

Sons of The American Legion - Detachment of New York

Minutes of the Mid-Winter D.E.C. Meeting

January 25-26, 2020 Red Lion Hotel Colonie, New York

Saturday - January 25, 2020

- Commander Dennis George called the Meeting to order at 8:37 AM.
 - Oneida County Color Guard posted colors.
 - The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Falco.
 - Commander Dennis George recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
 - Chaplain Dale Kane offered the Opening Prayer.
 - V/C James Parks led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance.
 - V/C Peter DeAngelis led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble.
 - Adjutant Raymond Jarvis took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present.
 - Guest: Leading Candidate for National V/C East Richard Huntley (ME)
-
- **A motion was made by Historian Timothy Van Patten to approve the Commander's appointments of J. Bruce Ruthven as acting Judge Advocate for the meeting and John Knapp for the completion of the ANEC term left vacant due to the passing of Joseph Santa Croce. The motion was seconded by 4th District Commander Herman Downer and carried.**

1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 Commander George entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the Fall DEC Meeting as printed. The motion was made by V/C Wayne Ainslie, seconded by 3rd District Commander William Baker and carried.

2.00 COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS

- 2.01 **Internal Affairs Chairman Dean Williamson** had nothing new to report and called forward the following Chairmen:

Membership Chairman Daryl Verstrete reported that the new address for HQ has caused a few minor issues but it has been mostly resolved and Squadrons are transmitting to the appropriate address. We are at 18,831 members which is 61.6% of goal. It is not reflected in the report due to processing problems at National HQ. Our goal for last year was 29,958 and we ended up at 30,186 for 2019. Our Detachment has the most Squadrons in the Nation with 410. The 100% Membership Award by January 15th were presented: Kings Co.: Sqd. #1833; Richmond Co.: Sqd. #277; Fulton Co.: Sqd. #137; Saratoga Co.: Sqd. #533; Delaware Co.: Sqd. #289; Erie Co.: Sqd. #1041; Niagara Co.: Sqd. #264; Dutchess Co.: Sqd. #178; Orange Co.: Sqd. #151 and Sqd. #1308; Suffolk Co.: Sqd. #185, Sqd. #924, Sqd. #1146, Sqd. #1533, Sqd. #1634 and Sqd. #1839.

Member Training & Development Chairman Gaither Espey reported that 19 members participated in the Leadership Workshop this year. The following graduates were presented Certificates: Christopher M. Decker, Robert W. McCormick, Daniel L. Pineman, Daniel J. Mahaney, Steven Shutts, Raymond Wood, Edward Hooke, Richard Perras, Fred Gaylord, Steve Geleta, Tim Collins, Dustin Clark, David Stoddard, Tyler Mills, Doug Engle, Sean Ahearn, Ryan Tebo, Douglas Martin and Daniel Garbera. It is hoped that these members take this information back home with them and use the knowledge to help their squadrons.

Chairman Dean Williamson reminded the members that we will be holding the CWF Golf Tourney at Convention this year on July 15th. Conventions & Meetings Chairman Smallcomb and Member Training & Development Chairman Espey will report tomorrow.

A motion made by 3rd District Commander William Baker and seconded by 6th District Commander Anthony Grigas to accept the reports was carried.

- 2.02 **Americanism Chairman Daly's** report was read by V/C Parks. Chairman Daly thanked all the members on his Commission for their dedication and hard work. Each District Commander or representative was requested to pick up their box of materials to distribute to the Squadrons which included: 4" x 6" Flags, Flag and Pledge of Allegiance Comic Books, a Flag etiquette brochure, a Flag education script for

elementary students, and information on the Cerullo Scholarship and the Essay Contests for grades 1-5 (What America means to me) and grades 6-8 (select a topic that includes the Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence and the Constitution). Submissions for the Cerullo Scholarship are due April 30th, and for the Essay Contests it is April 15th. Members were urged to send in applications to attend The American Legion Family College from June 5th-7th. There are 100 slots available. Boys State is a great program of The American Legion which will take place at SUNY Morrisville from June 28th – July 3rd. Please consider sponsoring a boy to attend. January is the start of registration for American Legion Baseball which has been a program since 1925 and has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. Your support for the program is greatly appreciated. As we move towards Spring, please start working on your Consolidated Reports. Please get the word out to the Squadrons so they may prepare. February is Americanism month. President Reagan once said "...freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was like in the United States when we were free". Let's promote patriotic ideals to our youth so the American Dream never dies.

