

# MINUTES OF THE MID-WINTER D.E.C. MEETING

January 25-27, 2019

Red Lion Hotel

Colonie, New York

- Seeley B. Parish Sq. #457 Color Guard posted colors.
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg 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 DeAngelis led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
- Commander Coates called the Meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
- Adjutant Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present.
- Guests Present Included: National V/C East, Michael Cotton (DE), Past National V/C East Kenneth Warner (PA), Leading Candidate for National V/C East Gary Nelson (NJ), and NEC Toby Cullen (DE).
- **Motion by 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander Grigas to appoint Tom Kurk as acting Judge Advocate, Gary Denmon to the Legislative Commission, and Jim Brown to the Americanism Commission for this meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried.**

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

- 1.01 Commander Coates entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the Fall DEC Meeting as printed with any minor corrections, as noted. The motion was made by V/C Myrtle and seconded by Historian Ryan, so carried.**

## **2.00 COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS**

- 2.01 Americanism Commission Chairman Daley;** 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 all 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?" The 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. **A motion was made by 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander and seconded to accept the Americanism report, and was carried.**

**2.02 VA & R Commission member Bishop gave the V.A. & R. report.** As we enter the second half of this administrative year for the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion this commission hopes your Squadron has undertaken projects to make the lives of our veterans more comfortable. This time of year warm clothing donated both to our VA Medical Centers and Homeless Shelters are always in need, Gift Cards are always needed and events for our veterans are always appreciated. In this issue of the Liberty is an article written by VA&R Commission member Diman Smith. The article is on Homeless Veterans and included in the article is information on a program called "Back Packs For Life". This organization focuses on helping veterans stabilize the lives of our Homeless Veterans. I urge you to check this out and follow up with some donations. There are many things going on now until Detachment Convention. Our annual "They Marched for Us, We Walk for Them" Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for April 13, 2019. I received numerous phone calls this year asking for more information on this project, many of these Legion Family members are hearing about this for the first time. Thank you Commander Coates for putting the Walk-A-Thon event in your message. I have a deep feeling this proceeds will be a record breaker along with the first time help of the Riders. If a walk is not possible feel free to hold some kind of event to raise funds at your Post. Please have all donations into Detachment Headquarters by May 15, 2019. April 30, 2019 is the Deadline to accept William P. O'Connell Memorial Scholarship applications. This scholarship is sponsored by this commission. Squadron Consolidated Reports are due on this day to. May 20<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Appreciation Day. It's not too early to make plans to hold an event to benefit the veterans in your community. May 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for applications for the Charles B. Rigby Award to be submitted. The form can be found in our Detachment Manual and is on our Detachment Website. We urge everyone to travel over to the Desmond this afternoon for the seminars. Membership is from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. A Power Point Presentation will be a joint presentation on the Do's and Don'ts of filling out the

Consolidated Report. There will be lots of valuable information to take back with you. This presentation should clear up a lot of confusion about the report. In closing we thank you, our veteran's thank you for your dedication and hard work that you as Sons of The American Legion do for our Community, State and Nation.

- **A motion was made by V/C Myrtle to send the V.A. & R. Chairmen to the opening of the new Fisher House in the Bronx with a \$500.00 Budget. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried.**

National V.A. & R. Commission Member Cinquegrana stated that the commission is actively trying to get more V.A. Representatives and Deputies, More applications for the Charles Rigsby VA & VAS award. They have looked at the consolidated report form and have reduced the number of line items to 12 to try and help more Squadrons to report. There are VAWS handbooks on the back table if you are interested. **Historian Ryan made a motion to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

