

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

January 23-24, 2016

The Radisson 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 SantaCroce recited the POW/MIA Ceremony
- Chaplain Ellis offered the Opening Prayer
- V/C DeAngelis led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- V/C Bosford led the membership in the reciting of the Preamble
- Commander SantaCroce called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM
- Adjutant Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guests present included: National V/C East William Hill (MD), and leading Candidate for National V/C East Joe Korba (NJ)
- **Motion by NEC Denmon to appoint Seeley B. Parish Sq. #457 as the Detachment Color Guard, 2nd by ANEC Bishop and carried**
- **Resolution MW-DEC-01 Dedication of this Annual Mid-Winter DEC Conference in Memory of Albert Paviglianti was read by Internal Affairs Chairmen Williamson. Motion by NEC Denmon to accept the resolution, 2nd by Chaplain Ellis and carried.**

1.00 READING OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1.01 **Commander SantaCroce 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 Burtch and seconded by V/C Bosford, so carried.**

2.00 COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS

- Annie Wilsey Department Program Coordinator thanked the Sons for all of their hard work. It is paying off with her having to do less work when it comes to the membership cards. Liam Casey Sons Membership Coordinator congratulated us for hitting the 60% target date and for all the support we have given him.
- 2.01 Mid-Winter Coordinator, Mark Kearsing stated that Al Paviglianti was an asset to our organization and will be missed. He welcomed everyone to this year's Mid-Winter and is available if there are questions or problems that may arise. He stated the Hotel is now a Radisson and changes will occur. The hotel shuttles are a courtesy of the hotels so please be patient as they service the airports first. **A motion was made by V/C Burtch and seconded by Chaplain Ellis to accept the report, and it was carried.**
- 2.02 **Americanism Commission Chairman Myrtle.** In Order to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism a large segment of the Americanism Commission's efforts are channeled into education and citizenship programs for the leaders of tomorrow – America's youth. As a program of The American Legion, The Sons of The American Legion are encouraged to support these efforts. The Detachment of New York's Americanism Program this year is again distributing materials for the American Flag Education Program to each district to further distribute them to the counties within their districts. It is very important that this material reach as many squadrons as possible. Materials will include the following:
- 4" x 6" U.S. stick Flags to distribute at their functions throughout the year.
 - Pledge of Allegiance comic books
 - Pledge of Allegiance bookmarkers
 - Our Country's Flag comic books
 - "FOR WHICH IT STANDS" A DVD on Flag education
 - A scripted Flag Education Program for giving a presentation on the flag of our country
 - Essay contest for 1st thru 5th grades "What America means to me" (deadline April 19, 2016)
 - Essay contest for 6th thru 8th grades "What the Constitution of the United States means to Americans" (deadline April 19, 2016)
 - Scholarship – Cerullo Memorial Fund Scholarship open to all members of The American Legion Family in good standing within the rules of the scholarships \$500.00 (one new and three renewable awarded each year)

- Flag Lapel pins for all Boys attending Boys State.
- Information is available on our website (www.sonsdny.org) for anyone and can be accessed at any time.

These materials are in boxes for each District Commander to take back and distribute to the Squadrons within their counties. There are enough flags, and brochures for several flag education programs. The DVD's can be given to squadrons and be used in flag education. This has been a significant investment on the part of the Detachment so let's make it pay off by getting the materials out to squadrons throughout the state. Additional materials are available through Emblem Sales. We encourage all members in 9th thru 12th grade and less than 20 years old to participate in the American Legion Oratorical contest in their local post or county and continue to the different levels in district, zone, state or even the National level. Competing for a scholarship and always learning more about our Constitution. If you have never been to the Oratorical contest you are missing out on a true experience, these young American men and woman are on their way to a lifetime of service to our Country. Things that make us who we are upholding the constitutional right of others, protecting and preserving the civil rights and property of others, exercising our right to vote, protect our flag from desecration, supporting baseball, Boy Scouts, Boys State and Boys Nation, honoring and respecting our National holidays, remembering our fallen soldiers and veterans and give back to your community with service helping others. February has been designated as Americanism month to be observed annually by our Nation. Let us remember the words spoken by President John F. Kennedy "think not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country" Remember to encourage all squadrons to submit a consolidated report this year. Reporting all their activities and hours of service throughout the year...I'd like to thank David Perry for his photo that he sent into his local newspaper which reported our fifth grade winner of the "What America means to me" contest Maddison Crowley. Support our programs throughout the year and take part in something special this year bring a child along. At the Son's 44th National Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland our Detachment was honored with the privilege to receive the National Americanism Award, Sons of the Legion Best Squadron of 2015 Gerald Atwood, Edward Beyea & Raymond York Americanism Trophy. The winner of the award goes to the #1 squadron of the year: John B. Handle, Squadron 89 of Vestal, New York, and Broome County. This is a special award the highest for any squadron in our Americanism program and one that is given out for the memory of three fallen 1st responder's of the September 11th 2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. May we all help to keep their memory alive in our hearts.

A motion was made by V/C Coates and seconded by 2nd District Commander Rodriguez to accept the Americanism report, which was carried.

- 2.03 VA & R Commission Chairman Cox** reported he attended the Fall DEC Conference in Brooklyn where he met with other members of the VA&R Commission. We cleared up some loose ends left over from last year. We then started planning for this year. The main topic of discussion was the 2016 Walk-a-thon. The date for this year's walk will be April 16, 2016. As pointed out by Commander Joe, it can be very difficult to hold walks in certain areas due to local permitting procedures. We would like to encourage the groups in those areas, as well as others to try to raise funds by contacting companies in their area and requesting corporate donations to the walk effort. To assist with this there is a form letter available on the website (sonsny.org). It is in "Word" format so that you can download it and address it to local businesses. I would like to thank Gabe for updating the letter. It is the feeling of the Commission that if Squadrons and County organizations receive donations from five to ten businesses in their area we will raise a significant amount of money. We would still like to see as many walks as possible scheduled because of the visibility it gives our organization. I am currently attempting to set up a walk at, or near, Fort Drum in Watertown. I attended the 5th District Auxiliary Fall meeting. I talked to the Auxiliary members (including Department President Jan Mahoney) about the Walk-a-thon. We encourage the Sons to enlist the assistance of the Auxiliary in planning any of their efforts. Remind them that half of the money raised goes to the Auxiliary for their projects to assist veterans. I also made the same pitch to the 5th District Sons. During 5th District Visitations we visited two veteran's rehabilitation organizations. One of these is the Sitrin Health Care Center in Oneida County which offers both physical and mental rehabilitation to veterans. The Oneida County Sons actively support Sitrin. The other one is Clear Path for Veterans in Chittenango, NY. They also work to assist veterans with physical or mental rehabilitation. Neither of these groups receives government assistance. They depend upon donations from the public. On December 20th I was able to deliver a \$250.00 check from the 5th District Sons to Clear Path. I was able to spend twelve hours over three days working with the 5th District Auxiliary at the Holiday Gift Shop at the VA Hospital. I also helped out with the Christmas morning visitation to veterans at the Syracuse VA. I have been volunteering at the Syracuse VA 3 days a week (Total 12hrs/wk) and recently received my 2,500 hour pin from the VA. As usual, I encourage everyone to consider volunteering. Yesterday I was able to participate in a tour of the

Albany Fisher House with Commander Joe and others. We then presented the Fisher House with a check for \$2,500.00 from the Sons.

5th District Commander Cox made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by V/C Burtch to accept the VA&R, report was carried.

2.04 **Legislative Commission Chairman Gibbs** reported: Your Detachment Legislative Commission consists of: Greg "Doc" Gibbs, Chairman, and members, David Perry, Vince Green, Gary Denmon, Jeff Jordan, Gerry Shepard, Charlie Duffy and Ken Kraetzer. The Commission is busy planning for the March On-the-Hill visitation Days for both Albany and Washington, DC. Letters seeking appointments were mailed in early December and we will coordinate the visitation schedules (February 21-24 Washington, DC and February 29-March 1 Albany, NY). If you are contacting Congress yourself, besides your own local representative you may wish to be aware of these two national level Congressmen: Jeff Miller from Florida, who is the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Johnny Isakson from Georgia who is the Chairman of the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee. They both are key and deal with Legion issues on a daily basis. The New York State Senate Chairman for Veterans' Affairs is Thomas Croci and the Assembly Committee Chairman is Michael DenDekker. We will have a strong presence again at the legislative visitation opportunities this year and put forth a strong message for support for the SONS and Legion agendas. Our Commission remains in constant contact with Legionnaire Harvey McCagg the Department of NY Legislative Chairman as well as the Co-Chairman Bill Mahan. Our own David Lee also represents us at the SONS National Legislative level and remains a key player in all our Detachment efforts. The key issues will become prioritized soon and available to all at the national legion website (www.legion.org) under the Legislative Action section. The general focus, as per our National Legion Commander Dale Barnett, will be veteran's mental health, homelessness, improving the VA, national defense, and protecting the American flag. If you are planning to go to the On-the-Hill Days in Albany on February 29 - March 1, they immediately follow the DC Trip. Please contact your own County Legion team (Legion Commander or Legion Legislative Chairman from your home County). The Albany trip is organized through the Legion County Chairmen (not SAL). You sit by County at the Legislative breakfast and they need to know a count of attendees as well as provide you with the ability to purchase a breakfast ticket. You may be able to reserve a ticket for breakfast by calling the headquarters office in Albany. After the breakfast with the Legislators you travel up to the Office Building and visit with your local Congressmen and leave for home on your own schedule. We generally have a dozen or so Sons attend. If you are close to Albany it can be an easy trip for you. It is centered at the hotel on Lodge and State Streets and we walk up to the capitol from there. Plans are currently underway for (6) six Detachment members (Joseph SantaCroce, David Perry, Doc Gibbs, Dave Lee, Gary Denmon, Bruce Ruthven) to attend the DC visit in February. Not all those going receive compensation from the Detachment of NY, several are attending on their own. Commander SantaCroce will post the Detachment wreath at the World War II Memorial at that time.

A motion made by V/C Coates and seconded by V/C Burtch to accept the report, was carried.

2.05 **PDC Robert Neville** introduced The Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Charles Schmidt (OR). He stated that he brings greetings from the State of Oregon. He thanked us for all our hard work we do at our post, our communities, and for our Veterans. We need to carry the legacy forward; we all belong to a great organization. I am looking forward to working with the leading candidate of the Sons Jeff Frain (AZ).

2.06 **Commanders Advisory Chairman PDC Depo** stated that he had nothing to report as Commander SantaCroce is doing a great job this year.

2.07 **Public Relations/Webmaster Cinquegrana** reported that any member of the Sons is a member of the Public Relations Commission. Everything you do reflects on the organization. This year we will review all of our public relations tools which include our P.R. Manual and those things that are available to all our members on line. We will try to make things easier for you to be able to use all the PR tools. We are collecting toiletries for Catholic Charities of Albany County. We have a box here and at the Desmond. We are asking that we do something similar wherever we have a meeting so that we can leave our mark. We must let people know what we are doing like using our yearly accomplishment paper and publishing it like we are doing at the Desmond. We have been getting a lot of compliments. We are continuously updating and twerking the website to make it easier. If you are having a problem let us know. We also need news stories for the Liberty.

A motion was made by 8th District Commander Van Patten and seconded by 7th District Commander Rose to accept the report, was carried.

2.08 2nd District Commander Rodriquez reported that during the month of October he attended the Executive Committee Meeting at the Floyd Bennett Post. Dec 5th he attended the Kings County Oratorical contest with Commander SantaCroce and two contestants are heading for the zone competition. Dec 11th thru Dec 15th I attended the Kings County Sons Meeting at Post 1636. After the meeting I helped deliver and wrap approximately 340 gifts that were handed out to autistic children. I would like to thank the Kings County Sons for their fund raising efforts which helped buy the gifts. I received a report from Squadron #1296 on Staten Island which included newspaper clippings and pictures of them delivering 2,500 turkeys to needy families.

A motion was made by 2nd District Commander Rodriquez and seconded by V/C DeAngelis to accept the report, was carried.