A motion made by 3rd District Commander William Baker and seconded by 6th District Commander Anthony Grigas to accept the Americanism report was carried.

- 2.03 **Children & Youth Chairman William Clancy** reported. Everything we do in support of our youth is great for all concerned. It brings positive energy, great public relations, members, and younger veterans. This year the Commission is promoting a Legion Family Play Day which is an open house at your Post Home. The entire community can be invited and it can include interactive games and exposing them to what our organization is about such as how to fold a Flag, etc. Our total donations to CWF from New York were over \$54,000 last year and it would be great to keep this going this year as well. We need to educate the members on the program and a poster will be made available. Nationally, the slogan for the year is "we will be fine when we pass 9". That would be \$9 million in SAL donations to the Fund. Here in New York our goal is to raise \$40,500 and each Squadron in the State is being asked to hold a CWF fundraiser. Don't forget to publicize your event. The Commission has developed a large 3 ft. x 4 ft. banner at approximately \$90 per sign. These should be placed in high visibility areas and put up in the Spring. This will help draw the attention in the local community and support for the program. The National level is producing a radio ad on CWF and hopes to go past \$1.35 per member in donations. PNC Gibbs spoke briefly and thanked the Detachment for their fantastic donations last year which put us at number one overall. April is Children & Youth month so please participate! CWF coins are still available, and piggy banks and aprons can also be ordered.

A motion made by NEC John Chang and seconded by 3rd District Commander William Baker to accept the Children & Youth report was carried.

- 2.04 **Consultant Robert Neville** gave his regards to David Lee on the passing of his dad and asked the members to keep David Downey in their prayers. He thanked us for everything we do in support of The American Legion. PNVC James Troiola was introduced and he then introduced National A.L. Commander Candidate Randall Fisher (KY) for his remarks.
- 2.05 **VA & R Chairman Gabe Cinguegrana** reported:
The Commission held 3 Conference calls during the last 4 months. Thanks to members Dave Bishop, Diman Smith, Dale Kane, Bill Baker, and Bob Cox. Also, thanks to Jim Coates, National VE&E Commission member who has been embedded on our VA&R Commission to provide a conduit for important information from VE&E. On Friday 1/24 we presented \$2,500 to Albany Fisher House as our annual contribution. It was much appreciated, and we know it will be put to good use. Thanks to Diman for his article for the Mid-Winter Liberty. We will continue to publish articles in upcoming Newsletters as well as the Facebook VA&R page. We continue to encourage District Commanders to recruit members to serve as VAVS Representatives or Deputies at your nearest VA Facility. Minimum requirement is to attend Quarterly meetings, which are important to gain information on VA needs, as well as what Sons can do for Veterans. Contact Gabe if anyone is interested in serving. We also encourage SAL members in general to become a volunteer at their local VA. The National VA&R Commission has been part of a

