



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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

## Official Convention Visitors

American Legion Commander Ron Conley (Pennsylvania), SAL National Vice Commander East Mark Smith (Maryland), and Leading Candidate for the high offices of National Vice Commander East 2003-2004 and National Commander 2004-2005, Bill Sparwasser (Maryland) were among the guests at the state convention.

Cmdr. Conley praised the Sons for their work, service to veterans, Children and Youth programs, and membership.

Vice Cmdr. Smith complimented the Detachment for its 102.149% membership and Child Welfare donations at \$1.95 per member this year.

Bill Sparwasser referred to history setting two Maryland guys (Smith and himself) back to back and noted Jersey yielded to him. He then spoke to Tom Marsden and the delegates present saying, "I want to thank you on this floor personally for your support and commitment. I admire your position and good things come to those who wait and who are patient. Thank you very much." tm

## Boardwalk Walkathon

The June 14 Children's Miracle Network Boardwalk Walkathon was raised over \$16,000 in pledges. Incoming Cmdr. Behr and Pres. Barbara Newlin and Outgoing Cmdr. Luc Marsden led the Legion Family participants. tm

## Membership Update

National's July 16, 2003, report shows New Jersey currently ranks in 22nd place within the 55 SAL detachments. The Sons have reached 103.783% of the targeted end of the year goal. Actual membership numbers all time high 7,873 with a 86.94% renewal rate. tm

## 2003-2004 E Board

A full slate officers were installed at the S. A. L. Convention in Wildwood. Election winners are Commander Kent Hehl, Vice Commanders Joe Colotone (Hunterdon, Morris, Union, Warren), Jim Lightcap (Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem), Frank Jiosi (Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset), Sean Howarth (Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Ocean), Gary Nelson (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, Sussex), and Chaplain Spike Abrams.

These officers join NEC Jim Noble, ANEC Nick Wingle, the PDC's, on the Executive Board. Appointments are Judge Advocate Tom Marsden, Adjutant Carl Albern, Historian Bill Schimminger, and Sergeants-at-Arms Kermit Really, Brett Stadler, and Jay Gilman. tm

## State Meetings

The schedule for regular detachment meetings is August 9, October 25, December 13, February 7, and April 3 with the convention set for June 11. The meetings are set for 9:30 A. M. in the War Memorial Building, Trenton. The SAL Convention will be in Wildwood's New Convention Hall. tm

## The Adjutant's Corner

Tom Marsden

At convention neither the Constitution and By-laws update nor the two resolutions (increasing the number of vice commanders and obtaining a central storage facility) passed.

The outgoing adjutant (for the last four years me) has completed his convention minutes and turned over office equipment and files to the detachment. Successor Carl Albern will take over this column whenever he has information to share.



## DETACHMENT OFFICERS 03-04

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

**Vice Commanders:**  
Joseph Colontone  
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Sean Howarth  
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**Adjutant:**  
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**Sgt-at-Arms:**  
Kermit Riley  
Brett Stadtler  
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**NEC:**  
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**ANEC:**  
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*Njsalanec@hotmail.com*

WWW.NJSAL.ORG

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to all the new officers of 2003-2004. Officers of the detachment, counties and most important the squadron officers. An exciting year is ahead as our membership will pass 8,000 and involvement in our programs increases. I wish good luck and success to all the officers and members of New Jersey. Remember always who we are, Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage.

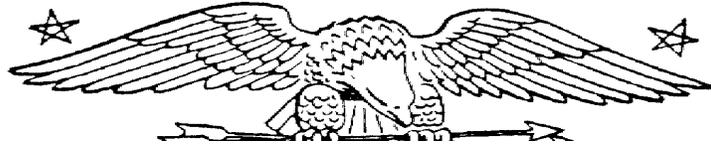
Communication is very important and it must go in all directions that is, from the detachment to squadrons, from squadrons to detachment and also from squadrons to squadron. We will try to keep the web site up to date and get the newsletter out to all squadrons. To help us the squadrons must get their new officer's list in to Trenton Headquarters.

On New Jersey we have almost 150 squadrons. Each one is very different, from 10 members to over 200 members. Squadrons that are very active with a lot of programs going on to squadrons with only one or two programs or just helping their post. Our programs this year will focus on our veterans and our children.

The Child Welfare Foundation raised over \$15,000 last year with Mike Arner's dedication and this will continue. I would like to see the Ten Ideals and Five Stars programs succeed this year with squadrons' participation.

The Commander's Project for the year will be quality of life for our veterans at the state hospitals in Vineland, Paramus, Menlo Park, and Veterans Haven. More information will be coming as I talk with the program directors at each of the facilities. We will also be working with the Department Commander and the Department President at the hospitals on their project for the Alzheimer patients. I would like to see \$10,000 raised this year for the project.

For God and Country,  
Your Commander,  
Kent Hehl



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Testimonial Dinner for Elsie Bailey	Aug. 10
Testimonial Dinner for Laurel Matthews	Aug 16
National Convention, St. Louis, MO	Aug 22-24
Labor day	Sept. 1
SAL Watchfire, Seaside Heights	Seot 19-20
SAL Child Welfare Golf Tournament	Sept. 21
Fall NEC, Indianapolis, IN	Oct. 3-5
Detachment Meeting, Trenton	Oct. 25

## **Special Olympics**

Ed Marsden

Special Olympics New Jersey is a non-profit organization that provides year round sports training and athletic competition in 23 Olympic-type sports to children and adults, with developmental disabilities including mental retardation. Currently more than 13,500 Special Olympic athletes participate completely free of charge in more than 140 competitive events throughout the state (Asbury Park Press, 7/19/02).

