



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG

VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

Steve Catena

Did you ever get the feeling that what you're doing is unappreciated? How each time you do something that you think is good, there's always someone there to try to bring you down? Are you one of those members who try to do it all while others simply sit back and come for the ride? Well, if you answered yes to anything, then I want to personally congratulate you on a job well done and thank you on behalf of our veterans. In fact, simply reading this publication shows your interest more than some others.

An issue which concerns me and most of the officers in the Detachment is trying to prevent good members of the SAL from getting frustrated and leaving. We all need to remember why we're here, not for the bar in the post, not for the ego boosts of some, not for the power trips of others, but for the veterans period.

Many of us know the following paragraph. We recite it quite often. However, just take a moment to read it again and understand what it means.

"To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country."

I'll see you in Wildwood. Stay strong and don't ever think what you are doing goes unnoticed or unappreciated.

BITS AND PIECES

Pat Shea (Ohio), leading candidate for S. A. L. 2010-2011 national commander passed away on January 18. He was 46.....19 members from the Post 133 Legion Family took the Polar Bear Plunge in Wildwood to raise \$2,000 for Special Olympics.^{pm}



VA&R UPDATE

Frank Jiosi, Jr. VA&R Chairman

I would like to thank PDC Jim Noble for setting up and handling the East Orange Bingo Party February 28. I want to let everybody know about the upcoming VA&R Paramus Veterans Home Bingo Party at 2:00 P. M. Saturday, April 25, 2009. I'll be leading this one.

I would like to let the over 9,000 members of the S. A. L. know it is time for all of you to make the commitment and start going and visiting the veterans. I don't see enough S. A. L. covers but always get help from the Legion and Auxiliary.

I was informed about quarantines at the Lyons and Vineland facilities. I would hope all S. A. L. members pray for a speedy recovery to all vets in these facilities.

The Veterans Haven facility BBQ in July has become an annual event. Don't forget to keep updated on this and make an attempt to come down and visit the younger veterans, play horseshoes, and have an amazing BBQ with us. That is all for now. Check the next issue of the SALute for more updates.

CMN DROPS NATIONAL LEGION

Thomas Marsden, PNVCE

Effective January 1, 2009, the Children's Miracle Network cut the American Legion from its list of corporate sponsors. The American Legion and the S. A. L. were not invited to participate in its 2009 Celebration of Champions in Orlando.

As National sorts this matter out and formulates plans at the upcoming Spring NEC in Indianapolis, individual states are already considering what to do with future dollars. Some states have decided to set up their own endowments to help their own local children's hospitals. This is where the money they collected was always supposed to go. Right now everything is on hold.

MEMBERSHIP

As of March 6, New Jersey ranks as #22 nationally in membership. Perhaps if our S. A. L. can turn around its 34 suspended squadrons, we can go over the top. Our 7,050 members missed the 3/11 target by just .51%. Remember there is strength in numbers.^{pm}



Detachment

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Officers 08-09

Hello, My Fellow Sons:

It is almost that time of year again for the SAL NJ Detachment Convention in Wildwood!!

Don't forgot to report everything your squadron, post, and unit has done over the past year. Since the last SALute, it has been pretty busy. My officers and I have been working on getting in membership. We would like to go over the TOP. If you know of anyone who is a member of the Legion Family who has not paid his 2009 dues, give him a friendly reminder. It is very important to keep our current membership and generate new membership. If you know of someone who is eligible, ask the individual if he is a member of the Legion Family. Sometimes it only takes someone asking for another individual to join.

I had the honor of being asked to install Squadron 27 Dover in Morris County. Thank you Squadron Commander Mike for your hospitality and best wishes for a successful year.

In February, I was invited to attend the Lawrenceville Post 414 Halfway to Wildwood Party which was a great time.

We have been to Ocean County for my official visit. Thank you to all of the Ocean County members and Post 493 for a wonderful time.

I stopped into Posts 370, 262 and 84 during my official visit to Camden County. It was so awesome to see how active both counties are and working together as a Legion Family to fulfill our commitment to all the veterans.

I went to the Squadron 27 Beef Steak. What a great time! The Department Commander, President and I laughed all night. Thank you to Passaic County for the hospitality.

March 1 to 4 Department Commander Richie, the Department President, and I represented the Legion Family at the Annual Veterans Washington D. C. Conference. It is an amazing thing watching all of the Legion Family in action fighting for our veterans.

My official visit to Burlington County was on the day we came back from D. C. at Post 39. Thank you, Burlington County, for your hospitality.

A big thank you and I am so appreciative to all who have donated to the Detachment project.

I would like to remind you again not to forgot to report everything your squadron, post, and unit has done over the past year.

We need to report all of the hard and great work our organization does to our legislative representatives at local, county, state and national levels.

Please remember to send in the Consolidated Squadron Report into Department. The information reported on this form is sent to the national organization. If anyone needs assistance with completing the form, please see me or any of the vice-commanders for assistance.

A date to remember is April 18, 2009, which will be my testimonial dinner at Post 346 at the cost of \$35 per person. If you would like further information, you can either contact me or go to www.njsal.org.

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Dates to Remember

Detachment Meeting, Trenton

Auxiliary Presidents Testimonial Dinner, Phillipsburg, 5:00

2009 90% Membership Target Date

Detachment Commanders Testimonial Dinner, Neptune, 6:00

Department Commanders Testimonial Dinner, Union, 6:00

NEC, Indy

2009 100% Membership Target Date

Detachment Convention, Wildwood Convention Center, 9:00

National Convention, Louisville, KY

April 4, 2009

April 4, 2009

April 8, 2009

April 18, 2009

April 25, 2009

May 2-3, 2009

May 13, 2009

June 12, 2009

August 21-23, 2009

APRIL 30, 2009 NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

TIME TO TALLY 2008

Many times when people hear Sons of the American Legion, they confuse it with its parent organization the American Legion. The S. A. L. gets its charter from the parent organization. Still it is only a program that helps veterans and children.

Everyone should be proud that the S. A. L. is the single largest contributor to the Child Welfare Foundation. This year it gave CWF \$332,426 and 34,227 service hours. But S. A. L. accomplishments are much more than just that.

Take a look at 2008 membership figures. 52 detachments (remember some exist outside the U. S.) sponsor 5,673 squadrons comprised of 323,264 members.

The Sons are a member of the national VAVS Board and have 47 registered VAVS representatives across the U. S. A. In 2008 they recorded 277,782 volunteer hours, 14,474 visits, and gave \$1,460,135 in cash and gifts.

Last years annual donations to all Children and Youth programs totaled \$1,410,958 with 200,058 service hours. They went to the Childrens Miracle Network (\$70,092 and 6,566 hours), to Special Olympics (\$117,716 and 12,010 hours), and to other Children and Youth programs (\$8858,304 and 147,255 hours).

When it comes to Americanism, the S. A. L. does its share. Look at \$1,857,474 and 491,529 hours broken down by category:

504 Boys State Representatives (\$114,135)
6,399 Color Guard Appearances (\$82,802)
143 American Legion Baseball Teams (\$156,765)
Other Teams Sponsored (\$122,252)
Oratorical Program (\$5,630 and 13,317 hours)
Junior Shooting Sports (\$81,474 and 3,187 hours)
10,589 Flags Presented (\$34,521)
1,382 Flag Educ. Programs (\$13,187 and 3,400 hours)
2,953 Flag Retirement Ceremonies
249,793 Flags at Cemeteries and Parades (\$58,624)
Scholarships (\$254,783)
Educational Programs (16,738 hours)
129 5 Star/10 Ideals Programs (\$2,951)
Community Serv. Projects (\$841,732 and 436,812 hours)
National Emergency Fund (\$32,726)

Now this is only what has been officially logged on the record. Squadrons, please do your paperwork and get it in. You deserve to be recognized for what you do. Make all your volunteer efforts really count. Every dollar and every hour is truly important. pm

COMFORT DEDICATION SCHEDULED

The brass sculpture Comfort will be unveiled and dedicated at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arneytown on May 23, 2009. Services in the chapel are scheduled for 1:00 P. M. Past Department Commander Charles Robbins and New Jersey's American Legion Family will be in attendance . The statue was the focus of a joint 2006-2007 project. involving Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary. pm

HONORING LEGION FAMILY LEADERS

A testimonial dinner for Department President Lynda Stadtler is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009, at Flynn's On the Hill Banquet Hall, 341 Pursel Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey. A 5:00 P. M. Meet and Greet will be followed by a 6:00 P. M. family style dinner. The cost per ticket is \$35.

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A testimonial dinner for Detachment Commander Patrick Gallagher is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009, at American Legion Post 346, 21 Gully Road, Neptune, New Jersey. A 6:00 P. M. cocktail hour will be followed by dinner.

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A testimonial dinner for Department Commander Richard Zalinkankas is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Costa del Sol, 2443 Vauxhall Road, Union, New Jersey. A 6:00 P. M. cocktail hour will be followed by dinner. The cost is \$50 per ticket. pm



Brett Stadtler Being Sworn in as Detachment Chaplain

THE EDITOR'S DESK

Please answer this one question: Do you believe our Detachment needs the SALute? It is important for our membership to believe that this newspaper is a vital part of good communication between state and county and local levels. It is a detachment paper first and foremost.

Most detachment officers and committee chairs neglect to send any material whatsoever. I am not getting enough articles for the SALute. Perhaps those with articles on website can send them to me as well.

The information should be fresh. Readers are not interested in what happened last year or last summer now. Don't put a year's activities into one piece either. Instead send things in for every issue. Keep to the deadlines.

Articles should be short, direct, and pertinent. Do not submit material from other sources (ex. the American Legion newspaper, magazine, etc.) Talk to me about any feature story you want to write. If you do, I certainly will use it.

