



**MINUTES
OF THE
DETACHMENT
OF
NEW YORK**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**November 17TH 2018
Francis M. Dalton A.L. Post #282 W. Bloomfield, NY**

***SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Detachment of New York
112 State Street
Suite 1300
Albany, NY-12207
518-463-2215***



MINUTES OF THE FALL D.E.C. MEETING

November 17, 2017

Francis M. Dalton A.L. Post #282

W. Bloomfield, NY

- The Colors in Place, the Colors were saluted.
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco.
- Commander Coates recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Chaplain Parks offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Myrtle led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
- V/C Ainslee led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
- Commander Coates called the Meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.
- Adjutant Robert Avery took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- Commander Coates moved to appoint Tom Kurk acting Judge Advocate for this meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.
- National Commander Gregg “DOC” Gibbs called from Colorado. Keep working on CWF. The \$22,500 donation that was made was highly noticed. We are off to a good start maybe will make first place.
- **The meeting was recessed by Commander Coates at 9:15 AM for Commission and Committee meetings.**
- **The meeting was reconvened by Commander Coates at 10:20 AM**

1.00 REPORTS

1.01 Americanism Chairman Daly reported; In September, I attended the National Americanism Conference in Indianapolis. This was a great weekend for learning and I am thankful I attended. There were many meetings throughout the weekend and many ideas discussed that can be utilized in many facets of our American Legion Family. 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. Applications for this Scholarship can only be made online starting this year. There has also been bonus points added for scoring purposes and they are if the applicant is a current member of the American Legion Family and also if they are a descendant of a Korea War veteran. Last year there were over 18,000 Boys State participants nationwide. There is an ongoing upgrade happening with the National Boys State website. There is an emphasis for all information to go digital, to be relevant for today's generation. Nationally, Boys State is looking to have an immersive education curriculum with awards and recognition. There is an emphasis to find the way to grow, be available on social media and with that develop information management protocols. The Travis Manion Foundation encompasses itself around the quote “If not me...then who?” This Foundation helps empower Veterans and families of fallen to develop character in further generations. To date they have empowered over 100,000 Veterans and 250,000 youth. Information can be found on their website at TravisManion.org. 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. The American Legion Family College is accepting applications. The dates for the 2019 session are May 31 – June 2nd. This again will be held at Morrisville State College, The Legion 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 seeking leadership positions within your area and ask them to consider attending next year. Applications are available on the Legion website. Get applications in early as the class size is 100. And now I would like to report on this year's Americanism Agenda:

- We will continue to promote to 1st thru 5th grades an Essay Contest "What America means to me". There will be a \$50.00 awarded to the winner and \$50.00 awarded for the class
- As well as continue to promote to 6th thru 8th grades an Essay Contest "What the Constitution of the United States means to Americans". 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 15th of September 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 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!
- We will continue to have a box of handout materials for each District available at Mid-Winter.
 - The Flag Education Script for grade school children will be provided. 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, "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, Finally, in the coming weeks; the Americanism Commission will be establishing a Detachment Facebook page. Hopefully this will help get our message out to our younger generation. So please be on the lookout for this and encourage folks to like the page and keep an eye out for any new Americanism information.

7th District Commander Daley moved to accept the report, which was seconded and carried.

1.02 Children & Youth report was read by V/C Ainslee; the detachment donated \$52,554 and had 15,278 hours towards children and youth programs. New York gave Commander Gibbs a donation of \$22,500 for the CWF at the Fall National Executive Committee Meeting. The Committee still has CWF challenge coins for only \$10.00. There is a state wide project up coming up to benefit the CWF, More information to follow. Please make the CWF a priority this year and make National Commander Gregg "DOC" Gibbs proud. **V/C Ainslee moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

1.03 Finance Chairman Lee spoke what the Officers, Commission and Committee members get reimbursed for. He stated that there were copies in the back of the room. He also went over parts of schedule "A". Please pre submit your meeting vouchers when possible, it makes it easier for everyone that has to handle them and you will get your check at the end of the meeting. They were also a discussion about paying every sons member that attends "DOCS" homecoming that they be reimbursed a per diem of \$65.00 for one day. There was also a discussion about who and what to reimburse members for national meetings.

