



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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 28, 2023**

**Hancock American Legion Post 289**

**Hancock NY**



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Detachment of New York  
1304 Park Boulevard  
Troy, NY 12180  
518-463- 2215

**Minutes of the  
Detachment Fall DEC Meeting  
October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Hancock American Legion Post 289, Hancock NY**

- The Colors have already been posted. Membership saluted.
- The POW/MIA banner was placed by Master Sgt at Arms McDaniels
- Commander DeAngelis Jr. recited the POW/MIA Ceremony.
- Chaplain Parks offered the Opening Prayer
- The head table led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The head table led the membership in reciting the Preamble.
- Commander DeAngelis Jr. called the Meeting to order at 0900.
- Assistant Adjutant Brower took Roll Call, which indicated a quorum was present. Assistant Adjutant Brower introduced our guest to our DEC Meeting. From the Detachment of Maryland National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion Don “JR” Hall and his Aid Tom Deal.
  
- Motion by Joseph Guidice to appoint Bruce Ruthven a Judge Advocate for the Fall DEC Meeting. This motion is seconded by Clarence Bosford and carried.
  
- Commander DeAngelis Jr. brought forward the Post Commander for greetings and the Post Commander was presented with a certificate of appreciation.
  
- Motion by David Lee to accept the Motion to Accept Minutes of 2023 Pre & Post Convention DEC, Convention 2023 Minutes. With the correction made to Page 2 with IA Chairmans name Correction to Williamson not Williams, this is seconded by Dennis George and carried.
  
- Motion by Joseph Guidice to appoint Kevin Hewitt as Convention Chairman 2024 Niagara Falls. This Is seconded by Herman Downer and carried.
  
- Commander DeAngelis Jr. called the Meeting in recess at 0910 for Commission and Committee meetings. DEC Meeting to reconvene at 1020.
  
- Commander DeAngelis Jr called the meeting back to order at 1020.

**1.00 Reports**

- 1.01 Americanism Chairman Downer** reported: The Senior American Legion Baseball Tournament was held in Binghamton and Utica July 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> with Greece Post 468 beating Brounshidle Post 205 7 to 6. Greece made it to the final 4 of the Northeast Regional Tournament. Before losing to Nashua, New Hampshire 3 to 2. The Junior Tournament was held in Binghamton and Utica July 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> with Rockland Pirates Leo Ladders Post 130 defeating Binghamton Post 1645 10 to 4. The Americanism Committee received a Thank you card from last year’s Cerullo Scholarship winner MacKenzie McDaniels. I am excited to announce that the Americanism Committee has received the first ever application for the James E. Daly Americanism Awards. It is Americanism’s goal to highlight more of the Programs in events in the Detachment. It will take some time as we are still rebuilding the Americanism Committee. Please share any Events or Programs happening in your area so we can put it on the Facebook Americanism Page. I would love to even attend events throughout the Detachment. One thing that has been lost is the History Scrap Books and it’s something I personally would love to see come back. As

talking to Squadron Historians, I have found they aren't sure what a Historian does. So maybe a class at a Mid-Winter in the near future. I do know that at least one District Historian Plans on submitting a Scrapbook to be judge. Let's see if we can get more Districts to submit as well as Squadrons or even our Detachment. If anyone would like the Official Scrapbook Contest Rules to let me know and I can email you a copy. Not only is the Committee focused on our goals, but we are supporting the goals set forth by the National Americanism Committee. That is to increase Boys State participation by 10%, increase Flag education by 10%, increase Flying Flags for Heroes by 10%. New York was 1 of 24 states that reported last year, and New York was way off from their goal. This year's goal will be even higher due to the fact that the goal is based off a percentage of membership. As you and your Squadron are in the public remember you are what the people in your community are seeing as an image of the Sons of the American Legion. So remember to reflect 100% Americanism.

**Herman Downer moved to accept the report. It was seconded and carried.**

- 1.02 Children & Youth Chairman Clancy** reported: American Legion Family Day will be April 27<sup>th</sup>. Posts should open doors for the public, specifically children. This is not only to show what we stand for but what we do. He intends to have Zoom Call's with every district commander November 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm. The link will be on the website. He is challenging every district to bring it to the local level. Another Zoom Meeting will be on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We should be inviting Press to this event and have it be disguised as a fun event. We should teach flag etiquette in a create and fun way.

**Herman Downer moved to accept the report. It was seconded and carried.**

- 1.03 Finance Chairman Rowald** reported: Our voucher is a legal document, I sign it, the adjutant signs it, then Jim Casey signs it on behalf of the American Legion, this makes it a legal document should there be an issue later. If someone is filling out a voucher for someone else, the person receiving the reimbursement must be the one signing the voucher. If someone is submitting for reimbursement for hotel the receipt must have your name and information on it or it will not be paid, and we have learned that once the bill is paid the hotel cannot go back in to change the receipt it needs to be done at check in There is a strict 30 day policy for submission and payment, even if the dec votes to approve a voucher after 30 days, under no circumstance will it be paid after 60 days know what you are entitled to before you go, know what's permitted when attending national convention, in order to be reimbursed for your hotel, you must stay with the New York delegation in the New York Hotel. If traveling to out of state functions, there must be a roundtrip coach ticket slip attached to your voucher, if it's not attached when submitted it will be returned. Mileage will only be reimbursed up to a roundtrip coach ticket cost. The ticket slip must be dated 30 days prior to the event. Carpooling is strongly urged. When attending NEC or national functions where a call in is provided, you must list it on the voucher in the box that says reimbursement from national and it is to be deducted from your expense total. Finally, when emailing vouchers, please scan them in and send them in pdf format only, do not take a picture and send them in jpeg, it causes the voucher to be discolored and takes a tremendous amount of ink to print them out prior to anyone making a motion to make donations, should confer with the finance commission to insure there are ample funds to cover the donation and we can determine where the money will come from out of the budgeted line items as the miscellaneous line is funded with a minimal amount of money. The sole purpose of the detachment commander is to represent the organization, to deliver his message on behalf of the organization.

