



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: THOMAS E. MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN

## ERNIE WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

The American Legion Scholarship Committee and SAL participants Thomas Marsden, Joseph Colontone, and Commander selected Allison Albergo as the winner of the SAL \$750 Ernie Wilson Scholarship. Criteria for her selection were Scholarship, Community Service, Leadership, Americanism, and Need.

Allison's grade point average at Matawan Regional High is 3.371. She loves children and enjoys working with them. Some of her school activities are National Honor Society, Key Club, Peer Leadership, Math Honor Society, Interact, Colorguard, and Winterguard. Some of her community activities are softball, cheerleading, Girl Scouts.

Allison has numerous awards including Teen Mentoring Program, Leadership Development Conference, Teen for Teen Program, Excellence in Chemistry, Excellence in Geometry, National Honor Roll, Who's Who in American High Schools, and Honor Roll.

Allison plans to attend Towson University, Maryland this fall and pursue a degree in speech pathology/audiology. lm

## BOYS STATE

Our Detachment SAL members are playing a vital part in Boys State. When then NEC Frank Sickle visited the Sons in 2000-2001 and told of the need for volunteers from the ranks, things got started.

Bill Breen, already on staff, was joined by Tom Marsden. In 2003 Luc Marsden came on board as counselor.

Simultaneously posts began recognizing their SAL members. In 2001 SAL Commander Ed Marsden was selected as a Boys State delegate. In 2002 Incoming SAL Commander Luc Marsden was chosen. Now 2004 has another delegate from the ranks, Vice Commander Sean Howarth. em

## CHILD WELFARE ENDS ON HIGH NOTE

Michael Arner, CWF Chairman

For the second year in a row, the Detachment of New Jersey went over the \$10,000 mark for CWF. We asked the squadrons this past year to once again support this program, and once again they came to the plate and hit a home run.

The reason this program is so highly successful is the participation we receive from the squadrons. It's you who goes out and raises the funds that are needed. Without the help and devotion of the squadrons this program would not be the keystone of our detachment programs.

I am ending my third year as your CWF Chairman. In the past three years we have raised in excess of \$33,000 and have rated in the top five contributors in the Eastern Region. All squadrons should stand up and take pride in what we have accomplished for this wonderful charity.

The efforts of everyone in our detachment have helped contribute to the education, research, and development into childhood diseases that make up the Child Welfare program.

If anyone needs information on the CWF program, please do not hesitate to call the committee members or me. Once again, thank you for your continuing efforts on behalf of Child Welfare.

## MEMBERSHIP

As of April 30, our Sons numbered 8,002. By Wildwood, our membership should be over the top for the thirteenth straight year. We have five new squadrons. Now it's time to work on retention. Everyone at every program level needs to work on this.

Lets not just sit on our laurels. This year alone 17 squadrons were suspended or cancelled. We lost 93 card carriers who paid dues in 2003. Help bring them back into our folds. tm



# DETACHMENT OFFICERS 03-04

**Commander:**  
Kent Hehl  
*Kehehl@aol.com*

**Vice Commanders:**  
Joseph Colontone  
*Joecomm13@aol.com*  
Sean Howarth  
*Sne4722694@aol.com*  
Gary Nelson  
*Gpnelsoncos@juno.com*  
Frank Jiosi

James K. Lightcap  
*Jdlightcap@msn.com*

**Adjutant:**  
Carl W. Albern Jr.  
*njdetachadj@infionline.net*

**Judge Advocate:**  
Thomas E. Marsden  
*Saltom@usa.net*

**Chaplain:**  
Spike Abrams  
*spikeabrams@comcast.net*

**Historian:**  
Bill Schimminger  
*wgs0517@comcast.net*

**Sgt-at-Arms:**  
Kermit Riley  
Brett Stadtler  
Jay Gilman

**NEC:**  
James A. Noble  
*Njsalnec@aol.com*

**ANEC:**  
Nicholas J. Wingler  
*Njsalanec@hotmail.com*

WWW.NJSAL.ORG

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

It is with mixed emotions I write my final message as your detachment commander. I am happy that a very busy year is over. I can now have more time to work on my house or go fishing (mixed emotions). I am sad that I could not visit every squadron in New Jersey. But the squadrons and counties I have visited have made me proud to be part of this great organization and your commander this year. Talking with members all over the state and seeing their enthusiasm about our organization and the programs or projects they have going on at their post and community has been a very wonderful experience for me. As your commander it has been my pleasure to represent you and this detachment at the National convention in St. Louis as your incoming commander and in Indianapolis for two national meetings. In Washington, D.C., Department Commander Ted Behr, Department President Barbara Newlin SAL Commanders Aide Robert Hehl and myself presented a wreath from The American Legion family of New Jersey. I also, will be going to this years National convention in Nashville Tennessee.