4th District Commander Downer moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.04 Internal Affairs committee Chairman gave there reports individually. Member Training and Development Committeeman Jarvis read the Chairman Espy's report.** With Mid-Winter Conference a stone throw away, I am reminding all District Commanders that we need to fill the Leadership Workshop. Each District can have two guys attend because the workshop is designed for 20 guys. Please get your 2 names to me (Gaither) by years end. If there are slots left a district may send more than 2. Contact has been made already to the District Commanders with only the 4th District providing names. Workshop will be Friday January 25th @ 6pm in our hotel (Red Lion). Advisor's seminar will be held Friday January 25th @ 7pm at the Desmond, 26 High Street. I am working with the Legion office to have a mailing go to ALL Advisors with this information. We are hoping this will generate a better turnout. Breakout Sessions will be held on Saturday January 26th @ 1pm and 2pm. These will also be at the Desmond, 26 High Street. Membership will be at 1pm. Americanism, Children & Youth and VA&R will be doing a power point on the proper completion of the Consolidated Report. Each Commission will go over their section of the consolidated report, letting you know what goes on each line. Reminder, American Legion Family College will take place May 31, 2019- June 2, 2019. It is never too late to attend and learn about the American Legion Family. Get your application in now. Supplemental report on The American Legion Collage was also read. I do have some important information that needs to be covered at the Fall DEC meeting concerning American Legion Family College of New York. The college is again open to all American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members on a first come first in basis. I can't stress enough to the Sons members the importance of having our members attend the college. The American Legion recognizes the importance of having an educated legion family that they have included the Sons to be a part of it. The class size is limited to 100 members and the application deadline is April 1, 2019. The cost is \$225 payable with the application. The college is a three-day immersion into the Legion's programs and structure, and issues facing the largest veterans' organization in the country. Classes will be held at Morrisville State College (SUNY Morrisville) from May 31st to June 2nd this year. The Legion College fosters leadership skills of Legion Family members as they work in teams to solve problems they may face in their home post, unit, squadron or chapter. The curriculum covers an array of topics, such as leadership and communication; Americanism, children and youth; MyLegion.org; legislation; constitution and bylaws; duties of local officers; media relations; membership and SAL. Applications are in a fillable PDF or DOC form and can be found at: <https://nylegion.net/department/american-legion-college/> Completed forms and tuition are to be mailed to Department headquarters:
6th District Acting Chairman Denmon moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.
- 1.05 Membership Chairman Verstreet** went over the current membership statics. Spoke about why there is a difference between the Detachment and the National membership report. We are only a few members away from reaching 30,000 members for the 2018 membership year. We need to work on knowing where and when the district membership seminars are and getting members there.
Chaplain Parks moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.
- 1.06 David Lee** gave the Legislative report. Washington Conference will be held February 23rd thru February 27th. Do not wait to get your rooms. The wreath laying ceremony will be held on the 24th. Commander Gibbs will be laying wreaths at the Vietnam Memorial wall and the Iwo Jima Memorial. There will be more information coming out on the Washington Conference shortly.
7th District Commander Daley moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

1.07 Public Relations Chairman Bruce Cinquegrana reported we continue to get good input from Squadrons for the Liberty, but need to continue to urge Commission and Committees that this is a good forum to get the word out. We also received Kudos from a Past National Commander at the Fall NEC meeting in Indianapolis during for the good of, when he referenced our Liberty as a standard to reach. We will publish the next issue just prior to Mid-Winter, to incorporate information to be presented for those who will not be able to attend. We continue efforts to keep the Detachment Website up to date and relevant, and have increased the use of Videos and New links. We currently only have 608 Subscribers to the Website, meaning that only 608 out of 29,900 members directly receive email alerts. We need to continue to urge subscribers, and urge current subscribers to share the information they receive with others. We would like to start looking for a backup webmaster, and encourage anyone interested or know anyone interested to please step forward. SAL Radio continues its efforts headed by Ken Kraetzer, covering events on a National scale to put the name of the Sons in the limelight. Ken is anxious to get our Legion, Sons and Riders Organizations interested in participating in NCAA events, as well as coordination with NY Yankees to partner in a 100th Anniversary celebration for the Legion. Work at Arlington Cemetery also continues on a walkway and recognition of 200 chaplains who have passed away. Any help in needed and appreciated. Also hope to capture an interview with Chris Cerullo on his recent induction into the SAL Hall of Fame. We will continue our presence at Mid-Winter with a PR Table, again used primarily as a vehicle to provide information about the Sons, and assist Legion Family members with referrals if specific or regional issues of questions are brought forward. The PR Table is not used to raise funds for candidates, or for any other needs without Commander Approval. We will also renew our “PR Project” format at Mid-Winter, and this year will ask attendees o bring with them boxed or canned food items to be donated to an appropriated Children & Family, Veteran, or other such Agency in the Albany area. Suggestions welcome. We plan to partner with Children & Youth on a CWF Promotion statewide, that you will hear more about from the Commander. We have developed Press Release Templates, as well as information on CWF’S history with organizations in NYS, that will be used to promote Grants to/for Organizations. In addition, we will supplement the campaign with a mass Press Release across the State to newspapers we have identified. (If there are other news organizations we can target, please let us know) Ass an offshoot to the CWF Campaign, it appears that the SAL BAND is forming, and plans are being worked out to perform either Friday or Saturday evening at the Desmond to provide another layer of awareness for CWF, and for the Sons. Stay tuned! We continue to increase our use of Facebook for Regional, State-Wide, and National information and input. Our Postings have recently hit records on number of likes, and Shares. Especially gratifying has been the number and frequency of shares by Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments from across the country.

