



Sons of The American Legion

THE LIBERTY

Detachment of New York



1304 PARK BLVD.

TROY, NY 12180
(518) 463-2215

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 4

WWW.SONSDNY.ORG

SPRING 2025 EDITION



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE...by Gaither E. Espey

Commanders Message Spring 2025



Fellow Sons,

I hope you are all doing well. The calendar says it's Spring but Ol' Man Winter does not want to give up. Hopefully in the next couple of weeks we will see sunny days.

The Detachment has been doing well with membership. Currently New York has 30,193 members for 93.29%. To reach our goal and achieve 100% we need 2,170 more members. As the weather gets warmer and activities increase, Squadrons need to reach out and push to get those 2024 members renewed. To date the Detachment has 2,458 new members for 2025. Subtract that number from our total (27,735).

2024 the Detachment ended with 32,096 members. We have 4,361 members from 2024 who have not renewed. Retention is a huge factor with membership. Currently New York's retention rate is 85.87%. Please reach out to these members to get them renewed.

While my schedule is slowing down at this point in the year, since the Mid-Winter issue of the Liberty, travels have been busy. The week prior to Mid-Winter we completed the 3rd District Visitations. After Mid-Winter we completed 7th & 8th District Visitations. Our Legion family rolls out the red carpet when we arrive at every County. The tours, the great meals, and the friendships made are second to none. We even got to make our way through a couple nice snowstorms. That is what living in the Great Northeast is about. With all County visitations done. Again, I want to thank everyone for the great hospitality showed to us.

On behalf of myself and the Detachment of New York, I would like to thank all Squadrons and individuals who made donations to the CWF (recently renamed the Child **Well-Being** Foundation) and other programs throughout our visitations. If your Squadron has not made a donation and would like to, it's not too late. Simply mail your donation to the

Detachment office.

Some other travels completed included: The American Legion Legislative Conference in Washington DC. New York had a delegation visiting our area representatives on Capitol Hill to discuss the American Legion Legislative priorities. We made visits to the War Memorials where I placed the Detachment of New York wreath at the Vietnam Wall. Department Commander Keith, myself, Vice Commander Joe Guidice, and David Perry had the extreme honor to place a wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. It was truly and honor, and the experience of a lifetime.



(Continued on page 2)



Commanders Message

(continued from page 1)

I also had the opportunity to attend the Department of New York Oratorical Contest Final. It was truly amazing to sit and listen to our young adults speak on stage about the United States Constitution. This is an excellent program that the Sons of The American Legion needs to continue to support.

In March, the Detachment had a delegation attend the Eastern Regional Gathering in Maryland, honoring our National Vice Commander Robert Manzo.

I recently finished up the National American Legion Commander visits, and attended National Commander Joseph Navarette's homecoming in New Mexico, honoring his year as our National Commander.

I then was on my second to last plane ride, out to Indianapolis for the National Executive Committee meetings. New York had 17 guys in attendance for different committee/commission meetings. Having this many guys, shows how strong New York is on the National level.

The Detachment Walk-A-Thon is well underway. "They Marched for Us, Let's Walk for Them" I would like to thank PNC (Past National Commander) Chris Cerullo for chairing this Statewide event. I look forward to a walk later this month. Let's beat last year's donation.

In closing I cannot express my appreciation enough for everything the members of this great Detachment do in support of our Veterans, Children, and the Communities that we live in. After traveling across this State, I have seen what you do. Wear your cover or logo shirt with pride and your head held high because you all certainly deserve it.

See you all at the Detachment Convention in Syracuse July 17-19, 2025.

God bless you, our Veterans, and God Bless America.

Gaither E. Espey,
Detachment Commander



From the Adjutants Desk, ...by Timothy S. Van Patten II

Greetings all,

Spring is finally upon us, giving us the opportunity to not only experience nature's yearly renewal of life with the blossoming of trees and flowers, much needed warmer temperatures, and sights and sounds of various creatures frolicking about, but it also gives us the opportunity for personal renewals (and not just membership). We can take the time to rededicate ourselves to our commitment to our veterans and communities, to take the online class for the Columbia University Be The One protocol (it is free and available to anyone at www.Legion.org), and to help our organization when we go to Washington DC to testify before congress by submitting our Consolidated Squadron Reports so we can give an accurate accounting of our impact across our communities, states and nation. With Memorial Day right around the corner, one of the best ways to honor our veterans is to continue supporting the legacy of The American Legion through active support and participation in our programs.