I thank all my officers for their hard work and dedication to our programs, they are the ones who have made my year successful and satisfying. VA&R, Children & Youth and Americanism these are our programs and you made them happen.

Our membership is over 8000 and still growing. We have made every target date set by national. Our toughest one is July 28<sup>th</sup> the goal for that day is 105% or 8517 members. The area we must look at this time of the year is renewals. As I write this message there are almost 1200 members who have not paid their dues this year 2004, but were paid in 2003. Where are these guys? We need them, find them, hunt them down tell them all the great things your squadron is doing and ask them to help. Tell them of the benefits and the programs that we are involved with. If we could get all those members back we would be over 9000. Membership is everybody's job, find those missing men!

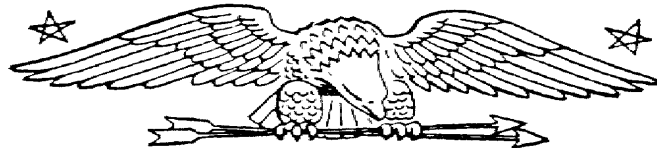
We have 229 S.A.L. charters in New Jersey of these 149 are active at this time. 21 squadrons have over 100 members, 38 have between 50 and 100 members. Our squadrons have between 10 (required) members to 254 members our largest Squadron #348 in Brick Township. But the size of your squadron doesn't matter when it comes to our programs there is something for all to do and you have done it this year. We are all volunteers in the American Legion family. Your squadron does the most important work right in your own community with your post and unit. Congratulations to the squadrons for a great year.

My commander's project for the year has been better than I could have imagined. With the support of Squadrons, Posts and Units from all over New Jersey. We have gone over \$17,000. The air conditioners have been delivered to Veterans Haven and I am moving on with the other veterans facilities. Vineland Veterans Home will receive 6 recliners for their Alzheimer unit and there is more that will come out at convention. I thank all of you for the support you have shown for our veterans of New Jersey.

I wish good luck and success to all the new officers 2004-2005 and members of New Jersey. If we continue with our basic programs dedicated to our veterans, children and Americanism we will honor our forefathers and our parent organization The American Legion.

Remember our soldiers over seas in Afghanistan and Iraq, they are the parents of our future Sons of The American Legion.

**We are Proud Possessors Of A Priceless Heritage.**



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

SAL State Convention.....June 11  
Flag Day.....June 14  
Boys State.....June 20-25  
High Point Memorial Service.....June 27  
Independence Day.....July 4  
National Convention, Nashville, Tennessee...August 27-29

## LOCAL, DISTRICT, STATE, NATIONAL

Until about a decade ago approx. 150 squadrons worked on their own SAL programs little involving themselves with neighboring ones. Some attended the detachment meetings in Trenton regularly; others only at convention. There was little involvement with national.

That all changed during the early 90's when under the guidance of PNC Ernie Wilson, Jr., Duane Conant and his executive committee attempted to organize intermediate bodies regionally for New Jersey.

They studied geographical areas, proximity, roads, numbers in squadrons, numbers in members before setting up tentative lines for five regions--one for each vice commander. Ken Landis had the first district up and running. Then those early plans for districts were changed to conform to the New Jersey American Legion's organization and 21 counties evolved.

Some remnants of the plan still remains. The five vices each cover four or five counties, coincidentally the originally planned five districts. Nine are currently up and running. Ocean and Morris received their charters first. Next was Monmouth. Then came Bergen, Middlesex, Camden, Hunterdon, Passaic, and Hudson.

Participation and communication are better and will become even better as new ones join.<sup>lm</sup>

## POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY WATCHFIRE

From dust to dawn, September 17-18, the Sons of the American Legion will hold its 13th Annual Watchfire rain or shine at the Boardwalk and Hierung Avenue, Seaside Heights. Each year the number of those attending this bittersweet remembrance of the ordeal of war grows. Some stay only a minute; others remain the whole time under the stars. Try to be there.

The program highlights the plight of America's soldiers still not home with poetry, prayer, and music. Shore Boro 351 is serving as host post. The cost is free although help and donations are welcome. For additional information, phone Chairman Tom Marsden at 732-255-5939 or e-mail him at saltom@usa.net. <sup>tm</sup>

## WHOM WILL YOU SEE?

The last few years early risers have sited Dorothy, Snow White, the Wicked Witch, and Tinkerbell on the boardwalk around 7:15 Saturday morning. Be by Convention Hall to see just who will be there this year.