A motion was made by 6th District acting Commander Lee and duly seconded to accept the Public Relations report which was carried.

- **Commander Coates recessed the meeting 11:46AM for Lunch**

1.08 A certificate of appreciation was presented the Post Vice Commander and Auxiliary President for their help and support during this meeting. They both thanked us for being here.

1.09 Robert Wallace American Legion Rider’s Director. He spoke about who the Legion Riders were and how they get their membership to be part of the Riders. He spoke about how the riders support the organization as a whole, doing fundraising for many American Legion projects. He also spoke about mentoring and the American Legion Collage.

1.10 Department President Marie Mock. The more we communicate the better and stronger our Legion Family will be. She thanked for electing Jim Coates Detachment Commander. Here project is female veterans with children; she shared some specifics and asked for our support. The Auxiliary will again support the walk-a-thon. She gave us

some pointers on how to make the walk-a-thon a success using advertising, getting the communities involved, and local businesses.

1.11 VA & R Chairman Kurk reported, Greetings from you Detachment VA&R Commission, It is our goal to keep our members informed on ideas what our Squadrons can do to further the rehabilitation of our veterans and to keep our members educated about all areas of VA&R. We have some tools already in place accomplish this. We are now in our second year of having our Detachment of New York Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Face book page. This group page is open to anyone and has some great information on upcoming events, photos and updates from National and the Department of Veterans Affairs. We use our Detachment newsletter to update our membership. Besides the article the chairman writes a member of the commission will compose a second article about the area of rehabilitation that member has been assigned, this last issue Bill Baker wrote the supplemental article on Public Relations. Our Mid-Winter issue will have an article on Homeless Veterans. The best tool we have is our own words to communicate what the Detachment Committees and Commissions are doing. Please Detachment Officers communicate to your Districts; Districts pass on information to our Counties and Counties to our Squadrons. Please feel free to contact myself or any member of this commission for assistance. At our commission meeting we discussed several items that are key to this Commission. First of all is our annual "They Marched For Us, We Walk For Them" Walk-A-Thon. The scheduled date is April 13, 2019. As always if that date does not work in your area please feel free to have your event on another date but please have all donations sent into Detachment Headquarters by May 15, 2019. Please put in the memo line of all checks "Walk-A-Thon". Once again the Department of New York American Legion Auxiliary has agreed to partner with us again this year. Bob Wallace Director of the New York Legion Riders has agreed to help us this year and with this they play a bigger role for 2020. Once again we ask everyone to help with this. If an actual walk is not possible in your area please use your imagination for fundraisers. Please don't be afraid to ask businesses for donations and ask other organizations to participate. The future of the Walk-A-Thon was discussed. This commission is looking at different options to distribute of our share of the donations. The National Sons VA&R Commission has stated that the Sons are close to losing their seat on the National Veterans Service Advisory Board. An organization is required to have a minimum of 25 representatives throughout the VA Medical Centers across the country. Nationally the Sons have 30 representatives. Here in New York we have 6. That leaves us with 7 VAMC's with no representatives. We need to reach 100%. Buffalo, Batavia, Manhattan, St. Albans, Bronx, Castle Point and Northport currently have no Representative or Deputy. Please see me or anyone of the commission members to help fill these vacancies. One last item I want to report on is Operation Comfort Warriors. The following is the report that Joe SantaCrocce sent to the Commission: Operation Comfort Warriors is a program established by the American Legion to support our VA facilities to help them purchase items needed by our veterans to help them in their recovery while in the hospital. These items are generally not provided by Veterans Services. The program is 100% funded and administered by the American Legion. This program is under-utilized by our members. Over the past few years, we have had two grants, totaling \$15,000, approved in New York State, one in Canandaigua and one in Brooklyn. But we have other VA facilities in the State that can surely benefit from this program. Any American Legion organization (post, squadron, unit) can sponsor a grant for their local VA. The process is easy and is done online. Please take advantage of this great program and help your local VA Hospital. Also, please have your squadron or Legion Family think about making a donation to OCW. 100% of the money collected goes toward the purchase of these needed items for our recovering veterans. There are no administrative costs!!If you have any questions about OCW you can find the information on our Detachment website, under VA&R, or feel free to contact Joe SantaCrocce, PDC, or any member of the VA&R Committee. Thank You for all you do for our Veterans. I know we will have a Banner Year to make life more comfortable for our Nations Heroes.

