



Pre-Submitted District Reports

Mid-Winter D.E.C. Meeting

Sons of The American Legion – Detachment of New York

January 26-27, 2019

District 2

Commander Joseph Hall

Since the Convention in Rochester lots of great things have been going on.

I attended the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis. I had a great time supporting our new National Commander Doc Gibbs.

September brought our Kings County visitation where we visited our local VA hospital with our organization officers then off to the Floyd Bennett Post for a nice visitation dinner.

During the holidays I attended 4 children's events the Kings County Children's Christmas Party held at Saint Finbar's Church. Michael A. Rawley Post 1636 Toys for Tots Party. McFadden Brothers Post Toys for Tots Party. Combat Wounded Veterans of America Children's Christmas Party.

I also attended our District holiday gift shop at the VA hospital.

Richmond County squadrons are doing well and continuing their service to all our programs and the membership is doing very well.

Kings County squadrons are doing well with the VA&R program and our bingo program as well as children and youth membership in Kings County membership is moving along also.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and wishing you all a Happy New Year.

District 3

Commander William Baker

The 3rd District continues to express the importance of membership and the urgent need to have active membership. We need to self-promote our program so people learn what it is that we do not only for the American Legion Family, but for our very own communities.

- Albany County

- Squadrons donated an impressive total of over \$13,000 towards Veteran services, Legion Family Programs and Community Projects as well as conducted many fundraisers and assisting with building improvements and renovations at their home posts.

- Helderberg Squadron #977

- \$100.00 to St. Johns Veterans Breakfast
 - \$500.00 towards 977 Aux Christmas Family
 - \$1000.00 Hilltown Christmas
 - \$200.00 to the Schenectady City Mission
 - \$300.00 towards Wreaths Across America
 - \$250.00 to Operation K-9 Christmas
 - \$264.00 to Wreaths for KIA Road Signs
 - \$250.00 To Voorheesville Aux. Christmas Program
 - \$2000.00 To Albany Housing Coalition

- \$5000.00 to Stratton VA Volunteer Services
 - \$100 to 977 Auxiliary Breakfast waitresses
 - \$50.00 to Boy Scouts (Bussed table at breakfast)
 - ET Ruanne Squadron #476
 - Roast Beef Dinner December 1st, Sold 91 dinners
 - Collected 115 toys for the local Marine Corp Reserves Toys for Tots Program
 - Adopted a family for Christmas and donated \$500.00 to them
 - Donating up to \$500.00 towards the Armed forces sculptures for their Post's 100th Anniversary
 - Raffling off a new Snow thrower on February 2nd
 - Holding a take-out Spaghetti and Meatball dinner on February 9th 1pm – 4pm. \$10 per dinner with all proceeds going to the Child Welfare Foundation
 - Voorheesville Squadron #1493
 - \$125.00 towards Wreaths Across America
 - \$400.00 towards Hilltown Christmas
 - \$200.00 in gift cards for local families during the holidays
 - Zaloga Squadron #1520
 - \$875.00 To 8 children from 32 families from VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Homeless Veterans Program
 - \$175.00 Bus passes to VAVS Stratton VA Hospital
 - \$600.00 to their home Post to from Turkey and Ham Raffles
 - \$500.00 towards the Children's Christmas Party at their Post
- Rensselaer County

Rensselaer County Sons of the American Legion is Held a Henry Rifle Raffle to raise money for our various projects Nearly \$2000.00 raised during the raffle. Several thousand dollars were donated towards Veteran and community projects and donations were made towards Home Post renovations. And collecting new clothes and shoes for Veterans and their families in need

 - The Gerald O'Neil Squadron #1683
 - Made donations to the SPCA in memory of their department member Allyn Jones.
 - Held a Chicken Parmesan dinner and raised \$1000 for the Stratton VA Canteen well and donated Christmas gifts for the Veterans who reside there.
 - Participated in Veteran Day ceremonies held at their Post and are collecting Toys for the Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots program. Collecting well over 1500 toys as well as the purchase of bicycles to be donated to local children in need
 - Melvin Roads Squadron #1231
 - Squadron #1231 (Along with my staff at the New York State Education Department) continued with my personal project of

collecting new clothes for our homeless and less fortunate Veterans (and their families)

- Purchased and Donated New lighting and a wooden Soldier's Cross and Soldier Praying Silhouette to our Home Post and volunteer during Wednesday night BINGO at the Post
- Assisted the Post and Aux with the Annual Breakfast with Santa fundraiser
- \$1500.00 to the Fisher House along with Auxiliary Unit #1231
- This year we collected and dispersed
 - 276 Pair of New Winter Socks
 - 14 Pair of New winter boots
 - 10 Pair of New Sneakers
 - 42 Pair of New Long Underwear
 - 6 Brand New Business Suits
- We will also be holding events to raise money for community projects and the 2019 Walk-A-Thon
- Collected over 1300 toys for the Marine Corp Reserves Toys for Tots Program to help local children.
- North Greenbush Squadron #1489
 - participated in fundraisers, including a dance for their various Veteran and Community programs and participated in Veteran Day ceremonies.
- Ulster County Squadrons continue to hold fundraisers and participated in their community's Veteran Day ceremonies.

