



Sons of The American Legion
THE LIBERTY
 Detachment of New York



1304 PARK BLVD.

TROY, NY 12180
 (518) 463-2215

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE...by Peter J. DeAngelis, Jr.

Commanders Message
Mid Winter 2024

Happy New Year to All!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your families and friends. It's been so much fun and a great time seeing a lot of you as Department Commander Tim , Auxiliary President Karen, and I travel throughout the great state of New York. I am looking forward to continuing the third district visitation going right into our -Winter Conference, and also seeing the Seventh and Eighth Districts later in the months of January and February.

In membership, as of December 28 we have exceeded our goal for January at 64.79% with 19,868 members paid so far for the 2024 year. Nationally we are in good shape and in 23rd Place. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Mid-Winter Conference.

I am very happy to see a lot of participation in our member development programs with the leadership class and the adjutant classes.

In closing I just want to let you know how proud I am of everybody and all the hard work we are doing and to thank you for supporting my "Work Mode" theme along with my Tusten Youth Commission project.

You guys have definitely exceeded my expectations!!



**DETACHMENT
 COMMANDER**



FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK...by Robert Avery

Welcome to our Annual Mid-Winter Conference! Please take part in all the educational opportunities, meetings, and down time with your fellow members of the New York American Legion Family. Our guest this year is the Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander NE next year, Robert Manzo from Maryland.

The Dec 31, 2023 Year-End National Report has NY with 30,695 total members. YES!! We are now finally OVER 30,000 members! Thanks to every member in the Detachment of New York! We ended at 102.78% of our goal, or 831 members more than we needed for the 100%. Our Renewal Rate for 2023 was 91.67% which was 8th place in the Nation. We still are the 4th largest Detachment being 724 members behind Ohio. 5th place Michigan is still moving up with their own membership numbers. They are 4,420 members behind New York, so they have picked up 1,000 or so members compared to the 2022 final spread.

This year's membership is moving along and we are currently in 29th place by percentage in the Nation and 7th place in the NE Region. We have 21,474 paid members and are at 70.03% 10 days prior to the 60% Target Date. That's over 2,500 members MORE than we had this time last year.....so great job gentlemen! Remember the 3 "R's"Recruit, Renew and Reinstate! Just another point on membership, I am convinced that the online renewal site has been assisting in building our membership. Just in my own Squadron we now have over 10% of our members using the online renewal. The site can be found at [Legion.org/SAL-Renew](https://legion.org/SAL-Renew)

The BIG "3"

As Adjutant, it is my job to ALWAYS stress the importance of the three (3) forms that your Squadron is required to submit to Detachment HQ each and every year.

Due by April 15th is the **Squadron Data Report (SDR)**..... Maintaining your squadron's current information by completing an annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) is very important to both the Detachment and National organizations. It is especially necessary in regards to your membership dues and renewal information. Complete an annual SDR even if your squadron information has not changed.

Also due by April 15th is the **Officer Certification Form (OCF)**..... Most every Squadron's annual election occurs in the month of May and the OCF needs to be filed with Detachment HQ immediately afterwards. This is required even if the Officers remain the same!

Due by June 1st is the **Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)**.....Of all reports, the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) is perhaps the most critical document a squadron can complete. CSR information is combined with other squadrons in creating a final report used by The American Legion, forwarded to the U.S. Congress, and is used to apply and verify awards at National Convention. It also is the basis for Detachment level awards given at Convention each year. Not all squadrons participate in every program; leave those fields blank. The key is to report on the activities your squadron participated in from **June 1st to May 31st**. The form can also be completed online at mylegion.org.

Thank you in advance for completing all three (3) forms EVERY year!

R.J. Avery

Detachment Adjutant – New York



William Clancy for SAL National Commander



Honorary Chairman

Christopher R. Cerullo
PNC

Greg 'Doc' Gibbs PNC

Joe Paviglianti PNC by vote
of the National Convention body

Chairman
David W. Lee

Secretary
Robert J. Avery

Hospitality Chairman
PDC Raymond J. Jarvis

Department Consultant
PNVC Robert F. Neville

Always in Our Hearts

Bill Clancy Sr. PDVC

Mary Anne Clancy ALA

Richard O'Keefe PDC

Doug Malin, PDC

Jim 'Ness' Nessler

To: The American Legion Family of New York & Friends

RE: The Election of Bill Clancy as National Commander for
The Sons of The American Legion

Friends All,

Serving as SAL Det. Commander of New York in 2018 was the greatest honor of my life. Traveling our Empire State, visiting so many posts and counties, making friends and seeing the amazing good works & deeds being done by The American Legion Family was a privilege.