review team for the last year to simplify the consolidated report. VA&R has now been reduced to 6 activity lines to report your VA&R hours and donations, from what used to be 20. In addition, a VE&E line has been added, which should be used to report time and funds expended at such activities as Job Fairs, Stand Downs, Welcome Home, and other Reintegration events. Walk-A-Thon 2020 is now officially scheduled for April 18. This year the program will include the Sons, Auxiliary, and Legion Riders, with our goal being \$50,000. All proceeds will be divided equally to support the VA Medical Centers and Veteran Homes in NYS, Stop Soldier Suicide, and OCW. All forms and documents are on the Website, with a link on the Homepage. Make all payments payable to the Detachment of NY Sons, memo line Walk-A-Thon, and submit to the Department of NY by May 22. We are proud to have a Detachment member, Jim Coates, sitting as Vice Chairman of the National VE&E Commission, and part of our VA&R group. VE&E is all about finding assistance for homeless or financially strapped Veterans, helping to direct them to services that are available to them, and helping them integrate and find support in the Community. This is accomplished in many ways, including participation by Sons in Job Fairs, Welcome Home events, information sessions at Posts, etc. The VA&R Commission is very pleased to introduce the Joseph L. Santa Croce Service to Veterans Award. This award is to be given annually to the member of the Sons who has been nominated for their outstanding support to Veterans throughout the year. An engraved plaque will be awarded at the State Convention, and all nominations will be considered for advancement to be nominated for the National Charles Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award. All particulars of the Award and process will be available on the Detachment Website.

A motion made by Historian Timothy Van Patten and seconded by 3rd District Commander William Baker to accept the VA & R report was carried.

- 2.06 **Legislative Chairman Gary Denmon** reported:
Good morning Commander and members. The Legislative committee was to meet last night at 7 pm. Since I was doing the leadership meeting the members had a brief discussion prior. We currently don't have any information on the Legion priorities legislatively, which is not unusual. The Albany Hill Days are February 24th – 25th. Washington Conference is March 8th – 11th. I will be making appointments with the congressional representatives for those that are going to Washington. There are 4 people that are authorized to attend. They are the Commander, Adjutant, NEC and Legislative Chairman. If there are others that plan to attend, please let me know and I can make appointments for you also. The Commander has chosen to lay his wreath at the WWII monument again this year we will be coordinating with the Department to lay wreaths as a family on Monday.

A motion made by V/C Wayne Ainslie and seconded by V/C James Parks to accept the Legislative report was carried.

- 2.07 **Historian Timothy Van Patten** reported. He thanked PNC Gibbs and the Detachment for their support last year as National Historian. He attended the National Convention in Indianapolis and wrapped up his duties. It was a pleasure to attend the National A.L. Commander's visit to the 8th District and he thanked Commander George for providing him with photos, news clippings, and other historical documents for inclusion into this year's history book.

A motion made by Historian Timothy Van Patten and seconded by 8th District Commander Ron Kuczynski to accept the VA & R report was carried.

- 2.08 **Chaplain Dale Kane** reported:
He attended the D.E.C. meeting in Rome on Nov 15-16, 2019 at the Oriskany Post #1448; sent a sympathy card to Marvin Mays wife, 11-17-2019; sent a get well card to Judge Advocate David Downey, 11-19-2019; sent flowers and sympathy card to the family of Linda Tome's mother 11-1-2019; attended the benefit for Past Detachment Commander Jeff Jordan in Belmont, 11-23-2019; sent a sympathy card to the family of Ralph Brown, 11-25-2019; sent a sympathy card to Past National and Detachment Commander Chris Cerullo for the loss of his brother, 11-25-2019; sent a get well card to William Ryan, 12-02-2019; sent a sympathy card to the family of Past Detachment Commander Joe Santa Croce, 12-07-2019; sent flowers for Past Detachment Commander Santa Croce, 12-09-2019; attended the memorial and funeral

service for Past Detachment Commander Joe Santa Croce, 12-10-11-2019; sent a get well card to Pam Gibbs, 12-12-2019; sent a get well card to Thomas Mills, 12-12-2019; sent a sympathy card to the family of Past Department President Karyn Porempski, 12-14-2019; helped deliver fruit baskets with Post #702 to Veterans in nursing homes, 12-21-2019; sent a sympathy card to the family of Anne Rounds, 12-26-2019; sent a sympathy card to the family of Harvey Reed, 12-26-2019; sent a sympathy card to the family of Thomas Farrell, 01-07-2020; attended 22 memorial veteran memorial services in 2019.

