



***Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of New York***



PRE-SUBMITTED DISTRICT REPORTS

Fall DEC Mtg. Oct. 15, 2022

Alfred J. Jurek A.L. Post 1672, East Amherst, NY

DISTRICT 2 - Cmdr. Jesse Figueroa

Comrades and Fellow Sons,

I hereby give a report of the 2nd District to the Detachment Executive Committee. Since serving as 2nd District Commander after adjournment of our Department Convention/Detachment Convention, I've been involved with Children and Youth plus young adults, who are autistic, such as myself as we go on trips and excursions with the New York Transit Museum plus plane spotting, rail fanning and bus fanning. I'm also member of the Detachment Membership Committee and Public Relations Commission including The American Legion Media Alliance and The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (I'm a licensed Amateur Radio Operator – Callsign KD2ZFJ).

Secondly, I attended the National Convention in Milwaukee with both entities as a dual member. We all had a great time, especially witnessing the nomination and election of Jim Troiola of our native Empire State. I had the opportunity to reunite with old friends and make new friends, attend events, such as the Four Corners Party (a traditional event established by the Departments of Arizona, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico) at The American Legion Post 434 in Oak Creek. Wow! That post sits on two acres with two baseball fields and a huge outdoor cantina. Then was American Legion Family Night with the Brewers at Miller Park.

Upon return from National Convention, I got to commemorate 9/11 firsthand and reunite with surviving family members of those who died 21 years ago that day. I also worked with the NYC Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (Timmy's Charity of Choice) at LGA Kids Day on 10 September 2022. On the day after 9/11, I prepared to discharge my official duties by attending the Richmond and Kings County visitations on the week of 12-16 September 2022. I was given a warm reception at both county visitations where my responsibility as SAL 2nd District Commander covers Brooklyn (Kings) and Staten Island (Richmond) to assist Squadrons in my Counties of my District.

Legion 2nd District Commander Bill Magnuski is planning to have District meetings in October in Staten Island (General) and in May in Brooklyn (Elections). I also attended the Kings County Picnic at Canarsie Pier Park in Brooklyn on 13 August 2022, the Membership Workshop (2nd and 10th Districts) at The American Legion Post 303 in Rockville Centre, Long Island on 20 August 2022.

In closing, I will do the best I can to assist The American Legion Family with resources and to assist anyone who needs anything for a Squadron or anything else.

While I'm still serving as SAL 2nd District Commander, I'm pursuing an AAS Degree in Airport Management and I'm expected to graduate either in the Fall 2023. I look forward to a great year in the 2nd District American Legion Family.

Thank You.

For God and Country,

Jesse Figueroa
2nd District Commander

DISTRICT 3 - Cmdr. Frankie Aguado

We have been staying busy in the third district.

Gerald O'Neil Post Squadron #1683 is celebrating their 75th Anniversary of service to our Veterans, children, and community this year.

Melvin Roads Squadron #1231 continues to help with Post improvements such as exterior lighting and CCTV cameras. As well as volunteering with our Veterans that are unable to get out too much on their own. This includes rides to appointments and Post meetings.

North Greenbush Squadron #1489 continues assisting with Post operations. Zaloga Post Squadron #1520 is holding a fundraiser this coming year in April. Details soon to follow after our next meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all again very soon. God Bless

Frank Aguado

DISTRICT 4 - Cmdr. Matt Aldi

Fabulous 4th District

First, I would like to thank the members of the Fabulous 4th District for electing me as their Commander. It is an honor leading and representing you all.

Visitaions in the Fabulous 4th District were completed September 20th thru 30th. What an amazing time traveling with Department Commander Dave, President Nancy and Detachment Commander Tim. The tours, luncheons and dinners were excellent in all 11 counties. Thank you to all SAL members who were in attendance. The views and stops traveling from County to County in the Adirondacks were beautiful. The messages from our Legions Family leaders were well received. I look forward to working towards their goals this year.

Our 1st District meeting of the year will be held October 8th which unfortunately is after this report was written. Currently the 4th District membership is at 13.63%. We are spreading the word to get those renewals and new members sent in to reach the 25% target date on October 13th.

Matt Aldi
Fourth District Commander

DISTRICT 5 - Cmdr. Rich Abel

Commander Tim, Adjutant Bob, Officers, Fellow Sons and guests.

