



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG

VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

Steve Catena

2008 has ended, and it is time to reflect our accomplishments. What can we do to make things better? Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about our next S. A. L. year. After all it starts after the State Convention in June.

I am sure many of you are working under people for whom you may not have voted. Just realize that it is your duty to support them for the betterment of the organization. The Department Adjutant has informed me that some squadrons still have not sent in their officer reports. I cannot stress enough the importance of getting these documents turned in to Trenton. Please make it your #1 Priority to get this simple task accomplished. If you are in need of a form or need help in filling it out, please contact me through my detachment e-mail address (catina@njsal.org).

I want to visit as many of you as possible so please contact me and let me know when your meetings are. I'd like the opportunity to come out and say hello. I can be reached through the link on the detachment web site (www.njsal.org).

VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

Dave "Duke" Haring

As I visit other squadrons at their posts, I am starting to get the feeling that interest is not there as it was in the past. I'm not saying this about the majority, but I am saying that a lot of squadrons look that way to me. Being a member just to drink at the bar is so very wrong. Do get involved instead; help the post you belong to. Get more members to come to meetings. Volunteer for cleanups. Help a veteran. Take a disabled vet food shopping, to a movie, to the doctor's office. Visit a veterans home and show the vets how you appreciate the sacrifices they have made for you and this great country.

BITS AND PIECES

The Sons mourn the passing of PDC James Kukor (1988-1989)....The Detachment Adjutant has a new computer. The old one has been given to Kent Hehl for use with SAL College....The SALute has received the 2008 FIRST PLACE AWARD for EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE from NJALPA.



ELECTION TO FILL VACANCY

2008 Chaplain Joseph Colontone has resigned the office of Detachment Chaplain and his committees. There will be a special election at the next meeting to fill the vacancy. Candidates must supply proof of eligibility as well as current membership cards.

WAYS AND MEANS

Joseph A. Korba

I would like to thank everyone who purchased the 2008 pins. As you know, the pin sales go to the Detachment of New Jersey general funds. To date we sold or have out for sale almost half of the pins. We still have 500 pins available and need your help to see them. Please contact me at 609-529-2996 or joemargate@aol.com so I can get pins out to you. We need your help with this fund raising project.

MEMBERSHIP

Dave "Duke" Haring

Membership! Membership!! Membership!!! What is going on? Are we forgetting our veterans? Are we losing our appreciation for our country? Are we forgetting all the freedoms we have because of all the sacrifices that our veterans have made?

Well, if you're not then you'd better show it by getting your membership cards into Detachment. We are NOT making any of the target dates. We are behind just like we were last year. Get members to renew their memberships. Get your membership chairman to sign up new members.

Take Don Sikorski, Past Detachment Commander, now Membership Chairman of Squadron 129 Toms River. Wherever he's going, he always has his membership cards right next to him at the canteen at events. Look at the numbers he has achieved. #1 last year and he is going very well this year.

New Jersey is currently in 29th place among the 55 detachments at 58.902%, 97 members short of the January 14 60% Target Goal. So get those cards in and maybe, maybe we can hit the next target date. We must go over the top this year.



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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Hello, My Fellow Sons:

In August, I had the pleasure of being invited to the Squadron 65 Legion Family BBQ. I would like to thank Squadron Commander Jeff Bell for the invitation. During the BBQ, I had a chance to speak with members of Squadrons 243, 65, 87, and other members of the Middlesex County American Legion Family. I was also able to attend the Essex County meeting and present them with an award from Convention.

September was a great month as well. I was invited to Squadron 414 for their Family BBQ. It was a great time for me and my family. I was even able to speak to one of the charter members for Post 414. He is a Pearl Harbor survivor and is a big supporter of the SAL. I would like to thank Commander Bill and his post, squadron, and unit members for their hard work and generosity.

September 19, 2008 was POW/MIA Recognition Day. Our Detachment had our 17th annual POW/MIA Watchfire on the sands of Seaside Heights. I would like to thank all who attended and a special thank you to Post 351 for breakfast. I also attended the Department Auxiliary's POW/MIA ceremonies in Dover. The Auxiliary did a wonderful job on the service and I thank them for the invitation. I attended National President Desi Stoy's official visit to New Jersey where I was able to present her a gift on behalf of the Squadron.

Then, in October, we were off to Indianapolis, Indiana for the NEC meetings. I had the chance to meet and talk with other detachment commanders throughout the country and France. During the NEC, I attended the Detachment Commander class. I would like to thank NEC Alberm, Jr., ANEC Kent Hehl, PDC Nelson, and PDC Arner for also making the trip out to Indiana.

I also attended the Homeland Security meeting where Chairman Joe Gladden (Maryland) spoke about getting a brochure created for HLS and bringing information back to the Detachment. I also attended National Membership and PUFL Committee Meetings where the chairmen talked about having a plan for membership. The membership jacket was also touched upon, and it was stated that members who recruit 30+ members were eligible for this jacket. The Detachment of PA was awarded 15 jackets at the last National Convention.