A motion made by Chaplain Dale Kane and seconded by 8th District Commander Ron Kuczenski to accept the Chaplain's report was carried.

- 2.09 **Acting Judge Advocate J. Bruce Ruthven** reported that the Judge Advocate's office has not received any amendments. The changes are "automatic" regarding the preamble and eligibility change from National and Squadrons do not need to amend their constitution and by-laws. They will need to amend them if there is a specific dollar amount for dues in their document. This will need to be done to comply with the new National dues increase.

A motion made by 5th District Commander Shaun Mills and seconded by Historian Timothy Van Patten to accept the Judge Advocate report was carried.

- 2.10 **V/C Peter DeAngelis, Jr.** reported:

It was nice to see everyone since our last meeting in Oriskany. Since then I've been very busy with our Bingo program in Kings County getting many donations from various post to be able to continue the program. We held a Thanksgiving bingo for them on Thursday, November 21 with lots of Italian cookies and pies and gave away some extra canteen books that evening. I also attended on Friday December 6th McFadden Brothers Post 1380 toys for tots fundraiser. Sadly, that week we also lost a Past Detachment Commander Joe Santa Croce. I want to thank everyone who traveled long distances to attend his wake ceremony and mass, especially our Detachment Chaplain who assisted me in the ceremony. On Saturday, December 14th I had my own toys for tots fundraiser which the Marines who attended said that it was the biggest one they attended that month. We really had them use our muscle to get those doors on that van closed it was stuffed with toys from top to bottom. On Wednesday, December 18th we had our Kings County American Legion Christmas party and meeting where we had almost every post in the county attend. On January 1st I hosted our Michael Rawley Post 1636 annual New Year's Day party for our veterans and their guests and had 80 people in attendance. Membership in Districts 2 and 10 is doing very well, with both areas at about 50%. I continue to push mySal.org membership where you could pay your squadron dues online. I have been using it and love it and I recommend it to every squadron. In closing wishing you all a happy new year and looking forward to another successful year and looking forward to our convention in Binghamton this summer.

A motion made by V/C Peter DeAngelis and seconded by 3rd District Commander William Baker to accept the report was carried.

- 2.11 **V/C James Williams** reported:

Districts 3 and 4 are participating in toys for tots and gathering canned goods for local food banks across the Districts. Squadrons are also helping at the local VA and Veterans House for men in Ballston Spa and the Guardians House for our women Veterans. Every year Mohawk Squadron 1450 also my Squadron held a Christmas party and a \$50 gift card for all residents. On December 14th I attended Wreaths across America ceremonies at Gerald B.H. Solmon Saratoga National Cemetery with over 13,000 wreaths placed on a rainy day with over 600 volunteers. Legion Post 490 in Stillwater is serving breakfast. The 4th District is donating \$500.00 to the Legion Post 490 for wreaths. Legion Riders from local post Hudson Falls 574 and 1644 from Frog Island. On January 11th the 4th District American Legion Oratorical Contest was held at Chazy High School with 6 participants. The 4th District meeting for January 12th in Plattsburgh was canceled due to bad weather forecasted.

A motion made by V/C James Williams and seconded by NEC John Chang to accept the report was carried.

2.12 **V/C Wayne Ainslie** reported
Since my last report at the Fall DEC meeting in November, life in Districts 5 and 6 has been quiet seeing as all our visitations take place in October. The membership breakdown as of the January 22nd report are: 5th District at 56.93% and 4,162 paid towards their goal of 7,311. Squadron #890 in Oneida County is at 100%. There are 13 Squadrons out of the 66 that are at 0%. In the 6th District membership stands at 50.95% with 1,798 paid members for their goal of 3,511. Squadron 2898 in Delaware County is at 100%. There are 12 Squadrons out of the 58 that are at 0%. Districts 5 and 6 comprise over one third of all members in the State. I am looking forward to National A.L. Commander Oxford's visit to the 5th District on April 15th. In closing, please remember that we are here to support all the various programs of The American Legion and to assist our servicemembers and veterans.

