



Sons 101

An introduction to

The Sons of The American Legion

Timothy S. Van Patten II, Detachment Vice Commander 7/8

Membership Eligibility Dates

- Open to all male descendants of a veteran who served during the following dates:
- Aug. 2, 1990 — cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. government
- Dec. 20, 1989 — Jan. 31, 1990
- Aug. 24, 1982 — July 31, 1984
- Feb. 28, 1961 — May 7, 1975
- June 25, 1950 — Jan. 31, 1955
- Dec. 7, 1941 — Dec. 31, 1946
- April 6, 1917 — Nov. 11, 1918
- A DD-214 should be received and verified for eligibility

Our Emblem

- The design of the SAL emblem was taken from the emblem of our parent organization, but is oval in shape so as to be easily distinguished. The star in the center represents our country, and the five points of the star represent the Five Point Program of the Sons of The American Legion. The sun in the background represents the Sons of The American Legion and the rays represent the loyalty of its membership. The blue of the emblem, like the blue of our flag, stands for justice. The two stars in the blue border stand for freedom and democracy. The wreath below the star is in memory of our comrades, and those of our fathers who willingly gave their lives for their country. The 10 points of the emblem represent the Ten Ideals of every Legion son.



Our Preamble

- Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as “Sons of The American Legion” for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Structure

- Squadron
- Foundation of the organization
- French Blue Cap with RWB piping
- Nothing should ever be attached to the Emblem side of the Uniform Cap.
- Either State or City and State Abbreviation on left



Structure Continued

- County
- Not all Detachments have County level
- French Blue cap with White piping
- County Name and State Abbreviation on Left



Structure Continued

- District
- New York has 10 Districts
- French Blue cap with White Crown
- District name and State Abbreviation on Left



Structure Continued

- Detachment
- Detachment Vice-Commanders represent two Districts each
- 1/9, 2/10, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8
- French Blue cap with Gold Crown, State name on left.



Structure Continued

- National
- Highest Level
- New York is about to have it's second National Commander when Greg "Doc" Gibbs from Hamburg is elected for 2018 – 2019
- Gold cap with RWB piping, State name on left



Officers

- Every level has: Commander, Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Historian, Chaplin, and Sgt-at-Arms.
- Other positions include: Membership Chairman, Finance Officer, Legislative Chairman, Internal Affairs Chairman, Americanism Chairman, VA&R Chairman, Children & Youth Chairman, Public Relations Chairman, and Judge Advocate.

YOU are the face of the organization!!!

- Every time you are wearing an emblem of the SONS, you are representing the organization!!!
- How you act will sway the public's opinion of who we are and what we do.

We are a Not-For-Profit Organization

- We are a Committee of The American Legion.
- Our sponsoring Post has the final say on anything we do.
- It's nice to have a large bank account for emergency expenditures, BUT we should be donating back to our communities through local charities or approved National programs.
- The SONS are the largest contributor to the CWF on a National level.

National Funds

- Child Welfare Foundation
- National Emergency Fund
- Veteran's Administration
- Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Fisher House Foundation
- Operation Comfort Warriors
- Citizen's Flag Alliance

Local Funds

- ECAL Homeless Woman Veterans Shelter
- William P. O'Connell R.O.T.C. Scholarship
- Kim Huson Memorial Scholarship Fund

Local Sponsorships

- Boy's State and Girl's State
- American Legion Baseball
- Boy Scouts
- Junior Shooters
- Oratorical Contests
- Local Scholarships

Our Calendar Year

- District and Detachment Officers serve from the close of Detachment Convention until the close of the following Detachment Convention.(July)
- County Officers serve from close of County Convention until close of following County Convention.(June)
- Squadron Officers serve from election (typically May) until next Squadron Election.

Officer Certification Forms

- Due as soon as elections are concluded for all levels.
- Detachment WILL NOT mail new membership cards until OCF is received in Albany.
- A copy of OCF should be sent to County, District, Detachment, and one copy retained by Squadron.
- Only members who have paid current year's dues are eligible to hold office OR vote.

Delegation Strength

- The number of Delegates a Squadron can have at County, District, Detachment, and National levels are contingent upon the number of paid members in a Squadron.
- Typically you are allowed ONE Delegate for every TEN paid members to County.
- The number allowed to represent at District and Detachment are based on County Membership.
- The number allowed at National are based on Detachment membership.

Meetings

- Squadrons should meet every month
- County should meet every month
- District meets approx. every two months
- Detachment meets at Fall DEC, Mid-Winter, and Detachment Convention.