Acting 6th Commander Denmon moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.12 100th Anniversary ad-hoc Chairman Cerullo.** I was hoping to get together with a group of past detachment commanders he today so we could talk about our gift to present. He stated that we owe the American Legion so much. They have given us friendship and a forum to share ideas to benefit our mothers, fathers and all veterans. We will have a meeting at mid-Winter.
- 1.13 Acting 3rd District Commander Bishop** reported we continue to stress the need for active membership. We to talk about our programs so the people know what we do. This also helps with mentoring and teaching our new member about our programs. He gave some reports about what has been happening in the various Counties in the District. **Acting 3rd District Commander Bishop moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.14 4th District Commander Downer reported.** I would like to begin by saying Congratulations to “Greg Doc Gibbs” on his appointment to National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion in July at National Convention. Mid-September Visitations started in The 4th District. It was my pleasure to welcome Department Commander Gary Schache, Department President Marie Mock, and make donations to the NEF and CWF. **4th District Commander Downer moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.15 5th District Commander Mills reported.** The start of this year has been very rewarding! My first event that I attended as 5th District SAL Commander was The Department Convention in Rochester. I was unable to attend The National Convention. We are all so proud of Greg “Doc” Gibbs, on his office as our National SAL Commander! My second event was the invitation extended to me and my wife Angie, to attend the 5th and 6th District Auxiliary Fall Conference. It was held Sunday, September 2, 2018, at the Doubletree by Hilton in Syracuse. It was unique because it is the first time the two districts combined their conference. It also was the first event that 5th District Commander Lee Hinkleman and 5th District Auxiliary President Lynda Spinks, and I got together. The first week in October was the busiest so far, as it was our Department Commander Visitations. Thursday, October 4, 2018, was the first start of our visitations in Herkimer County. We had lunch at the Mohawk Post #25. Our tour was a small size tour of The Remington plant in Ilion. The rest of the traveling party went to the Historical Society. The dinner was at our hotel, which was The Travelodge in Little Falls. Our second day, Friday, October 5, 2018, was in Oneida County. The lunch was at the New Hartford Post #1376. I did not attend the tour, as I didn’t get a clearance to get into the building. My wife and I got some pictures with a B-52 that was on display at the base. The dinner was at The Stanwix Veterans and Men’s Club. We stayed at the Wingate by Wyndham, right on the old Air Force Base. Our third day, Saturday, October 6, 2018, was in Onondaga County. The lunch was at the Mattydale Post #1832. We had an escort from The American Legion Riders from our hotel to the post. The tour was at the Onondaga War Memorial. We were escorted by The American Legion Riders from our hotel to the Cicero Post #787. We were lodged at Maplewood Suites, in Liverpool. Our fourth day, Sunday, October 7, 2018, was in my county (Oswego County). The lunch was at the Oswego Post #268. The tour was at the Veteran’s Park. We also had time to go on a tour of Fort Ontario. We had enough time in between the tour and getting checked into our room so, we went to my post, Phoenix Post #418. We were escorted by The American Legion Riders, from our hotel to Hannibal. The dinner was at Hannibal Post #1552. We stayed at The Red Roof Inn, in Fulton. It was a very special day for me. Not only was it my county but, it was my 40th birthday! It was nice to spend the day with my immediate family and my American Legion Family! Our fifth day, Monday, October 8, 2018, was in Jefferson County. The tour was on Uncle Sam’s Boat Tours, with the lunch

on the boat. We departed the boat and got to tour Boldt Castle. We then got on a boat and went back to the boat launch. We went to Alexandria Bay Post #904, which is also the post home of Past Department Commander Paul Cortright. The dinner was at Watertown Post #61, which was walking distance across the street from our hotel, The Best Western. Our last day, Tuesday, October 9, 2018, was in Lewis County. The tour was of The Maple Museum in Crogan. We had the dinner at Beaver River Post #1663, which is the post home of our 5th District Auxiliary President Lynda Spinks. The last stop we made was at Lowville Post #162, which is the home of our 5th District Commander, Lee Hinkleman. We did not have any lodging for that visit, as it was the end of our visitations and wanted the traveling party to get home for some R&R. I held my first District meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2018, at Watertown Post #61 (Jefferson County) at noon. We had just enough for a quorum, as some of the SAL members were in Indianapolis, for the meetings there. Squads and counties are actively participating in all kinds of events. We already made donations for The Syracuse VA Gift Shop and The Veteran's Walk-A-Thon. I am really excited about Saturday, November 10, 2018. It is the Veteran's Expo and Parade from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. The Grand Marshall for the parade is Past Department Commander Rena Nessler! I am currently setting up some visitations with the counties in the 5th District. That will be on my report for the Mid-Winter Conference, along with what events I'll be attending in November, December, and January. I have been attending all of my SAL Squadron and County meetings. I'm also a dual member so, I've been attending my Post and County meetings. I am also the liaison between the SAL and Legion, for the District meetings, which is very fitting for purposes of distributing of information.

5th District Commander Mills moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.16 Acting 6th District Commander Demon reported.** 1st meeting was held in Canastota Oct 14th where we set the tone for the year. Our membership is going slow. We are prepared to send a mailing to all Squadrons to get them while also reminding them to keep their hours and money donated every month to make doing the Consolidated report that much easier in Homer, Just before Mid-Winter. We will have great news to announce at that time on how we are progressing.