A motion made by V/C Wayne Ainslie and seconded by 6th District Commander Anthony Grigas to accept the report was carried.

2.13 **V/C James Parks** reported that Visitations will be starting up on January 30th in the 7th District and then onward to District 8. We need to continue in our membership drive. Both Districts need to do better in that regard, citing the figures from the latest report. Squadrons are also reminded to do a better job in reporting by use of the Consolidated Report.

A motion made by V/C James Parks and seconded by 8th District Commander Ron Kuczenski to accept the report was carried.

2.14 **NEC John Chang** introduced the **Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander East Richard Huntley** from the Detachment of Maine who spoke briefly. He really enjoyed the Commander's Rally last evening and thanked New York for the invitation.

2.15 **Adjutant Raymond Jarvis** has a few extra tickets available for the Auxiliary Luncheon and the Department Dinner.

2.16 **Finance Commission member Ross Polson** reminded everyone to get their voucher turned in.

2.17 **PNC Greg "Doc" Gibbs** thanked New York for all their support last year as National Commander. Nationwide, donations of hours and dollars was fantastic, and we reached 101.7% with an all-time record number of new members brought in.

At 10:35 AM Commander Dennis George called the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York in recess until 8:30 AM tomorrow.

Sunday - January 26, 2020

- Chaplain Dale Kane offered the Opening Prayer
- V/C Joseph Guidice led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- Commander Dennis George called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM
- Adjutant Raymond Jarvis took Roll call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guest: Leading Candidate for National V/C East Richard Huntley (ME)

2.18 **Commander Dennis George** asked the Sgt-at-Arms to bring forward **National Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp** and **Department Auxiliary President Linda Tomes** to the podium. President Clapp has been in the Auxiliary since she was 4 years old and served as the National Honorary Junior President at the age of 16. She spoke on the book Adaptive Sports for disabled veterans and the 100-year anniversary The American Legion Auxiliary which is this year. She wished us all well.

Department President Linda Tomes thanked us all for our work supporting the military and veterans, she is looking forward to this year's Walk-a-Thon.

2.19 **V/C Joseph Guidice** reported:

Membership in the 1st and 9th Districts is picking up since my last report with the 9th Ninth District in first place and the 1st District holding in 5th place as of the December membership reports. Our squadrons are working hard to meet their goals and many of them have been transitioning to the new online transmittal system. One of the issues that have come to my attention though is that there seems to be a delay in the dues being processed by National and the information being transmitted back to the Detachment. I have received calls from squadrons asking why their records reflect higher numbers than what is posted in the membership reports on the Detachment website. This is not, I believe an issue with our Detachment or membership committee but maybe only one of the “bugs” to be worked out of a new system. I would urge any Squadrons or Districts experiencing the same sort of issues to be patient, but also to notify their district membership chairman with a quick email.

Since my last report I have participated in a few events close to home. I December 9th District Commander Mike Jacobs and I attended a Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony held on December 7th and hosted and run by New Windsor Squadron 1796. The ceremony was very poignant and well attended. The squadron hosted a breakfast prior to the service and afterwards a lunch. All the veterans in attendance also received a commemorative coin marking the event. Squadron 1796 Commander Robert McCormick also serves as a Ninth District Vice Commander and he is here with us today for the first time attending the Mid-winter Conference and he attended the Leadership workshop last night. 1796 is a very active and solid squadron in Orange County due to his leadership. This past December my home post and squadron hosted a fantastic Holiday party for about forty-five veterans from the Montrose VA Medical Center. In addition to an excellent meal each veteran left with a bag stuffed with gifts, but the highlight of the event was a performance by a vocal group called the American Bombshells. I was able to engineer the sound for the concert and the show those ladies put on was simply excellent. I was also privileged to be asked to help with the Rockland County and 9th District Oratorical Contests, serving as a timekeeper for both.