Then while you are there, join the Legion Family in the CMN Walkathon. Junior PDC Luc plans to represent the Detachment. A pledge sheet will be on the SAL table during convention so that you can help sponsor someone if you are not walking yourself. <sup>pm</sup>

## SQ. #227 BEEFSTEAK A HUGE SUCCESS

Gary Nelson

On February 26, I was honored to go to the Totowa Squadron #227 Beefsteak Dinner held at the Brownstone in Paterson. All you can eat sure made me happy.

Besides the great food and drink, we were entertained by a d. j., a magician, and the comedy of Uncle Floyd. Over 300 people came to this event including Department Commander Ted Behr, Department President Barbara Newlin, and our own Detachment Commander Kent Hehl.

Passaic County S. A. L. Detachment Executive Committeeman Amil Belga went around from table to table and sold 150 pins. They also had donations from local merchants that were given out as part of the ticket and a 50/50 which had three winners. A good time was had by all. Congratulations, 227!

## TESTIMONIAL HONORING CMDR. HEHL

William Schimminger

April 18, 2004, Brooklawn Post 72: After a delicious buffet dinner, Mr. Kirk Hehl gave a loving tribute to his brother telling tales from childhood all the way to the present. Next the distinguished guests gave their remarks--some funny, some very serious. They spoke mostly about the commander's project and how well it went.

In preparation for the Detachment Convention in Wildwood. four Past Detachment Commanders gave Kent a mysterious box sealed and signed by the PDC's, telling him not to open it until convention. The honored guest then had his turn to respond.

## PINS ARE A GREAT SUCCESS

Gary Nelson

Gary Nelson, Chairman of Ways and Means, is happy to announce that all 1,500 pins are out, and money is starting to come back already. We are keeping an accurate account of all pins that were signed for, and we need to have everything finished by June Convention so that the next year's chairman can get an early start on developing a new pin for 2004-2005.

Please have all unsold pins returned and moneys in to Gary P. Nelson, P. O. Box 2095, Cliffside Park, N. J. 07010 with checks made payable to the Detachment of New Jersey.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Donations are growing slowly. The Detachment received several donations from individuals and squadrons prior to convention. Please contribute the spare change in your pocket to the jug on the SAL table. Those pennies from the membership will really help. <sup>em</sup>



## MEMORIAL

Source; AAA World, May/June 2004

May 29 saw the dedication of a memorial meant to honor "the greatest generation" and the 16 million Americans who served in World War II. 106,000 people attended the dedication, more watched on large monitors installed on the Washington, D. C. Mall, and still more filled three free *Salute to World War II Veterans* shows.

The granite and bronze memorial is built on a 7.4 acre site at the foot of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln and Washington Memorials. Two arches symbolizing the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of the war, join 56 pillars engraved with the name of a state or territory and form a circle. A carved nine-foot tall Freedom Wall with 4,000 sculpted gold stars honors the 400,000 who died.

\* \* \* \* \*

And here, veterans from Pennsylvania and New Jersey gathered at the Battleship New Jersey to remember and take part in the celebration. The Harmony Show Choir performed an energetic program for the vets performing patriotic favorites like "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies," and "My Country Tis of Thee".

Remember our veterans and their sacrifices always! pm

## AS FLAG DAY APPROACHES

How ironic it is that our nation sets up a holiday to honor our flag yet allows its people to desecrate it in the name of free speech! What do you think?

To date neither Senator Frank Lautenberg (D) or Sen. Jon Corzine (D) have become an official sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 4, the Hatch-Feinstein Flag-Protection Amendment. Please contact these lawmakers and apprise them as a voter of your opinion. lm

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

On my staff's and my behalf, thank you one and all for making it happen. The SALute has come a long way since 1999, but still we still have a way to go. I have been proud to serve as your Editor-in-Chief for the last three years and, if chosen, will do it all again.

In an upcoming issue, the newspaper is planning a feature of New Jersey's Legion Family over the last decade+. Incoming Commander and all PDC's, please send a picture of you alone, with officers, or with your Legion Commander and/or Auxiliary President ASAP.

Deadline dates for the next issue remain the same as in the past. Please honor them. Tm

## TRUE AMERICAN

Natasha M. Bzarny of Rockaway, N.J. is the recipient of the Young Citizen Award. She will receive a Trophy and U.S. Savings bond for outstanding community service.



2004 Basic Class at S.A.L. College



2004 Advanced Class at S.A.L. College



National V.C. East Sparwasser visits S.A.L. College



Jim Noble attends first of three M.N.I. Classes which Ken Esposito and Tom Marsden have fully completed.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS JUNE 30, 2004.**