County Meeting Dates

- September 28th ~ Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672
- October 26th ~ Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449
- November 30th ~ Troop I Post #665
- December 21st ~ Francis J. Donovan Post #1626
- January 25th ~ TBD
- February 22nd ~ TBD
- March 29th ~ Matthew Glab Post #1477
- April 26th ~ East Aurora Post #362
- May 17th ~ Hamburg Post #527
- June 2nd ~ Iroquois Post #1587 (County Convention)

8th District Meeting Dates

- Oct 1st Morrison - Hayes Post #702, Wellsville, Allegany County
- Dec 3rd Jewell Buckman Post # 529, Holley, Orleans County
- Feb 4th Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, Cheektowaga, Erie County
- Apr 8th Little Valley Post #531, Little Valley, Cattaraugus County
- Jun 16th J. J. Welch Post #381, Niagara Falls, Niagara County (District Convention)

Fall DEC

- Detachment Executive Committee includes all elected Detachment Officers, District Commanders, and Detachment Committee Chairmen.
- Usually held at Detachment Commander's home Squadron.
- All SONS are welcomed to attend
- This year will be Nov 10th in City Island (Bronx)

Mid-Winter Conference

- Held in January in Albany, NY
- All Sons are welcome to attend
- This year will be Jan 19-21

Detachment Convention

- Election of Detachment Officers
- Awards presented for year to top Squadrons
- All SONS are welcomed to attend
- This year will be held in Rochester, NY, from July 18th - 21st

American Legion Family College

- A three day training program to educate all members of our organization
- Held at the SUNY Morrisville Campus
- Graduates receive a diploma and lapel pin
- Enrollment limited to 100 students a year, submit applications early
- \$225 enrollment fee includes lodging and all meals
- This year class is in session from June 1-3

Commander's Visitations

- The Department Commander, Department President, and Detachment Commander visit every County throughout the year.
- Opportunity to interact with leadership.
- Opportunity to present donations to leadership for their yearly project.

Commander's Visitations

- 8th District Dates are:
- Feb 5th Chautauqua County, Samuel J. Derby Post #556
- Feb 6th Cattaraugus County, Norton - Chambers Post #1434
- Feb 7th Allegany County, Morrison-Hayes Post #702
- Feb 8th Wyoming County, TBA
- Feb 9th Niagara County, J. J. Welch Post #381
- Feb 10th Erie County, TBA
- Feb 11th Genesee County, Botts-Fiorito Post #576
- Feb 12th Orleans County, TBA

National AL Commander's Visitation

- National American Legion Commander visits every District during the year.
- Opportunity to interact and donate to Commander.
- 8th District Visitation is October 13th at Wheatfield Post #1451, Niagara County

Legislative Committee's Hill Days

- Detachment Members meet with elected officials in Washington D.C. and Albany NY once a year to help educate the Government on Veteran's needs and Bills coming up for vote.
- Washington D.C. date is Feb 25-28
- Albany NY is Mar 12-13
- All SONS members encouraged to attend

American Legion Family Homecoming

- A state-wide testimonial dinner honoring the Detachment Commander, Department Commander, and Department President.
- This year will be May 19th, site TBD

Committee to Elect Greg “Doc” Gibbs

- Erie County, The 8th District, and Detachment of New York are proud to support our own Greg “Doc” Gibbs as a candidate for National Sons Commander 2018-2019.
- Member of Hamburg Squadron #527
- All Squadrons are encouraged to host a fund raising event to help Doc.
- Doc will be only the 2nd National Commander from New York State.
- (Christopher R. Cerullo 1982-83)

SONS National Programs

- Five Star Program (Younger Members)
- Patriotism
- Citizenship
- Discipline
- Leadership
- Legionism
- After the member has received the five stars, he should then be awarded a Five Star Medal for perfection in SAL work.
- Insignia for the Five Star Award is achieved by certification. All orders must first be approved by department or detachment headquarters, and sent together with the remittance to National Emblem Sales, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

SONS National Programs



SONS National Programs

- Ten Ideals (Older Members)
- Patriotism
- Health
- Training
- Knowledge
- Honor
- Faith
- Helpfulness
- Courtesy
- Reverence
- Helpfulness



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
“JAMES H. PARKE MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD”

- 1.The youth volunteer is outstanding (for example, leadership ability, dependability, inspiration to patients), and is recommended by the Medical Center Service in which he/she is serving; and
- 2.The youth has completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled service during the calendar year prior to September 1; be a student in the 10th grade or above and has not reached his/her 19th birthday.

Scholarships

Samsung Scholarship

- Scholarship applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current session of either The American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. - or a legally adopted child of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership.
- Ten National Scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region)
- Ten National Runners-Up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region)
- Remaining Department Finalists receive \$1,250 each guaranteed

Legacy Scholarship

- Child/children or legally adopted child/children or the child of a spouse by prior marriage or dependent child as defined by the United States Armed Services of active duty United States military and National Guard and military reservists, who were federalized and died on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001
- Child/children or legally adopted child/children or the child of a spouse by prior marriage or dependent child as defined by the United States Armed Services of active duty United States military and National Guard and military reservists, who were federalized and received an injury while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001 leading to a Department of Veteran Affairs disability rating of 50 percent or higher
- The total amount of Legacy Scholarship money to be awarded varies based on the amount of donations received each year and the total amount of income derived from interest on the trust each year.