- 2.03 Legislative Commission acting Chairman Denmon** reported; for those attending the Washington it will be held February 23-26. For those attending, letters for appointments have already been sent to your congressional leaders. This is a very busy and productive conference; Sunday morning we will meet the bus at the Hotel lobby at 7AM to go with the National Commander to Arlington Nation Cemetery. Then on to the Iwo Jima Memorial, followed by the Korean Memorial. Monday will be meetings all day on what the talking points are and what the Legions Priorities are, and then Tuesday we will meet with our Congressional Leaders. New York Hill Day will be on March 11.  
**A motion made by N.E.C. Change to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 2.04 Children & Youth Chairmen Bosford** reported that he went to the local Ronald McDonald House. They do great work there on behalf of the kids and their families. Squadron #574 presented Commander Coates a check for \$1,000.00 for the Child Welfare Foundation. The money was raised doing monthly breakfast and weekly 50-50s.  
**A motion was made V/C Myrtle to accept the report was second and carried.**
- 2.05 Department President Mock** brings greetings from the members of the Auxiliary. It has wonderful to travel with Jim and we are having a great time. Please support the Walk-A-Thon with us. We are here to support our Veterans. I wish you great success in your meetings.
- 2.06 Department Secretary Corker** presented a certificate of special appreciation to Kevin Harrington for his help in moving the Auxiliary Office.
- 2.07 American Legion Riders Director Wallace** stated that the over 100 chapters in New York State have raised over \$12,000.00 for Operation Comfort Warriors, the National Emergency Fund, and The Legacy Scholarship Fund. We thank you for your help. We would like to give special recognition the House Heads Chapter who have raised over \$30,000.00 for 3 kids whose parents died in a motorcycle accident.
- 2.08 Public Relations/Webmaster Cinquegrana** reported as you have seen, the Mid-Winter issue of the Liberty has been published, and thank all for your input, especially Committee and Commissions. This is a great way to get the word out, and I again encourage all Chairmen to please submit information. We continue efforts to keep the Detachment Website up to date and relevant, and have used the site this year to assist our National Commander as a base of information that can be accessed nationally. We still currently only have 615 Subscribers to the Website, meaning we still have over 29,300 members NOT receiving email alerts. We need to continue to urge subscribers, and urge current subscribers to share the information they receive with others. We are interested in looking for Webmaster backup assistance, and encourage anyone interested or know anyone interested to please contact me. 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 has a few words that he would like to add. We cover the Army Football team. We have met many important people. We have produced 355 videos this year covering veteran's stories, game day with West Point Cadets. We have had 1.7 million hits on our face book page so far this year. We will continue to interview important guests and share these interviews with on our website. We are now starting to work with the National website on sharing content with them. We will again be manning the PR Table at the Desmond this weekend. Stop over if you have questions, or need flyers or brochures. The table was open yesterday from 4 to 7, and is being manned today until 3:00pm. Our Commission has been assisting Commander

Coates in putting together his initiative for CWF. We encourage everyone to participate, and use the Press Release templates to get information out. And I am sure as you have heard, 3 members of our Commission will be playing classic rock after the Legion Banquet Dinner to increase CWF awareness, so please plan to stop over. We continue to increase our use of Facebook for Regional, State-Wide, and National information and input, and have seen a large increase of likes, shares, and access from Squadrons and Detachments across the country. At the request of Commander Coates, we have devoted our Public Relations Project this Mid-Winter to helping National Commander Gibbs with his Polar Plunge Team Challenge this weekend. We have setup a donation box at the sign-in table, and ask that you throw some serious money in there to help us make a sizeable Detachment of NY contribution to his team.

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

- 2.09 Consultant Neville introduced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leading Candidate for National Commander of the American Legion Paul Hill (TX).** You are having another banner year, Sons of The American Legion Commander Doc is doing a great job representing New York. You can always tell which post has Sons of the American Legion squadron. We are honored to have you to helping the American Legion with our programs.
- 2.10 Mid-Winter Coordinator, Mark Kearsing** reported; He welcomed everyone to this year's Mid-Winter, This is my 11<sup>th</sup> year coordinating this event. I'm available if there are questions or problems that may arise. The hotel has been working hard to help us out. As you can see the room rates are lower than in the past.
- 2.11 Historian Ryan** reported; since our fall Detachment Executive meeting, there's very little for me to report except for after the conclusion of four fall meeting. I and others of the executive committee visited the National War Plane Museum in Geneseo, NY and I took many pictures, while there, and they will be available to view online on our website, in the future. I saw a news segment recently about our current federal shutdown of government highlighting the US Coast Guard and they taking donations, from people who care to help people who are struggling to make ends meet during the shutdown. Gentlemen, this really touched me and it proves to me that those who care about our military personnel feel it's necessary to support our service members through this difficult time. Hopefully this federal crisis will be resolved and settled soon. Upcoming events for me include: Doc Greg Gibbs homecoming, our National Commander in Buffalo NY, National Legion Commander Visitation to the 5<sup>th</sup> district in April, and Joint homecoming for Department Commander, Department President and our Commander James Coats.  
**Historian Ryan moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**
- 2.12 Advisor Arthur** reported that he is very impressed with the group of people attending the meeting. Have a good meeting, The Advisors seminar was very well attend last night it was standing room only. Always remember to dress to impress.
- 2.13 Chaplain Parks** reported that he has sent out 9 get well cards, 4 condolences cards, and 2 bouquets of flowers. Don't forget sign the card for PDC Downey who is not feeling well.  
**Chaplain Parks moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 2.14 Vice Commander 1/9 Guidice** reported that membership is doing very well. I would like to congratulate the squadrons in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> district for all their hard work. We achieved over 30,000 members last year not by just retaining members but by recruiting new members. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> District recruited 121 new members so far. I would like thank squadron #1682 for all their hard work. They are a fairly new squadron and last year held an event that raised \$2000.00 and donated it to training a service dog for a veteran. This year they donated \$1500.00 to a local Veteran Charity.  
**V/C Guidice move to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**
- 2.15 Vice Commander 2/10 DeAngelis** reported **In** August I attended the National Convention in Minneapolis supporting our National Commander Doc Gibbs. September started with a bang, with the Visitations being downstate is first on the list, and I attended 4 out of 5 Visitations with Commander Coats to Nassau, Suffolk, Richmond and my own Kings County. I saw a lot of wonderful sites that I have never seen before while on other visitations as I only attended the dinners. I am looking forward to doing them again someday. Sons Serving Veterans continues to be the top priority in my area as the list is long on what we do as Sons as my District Commanders Reports state, Great Job guys, I myself attended many Events.

There were 4 children events during the Christmas season and Halloween fundraiser for the CWVA a park dedicated in the memory of a soldier named after the Coffey Wilson Post in Kings County. Also attended the NYC Veterans day Parade with my Legion riders Chapter then headed down to the Vietnam Memorial wall on Water St in Lower Manhattan with an open house at my Post afterwards. With me on that day were our National Chaplain Jim Noble and one of his Squadron Riders from the Bronx.

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

**2.16 Vice Commander 3/4 Myrtle** reported that he had attended all 11 County Visitations with Detachment Commander Jim Coats and District Commander Tim Williams, I reported on my Visitation at our DEC meeting in November and district Commander Tim Williams has sent in a report on the 4<sup>th</sup> District which is now on our web site for anyone who wishes to read. I just finished our last 3<sup>rd</sup> District County Visitations last Thursday night for Rensselaer held at the North Greenbush Memorial Post #1439; I also attended Albany, Greene and Schoharie Counties with the Detachment Commander Jim Coates and District Commander Bill Baker. Commander Baker has sent in a report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District and his report is on the web site for viewing. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Districts have been very active with all their fund raiser, Christmas Parties and post actives. I would like to thank a minute and show my appreciation to our Squadron's for what they do. With that being said we will be pushing Squadrons to send in their consolidated reports on the time and hope fully filled out in proper form and hope any member with a questions attend our seminar on the consolidated reports this afternoon held in the Desmond. Membership; We have one County Schoharie at 107% and 5 more over 74% Saratoga, Schenectady, Clinton, Washington and Greene County. 3 Counties are still missing, Sullivan, Hamilton and Columbia Counties. The 4<sup>th</sup> District is at 70% and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is at 60%. Our district has a goal of 4,788 members paid members and they stand at 3,185 members. Squadrons that are over 100% Squadron 30 Fort Orange, Squadron 476 Edward T. Ruane, Squadron 248 Timothy Murphy, Squadron 553 Horace D. Washburn, Squadron 233 Glen Falls and Squadron 446 Warrensburg.

**2.17 Vice Commander 5/6 Ainslee** reported; Since attending the Fall DEC Meeting on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 at Commander Jim's Post the Francis M. Dalton #282 in West Bloomfield, N.Y. Things have been quiet for me trying to catch up with my work load that got backed up from the 11 of the 18 visitations I attended in the month of October. Membership as of Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 is as follows 5<sup>TH</sup> District stands at 63.39% with 4580 payed of their goal of 7225 and 5 Squadrons at 100% or more but there are more than double that with 11 Squadrons at 0%. The 6<sup>th</sup> District is at 58.12% with 1954 payed of their goal of 3362 and only 2 Squadrons at 100% or more with 7 Squadrons at 0%. I attended the 6<sup>th</sup> District meeting at Post 465 in Homer on Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 It had to be one of the best District meetings to date we had all 10 officers, 3 past Detachment Commanders, Gary Denmon, John Knapp & Tom Smallcomb and the leading incoming candidate's for Detachment Commander for the next 2 years, Dennis George & David Lee. \$1000.00 dollars was voted on to distribute to Dept. Commanders Project, AL Presidents Project, Det. Commanders Project, Bath Gift Shop, and Oxford Home, Committee to Elect Dennis George and Mike McDermott, and even \$100.00 for our own National Doc Gibb's to do his Polar Plunge. In closing I am looking forward to attending a 5<sup>th</sup> District meeting next month and The National American Legion Commanders Visitation to the 5<sup>th</sup> District on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

**2.18 Vice Commander Kuczenski** reported; Since the Convention I have been able to attend the September County meetings in Allegany and Chautauqua Counties and the October and December meetings in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. On October 19<sup>th</sup> I attended the National Commanders visitation in Dunkirk. In the morning we toured the Historic Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum on Point Gratiot. After lunch at Post 59 in Fredonia, we toured the Veterans clinic in Dunkirk. Dinner was at Dunkirk Memorial Post 62. On October 20<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Waterloo for the 7<sup>th</sup> 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. The following week I received the sad news that Past Detachment Commander from the 7<sup>th</sup> District, John Bogart had passed. On Friday October 26<sup>th</sup>, I attended his funeral services in Bath. On November 11<sup>th</sup> I participated in the Veterans' Day Ceremony at Post 1286. Due to a prior commitment I was unable to attend the DEC Fall Conference meeting. In late October and early November I began having bouts of lightheaded and dizziness which got to be severe. Not being able to drive, I missed the October and December meeting for Chautauqua County and the December meeting in 7<sup>th</sup> District. Fortunately it seemed these were caused by a

severe sinus condition and medication has controlled the problem so I have been able to return to my routine. The week after Mid-Winter visitations will begin in the 7<sup>th</sup> District. After they conclude visitations in the 8<sup>th</sup> Districts begin. I plan on making as many as my work schedule will allow but unfortunately many are during the week. I plan on making the remaining meetings in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts. I'm also trying to organize a joint 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> District meeting to be held in late March or early April. Future plans include attending homecoming for National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs and Commander Jim and of course, Convention. Membership As of January 8<sup>th</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> Dist. has 2957 members for 56.8 %, 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Detachment and the 8<sup>th</sup> District has 2885 for 53.7 % and 8<sup>th</sup> place. Since I am also membership chairman for the 8<sup>th</sup> District I mail letters to every squadron in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. The mailing included dues information for the District and Allegany and Chautauqua Counties, information for consolidated reports and officer certification form and a copy of the letter by Commander Jim. I hope to see a jump in membership by mid-winter.

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

- 2.19 Finance Chairman Lee** gave the finance report. He thanked the members of the finance commission for their work. He thanked the membership for paying their dues and for all the fund raising work they do. He also thanked us for trusting that we do the right thing with your dues money. We have a budget in place and we need to work on when need to be disbursed dates are for those funds. We are recommending the following changes to the expense authorizations. Take one sentence out in the ANEC line stating; if he fulfills his duties at the spring and Fall NEC meetings, then he is authorized to apply remaining line item monies towards National Convention. The Committee also is recommending the following expeditors, \$1,000 to the Sons of The American Legion Radio out of the executive budget line, \$500 to cover the V.A. & R. Chairmen to cost to attend the opening of the Fisher House in the Bronx. Remember that any member that attends the Gregg "DOC" Gibbs Homecoming to be reimbursed \$65.00. He went over the budget and Detachment donations. If you are seeking money for a donation or for money in a line item please contact a member of the finance committee prior to a DEC or Convention meeting. This gives us time to look at the proposal and discuss it.

