

DETACHMENT COMMANDER CANDIDATE

GARY P. NELSON

My name is Gary Nelson and I am running Detachment Commander. I am eligible through my father, a World War II veteran, an American Legion member for 58 years, and a life member of the V. F. W.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Economics and an M. B. A. in Management. I have other designations in both real estate and insurance. I work as a Property Manager in Cliffside Park for many buildings.

In my squadron I was a three time commander, filled in as acting adjutant, and was a finance officer. I am presently the Judge Advocate.

In the county organization I was a two time County SAL Commander, filled in several positions, and am presently the County SAL Adjutant.

In the Detachment I have been Vice Commander and Ways and Means Chairman for the past two years. I vice-chaired Membership for two years and this past year ran Basic SAL Legion College. I was active in getting donations with my donuts for Child Welfare and the Commander's Project.

If I am elected I am looking forward to getting more people involved with committees on the Detachment level, having more blue hats at meetings, and having a huge membership drive. If I am elected my Commander's Project will be strictly Veteran-oriented with doing something for one of the Veterans Homes or Hospitals.

I am looking forward to working with each and everyone in the Detachment and remembering there is no "I" in team.

INCUMBENT VICE-COMMANDER

SEAN HOWARTH

As Vice-commander, I will make more visits to my counties and to their respective squadrons. I will attend all the Detachment functions as I did in the past.

I will also make sure that membership is taken care of in the respective counties that I have the pleasure of presiding over in Detachment. I will make it my personal goal that all of the counties and their squadrons that I have, make it to or close to squadron/county goal.

The job of the Vice-commander is to assist the commander in any way, shape, or form; and, if I am elected, I will do so for the betterment of the organization. I will advise my counties of the upcoming events before the SALute is issued-- let it be it through phone calls or e-mail, they will know.

This is my promise and personal goal for the counties that I see as their representative to them from the Detachment.

INCUMBENT VICE-COMMANDER

JOSEPH COLONTONE

It's convention time again. The year has come to an end. My year as vice commander was a joy and a successful one. During the year I was also adjutant for my squadron again. There was a problem with our County Commander so the County American Legion asked me to take over Commander again.

THE POW-MIA Tree lighting Ceremony was a success thanks to Tom. I watched Jim Noble put on another cover as County Commander. Good luck, Jim. I had two reorganizational meetings with Squadron 327 and two reorganizational meetings with Squadron 216. Both got started again.

I participated in three off-station parties and 2 on-site parties for Lyons Hospital. I attended many dinners for Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents.

One of my biggest thrills was working with the American Legion in picking the Scholarship winners for this year. It was a first time for the Sons. Thanks to Commander Kent and Judge Advocate Tom.

May 29, WWII veterans were honored at Post 159. The County officers gave me the honor of chairing the program. Thanks to all the Post Commanders for Hunterdon County for making my job easier.

These are only a few of the things I have done.

INCUMBENT VICE-COMMANDER

FRANK JOSE, JR.

I have truly enjoyed my year (2003-2004) as a SAL Detachment Vice-commander working with the other vice-commanders, Joe Colontone, Sean Howarth, Gary Nelson, and James Lightcap. We have enjoyed a few good laughs together but still managed to get our jobs done as well.

I would like to thank SAL Detachment Commander Kent Hehl for the privilege of working with him throughout this year. It was a pleasure chairing the VA&R Committee. I truly had an enjoyable time working to help the veterans. I plan to do even more for the veterans next year.

I have been to many parties, fundraisers, breakfasts, and other functions of the American Legion Family. Each different function I did attend, I have met a great many people and done great things for the American Legion Family in my year as a SAL Detachment Vice-commander.

I am running for SAL Detachment Vice-commander for this year (2004-2005). I would like to thank all of the SAL members, Legionnaires, and Auxiliary members who helped me throughout the year.

I look forward to the continued support of all Legion Family members throughout next year.

**NEC CANDIDATE
THOMAS E. MARSDEN**

Thomas E. Marsden, Lakewood Squadron 166 Life Member, with 44 continuous years, is a dedicated squadron volunteer, an Ocean County founder, Detachment elder statesman, and nationally active participant.

