists in helping members at the On the Hill Day in Albany and Washington Conference. I encourage all Sons Members to attend all of the events in your area that your State and Federal elected officials attend. Where your cover and let them know that we are 30,000 Sons members who support legislation that helps our Veterans. Washington conference will start on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Albany on the hill day will be on March 6<sup>th</sup>.  
**A motion was made by 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander Williams and duly seconded to accept the Legislative report which was carried.**
- 2.06** **Public Relations Chairman Bruce Cinquegrana** reported I would first like to acknowledge the members of our Commission: Jim Coates, Timothy Van Patten II, William Clancy, Kevin Harrington and Ken Kraetzer and Joe Guidice. We are doing our best to keep the website updated. It is a repository of information that comes from multiple sources, please use it. We started with 300 email addresses three years ago and have doubled that to 600. That is still along form 29,000+ members that we have. We also have presence on Facebook for those that don't do email. We are constantly adding information on all of our media platforms. The liberty is another media source we use and we need your help with events and things that your squadron is doing to fill in the pages. SAL radio is still doing great work interviewing important people. We are going to try and find a way to have those past interviews easier to listen to. We will continue to provide a table at mid-winter for information proposes. We have many legion family members ask for information. We would still like to have past Detachment Commanders or sons with a lot of information come to the tables and man it for an hour or two. We have been working on a squadron database that can be used by District Commanders and others to help with communication. We are working on standardized press releases to help you get your information out to local media outlets.  
**A motion was made by 6<sup>th</sup> District acting Commander Lee and duly seconded to accept the Public Relations report which was carried.**
- 2.07** **VA & R Chairman Kurk** reported, Good Afternoon Your Detachment VA&R Commission has been working hard for our veterans since the close of our convention last July. The Walk-A-Thon has been revised and we believe it now more users friendly. This commission now has a Face Book page and has been received well, not just from American Legion Family members here in New York but across the country. Different areas of VA&R will be made available through reports to the DEC and articles in the Liberty. A telephone interview with a woman veteran was conducted in September to discuss Women Veterans Rehabilitation. You will hear much more on this at Mid-Winter. This commission held a conference call which included the members of the commission, Detachment Commander Bill and all five Detachment Vice-Commanders were invited to participate in the call. This year's "They Marched for Us, We Walk for Them" Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for April 21, 2018. Department of New York American Legion Auxiliary is excited to be partners with us once again. Included in the package this year is a list of suggestions on how to get local community support for our project. The pictures of the Boots are included and in the past have proven to be great money raisers. If you live in an area where it is not feasible to hold a Walk don't be shy about approaching your local businesses, other organizations or organize a few fundraisers to support the Walk-A-Thon. Get with your local Auxiliary Units and start planning now. The complete Walk-A-Thon package is on our Detachment Website. A couple more areas of VA&R our Squadrons can be active in are Operation Comfort Warriors and advocating for the benefit of Homeless Veterans. Both of these programs are in need of financial support. A few things that the National VA&R Commission is looking at this year, National Commander Danny Smith is very about having Sons members as Representatives and Deputies at all our VA Medical Centers. He encourages our members to ask other members to volunteer at our VA hospitals. Our own Gabe Cinquegrana is reviewing the Power Point presentation for VAVS training. The VA&R section of the Consolidated

Report is being reviewed and the National Commission has asked the members for recommendations to update this section. In closing I would like to share with you the Mission Statement of the Detachment VA&R Commission.

**MISSION STATEMENT - DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION VA&R COMMISSION**

The goals of Detachment of New York VA&R Commission are as follows:

- Educate Members of the Detachment of New York the needs that our veterans from all conflicts both past and present need to make a successful transition to civilian life.
  - Continue our volunteering at our New York State VA Medical Centers, New York State Veterans Homes and the Fisher House at the Stratton VA Medical Center.
  - Assist Families of Veterans providing services such as transportation, family outings such as picnics at our Post Homes, host a fishing outing, and organize a trip a local sporting event or community events.
  - Have Sons of The American Legion member be both a registered representative and deputy at all VA Medical Centers in New York State.
  - Continue to support “Operation Comfort Warriors”.
  - Assist our American Legion Family with projects to benefit the rehabilitation of our veterans.
  - Achieve 100% reporting through the use of Squadron Consolidated Report.
- We can make a difference to our Nations Heroes. This commission is here to help our members with any questions they may have with their Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation projects. Please always remember our Veterans are our Greatest Resource.  
**A motion was made by NEC Bishop and seconded to accept the V.A. &R report which was carried.**