6th District Acting Commander Denmon moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.17 7th District Commander Daley Reported.** On September 1st the 7th District Sons of the American Legion was present at the American Legion Auxiliary 7th and 8th District Fall Conference in Batavia. A report was given outlining the activities of the Sons for this upcoming year. A message was delivered that we were willing to help with any of the Auxiliary's endeavors this year. September 9th was the first meeting of the 7th district. A report was given to the Legion covering the events for the upcoming year. A message was delivered that we would assist in any way to help the Legion be as successful as it has been in the last 100 years. The Commanders goas for the year were outlined including a goal of recruiting 50 new members this year along with 100% retention as well as a goal of 100% submission of the Consolidated Reports next spring. On September 23rd a contingent of 8 Sons assisted the 7th District American Legion Auxiliary with the Field Day event that was held at the Bath VA Medical Center. It was a day of games, food and refreshments for the patients. This event showed what the American Legion Family can do together as a team and the residents of the Bath VA were very appreciative. On October 20th the National Commander of the American Legion Brett P. Reistad visited the 7th District in Seneca County. We visited the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery. This cemetery is located on the Eastern shore of Seneca Lake. The afternoon included visits to the Ovid American Legion Post #463, Seneca Falls American Legion Post #366 and the Waterloo American Legion Post #435. That evening we enjoyed an awesome dinner in Seneca Falls and we heard a great message from the Commander that included "Celebrating our Legacy" to cap the day's festivities. The

Commander Project is coming together. On March 23rd 2019 at the Canandaigua American Legion Post #256, we will have an afternoon fundraiser of music, dancing, food and raffles in support of the Child Welfare Foundation. More information will be available at Mid-Winter. Membership is starting slow for us this year. It is our plan to reach out to our Squadrons and offer encouragement, assistance or help that they might need in hope for a positive year.

7th District Commander Daley moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.18 8th District Commander Kane reported.** That he has done a golf tournament to raise money for scholarship and no one applied so they took the money and donated it to the Fairmont Veterans camp. We are also going make a donation to an eagle scout that is going to put a monument at the Oliver Richburn Cemetery. I attended the National Legion Commanders visitation to the 8th District. I have been attending County meetings and I have been making calls to let them know we will be there. Our next District meeting will be on December.

8th District Commander Kane moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.19 The 9th District report was read by Adjutant Avery.** The 9th District held a meeting on October 10th 2018 at Post 151 in Middletown, Orange County. The meeting was well attended, with over 30 American Legion Family members present. At the meeting it was discussed and voted on to implement a voluntary dues program for the district in order to have funds available to support the various programs that help to serve our area Veterans by the 9th District American Legion. The proposal was overwhelmingly passed. All around the 9th our sons are continuing to do great work both around their posts and their communities. I recently attended the visitation dinners in four of the five counties in my district. It was an honor to meet the Department Commander and President and the ALR director and be with them at the dinner and it was great to see many Sons at the Dinners. Squadron 1796 will be hosting a large Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance and Breakfast on December 7th that is free to all veterans, and all veterans will also receive a really nice commemorative coin for attending. The 9th District Sons and Squadron 1796 will again be helping Wreaths Across America this year by serving hot cider to the Volunteers decorating the graves at veterans cemeteries in the area. District Vice Commander Bob McCormick has been instrumental in making this happen in Orange County. In Rockland, Leo Ladders Squadron 130 will be helping their post in serving a Holiday Dinner and party for approximately 50 veterans from the Montrose VA Center. Every year Squadron 130 not only helps prepare and serve a fantastic meal and hand out gifts, also help share the costs with the post. This year I have asked all of the Squadrons in my district to run one fundraiser over the course of the year and dedicate all of the proceeds to one of the many American Legion Programs. While I would prefer the proceeds to go to NEF or CWF, any Legion program will do. All I ask is that they let me know what they have done so I can properly recognize them for their efforts

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

- 1.20 10th District Commanders report was read by PNC Cerullo reported.** Thank you t Greg Falco for all the work you do in Nassau County. There is a new Squadron in West Hampton Beach. We had our visitation and all went well.

3th District Acting Commander Bishop moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.21 Chaplain Parks** reported that everyone has been doing a great job getting me information. Since Convention I have sent flowers to the funeral of PDC Bogart on behalf of the Detachment of New York and also a live plant to PDC Santa Croce. We have lost 8 Sons members. I have sent 8 condolence cards and 10 get well cards.

Chaplain Parks motion to accept his report which was seconded and carried.