2.09 3rd District acting Commander Gilluley reported due to surgery on his hip 3rd District Commander Paul McAndrews is unable to attend this meeting. Our squadrons are all working for the betterment of our organization: The Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion family. It is my hope that you have a productive mid-winter, please except my absent as I am recuperating. County Reports: Albany County: Squadron 1520, Zaloga Legion Post, the Squadron was very active attending all parades with their color guards, worked on Halloween and Christmas parties with the Legion family, had a fund raiser for Comfort Warriors and raised \$2,134.00, for the Veterans outreach program at the Veterans Administration Stratton Hospital they donated 10 new coats, hats and gloves sets, picking up 5 families with their Children for Christmas, with extra gifts for last minute children, spending \$1,444.00 wrapping and then delivering them to the hospital. They are presently working on their Commander Frank Aquado fund raiser for April 16th 2016. Squadron 977, Helderberg Legion Post, Squadron held two breakfasts at the Post, plowed and removed snow from the post throughout the year, sent a young man to Boys State, supplied presents for the community, gave the Legion Riders a check for their veterans fund raiser and brought a kitchen appliance for their post for total of \$1,525.00. Squadron 476, Edward T. Ruane Legion Post, Squadron was formed and they reinstated their Charter. With 19 members they are looking forward to growing and helping with The American Legion programs and projects and they held a roast beef dinner raising \$485.00 for their post building fund. Rensselaer County Squadron 471, Fort Crailo Legion Post, Squadron members hold positions in the Yankee Doodle Band. Squadron 1683, Gerald O' Neil Legion Post, Squadron held chicken parm dinner and raised \$1, 500.00 for Honor Flight and \$1,700.00 for the Toys for Tots program, donated at veterans canteen in the VA hospital, they have a Corn Beef & Cabbage dinner coming up in Feb 21st to raise money to help out Veterans. Squadron 1231, Melvin Roads Legion Post, Squadron donated for Christmas 102 winter coats, 46 pairs of gloves, 26 pairs of boots and 12 business suits to veterans, also donated 137 toys for tots, with their American Legion Auxiliary Unit they are holding a cabin fever party on Feb. 20th 2016 with a hillbilly theme, on Feb 12th and March 4th the Sons of Melvin Roads will host their Fish Fry Friday dinner. Squadron 1489, North Greenbush Memorial Post, Squadron has been very active and helped this past Thursday with the Rensselaer County Commanders Visitation. It is with great sadness we lost of a true icon to their squadron and Dual member of the American Legion on December 23rd 2015 Kenneth F. Governor passed away.....Rest in Peace our comrade until we meet again may God protect you. As a County we are raffling off a custom made fishing rod. Ulster County Squadron 111, Cook Taylor Legion Post, Squadron held coin drops throughout July and August, pancake breakfast, placed flags on graves for Memorial Day, did clean-up at the local cemetery, donated over 100 baskets of food items to senior citizens throughout their community, gave a \$500.00 scholarship to a senior in high school, they are actively working with the Boys Scouts and Veterans in community projects. Squadron 124, Viebey – Sutton Legion Post, Squadron Commander Tom Schroeder has informed the 3rd District that they are working to locate their membership cards and replacing the membership chairman so they can pay their dues and get back on board. Schoharie County Squadron 248, Timothy Murphy Legion Post, Squadron attended the Commanders Visitation in September. Third District Membership: with a goal of 1,582 members we have 926 traditional, 67 new and a grand total of 993 paid members or 62% of goal. Commanders Visitations Dinner are being held in Albany County on March 5th, Greene County March 6th, Columbia County on April 1st, Ulster County on April 2nd and Sullivan County on April 3rd The Third District will be holding their next meeting at White Stone Café in Columbia County on March 12th 2016
A motion made by NEC Denmon and seconded by V/C Burtch to accept the report, was carried.

2.10 5th District Commander Cox reported: I was able to attend the Commander's visitation to all six counties in the 5th District. The 5th District made a \$100.00 donation to the Commander's Project. Many of the

Squads and County Organizations also made donations to the Commander's Project. I have also been able to attend County meetings in both Oneida and Onondaga Counties. I also attended the 5th District Auxiliary Fall meeting. As mentioned, I was also able to attend the Fall DEC Conference in Brooklyn. While there we were able to visit the Firefighter's and Police Memorials at Coney Island. We then proceeded to Nathan's where most of us ate more than we should have. We held our October District meeting in Lowville (Lewis County) and the December Meeting in Carthage (Jefferson County). At the October meeting we voted to make a \$250.00 donation to Clear Path for Veterans. Clear Path was one of the stops on the Onondaga County visitation. They are an organization caring for Veterans in the Central NY area. One of their programs has vets trained service dogs. They also have a program that trains vets to work in the food service area (waiters, bartenders and even chefs). Additionally they hold free meals for vets and their families and supply therapy for the vets. They do not receive any governmental money but rely upon donations. They do work closely with the Syracuse VA. On a sad note, 5th District Legion Commander Crossett and I attended services for 6th District Commander Hodge's mother. I was able to spend twelve hours over three days working with the 5th District Auxiliary at the Holiday Gift Shop at the VA Hospital. I helped out with the Christmas morning visitation to veterans at the Syracuse VA. As far as membership, the 5th District is in third place in the state at 69.45%. So we hit the January 20, 2016 goal of 60%. We currently have two squads at 100% or better. Unfortunately we also have 9 squads at 0%. Although it was not strictly a Sons event, I would like to mention a project primarily carried out by some of the Sons in the Skaneateles Squadron, They held their second annual Veteran's Day Dinner to raise money for the CNY Hub of Honor Flight. They had approximately 275 people attending and raised over \$50,000 for Honor Flight.

A motion was made by 5th District Commander Cox to accept his report which was seconded by V/C Burtch and carried.

- 2.11 7th District Commander Rose** reported during the holiday months, the 7th District Sons were very busy. At the Bath and Canandaigua VA's, we wrapped and packaged items for shipment to family members of veterans as part of the District Auxiliary Holiday gift shop program. Under the guidance and coordination of Gabe Cinquegrana, escort service is provided to wheelchair bound veterans the 4th Sunday of each month by members in the district. On Christmas morning, Joe Cleveland, Colin McDaniel, along with other family members, drove from Hornell to the Canandaigua VA to assist Gabe with the escort service. Four to five times a year, the Williamson Legion Riders food box program provides fresh and perishable items to veterans-in-need living in Wayne County, which is my home county. For Christmas, Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders delivered 126 boxes of food and 18 50-gallon bags full of gifts to 31 veterans for a value totaling over \$4,000. Upcoming, we have Department visitations with four counties scheduled February 4th to 7th and four scheduled March 19th to the 2nd. On April 16th, there are two walk-a-thons planned – one at the Bath VA in Steuben County and one at the Canandaigua VA in Ontario County. April 30th is our annual Junior Bowling event for our younger Sons and Junior Auxiliary which will be held at Lakeside Lanes in Penn Yan. Our Welcome Home for veterans and their families is on May 21st at the Johnson Costello Post in Penn Yan. We are expecting attendance to be two to three hundred. May 21st is also National Sons Veterans Appreciation Day and Armed Forces Day. Following the welcome home, the next day is an event which we are very proud of – the 7th District Sons Flag Education and Retirement Ceremony. This annual ceremony brings the Legion family and community together learning about our flag's history, etiquette, and retirement. This year's ceremony will be held in Hornell, Steuben County on May 22nd with District 8 ready to strike. And finally, June 11th is our District Convention in Ovid.

