

Message from Commander Coates 6/10/19

The CWF year-end report came out last week and all I can say is **GREAT JOB DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK!!** You have probably already seen the results on Facebook. What a tribute to Doc Gibbs as, nationally, the Sons of The American Legion raised \$427,483 or \$1.20 per member and what a statement of support from New York with a total of \$56,052.40 or \$1.98 per member. You also donated a total of \$13,897 toward NEF this year and the numbers for the Veterans Walk-A-Thon are still coming in. You can certainly all be very proud. I know I am proud of you and I thank you all for your great support.

Our Department of New York Homecoming took place on May 18th. Thank you to those Sons who attended. I had a great time and hope you did as well. On May 22nd I also had the pleasure of traveling to the James A. Peters (Bronx) VA Medical Center for the Dedication Ceremony of two new Fisher Houses with our VA&R Chairman Tom Kurk. NEC John Chang, ANEC Joe Santa Croce and Detachment Vice-Commanders Pete DeAngelis and Joe Guidice also attended. Chairman Kurk and I presented a check for \$1,000 towards the operation of the new Fisher Houses. They are beautiful houses with the combined capacity for about thirty-six people.

I first attended the American Legion College in 2013 before it became The American Legion Family College. Recently I began to think that attending again after the changes may be beneficial, so this year I attended the Department of New York American Legion Family College and I am very glad that I did. I had the privilege of handing out certificates and congratulating those who attended this year along with Commander Gary and President Marie. In all there were 98 people attending of whom 14 were S.A.L. members. It was great to see the Sons of The American Legion represented so well. Not only were excellent classes given by the Sons and American Legion Auxiliary but all of The American Legion classes have developed and improved as well. I would recommend going again to anyone.

We have formed an ad-hoc Communications Committee for the purpose of developing an email contact list for all squadrons as well as a process for maintaining the list on an on-going basis. Most recently a call has gone out to our

County and District Commanders and Detachment Vice-Commanders to assist in getting the squadron email addresses or personal email addresses for squadron commanders and adjutants using the new Officer Certification Form. Please assist them in getting this information. Individuals should also go on the Detachment Website and click on "Subscribe" in the yellow block in the middle of the home page and enroll to automatically receive any communications going out to the Detachment as well as the most current Liberty Newsletter. It is easy and you can rest assured that you will not receive anything not related to the Sons of The American Legion.

Detachment Membership Committee Chairman Daryl Verstrete has also put out a Membership Challenge to all Detachment of New York District Commanders. The District Commander that submits the most membership, renewals and new members between the dates of June 1 and July 13 will be the recipient of a complimentary dinner with our National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs. New members must be submitted and recorded by the Department by the final membership report before Convention to qualify. See the Detachment Website for more information. Let's put the push on now to get our membership in with 100% by Convention.

There have also been email blasts and information on Facebook about The American Legion Recognition Days coming up at the Mets game on July 5th and Yankees game on July 14th. If you have the opportunity please support our American Legion at these events.

Thank you to all squadrons that have given feedback about the national dues increase. So far this feedback has been in support of the increase. We will be discussing this at our Convention in Buffalo and would still like to hear from as many squadrons as possible. Feel free to contact any of us whose names are on the initial letter if you have any questions or concerns.

It doesn't seem possible that we have just a few short weeks until our Detachment Convention in Buffalo and we begin a New Year. Thank you again for all that you do. It has been an honor and my pleasure to serve as your commander for the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion.