



**Minutes of the  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of New York**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 15, 2022**

**Alfred J. Jurek Post 1672**

**655 New Road  
East Amherst, NY**



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Detachment of New York  
1304 Park Boulevard  
Troy, NY 12180  
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## MINUTES OF THE FALL D.E.C. MEETING

October 15, 2022

Alfred J. Jurek Post 1672

- The Colors in Place, the Colors were saluted.
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Falco.
- Commander Van Patten recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Acting Chaplain Kane offered the Opening Prayer.
- V/C Giudice led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
- V/C Belanger led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
- Commander Van Patten called the Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.
- Adjutant Avery took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present.
- **V/C Giudice moved to appoint PDC Tom Kurk Judge Advocate for the meeting. The motion is seconded and carried.**
- **Motion by A.N.E.C. George to accept the Post Convention DEC Minutes with the correct 4<sup>th</sup> District report was seconded and carried.**
- **The meeting was recessed by Commander Van Patten until 10:10 AM.**
- **The meeting was reconvened by Commander Van Patten at 10:10 AM**

### 1.00 REPORTS

**1.01 Americanism Chairman Downer** reported; On October 5<sup>th</sup> a video conference was held to discuss topics before Fall DEC. It was only attended by me and one other with two members being excused. At Convention this year I spoke with Bob Avery regarding the fact that the Scholarship winner used to be invited to Convention and put up for one night to receive their check. Since most of the Committee won't be attending Fall DEC and electronic vote was done. It was decided to investigate bringing that back to the winners. Once again, the discussion is what is being used out of the mid-winter boxes by Districts and Squadrons. What if anything should be replaced by items that are being used. With no response to a previous email last year to District Commanders another email will be sent out to this year's District Commanders. In the email it will also highlight the Scholarship, Essay Contest and James Daly Americanism Award. Another email will be sent to the Department Legion and Auxiliary Americanism Chairman highlighting the three as well. This is in hopes of these being passed on down the line for more participation. Last year the Detachment received an award for meeting our goal for Flying Flags for Heroes. With it now falling under Americanism I like to let you know what the New York American Legion Family had for flag placement which was 382,772. Legion Family 1033 and Community accounted for 350,000 at Long Island National Cemetery. Much of the numbers that were submitted to Flying Flags for Heroes never made it to the Consolidated Report. Based on the Detachment Website the goal is 2 flags per member. With the Detachment Membership Goal for 2023 of 29,864 makes Flying Flags for Heroes Goal of 59,728. With last year's number that should be an easy goal to reach. Just remember to report your numbers on the Consolidated Report. Update from Commission meeting: Flying Flags for Heroes event will be planned for 2023 Convention. Upon decision of the Committee by vote the Mid-Winter boxes will be flags. If Squadrons need Americanism/Flag education a link can be put on the website for them to request.  
**V/C Commander Downer moved to accept the report, it is seconded and carried.**

**1.02 Acting Children & Youth Chairman Bosford** reported, Sponsor a Babe

Ruth baseball team, this will help the American Legion Baseball Program. Start a program called waffles for hero's and have the kids help. Donate the funds to the be the one campaign.

**Historian Bosford moved to accept the report, which was seconded and carried.**

- 1.03 Finance Chairman Rowald Reported,** reminded everyone who gets reimbursement for out of state travel what they are covered for. The committee also is recommending that the DEC Meeting be centrally located in the state. This will be fiscally more responsible and **8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Smith moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**V/C Downer moved to reimbursed Squadron #1672 \$349.60 for the lunch meal.**

**The motion is seconded and carried.**

- 1.04 Internal Affairs committee Chairman gave there reports individually. Conventions and Meetings report was given.** The Convention will be held in White Plains. Everything will be held in one hotel. The room prices will be \$139.00.