A motion made by 7th District Commander Rose to accept his report was seconded by V/C Bosford and was carried.

- 2.12 8th District Commander/ Historian Van Patten** reported that 8th District Advisor Hewitt had passed away recently and will be missed as a great mentor and advisor. I attended the fall conference in Brooklyn and all went well. The 8th District held our district meeting in Batavia, while there we conducted a wreath laying ceremony and then visited with the veterans at the Batavia VA and handed out coupon books. A week later we visited the Buffalo VA Hospital and visited with the veterans and handed out coupon books. Next week we will start our visitations through the 8th District with our Department and Detachment officers.

A motion was made by 8th District Commander Van Patten which was 2nd by NEC Denmon to accept the report and was carried.

- 2.13 Stan Gerella from the Memorial Day Museum presented a plaque to the Detachment of New York for our donation to the museum of \$2,500.00 to help with the upkeep of the building that was built in 1830 and is now home to the Museum. V/C Coates made a motion to donate the plaque to the**

museum where it will be displayed for all to see. The motion was seconded by 7th District Commander Rose and carried.

- 2.14 4th District Commander Martel** reported that many Squadrons participated and helped their Posts with the Department/ Detachment Visitation lunches and dinners throughout the District. Squadron #83 handed out 300 flags during the Memorial Day parade. The Post has purchased Color Guard uniforms for the Sons that will participate with the Post Color Guard. Squadron #574 is still holding a monthly breakfast and a raffle to help the Post with their building insurance. Squadron #1450 held their annual lobster bake and donated all the proceeds to various charities. Squadron #701 handed out 900 turkey dinners for Christmas to the needy.

A motion was made by 8th District Commander Martel and seconded by 5th District Commander Cox to accept the report and it was carried.

- 2.15 9th District Commander Duffy** reported that we have a slate of officers for the District. We will start to get our communications together to help all of the Squadrons in the District. That is all I have to report at this time.

A motion was made by 9th District Commander Duffy and seconded by 8th District Commander Van Patten to accept the report was carried.

- 2.16 10th District Commander Connelly** reported the 10th District Sons of The American Legion are having a hard time organizing the Tenth District but that does not mean that our Sons are not out doing things on their squadron level. They just got done helping their Posts in Units with the busy holiday season either party for veterans or parties for children and our communities. But we always have Sons at all levels of our organization attending either County or District events. Many of our Sons are part of drill teams in assisting The Legion as the Legionnaires continued their services for fallen comrades. With the help from Chris Cerullo and Greg Falco we will see the District up and going one day.

A motion was made by 10th District Commander Connolly and seconded by ANEC Bishop to accept the report. The motion was carried.

- 2.17 Advisor Arthur** reported that he has the easiest job in The Legion with the Sons doing such a great job and are being so knowledgeable. I have found a new source of membership. While at a Legion meeting there was a young man approximately 35 years old. No one knew who he was. We asked him if he was a member and he stated that he was not. We asked him if he was eligible to be a member and he stated no but his father was in the service. There is a group called the young professionals in Rochester. There are about 800 of them. I am going to go to a couple of their meetings and see where it goes. He was there to see how their organization could help Veterans in the area.

- 2.18 Judge Advocate Downey** reported that when we wear the emblem of The Sons of The American Legion we are representing the American Legion. We must conduct ourselves with dignity. If you see someone acting in a bad way that will tarnish that image please say something. If you have sent in Constitution and Bylaws or changes to them and have not received an answer please resubmit them to me. We have had some issues that have now been resolved. The Legion is working on a way to correct the membership issue with the IRS. Just a note about Boys State, Boys State will be held the end of June this year. New York State has voted to give \$150,000 to the Boys State program which will help defray the cost of running the program. We are in need of new counselors if you are interested.

A motion made by V/C Burtch and seconded by V/C Coates to accept the report was carried.

- 2.19 Chaplain Ellis** reported that his work load has been light. He sent a card for Al Paviglianti who passed away and only two other cards. I have attended the wreath laying at the Batavia VA. Along with my fellow Squadron members we visited four Nursing's Homes and conducted six ceremonies with our Post.

A motion was made by Chaplain Ellis and seconded by V/C Bosford to accept the report which was carried.

- 2.20 NEC Denmon introduced leading candidate for National V/C East Joe Korba (NJ).** He thanked us for all that we are doing and stated that it will be an honor to serve and work with Jeff Frain. He is looking for our support at National Convention.

NEC Denmon introduced National V/C East Bill Hill (MD). He thanked us the invitation to be here this weekend. He brings greetings from National Commander Collier. He stated that we have R.O.C.K.E.D.

and are doing it right. I got the honor to visit your local Fisher House and the caretaker could not stop talking about the great job you are doing to help them. Your membership and your hospitality is great, keep up the good work.

Commander SantaCroce 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 24, 2012
The Radisson Hotel
Colonie, New York**

- Chaplain Ellis offered the Opening Prayer
- V/C Coates led the body in The Pledge of Allegiance
- Commander SantaCroce called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM
- Adjutant Avery took Roll Call, which indicated that a quorum was present
- Guests present included: National V/C East Bill Hill (MD), and Leading Candidate for National V/C East Joe Korba (NJ)

2.00 COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS (continued)

2.21 Auxiliary President Mahoney stated that as we all conclude our meetings, I hope that you get the same thing out of your meetings that our members are getting out of ours. She thanked us for our support of the Auxiliary programs and our Veterans. She then introduced **National Auxiliary President Conatser**. She spoke of her eligibility to be an Auxiliary member and about the members of her family that are members of The American Legion Family. She thanked us for all we do for the Auxiliary and our Veterans. She invited us to do a night tour of Washington D.C. and the monuments while at the Washington Conference. She also stated that we all need to help each other with membership.

2.22 Children & Youth Chairman Hodge reported; First of all, did you follow through with your “Beads of Courage”? If so.....I thank you. Also I would like to thank all of the Squadrons that donate to this great Organization. Remember it is our youth that will continue to help our organization stay strong. Hope everyone was able to pick up one of our disks to take back and share with the Legion Family. We had a great showing yesterday at our workshop. Full house, would like to thank Robert Myrtle and my members Wayne, Ted, Bob, Greg and Ike....Thank you. Also don't forget you can go on the Legion Web site to find all sorts of information on the programs to help our children and youth.
A motion was made by 6th District Commander Hodge and seconded by V/C Burtch to accept the report, which was carried.