1.22 Historian Ryan reported Since convention in Rochester, I have attended our national convention in Minneapolis Minnesota, it being my first. I was very impressed by everyone in attendance from all over the country. Some of the awards they got and the achievements that they performed were very rewarding, as I felt in history. At my point I would like to say let's encourage everyone here in New York, all detachments, on doing better on their reporting. I did notice that some detachments had quite a few awards, if they can so should we. For our detachment, my sincere congratulations to David Perry for his job and well done for national recognition of the only New York detachment that received a national award. The plaque he received from national, even though he could not be in attendance, was an honor for him and our detachment. Department visitation to the 5th district in Oswego County went very well. Commander Coates was very impressed as we had a great luncheon at the Oswego Post 268 and a tour of the county West Linear Park veteran's memorial. From there we had a tour of Fort Ontario followed by a testimonial dinner at Hannibal Post 1552, which is my home post. Our addition to our post included army tank that was moved to our post in October. On Saturday November 10th, I attended the veteran's expo at the New York State fairgrounds in Syracuse along with our past detachment commander Thomas Kurk and our past county and district commander Robert Cox and current 5th district commander Shawn Mills and a very special guest our national commander of the Sons of the American Legion Doc Greg K. Gibbs. We had a nice moving display setup for the American Legion with all kinds of history on it from start to current. I picked up a booklet of the history of the American Legion that I will have on display. The activity was followed by a fantastic Veteran's day parade around the fairground's Chevy Court with our grand marshal Rena Nessler past department commander. It was very cold, windy, and hard to keep warm, but I managed to get, with freezing hands, pictures of the event. In closing, I would like to remind everybody let's get out there, do what you need to do, and let's make some history.

Historian Ryan moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.

1.23 Vice Commander Guidice reported Membership numbers in the 1st and 9th districts continue to be strong, with the 1st currently in second place and the 9th just behind in third place overall. In October I attended the 1st and 9th membership workshop in City Island New York at Post 156. It was a well-attended workshop, but unfortunately outside of me and some of the Squadron 156 members it was a poor turn out from our 1st and 9th Sons members. I do want to thank Bronx County American Legion Commander (and dual member) Pete Del Debbio who ran a very well-organized workshop and made sure to include speaking time for the Sons to contribute to the meeting. I also attended the Bronx County Department Visitation dinner in September which was also held on City Island and was well attended by Sons members. The Bronx County Sons really do a great job. I recently attended the 9th District Department dinners in Rockland, Orange, Dutchess, and Westchester Counties. I was quite proud to see many Sons in attendance at these dinners and accompany Commander Coates and the entire delegation on the Rockland County tour. I was very proud to have the 9th District make a donation to N.E.F. in the amount of \$1,000.00 at the Orange County dinner. Several other squadrons also contributed to the Commanders projects. A great job by our 9th District Sons. I would like to mention that the 9th District Commander Mike Jacobs has challenged all of the Squadrons in his district to help him complete a small project. His project is to ask that every squadron in the 9th district hold one fundraiser this year, big or small, and donates ALL of the proceeds to one of the American Legion programs, preferable NEF or CWF, but any program of the legion is acceptable. On the District level I think this is a great idea and something that could be a model for all of our squadrons.

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

1.24 Vice Commander Myrtle reported that the 4th district visitation started in Hamilton County. There are no Sons members in the so Commander Coates spoke of the benefits

of have a Sons Squadron. We continued with the rest of County visitations and spoke of the endeavors of the Sons and the importance of reporting using the consolidate report form. It was a pleasure travel the forth with 4th District Commander Downer. I am looking forward to traveling the third with 3rd District Commander Williams.
V/C Myrtle moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.25 Vice Commander Ainslee** thanked October is a very busy month for Districts 5 & 6 with 17 visitations. Starting in the 5th District on Oct. 4th with Herkimer County, then on to Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Jefferson, & ending with Lewis County on the 9th which I was able to attend all 6 County's. I would like to thank my 5th District Commander Shawn Mills for being such a great tour guide throughout the District Thanks Shawn. Next it was off to the 6th District with the National Legion Commander Brett Reistad's visitation on Oct. 21st in Binghamton, after that it was off to the races with Tioga, Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Otsego, Delaware, & ending the 6th District with Broome County which makes it 11 days in a row. After Chenango County, I became ill and was unable to attend the last 5 County's. I would like thank Anthony Grigas my 6th District Commander for helping me fill the gaps and introducing Commander Jim at some of the Visitations that I could not attend. Membership as of this date is as follows 5th District is at 34.54% with 2452 payed members. 6th District is at 18.83% with 633 payed members and in a very sad last place in the State Det. But you have to take in to account that the target goal for Districts 5 & 6 is 10,360 members making it 1/3 of the total membership of the State Det. I am sure these numbers will improve before the end of the yr. and before midwinter. In closing I would like to encourage everyone in this room to go back to their Post and take some time to help out a local veteran. That is what this great organization was formed for in the first place to support the American Legion and their programs. Help them fix something in their home, buy them Breakfast or lunch, or just stop by and visit with them I find it very rewarding and I am sure you will too.
V/C Ainslee moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.26 Vice Commander Kuczenski** reported Activities: Since Convention I have attended the Chautauqua County Sons meeting September Meeting in Cassadaga, Allegany County Sons October Meeting in Bolivar and the Eight District Meeting Mayville. I attended the National Commanders visitation in Dunkirk on October 19th. In the morning we toured the Historic Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum on Point Gratiot and after lunch we toured the Veterans clinic in Dunkirk and Dinner at Dunkirk Memorial Post 62. On October 20th I traveled to Waterloo for the 7th Districts visitation. In the Morning we toured the Sampson's Veterans Cemetery and that evening dinner was at the New York Chiropractic College in Waterloo 7th in Waterloo. The following week I received the sad news. Past Detachment Commander from the 7th District, John Bogart had passed. On Friday October 26th, I attended his funeral services in Bath. Future activities include participating in Veteran Day ceremony on November 11th, Chautauqua County December meeting in Mayville, 7th District meeting Canandaigua and 8th District in Bergen, Genesee County and Midwinter in Albany. Membership: The Seventh District yearend membership totals were 5239 members for 100.06% and 5th place in the Detachment and the Eight District final count came to 5410 members for 100.8% and 2nd highest in the detachment. Combined they amounted to 10,649 members. Current year's totals are 1194 for the Seventh, 8th place (20.70%) and 1111 for the Eighth District, 9th place (15.03%). By Mid-winter these total should improve significantly. I am also the Eight District Membership Chairman. I am in the process of putting together a mailing, prior to the New Year. I will be including information about events and Mid-Winter and mailing in membership each month.
V/C Van Kuczenski moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.