First, I want to commend Commander Tim on his representation of the Detachment and his presentation of his message throughout the 5th District. I couldn't travel with him through the districts 6 counties but want I was told he brought an energy and enthusiasm that was felt by all. During the visit to Oneida County, we were able to tour the NEADS facility at the Griffiss Technology Park, (formerly Griffiss Air Force Base). We then enjoyed a great BBQ hosted by Oriskany Post 1448 where there was tremendous turnout of the legion family.

Things are alive and well with the 5th District as evident with the activities planned during the recent visitations. Counties are busy getting their year started and are continuously working not only within their level but at the squadron levels. As of 9/30 our membership was at 10.42%; though we didn't meet the first target date we will come on strong. The message we're passing along throughout the squadrons are the 3 R's – Recruit / Retain / Renew. Membership is our bloodline. Membership continues to be an ongoing concern from everyone I have spoken with and continues to a centralized focus point.

In September I attended the 5th District Auxiliary Fall Conference held at New Hartford Post 1376 where there were several presentations that were outstanding by the district leadership.

We just held our first meeting; everyone is extremely busy planning for their upcoming events throughout the seasons and year.

As our meetings begin to be held, I look forward to attending the different county meetings to hear what everyone is doing and has done. My goal is to encourage everyone to promote themselves, celebrate the efforts of all who participated and report.

In closing I would like to reiterate my excitement to be part of this organization with the great leadership at the top to lead us.

I wish that everyone has a great meeting and I look forward to opportunity to get to know the different members of our leadership.

For God and Country.
Respectfully,
Rich Abel
5th District Commander

DISTRICT 6 - Cmdr. Ed Hooke

I am happy to report that the 6th district is doing well with attendance continuing to increase at our district meetings with a great number attending being dual members. The veteran's home in Oxford is holding there 39th annual Christmas gift give away Saturday December 10th. The sixth district is donating as we have in the past to support this great day. I have attended in the past and can tell you how much the veterans look forward to this day.

I am proud to report that at our 48th annual Detachment Convention in Binghamton July 13-16 squadrons within the 6th district received 5 awards for Americanism, Children & Youth, VA&R and the highest percent increase over the prior year (Under 300) . This is fantastic, I believe this is what we as Sons of The American Legion are all about, giving back to our veterans and our communities. We have various squadrons within or district that continue to support their posts by organizing chicken barbecues, pancake breakfasts, fish dinners, donating their time and talents towards building maintenance and improvements, driving veterans to appointments and the list goes on.

The 6th district visitations will be starting on Monday October 17th and ending on Wednesday October 26th to our Ten counties within our district and our next 6th district meeting is on January 8th post 169 in Oneida. So, if anyone is in the area it would be our pleasure to have you join us.

On October 2nd I was invited by 6th district Auxiliary President Sherry Wilson to attend and speak at their Fall Convention in Binghamton. It was my pleasure and an honor to attend and represent the 6th district. Our mission is similar "to never forget that we are here to serve our veterans" President Sherry proposed a challenge to me that as of June 1st 2023 she believes that the 6th district auxiliary will have a higher percentage of membership renewals than the 6th district of the SAL. I obviously accepted the challenge and brought this up at our district meeting on October 9th and asked all squadrons to do what they can to, renew and recruit new members

Respectfully submitted

Edward C Hooke

6th District Commander

DISTRICT 7 - Cmdr. Kevin Kirkwood

The 7th District started the new year with a meeting held at the Robert N. Austin Post#1279 in Campbell on September 11th. The members were privileged to have 7th District American Legion Commander Mosher address our meeting. The budget and other business were discussed. We are working to get better representation by some of the counties. We have some new officers this year. I am confident they will do a great job supporting the SAL. The district submitted two candidates for the Mid-Winter leadership workshop. The next District meeting will be held December 11th at the Harvey C. Noone Post#954 in Churchville at 1pm.

The National Commander will visit the District on October 29 at Post 256 in Canandaigua. As of this writing, there are still spots available if anyone is interested in attending.

Membership – The 7th District finished at 101% last year. We have started this year a little slow and missed the first goal and are on track to miss the October 13th goal. We will continue working with the squads to get their memberships and SDR forms submitted.

C&Y - We are planning to hold our legion family children's bowling event this year. All junior members are eligible to attend the event. The Commander's project is the Child Welfare Foundation. Hopefully we can organize a fundraiser in support of this important American Legion program.

Americanism - The 7th District will host a flag retirement and education event in the spring. The preparations are underway. The details will be announced in the next couple months.

VA/VS - The 7th District is planning to strongly support the Walk-A-Thon again this year. We are encouraging each county to plan a walk or benefit event. We hope to surpass our contribution last year. We are encouraging all squads to support the Canandaigua VA hospital's holiday programs.