Baseball Scholarship

- In 2016, The American Legion awarded \$22,000 in scholarships to deserving players. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

Oratorical Contest Scholarships

- Scholarships are awarded to the three finalists. First place receives \$18,000, second gets \$16,000 and third takes \$14,000.
- Each individual state winner certified into and participating in the first round of the national contest receives a \$1,500 scholarship.
- Each first-round winner who advances but does not qualify for the finals receives an additional \$1,500 scholarship.
- Scholarships may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.
- In addition to the national organization's scholarships, hundreds of scholarships are awarded to participants by posts, districts, counties and departments during earlier levels of competition.

Eagle Scout of the Year

- The American Legion honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the national convention with a \$10,000 scholarship. The three runners-up get \$2,500. Further information is available from department adjutants or the Americanism Division.

Junior Shooting Sports Scholarship

- Annual American Legion 3-Position Junior Air Rifle Championship
- Two Categories:
- Precision: Winner will receive \$5,000 in college scholarships
- Sporter: Winner will receive \$5,000 in college scholarships
- The winners in both Precision and Sporter category will receive an expense paid trip to The American Legion National Convention where they will be honored as part of the Youth Champions Delegation. This scholarship is provided in part by The American Legion and The Sons of the American Legion.
- Second place finishers in each category will each receive \$1,000 in college scholarships generously provided by The American Legion Auxiliary.

PNC Richard M. Pedro Memorial Scholarship

- The Department of New York is offering a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Past National Commander Richard M. Pedro, who was also a past department commander and long-time department adjutant. The scholarship is available to high school seniors residing in New York State who are descendants (child, grandchild, great-grandchild) of living or deceased Legionnaires; or who are children of New York service members who died in the war on terrorism. Deadline for submitting an application is June 15. The application must be accompanied by an essay less than 500 words or a video on the topic of “the importance of The American Legion in my community.” The scholarship will be awarded during the annual Department Convention in July.

Dr. Hannah K. Vuolo Memorial Scholarship

- The Department of New York offers the Dr. Hannah K. Vuolo Memorial Scholarship for a high school senior or graduate planning to pursue a degree in secondary education. Annual deadline is May 1.

The 8 & 40 Nursing & Respiratory Therapist Scholarship

- The Eight and Forty scholarship applicant must attend an accredited school of nursing or a accredited respiratory therapist program

The William P. O'Connell Memorial Scholarship

- One (1) scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 will be awarded annually.

The Cerullo Memorial Scholarship

- Up to four (4) Scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each will be awarded annually.
- One (1) new and up to three (3) renewable scholarships to previous winners

Mandatory Reports

- Officer Certification Form
- Should be sent after election of new officers
- Send to County, District, Detachment and keep one copy on file at Squadron
- **NO NEW CARDS** will be mailed until this form is received in Albany at Headquarters

Mandatory Reports

- Consolidated Squadron Report
- Submitted once a year to Detachment and National.
- Keep track of all hours volunteered and monies donated throughout year.
- Awards are issued by Detachment and National based on these forms
- Allows National to tell Congress we donated X dollars and X hours as an organization

Membership Workshops

- August 27th – 8th District workshop 0930, Hamburg Post #527
- October 7th – 7th & 8th District workshop, 0930-1300, Botts-Fiorito Post #576, Leroy, Genesee County. Lunch Provided

Membership Transmittals

- Should be sent every time membership money is collected.
- DO NOT hold onto form to minimize your paperwork.
- Goals are put in place to achieve target percentages throughout the year.
- These numbers affect Delegate strength

Dues Structure

- \$8 should be sent with every dues transmittal.
- \$2 stays with the state per member (mandatory)
- \$6 goes to National for every member (mandatory)
- 8th District per-capita dues is \$0.50 per member based on previous year's membership (you will get a separate invoice from District) ((optional but encouraged))
- If we can get a County organization again it will most likely mimic District, but will be up for a vote by the County membership.
- Therefore, your Squadron dues should be at least \$9 to cover all per-capitas.
- "It's not the price you pay for membership...it's the price your forefathers paid to make you eligible!"

Where does that money go?

- Membership cards are printed by National along with the postage to send them to Detachment.
- National and Detachment have full time staff employees to assist us.
- Various forms and mailings
- Some expenses by District, Detachment, and National Officers are covered through per-diem and reimbursements.
- A full schedule of Detachment reimbursements are available in the Detachment Executive Manual online at SONSDNY.ORG

Publications

- National sends out the National Update Newsletter 3 times a year, submissions can be sent to: Mike Pipher, Editor
- mpipher@indiana.edu
- The State Newsletter is The Liberty, it can be found online and submissions can be sent to any Public Relations Committeeman.

Social Media

- Many Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments have webpages and Facebook accounts
- The Detachment webpage is SONSDNY.ORG
- The Detachment Facebook is Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion
- The District Facebook is 8th District, Detachment of New York, Sons of The American Legion

Headquarters Staff

- Our Detachment Headquarters is located at 112 State Street, Suite 1300, Albany NY 12207 1-800-253-4466, fax (518) 427-8443
- The SONS coordinator is Ann Wilsey ext. 16 Annie@NYLegion.Org
- The SONS membership coordinator is Charlie LaHaise ext. 13 Charlie@NYLegion.Org

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