- 1.27 **Advisor Arthur;** advised us that with Department Headquarters moving we should get our membership in early so that the move won't affect it. Please help out with trees for troops.
- 1.28 **Master Sergeant-at-Arms Falco** reported that he has collected fines for the commander's project in the amount of \$10.00 and is donating \$20.00 to the NEF. **Acting 6th District Commander Demon moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.29 **Adjutant Robert Avery** reported The Official Call to the Midwinter Conference and Executive Meeting is out, taking place January 25-27 at the Red Lion, Wolf Road in Albany, formerly the Radisson. All information is posted on the Detachment Website. Our Commissions and Committees will all meet, and the MTD Committee will conduct the Leadership Training Course and Advisors Seminar. This Year's SAL Workshops are on Membership and the CSR. Our invited guests are National Vice Commander Mike Cotton from Delaware, and Leading National Vice Commander Candidate from New Jersey, Gary Nelson. This year's membership goal set by National is 29,836. We still need 22,495 to get there. We are at 25% and 42nd in the Nation; 7th out of 14 Detachments in the Eastern Region. We are off to a good start, having transmitted 1,000 more members compared to last year. We need 3,101 members to reach the 35% Target Date on November 15. Transmit on a regular basis, and be in conformance with Target Dates! The Child Welfare Foundation, in its 64th year, has awarded \$766,761 to 24 nonprofit organizations. The grants, determined during the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in Indianapolis in October, have been awarded to support youth-serving projects that seek to enhance the lives of children by addressing physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs. One of this year's recipients, "Too Small to Fail" of New York, was awarded \$50,000 for their project "Increasing Access to Early Language Development Resources through Diaper Banks". The grant will add 10 additional diaper banks in high need communities, with a focus on agencies that serve military and veteran families. A \$22,500 donation, authorized by the Detachment for CWF was presented to National Commander Doc Gibbs at the National Executive Committee Meeting In October by Commander James Coates. Every Squadron is urged to donate to CWF; we need to show our support for Commander Gibbs! It was an honor for me to attend the 6th annual National SAL Hall of Fame Banquet in Pasadena recently to support our first New York inductee, PNC Christopher R. Cerullo. Congratulations and thanks for all you have contributed to keep the Sons a vital part of the Legion Family. Also in attendance from NY were National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti who gave the formal presentation, our NEC John Chang, and Department ANEC Bill Kearsing. As you continue your Squadron activities, tally your hours and contributions to make it easier to complete the Consolidated Squadron Report. Only one-third of Squadrons re-report. Please assist in this effort and let us know all you do.
Chaplain Parks moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.
- 1.30 **Detachment Commander Coates reported** I have just returned home from participating in the New York City Veteran's Day Parade, having completed 39 of our 62 county visitations; and 3 of our 6 National Commander visitations. Thank you to all our Squadron members, County, District, and Vice-Commanders, AL Riders, Auxiliary members and Legionnaires, who have done so much to make our visits informative and fun. Many of you who have heard my message know I am very proud to be representing the 29,600 plus members of the New York Sons of The American Legion. Also, like all of you, I am proud that our National Commander for the Sons, Greg "Doc" Gibbs, also hails from New York State. Doc's theme this year is "Honoring the Past, Continuing the Legacy. Along with Doc's theme is his mission statement, "As Sons of The American Legion we are a part of Team 100. Help the American Legion celebrate their 100th year anniversary by having record membership numbers and record donations from the Sons!" While most of our squadrons in the Detachment do very well within their own posts and

