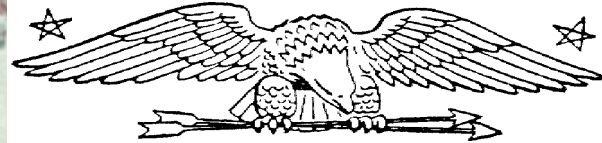




THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: TOM MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN



DATES TO REMEMBER

- National Convention, Charlotte, NC.....8/23-25/2002
- POW-MIA Watchfire, Seaside Heights, NJ.....9/ 27-28/2002
- Fall NEC, Indianapolis, IN.....10/5-6/2002
- Nat. Pres. Bailey, Homecoming, Eatontown.....10/10-12/2002
- For God & Country Service, Lakehurst, NJ.....2/2/2003
- Washington Conference.....3/2-5/ 2003
- Aux. Pres. M. McMahon's Testimonial4/5/2003
- Det. Cmdr. L. Marsden's Testimonial.....4/12/2003 tent.
- Dept. Cmdr. Mack's Testimonial, Woodbridge, NJ.....4/26/2003
- Informational Conference, Cherry Hill, NJ.....4/25-27/2003
- Spring NEC, Indianapolis, IN.....5/3-4/2003
- State Convention, Wildwood, NJ.....6/12-14/2003



2001-2002 E BOARD

National Commander Cliff Smith (Mass.) installed the 2002-2003 slate of officers on June 14 at the Boardwalk Convention Center in Wildwood.

Turnout was at an all-time high. With every elected office open and contested, 617 delegates from 47 squadrons registered.

The winners were Commander Lukasz Marsden; Vice-Commander for Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset Counties Kent Hehl; Vice Commander for Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties Sean Howarth; Vice Commander for Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, and Ocean Counties Jim Lightcap; Vice Commander for Hunterdon, Morris, Union, and Warren Counties Russ Mallard; Vice Commander for Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Sussex Counties Gary Nelson; Chaplain Frank Jiosi; NEC Jim Noble; and ANEC Nick Wingler.

The incoming Commander announced appointments of Judge Advocate Ray Miller, Adjutant Tom Marsden, Sgts.-at-Arms Kermit Reilly, Joe Colontone, Spike Abrams, Amel Balega, and Commander's Aide Chris Gray.

Earlier in the meeting, while Mrs. Alma Wilson, the mother of New Jersey's only Past National Commander, Ernie Wilson (deceased), visited the SAL convention. Cmdr. Luc took the opportunity to dedicate the year to Ernest Wilson, Jr. in his first official act.

HIGH POINT

On Sunday, June 30, incoming Detachment Commander Luc Marsden paraded up the hill. He had been preceded by Sons Jim Noble, Greg Stone, Nick Wingler, Joe Colontone, Gary Nelson, and Tom Marsden serving as the honor guard of the American Legion. His own honor guard, Sq. 143 Highlands, followed behind. PDC Neil Newlin and VC Sean Howarth accompanied him.

The loftiness of High Point and its symbolism set the tone for the Commander's message of how America's fighting men and women have aspired since the dawn of our country to fight oppression. Cmdr. Luc reminded his audience we were at war and had to persevere so that our homeland, our flag, and our Armed Forces remain safe and strong.

THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER

I recently had occasion to send a mailing to all squadrons within our state. For the last few weeks, the postal service has returned one or two of them daily with various notations indicating mail "Undeliverable as Addressed".

Because of the legalities and privacy issues, Department will not give Detachment its list of addresses. I have resorted to using ones listed on the internet. The webmasters did the best they could to compile this listing. Now its up to the squadrons and counties to finish the job.

Please check out the information making whatever changes are necessary and send it back to me. It is impossible for me to properly communicate to you without having current information on file. It is imperative that every county and squadron complete and submit proper paperwork to Detachment.

BOYS & GIRLS STATES

For his first official appearance, Cmdr. Luc traveled to Rider College, Laurenceville to be introduced to 830 Boys State delegates as Detachment Commander. Then it was on to his settling in for a week of being part of government in action.

One week later he very eagerly returned to address Girls State. His words were simple: "...Too many men and women are prejudiced against kids like you and me. They make judgments based on how old we are. They think because we are young, we can't be good leaders. Lets prove them wrong...."

Boys and Girls States need the support of the Legion Family. A lot of dollars and a lot of volunteer work go into both these programs. Sons, when June comes round next year, be able to say you played a part. Help Boys and Girls States.

MEMBERSHIP

New Jersey Sons of The American Legion membership is at an all time high. The July 1 report shows 7,149 or 101.5% enrolled. Renewals are strong with 6,233 or 87.19% of the SAL signing up again.



NEWSPAPER DEADLINE

All articles for the next issue are due no later than August 31, 2002.

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Comrades:

Seventeen Sons ran. Half won; half lost. But for you, the results of a hotly contested ballot would have been different. I thank all of you who supported my candidacy, worked on my campaign, and helped me to win the election.

A new year has begun. It is my hope that the half who won do the best ever. Each has the knowledge and ability to help our detachment grow in membership, programs, and special events. It is time to put personalities aside for the common good.

It is my hope that the half who lost, do not go away for another year. Instead each should to work with the executive board officers, take on chairmanships, and join committees. The Sons of The American Legion needs the expertise of more than just nine elected officers. Let us grow together instead of separating because one's success meant another's defeat.

Our detachment needs to have more than just its PDC's and elected or appointed officers involved. Too often I have heard, "So and so controls..." That only happens when the electorate itself is passive. I challenge more Sons to say and do.