**Clarence Bosford moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.04 Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson invited Conventions and Meetings Chairman Guidice Jr. to give his report:** Convention will be Tuesday to Friday. Not the typical Wednesday to Saturday. Need prospective resolutions prior to the day before or of convention.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson invited MT & D Chairman Espey to give his report:** Your Member Training & Development team is preparing for a successful Mid-Winter Conference January 19-21,2024. Friday the 19th we will be having our Leadership Workshop(2.5hrs) and Adjutant class(1 hr) @ 6pm. Participants must be pre-registered through your District. Class is limited to 20 guys. If interested contact your District Commander. Saturday there will be a Breakout Session/Seminar(1.5 hrs) @1:30pm. Topic to be determined. All meetings and training classes/workshops will be held at the Marriott. Advisor Seminar for our Squadron Advisors will be held on Friday January 19, 2024 @ 7pm. This will be over at The Desmond. 26 High Street. Please let your advisor know this seminar is taking place. The seminar will be listed in the American Legion conference program. District Commander's please get names to me for these classes. Detachment Vice Commander's please help the District Commander's in your areas. Please have names to me by December 15th. I need to fill these, so do not delay sending me your two attendees. Back in July after our pre-convention DEC meeting a Detachment Vice Commander and District Commander class was held. This was the first time holding this class. The member training & development commission hopes this was a productive class to help guide you through your year in your positions. In closing if anyone has any suggestions for future classes, please let one of us on the commission know.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Williamson invited Membership Chairman Quick . to give his report:**

2023 Membership Year Summary:

In August 2023 Nationally the Sons of the American Legion set an all-time membership record of 375,743.

In September 2023 the Detachment of New York set an all-time membership record of 30,287. Currently at 30,462.

Great job and thanks to everyone.

2024 Membership Year:

Sept 13 10% Target Date Summary:

In the 10% membership report National has NY at 4,134 membershipssubmitted (13.48%) compared to 2,175 memberships submitted (7.28%) from last year for a year-to-year gain of 1,949.

October 18 25% Target Date Progress:

On Oct 12 we needed 1105 membership submittals to reach the 25% target date. We missed by 9. So close. We are at 24.97% of goal with 7657 total submitted. Last year at the 25% target date we were at 19.47% with 5815 memberships submitted so our year over year gain is 1842. We are performing better.

October 26th highlights:

- Membership stands at 8012
- 8 Squadrons are at 100% (only 1 has submitted an OCF form)
- 3 Districts, 19 Counties, and 114 out of 379 Squadrons are at 35% or better.
- We are on pace to add about 3200 new members this year.
- As of this report we are 2720 shy of the 35% target.

- 125 Squadrons have not submitted 2024 memberships (there has got to be a better term for that since it can include renewals and new members). Their combined membership is 5759. At 35% that's about 2016 members we could add to our totals.

**New Squadrons:**

We have added 2 new squadrons this year whose charters are approved (with 1 pending which is at national):

Hudson Inc Squadron 0184, District 3, Columbia County

Irondequoit Squadron 0134, District 7, Monroe County

Squadron 0688, District 2, Kings County is in the Charter process.

**SDF / OCF:**

As of this report 64% of our squadrons have submitted the Squadron Data Report. 51% have submitted their Officers Certification Forms. These are mandatory forms and need to be submitted.

**Membership Cards:**

If you haven't received your 2024 Membership cards reach out to Charlie LaHaise.

The next 3 target dates are as follows:

Nov 15 - 35% Goal

Dec 13 - 45% Goal

Jan 18 - 60% Goal

**Notes from Membership Workshops:**

There were 5 joint district Department Membership Workshops in August: A couple of notes.

- There were questions about how to determine if members have renewed online, but currently mail in forms. The only way posts can identify online renewals is to run a report on personify. Consensus is to make a push to get these posts to use personify for membership processing. The hardest part is getting registered and getting the bank accounts set up. After that processing membership is really easy.
- There was a strong recommendation to have a separate account for processing memberships using personify to mitigate some of the risks if an account is hacked.