**2.08 Consultant Neville** stated that it was good to be here with everyone today. There is a lot of excitement in the Detachment and Department right now as Greg “Doc” Gibbs is on his way to being National Commander of The Sons. The Department of New York would like you to know that it appreciates all the work that you do for our Veterans in the VA Hospitals and Veterans Homes. If anyone ever has any questions about the relationship between the Sons and the Legion please ask me. That is what I am here for.

**2.09 Commanders Advisory Chairmen J. Bruce Ruthven** reported that he and Joe Santa Croce both agree that their mentoring of Commander Clancy is progressing well and on time. We will continue with this project and plan on a successful completion by the 2018 Detachment Convention in Rochester.  
**A motion was made by ANEC Change and seconded to accept the Commanders Advisory report and was carried.**

**2.10 Chaplain Parks** reported that everyone has been doing a great job getting me information. Since Convention I have sent flowers to the funeral of Mary Smallcomb on behalf of the Detachment of New York. We have lost 3 Sons members. I have sent 9 condolence cards and 7 get well cards.  
**Chaplain Parks motion to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**

**2.11 Vice Commander Guidice** reported I’m happy to report that things in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Districts are going well. Both districts have consistently been in the top 4 or 5 in membership. In District 1, Bronx County and especially Squadron 156 has been very busy, raising money both for the Commanders campaign and also for the NEF and other projects, as well as continuing to assist Post 156 most recently with an Annual Pumpkin and Flower sale, and they held an Oktoberfest and used the proceeds to contribute to the Commanders Projects. The 9<sup>th</sup> Continues to grow and add members and squadrons with one new squadron now reformed in Rockland and two in Westchester currently completing their charter application. One of the new Westchester Squadrons in Yorktown will be holding their first meeting very soon and election their first slate of officers. The 9<sup>th</sup> met recently at New City Squadron 1682 and Leading Candidate Jim

Coates and Past Detachment Commander Gerry Ketchum paid them a visit and spoke about his upcoming campaign. The 9<sup>th</sup> District has a few ideas that they are working on for district-wide projects that will hopefully do some good work and serve as some team building amongst the squadrons in the District. I attended the Department 1/9 Membership workshop on October 15 at the Mt Kisco post in Westchester County and I was happy to see a good number of Sons from both districts not just in attendance, but actively participating in the event. There is some interest generating in organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> District Sons and I will be following up on that with the interested persons and trying to reach out to all the squadrons in the 1<sup>st</sup> district as that develops. In closing, I recently attended four out of five visitation dinners in the 9<sup>th</sup> district and I was very proud to see a good number of Sons in attendance at all of these events. I can't stress enough how important that presence is at these events.