In closing, I would like to personally thank those of you who extended your congratulations and well wishes on my recent retirement and I want to thank my friend and mentor Past Commander John Chang who took the time out of his day to attend my retirement “walkout” ceremony. I was surprised and honored by his presence that day and it only served to make the day more memorable.

A motion made by V/C Joseph Guidice and seconded by NEC John Chang to accept the report was carried.

2.20 **Public Relations Chairman Joseph Guidice** reported:

As you know, we are continuing our Public Relations table at the Desmond this year. The table will be a little different this year as we are attempting to educate Legionnaires and Legion Posts on the value of adding a Squadron to their posts and also reaching those posts that have underperforming squadrons to help them forge a stronger partnership with their squadrons. To this end I will repeat what I feel needs to be the motto, if not the mantra of a PR strategy. Good Public Relations equals Good Membership and Good Membership equals Good Public Relations. We cannot stress this enough at every level of The Sons of The American Legion. Again, I want to stress that EVERY Sons member is a member of the Public Relations Commission in his own way. We the members are the very best and most effective tool that we must promote and grow not just our membership but the programs that we support with the American Legion and the local causes that we support at home in our communities. To that end, again I am asking that all of you share your successes with us by submitting photos and brief write-ups for publication in The Liberty and go one step further and send a quick press release to your local media outlets. I would suggest that your post leadership approve your press release, but I doubt that highlighting your success and the success of the post will be an issue for you.

I would also like to repeat my request that all Detachment Officers, District Commanders and Commission and Committee chairmen submit ONE article for the year for publication in The Liberty. Anyone else wishing to submit an article on your area of expertise or on any topic you feel would be of interest to our members is welcome to do so as well. Having a large body of material to choose from will make our newsletter easy to prepare and will showcase many different ideas and perspectives from a vast pool of knowledge and expertise from across the Detachment. The latest issue of The Liberty is late right now because we haven’t received very much in the way of content from across the Detachment. Let’s reverse this for our next issue which will be out soon after this conference.

In closing, I would like to thank those of you who have contributed photos and articles already and especially thank those of you who have volunteered to help at the PR table at the Desmond.

A motion made by V/C Joseph Guidice and seconded by 4th District Commander Herman Downer to accept the report was carried.

2.21 **Member Training & Development Chairman Gaither Espey** reported:

After our D.E.C. Meeting Saturday, 2 breakout sessions were held over at the Desmond. At 1PM we had a Membership power-point presentation on mysal.org. With a full room, the presentation went step by step on the set-up of mysal.org and all the different functions you can do. This was very well received by the members in attendance. Hopefully more squadrons will start using this feature and start paying online. Saves on stamps and time, plus your paid members are posted within 2 business days. Thank you Membership Chair Daryl and 5th District Commander Shaun Mills for putting this together and presenting it. At 2 PM was a power-point presentation on the Consolidated Report. Myself (filling in for Jim Daly) Americanism, Bill Clancy Chairman Children & Youth and Gabe Cinquegrana VA&R Chairman went down the consolidated report line by line explaining what was to be reported on each line. We are hoping this presentation will help squadrons fill this important report out. Thank you to everyone who attended one or all of the workshops/seminars. We hope the information you received will help you and your squadron be successful. Thank you to all the facilitators for taking the time to help get information out to our membership.

A motion made by V/C Joseph Guidice and seconded by 5th District Commander Shaun Mills to accept the report was carried.

2.22 **Conventions and Meetings Chairman Thomas Smallcomb** reported that our upcoming Convention is in Binghamton from July 15th – 18th and our lodging and meetings will take place at the Baymont Hotel in Johnson City. Room rates are \$115 / night. Housing forms and CWF Golf Tourney applications are available.

A motion made by 3rd District Commander William Baker and seconded by 6th District Commander Anthony Grigas to accept the report was carried.

2.23 **Finance Commission member Michael Rowald** reported. The Commission met last evening and reviewed the year to date figures. They will be working on developing next year's budget. Regarding vouchers, if you are unsure of what goes under the "committee" column on the voucher please leave it blank.