National Membership team is asking detachments to push the D.O.B. forms into National. This helps to get the National PUFL Committee in place. If you are not sure what the D.O.B. form is, feel free to ask me, Membership Chairman Duke Haring, or any vice commander. There are six detachments that have a PUFL program already set up.

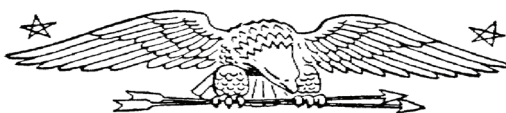
At our detachment meeting, all the committee chairmen did great jobs on giving reports. Jeff Hicks (Squadron 526) gave a great report on the experience of Legion College and it was four pages long! It made me wish that more people attended Legion College and were about to write reports such as this.

After the meeting, I drove to Post 232 Barnagat to stop in and say hello. I found out that their meeting was a week later. I told them that I would try to attend. I ended up missing the meeting at 232, but I was still able to stop in and discuss membership and Legion programs.

I also visited Post 391 (Mine Hill). The post was closed when I arrived; however, I was able to talk with Legion Morris County Sgt-At-Arms Jack Bullyard. That same day I stopped in to Post 175 (Rockaway) where I learned that Squadron 175 is turning 50 years old this coming February. I was able to meet one of their squadron charter members as well.

Rest assured that my officers and I are doing everything possible to work hard for your squadrons and our Detachment. Please take a moment to remember our POW/MIA's everywhere and keep them in your hearts. Thank you for remembering the vets in local nursing homes and VA hospitals especially over the holidays.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to send me an e-mail at njsalgallagher@gmail.com or call me (732)513-3468.



Dates to Remember

WWW.NJSAL.ORG

WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG 2009 75% Membership Target Date
SAL College Sea Girt

February 11, 2009
March 28, 2009

FEBRUARY 28, 2009 NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

THE S. A. L.

Norm Marlin, SAL Chairman

The Sons of the American Legion is the largest, self sufficient program of the American Legion. During the 1930's in the midst of the Great Depression, the SAL came into being and was almost laid to rest by two wars.

The idea of a junior American Legion organization was first discussed at the 1922 National Convention, but WWI veterans had not begun their families yet so the idea was tabled. By the late 1920's, Legion posts around the country started to enroll Sons of Legionnaires in junior organizations on their own. They were known by various names--the Junior Legion, Legion-Heirs, Sons of World War Veterans, Sons of American Legionnaires.

At the 1930 National Convention, a committee was created to study the feasibility of a junior program. Then at the 1932 National Convention, the Sons was established as a nonprofit, nonsectarian civilian organization. In 1933 the American Legion officially named it The Sons of the American Legion and authorized its official abbreviation S. A. L. Dues were set at 25 cents.

By the late 1930's, the S. A. L. had over 70,000 members. Then WWII broke out and many Sons marched off to war. Some never returned. Those on the home front worked in Civil Defense, Aircraft warning posts, defense plants, and helped with war bond drives.

When Sons returned from WWII, they found that their military service made them eligible for the American Legion and joined it instead. As the ranks of the American Legion swelled between 1946 and 1956, S.A.L. ranks dwindled to fewer than 6,000 members.

Because of the efforts of dedicated Legion Family members, the S.A.L. made a remarkable turn around. By 1958 they numbered more than 10,000 members. In 1963 national dues were raised to 50 cents and military sounding officer titles were removed.

1972 was an important year. It was then that the Legion's National Executive Committee approved the creation of a National S.A.L. Organization under the full supervision and control of the Legion's N.E.C. Because of this action the S.A.L. was able to hold its first national convention. In August, 1972, in Chicago, the 1972 Convention elected its first national commander, Robert Faust of California.

Over the years the Sons have created six national commissions for the purpose of coordinating activities of various committees. They also established Squadron Americanism Awards (1993), Scholastic Awards for Boys Nation and Junior Shooting Sports (1994), and the S.A.L. Color Guard Award again (1996).

1996 was the year S.A.L. members nationally contributed more than \$116,000.00 to the American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation, making them the largest contributor to the Foundation that year. Ten years later they broke the 300,000 membership mark.

Your Detachment of New Jersey and its member squadrons are an asset to Legion posts and should be utilized and praised your dedication to service of veterans and their families. Accomplishments include sponsoring boys to the Boys State Program and girls to Girls State, helping with the Coloring Contest, Poster Contest, Oratorical Contest, and sponsoring a scholarship annually.

Legionnaires should become more aware of what Sons do. You can find some really dedicated, extremely hard working men there. Oh, don't forget that Son might just be a Legionnaire as well! Many Legionnaires are dual members still carrying their S. A. L. memberships cards because their parents, grandparents, even great-grandparents either were or still are war-time veterans.

I hope posts nurture their members and allow them to grow because if they underutilize them, the squadrons will wilt away to nothing.



JOINT PROJECT HELPS VET HOMES

Frank Jiosi, Jr. PDC 2007-2008

I would like to thank all the members of New Jersey who donated their resources to help the veterans. This help will not be forgotten. Posts, units, and squadrons raised \$85,000 for state veterans homes. Items like lowbeds which will improve the quality of life have been ordered.



