



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK

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Commander James Coates
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Dear Fellow Sons,

The lifeblood of any successful organization is their membership and the dues that are collected to support their programs. The Sons of The American Legion has, for years, been successful in using their revenue to support our veterans and the youth of our great country. Currently, all Squadrons in our state send \$8.00 a year to the Detachment for each member with \$2.00 then passed on to our National organization by the Detachment. This \$2.00 assessment has been in effect since 1982.

At the recent National Sons of The American Legion Spring Conference in Indianapolis, the National Finance Commission opened the conversation for a possible dues increase of a minimum of \$3.00. (The minutes of the Finance Commission meeting are included in this mailing). This would be added to what you send the Detachment per member with the state then passing on the new National amount. The National Finance Commission would like this increase discussed within all Detachments.

For years the American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion accrue certain expenses in operating the National headquarters in Indianapolis, which have been paid for by the American Legion. The Finance Commission is suggesting it's time for the Sons to pay their fair share of the costs. For 2018-19, it is reported that the Sons share of those expenses was approximately \$674,000.

We will be discussing this topic in full at our Detachment Convention in Buffalo in July. Our delegation, who will be representing our Detachment at the National Convention in Indianapolis in August, must be prepared to vote on any resolution for a dues increase that may be proposed. Remember, there has been no formal proposal made at this time.

As officers in the Detachment of New York, we represent all Sons and Squadrons in the state. All Squadrons have a say on how we decide to vote. While we understand that not everyone can be present at our State Convention in July, we would appreciate any comments you may have. If you have any questions or comments on the topic, or the process, please feel free to contact one of the undersigned by July 10, 2019. An e-mail would be preferred so we have a record of your comment. But if you don't have e-mail, a phone call will be fine.

As mentioned, the National dues of \$2.00 has not increased since 1982. Common sense suggests an increase at this time is warranted. The question becomes HOW MUCH. Increased revenue is required to keep a growing organization like ours (370,000+ members) striving. We need to know how the proposed raise in dues could affect our membership statewide.

Remember we, as Detachment officers, represent all the blue-cappers in New York State and are here to serve you. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Yours for the Sons!

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