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

- 2.20 Commanders Advisory Chairman Clancy** reported that he has had many conversations with Commander Coates and that he is doing a fantastic job.

**NEC Chang moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

- 2.21 Committee to elect Gregg "DOC" Gibbs** reported; the homecoming will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be at Doc's post Friday Night. Saturday during the day we will visit the falls, with dinner that night at the hotel. We are looking forward to many people attending to support DOC.

- 2.22 NEC Chang introduced leading candidate for National V/C Commander East Gary Nelson (NJ).** Gary thanked us for the invitation to be here. He brought greetings from Leading Candidate for National Commander Clint Bolt. Thank you for your hospitality. We are going to follow the legacy that DOC has started. Congratulations for making **your** 60% membership goal.

- 2.23 NEC Chang introduced National V/C East Mike Cotton (DE).** Mike said that it was an honor to be and I bring greetings from National Commander Gregg "DOC" Gibbs, I am humbled by your leadership and mentoring. Everything that I was going to bring up in my speech has already been said. Your donations are tremendous. We need to let everyone what we are and how we are doing it. Think about how you can increase your membership.

- 2.24 ANEC Santa Croce** reported; first I would like to thank everyone for the well wishes over the past six months, weather on Facebook, email, or over the phone. It was a tough time but being here was goal that I am happy to keep as for my duties as your ANEC I don't have much to report. I have been able to help NEC Chang some administrative work for the fall conference and Mid-Winter. I still have four to six weeks of recovery to get back to normal; I'm back on the job and ready resume my duties as your ANEC.

**ANEC Santa Croce moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**

**2.25 NEC Change** reported; my duties as the NEC began with attending our National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August. National Commander Danny Smith closed business to his administrative year. The Sons of The American Legion elected our very own "Doc" Greg Gibbs from the great state of New York to serve as the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion for the 2018-2019 administrative year. Congratulations to "Doc" who we all know will do a great job serving our organization as National Commander. Commander "Doc" Gibbs also has a membership theme as well, which is to encourage our younger members to step up and assume a more active role in our organization. He would like to see them attend Detachment Conferences, Detachment Conventions, and National Conventions. Also elected at the National Convention was National Vice Commander Eastern Region, Michael Cotton P.E., who is also Detachment Adjutant for the State of Delaware. I would also recognize Gary P. Nelson, from The Detachment of New Jersey. He was appointed Chairman National Eastern Region Membership Committee and also our Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander for The Eastern Region. Both of these great gentlemen are very good friends of our Detachment. I will be working with Vice Commander Cotton and Chairman Nelson throughout the year via conference calls and e-mails to go over membership and other agendas for the Eastern Region. The George B. Evans Award for Veterans Advocacy was presented at National Convention to our own David Perry. It was a proud moment for David and the Detachment of New York. Now onto the appointments to National Commissions and Committees for 2018-2019:

Sub Committee of the NEC: Sub Committee on Resolutions John Chang  
Americanism Commission: Children and Youth Committee Bill Clancy  
Legislative Commission: David Lee  
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission: Gabe Cinquegrana

At this NEC meeting Commander Jim Coates and Leading Candidate Dennis George completed the Detachment Commanders Class and were awarded their diplomas on Sunday at the Breakfast. I also enrolled Dennis George into the NMI 1 class which will be given at the Spring NEC. On November 3rd, 2018 New York's Past Detachment, and National Commander, Chris Cerullo was honored with Induction into the 6th Sons of The American Legion Hall of Fame in Pasadena, California. The Sons of The American Legion Hall of Fame was established in 2012 by Pasadena American Legion Post 13. The Hall of Fame recognizes those members of The American Legion Family and American Citizens whose contributions to The American Legion Family, American Veterans and their families have been significant, substantial and long-lasting. It was an honor and pleasure to attend and support Chris's induction into The Sons of The American Legion Hall of Fame along with Adjutant Robert Avery and Department ANEC Bill Kearsing. Chris is the first Inductee from New York. A fantastic time was had by all that attended the Gala Event. The hospitality was incredible. We were all treated like VIP's. As a side, we got to visit The Griffith Observatory and The Hollywood Post 43 in downtown LA, and received an amazing tour of the Post from Commander Michael Hjelmstad. The Post is only half a block from the walk of the Stars. At this Fall NEC The American Legion passed resolutions that will hopefully assist membership in The American Legion. If it receives Congressional approval, this would also impact SAL and Auxiliaries membership. **NEC Chang moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.**