This is also the time of year when we start holding election of officers on all levels of the organization. Please be sure to submit your new Officer Certification Forms after your elections. I am trying my best to collect email addresses from these forms to help in sharing information from the Detachment as well as sending out calls and required forms to adjutants and commanders, so please type on the online forms if you can, the handwritten ones can be a bit hard to read.

If you ever need any of our forms or documents, they can be found on our website or you can email me directly at TSVP2@AOL.COM. Please put your squadron name and number in the subject line.

I hope to see as many of you in Syracuse as possible for our Detachment Convention.

~Tim

Adjutant, etc... by Robert Avery

Members of the Detachment of NY worked at the SAL National Commander Candidate Reception in support of our own Candidate Bill Clancy last week which was held at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis, IN. The reception took place during the National Executive Committee Meetings.

It is now less than four months when we hope to see our candidate Bill get elected National Commander at the upcoming Annual National Convention. This year's event takes place August 22 – 28, in Tampa Bay, FL.

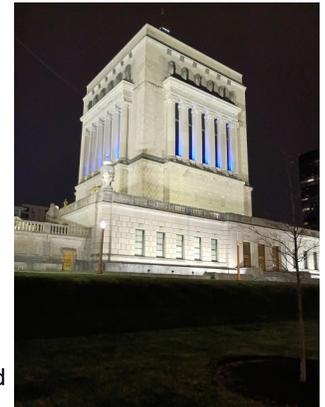


This campaign is not yet over. An endeavor of this magnitude costs over \$100,000. We thank all those Posts, Squadrons, Units and others who have already generously donated to the campaign fund. For those that have yet to contribute, you can show your pride in our great detachment organization and candidate Bill by sending a financial donation of any amount. Thank you in advance for your kindness!

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

All correspondence can be sent to:

AL Dept. HQ
1304 Park Boulevard
Troy, NY 12180



In closing, all squadrons are reminded of the "Big Three" forms that you must complete and submit EVERY year!

- Officer Certification Form (OCF)
- Squadron Data Report (SDR)
- Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)

Submittals of all three reports are now tracked for compliance. All forms are available on the Detachment websites:

<https://sonsofthelegionny.com/2024/04/17/important-documents-are-due/>

For the Good of the SONS,

Robert J. Avery
Secretary, Bill Clancy Campaign
Detachment Adjutant Emeritus

National Executive Committee...by Dennis George

As NEC liaison with the National Member Training & Development Committee, I have been involved in the monthly Zoom meetings which have focused on the upcoming training for the Regional Training Conferences, 2025 Spring NEC meetings, and for the Commanders Training at the 2025 National Convention in August.

I submitted 4 Nominations for 2025-2026 National Commissions and Committees positions.

Training Library: list of modules that are ready for submittal to National: 8 modules with Q&A Modules that are ready we need to submit to IA Commission for final review * List of Modules under development: - Duties of Officers, Membership and retention, Squadron Adjutant Training, How to get youth involved, Public speaking, Legion programs, SAL Blue Book (Commander and Adjutant Manual). Will look at adding this to the SAL Training library.

* Training Modules: Levels 101-103 * Development of SAL Leadership levels 1-3 similar to NMI, and On-Line SAL Basic courses being developed.

Our membership is growing and the 2025 numbers are looking great. Keep up the good work. Let's finish the year meeting that 100%+ goal established by our National Commander Joseph Navarte.

I encourage you to complete and submit the SDR, CSR and OCF forms in a timely manner. This will keep a steady and accurate communication with National

This is time of year that we post flags to honor our deceased veterans. I wish to remind all of the Flying Flags for Heroes program, which is an continuing goal of our National Americanism Commission, and to register posted flags your CSR and on the website: www.flyingflagsforheroes.com.

I have been working with Adjutant Tim Van Patten and Convention Chair Dean Williamson on getting ready for our 2025 Detachment. We welcome National Eastern Region Vice Commander Bob Manzo back to New York and look forward to a rewarding Convention, as we prepare for installation of our Leading Candidate for Detachment Commander Joe Guidice, and for installation of our Leading Candidate for National Commander Bill Clancy III.

Do not forget to utilize Voter's Voice to your legislators so that programs supporting our veterans get promoted and passed.