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

**2.12 Vice Commander Myrtle** reported my year kicked off on Friday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 in Syracuse, N.Y. being newly elected as the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Commander to serve under the leadership of New York State Detachment Commander Mr. William Clancy, III of Bronx County, and Squadron 156 on City Island, N.Y. I met up with 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander James Williams and American Legion Department Commander Rena Nessler, Department President Patricia Hennessy, Detachment Commander Bill and many other officers of this great organization all traveling together throughout the fourth district. The fourth district had 11 county visitations starting in Saratoga County on September 16<sup>th</sup> held @ the Henry Cornell Post 234, during the day we visited two veterans' homes in Ballston Spa, congregating with our veterans having the opportunity to see and hear their stories of recovering to regain their dignity and lead a productive life in the communities. We then when to Washington County visiting fort Edwards post 1133 with welcoming party of sons and then seeing the museum on Rogers Island. On to Warren County in Lake George post 374 for lunch and dinner later. We stayed at Art Devlin lodge in lake Placid and visited St. Joseph's addiction and recovery center for a tour with 25 veterans being treated for PTSD and TBI with a psychiatrist, counselors, chaplain, and a reintegration counselor on site. The Essex County dinner at lake Placid post 326 with a full house of American Legion family attending. The next Morning we went to Clinton County visiting Fountain Brothers post 1619 for lunch and did a tour in Rouse's Point at the railroad Museum the last stop before Canada and dinner at Plattsburgh post 20 meeting and greeting many sons with past Commander Chuck Depo. In Franklin County we had lunch at Malone post 219 a true home of honorable Americans in history that lives on, we then visited the Andrew W. Cook-St. Regis Mohawk post 1489 taking in the values of the St. Regis Indians and sharing a Traditional Native American Feast it was a pleasure and honor great time. St. Lawrence County we visited a Milk farm that sold all their produce to Cabot for manufacturing cheese over 1300 cows, Cornell University associates on hand gave us an education on farming. We had dinner at Clark Robinson post 68 with our legion family; it was great to see our Judge Mr. Downey. Hamilton County which we don't have a squadron yet was our next visit we met for lunch and talked about our programs. How the sons could help with fund raisers, in the post and work at family membership to grow in their county. Fulton County I attended dinner at the Robert Lee Walsh post 337 meeting members and talking about different events to raise funds from cook offs to a fishing derby. Montgomery County I attended dinner at the John Wyszomirski post 701 and my last County visit was in Schenectady and held at the VFW post. My travels throughout the fourth district were filled with meeting many old faces and having great conversations about the American Legion or family life. The 4<sup>th</sup> district for membership is in 4<sup>th</sup> place with 32.88% and a goal of 3,315 members. The Third District will start their County visitations on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Greene County, 13<sup>th</sup> Ulster County, 14<sup>th</sup> Sullivan County, 15<sup>th</sup> Columbia County, 16<sup>th</sup> Schoharie County, 17<sup>th</sup> Albany County and 18<sup>th</sup> Rensselaer County. I look forward to seeing many sons in the third district our District Commander Mr. William Baker sent in a report for our

district. With 7 Counties and membership goal of 1594 members we stand in 7<sup>th</sup> place @ 23.39%.

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

- 2.13 Vice Commander Ainslee** thanked everyone for all the cards and kind words received after the passing of his mother in September. It is a perfect example of National Commander Rohan's theme "family first" it's time like this that you feel that you truly belong to the Legion Family. October is the busiest month of the year for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> District. Starting on September 30<sup>th</sup> with the 5<sup>th</sup> District, 6 counties in 6 days. Then came the 6<sup>th</sup> District meeting in October followed by the National Commander's visitation to the 6<sup>th</sup> district. On October 20<sup>th</sup> we started the 6<sup>th</sup> district visitations, 10 counties in 10 days. To sum it all up so far lots of visitations, 2000 plus miles, 50 upset customers and one mad wife. I would like to thank District Commanders George and Grigas for all there help during the visitations.

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

- 2.14 Vice Commander Van Patten** reported since we last met the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District have been working away at membership. While the 7<sup>th</sup> District is in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Detachment with 1,596 members transmitted for 30.28% and the 8<sup>th</sup> District currently ranks 9<sup>th</sup> with 1,031 transmittals for 19.45%, as a whole the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> are responsible for 68% of the membership transmittals of the entire Detachment. I had an opportunity to attend the Fall NEC meeting in Indianapolis as part of Doc's Campaign Committee, it was a great time meeting fellow members from other Detachments, and I'm pretty sure our luncheon left a pretty good impression on everyone that attended. The week following the NEC had the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts serving as hosts to National American Legion Commander Denise Rohan. I had the pleasure of escorting our American Legion Family members through Niagara Falls, Waterloo and Geneva. Buffalo was home for the National Veterans Art Show. This weeklong event was sponsored by the ALA and showcased the many talents of our former servicemen. It was the first time this National Event was held in New York State. Buffalo NY will host the Commissioning ceremonies of the US Navy's newest Littoral Class ship the USS Little Rock on December 16. The event will take place at the Buffalo Naval and Serviceman's Park and will be the first time in naval history that a new ship is commissioned alongside its former namesake vessel. The Secretary of the Navy, whom served onboard the original Little Rock, will be in attendance along with many dignitaries from New York and Arkansas.