47 squadrons registered 617 delegates for the convention. We need that kind of interest and participation to continue throughout the year. Both the SALute and the internet list upcoming meetings and events. I know work, busy schedules, and personal obligations often conflict with them. I realize too how little free time we all have. Still try to make some time, even if just once, to find out what is really going on.

One of my goals for this year is to get out to every county in New Jersey. Since my installation, I've gone to the convention (Cape May), Boys State and Girls State (Mercer), a testimonial (Ocean), High Point Memorial Services (Sussex), Carranza Services (Burlington), and the Veterans Haven Picnic (Camden). I still have 15 to go. Please send me an invitation, and I'll do my best to be there with you.

Please support my Commander's Project. Detachment has joined with President Maggie McMahan and the Ladies Auxiliary to help children in two trauma centers as well as a CMN hospital in Toms River. It is also supporting Commander Billy Mack and The American Legion in efforts to purchase a wheel-chair van for Menlo Park Veterans Hospital.

I have arranged for the sale again of cold drinks at our regular Trenton meetings. All donations will go to New Jersey's Special Olympics. Of course, the Sons will again be working with Child Welfare. Last year we came close to donating \$1 per member by the May 31 deadline. Let's see what we can do this year.

I want to express my deepest gratitude again to those who voted for me. I was worried that some would hold age against me. I was concerned that some would measure me against my brother. Being elected to the high office of commander is the greatest honor my fellow Sons could ever bestow. Forty men went before me. They did their best. As I follow in their footsteps, I promise to do my best as well.

Thank you.

For God and Country,
Lukasz A. Marsden
Detachment Commander
2002-2003

MEETING SCHEDULE

The first detachment meeting for 2002-2003 will be 9:00 A. M. Saturday, August 3, at Freehold Post 54 (off Rte. 9).

Dates for other detachment meetings are October 19, December 7, February 1, and April 5. These will be held at the War Memorial Building, Trenton at 9:30 A. M.

POW-MIA WATCHFIRE

Although attendance was slightly down, neither terrorist bombings nor anthrax scares stopped the 2001 Detachment Watchfire. Now this year, ten years after the anniversary of the first watchfire in Garret Mountain, Detachment is hoping to host the biggest one ever. Show you care by stopping by and signing in.

The true spirit of patriotism demands us to continue all efforts to bring POW-MIA's gone but not forgotten back home. Our armed forces are putting their lives on hold to defend and protect us. This is little enough for us to do to show our respect for the men who fought in war for us.

The Watchfire date has moved up to dusk, Friday, September 27 to dawn Saturday, September 28 for the memorial service which will remember our American heroes. Participants will gather at the beachfront by Hiering Avenue and the Boardwalk, Seaside Heights. Why not join in?

We always need firewood, paper goods, and refreshments. Although contributions are always welcome, there are no fees. Food and coffee will be available throughout the night.

Contact organizer Tom Marsden at saltom@usa.net for further information.

NATIONAL GOINGS ON

Elsie Bailey and Laurel Matthews are making history for the National Auxiliary. As leading candidates this is the first time ever that both the National President and National Eastern Division Vice President are from the same state.

Gotta crow! Elsie is promoting recruiting. Any Legion Family member who brings in three auxiliary members in 2003 will receive a special crow pin.

Laurel continues to promote the Legion Family. Telling everyone, it makes everything we do easier, Laurel has helped the SAL gain greatly in recognition.

170 Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons have already registered to attend the Charlotte National Convention. Hope to see you in the audience at the Auxiliary installation Thursday, August 27. Cmdr. Luc has been invited to represent the Legion Family SAL at the ceremony. Show your support of New Jersey and these two great ladies.

ONLY IN AMERICA

With America's enemies engaged in battle against us, with our armed forces in foreign lands fighting actively, patriotism and respect for the American flag are gaining popularity and strength. Yet America's own ranks are divisive about the flag amendment.

Last month then Vice-Commander Luc Marsden sent a letter to the editor to 19 state newspapers in support of the CFA. The day prior to Flag Day The Observer opted to print it. Two days later an informed citizen wrote a rebuttal classifying the writer with the ilk of McVey and Hitler, accusing him of being against freedom. When the same letter was included in this year's Boys State newsletter, some of the delegates became quite vocal that forbidding flag burning was anti-democratic.

Now West Coast courts and legislators have decided that The Pledge of Allegiance is illegal because the word God promotes religion. Will the Constitution and Bill of Rights, what our country was founded on, be next?

We are an organization dedicated to God and country. Support the Hatch-Cleland Flag Protection Amendment. Support efforts to stop those seeking to over-turn our Pledge. This land is your land. Stand together against left-wingers trying to change more than 200 years of American history.

BOARDWALK WALKATHON GROWS

The cold damp weather did not rain on the Legion Family's Fourth Annual Walkathon. A. L. Commanders Danny McCole and Billy Mack, SAL Commanders Luc Marsden and Nick Wingler, and President Sue Griffiths led the way. In case you wonder: Where was Maggie? The Incoming President came late, caught up, and managed to pass most walkers.

Pledges continue to come in surpassing each of the last three years totals. \$13,386.64 has been received to date. All money collected goes directly to local Children's Miracle Network hospitals here in New Jersey.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

WANTED: News Correspondents

The SALute needs officers, commission heads, chairmen, and committee members as writers. Work at home. The pay is non-negotiable--no money--just recognition and respect. Hours are flexible. Apply now.

Seriously, the paper needs articles about the doings (listed by priority) of detachment, counties, and squadrons. To date, no article has ever been refused. Budding authors, this is your chance to get a byline and your stories into print. Fax to 732-255-4091 or e-mail saltom@usa.net.

Website njsal.org