**Member Training and Development Chairman Espy's reported;** Since Convention, the MTD commission has been working on finalizing the classes and workshops for Mid-Winter. We also received a proposal and class materials for a proposed class to be held prior to convention. (After pre-convention DEC meeting) At our commission meeting this morning members present were, Raymond Jarvis, Chris Burch, Gaither Espy, Bruce Ruthven, and Tom Kurk as a guest. Gary Denmon and Dave Downey were excused. Mid-Winter will have the following: Friday Night 6pm @ Marriott. Leadership Workshop- Gary and Gaither, Adjutant Class- Ray and Chris, Friday Night 730pm @ Desmond -Advisor Seminar- Dave and Bill Clancy Saturday 1pm – 3pm. There will be one breakout session, membership/mylegion.org We all felt time needs to be spent with mylegion.org During the 2 hours we will do our best to go through mylegion.org step by step. We cannot stress enough for Squadrons to sign on and start getting your membership team familiarized. District Commanders are asked again to please email 2 names for Leadership workshop and 2 names for the adjutant class. Per diem will be paid to attendees. These classes are designed to have 20 guys per class. Please have names to Chairman Gaither by December 15, 2022. Members present went over the proposed class and materials. It was determined that the class will be beneficial for the membership. More information will be available closer to convention.

**Membership Chairman VerStreate** went over the current membership statics. The SDR/CI/OCF on the membership report is helping with the paperwork. Our goal is 29,864 members. We have 399 Squadrons on paper. We will have a zoom meeting prior to Midwinter Conference. There has been a question about squadrons receiving their 100% banners for the last two years. We will check with department as they have to request them.

**V/C Belanger moved to accept the Internal Affairs report which was seconded and carried.**

**1.05 Acting Legislative Chairman Lee reported,** Good morning, Commander Fellow Sons, and Guests. There is a lot of activity taking place regarding Legislation that the American Legion is behind and supports. On Wednesday, September 14, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee passed the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022. The bill includes a provision that ensures that Coast Guard servicemembers get paid in the event of a government shutdown. This provision is strongly supported by The American Legion and the National Legislative Division is working diligently to ensure it remains in the final version of the bill, which is expected to get added to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in October. In addition, this legislation will also help mitigate devastating climate-related events, invest in climate resilient Coast Guard infrastructure at places like Sturgeon Bay and will increase support for childcare, housing, and education. On Wednesday, September 21, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs (HVAC) held a full Committee markup, advancing 13 bills that will increase accessibility to mental health care and resources, promote equitable access to reproductive healthcare services for all veterans, and ensure that veterans transitioning from service to civilian life are fully and holistically supported and able to access comprehensive benefits.

The list of bills passed out of the Committee can be found below:

1. H.R. 6273 – VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021
2. H.R. 3793 – Supporting Families of the Fallen Act
3. H.R. 8888 – Food Security for All Veterans Act
4. H.R. 8852 – End Veteran Hunger Act of 2022
5. H.R. 8875 – Expanding Home Loans for Guard & Reservists Act
6. H.R. 2800 – WINGMAN Act
7. A.N.S. offered by Rep. Pappas to H.R. 8510 – Strengthening Whistleblower Protections at the Department of Veterans Affairs Act
8. A.N.S. offered by Rep. Bost to H.R. 5918 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance
9. A.N.S. offered by Rep. Brownley to H.R. 1957 – Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2021
10. A.N.S. offered by Rep. Levin to H.R. 4601 – Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act
11. A.N.S. offered by Rep. Takano to H.R. 3304 – CARS for Vets Act
12. A.N.S. offered by Rep. Takano to H.R. 2521 – DOULA for VA Act of 2021
13. A.N.S. offered by Rep. Takano to H.R. 7589 – REMOVE Copays Act S.544 - the Buddy Check bill is now included as a provision in H.R. 6411 - the STRONG Veterans Act of 2022. This legislation is a comprehensive veterans' mental healthcare package that passed the House in July 2022.

Amongst other provisions, it would:

- Expand eligibility for Vet Center services
- Require additional studies into veteran mental health research
- Mandate a review of the training for the Veterans Crisis Line responders
- Expand VA's Peer Specialist Support Program

Please get with your Congressional representative to sign on to these very important bills. I have put out a sheet of paper with a QR code on it that you can scan it will take you to Voter Voice where you can sign up to receive

email notifications on legislation that American Legion supports.

**2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Figeroa moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

- 1.06 Commander Advisory Charmen Lee reported,** that the organization needs to consider raising our dues so that we can help the American Legion. Commander Patton is doing a great job as Commander. Please continue to support him.

**2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Figeroa moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

- 1.07 Public Relations Chairman Giudice reported,** At our Convention in July, we rolled out a new tool that was available in hardcopy called “Get Connected, Stay Connected.” This tool which is now available on our Detachment website for viewing and download features easy to use links for the necessary forms and resources needed to run your squadrons, including the OCF, SDR, and Consolidated Report form. It also now has a QR Code that links directly to the Subscribe link on our website. Please encourage your members to use this tool and consider posting a copy or two at your post so anyone with a smartphone can easily subscribe to our webpage. In our last newsletter we also added some QR codes to link to our Home Page and our Facebook page. A copy of this page is available here and again I encourage you all to display this at your post for all your Legion Family members to take advantage of. I am pleased today to present two more tools for your use. These tools and the “Get Connected” document all were developed after very productive commission meetings and breakout sessions. As many of you know, the PR Commission has been stressing the importance of social media use to grow and engage our membership. To this end, the first item we have completed is a Step-by-Step guide to creating a Facebook page for your squadron, post, etc. This is a short PowerPoint presentation that will be available for download on our website, and we will also have it available as a PDF guide as well. The second tool is a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of social media use for an organization such as ours. There is some very important data highlighted in the presentation that shows the importance of social media use and the level of engagement at all age levels. This program takes about 10-15 minutes to present and there is also an accompanying narrative lesson plan so that anyone can present it. Once approved, the plan is to also make it available for download and use by all. I hope you will find it interesting, and I want to thank Commander Van Patten especially for providing much of the statistical and demographic data in the presentation. I welcome your input and suggestions as we finalize this program. The next edition of our newsletter will be out in late October. Due to the earlier date of our Fall DEC this year, it made sense to wait a few extra weeks in order to allow a little space between the post-Convention issue and the Fall issue. I have also created an email address specifically for use by the editor of our newsletter. This will make it easier and more secure for receiving emails and submissions for the newsletter rather than using my personal email address for these matters. The email address can be passed on to future Liberty editors and the password can then be updated as they see fit. The new email address is: [libertsalnveditor@gmail.com](mailto:libertsalnveditor@gmail.com). We will be getting this out to everyone via an email blast and a Facebook post. Finally, we do plan to have our customary

PR table at the Desmond (Crown Plaza) again at Mid-Winter. In keeping with earlier plans, we will be asking the Children & Youth committee members to help us staff the booth and we will be running a small fundraiser for CWF at the booth as well as our multimedia presentation on the value of Sons Squadrons to posts that don't yet have them. Anyone wishing to help staff the booth is most welcome.

**V/C Giudice moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**Commander Van Patten recessed the meeting 12:03PM for Lunch  
Commander Van Patten reconvened the meeting at 12:50PM**