communities, as an organization we fall short in supporting The Sons of The American Legion and, by extension, The American Legion as a larger organization. Some examples of this are membership, supporting the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, and supporting the Detachment of New York Veterans Walk-A-Thon. Doc Gibbs' goal this year is to have 100% membership by January 31st. Paying our dues and getting membership in would give us more opportunities to increase membership for ourselves and the American Legion Family. As of 11/2/18 the NY Legion is at 61% in membership while the NY S.A.L. is at 27%. How can we, as Sons of The American Legion, get ourselves ahead of the membership game and have 100% in by the end of January instead of the end of August? Our membership year is January 1st through December 31st. technically, if we are not paid by January 1st we are delinquent. Our membership cards come out in the summer and we start collecting dues. The objective is to have members paid by January 1st. We currently have less than 30% of our squadrons submitting Consolidated Reports. How do we best communicate to our squadrons about completing these reports? However, even with just under 30% submitting last year our NY squadrons reported nearly 167,000 volunteer hours, which at \$24/hr. in-kind contribution translates into over \$4,000,000; plus an additional \$887,000 in actual monetary donations towards Americanism, Children and Youth, VA&R, Internal Post contributions and community support. That is about a 25% increase from two years prior folks! GREAT JOB! Imagine what those numbers could be with all of our squadrons participating and reporting. I know many squadrons don't feel they have anything to report but the fact is we do not have many, if any, squadrons who are not doing anything. To help our squadrons, Member Training and Development Committee is including a Saturday break out session on completing the consolidated report at Mid-Winter in January. New York's contribution to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has been about thirty cents per member. The National Sons of The American Legion have, by resolution, adopted the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation as our main program and have established a goal of \$1 per member. This year we are off to a good start as the Detachment of New York gave Doc Gibbs a check for \$22,500 for the Child Welfare Foundation at the fall National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis this past October. This year our Children and Youth Commission is putting a big push on as we ask all of our squadrons to participate in contributing to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. A mailing will be coming out to all squadrons with information on what the Child Welfare Foundation is and how we can all participate. Our Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commissions is also asking us all to support the Detachment of New York Veterans Walk-A-Thon as a main fundraiser for the Detachment. Proceeds are split 50% between the Department Auxiliary President's Project (which this year is Final Salute Inc., an organization dedicated to providing housing to female veterans and their children who are in need), and 50% to the Volunteer Service programs in the 13 VA Medical Centers and Fisher House in NYS. My purpose here is to try to help our squadrons recognize that as a part of The American Legion Family we are part of something much larger than ourselves, and to encourage Squadrons to "Create Constancy of Purpose" in support of our American Legion and American Legion Programs at the Squadron, District, Detachment and National levels. We have over 400 squadrons in the Detachment of New York and the bottom line is that if every squadron participated by donating \$500 toward the Walk-A-Thon and Child Welfare Foundation the total contribution can be around \$200,000! And that is what I mean by my theme this year, "Creating Constancy of Purpose". So conduct events; they could be a Pancake Breakfast, Selling and Hanging Walk-A-Thon Boots at the Post, a Chicken BBQ, Walks, and soliciting donations from your American Legion Family or any combination of the previous. Don't make it complicated! I understand that all squadrons cannot donate the same and that is ok. Some will do less, some will do more. The important thing is that we all participate. When you do send S.A.L. donations into Albany please make the checks payable to the Detachment of New York S.A.L. and identify the program in the memo line; whether it is the NEF, the Walk-A-Thon or CWF. Let's all make New York stand out this year for Doc!

Commander Coates moved to his report which was seconded and carried.

3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

- 3.01** Past District Commander Bill Murphy has passed away. Past National Commander Huntzinger has passed away.

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 4.01** NONE

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

- 5.01** 7th District Commander Daley moved to have any member not already reimbursed by the Detachment receive one day per diem to attend Greg "DOC" Gibbs homecoming dinner on April 27, 2019. The motion was seconded and carried.
- 5.02** 7th District Commander Daley moved that "any member currently holding a position on a National Committee or Commission who is not currently reimbursed by National for travel and room to the Fall and Spring National Executive Committee Meetings, National Convention, and up to two additional National Meetings or Conferences specifically related to their Committee or Commission will be reimbursed for travel and room. Reimbursement to actual National Commission or Committee member with no substitutions allowed." The motion was seconded and carried.
- 5.03** V/C Myrtle move to donate \$500.00 to the National Emergency Fund for the California fires. The motion was seconded and carried.
- 5.04** V/C Ainslee moved to donate \$100.00 for trees to troops. The motion was seconded and carried.

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 6.01** Past National Commander Cerullo thanked everyone that was at the National Convention for attending Gregg "DOC" Gibbs election.
- 6.02** Canandaigua Squadron #256 will be serving breakfast tomorrow morning from 8-11 for the small cost of \$8.00.
- 6.03** The Honeoye Hemlock post will be serving breakfast tomorrow morning also.
- 6.04** The Hannibal Auxiliary Unit will be doing a breakfast tomorrow morning and the sons will be doing the cooking.
- 6.05** 8th District Commander Kane announced that he is now cancer free.
- 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