**2.26 Legionnaire of the Year Robert** donated \$100.00 to the CWF on behalf of his Grandson.

**2.27 Adjutant Avery** Reported; welcome to all members attending the Mid-Winter Conference, which is the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual for The American Legion Department of New York? You will hopefully be able to learn more about our Legion Family organization, meet many other members, share knowledge, have a great time, and bring information back to your Squadron! The Detachment is pleased to welcome National Vice Commander Michael Cotten from the Detachment of Delaware this year. Also visiting us from the Detachment of New Jersey is Gary Nelson, the Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander. Congratulations to the membership for attaining 100.93% of goal in 2018. Our final total was 29,958 members which keeps us in 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. We are slowly catching up with number 3 Ohio. We now trail them by only 565 members. According to the final 2018 Renewal Report we ended up at 91.68%, tied for 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Nation with Delaware, and we are the highest among the largest 4 Detachments and nearly 3 points higher than the National average which was 88.9%. RRR Recruit – Retain and Renew.....let's make this year the second banner year in a row. National Commander Greg 'Doc' Gibbs is currently

visiting other Detachments and he sends his very best to us here at Mid-Winter. He also thanks us for donating over \$24,000 so far this year to his project the Child Welfare Foundation. That amount puts us in second place in the Nation at \$1.63 per capita. Arizona is in 1<sup>st</sup> place with \$37,110 in donations. If your Squadron has not yet made a donation to CWF **please do so at this time!** With the current National Commander being from New York, we need to do our **very best in BOTH membership and in support of CWF.** Squadrons will soon be receiving the 2019 Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR). As a reminder, **this form is the most important document that you need to complete.** The compilation of all volunteer hours and donations from Posts and Squadrons are reported to Congress each year by the National Commander of The American Legion. I believe that NEXT year we will have the form electronically on line. There are many changes that are coming up with National forms and material that I assisting with as National Asst Adjutant. All members are encouraged to attend our National Commanders Homecoming in Buffalo on April 27, 2019. Information including Housing and Dinner reservation forms is available on our website. In closing, during this very special year with “Doc” Gibbs leading our organization, the 2 most important things for New York SONS are having another fantastic all-time high in membership and in contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation.....**please focus on these when you return home to the Squadrons**  
**7<sup>th</sup> District Commander Daley moved to accept the report which was seconded and carried.**

**Commander Coates called the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York in recess until 8:30AM tomorrow.**

**MINUTES OF THE MID-WINTER D.E.C. MEETING**  
**January 25-27, 2019**  
**Red Lion Hotel**  
**Colonie, New York**

- Chaplain Parks offered the Opening Prayer
- V/C DeGuidice led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- Commander Coates called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM
- Asst. Adjutant Jarvis took Roll call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guests Present included National V/C East, Michael Cotton (DE), Past National V/C East Kenneth Warner (PA), Leading Candidate for National V/C East Gary Nelson (NJ), and NEC Toby Cullen (DE).

**2.00 COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS (continued)**

**2.28 Acting Judge Advocate Kurk** reported that everyone is doing a great job and are conducting them selves in a good manner.

**2.28 Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson** called forth committee chairmen:

The resolution that that was presented a while ago and that we have been working on has been referred to the Department of New York.

**Convention and Meetings Chairman Smallcomb reported;** that Convention in Buffalo this year is all set. 2020 Binghamton is all set. It was just announced that we will be in Westchester County for 2021.

**Member Training and Development Chairman Espy** reported; Friday evening the Leadership workshop had 22 members in attendance. I hope you all learned a few things and bring them back home to your Squadron, County or District and put them to good use. I would like to thank PDC Raymond Jarvis, PDC Gary Denmon and PDC Jerry Ketchum for their time as facilitators. Certificates will be presented to all who attended at the conclusion of my report. Also Friday evening at the Desmond, we had our Legion Advisors seminar. 17 Legionnaires attended. The seminar was very well received by the members with lots of questions and answers given. It has been brought up about having this seminar every other year. My opinion is if we have this many in attendance we continue to have this yearly. Thank you, PDC Bill Clancy and PDC Bruce Ruthven for your knowledge and facilitating with myself. Saturday afternoon at the Desmond, we had our 2 breakout sessions. First was Membership @ 1pm. We had a full room over 50 in attendance with Daryl speaking about membership. As Daryl went through the different aspects of membership, questions were asked and answers were given. Yes there were a couple questions we had no answer for. Daryl will be looking into those and relaying the answer back to that person. Thank you, Daryl.



