



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK

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Commander James Coates
Adjutant Robert J. Avery

Date: January 30, 2019

RE: Official Communication from the Detachment Adjutant

Adjutant's Summary of the 2019 Mid-Winter Conference & DEC Meeting

Members of the Department of New York American Legion Family met in Colonie, NY from January 25 – 27, 2019 for their annual Mid-Winter Meetings. Meetings took place at the Red Lion, the former Radisson-Albany Hotel. This year's Conference was very well attended by SONS members, with Detachment Executive Committee Meetings, Detachment Committee and Commission Meetings, and their choice of nearly 40 American Legion program meetings.

Highlights included:

- The house was packed for the Commanders Rally on Friday evening. Commander Coates welcomed the members to Mid-Winter Conference and our Committee and Commission Chairmen provided updates. Members were also pleased to hear from our National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs live via cellphone from Maryland where he was attending their Detachment Mid-Winter Conference. He had participated in a Polar Plunge fundraiser for Special Olympics while there.
- Membership Chairman Daryl Verstrete congratulated the members for reaching the 60% Target Date. He also noted that the final year-end total for 2018 was over 30,00 members according to Detachment figures. The final 2018 Renewal Report has us at 91.68%, tied for 7th place in the Nation with Delaware, and nearly 3 points higher than the National average which was 88.9%.
- Graduation Certificates were presented to 20 members who completed the Leadership Workshop.
- The Detachment also conducted its Advisors Seminar on Friday evening. Commissions and Committees all met on Friday and Saturday. SAL Workshops took place one again on Saturday afternoon.
- The Public Relations Commission manned the SONS info table at the Desmond again this year. Information about the Sons of The American Legion was made available with different pamphlets and handouts covering many of our programs. It is hoped we will continue this source of information.
- Our guests included National SONS Vice Commander Michael Cotten (DE), and the leading Candidate for National V/C Gary Nelson (NJ).

- Candidate for National American Legion Commander Paul Dillard (TX) spoke during the Saturday session. Speakers also included Department Auxiliary President Marie Mock and Department Riders Director Robert Wallace. Department Auxiliary Secretary Barbara Corker presented a Certificate of Appreciation to PDC Kevin Harrington for all of his hard work in assisting with the Auxiliary HQ move to a new office.
- David Lee announced his candidacy for Detachment Commander in 2020-2021. Announcing for Vice Commander positions next year were Joseph Guidice, Jr. (1 and 9), Peter DeAngelis, Jr. (2 and 10), James Williams (3 and 4), Wayne Ainslee (5 and 6) and James Parks (7 and 8). Announcing for Chaplain next year was Dale Kane. William Ryan announced as candidate for Historian.
- Well over 450 Legion Family members attended the Department Dinner on Saturday evening.
- Directly following the Department Dinner, the New York SALute Band played in the Desmond Courtyard. The band is made up of SAL members Joe Guidice on keyboards/vocals, Gabe Cinquegrana on guitar and vocals, Kevin Harrington on drums, Jesse Parks on bass and Joe Passavino on lead guitar. The band was very well received. Besides providing some great tunes, the band raised awareness and \$200 for CWF.
- Commander Coates and Adjutant Avery both stressed that our Detachment focus on attaining another BANNER year on Membership and in donations the Child Welfare Foundation. This is a very special year that does not come often with one of our own as the National Commander.

Let's make New York and Commander Gibbs PROUD!

Thank You!

Robert J. Avery
Detachment Adjutant - NY