**Rich Able moved to accept all IA reports. This is seconded and carried**

- 1.05 Legislative Chairman Gibbs reported:** February 25-27, 2024 on the Hill meeting as scheduled for legislative issues. Legion priorities yet to be determined. Congress may not be in session but visitors will meet with staffers as needed. NY delegation of Commander, Adjutant, NEC, and Legislative Chairman plan to attend  
**Rick Prime moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.06 Public Relations Chairman Guidice reported:** I'd like to begin by letting you know that our detachment newsletter, The Liberty, is available online and in printed form here at this meeting. The last couple of issues of the newsletter have been a bit difficult to assemble as we have not had many submissions of articles or photos from our membership. I'd like to again ask that ALL Detachment officers, District commanders, and Committee and Commission chairmen submit ONE ARTICLE per YEAR. We only publish FIVE issues per year. Having one article from each of the previously stated individuals would give us ample content for the entire year. This is not a lot to ask. Also, when submitting photos, please submit photos of our SONS actions and activities. So many times I receive items that feature only things that a local post did with no mention

of nor any presence of Sons members in the photo. This is YOUR newsletter. Show of YOUR successes. Once again at Mid-Winter we put our plan to bring attention to one of our other Commissions. As last years campaign was so successful, I am again asking the Children & Youth Commission to help out at the table to run a "CWF Booster" mini-fundraiser all day. Anyone visiting the table that made a donation in any amount got a "CWF Booster" sticker. There will be again signage that displays some of the grants that CWF made in recent years. We raised over \$600.00 in one day for CWF as a result and I'd like to top that this year. I am also asking that our Detachment information table be moved out into the main courtyard at the Desmond to increase our visibility. Unfortunately the location of our booth is only seen by visitors attending meetings in the very back of the conference center and we get a limited amount of foot traffic as a result of this spot. Finally, as you all know our long-time webmaster Gabe Cinquegrana stepped down from that role a couple months ago. At the same time the service that was hosting our website also shut down. Our 2/10 vice commander Joseph Belanger has stepped up to be the new webmaster and has got a website up and running with much of the content from the previous website again available. The webmaster position falls under the PR Chairman and the Adjutant and we are all working to get the new and updated site finalized for our members. Please be patient during this rebuild. If anyone would like to assist with the website there is the possibility of a couple roles available in the near future.

**Joe Guidice Jr. moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.07 VA & R Chairman Coates reported:** Thank You to our VA&R Commission members this year, Joe Hall, Dale Kane, Chris Cerullo, Dimon Smith, David Bishop, Sr. We have five major categories in our agenda this year beginning with:

The Veterans Walk-A-Thon – 2024 Walk-A-Thon Planning

This past year we collected approx. \$57,044 throughout the Detachment of New York, making it another solid year in donations by the SAL and Dept. of NY Auxiliary, going towards the needs of our veterans. Past Detachment and National Commander Chris Cerullo will be coordinating the Walk-A-thon this year, and will be sending out a mass mailing between now and the end of the year to kick it off. We are looking forward to having another great year with our "They Marched for Us, We Walk for Them" Walk-A-Thon, and you will be hearing a lot more about it in the coming months.

Our need for VA Representatives and Deputy Representatives

There are thirteen VA Facilities in New York State, when taking into consideration that the VA Hudson Valley Healthcare System has two facilities (Castle Point and Montrose) and the VA New York Health Care System has four facilities (St. Albans VA Medical Center, Manhattan VA Medical Center, Brooklyn Medical Center, and the Bronx). A few days ago, I would have been telling you that for our thirteen VA Facilities in New York, we currently have three registered VA Representatives and one registered Deputy Representative covering three of these facilities. However, over the past few days I have been in touch with Gabe Cinquegrana, our National VAVS Representative for the National Sons of The American Legion. Gabe has just received a new listing and our current coverage in our 13 NY VA Facilities is now 5 Representatives, 3 Deputy Representatives and 8 Regularly Scheduled Volunteers so, since the publishing of The Liberty, my article is now out of date. But, as a Detachment, we really do need to continue working on getting more Reps, Deps and Regularly Scheduled Volunteers at these facilities where possible. We are making progress. Please! Keep up the good work and help us get Representatives and Deputy Representatives from the Detachment of New York at all our VA facilities. I have heard it said that the VA Reps real job is to bring SAL Volunteers into the VA Hospitals and facilities. This is true, however the VA Reps must also be a regularly scheduled (RS) Volunteer at the VA Facility, whose responsibilities also include promoting within our organization the donation of financial

and material goods to the VA, to attend and participate in the Quarterly CDCE/Community Council Meetings, maintain our organizations records of hours and donations, promote, coordinate, and involve our organization in VA activities and projects, and finally, to conduct our organizations annual joint review with VA Staff. Chairman Coates is now working with Gabe Cinquegrana, our National SAL VAVS Representative, in updating our Detachment VA&R Commission NY VA Location, VA Representatives and Deputy Representatives Guide.

Current SAL Representatives and Deputy Representatives are listed as follows:

Albany VA Health Care, Upstate NY, Representative Frank Aguado, Deputy Representative, David Bishop Sr.

Batavia VA Health Care, Western NY, Representative, n/a, Deputy Representative, n/a, RS Volunteer Gary Hill.

Bath VA Finger Lakes Health Care, NY, Representative, Joe Cleveland? Deputy Representative, n/a, RS Volunteers David Perry, Phil Dinehardt, Tom Smallcomb, Robert Orr.

Buffalo VA Western NY Healthcare, Representative, n/a, Deputy Representative, n/a, RS Volunteer Kevin McGlaughlin.

Canandaigua, NY, VA Finger Lakes Healthcare, Representative, Gabe Cinquegrana, Deputy Representative, Jim Coates, along with RS Volunteers Bruce Ruthven & Ray Lawson from Phelps.

Syracuse, NY VA Health Care, Representative, Edward Hooke (not listed), Deputy Representative, Rich Abel (not listed), RS Volunteer Nick Pantazis listed as a (DAV Driver)

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System, Representative, Robert Reeg, Deputy Representative, n/a.

Northport VA Medical Center, Representative, n/a, Deputy Representative n/a.

St. Albans VA Medical Center, Representative, n/a, Deputy Representative, n/a.

Manhattan VA Medical Center, Representative, n/a, Deputy Representative, n/a.

Brooklyn VA Medical Center, Representative, n/a, Deputy Representative, n/a.

Supporting the VA with volunteers is a major program of the American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary. We need members to become VA Representatives and Deputy Representatives. The Representative/Deputy Representative Application Form can be found at [www.sonsdny.org/Forms](http://www.sonsdny.org/Forms) Documents and Manuals. (Click on Forms and Documents on the Home Page).

Veterans Appreciation Day

Historically designated as May 21<sup>st</sup> we will continue to emphasize this, not as a day, but as an on-going program, to assist our local veterans who may need some assistance with routine maintenance or repair, yard work, or other tasks around the home. As Sons of The American Legion, we can spread the word that if there is a veteran in our community in need of some assistance, we can rally the troops to help them out. And we encourage all squadrons to start a sign-up sheet at your Post and get the word out to our Legionnaires and other veterans in our communities, to list those jobs that our veterans could use some help with, get a team together and schedule the day and time. Or, organize a cook - out or take them to a ball game. Let us make every day Veterans Appreciation Day! And Gentlemen, do not forget to include those hours and financial contributions in our Consolidated Reports. Last year we contributed \$105,094 and 17,482 hours toward Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation activities and \$8,046 and 853 hours to Veterans Employment and Education activities in NY, and that is not to mention Americanism, Children and Youth and Internal Affairs. This is not to pat ourselves on the back, but to let others know the contribution that we make.

Veterans Employment and Education

Now it would be remiss of me, as chairman, not to talk about the National SAL Veterans Employment and Education Commission. As a commission we work to raise awareness

of the challenges our veterans face as they transition from military to civilian life. Here in New York the Seventh District Commander's Project was a "Welcome Home Event" at Sampson State Park on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake in Seneca County. A meal was provided and the VA was there along with veteran organizations, potential employers, and some historical military vehicles. We spent quite a bit of time and effort raising awareness of The American Legion's "BE THE ONE" program and the VA S.A.V.E Program (understanding the Signs, Asking the most important question, Validating the veterans experience, Encouraging Treatment and Expediting getting help.) With VA S.A.V.E. and "BE THE ONE" presentations done in various locations, both programs are aimed at reducing veterans' suicide. Some of us, also in the Seventh District, volunteered at the Rochester Veterans' Outreach Center's Stand Down at the Rochester Public Market on Sept. 15th. Around the state there continues to be many programs supporting homeless veterans housing, and veterans' education and employment. And hats off to the Alleghany County Veterans Association for establishing the Alleghany County Veterans' Camp. Way off the beaten path, the camp is a very nice retreat for Veterans.

And I also want to mention those American Legion Posts sponsoring things like job fairs such as Tim Fidler and Onieda Squadron 169 in Onieda, NY.

#### VA&R & VE&E Individual Promotion and Awards

Current National Awards related to VA&R and VE&E, that we are encouraging people to nominate others for, are National Charles Rigsby VA Volunteer of the Year Award, and the National Marvin P. Nay Veterans Employment and Education Outstanding Contributor Award. Also, the Detachment of New York offers the Joseph Santa Croce Service to Veterans Award, and Detachment of New York Member of The Year Award. Please recognize people you know, who stand out, by nominating them for one of these awards.

**Joseph Bellanger moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**Commander DeAngelis Jr** recessed the meeting for lunch at 1146.

**Commander DeAngelis Jr** called the meeting back to order at 1221.

**Commander DeAngelis Jr** called forward Department Commander Timothy Collmer.

Commander Collmer spoke on legion.org/action and the great job our commander is doing.

Commander Collmer was given a Certificate of Appreciation.

**1.08 Webmaster Bellanger reported:** New website is up. Some things from the old website may not make it to the new one. If there is something from the old site that you need on the new site let Joe know. So far 856 people have signed up for the email blasts. Make sure that when posting social media to add #SAL.

**Joseph Bellanger moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.09 Historian Bosford reported:** We didn't win the national History Book. We are looking for each squadron send a copy of the charter for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Clarence Bosford moves to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.10 Chaplain James Parks reports:** He would like information sent to him for members that are sick or have passed away. Was brought up about Kevin Kritzer's wife hit by a car.

**James Parks moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.11 Vice Commander 1/9 by Joseph Guidice Jr. reported:** Membership in the 15 and 9th District about on par with most of the rest of the Detachment. Some of our squadrons



are showing excellent numbers in renewals and others are lagging. This is disappointing as some of our larger squadrons in both districts seem to be off to a slow start to the new dues year. I know that in the 9th they are working to contact the squadrons and get them to turn in their renewals that they are holding. The 1st district is a bit more challenging as we don't yet have a sitting district commander along with a membership chair to contact. I will be trying to contact the individual Squadrons myself to talk about membership. It is still a goal of mine to get a 1st district leadership team in place. In September I had the pleasure of traveling with our Commander and the rest of the Department leadership team to the Bronx County visitation. Especially rewarding was the opportunity to visit the Bronx VA center and Fisher House and assist the commander in presenting checks from the detachment. I also recently attended the Fall NEC meeting in Indianapolis for the first time and helped in setting up a hospitality room for our trailing candidate for National Commander, William Clancy. Our team from New York did some great work and we can be proud of the positive image that we presented for our detachment and our candidate. I often speak about leadership and in closing I would like to add this: In a few short months we will be gathering again in Albany for our Mid-Winter Conference. Arguably, this is our most important and informative meeting of our year. For those of you that are here today at this Fall DEC meeting, start thinking about those up-and-coming leaders in your squadrons, counties, and districts. Start working on them NOW and encourage them to come to the Mid-Winter meeting. Sign them up for our Leadership and Adjutant classes. Maybe run a small fundraiser to help offset the costs of attending the meetings. Being a leader means working to develop your people and help them become better and more informed members and future leaders.