Our second session was a power point presentation about the consolidated report. Americanism chairman Jim Daley, VA&R chairman Tom Kurk and I for Children Youth went through each category line by line and explained what to report for each. Again we had excellent attendance with a full room. Thank you to the commission chairs for their work and time putting this together. Every year this commission tries to provide you the membership with information to help your workings as a Squadron and member. If you have any suggestions on a topic please let me or commission member know. In closing I would like to thank the members for their attendance in the various workshops/sessions.

**Membership Chairman Verstreate** reported; this was the third year doing a membership workshop. It seems to be getting larger every year. I have put out a challenge to the district commander and membership committee member of that area that comes I first place in membership to a steak dinner on me. It will give us a chance to talk about membership outside of the meetings. It will be my way of showing you my appreciation for all your hard work. Last year we ended our membership year at 30,223 members or 100.92% of goal. Our renewal goal was 29,683, we ended with 27,212 renewals. That being said we lost 2471 members or 8.01%. Our goal for this year is 29,958 members; we currently stand at 20,065 or 66.97%. Last year we had 42 counties out of 63 make or exceed 100% of goal. We are working on a resolution to line up our goals with those of National. 41 100% membership certificates were handed out. **Convention and Meetings Chairman Smallcomb** reported; that Convention in Buffalo this year is all set. 2020 Binghamton is all set. It was just announced that we will be in Westchester County for 2021. **Chaplain Parks** motioned to accept the report which was seconded and carried.

- 2.31 **Master Sergeant-at-Arms Falco** reported that the Sgt's at Arms had collected \$15.00 in fines so far. **NEC Chang** moved to accept his report which was seconded and carried.
- 2.33 **Detachment Commander Coates** reported; we only have 16 visitations left to do. I would like to thank you to all of you that come out and supported us as we have traveled the state. It has been a privilege and an honor for me and I look forward to visiting the 16 counties that are left in my own District 7 & neighboring District 8. **The message this year has been about creating that constancy in purpose** in supporting our veterans and American Legion Programs. **The message has been about continually educating ourselves**, and at Mid-Winter this year we have some great opportunities with the Leadership Workshop and Advisors Seminar on Friday evening and the two breakout sessions on membership and completing the Consolidated Reports on Saturday afternoon. And don't forget about the American Legion Family College coming up this May 31st through June 2nd. **The message has been about supporting our own commission projects**; the VA&R Commission Veterans Walk-A-Thon, and the Children and Youth Child Welfare Foundation project, and our American-ism Commissions on-going projects to engage our youth. And you will hear about the status of all these programs and projects during our commission report at Mid-Winter. **And the message has been about out National Commander "Doc" Gibbs' call for us to "Honor our Past and Continue the Legacy"** by having record membership numbers and donations from the Sons of The American Legion this year. As I write this article our NY Detachment membership is just under 60% and we hope it will be well over 60% by Mid-Winter, but we really need to start doing much better. Technically, all members not paid are now delinquent and risk not being eligible for benefits members in good standing are eligible for. Great Job Putnam County (113.79%) and Schoharie County (100%), and the other 24 counties who have made the 60% goal; please keep plugging away and send those memberships in, don't hold on to them. And this year our Mid-Winter Detachment PR charity will be the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics, which National Commander, Doc Gibbs, will be in this year. See more details in this News-letter, and bring a donation that you can turn in at Mid-Winter in support of Docs' participation. There are just over 400 squadrons in the Detachment of New York and we are following up on PDC Clancy's Mid-Winter call to us last year, asking our squadrons to hold fund raising events to donate to the Veterans Walk-A-Thon and to the Child Welfare Foundation. Just think about it, \$500.00 per squadron is \$200,000, or \$100,000 each for these two programs. Now some squadrons will give more and some will give less. **Really it is not even so much about how much a squadron raises; It is more about all of our squadrons participating.** Two or three squadrons can team up, or even make the effort county wide. We have just three short months left until the end of April, our deadline for getting CWF donations into Detachment and reported at National on May 4th and 5th. So let's get the word out and ask our squadrons to participate. We can do this! Oh, and by the way, this year we have something new to increase awareness about CWF. We have the **"The New York SALute Band"**. After several years of trying, a few of our more musically inclined Sons have put together a Classic Rock band and will be playing Saturday