2.24 Vice Commander 1/9 Clancy reported that looking back four years ago as I got involved in the Sons there was not a lot going on in the 1st and 9th Districts. Today the 9th District is up and running. Rockland and Orange are on their way. Westchester County is having meetings. Bronx County has had four meetings and is having their meetings at the same place as The Legion. We have made contact with Dutchess County and there is a lot of potential there. Putnam County only has two Squadrons so not much is happening there as far as a county organization. There are Sons in Manhattan (New York County), and we are trying to get a Squadron started in the New York Athletic Club.
A motion made by V/C Coates and seconded by Chaplain Ellis to accept the report, was carried.

2.25 Vice Commander 2/10 DeAngelis reported..... Starting with late October when we had our Detachment Fall Conference in Brooklyn. We had a successful and fun Fall Conference visiting the Coney Island 9/11 Memorial Wall and then a snack at famous Nathans Hot Dogs and a visit to Bay Ridge Post #157. It was a very busy holiday season during which I attended many events. In November I attended 2 visitations, Nassau County on November 7th and then the very next day attending the Suffolk County Visitation. On Veterans Day November 11th I joined many other veteran motorcycle groups in riding in the NYC Veterans Day parade followed by a memorial service held at the Viet Nam Memorial Plaza located downtown at 55 Water St. Then to an after party held at my Post back in Brooklyn.

For the next few weeks I attended many Toy Runs every weekend being our riding season which was extended this year by nice weather well into December. November 21st I attended a dinner honoring the 2 oldest members at my Post with my dad being one of them. It was a great night with family, friends and a few local politicians who presented the honorees with well-deserved citations. This Christmas season I was asked by the Brooklyn Marine Corps League Chapter 217 to be a Co-Chairman for their annual Toys for Tots drive. My Squadron and Rider Chapter collected over 1,000 toys for the program by placing Toy Box's at all American Legion Posts and many businesses in Kings County. We held several events with the Marine Corp League at different venues each week with food, beverages, raffles, DJ's and live music collecting a total of 250,000 in Brooklyn. On December 13th we had the grand finale escort bringing the toys in a convoy of military vehicles, motorcycle and classic cars from our temporary storage location to a warehouse located at Floyd Bennett Field with a block party style after party in Garretson. In Kings County we continue to do B.I.N.G.O. every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the Brooklyn V.A. Hospital. Membership is doing well in the 2nd and 10th Districts meeting the goal. Most of my Counties are meeting their goal with Kings at 69%, Richmond at 73% and Nassau at 75%, Suffolk at 66% and Queens at 31% needing some motivation. Congratulations to all and let's keep those transmittals coming in.

A motion made by V/C DeAngelis and seconded by Chaplain Ellis to accept the report was carried.

2.26 **Vice Commander 3/4 Bosford** reported.....I have attended the second District meeting in the 4th and one in the 3rd on Jan 16th. I attended the 4th District Oratorical Contest which was held in Lake Luzerne the winners will be going on to Zone 3 on Feb 3rd in Lake George. I have been traveling through the 4th working on Membership. We still have some squadrons at zero. At the last meeting I reported on Lake George squadron. We are trying to set up a meeting with them to help them get reorganized. We are working with the Legion on that issue. Squadron reports: Hudson Falls 574 they did an early bird dinner. They did a Veterans Day Breakfast and provided free breakfast to all veterans, they built a ramp for a member's wife, they helped distribute wreaths at the annual Wreath across America at Saratoga National Cemetery, and they had a Christmas Breakfast where they served 228 and 119 kids met Santa. They went to Stratton VA Hospital where they delivered new clothing (sweatshirts, wool socks, underwear, gloves) they marched in the Christmas Eve Road March which was started by a National Guard recruiter to recognize the service of those who are away from home during the holidays. Whitehall, Squadron 83....purchased a TV for the Post for \$500.00, donated with help \$4,000.00 to Toys for Tots, members bought tee shirts for the youth league, Members helped with the free Christmas dinner. Squadron 20...members donated 150 toys for the needy and gave 7 gift cards to the mothers of the needed; members handed out 75 turkeys to needy families at Thanksgiving. Squadron 1619....Members donated 100 gift baskets for the needy at Christmas; they are getting geared up for their annual winter fest which will be held on Feb 5th through the 7th. Squadron 337.....members donated \$100 to the Legacy Fund, \$80 worth of candy canes which were handed out to the local VA Hospital, \$100 Worth of Halloween candy that was distributed at the VA Hospital, \$200 for Toys for Tots, held a turkey raffle and made \$500, which was handed out to local charities, they donated \$1,300 to Department Commander Jim Yermas. Squadron 1450.....members donated \$1,000 to local Veterans homes, also handed out \$1,000 worth of gift cards that were handed out at the Veterans homes, they held a Christmas dinner for the local Veterans. Squadron 701..... delivered 950 dinners for the needy on Christmas Day. Squadron 91.....members prepared 100 Thanksgiving Dinners and passed them out at the local senior citizens home, members provided a free lunch on Veterans Day and also Pearl Harbor Day, they held a Christmas party for local children

A motion made by V/C Bosford and seconded by ANEC Bishop to accept the report was carried.

2.27 **Vice Commander 5/6 Burtch** reported..... since our Fall DEC meeting held in Brooklyn, I have been very busy making all 10 remaining visitations in the 6th District. I would like to thank all the wonderful members in the 6th District and traveling party that helped me out during these adventures. It was unfortunate that my good friend and travel companion Rich Hodge was unable to accompany us, but he was home taking care for his family. We all wish Rich the very best. The visitations were great with many one of a kind experiences. I especially liked the tours of the Vietnam War Museum and the Fire Preparedness School. All in all, our Commander Joe SantaCroce did a fantastic job representing our members and speaking about our programs. The professionalism of our Commander comes out in his laid back approach and through knowledge of all our programs, as well as Joe's ability to adapt to the situation. Great Job Commander! The 5th and 6th Districts are doing well in membership. The 5th District currently has 4,764 paid members for 2016. That puts them in 4th place in the Detachment with 70.57%. In the 6th District we have 2,130 members paid in 2016, or 62.52%. We still have some work to do, and I have started calling the remaining squadrons about delinquency. So far I have been able to get 3 squadrons to send in their first transmittals of the year. I still have 5 more to go, but should soon see all squadrons

reporting. While on visitation in the 6th District I was asked by two different Legion Posts to help start up squadrons. I left contact information, but have not received a call back from either one. I have discussed this situation with 6th District Commander Rich Hodge, and we will follow up with them in the coming weeks.