Tom, a member of New Jersey's Executive Board since 1990, helped create its Detachment Commander's Advisory Board In 1998. After eight years in elected office as vice-commander, commander, and NEC, Tom became Adjutant (1999-2003). He presently serves as Judge Advocate.

Tom is committed to doing his best. His practical experience includes 11 National Conventions, 20+ Fall and Spring NEC's, 6 National Commander's Homecomings, 10 Washington Conferences, numerous Region 2 Informational Conferences, and every Eastern Area Gatherings from 1993 on. His training includes National's Commander School, National's Adjutant School, and National Management Institute. Tom's long-time efforts for veterans and children include organizing POW-MIA Watchfires, chairing SAL conventions, instructing Legion College, editing the SALute, counseling at Boys State, boosting Special Olympics, and supporting CWF.

Tom is a true Legion Family believer who lives for God, Country, and family. His vision is unity; his goal, cooperation; his plan, teamwork. He asks for your support. Help elect him. Thank you.

**CANDIDATE FOR CHAPLAIN
JOHN N. (JAY) GILLMAN**

Jay is a six-year member of the Sons of the American Legion, who earned his eligibility through his father John P. Gillman, a Korean War veteran.

Jay joined Edwin I. Johnson Squadron #370 and became active almost immediately by serving as squadron chaplain for two years. He served as squadron commander for two terms (2000-2002). For the last two years, Jay has served as squadron adjutant. Jay has been chairman of many committees including Sick Call and Relief, Veterans Rehabilitation, and Constitution and Bylaws during the time that Squadron #370's original constitution and bylaws were written.

On the county level, Jay served Camden County as chaplain, adjutant, senior vice-commander, and two term commander, and has been adjutant since 2002. He has been chairman of its Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

On the detachment level, Jay is presently serving as Sergeant-at-Arms. He is chairman of the Detachment Commander's Project and Constitution and Bylaws Committees.

**ANEC CANDIDATE
CARL ALBERN, JR.**

Carl Albern, Jr. is a 14-year member of Squadron 346 in Neptune and establishes his eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion through his father, a Vietnam-era veteran of the Navy. At the squadron level, Carl has served as Vice Commander, three terms as Commander, and is currently in his seventh year as squadron Adjutant and Finance Officer and in his tenth year as Judge Advocate. Carl's squadron elected him Life Member in 2000.

Carl is a founding member of the Monmouth County S. A. L. and chaired the committee which wrote the County Constitution and Bylaws prior to the formation of the S. A. L. Monmouth County Executive Committee. Carl was elected as the M. C. E. C.'s first County Commander, serving an 18-month term. He was later elected to two terms as the Monmouth County DEC and served as the County Adjutant and Judge Advocate for several years. Carl currently serves his county as its Finance Officer and Judge Advocate as well as the chairman for the Internet Committee and Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

At the detachment level, Carl has served as a Detachment Vice Commander and has chaired many committees including the Internet Committee, Constitution and Bylaws, Community Affairs. and Commander's Project. In 2001-2002, he served as Vice Chairman for S. A. L. College, and in 2002-2003, he served as Vice Chairman for the Basic Course. Carl is currently serving the detachment as its Adjutant and Internet Committee Chairman.

ATTENTION: ALL DELEGATES

A full slate of officers from eleven candidates, a new constitution and bylaws, a resolution creating a separate central storage facility for the SAL, and another increasing dues \$1 per member for programs--all are on this convention's ballot. Be sure to register. Your vote counts. em

SPECIAL ELECTION INSERT

At the Regular Detachment meeting for April, an invitation was extended to all candidates to submit a 250 word max. profile on themselves. Additionally, those candidates not in attendance were personally advised of the opportunity. Incumbents Jim Noble and Jim Lightcap and candidates Neal Newlin and Spike Abrams had not yet as responded as this went to print.

In the spirit of fair play, the staff sincerely hopes that all candidates supply particulars on the floor during convention and anyone choosing to run off the floor do so as well. em