- 1.08 V.A.R. Chairman Coates Reported, Veterans Walk-A-Thon** – This past year was a good year with the Veterans Walk-A-Thon. Taking in \$61,608.00, it was our best year yet. Gabe reported that he would like to try some new things this year. Along with the Boots, he is thinking about adding the sale of some other items such as shirts or coins, etc. to the mix. Gabe is currently working to establish his Auxiliary contact for this year. More to come! Diman Smith suggested that the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New York may want to consider establishing a curriculum for Citizenship or Flag Education for the general population. The Commission has asked Dimon to investigate existing American Legion literature on the subjects. Gabe also reported on two goals that the National VA&R Commission has for this year. 1) VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives – At the Sons of THE American Legion Fall NEC Meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis, the Sons of The American Legion voted and approved a resolution that the Sons of The American Legion would manage the certification of Sons of The American Legion VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives to VA Facilities. This resolution needs to be approved by The American Legion. 2) Develop an award system that mirrors the Charles Rigsby award but does not focus heavily on volunteer hours at the VA. This would mirror the Detachment of New York “Service to Veterans Award.” Gabe Cinquegrana has developed a VAVS Representative, and Deputy Handbook and the Detachment of New York VA&R Commission has developed at VA Location Listing for NY VA Facilities that gives contact information regarding the VA Program Manager for these VA Facilities, the SAL Detachment Vice Commander and District Commander for the districts each VA Facility is located in. The VA&R Commission also continues to seek out people who would make good Representatives and Deputy Representatives. We are also going to continue to advocate doing things for Veterans Appreciation Day. If we were weak in any area this past year, it was Veterans Employment and Education. We would like to see us put more emphasis on some things like the Veteran Career Fairs that Tim Fidler is conducting in Onieda and some of the Homeless Veteran Housing homes in NYS. These are things we can talk up and make more visible in the Detachment.

**N.E.C Ruthven moved to accept the report. It is second and carried**

- **V/C Giudice moved to take our share of the Walk-A-Thon money and donate it evenly to all 18 Veterans Homeless Shelters in the State. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.09 Historian Bosford Reported,** asked that if you are at any visitations our other events that Commander VanPatten it at. Please send me any pictures that you have taken.  
**Historian Bosford moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**
- 1.10 V/C Guidice reported,** It was very exciting for me to attend my first National Convention this year in Milwaukee. It was truly a great experience, and I was doubly honored to not only serve on National Commander Troiola's team but also to go on stage with Commander Lee to accept the Charles Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award for my dear friend and fellow squadron 130 member Robert Reeg. I hope to have Bob at our Mid-Winter Conference where he can be recognized by the Detachment and get to know all of you. Since returning from Milwaukee, I've had the opportunity to attend the Bronx County visitation with Commander Van Patten and also to attend a couple of events in the 9<sup>th</sup> District. I want to thank Bronx County for their hospitality and especially thank Squadron 156 for again making me feel very welcome at their post. I have made some progress towards my goal of getting a 1<sup>st</sup> District Sons established and I am optimistic that we will accomplish that goal and eventually have the 1<sup>st</sup> District represented here on the DEC. I also recently attended a convention committee meeting that was held in Westchester. And I can report that plans are moving forward for the 2023 Convention in White Plains. A common concern for lodging in that part of the state is the cost, however the rates I am seeing proposed are very reasonable. I will have more information as it develops. Membership is beginning to trickle in since our squadrons have finally received their new cards. With the help of our 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander, I plan to send a letter to all our squadrons in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> districts to remind them to submit their dues transmittals. I will be including copies of the SDR, OCF, and our new "Get Connected" tool with links to those documents in that mailing.  
**V/C Guidice moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**
- 1.11 V/C Bellenger Reported, The** Department Visitation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Districts were completed between September 6<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. There was a good turnout of Sons from all the counties. Membership will be a top priority this year along with making sure that everyone is filling out their Squadron Data Forms, Consolidated Report Forms and Officers Certification Forms.  
**V/C Bellenger moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**
- 1.12 V/C Downer reported,** the Department 4<sup>th</sup> District visitation was held September 20<sup>th</sup> thru the 30<sup>th</sup> and was the first complete District Visitation since 2019. 10 of the 11 Counties hosted the Visitation party weather it was just a luncheon or luncheon tour and dinner. The visitation team of 12 stayed a little hotel in Warren County for 2 days and were the only guest there. After Dinner each night we had time to debrief in the back of the hotel. These two days were a great bonding experience, and we became the true meaning of the American legion family. It showed us as the remaining Counties especially joking during the messages. I used this time to speak with Squadrons who don't attend the District Meetings. To remind them about sending in their consolidated reports and get Squadrons Data Forms. A great connection was made with Squadron Commander of #1479 who is new to his position. This Squadron for years has only paid their dues. Commander Thompson is eager to learn and be more involved. Excitement was sparked in a few Posts who never had a squadron