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

- 2.15 ANEC Chang** reported From my last report in Syracuse at our State Detachment Convention I attended the SAL National Convention at the Peppermill Reno, Nevada from August 16th-22nd, 2017. At the National Convention we saw Past National Commander Jeff Frain from Arizona close out his 2016-2017 year and our new National Commander Danny Smith from Nebraska begins his 2017-2018 term of office. At the close of the National Convention under the Good of the Son's our Detachment of New York announced our own Greg "Doc" Gibbs officially as The Leading Candidate for National Commander for the year 2018-2019. It was a great day for the Detachment of New York! I attended the Fall NEC Meeting which was held on October 6th-9th, 2017 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Sheraton. Our Detachment of New York had a very busy schedule. We had 14 Sons in attendance plus a large contingent of our American Legion Family to help and support Doc Gibbs in his quest to become National Commander. Besides the meetings that we attended, we put on a luncheon for Doc that was extremely successful and will be remembered by all that attended and participated in as the Best as far as any of the attendees can remember. On the last day of the Convention Commander Bill Clancy and Leading Candidate for Detachment Commander Jim Coates became graduates of the Commanders Course with Honors. I once again attended the Take a Veteran to School Day 2017 on Thursday November 9, 2017 at the Hillside Elementary

School, Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School as a proud Army Veteran. Members of the School Faculty, PTSA and American Legion Farragut Post and Auxiliary Unit 1195 and SAL Squadron 1195 as well as VFW Post 200 members were there to recognize all the 14 Veterans that attended that day. This was a great day for Students, Teachers as well as all the Veterans.  
**ANEC Change moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**

**2.16** **NEC Bishop** reported since my last report which was given at our Detachment Convention in Syracuse I have attended tow National events. The first being the National Convention in Reno, Nevada and second the fall N.E.C meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. At National Convention in Reno we saw our now Past Commander Jeff Frain from Arizona close out his 2016-2017 administrative year and our newly Elected National Commander Danny Smith from Nebraska begin his 2017-2018 administrative year. Last year under National Commander Frain we saw great accomplishments from the Sons of the American Legion. Last year the Sons of the American Legion nationally raised \$1,701,928 in cash and gifts and 407,971 volunteer hours under VA&R. Under Children and Youth nationally the Sons raised \$2,120,995 with 269,475 service hrs. Of that total \$594,414 was raised for the Child Welfare Foundation. Under Americanism we also raised \$3,408,183 dollars and had 1,145,266 of service is support of Americanism programs. Under membership we now have 365,167 members in 6,148 squadrons in 54 Detachments. Those are truly amazing numbers accomplished by the Sons of the American Legion last year. If you would like to see the full 2017 S.A.L. Accomplishment list it is available on the national Website. This year National Commander Danny Smith theme is "Following in their footsteps..... Making History" His main focus this year will be Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Children & Youth. Commander Smith goals are as follows: .50 per member for the Endowment fund and the N.E.F. which would raise over \$180,000 for both of these programs. He is also continuing to set a goal of \$1.00 per member for the C.W.F. which would raise over \$360,000. His membership goals are 400,000 members, 95% renewal rate and 50,000 new members. Commander Smith say's; "Together we can and will make a difference" At the close of the Convention and under the Good of the Sons there was a proud moment for the Detachment of New York as our own Greg "Doc" Gibbs was officially announced as the Leading Candidate for National Commander for the year 2018-2019. Congratulations to Doc and the Detachment of New York. The Fall N.E.C. meetings were held on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was a busy weekend for the Detachment of New York. Not only did our Detachment members need to attend the meetings but the Committee to Elect Doc Gibbs also had to provide the Leading Candidate for National Commander Luncheon as well. With the help and support of the Department of New York American Legion family the Luncheon was a big success with great remarks from those who attended. Once again the Detachment of New York was at its best. Also during the fall meetings Commander Clancy and Leading Candidate for Detachment Commander Jim Coats attended the Commanders Course which was also held on Saturday became graduates of the course. One of National Commander Smith's first orders of business was a "call to action" for Detachments across the country to donate to the NEF to help and support the victim of the hurricanes on Texas and Florida. On Saturday night during the reception for National Commander of the American Legion Denise Rohan our Detachment Commander Bill Clancy presented a check to the NEF on behalf of the Department of NY in the amount of \$10,000.00. Immediately following our commanders presentation Department of NY American Legion Commander Rena Nessler presented a check for \$10,010.00 from the Department of NY totaling the donations from the Department of NY and Detachment of NY to \$20,010.00, Once again New York at its best. On Sunday the National Commission and Committee Chairman gave their reports on their meetings and agendas for the upcoming year. I have handed out minutes of those meetings today to our Detachment Commission and Commission and Committee chairman to give them an idea of what each Commission and Committee will be working on this year.