SQUADRON 119 HOSTS VETS

Ron Wolfenden

In recent months, the S. A. L. of American Legion Post 119 Dunellen has hosted two separate parties for the veterans at the Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park in Edison, New Jersey. Over 90 veterans chowed down on hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, salads, and, of course, desserts. This was a tasty change of pace for all that brought smiles and joy to everyone's face.

2009 CWF GRANTS AT A GLANCE

18 nonprofit organizations have been awarded \$639,875 in Child Welfare Foundation Grants. Those *** were sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion:

American Humane Association (Englewood, CO), "A Plan for Tyrone."

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (Washington),

"Exercise-Induced Asthma Educational Program."

***Caring Kids Television (Dana Point, CA), "Dewey's Teacher's Kits."

Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation (Wilmette, IL),

"Web Site Redesign and Integration).

***Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA),

(Bloomington, IN), "Miracle Makers: COTA Volunteers in Action."

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (New York City),

"IBD Activity Book for Children."

Huntington's Disease Society of America (New York City),

"Comprehensive Resource Guide for Families of Children Affected by Juvenile Onset HD."

***KidsPeace (Orefield, PA), "Improving Foster Care for America's Kids: KidsPeace's Radio Public Service Campaign."

***National Autism Association (Nixa, MO), "Autism Outreach."

National CASA Association (Seattle), "Forgotten Children Event Toolkit."

National Marfan Foundation (Port Washington, NY), "Marfan Syndrome: A Reference for Teachers)

National Organization for Youth Safety (Gainesville, VA),

"Makin' Noise for Youth Traffic Safety."

Organization for Autism Research (Arlington, VA), "An Autism Guide for Military Families"

***Our Military Kids (McLean, VA), "Our Military Kids Informational Materials III."

The Projeria Research Foundation (Peabody, MA), "Projeria Medical Assistance Packet."

RAND Corp. (Santa Monica, CA), "Dissemination of CBITS Adaptations Manual and Implementation Guidelines."

***Reach Out and Read (Boston), "ReachOut and Read in the Military Initiative."

***Zero to Three (Washington), "Coming Together Around Military Families."pm

NJ DETACHMENT HONORS ITS OWN NVCE

Jim Noble, NVCE Committee Chair

Past NVCE Thomas E. Marsden was honored at the Detachment meeting when Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Thomas Gray presented him with a new cover and wife Pat. presented him with a new name tag. After PDC Noble pinned on him a ceremonial Past NVCE pin, PDC Nelson gave him \$679.40 for funds left in the NVCE Committee account. Tom immediately donated it to Special Olympics as he thanked everyone for the help and support given .



SQ. 338 LOSES A DEDICATED MEMBER

Michael Arner

On December 11, 2008, Squadron 338 lost a true Son of the American Legion when Russell Maillard passed on to Squadron Everlasting. Russ's dedication to the Sons of the American Legion was true and unconditional. He always put 100% effort into everything he ever did.

When Squadron 338 was just getting active, Russ noticed that the Sons were doing things in Leonardo so he as a member of Squadron 143 Highlands offered to help in any way he could. I asked Russ if he could come to our squadron meeting and help our membership understand the meaning of what a squadron should do for its post.

Russ came to the meeting with all kinds of information and a slide show for the membership to see how a squadron helped the post and the community. That was the beginning of the growth of our squadron.

Over the years Squadron 143's color guard under the direction of Russ performed at many functions. He was proud of its accomplishments. He was a mainstay in Highlands for many years achieving Life Membership.

Russ transferred his membership into Squadron 3387 and began forming a color guard for our squadron. It didn't take long before he had eight members participating. He pushed them to attend every event to which they were invited. Under his leadership, Squadron 338's color guard became the most active in the state of New Jersey.

You could always find Russ behind the grill at any post function (American Legion, Ladies Auxiliary, and S. A. L.). He was always willing to help in any way he could. Even when Russ was diagnosed with cancer, it did not slow him down. He continued on with the color guard and his duties on the Picnic Committee and Day at the Races Committee.

Russ received many awards and accolades from within our post, county, and state. He served Sq. 143 as commander and in other offices. He served Monmouth County as commander and in other offices. He was a two term detachment vice commander.

A memorial service was held at Post 338 on Sunday, January 18, 2009. A packed house attended this celebration of Russ Maillard's life. Russ will be missed by all who knew him. With the grace of God, he now leads the color guard in heaven.

LEAGUE OF FAMILIES SEEKS SUPPORT

The National League of POW/MIA Families is a non-profit organization with a voting membership of 1,000 families. It is a constant reminder and steady presence that helps remind the world America has not forgotten and wants all of its unreturned veterans home and accounted for. It needs funds to keep its office in Washington, D. C., open. Your donations to it, only 10% of which go toward administrative and fundraising costs, increase public awareness and volunteerism. Please help stop its doors from closing.pm