which is which is St. Regis Falls. Inlet and Long Lake. Inlet and Long Lake are in Hamelton County which has no Squadrons. 4<sup>th</sup> District held there first meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> at Post 701 in Amsterdam. There was a big discussion in the meeting where it was decided that in 2023 there will be only a Spring Conference Meeting to be held in Saratoga on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Since it's in the District By-Laws that they follow the District Legion Meetings. I enjoyed traveling with District Commander Aldi and attending his first District Meeting. I am looking forward to watching his growth over the next few years as District Commander. Third District Commander Aguado submitted his report to me. He reports that the 3<sup>rd</sup> District has been staying active. Gerald O'Neil Post Squadron #1683 is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of service to our Veterans, Children, and the Community this year. Melvin Roads Squadron #1231 continues to help the Post with improvements such as exterior lighting and cctv cameras. As well as volunteering with our veterans that are unable to get out too much on their own. This includes rides to appointments and Post Meetings. North Greenbush Squadron #1489 continues assisting with Post operations. Zaloga Squadron #1520 is holding a fundraiser this coming year in April. As of right now I have no dates for their upcoming meetings. The 3<sup>rd</sup> District Department Visitations are scheduled to place January 13<sup>th</sup> though January 19<sup>th</sup>. I am looking forward to traveling and working with Commander Aguado this year. The focus will be to get membership turned into reach membership goals. It is my goal to work with Commanders Aguado and Aldi to get to work with Squadrons to get there Squadron Data Forms as well as other forms submitted to get their Mylegion accounts set up. The Albany Stratton VA reports, 1 representative with 44 hours and \$8,500.00 in Monterey funds and \$4500.00 in non-monetary funds donated to date.

**V/C Downer move to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.13 V/C Mills reported,** At The Department Convention in Binghamton, the company that I work for (McLane Northeast) received a nice plaque for The Employment Award! The President of my company drove down and was presented with the plaque. I've still been keeping busy being a dual member! I've attended all of my Squadron and County meetings and Post and County meetings. District meetings are just starting up. Our first one of the year went well. With me being Oswego County Legion Commander this year, I was involved with the planning of The Department Commander's Visitation. The first time I haven't had to set everything up, as Distinguished Guest Chairman. It was nice to mentor my 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice Commander! As election of officers were finalized, I was asked to install officers in both the SAL and The American Legion. It is an honor for me to do that. Membership has been off to a slow start; I believe mainly because of our membership cards coming in late. I am confident that both Districts will do good things with membership! I just ended Department Commander's Visitations in all six counties of The 5<sup>th</sup> District. Commander Dave, President Nancy, and Commander Tim have very good speeches! Their projects are all great! After The Fall DEC Meeting, I will be attending 6<sup>th</sup> District Department Commander's Visitations and The National Commander's Visitation to 6<sup>th</sup> District. I'm so honored, to be representing both Districts again this year!