**Motion was made by N.E.C. Denmon and seconded to accept the report which was carried.**

- 2.17 Advisor Arthur** thanked us for letting him be our advisor. You all are doing great things across the state keep up the good work.
- 2.18 Master Sergeant-at-Arms Falco** reported that he has collected fines for the commander's project in the amount of \$20.00 and is donating \$20.00 to the NEF. **ANEC Change moved to accept the report which was seconded to accept the Sergeant-at-Arms report which was carried.**
- 2.19 Adjutant Robert Avery** reported The Official Call to the Midwinter Conference and Executive Meeting is out. It will take place on January 19-21, 2017 at the Radisson – Albany on Wolf Road. Our room rates remain the same as last year at \$110 for single or double. You must return Housing Forms to the hotel by the cut-off date of December 29<sup>th</sup>. Commissions and Committees will be meeting as usual, along with our Leadership Training, the Advisors Seminar, and SAL Workshops. Our invited guests are National Vice Commander Ken Warner from PA, and the Leading National V/C Candidate from Delaware, Mike Cotton. As a reminder Detachment covers the cost of most Detachment Officers attending the Department A.L. Dinner on Saturday night at the Desmond. Please let me know if you are attending and if you are bringing a guest. You will be responsible for the cost of their dinner which is \$35 this year. As for our room 26 High Street, the Department indicated we will always be able to have a room there of course assigned to us for the whole weekend. There may possibly be other uses for room, maybe have the information tables there the whole time rather than in the hallway. It's whatever the Detachment decides regarding the room. As for membership, this year's current goal as set by National is 29,535 members and we need nearly 23,300 to get there. We are at 21% and are in 43<sup>rd</sup> place in the Nation with 6,242 members and in 7<sup>th</sup> place of the 14 Detachments in the Eastern Region. . We need 10,337 members to reach the 35% Target Date on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Our 2017 renewal rate is 6<sup>th</sup> highest in the Nation at 91.04%. Our 2018 rate is currently at 87.52% showing 5,463 Traditional renewed and 779 new or reinstated. All Squadrons are reminded to transmit on a regular basis and in conformance with the Target Dates! The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF is in its 62<sup>nd</sup> year, and the Sons of The American Legion continue to be the largest contributor). This year's grant recipients were selected by CWF's Board of Directors October 8<sup>th</sup> during their annual fall meeting at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. \$636,467 in grants was awarded to 28 nonprofit organizations. The recipients have been awarded the grants to support youth-serving projects and to assist in the dissemination of information to the general public and to specific target group. Two of this year's recipients are from New York:  
**Autism Speaks** of New York, New York, was awarded \$31,000 for their project, "Interactive Guide to Individual Education Programs for Children on the Autism Spectrum." This project will revamp the current Autism Speaks Guide and to include a video series highlighting experts on autism as well as adding interactive tools.  
**Songs of Love Foundation** of Forest Hills, New York, was awarded \$25,000 for their project, "Songs of Love Outreach Project." This grant will provide personalized songs to seriously ill children up to the age of 21 at no charge to them. The Eight and Forty support this grant. Our Detachment has donated \$2,500 so far this year which is only \$0.09 per member. Our Detachment can do a much better job in support of this program. Please consider a donation from your Squadron. Many Squadrons make this an annual set amount donation. Your help is appreciated! At the National level, many of you know of the retirement of our Legion Staff Liaison John Kerestan and also of Brian O'Hearne the National Adjutant. For many years as a National Assistant Adjutant, I have worked with both of these gentlemen and they will be missed for their contributions to the organization and also as friends. The new staff is getting their feet wet and there will be many changes at National. Even more will occur once the Strategic Planning group has