As a proud Husband, Father, Son, Brother, Grandson and Great Grandson of Veterans I am honored to be a part of the Sons of the American Legion and the American Family. I am humbled every day when I see all the great work that you all do. As most people know my personal ambition is to eradicate the situation of homelessness in our Veteran community and we are getting the numbers down, but we still have a way to go. The number of Homeless Veterans is down 5.4% from 2017 – 2018 but this is still a far cry from having 0% homelessness. Currently there are about 23,300 Homeless Veterans in the United States (1250 in NY) and these are the ones reported. I find this number appalling and I personally will not rest until that number is down to 0. Once again, I thank you for giving me the platform to move forward with this and I hope to one day stand in front of you and say we did it, because No Veteran Should Be Without a Place to Call Home.

District 4

Commander Tim Williams

Veterans Day 2018 Squadron 574 Hudson Falls, fed over 120 Veterans breakfast. Squadron 1450 Halfmoon also held a pizza party for the homeless veterans in Ballston Spa and handed out gift cards for all the men and women veterans.

The Squadrons around the 4th District have been busy. I would like to start on 15th of December 2018 Wreaths Across America at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National

Cemetery. The 4th District donated \$500.00 to post 490 in Stillwater and the motorcycle group I belong to the Goat Brothers added another \$500.00 to the project. With over 2,000 volunteers, every grave had a wreath placed on it. We all so had Department Commander Gary Schacher in attendance. It was truly an American Legion FAMILY event.

At the 4th District meeting on the 13th of January 2019, we discussed membership as of the 7th of January 2019 we are at 60%. We are right on target. As always, we support our Detachment Commander Jim Coats with his project CWF.

God Bless America, our troops and the American Legion Family

District 7

Commander James Daly

There has been a lot happening in the Super Seventh District since we last met at our Fall DEC Meeting in Lima this past November.

On the weekend of the Fall DEC we had several of our Sons members helping wrap presents at the Canandaigua VA for The American Legion 7th District Auxiliary Gift Shop for Veterans. This is a great annual event that we are proud to help each year. The American Legion Family a couple of weeks later held a similar event at the Bath VA.

Throughout the District on December 7th, many of us participated in Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremonies. At the Port of Rochester Ceremony, this was the first year that there was not a survivor that participated. The Pearl Harbor survivor stated in a letter that age and weather were preventing his participation. This drives home the point that Veterans of that era are almost gone and it will be up to organizations like ours to never forget those who put their lives on the line for our great country.

On December 9th, we held our District Meeting at the Canandaigua American Legion. At this meeting we were honored to hear a message from our Leading Candidate for Commander in 2019-2020. After hearing his message, we voted to support Dennis George in his campaign for Commander for the Detachment of New York. We also had a special guest at our meeting, the current Commander Jim Coates. Commander Coates provided us with a report on how is year was progressing and what priorities he had for 2019.

On December 15, many of us participated in Wreaths Across America. This was a day of remembering our fallen U.S. Veterans, honoring those who serve and teaching our children the value of freedom.

On Christmas Day, there was a contingent of members that went to the Canandaigua VA to provide a wheelchair escort for Veterans so they could attend religious services. For many years now, our members have taken time away from their family on Christmas in order to help Veterans in need.

We also had members on hand on the 7th of this month when the new Community Living Center was opened at the Bath VA.

We are also gearing up for the eight days of Department Visitations that will start next week on the 31st. We are excited to have Commander Coates make this trip throughout his home District.

Many of our projects are taking shape including the Doc Powers Member of the Year Award and the Quinten B. Smith Memorial Scholarship.

The Districts Annual Youth Bowling Day will be held on April 20th in Geneseo New York at the Livingston Lanes. My Vice Commander Jesse Parks always does an outstanding job organizing and putting on this event and I am sure he will deliver success again this April.