**V/C Mills moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.14 V/C Kane reported,** Fall is here in western New York, and we are seeing the spectacular colors of the season. As our activities are resuming, I am looking forward to traveling around the 2 Districts seeing friends and meeting new ones. With the late delivery of our membership cards, it is extremely important to start getting paid memberships into Headquarters. I

have already attended several functions and activities that are as follows:  
 Between June and September provided lawn care for a veteran at the Serenity Hills Campground. Between July and October have participated in 12 Honor Guard services for a deceased Veteran 07/09/2202 Attended the installation of officer's service at Post 808, Belmont, 08/18/2022 Allegany County American Legion meeting at Post 1582, Canaseraga 09/10/2022 Allegany County Sons golf tournament at the Wellsville Country Club. All proceeds go towards area veteran groups or projects. As Chairman made all the arraignments setting this up.  
 09/11/2022 Attended the 7<sup>th</sup> District Sons meeting at Post 1279 in Campbell  
 09/18/2022 Attended the 8<sup>th</sup> District Sons meeting at Post 535 in Salamanca  
**V/C Kane moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.15 A.N.E.C. Goerge reported,** Attended National Convention from 8/25-8/28/2022. Installed as Alternate National Executive Committeeman on 8/28/2022, at the National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. Utilized Voter's Voice:
- a. 7/28/2022: Contacted Senators Schumer and Gillibrand regarding passing the Honor Our Pact Act. The bill passed.
  - b. 9/21/2022: Contacted Senators Schumer and Gillibrand regarding Support Buddy Check Week.
  - c. 9/22/2022: Contacted Senators Schumer, Gillibrand, and Congresswoman Tenney regarding Pass the Afghan Adjustment Act. Replies received from Schumer and Tenney
  - d. 9/28/2022: Contacted Senators Schumer and Gillibrand asking to support H.R.6411 - the STRONG Veterans Act, which will include establishing a Buddy Check Week.
2. Attended Squadron 1448 meeting in September.
  3. Attended the dedication of the Korean Veterans Memorial Road on Rte. 365 in Rome, NY on 7/27/2022.
    - a. Attended and hosted the Oneida County Department Leaders Visitation on October 2, 2022.
  4. Attended the Fall NEC Meeting in Indianapolis, on October 7, 8, & 9, 2022.
    - a. Attended the Child Welfare Session on 10/7/2022: Discussion on notifying Non-For-Profit Organizations regarding CWF grants.
    - b. Encouraging the \$1.00 per member donation for this year. Be The One!
    - c. Sons of the American Legion have surpassed the \$9 million mark. We are now aiming for the "Perfect \$10 million.
  5. Attended the initial NEC training on 10/8/2022. Roles, Responsibilities & Expectations were addressed. A guide for future NEC/ANEC candidates will be forthcoming for our Detachment.
  6. The Public Relations Commission PowerPoint program on Social Media has been forwarded to CentCom National Chairman Jeffrey Vrable, Sr. to possibly find some use to attract new young members.
  7. Target date for online renewals is January 1<sup>st</sup>, fingers crossed.  
**A.N.E.C George moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.16 N.E.C. Ruthven reported,** The National Convention in Milwaukee this past August elected Chris Carolton from Indiana to serve as our National Commander. Chris's projects for this year are the same as National American Legion Commander's, the Veterans & Children Foundation, and