**Joseph Guidice Jr. moves to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.12 Vice Commander 2/10 by Joseph Belanger reported:** Yes it's the time of year again and no I'm not talking about pumpkin spice... its membership seasons. Let's all give the gift of membership. Talk to everyone and anyone about the gift of the American legion. We grow because of the actions of you and your respective posts. You are the difference. We are the difference.
- I'm happy to tell you all about your Nassau County visitation. We began our day at Eisenhower park memorials. It always gives me a great sense of awe when looking at these big monuments. These physical representations will stand to remind us for generations to come. I'm always proud and honored when touring these types of locations. We also were able to attend a veterans BBQ in the park. It always makes me so happy to look out and see smiles on the faces of those who gave so much. They deserve those smiles to stay forever.
- Unfochanetly some of those faces are not filled with smiles some are filled with tears. This is why being the one is so important. Listen to it well. Training is available to all and I suggest it. It's important that we know what to look for when we, god forbid you to have to be that one.
- Getting on the light side of things I'd like to talk to you about my wonderful visit to Kings County. We got together for a wonderful tour of the Brooklyn battle area at Fourt Hamilton. It was amazing to learn how we were standing on so much history.
- Lastly, I would all like to wish you a wonderful holiday season for you and yours!
- Joseph Belanger moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.13 Vice Commander 3/4 by Herman Downer Jr. reported:** Since I have been busy doing a lot of mentoring of 2 American Legion Post regarding their Squadrons. They had issues going on that they need guidance with that needed to be handled in house. I told them I am willing to help give them the resources they needed to solve their issues. I am happy to say one of the problems has been resolved. The Squadron has a whole new slate of Officers in which I conducted the elections for them. The Post is happy with the

new officers in which they are active in activities for the first time in 10 years. Unfortunately, the other issue will take some time to completely work out. I keep in contact with the Post Commander to give him support. When working with these Post I make clear that none of this that I am doing is in any official capacity. That their issues are not of concern at District or Detachment Levels. I am doing this as a friend of the Post and Squadron Members. As the saying goes, I may be preaching to the Choir. But if your Squadron or if you know of a Squadron is having any issues it is important that if they can't solve it then the Post needs to be brought in. I have been mentoring 3 Squadrons that have new Commanders. I make sure that they have the resources they need and know about Officer Certification Form, Consolidated Squadron Report, Squadron Data Form, Squadron Manual among other resources. I have never received the information of the first 3<sup>rd</sup> District meeting, so I was unable to attend. I do plan on attending the District Meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Post 187 in Athens. The 4<sup>th</sup> District Department Visitation was September 19<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>. I spent 11 days on the road through 10 Counties traveling with Commander Peter and District Commander Matt Aldi. We visited many Posts most with Squadron a few without. Each Squadron was mentioned by the Post on how vital the Squadron is to their success. I say this year was a great success and break through for one Squadron. This Post and Squadron had stopped attending Mid-winter and the Squadron had stopped doing any reporting. Over about 10 years I have been reaching out and building a relationship. This year one of the Older Members of the Post said it is time for them to get involved again. So, the Squadron Commander and Adjutant have expressed interest in attending trainings at Mid-Winter. I met a Squadron Commander that was having what he said was membership issues regarding deceased and some other issues. I drove 2 and ½ hours down to their Squadron and we went over the issues. Some of the problems didn't exist. It was a lack of understanding from the older Commander, but it was straightened out. I worked with the temporary Adjutant to go on MyLegion to remove the Deceased Members. I am happy to say that the Commander and Adjutant came to the District Meeting held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Meeting was held at Captain Maxson Post 634 in Cambridge. It was a very well attended meeting from Squadrons throughout the District. A huge thanks goes out to Squadron Commander and District 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Ken Smith. His Squadron was well represented at this meeting including a 10-month-old member. His cover was about twice the size of his head. The next District Meeting is January 6<sup>th</sup> at Post 769 in Chazy.

**Herman Downer moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.14 Vice Commander 5/6 by Edward Hooke reported:** The membership numbers for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> districts as of 10/26 are not where I would like them to be. The 5<sup>th</sup> District is at 27.77 % and the Sixth district is at 22.55 % In the 5<sup>th</sup> district there is still 15 squadrons with 0 submittals and in the sixth district there is 12 squadrons with zero submittals. I have heard excuses from squadrons in the past that they don't want to spend postage when all they have is a couple to send. I am asking, even if there is only one please send it in. If postage is a serious issue, please have these squadrons contact me and I will purchase a book of stamps for them. I do believe with a little work we can reach the 35% goal for November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Many squadrons in both districts have continued to have there chicken barbecues , spaghetti dinners and various functions throughout their communities. I ask that we promote ourselves by having pictures taken possibly even newspaper or local television coverage at our functions to show what we do as members of the Sons of the American Legion.