On May 26th, our District will once again hold our Annual Flag and Education and Retirement Ceremony. It will be held this year at the Warner Van Riper American Legion Post #435 in Waterloo, the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Plans for my Commander's Project are well underway. On Saturday March 23rd from 3:00pm to 8:00pm, the 7th District Sons will be hosting a benefit for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. It will be held at the Canandaigua American Legion Post 256. The event will be an afternoon filled with music, dancing, food, beverages, raffles and silent auctions. There will be two bands playing during the event, The Defenders, a musical group made up of Veterans enrolled in a Music Therapy Program at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and Rochester recording artists The Coupe de Villes. If you are interested in further information, please reach out to me this weekend and I can provide you with an event poster. And of course, if you can attend, it would be greatly appreciated!

The 7th District is still plugging along with Membership. We are currently in 7th place at 56.8 %. We will continue to reach out to our Squadrons and offer encouragement, assistance or help that they might need in hope for a positive year.

District 8

Commander Dale Kane

Good Afternoon Commander, Officers, Legionnaires, Sons and guests

During 2018 I did 33 Honor Guard services. For me this is something I feel I need to do, as every veteran deserves this.

During July 27th - 29th I attended the Department/Detachment Convention in Rochester.

8th District Conference Dates:

October 7th at the William Travis Post 493 in Mayville in Chautauqua County. On December 2nd at the Sackett – Merrill - White Post 575 in Bergen, Genesee County.

Other events attended:

August 11th, Flag ceremony for Bath's Veterans with Herbert W. DeLong Post 808 Belmont, New York. Later that day I attended the service at the County Retreat Camp for Bath's Veterans in Alma by Morrison-Hayes Post 702 from Wellsville.

On August 24-26th I attended the National Convention in Minneapolis Mn. This was my first National Convention and I had a Great time and the honor of seeing Greg "Dr." Gibbs being elected as S.A.L.'s National Commander.

On September 24th, I attended a presentation at the David A. Howl Library for History Week, honoring WWI and WWII Veterans by Honor Guard from Morrison-Hayes Post 702, Wellsville.

On October 18th I prepared and donated the food for a spaghetti dinner for the Office of the Aging to help Veterans. Everything was donated for this event.

On October 19th I attended the National Commander Visitation in the 8th District. The luncheon was at Fredonia Memorial Post 59. After lunch we toured the VA Clinic in Dunkirk. That evening Dinner honoring the National Commander was at Dunkirk Memorial Post 62.

On Friday October 26th I attended the Funeral of Past Detachment Commander, John Bogart, in Bath New York.

I attended, on November 10th, the Veterans' Dinner at Morrison- Hayes Post 702 in Wellsville and on the Veterans' Day November 11th, the Ceremony by The Herbert DeLong Post 808 in the Belmont Town Park.

November 16th – 18 I attended the DEC meeting held at the Francis M. Dalton Post 282 West Bloomfield, New York.

On December 5th Allegany County S.A.L. presented a check for \$500 to the Daniel Baldwin's' Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Baldwin's did a monument in Honor of all men and woman who served our Country in the Richburg Cemetery, Richburg, New York. A second check for \$1500 was presented to the Allegany County Veterans' Organization. On December I delivered fruit baskets to Veterans in the nursing home in Wellsville, New York. This was for the Morrison – Hayes Post 702 in Wellsville. I have had the honor of doing this for over twenty years.

This concludes my report.

God Bless America and Our Troops

District 9

Commander Michael Jacobs

Things have been busy in the Ninth so far this winter. Many of our squadrons have been engaged in various projects around their posts and in their communities as well. In Orange County, New Windsor Squadron has been particularly busy. On December 7th they held a Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony and breakfast on the Newburgh waterfront that was very well-attended. They also assisted Wreaths Across America in decorating veterans graves at the Veterans Cemetery in Goshen. Sons members served hot cider and donuts to all the participants and helped place wreaths on the graves.

In Rockland, Squadron 130 was there to help put on a fantastic Holiday Dinner for about 50 vets from the Montrose VA Center. Sons members helped prepare and serve a filet mignon dinner alongside the rest of the Post family and then joined in sing carols and handing out gift baskets to all the vets in attendance. It was a truly rewarding experience to see the happiness on the faces of the veterans and staff that made the trip to the post that day.

I am also contacting all the 9th District Squadrons and urging them to answer the call sent out by mail from Commander Coates and urging them to do a fundraiser for CWF. This is in addition to my earlier request for the district squadrons to do one fundraiser this year dedicated solely to an American Legion Program.

In closing I would also like to mention that I am very proud that the Ninth is again leading the way in Membership with over 70%!!