Be the One program. Also happening, New York now has three Past National Commanders as Joseph Paviglianti was made a National Commander by resolution. National appointments included Robert Avery, National Assistant Adjutant, and Greg Falco, National Assistant Sgt-at-Arms. Congratulation on what you do for the Sons of The American Legion. The National Executive Committee Fall meetings were held from October 7 to 9, 2022 and I am happy to say New York's leadership at the national level is very strong with 12 members in attendance. Some information I received from the national this past weekend. The Member Training & Development Commission is working on some new classes to educate our members. The last MNI Training will take place during the 2023 & 2024 Spring NEC Meetings and is being replaced by SAL University in 2024. Their goal is to educate our Blue Cap members wanting to move up through the ranks by training our future leaders to create a succession plan. The commission is looking for input on what to include in the 2 ½ days of classes and is asking Detachments for ideas of what is working in your Detachment. At these meetings, Dennis George, David Lee, and I attended the NEC training class, and I am proud to say that I am now qualified to be your NEC. Our members are asked to sign in at "mylegion.org", there you can check on your membership, sign up for legion publications, and print out a membership card if yours is lost. Once signed in you can take the American Legion "Basic Training" class. This is an online course covering five major topics, history & organization, VA & R, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. It will take about 2 hours to complete, but you may return and access the course as many times as you want. Americanism will continue to promote the "Flying Flags for Heroes" and Veteran Appreciation Day programs. Every Squadron must put these programs on its calendar. Another program in need of your support is the American Legion National Emergency Fund, especially this year with the hurricane in Florida. Squadrons need to do a better job in submissions of the Squadron Consolidated Report, we were only at 20% last year. The Children and Youth committee is focused on one of our National Commanders' projects, the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF), which provides support for service officers, disabled veterans, and families in crisis. Please donate to his project when the Nation Commander visits your District. The Child Welfare Foundation has set its sight on the 10-million-dollar mark this year. They asked if you have local non-profit children & youth program to encourage them to apply for a CWF grant. Squadrons are reminded to promote C& Y month in April. The membership committee is still committed to SAL's paid up-for-life program and online membership renewals. Before any of this happens, Squadrons must be submitting the Squadron Date Report annually. National is proposing that your Squadrons dues amount will be listed at \$100 per year if your SDR has not been submitted. The Legislative Commission is requesting members to sign up for Voters Voice, an advocacy tool to promote veteran programs directly to your lawmakers. They have a QR code that makes it simple to sign up. The Washington Conference will be held from Sunday, February 26 to Wednesday, March 1, 2023. The public Media & Communication Commission promoted and passed a resolution to create the Videos of Service Award. The purpose of this award is to bring awareness to and promote the programs and activities of the Sons of The American Legion through social media. Basically, the rules are to create a video of 5 minutes or less of SAL members in logo merchandise under one of three categories: Program Support, Community

Engagement, or Membership & Recruitment. Upload the video to social media and submit a link to the video to the National Public & Media Communications Commission. The contest started at the close of the Fall NEC and ends with the SAL 100% membership target date. Appointments for the 2022 – 2023 year were made at the meetings with the following from NY: Commission Chairman (Bill Clancy, Internal Affairs & Jim Coates, Veterans Employment & Education); Commission Vice-Chairman; (Gabe Cinquegrana, VA & R); Commission members (David Lee, Legislative & J Bruce Ruthven Public & Media Communications NEC Liaison); Committee members (Daryl Verstrete, Jr, Membership; Chris Cerullo, Sub-Committee on National Appointments; and Joe Paviglianti, SAL Century Committee Consultant). Thank you to each of you for your devotion to the Sons of The American Legion and its programs.

**N.E.C. Ruthven moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.17 Advisor Griffith reported** that we are doing great work. We need to make sure that we take all the information back to all the Squadrons.
- 1.18 Sgt. At Arms Falco** reported that there have been no fines. He thanked his staff and everyone for following the rules. He donated \$100.00 to the Commanders Project.  
**V/C Mills moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried**
- 1.19 Adjutant Avery reported,** The Official Call to the Midwinter Conference and Executive Meeting will soon be out. I thank Gaither Espey for negotiating for our rooms and meeting areas. The meetings will take place January 20<sup>th</sup> thru the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be at the Marriot on Wolf Road. As for membership, we stand at just over 16%, so we missed the 25% Target date on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Our goal for this year set by National is 29,864. All Squadrons are reminded to transmit on a regular basis and in conformance with the Target Dates! The 35% Target Date is on November 9<sup>th</sup>. CWF is in its 67th 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 on October 3<sup>rd</sup> during their annual fall meeting at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. \$639,328 in grants were awarded to 17 nonprofit organizations. Two of this year's recipients are from New York: **Tourette Association of America** of Bayside, N.Y., was awarded \$11,300 for their project, "Newly Diagnosed Backpack Program." This grant will provide newly diagnosed children with Tourette Syndrome a backpack containing vital information and resources guide for children and parents so that they can better understand their diagnosis. **Songs of Love Foundation** of Forest Hills, N.Y., was awarded \$25,000 for their project, "Songs of Love Outreach." This grant will fund the printing and distribution of profile forms and song request forms that will help create personalized songs for seriously ill children up to the age of 21 with no charge to them. This grant will also update and maintain the website which provides detailed information on how to request a song. Our Detachment donated \$4,620 last year. This year we have donated \$9441 towards our goal of \$29,563. Our Detachment can do a much better job in support of this program. Please donate from your Squadron. Many Squadrons make this an annual set amount donation. Your help is appreciated! The DEC has had 1 email vote this year since Convention. It was to approve a voucher that was submitted late, after the deadline. The measure was approved. 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. I apologize that I had one member's incorrect email address. I have been working with Charlie at HQ and our Membership Chairman Daryl to get an accurate accounting of:

- Which Squadrons reported their activities last year on the CSR.
  - Which Squadrons have reported using the Squadron Data Report.
  - and...Which Squadrons have reported their current year, Officers.
- This was pulled together in just a matter of days, and I thank both Charlie and Daryl for their hard work on it. As you know, Daryl was able to add columns onto the Membership Report to make it extremely easy to find Squadrons that need to be contacted and need assistance. Copies of that report were distributed. Please use this tool so you can focus on the "difficult" Squadrons. I am also working with Mr. Casey and Charlie to send emails directly to the Post Commanders of these non-reporting Squadrons. Let's hope we can all work together to improve this situation .... which will only strengthen our organization. I congratulate the 8 National Commission and Committee members from New York, along with the 2 National Officers. We have a great presence on the National level, with many dedicated members. Thank you! I thank all the members for everything they do in support of our Nation's veterans, local communities, and our children and youth!

**V/C Downer moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- **Commander Van Patten presented Pass Commander Lee with his history book.**

- 1.20 Commander Van Patten reported,** In the words of Sherlock Holmes, "The game is a foot". The American Legion Leadership Team has visited 5 Districts thus far. The turn out and hospitality shown to us has been nothing short of outstanding. I absolutely love the opportunity you all have given me to represent this organization and get our message out to the masses. Our National Convention in Milwaukee was quite the epic event, and I am proud of all the hard work our members have done that has resulted in the award winning of multiple trophies on the National level. Fantastic job everyone!!! I certainly hope those efforts are repeated and grown for this year. The National Executive Meetings were held this past weekend in Indianapolis and there was lots of great information presented in the breakout meetings that should be finding it's way to our committee chairmen. I implore each and everyone of to embrace this year's theme, "Take center Stage", and publicize the great work that every squadron is doing across our Detachment. The best way to do that is to make sure every squadron tracks their efforts and submits their Consolidated Squadron Report. These numbers are vital to efforts to secure benefits and rights for everyone that gave us our eligibility to belong to the greatest veteran's organization in the world.

**2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Figueroa moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- **V/C Downer moved to accept the pre-submitted reports. It is seconded and carried.**

**2.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF**

NONE

**3.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 4.01 PDC Lee stated that there was money allocated to purchase car magnets. I have not seen many of them on the cars in the parking lot. If you need help, I am willing to assist.

**4.00 NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**5.00 THE GOOD OF THE SONS**

- 5.00 Squadron #374 donated \$500.00 to the Child Welfare Foundation.
- 5.01 Please attend the Veterans Day Parade in New York City if you are able. More information to follow.
- 5.02 Webmaster Cinquegrana noted that there have been some issues with the American Legion website which affects our page and how we do web blast. There also needs to be a succession plan for the webmaster.
- 5.03 V/C Mills has raffle tickets for a chain saw.
- 5.04 PNC Cerullo noted that the Sons have a new National Commander. After 45 years of service to the Sons organization on all levels, Joe Paviglianti is now a pass National Commander.

Respectfully Submitted,



Assistant Adjutant Raymond Jarvis