Visitations for the 6 counties in the 5<sup>th</sup> district were completed on October 5<sup>th</sup> and visitations for the ten counties in the sixth district were just completed this past

Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup> with the National Commanders visitation to the sixth district  
Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The visitations in both districts went well promoting Commanders “Work Mode” message. We went from 80 degrees in the 5<sup>th</sup> district to 40 degrees to start the 6<sup>th</sup> district. Welcome to New York. The experiences shared at the visitations will last a life time. We laughed together, made fun of each other and yes even shed some tears at times....Just like any FAMILY would do. Many memorable moments and experiences were shared during the different visits. While in Chenango county in the 6<sup>th</sup> district we had the privilege of touring the Veterans home in Oxford. I believe that that we were meant to be there at the time we were. We all participated in an honor guard for a veteran who had just passed away and was being escorted by family and saluted by fellow residents on their final journey.

In closing I have one last question for commander Peter that I am sure he will explain further “Dees Your Clothes in the drya Ya

**Edward Hooke moved to accept the report. it is seconded and carried.**

- 1.15 Vice Commander 7/8 by Daryl VerStreate reported: **National Commander Hall Slogan** “Representing More than Me” Many years ago, I was asked why I would want to join the Sons of The American Legion. I can attend all their meetings anyway as a Legionnaire. My response was I joined the SAL to honor my grandfather Raymon VerStreate. The following family members have served.

Daryl – Myself

Raymond VerStreate – WW2 Combat Medic

Beoni VerStraete – Belgium Army

Vincent VerStraete – whom I am named after was KIA in WW2. “Daryl Vincent VerStraete”

Stephen Billings served as an officer under General George Washington and was a charter member of the first Veteran Service Organization formed in 1783 by those officers. Today, known as the Society of Cincinnati.

#### **Detachment Membership**

2023-2025

Dusty spent the entire previous year working with me to take over the Detachment Membership Committee. Every mentor wishes only one thing. That the person they are training does a better job than themselves. I can tell you from what I have seen firsthand from Dusty so far this year, that he has done an outstanding job. I am sure he will make us all proud.

The Detachment of NY made the 10 Percent goal and was only 5 members short of making the 25% goal.

#### **Fall NEC**

I attended the FAL NEC Meeting from October 6-8<sup>th</sup>. The membership workshop was held with over 26 members in attendance.

The PUFL committee is in great discussion on finalizing details.

#### **7/8 Districts**

I have reached out to Dusty in hopes of putting together a list of defunct squadrons for both the 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> districts. In an effort to contact the local Posts and revitalize those squadrons.

A date and time is being set between the two districts to hold our joint visitation.

7<sup>th</sup> District for membership sits at 22.63% with the Nov 15<sup>th</sup> goal of 35% needing another 645 Members.

8<sup>th</sup> District for membership sits at 17.42% with the Nov 15 goal of 35% needing another 1010 Members.

#### **National Commander Visitation**

Unfortunately, I was not able to make the National Commander visitation, I was down with COVID-19 and did not want to attend and make others sick.

Upcoming Events

Surprise we are here, October 27-29 Fall DEC Hancock, NY

December 10, 2023, District 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Cayuga County NY

Midwinter January 19-21<sup>st</sup>.

7<sup>th</sup> District Visitation from 25-31 of January 2025

8<sup>th</sup> District Visitation from 12-19 February 2025

July 15-19 Department visitation Buffalo NY

**Daryl VerStreate moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.16 Trailing National Commander Candidate William Clancy III reported:** the need to make us bigger and stronger with that we need to be helping kids and helping our country. Had a great time at the Fall NEC meeting and at the hospitality room. Purchased his squadron polos for all the persons that helped with his hospitality room. We are hoping to get a rally in every county to get excited for his candidacy. He will be at various functions throughout the state.

**1.17 Alternate NEC David Lee reported:** I do not have a report as NEC George will be covering information from National.

**David Lee moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.18 NEC Dennis George reported:** I attended the National Convention in Charlotte, NC on August 24 -28, 2023, and was sworn in as the NEC for NY, and am looking forward to an ambitious 2 years as your representative!

PDC David Lee was also sworn in as your Alternate NEC, and we will make a great team.

Two Resolutions were passed at the Convention:

2023-2: The National Membership and Squadron Committee has been renamed The National Membership Committee.

2023-3: From the Detachment of Wisconsin, The Josh Dog Program will be replaced by the ALF (American Legion Family) puppy. Recording of administration of the ALF puppy will have a separate space on the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR).

PDC William Clancy III was announced as the trailing candidate for National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion. This will be for the 2025-2026 term.

Congratulations to Bill on his selection. We are NY Strong!

Daryl VerStreate has been appointed Chair of the National Membership Committee, Tim Brower has been appointed as Assistant Sgt. at Arms, Joe Guidice was appointed to the Convention Committee. Our other members who are in positions will remain in place.

Voter Voice sign-ups are encouraged for all, to make our voice heard to support our military, our veterans, and their families.