A motion made by V/C James Williams and seconded by Historian Timothy Van Patten to accept the report was carried.

2.24 **NEC John Chang** reported:

Since our last Fall DEC Meeting in Oriskany, New York, in November 2019 I have been busy with activities during the Holiday Season. On December 6th, 2019, I attended the Retirement Walk Through of Vice Commander 1 & 9 Joe Guidice, at the Rockland County Sheriff's Department. It was an honor to recognize Joe on his 30+ years of service to the Sheriff's Department. Many of his friends, family, and Legion Family were in attendance. On Sunday December 15th, 2019, Kim Lau Post 1291 had it's Christmas Luncheon. Lunch was served by the Sons and Auxiliary. There were toys for the Children attending. On Friday January 17th, 2020, I attended my VFW Post 200 in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. annual Holiday Dinner Party. It was a great time for all that attended. On Saturday January 18th, 2020, I attended the Kim Lau Squadron 1291 first meeting of the year. We had a great turn out and we had Chinese Take Out delivered to the Post for lunch. A committee was formed to raise money for the Post's 75th anniversary this coming June 2020. Also discussed were plans to honor the families receiving the "Congressional Gold Medal for the Chinese Veterans of WW2". Just a reminder, we have the National Vice Commander East, Gary Nelson's Homecoming on April 14th, 2020 at the Crystal Bay Yacht Club in Point Pleasant, New Jersey. Let's get as many members from our Detachment to honor Gary for the great job he has done representing the East! We have our National Commander, Clint Bolt's Homecoming on Friday April 17th, 2020 at the Norfolk Waterside Sheraton Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia. Let's get as many members from our Detachment to honor Clint for the outstanding job he has done for the Sons this year.

National SAL Commission and Committee Appointment Recommendations are due at National by March 31, 2020. Not for sitting Commission members whose term has not ended. Commission members appointments are valid for 3 years. Committee members appointments are valid for 1 year. Thank you for your support.

A motion made by V/C James Williams and seconded by Historian Timothy Van Patten to accept the report was carried.

- 2.25 **Master Sgt-at-Arms Greg Falco** presented \$135 in fines collected this weekend. He also had a personal donation of \$100 to the Commander's project. He thanked Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Riley Downer for filling in at the Fall meeting in Oriskany.

A motion made by Historian Timothy Van Patten and seconded by V/C Joseph Guidice to accept the report was carried.

- 2.26 **Adjutant Raymond Jarvis** reported that there had been 2 electronic votes by the Executive Committee which both passed which was the reinstatement of the Communications Ad-Hoc Committee and approval of the Membership Incentive Award. May 16th will be the Joint Department Visitation at Vernon Downs and he also noted the upcoming visitations by the National A.L. Commander. Our newly appointed Advisor is Carl Griffith. Maurice Arthur needed to resign over health issues. We wish him the best.

A motion made by NEC John Chang and seconded by 6th District Commander Anthony Grigas to accept the report was carried.

- 2.27 **Commander Dennis George** spoke, noting his full report is covered in his article in the just released Liberty. He thanked all members for attending, and for the good reports, and he looks forward to visiting the remaining counties after Mid-Winter. He thanked the 5th District for FB postings of his travels.

A motion made by 3rd District Commander William Baker and seconded by V/C James Williams to accept the report was carried.

- 2.28 **A motion made by 4th District Commander Herman Downer and seconded by 5th District Commander Shaun Mills to accept the pre-submitted District reports was carried.**

3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

- 3.01 **Commander Dennis George** spoke on Jim Daly's illness and the passing of David Lee's father. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

- 5.01 **Historian Timothy Van Patten made a motion for the Detachment to donate \$100 in the name of Glenn Butler (David Lee's father) to the "Gift to the Yanks" program he was involved in. The motion was seconded by 5th District Commander Shaun Mills and carried.**

- 5.02 **Commanders Advisory Chairman Coates** reported that Commander Dennis is doing a fantastic job!
A motion made by V/C James Parks and seconded by 5th District Commander Shaun Mills to accept the report was carried.