On the home front, I built a holiday food collection box for donations to the Utica Feed our Vets Organization. We collected over 300 cans of food and many coats for donation to our local Veterans. I have also been added to the Oneida County Legion Cemetery Site Committee. We are currently looking to add a 45 Acre Veterans Cemetery somewhere close to the NY State Emergency Preparedness Campus located near the old Oneida County airport in Whitestown. No such cemetery exists within a 50 mile radius of Oneida County, and this site would mostly serves Oneida, Lewis, Herkimer, Onondaga, Madison, and Otsego Counties.

A motion made by V/C Burtch and seconded by 6th District Commander Hodge to accept the report was carried.

2.28 Vice Commander Coates reported..... On November 15th I traveled to Canastota with PDC Jerry Ketchum and with several other members of our Detachment attended the calling hours of Legionnaire Al Paviglianti. As many of you know Al was a dual member and a past Advisor to the Detachment. Al was a proud Veteran, serving overseas with the 3rd Division of the United States Marine Corps. And he was also there when they raised the American Flag at Iwo Jima. On December 6th I attended the Eighth District meeting at the Jewell-Buckman Post 529 in Orleans County and on Dec. 13th I attended the Seventh District meeting at the Chili Post # 1830 in Monroe County. The Seventh District had a very good turn out while the Eighth District continues to struggle with participation. Over the holidays I attended the annual Gift Shop at the Canandaigua VA on November 22nd, my Squadron's Santa Party on December 12th and our Legion Breakfast on December 13th followed by our squadron meeting on January 3rd and another post breakfast on January 10th. Next week we will begin our visitations in the Eighth District followed by the Seventh the week after and then back to the Eighth the week after that. I look forward to traveling with Commander SantaCroce, President Mahoney and Commander Yermas along with District Commanders Tim Van Patten II and Charlie Rose. As of January 21st 2016 the 7th District is in 1st place with 71.77% and the 8th District is in 9th place with 53.95%. This is a significant improvement for both districts and I think the 8th District is about ready to put on their annual surge. We certainly will be working on this as we go through the District Visitations. I think we have a consensus between the 7th and 8th Districts that the winner of our "Top Dog" competition will be determined with the last membership report to be issued before our Detachment Convention convenes in Binghamton this coming July. Now in closing I would like to say to all of the Districts that last year at this time the 7th District was in 1st place and the 8th was in 7th place with about the same membership. And just prior to last year's Convention the 8th District was in 2nd place and 7th District in 3rd.

A motion made by V/C Coates and seconded by V/C Burtch to accept the report was carried.

2.29 Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson called forth committee chairmen:

Convention and Meetings Chairman, Smallcomb reported the Empire American Legion New York Inc. Is working very hard to make your Convention a memorable one! Broome County Sons are looking forward to your visit to Broome County. Gary Denmon and his committee are working hard to make your convention a great one. Housing will be at the Quality Inn, Vestal Parkway (room rate is \$104.00). Housing forms will be going to the Chamber of Commerce and then to Hotel. Note that Gary and myself will be going over housing forms, also Broome County Sons will be hosting a welcoming room. New Banner for the CWF Golf Tournament. Signup sheets are available. Golf will be at Ely Park. Luncheon and Golf is \$60.00 per person or \$240.00 per team. Our meetings will be at Vestal American Legion Post on Jensen Rd. Buses will run from Quality Inn to Legion. The Meet the Candidates Luncheon will be at the Vestal Legion. Insulation Luncheon is not yet known. Convention Bars are for sale at \$3.00 each. Convention Raffle tickets are also for sale.

Membership Chairman Espy reported: As we welcome in the calendar year 2016, let me give you our final membership numbers for our 2014-2015 membership year. We had 29,298 members, for 99.748% of our goal. Gentlemen this was only 74 members short of our goal. This placed us 37th on the National level and 10th for the Eastern Region. Our renewal rate was 90.64% which is excellent. Our renewal rate was 14th on the National level, great job. The National average for renewals was 89.02%, which was an all-time high. We have always done well with renewals, but we can get better. We had 2,674 new members for the year but also lost over 2,700 members. For our current year of 2016 we just had our 60% target date on January 20th. This is our first target date we have reached so far this membership year. Currently the Detachment is at 66.345. There are 8 Districts who are at or above 60%, along with 41 Counties and 221

Squadrons. I would like to congratulate all the Districts, Counties and Squadrons who reached this goal. A big shout out to 43 of these Squadrons who are at or above 100%. As a whole the Detachment has 1,336 new members so far this year. This has us right at half of our last year total. On a very sad note there are 56 Squadrons who have no membership reported. These Squadrons have a total goal of 2,267 members. If these delinquent Squadrons were at 60% we would be close to 20,000 members already. When checking your membership numbers on-line at the Detachment level, reports are generated on Monday afternoons 90% of the time. The other 10% are done on Tuesday's. As for National reports our membership gets sent to National twice a month to correspond with target dates. Then National needs to get them put into their computer. So if someone is not showing on mysal.org as paid or a new member, give them some time to load things in. How many Squadrons are using mysal.org? National has been trying for a few years to get birth dates for our members. Please take the time to get this information from your members and use mysal.org to get it to National. Myself, I went through our Squadrons records and did 30 members or so per evening. Some already have their birth date listed so it goes even quicker. The Super 7th is leading our game with 71.77%, coming around 3rd base is the 1st District with 71.57%, just about at 3rd is District 2 with 71.30% and 5th District is on second with 70.57%. 1st base is the 4th District at 69.81%, At the plate is the 10th District with 68.06% and on deck is the 3rd District with 62.52%. Finishing the line is the 6th District 62.52%, the 8th District 57.95% and the 9th District 56.59%. Standings for Detachment Vice Commanders with combined total VC DeAngelis Jr. 2/10 with 69.68%, VC Burtch 5/6 at 66.55%, VC Bosford 66.25%, VC Coates at 64.86% and VC Mr. Clancy III with 64.08%. Once again congratulations to everyone for an excellent job. Thank You to the membership commission for all the hard work and Thank You to the entire membership for your devotion and dedication to our organization.

Member Training and Development Chairman Jarvis reported; that our goal is to offer "Continuing Education" programs to the members of the Detachment and Department, the Chairmen of two Detachment Commissions/Committees will conduct workshops during each Mid-Winter Conference, giving formal presentations to the membership, explaining the purpose of the Commissions/Committees, how it operates, and how the membership can help, and second, to hopefully spark interest in the membership to assist the Commissions/Committees in reaching their goals by bringing this information back to their local Districts, Counties, and Squadrons, and putting it to good use. Any Committee Chairman interested in presenting at next year's Mid-Winter Conference should feel free to talk to me this weekend.