- On 9/18/23. I notified Representative Brandon Williams regarding him supporting the *Veterans Service Recognition Act*. This would support more than 24,000 active-duty men and women of other nations serving honorably in America.
- On 9/26/23, I notified Representative Brandon Williams regarding him supporting *H.R. 5641 The Pay Our Troops Act*.
- On 10/25/2023, I notified Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and Representative Williams to support the Afghan Adjustment Act to honor the service of our allies who fought against the Taliban.

I attended the Fall NEC Meeting on October 6-8, 2023, and was appointed the Lead NEC Liaison to the Member Training & Development Committee (MTD). The main focus is setting up the SAL University, which will begin on May 1-3, 2024. Candidates who have served as a Commander or under will be eligible to attend. The class size is

expected to be 25, and each Detachment is asked to submit one (1) candidate and one (1) alternate. The program will be 20 hours, 8 hours on Wednesday and Thursday, and 4 hours on Friday. Tuition will be \$500.00. More information will be forthcoming. Interested candidates should contact me regarding attending SAL U.

Applications will be distributed on November 5<sup>th</sup>, with a deadline to submit on February 1, 2024. Announcement of acceptance will be March 1, 2024.

NMI 3 will also be presented during the Spring NEC for the final time. Commander Peter DeAngelis, Jr. and Leading Candidate Gaither Espey will be attending.

Among the resolutions approved by The American Legion's National Executive Committee (NEC) at the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis were three directly related to the Sons of The American Legion (SAL).

[Resolution 22](#) creates the Sons of The American Legion Commander's Advisory Committee, whose purpose is to discuss issues germane to the SAL and recommend courses of action to The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission.

The committee, consisting of a chairman and six members, as well as the SAL National Commander who will have no vote, will collect detachment recommendations and in turn recommend to the Internal Affairs Commission chairman nominations for SAL national commission and committees and SAL national officers.

[Resolution 21](#) creates the SAL Resolutions Screening Committee, which will "consider at any time any resolutions to be assigned to the appropriate SAL commission or committee for the purpose of (a) classifying those resolutions; (b) consolidating them; or (c) eliminating duplications, as well as for the purpose of recommending to the commissions and committees the disposition of the resolutions."

That committee will be chaired by the chairman of the Legion's Internal Affairs Commission and will include three American Legion members and three SAL members. The NEC also approved [Resolution 19](#), a \$250,000 donation from the SAL Reserve Fund to the Veterans & Children Foundation. That donation was [approved](#) at the SAL National Convention.

National American Legion Commander Daniel J. Seehafer spoke at our meeting with a theme of Servant Leadership, which emphasizes 3 points: Competence, Character, and Commitment. Seehafer likes to say, "It's personal," when it comes to The American Legion's mission of serving veterans and their families. Report what you do on your CSR to achieve maximum Impact.

He is continuing the theme of "Be the One," to prevent veteran suicide. "Saving one veteran, or even their family member, one at a time. Now that's The American Legion. That is you. And even me."

Discussion is underway for celebrating the Sons of the American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with activities starting in 2027, leading up to our anniversary in 2032.

**Dennis George moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.19 Advisor Carl Griffith reports:** We need to work on membership and getting members renewed. American Legion Collage is open to SAL and he encourages us to go.  
**David Lee moves to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.20 Master Sgt At Arms Colin McDaniels reports:** He collected \$50 in fines. He also thanks his staff for all of their hard work.  
**Herman Downer moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

**1.21 Adjutant Robert Avery reports:** I thank everyone for attending our Fall Meeting here in historic Hancock NY which was founded in 1806 and is named after John Hancock, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.  
We are very happy to welcome our National SONS Commander Donald "JR" Hall, who will be speaking to us shortly. I hope you have all had a chance to introduce yourself to

“JR”..... I thank Commander Peter for choosing this location and I hope you all are enjoying a nice stay....now my report:

The Call to the Midwinter Conference and Executive Meeting will soon be out. I try to get it out in early November. Gaither has been at work regarding our rooms and meeting areas. The meetings will take place January 19<sup>th</sup> thru the 21<sup>st</sup> . We will once again be at the Marriot on Wolf Road.

Our Detachment Convention takes place July 17-20, 2024 in Niagara Falls, NY. The SAL hotel will once again be the Holiday Inn, room cost is \$169 a night and we have blocked 100 rooms. All convention sessions will be held at the Conference Center which is a short walk from the hotel. This will be our 50<sup>th</sup> Detachment Convention, and the Committee is working on plans to make this one special. More information will be distributed as we go forward.

As for membership, we stand at 25.80% (7,910 members) per the October 23<sup>rd</sup> National report. Our goal for this year as set by National is 30,663. I note that the goal for Ohio is 31,690. Right now they are ahead of us by 326 members....so let's go NEW YORK! All Squadrons are reminded to transmit on a regular basis and in conformance with the Target Dates! The 35% Target Date is November 15<sup>th</sup> and we need 2,822 to reach that number.

The DEC has had 2 email votes this year since Convention. The first was an adjustment to the per diem for this meeting, which passed. The second was the appointment V/C Joseph Belanger as Webmaster, which passed. Please remember to check your email regularly if you are a voting member. I thank Asst Adjutant Brower for conducting these votes.

I have mentioned about our website having to find a new host and transition from Gabe's long tenure as Webmaster. Please be patient as we move forward and iron out kinks. Revisions and additions are mostly known about. I plan on working on the forms and updating for the remainder of my stay as Adjutant.