My message was one of confidence in our organization. Confidence in our values and steadfast belief that Thinking Big and Being Bold is how we can achieve growth and spread our message.

With that same spirit in mind and heart I am pursuing the high office of National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion.

The SAL is hitting an all-time high across the Nation. It's my concrete belief that this is perfect timing as our Nation's Veterans, our American Legion Family, and indeed our Nation itself needs us more than ever before.

We have to "Be The One" to stop veterans from suicide and living in despair. We have to inspire our youth to serve their Community, State and Nation. We need to project the values set forth in our preamble to All Americans.

I plan to carry this message to every Squadron in every corner of our country!

To get there however, I need your support! We need to finance the campaign to the tune of over \$100,000

Please consider a donation or fundraisers from your Post, Squadron, Auxiliary or Riders Chapter. Perhaps organize something at your county or district level.

Donations can be presented at The Midwinter Conference SAL Meetings, The Bronx County Midwinter Meet & Greet Room, or mailed to AL Department HQ - 1304 Park Boulevard, Troy NY 12180.

Checks to be made payable to "American Legion Bill Clancy SAL Fund"

I very much appreciate your support and look forward to carrying on for God & Country.

Bill Clancy

Bill Clancy, PDC NY
Candidate for National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion

All Correspondence to AL Dept. HQ – 1304 Park Boulevard Troy NY 12180

Americanism...by Herman Downer

The Detachment Americanism Commission's mission is to support The American Legion Americanism Programs and pass the information on to our Squadrons. There are many Americanism Programs in the Department of New York. They include Scouting, American Legion Baseball, Blood Donor, Boys State, and Junior Shooting Sports just to name a few.

The Detachment Americanism Commission has our own programs that we want to highlight as well. The Cerullo Scholarship is open to a Department of New York American Legion Family member in good standing who is in their senior year of High School, or a graduate enrolled in college. The winner receives a five-hundred dollar scholarship and is eligible for three renewable scholarships.

There are also two Essay Contests that are held annually. The first contest is open to all New York State school children in first through fifth grades with the topic "What America Means to Me". There is one winner from each grade level participating. Each winner receives one hundred dollars. The second contest is open to all New York State school children in sixth through eighth grades. There will be one winner from all grade levels participating. The winners will receive three hundred dollars. They have a choice of three topics to choose from: The United States Bill of Rights, The United States Declaration of Independence, and the United States Constitution.

The James E. Daly Americanism Award is open to any member the Department of American Legion Family in good standing. The recipient is to be nominated for their Outstanding Americanism work in their Squadron and/or community.

Another new program is from the National Sons of the American Legion called "Flying Flags for Heroes". Whenever your squadron participates in placing flags on veteran's graves, they can be reported to Flying Flags for Heroes website or even to the Americanism Commission and we can report them. If your Squadron would like any information on a program in your area or how to start a program in your area, please contact The Detachment Americanism via email dnyamericanism@gmail.com or connect with us through Facebook "Detachment of New York Americanism Committee".

For God and Country

Herman Downer, Jr

Detachment Americanism Chairman



Public Relations...by Joe Guidice

Fellow Sons,

Welcome to the Mid-Winter issue of our newsletter! I hope you all enjoy it. This is YOUR newsletter and in order for it to be successful we need to hear from YOU! I know you're out there doing great work with your squadrons, counties, districts, and your committees and commissions. Share your success! We want to let everyone know what you're doing. So please send in your photos and articles for the newsletter.

This year we will again have our Public Relations table at the Desmond during the Mid -Winter Conference and we will again be running a "Booster" fundraiser for the Child Welfare Foundation. Last year we raised \$600.00 for CWF in just a few hours! Please consider coming over and volunteering an hour of your time to help staff the table. This year we'll be in a new and much more visible location, and we're hoping to provide some great info to our visitors on all the great work we do and talk about the value that a Squadron can bring to a post. Come help be part of that message!

One final note: As you all know, our website is undergoing many changes and updates. Our webmaster is working hard to make sure the site is user-friendly and has all the necessary forms, documents, and information that you need. Many of our forms were badly out of date, and our Adjutant has been working diligently along with our webmaster to update those forms and get them uploaded to the website in an easy-to-find locations. Please bear with us during this time as we continue to improve!

For God and Country,

Joe Guidice
Public Relations Chairman



**PUBLIC
RELATIONS**



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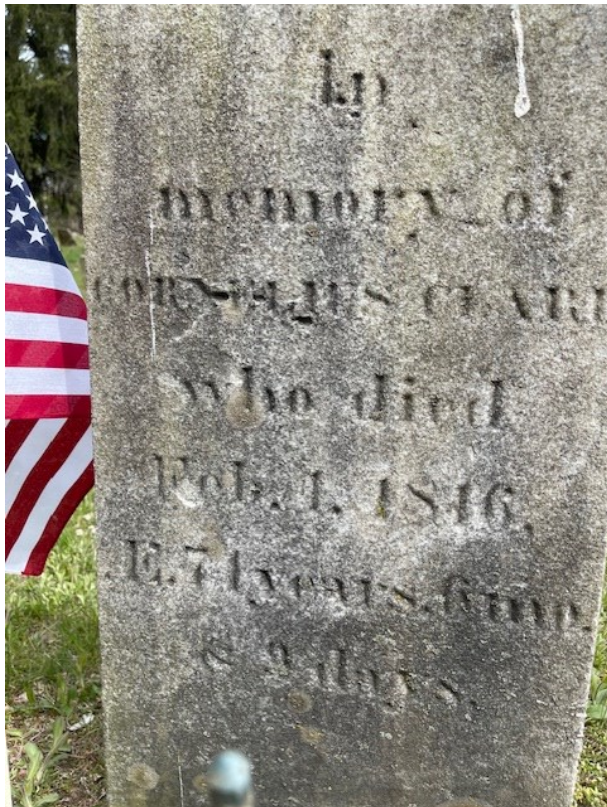
Wreaths Across America

Submitted by William McCormack, Squadron 1075, Katonah, NY.

On 12/16/23 my family had the great honor to place wreaths for veterans with Wreaths Across America at Buxton Cemetery in Bedford Hills, NY. Over 50 veterans are buried there, including twelve American Revolutionary soldiers. Among them is Lt. Cornelius Clark whose house along with the entire town was burned down by the British.

Why is December 16 significant?

On December 16th, 1773, 250 years ago, The Sons of Liberty carried out the Boston Tea Party in Colonial Massachusetts. Three activities in the American Colonies occurred prior to the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The Tea Party was the culmination of resistance to British taxation and control of the colonies. The American patriots viewed it as a violation of their rights and opposed "taxation without representation". In 1774, British Parliament responded harshly to what they viewed as treason. They passed laws referred to collectively as the Intolerable Acts, which blockaded Boston Harbor, prevented commerce, and ended local self-government in Massachusetts. The Boston Tea Party, and the British response, inspired protests throughout the 13 colonies and rallied support for the American Revolution.



Grave of Lt. Cornelius Clark



L-R William & Elizabeth McCormack, Cynthia Nighe Alex Nighe, Eva, Kevin



Squadrons in Action

Share The Pride-Build the Pride

The Sixth Ddistrict hosted their annual Christmas give away for the residents of the New York state veterans home in Oxford. Saturday December 9th the sixth district Legionnaires, Sons and Auxiliary members attended. There were thousands of items for the residents to choose from to give to their loved ones or for themselves, there was even a gift-wrapping area where members wrapped the gifts for the residents. A good time was had by everyone that participated and the residents enjoyed being able to shop for the gifts.



Oriskany Squadron 1448 member Bob Gondek receiving the award for our Squadron being the Top Veteran Fundraising Team during the 2023 Great America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk. Bob raised \$1850.00 representing the Team for the event. He raised \$1675.00 in 2022.

Candor Squadron 907 hosted their 8th annual Holiday parade on November 25th 2023. This was their largest parade to date



Kings County Sons of the American Legion members gathered at the Michael A Rawley, Jr. Post 1636 in Brooklyn for the annual Toys For Tots party on December 9th.

**Have some news or event you'd like to Share??
We want to hear from you!!**

Squadron Commanders, County and District Commanders, ALL members of the Sons, please let us know what you are doing and what you have accomplished in pictures and in words. We don't need long essays, just captions to pictures showing your members in action. (PLEASE: Send pictures in .JPG or .PNG format, and make them individual image files, not in collage or combined formats). SEND SUBMISSIONS TO PR CHAIRMAN JOE GUIDICE libertysalnveditor@gmail.com