The Member Training & Development Committee remains committed to furthering the education of our membership by presenting new programs, updating existing programs, and assuring that all training needs within the Detachment of New York are addressed in a timely manner. We had a good turnout for our Commission break out session with about forty people attending. We had about 15 people at the Advisors Seminar and 17 members at the Leadership Seminar. I will be looking into the cost of handing out thumb drives instead of cd's and paper with all the information on them. I would like to thank Commission Chairmen Hodge, Myrtle, Judge Advocate Downey and V/C Burtch for assisting the MTD Committee in the presentations.

A motion made by V/C Burtch and seconded by V/C DeAngelis to accept the report was carried.

2.30 Department Commander Yermas thanked us for electing Joe SantaCroce who is a great commander and a great traveling partner. While out on the road I talk family. I am asking you to help stop the membership slide. We all need work on this. I will make it easier for you to get membership. I am directing the Legion to make their membership rosters available to the Sons and Auxiliary. Thank you for all you do.

2.31 Finance Chairman Lee gave his 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 the disbursement dates are for those funds. We review our membership numbers because this is how we base our budget, we currently get \$8.00 per member and our current budget is \$183,000. There has been some talk about the IRS coming in and telling you that you need an employment identification number. We are working with Legion headquarters that will be coming out with written guidelines for this. Remember that all our funds belong to The American Legion. The Sons should limit how many bank accounts we have; this will make it easier to keep track of the squadron's funds. Every squadron is unique and should do what works for them. We will be making request for funds, we need a new projector, we have had a request to purchase thumb drives to be used by committees and commissions as a hand out for the leadership and advisors seminar and other training programs, and we are requesting that we move \$25,000 to our money market fund from our checking account. We are reviewing our travel process and reimbursement procedure. We have had a request to donate \$1,000 in memory of Al Paviglianti to the Boy's State program. We are recommending that we pay for PDC Gibbs hotel and airfare

to the National Commanders Homecoming in Alaska. We are requesting that anyone who is traveling downstate that we extend the cost of hotels rooms of our guests and to anyone that has to stay another night because of the storm. Remember when you put things on the expense voucher like tolls we need documentation for it, so go to the NYS Thruway website and print it out and attach it to your voucher.

A motion made by 6th District Commander Hodge and seconded by V/C Burtch to accept the report was carried.

- 2.28 ANEC Bishop** reported: Since my last ANEC report which was given at our D.E.C. meeting in Brooklyn in Oct. there have been no National Meetings or events that our N.E.C Denmon and I have had to attend, however our N.E.C. man does receive E-mails from National quite often, with information on issues pertaining to our Veterans and our Organization. Over this weekend I had the privilege of taking our Detachment Commander Joe and his wife Marie along with his sister-in-law and Past Department President Joanie and our Commanders Aide Tony to visit the Captain John J. McKenna IV Military courtesy room at the Albany international Airport. Capt. John J. McKenna IV was a United States Marine who was killed in action in Fallujah, Iraq. August 16, 2006 – and this room was dedicated in his Honor in 2010. Later that day, once again I had the privilege of taking our National Vice Commander Eastern Region, Bill Hill, our Detachment Commander Joe and his aide Tony NEC man Gary Denmon, leading Candidate for Detachment Commander, Bruce Ruthven and VA&R Commission Chairman Bob Cox to the Fisher House, Once at the Fisher House we were given a tour of the house by the Fisher House Director Mike Fitzpatrick. After the tour of the house Detachment Commander Joe presented a check on behalf of the Detachment of NY, Sons of The American Legion in the amount of \$2,500. Director Mike thanked the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of NY for their support over the years and greatly appreciated our donation. In the future I am looking forward to attending our National Commander of The American Legion, Dale Barnett's visit to the 3rd and 4th Districts in April and our Detachment Commander Joe's visit to the 3rd District as well. I will also be attending the National Executive Committee meeting in the spring in Indianapolis.

A motion was made by ANEC Bishop and seconded by V/C Burtch to accept the report and was carried.

- 2.29 NEC Denmon** reported.....since our fall DEC meeting in late October I have attended a few of the Visitations as well as National Commander Dale Barnett's visit to NY. We have continued to spread the word of The American Legion to our members. Communications is one item that we must continually work on to get the information passed down to our blue cap members. With that being said we can see that more and more information is being communicated through the Detachment website and by email. So be sure to get yourself on the mailing list so that you can stay up to date with Detachment and National activities. Coming up in February several members will be traveling to Washington DC to meet with our representatives to encourage them to support legislation that The American Legion wants pushed to benefit our Veterans. I will not be able to attend as I can't take the time off to this as March will bring National Commander Kevin Collier's Homecoming in Alaska where we will have several members attending. Then come May we will be in Indianapolis for the spring NEC meeting. All the while we need to continue to R.O.C.K.E.D. – Remembering our Commitment Keeping it Every Day. Through Duty, Honor and Service to the American Legion's Four Pillars – Americanism, Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children & Youth and National Security.

A motion was made by NEC Denmon and seconded by V/C Coates to accept the report which was carried.

- 2.31 Master Sergeant-at-Arms Falco** reported that the Sgt's at Arms had collected \$0 in fines so far. He stated that we had 130 members signed in yesterday. He requests that you make sure your cards are signed.

A motion made by V/C Burtch and seconded by V/C Coates to accept the report was carried.

- 2.31 Adjutant Avery** reported..... According to the December 31, 2015 National Membership Report, there are 362,319 members in our organization which is an increase of 4,310 over the prior year. Nationally we ended at 101.20% of goal, which is up over a half of a percentage point from 2014. We had 39,295 members who did NOT renew in 2015. The National renewal rate was 89.02% last year. Here in New York we ended with a 90.64% rate which is 14th highest in the Nation. That being said, we had 2,748 members who did not renew. As for our membership total, we finished in 37th place in the Nation with 99.75% of our goal which is BELOW last year. Our final total was 29,298 members. Congratulations go out to you all for reaching the 60% Target Date two days ago. We are at 61.92% and were 438 members more than what we needed for goal. Great Job!!