evening at the Desmond following the Mid-Winter Banquet. So please come and join us. I never tire of saying, I am very proud to be representing the now 30,000 plus members of the NY Sons of The American Legion. Thank You for all that you do!

V/C DeGuidice motion to accept the report, it was seconded and carried.

- 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander Grigas motioned to accept the pre-submitted reports, it was seconded and carried.

### 3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

3.01 PDC Kurk has injured his knee.

### 4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

### 5.00 NEW BUSINESS

- 5.01 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Hall moved to change the expense authorization for the ANEC budget line. Change to state the “ANEC is authorized to attend the National Convention”. It was seconded and carried.
- 5.02 Past National Commander Cerullo noted that SALute band last night was great and suggested that they play at Greg “DOC” Gibbs Homecoming.
- 5.03 The 5<sup>th</sup> District presented a check for \$250.00 to the walk-a-thon and \$200.00 to NEF.
- 5.04 V/C DeGuidice moved to donate \$1,000.00 to SAL Radio. It was seconded and carried.

### 6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 6.01 David Lee announced that he is running for Detachment Commander 2020-2021.
- 6.02 V/C Ainslee announced that he is running for V/C 5&6.
- 6.03 V/C DeGuidice announced that he is running for V/C 1&9.
- 6.04 Oriskany Post donated \$500.00 to the CWF.
- 6.05 Ted Williams announce that he is running for V/C 3&4.
- 6.06 The 4<sup>th</sup> District donated \$500.00 to CWF.
- 6.07 Diman Smith thanked everyone for their support of the Resolution.
- 6.08 The National Comedy Center in Jamestown will be hosting the Walk-a-Thon on April 13. If you come Diman Smith will give you a tour of the barns at Constance.
- 6.09 V/C DeAngelis announced that he will be running for V/C 2& 10.
- 6.10 Squadron #1700 donates \$150.00 to CWF.
- 6.11 Squadron #1520 donates \$2000.00 to NEF.
- 6.12 Squadron #1520 donates \$1000.00 to CWF.
- 6.13 Tom Smallcomb noted that it was a bad year for him last year, with his wife passing away. He thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers.
- 6.14 Bill Ryan announced that he is running for Historian.
- 6.15 We collected \$131.00 for “DOC”s polar plunge challenge that should bring him up over \$500.00 which will give him 100% of what he was looking for.
- 6.16 The PR Committee would like to thank all those who helped make the PR table great again this year.
- 6.17 The SALute band thanked everyone and stated that it was fun. They donated all the donations (\$201.00) to the CWF.
- 6.18 PDC Ruthven stated that the American Legion Family Collage will take place in Morrisonville May 31 – June 2. Please encourage others to attend.
- 6.19 Kings County Sons donated \$1000.00 to the CWF.
- 6.20 Jim Parks announced he is running for V/C 7&8.
- 6.21 Americanism Chairman Daley reminded all the District Commanders to pick up their respective boxes in the back of the room.
- 6.22 Dale Kane thanked everyone for their support as he was battling cancer. He stated that he is cancer free now. He then announced that he was running for Chaplain.
- 6.23 National V/C Cotton thanked us for our hospitality. As far as leadership goes remember to train your replacement.

**6.24 Leading Candidate for National V/C Nelson thanked us for our hospitality and for stepping up, you are doing great work.**

**With no further business to be brought before the Detachment Executive Committee,**

- Commander Coates requested that Chaplain Parks offer the closing prayer
- Master Sergeant at Arms retrieved the POW/MIA flag
- Sheley B. Parish Squadron #457 color guard retrieved the colors.

**Detachment Commander Coates declared the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York adjourned.**