I look forward to the National Commander's visit and the Department and Detachment leader visits to our counties next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kirkwood

DISTRICT 8 - Cmdr. Dimon Smith

The new year of 2022 has started with over 100% membership being recorded from last year. The Mighty Eight as the second biggest District of New York has always stayed at the top in membership. This year will be no different as we meet each goal as the dates come closer. I attended our membership meeting in September @ Leroy Post and

received strategies to encourage growing membership. Thanks go to Daryl, as membership Chairman he does a good job in organizing our efforts.

I visited each Squadron in my District that was unable to collect their yearly awards at our Binghamton Convention. Personally presenting these awards is important to acknowledge their efforts and gives me a chance to meet new brothers doing the good work of helping and honoring our Veterans and their families. Making the lives of Veterans and their families better should always be our focus. Volunteering is paramount in this effort. I attend as many events as I can and continue to work for God and Country.

In addition to Membership, I also serve on our VA&R Commission led by VE&E Chairman Jim Coates. The annual Walk-A-Thon is led by Commission member Gabe who always does an excellent job coordinating with The American Legion Auxiliary on a 50-50 project. Last year, we more than doubled our goal and raised over \$60,000.00 setting a new record. Education sponsored by the Legion Family was a new topic this year that we will consider. Congratulations to Jim for his new National appointment as VE&E Chairman. Our fall conference call, also discussed several other topics for 2022 consideration.

The Squadron Data Report has been vigorously approached with several Squadrons and Posts. I attend several County meetings and District meetings and always request to speak with these groups to be aware of this form and fill it out every year along with the Consolidated Report. Online membership is important and this helps to establish fees to be charged.

Representing the 8th District has me attending the 8th District Fall Conference for the American Legion Auxiliary this year, in Salamanca. The Walk-A-Thon was my main topic that I addressed. I spoke at Department President Nancy Babis' installment at The Convention this year and also stressed the great working relationship we share with the Walk-A-Thon.

Tim Van Patten II our new Detachment Commander has been surely missed at our 8th District meeting as he performs his duty with visitations. He always brings great knowledge of our organization and contributes to focusing our future direction. Commander Van Patten is sharing his experiences through Face Book so you can see what a great State of New York we have. Thank you Commander, we will be happy to see you when you visit your own 8th District.

Finally I would like to offer my sympathies for all members who have experienced tragic losses to their families this year. We are all part of a big family and share in your sorrow. Please be assured that we are all willing to help at these times and don't be afraid to ask.

As 8th District Commander of the Detachment of New York I respectfully submit this report for your comment and acceptance.

Peace and good will on Earth:

Diman Smith
8th District Commander for the Detachment of NY
Sons of The American Legion
Squadron 1280
Chautauqua County

DISTRICT 9 - Cmdr. Michael Jacobs

Membership numbers in the 9th District starting to rise and while we still have many squadrons with zeroes still, we also have some squadrons that are doing really well in early renewals. Along with Vice Commander Guidice, I will be contacting all of our 9th District squadron to check in on membership and to give them important updates on next year's Detachment Convention which will be held in the 9th District. It is important to me that we get as many Sons members as possible from the 9th District informed and engaged to help and participate. I plan to attend the 9th District visitations in November as well and I hope to meet as many Sons members as possible during these events. We will be holding our next 9th District meeting later this month, hopefully hosted by one of our new squadrons in a further effort to engage our newest members in the district and detachment.

Since the convention in July, I have been attending County and District Legion meetings in my area as well as attending some fundraising events held by squadrons in my area. I am continuing to engage these squadrons and try to get them interested and involved at the higher levels. It is my hope that next year's convention will also help to get these squadrons and members interested in District and Detachment level activity.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jacobs, Commander
Detachment of New York, 9th District

DISTRICT 10 - Cmdr. James Connolly

As I returned home from State Convention, our main job is to get ready for the visitations of our state leaders. As Tenth District Commander I attended Suffolk, Nassau and Queens, along with our State Vice Commander Joey Belanger, PNC Chris Cerullo and Sergeant at Arms Greg Falco.

The message from our State Commander of the SONS was outstanding, and I really enjoyed meeting other members in Nassau and Queens County. There are a lot of great people and talk about the Sons of The American Legion.

My main goal this year is to bring friendship among the 3 counties and share different ideas. In the next couple of days, I am looking forward to going to the DEC meeting in Buffalo to be with our Detachment Commander.

Looking for a banner year!

Jamie Connolly
10 District Commander