- 5.03 **A motion was made by Historian Dale Kane to approve the "Joseph L. Santa Croce Service to Veterans Award" as submitted by the VA & R Commission. The motion was seconded by 4th District Commander Herman Downer and carried.**

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 6.01 **Timothy Van Patten** announced his candidacy for Detachment Commander in 2021-2022, and for Detachment Historian next year.
- 6.02 **Adjutant Jarvis** read a letter from PDC John Knapp announcing his candidacy for NEC to be elected this coming Convention.
- 6.03 **Dale Kane** announced his candidacy for Detachment Chaplain 2020-2021.
- 6.04 **J. Bruce Ruthven**, Assistant Dean at Department Legion College, reminded members that the College will be taking place June 4th – 6th at SUNY Morrisville and we need more SONS to attend. We now have approximately 10-15 attending and would like to see that grow to 25. Applications are on the Department website and the deadline is March 31st.
- 6.05 **J. Bruce Ruthven** announced his candidacy for ANEC to be elected this coming Convention.
- 6.06 **PNC Christopher Cerullo** spoke on the need for our Detachment to reserve a slot for future National Vice Commander East. **After discussion, a motion was made by Historian Timothy Van Patten and seconded by 4th District Commander Herman Downer to reserve the next National Vice Commander East slot for PDC John Chang. The motion was carried.**
- 6.07 **PNC Christopher Cerullo** noted that our donation towards the new Department HQ in Troy will go towards 3 new flagpoles along with a commemorative plaque with the names of the Detachment Commander and PNC's Cerullo and Gibbs.
- 6.08 **V/C Joseph Guidice** presented a \$250 check for CWF from Squadron #130 and announced he is running for Detachment Vice Commander 2020-2021.
- 6.09 **V/C Peter DeAngelis** announced he is running for Detachment Vice Commander in 2020-2021.
- 6.10 **V/C James Williams** announced he is running for Detachment Vice Commander in 2020-2021.
- 6.11 **5th District Commander Shaun Mills** announced he is running for Detachment Vice Commander in 2020-2021.
- 6.12 **V/C James Parks** announced he is running for Detachment Vice Commander in 2020-2021.
- 6.13 **The 4th District V/C** presented a \$500 check for CWF from Hudson Falls Squadron #574.
- 6.14 **4th District Commander Herman Downer** presented a \$250 check for CWF from the 4th District.
- 6.15 **Robert Myrtle** presented a \$100 check for CWF from the 3rd District.
- 6.16 **Joseph Zaloga Squadron #1520** presented a \$3,000 check for CWF.
- 6.17 **PDC Thomas Smallcomb** thanked Past Detachment Adjutant Robert Avery for his many years of service.
- 6.18 **Asst. Adjutant Christopher Burtch** suggested we may want to consider having an Adjutant's School At next year's Mid-Winter.
- 6.19 **Oriskany Squadron #1448** presented a \$100 check to NEF and a \$144 check to CWF.
- 6.20 **Diman Phillips** indicated that the Squadron Everlasting Resolution is still in the works and is going through Department. Chautauqua County is holding their Walk-a-Thon on April 18th.
- 6.21 **Historian Dale Kane** thanked Administrative Assistant Robert Avery for all his assistance this year.
- 6.22 **National V/C Candidate Richard Huntley** thanked the members for a great and informative weekend.

6.23 **Commander Dennis George** announced we had brought in a total of \$4,444 in donations this Mid-Winter.

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

- Commander Dennis George requested that Chaplain Kane offer the closing prayer
- The Master Sergeant-at-Arms retrieved the POW/MIA flag
- Oneida County Color Guard retrieved colors.

Detachment Commander Dennis George declared the Executive Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York adjourned.

Submitted 02/07/20



Robert J. Avery
Detachment Administrative Assistant NY



Raymond J. Jarvis
Detachment Adjutant NY