finished their task and reported before the NEC. Following that National transition, I would like to report that our longtime Program Coordinator Annie Wilsey is retiring at the end of the calendar year. I will be attending the Department Christmas Luncheon in her honor. I am sure the Executive Committee will consider inviting Annie to our Mid-Winter so that we can present her with some token of our appreciation of her many years of service to our organization, she will be missed. Her replacement will be announced shortly. A couple of housekeeping items. ....The DEC has had 2 email votes this year. The first being the \$10,000 donation to NEF due to the hurricanes and also the vote in include an additional per diem related to this weekend. Both votes passed with no Nay votes. Please remember to check your email regularly if you are a voting member because a vote could be called for any number of reasons between actual meetings. The \$10, 000 donations was made along with the Department's donation directly to National Commander Rohan at her Homecoming in Indianapolis last month. Speaking of donations, Commander Clancy has received nearly \$8,000 in donations during his travels and thanks all members for supporting our programs. That number will of course rise as the Visitations continue. On another matter I was honored to have asked to be one of the judges in the Oratorical finals in Albany next March. I am looking forward to being a small part of this great program of The American Legion. I will not be posting a new edition of the Detachment Manual until changes have been made to the National Manual which is a document I have compiled and prepared every year for the last 14 years. There are some needed updates that I will be working on with our new Liaison Paul Brown. There are some new ideas on how to improve the document. Changes made in the National document will also take place in ours. So please keep using the forms in the current Manual until the new one has been posted. As for the Executive Manual, I will be posting that document soon with any changes in the Finance section as well as other revisions. As for improved communication, as Gabe already reported, his database had been updated from review of all the OCF's submitted by mail to Albany this year. He already likely had most of these but a good number were added. That database will expand the ability of the Detachment to reach out to the Squadrons with email blasts on current and upcoming events, programs and updates. As you continue your Squadron activities this year and into next PLEASE remember to keep a record of your hours and donations for the year. The purpose of this task is to make it easier to transfer that information to the Consolidated Squadron Report. We need to have more than 30% of our Squadrons reporting. The information tallied and totaled from across the Nation is compiled into a report provided to Congress by The American Legion every year. Please assist in this endeavor and let us know all of the good coming out of your Squadron!

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

- 2.20 Detachment Commander Clancy** thanked everyone for coming to the Bronx. Visitations have been great, thanks for the turnout at the dinners. It has been a great honor. We have a lot of things going on. We need to find a way to get that message out. We need to continue to think big and too think bold, and keep the family strong.  
**A motion was made by Commander Clancy and seconded to accept the Detachment Commander's report which was carried.**
- 2.21 PNC Cerullo and Doc Gibbs** gave an update on the campaign. PNC Cerullo has heard that the luncheon in Indy was the best, with a relaxed atmosphere and the family working together. DOC Gibbs reported that the luncheon was indeed received very well and was noticed across the country. I f I am elected I will be serving with Commander Reistad. He would to connect the Legion Family with the first responders. I have started my visitations to the various Detachments. So if you don't see me at meeting it will be because I am traveling.
- 2.22 4<sup>th</sup> District Commanders report was read by Adjutant Avery.** Commander Williams report started by saying that the forth district has made a donation to the NEF fund. There

are a lot of disasters that have happened recently and we need to support each other. The 11 visitations in the fourth district have been completed and went fairly well, there are always some bumps in the road. We are working on membership. We currently stand at 32.88%. The next target date is November 15<sup>th</sup> for 35%.

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

**2.23 A motion was made by NEC Bishop and seconded to accept the pre submitted reports, which was carried.**

**3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF**

**3.01 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Kane has been diagnosed with stage four cancer and stated that I am still here and intend to be for a long time.**

**4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**4.01 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander George moved to have Bill Ryan fill the open vacancy as Detachment Historian. The motion was seconded and carried.**

**5.00 NEW BUSINESS**

**5.01 V/C Van Patten made a motion that every Commission/Committee, and that the Detachment Executive Committee appoints one member or a Past Detachment Commander to man the PR table for 1-2 hours on Saturday at mid-winter. The motion was seconded and carried.**

**5.02 4<sup>th</sup> District Acting Commander Espy moved to expend \$1500.00 to purchase CWF challenge coins. The motion was seconded and carried.**

**6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

**6.01 Squadron #1080 Mahopac donated \$1,000 to the NEF from a breakfast that they held.**

**6.02 Leading Candidate Jim Coates for Detachment commander is looking forward to officially announcing his candidacy to be our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Commander at midwinter. Fundraising has already started.**

**6.03 The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary legion coin passed congress by the highest rate ever and might be available at The Washington Conference.**

- 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,



Assistant Adjutant Raymond Jarvis



Adjutant Robert J. Avery