Keep supporting our Veterans and their families. Every day is Veterans Day!

Be The One!

Dennis George

NEC-NY



Americanism...by Herman Downer, Jr,

Fellow Sons,

As we put out flags on our Veterans Graves this year, take time to report it to Flying Flags For Heroes. Many Squadrons, Post and Units put them out and reporting is simple. Click the link or scan the QR Code below to report.



[Flying Flags For Heroes](#)



Many Posts and Squadrons have held events at their Post for American Legion Family Day. If your Post had an event you can report it to us so we can forward the report to the National Americanism Commission. They are tracking how many Squadrons and Detachments have had events. For the report form, send a request to:

dnyamericanism@gmail.com

We will send a report form. It's that time of year that Consolidated Squadron Reports are also due. The goal is 100% of Squadrons reporting in. Even if your Squadron has very little, or even nothing to report still submit your report. It all counts!

Herman Downer Jr
Detachment Americanism Chairman



AMERICANISM

A Message from the National Commander

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055

* WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS *

P: 317-630-1205

Sons of The American Legion,

We have been doing great for 2024 - 2025 membership year! To be elected as your national commander has been a fantastic honor. It has been amazing to tell the story of my family's history with The American Legion and "*Dios Pais Familia*" which stands for God, Country, and Family. That is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper or even sign up new members, it is a commitment to pay respect to our family member's service in our military.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth, and National Security. They are the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have continued what PNC JR Hall started: the commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron.

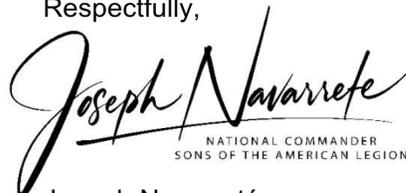
All you need to do is raise one dollar per member in each area below:

- **Child Well-Being Foundation** [Children and Youth]
- **Operation Comfort Warriors** [Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation]
- **Department's Boys State program** [Americanism]
- **Hold a blood drive, or donate to your local Red Cross** [National Security]

You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is pretty easy to do if we plan and work to get it done.

The Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in our work to help our veterans, children, and community. Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth all of us being the best Son we can be! **BE THE ONE** in more ways than one.

Respectfully,



NATIONAL COMMANDER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Joseph Navarrete

" Todo es posible con Dios y Familia "
Everything is possible with God and Family

William Clancy for National Commander

In just a few short months, our own Bill Clancy will be elected as our National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion!

On April 19, 2025 Suffolk County sponsored a Karaoke fundraiser for Bill that raised over \$2500.00! Special thanks to the Suffolk County American Legion Family, PNC Christopher Cerullo, who organized the event, Detachment Commander Gaither Espey who presented a check on behalf on the 4th District, and to everyone that attended. A Great Time was had by all!!



Help is still needed! Make checks payable to: "American Legion Bill Clancy SAL Fund"

Please send all correspondence to:

**AL Dept. HQ
1304 Park Boulevard
Troy, NY 12180**

Squadrons in Action

Share The Pride-Build the Pride



Levittown Squadron 1711 Adjutant Dennis Darcy (center) recently received the Americanism Award from the Veterans at Levittown Post 1711. Pictured are Post commander Frank Marcinek (right), Post 3rd vice Herb Tracy, (left) Americanism Chairman, behind Dennis is John Farley (center) Squadron 1st vice commander, along with Senator Rhodes and other local dignitaries.

On Saturday April 26, Cassadaga Memorial Post 1280 in Chautauqua County held a Walk A Thon. Despite the cold weather and rain they had a good turnout. We would like to Special thanks to the students from Cassadaga Job Corps who came out and participated! Pictured are students from Cassadaga Job Corps, ALA Cassadaga members Ivory Fishgold & Mitzi Kendrick, Chautauqua County SAL Cmdr. Knobby Walsh, Diman Smith, SAL 8th District Vice Commander, and Joshua Spinler, 8th District SAL Commander.



City Island Post 156 held its first American Legion Family Day on April 5th. Despite bad weather, a good time was had by all. Event highlights included carnival games and prizes, flag folding instruction, a cupcake decorating table, and a nice spread of food prepped, cooked and donated by our volunteers.

The Detachment of New York leadership recently attended the Northeast Regional Gathering in Maryland honoring our National Vice Commander Robert Manzo. The members in attendance also attended a leadership seminar as part of the weekend events.



**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