As Chairman of this Committee, I ask every Son to promote Special Olympics and volunteer one hour to it. In future articles, I will spotlight Detachment, Up-and-Running Counties, and local squadron involvement.

## **Boys State**

Luc Marsden

As Boys State Alumni, I received an invitation to return to Boys State as a junior counselor. I left convention June 15 for Rider College, Lawrenceville. Two other Sons there were Bill Breen and Tom Marsden.

It was a rewarding, satisfying week helping train tomorrow's leaders. 742 young men were able to participate because of volunteer efforts. I would like every level of the Sons send at least one delegate from its ranks or, at least, fund one boy annually.

## **Miniature Golf Tournament**

Mike Arner has set up the First Annual Sons of the American Legion Miniature Gold Tournament for Sunday, September 21. Proceeds of the fundraiser are to be donated to the Child Welfare Foundation. Mail entries and checks to CWF Chairman Arner at 44 Florence Avenue, Leonardo, N. J. 07737. For further information, contact him at 732-291-9286 (home), 201-522-2502 (cell), 873-522-4707 (fax), or MIKEA165@COMCAST.NET (email).tm

## **Son of the Year**

Gary S. Crawford, Sq. 338, Leonardo, (Monmouth County) is the SAL Detachment of New Jersey Son of the Year. Sean Howarth, last year's recipient, presented him with the award. Gary thanked his squadron for nominating him. He said he does not volunteer because he has to, but because he wants to.tn

## **Guidon Flag to' Williamstown**

Sq. 252 placed first in the convention parade and will serve as the official Color Guard for all 2003-2004 Detachment functions. Congratulations!tm

## **The Editor's Desk**

Cmdr. Hehl has appointed Thomas E. Marsden Editor-in-Chief of the SAL-ute. This is the third year that Tom has headed the detachment's paper. Sons Edward and Lukasz assist with photos, writing, editing, and layout.

If any member is interested in joining the staff, please contact Tom. The paper needs writers to cover events like Girls State, High Point, Carranza, and Veterans Haven. The editors cannot be everywhere. They cannot do it alone. At this time, the SALute does not have reporters to cover county and squadron news, but it gratefully accepts completed articles.

The SAL-ute remains bi-monthly. No reports will be accepted; all materials submitted must be articles ready for editing. One exception is The Commander's Message which is printed as written except for correcting typographical errors.

The current detachment budget does not have enough funds to mail out a copy to each of our almost 8,000 members; however, a copy of each edition will be sent to the Internet Committee for posting on the web site NJSAL.org. Department will continue to mail out the paper to all of New Jersey's that have officer reports on file.

Please send all photographs and copy to 151 Queen Ann Rd., Brick, NJ 08723, fax 732-255-4091, or e-mail saltom@usa.net. Deadlines are July 1, September 1, November 1, March 1, and May 1 WITHOUT EXCEPTION.em

## **St. Louis, Missouri, 2003**

Sons from all corners of the United States are slated to meet August 22-24 for the 32nd National Sons of the American Legion Convention. The New Jersey delegation includes Outgoing Commander and Delegation Chair Luc Marsden, Incoming Commander Hehl, NEC/PDC Noble, PDC's Tom Marsden, Newlin, Esposito, Phillips, and Vice Commanders Howarth and Nelson.

Department Adjutant Zawacki and the Trenton office are handling reservations. Official housing for the New Jersey Legion Family is at the Adams Mark (downtown).tm

## **Honoring Our National President**

The Somerset County American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion are sponsoring a dinner for President Bailey on August 10, 2003 at Bridgewater B. P. O. E. Lodge #1068. The Detachment of New Jersey and its outgoing and incoming officers, congratulate Mdm. President Elsie for the success off "America Pure Gold".tm

## A Simple Plea

P. Marsden

Prisoners of war; missing in action--  
Our almost forgotten heroes  
Weary, wanting to be free back home;  
Mothers' and fathers' sacrificed ones--  
Inmates caged by mind or body,  
Abandoned to enemies in foreign lands.

These veterans are the men and women who  
fought for you and me.  
They are our country's tragedy, our  
government's shame.  
Remember America's victims. Strive for their  
return.

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The Detachment Annual Watchfire has been set from 7:00 P. M. dusk Friday, September 19 to 7:00 A. M. dawn Saturday, September 20. It is scheduled to coincide with POW-MIA Remembrance Day.

New Jersey Legion Commander Behr has a resolution in at National attempting to get country-wide recognition of the day. The whole Legion Family is invited to observe the occasion. Visit if only for a moment, or stay the whole time.

The Watchfire is a memorial tribute to those still lost in foreign lands. It is open to the public. Help send the message out: WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN. An Empty Chair and Empty Table will be part of the program as will be POW-MIA and United States flag retirement ceremonies.

There is no fee for anyone to attend the Watchfire itself although donations of firewood, refreshments, and papergoods are most welcome. Following an all-night vigil, on Saturday morning, Shore Boro Post 351 will hold a cash breakfast for Watchfire guests.

The beach adjoining Hirling Avenue and the Boardwalk is the Watchfire site, the same as the last three years. For further information, contact Chairman Thomas Marsden at [saltom@usa](mailto:saltom@usa).



**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS AUGUST 31.**