All Squadrons will soon be receiving the 2016 Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) National is sending these out to the various Detachments within the next several weeks. 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 Commanders of the American Legion. There are minor changes to the form this year. We only receive one CSR for each Squadron in our Detachment. Squadrons who have not received a CSR by mid-March should contact Anne Wilsey at Albany HQ 1-800-ALEGION. You are reminded to complete and submit your CSR to Detachment HQ by April 30, 2016 for Detachment Judging. Reports will then be forwarded by the Detachment Adjutant to National HQ. Also, all Squadrons are reminded to complete and forward an Officer Certification form (OCF) to HQ immediately following their annual election of officers in May. This task can be completed on line. Your Squadron is not recognized without a current officer's report on file at Albany HQ. Squadrons will not receive membership cards without an OCF. The OCF and much more information are always available on our Detachment website (www.sonsdny.org) Also there is a wealth of information at the National website at www.sal.legion.org . Thanks to Gabe Cinquegrana for all of his fine work on the webpage and our FB page.

A motion made by 6th District Commander Hodge and seconded by 5th District Commander Cox to accept the report was carried.

2.32 Detachment Commander SantaCroce reported..... Since the Fall Conference, we completed our visits to the 1st, 6th and 9th Districts. Again, many thanks to all members of the traveling parties who made the experiences so pleasurable and also made the travels so organized. Also, thanks to the Sons who attended these events and proudly represented our organization. Starting later this week we commence our Visitations to the "snow belt" beginning in Chautauqua County on Thursday. We will alternate between the 7th and 8th Districts for the next three weekends before heading for the Eastern Division Conference in Maryland followed by the Washington Conference. Then in March we will visit Albany for Hill Day before our last visits to the 3rd and 7th Districts. I really appreciate all who have made donations to my projects, Operation Comfort Warriors and the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The response has been great and we have done very well. Remember, there's still time to donate. Speaking of raising money, thank you to everyone who contributed to our "Wear Your Team Colors" Fundraiser at the Fall Conference. With the help of the pins from the Canandaigua VA that Gabe sold at the Conference we raised \$530.00 which was evenly split between Operation Comfort Warriors and the Child Welfare Foundation. Regarding the Walkathon, we still have three months to raise money for the VA Hospitals and Veterans' Homes in New York. We're looking to allow these facilities to purchase the most-updated medical, rehabilitation and recreational equipment needed to help our wounded veterans recover or just give them a better living environment. I've urged our Vice Commanders and District Commanders to emphasize this event in their areas. We need to do better than last year. Please try to have all donations submitted by the end of April. Membership- thank you for everyone's hard work on membership. After not meeting a target all year we successfully hit the 60% goal a week ahead of the target date. It shows the tremendous effort put forth by all our squadrons, counties and districts led by Gaither and all the District Chairmen. Reminder, you don't win the game after the 5th inning. You have to play all 9 innings. So let's keep our foot on the accelerator. Oh, by the way, the 75% target date is only 17 days away. A couple of reminders: Please continue to use My SAL to input dates of births and e-mail addresses for your members to assist our National Organization for marketing purposes. Please remember to send articles and pictures from your local events to Gabe for the Liberty. Let's put him in the position where he has too much info to include. By the way, thanks to Gabe for the great job he is doing with the Liberty. We also need to start mentoring Sons in our Counties and Districts to assure we have succession of leadership in our organization. We have certain areas in our Detachment where the pool of possible future leaders is dwindling. It's getting harder and harder to get people to take leadership positions. May 13 and 14- Legion Family Homecoming at the Desmond Hotel in Albany

A motion made by Commander SantaCroce and seconded by V/C Burtch to accept the report was carried.

- **Sally Gilinsky from the local catholic charities of Albany thanked us for our donation of toiletry items for the needy.**

3.00 SICK CALL & RELIEF

NONE

4.00 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

5.00 NEW BUSINESS

- 5.01 N.E.C. Denmon made a motion to pay airfare and hotel for PDC Gibbs to attend the National Commanders Homecoming in Alaska. A.N.E.C. Bishop seconded the motion which was carried.
- 5.02 V/C/ Burtch made a motion to pay one extra days lodging to our guest and to our Commander living in the downstate area that is affected by the storm. V/C Coates seconded the motion which was carried.
- 5.03 V/C Burtch made a motion to purchase a new projector for the Detachment. V/C Bosford seconded the motion which was carried.
- 5.04 V/C Burtch made a motion to move \$25,000 from our checking account to our investment account which was duly seconded and carried.
- 5.05 6th District Commander Hodge made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Boy's State Program in memory of Al Paviglianti. N.E.C. Denmon seconded the motion which was carried.

6.00 FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

- 6.01 Bill Clancy announced his intent to run for the position of V/C for the 1st and 9th District 2016-2017 and then for Detachment Commander in 2017-2018.
- 6.02 Squadron #83 donated \$200 to the CWF.
- 6.03 Squadron #574 donated \$500 to OCW.
- 6.04 V/C Bosford announced his intent to run for the position of V/C for the 3rd and 4th District 2016-2017.
- 6.05 Chaplain Ellis announced his intent to run for the position of Chaplain 2016-2017.
- 6.06 A.N.E.C. Bishop announced his intent to run for the N.E.C. 2016-2017.
- 6.07 Squadron #1520 made donation of \$2,135 to OCW.
- 6.08 Bruce Ruthven announced his intent to run for the position of Detachment Commander 2016-2017.
- 6.09 PDC Chang announced his intent to run for the position of A.N.E.C. 2016-2017.
- 6.10 V/C Burtch announced his intent to run for the position of V/C for the 5th and 6th Districts 2016-2017.
- 6.11 V/C Coates announced his intent to run for the position of V/C for the 7th and 8th Districts 2016-2017.
- 6.12 V/C DeAngelis announced his intent to run for the position of V/C for the 2nd and 10th District 2016-2017.
- 6.13 Historian Van Patten announced his intent to run for the position of Historian 2016-2017.
- 6.14 On March 19th the 5th District will be holding a membership drive at 10:30 AM at the Mattydale American Legion Post.
- 6.15 Americanism Chairman Myrtle presented the National Award for Americanism to Squadron #89.
- 6.16 Legion College will be held in June for those who wish to attend.
- 6.17 Consolidated reports will be mailed out soon. We have approximately 330 Squadrons and we only received approximately 120 last year. Please have them filled out the form even if they do nothing put a big fat zero on it.
- 6.18 Squadron #1636 presented the Commander a check for \$100.00 for OCW and another for \$100.00 for The Legacy Scholarship.

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

- Commander SantaCroce requested that Chaplain Ellis offer the closing prayer
- The Master Sergeant at Arms retrieved the POW/MIA flag
- Seeley B. Parish Squadron #457 Color Guard retrieved the colors.

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