As I say that, I want to thank ALL of the Assistant Adjutants...Tim VP, Timmy B and Christopher for the work they have ALREADY been doing. I have been mentoring them and will continue doing so. You all know that my second (and final) retirement as Detachment Adjutant is after this Administrative Year. The Adjutant's office is going to be in great shape when I leave.

Squadrons are again reminded of 3 tasks every year.

1. The Officer Report form (OCF) needs to be forwarded each year even if your officers remain the same. This can also be accomplished by use of the “Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants” form which is certified by your Post and provides both the Post and Squadron's Commander and Adjutants.
2. The Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) tallies all the hours and monetary donations of your Squadron for the year. This information is critical.
3. The Squadron Data Report (SDR). The SDR compiles critical data the National organization needs in strengthening the organization and furthering our mission.

We now have an accurate accounting of every Squadron's compliance and if you have not complied, your Squadron will be contacted to provide assistance.

Just some of the organization's projects this year include:

- Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) as always....I want to remind everyone that Robert Morrill from NY is now the President of CWF. Bob is a Dual Member and he is a member of Chili Squadron 1830. I am certain that he is looking for good donations coming in from New York this year.
- Our Detachment Commander's Project: Tusten Youth Commission of Narrowsburg providing new and healthy experiences for youth.
- Our Department Commander's Project: TFA (the Temporary Financial Assistance program) helping active duty military and American Legion with minor

children who are needy and require financial assistance for shelter, food, utilities and health expenses.

- The “Be the One” program addressing veteran suicides.
- The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.

Upcoming events include:

January 19-21, 2024	Mid-Winter DEC Meeting, Wolf Rd Marriott, Albany NY
February 25, 2024	Washington, DC Conference SAL Wreath Laying
April 12-13, 2024	National SAL Commander JR Hall's Homecoming, MD
April 27, 2024	The American Legion Family Day
May 3-5, 2024	NEC Meetings, Indianapolis IN
May 20, 2024	NY Legion Family Homecoming, Vernon Downs NY
July 17-20, 2024	Detachment Convention, Niagara Falls NY
August 23-29, 2024	National Convention, New Orleans LA

I congratulate the 9 National Commission and Committee members from New York (3 of which are Chairmen), along with the 3 National Officers, and the Trailing Candidate for National Commander William Clancy. We have a great presence on the National level, with many dedicated members. Thank you!

I especially thank all the blue cappers across this State for everything they do in support of our Nation's veterans, local communities, and our children and youth!

**Daryl VerStreate moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.21 Commander Peter DeAngelis Jr. reported:** Gentlemen, as I look around the room, I am very happy to see so many people here at my fall DEC, at my last headcount I counted 55... since being elected I have traveled is great state to the 2nd, 10th, 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th districts. I want to thank my vice commanders and my district Commanders from those areas for being by my side during my visits to your area.

My work mode message, and my projects I'll be in received well.

In membership I'm very happy that we made the 10% goal but unfortunately we did not make the 25% goal by nine members. Let's get out there and make a big push to make the 35% on November 15th.

I am hoping everybody is enjoying this wonderful town of Hancock and their accommodations.

And closing, wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving, and a merry Christmas and looking forward to seeing you all again at midwinter conference

**Dennis George moved to accept the report. It is seconded and carried.**

- 1.22 Daryl VerStreate moved to accept all Pre-Submitted Reports. This is seconded and carried.**

- **NEC Dennis George introduced our guest, The National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion JR Hall.** Think about why we are doing this. Commander Hall also spoke on the utilization of the 4-pillar program, and we need to better recognize the members at the squadron level.

**2.00 Sick Call**

**2.01 None**

**3.00 Unfinished Business**

**3.01 None**

**4.00 New Business**

**4.01 None**

**5.00 Good of the Sons**

- 5.01 Commander DeAngelis Jr presented Greg “Doc” Gibbs with the Special Four Chaplain Award.**
- 5.02 Commander DeAngelis Jr reported the Harbor Defense Museum is looking for donations for their Battle of Brooklyn Room.**
- 5.03 Commander DeAngelis Jr reports the Battlefield Gateway Memorial is looking for donations to help with their Multi Generation park.**
- 5.04 Commander DeAngelis Jr reports Homeward Bound ADK. Is looking for donations for the Cabins they are building.**
- 5.05 Matt Able made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 for each project, 5.02, 5.03, 5.04. After much discussion Matt Able withdrew his motion and this will be brought up at the Mid-Winter Meeting.**
- 5.06 Herman Downer made the motion to appoint Tod Darling to the Americanism Committee. It is seconded and carried.**
- 5.07 Sean Mills recognized Ethan Mills for his advancements at the squadron level and county level.**
- 5.08 Sean Mills recognized Tyler Mills for his position with the DEC as well and his plans of going into the Army in 2024.**
- 5.09 Gaither brought up that there will be a position on the Training and Development Committee for the next year.**
- 5.10 The Committee to elect Gaither Espey for Detachment Commander 2024-2025 will be doing a cash raffle.**
- 5.11 Numerous other members brought up various raffles and fundraisers the are taking place/ members have tickets for.**
- 5.12 JJ’s final service will be next month. Contact Tex for more details.**

There being no further business to come before this meeting. Chaplain Parks offered the closing prayer, Master Sgt At Arms McDaniels retrieved the POW/MIA Banner, and membership saluted the colors of our glorious nation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Timothy Brower  
Assistant Adjutant