



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG

MEET MICHAEL POPP

by Rob Lasky



JUNE 13, 2008, WILDWOOD, NJ - Clearly emotional, Son of the Year Michael Popp from Squadron 455, New Egypt, Ocean County, accepted his cap and pin from Son of the Year Chairman Edward Marsden at the annual SAL Detachment Convention. He stepped up to the podium and thanked the Detachment for the honor and his squadron for nominating him.

Although he received a standing ovation from the convention floor, not too many delegates knew "Popp", as he is affectionately called around his Legion post, and what he did to receive the highest honor of the year. "Popp" joined the SAL just over three years ago and immediately became the oldest member of his squadron and holds that honor still at the young age of 71. Since then, he has become one of the most active members of the squadron serving as squadron chaplain since 2006.

He is very active with Americanism and Children and Youth. Any function that his post, auxiliary, or squadron holds, he is normally the first to arrive and one of the last to leave. He is also a spiritual man, polite, courteous, and respectful. His father was a veteran from World War I serving in the Marines.

His is not in the best of health. He has diabetes, lost both big toes, takes 14 different types of medication a day and goes to kidney dialysis three times a week. However, with all his personal health problems, he still does not give up. He even rescheduled his normal Friday dialysis to attend the convention.

Every Friday night, he helps with the Legion BINGO (after four hours of dialysis). He marches from start to finish with our annual Memorial Day Parade. He worked one of his squadron's monthly breakfasts and an all-day event one day prior only to find out that he had his big toe amputated three days earlier! He spent 26 hours working the food table for the two day event, "Relay for Life". He helped serve food for the Plumsted Arts Council. That is devotion!

It seems that Mike will put Legion family programs and events before his own health. He was once asked to what other organizations he donated his time. His reply was, "I don't have extra time. All my devotion and dedication are to the Legion. I'm just sorry I didn't join earlier."

Plain and simple, "Popp" is the epitome of what being a Son is all about. He is a model citizen and SAL member and sets the benchmark example to all Sons before, present and yet-to-come as to what being a member of the SAL is all about.

Congratulations "Popp"!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Duke Haring

I congratulate the squadrons that won awards for 2008 membership, all squadrons that met or went beyond their previous year's membership, and all squadrons coming close but still not yet over the top.

Remember membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We must retain last year's members, sign up dual members, and recruit new members. Squadrons suspended for lack of membership, regroup to get back on track. Show the veterans we have their backs.

Per-capita is still \$5 per member. Get the membership cards in to Trenton.

Please be aware as you sign up new members and accept transfers from other squadrons that there is a growing number of ineligible people being signed up throughout the Legion Family not just the SAL. To me this amounts to stealing from our veterans and should be stopped. Be sure that the DD-214 eligibility papers showing service and discharge dates are in order then put them in a file. Remember that there are no social memberships here in New Jersey. Do not give out cards just so there are people at the bar.



Detachment Officers 08-09

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Hello, my Fellow Sons.

Please let me start off by saying thank you for electing me as your Detachment Commander. It has been a fast three weeks in adapting to my new position. I would like to thank Department Commander Richard Zalinkankas ("Richie Z."), and Department President Lynda Stadtler for having me on the receiving line at Convention.

I would like to thank my grandfather, Past Department Vice-Commander Christopher Gifford, for installing me as Detachment Commander. Also, thank you to Tom Marsden for assisting with the installation.

I also need to extend gratitude to the Monmouth County Legion Family for my post-election celebration at the Newport Hotel. Special thanks go to Posts 346, 338, 143 and to my family who have supported me through elections and will continue to do so in the year to come.

I had the honor of being invited to Boy's State on June 20 and was recognized at the graduation ceremonies. Special thanks to Rob Lasky for making this happen.

I stopped into Post 143 to make a pick up for the girls involved in Girl's State. I then went to Georgian Court University to make a delivery and had the chance to speak with Girl's State Staff and Department President Lynda Stadtler.

A few reminders: If your squadron still has your officer form, please send it back to Trenton as soon as possible. This form is important if you plan on having information sent to your squadron. There is so much that is going on in our Detachment that it would be a shame if your squadron did not know about it. New membership cards for 2009 will be released in July. Please do what you can to get membership in. Let's try to hit 100% earlier than ever this year.

Squadrons, please keep track of what you are doing through the year. It makes it easier to report. Whether it is a small fundraiser for a local veteran or a large joint effort for something bigger, we need these logged for the National Commander who goes before the government to show them how we have done our part.

Please keep the family of Steven Bizzaro in your prayers. Steve was Passaic County Commander, and he passed away this past month.

Don't forget that August 1 will be Legion Family Night at First Energy Park in Lakewood.

Feel free to e-mail me with events in your squadron, questions, concerns, or just to say "Hello". My e-mail address is njsalgallagher@gmail.com. I look forward to having a great year and to working with each and every one of you to do more for our Detachment and, more specifically, our veterans.

For God and Country,
Patrick Gallagher



Dates to Remember

2008 National Convention (Phoenix, AZ)
2009 10% Membership Target Date
Watchfire (Seaside Hts.) 7:00 P. M.
2009 25% Membership Target Date
2008 Fall NEC Meeting
Detachment Meeting (Trenton)

August 22-24, 2008
September 10, 2008
September 19, 2008
October 8, 2008
October 11-12, 2008
October 18, 2008

AUGUST 31, 2008 NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

VICE COMMANDER REPORT

by Steve Catena

Please let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Steve Catena from Leonardo Memorial Squadron 338 in Monmouth County. I have recently been elected as a Detachment Vice-Commander after running off of the floor at the Wildwood Convention. I'll be covering Monmouth, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties. Please, if you need anything, don't hesitate to reach out for me. I would like all of the squadron and county commanders in my area to give me a call or send me an e-mail to introduce yourself to me. Thanks for your time. Steve Catena, Detachment Vice-Commander. Cell: 732-915-2964 or e-mail: fireems71@aol.com

VICE COMMANDER REPORT

by Duke Haring

I am looking forward to visiting my newly assigned counties this year--Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Ocean. It will be very interesting for me as I get a chance to travel and visit many squadrons again.

Squadron commanders and SAL County Commanders, I would like very much to come and sit in at one of your meetings or fundraisers. It would be great to enjoy, to observe, and to try to answer any questions that you may have. Maybe I can even offer some ideas on how to promote and increase membership. I would also like to share information about Detachment with you.

Please let me know where and when (complete address) you will be meeting. You can contact me by mail at 12 Tivoli St., Toms River, N. J. 08757, by e-mail at Dukedave7@comcast.net, by phone at (home) 732-244-8534 or (cell) 732-597-2604.

I am looking forward to serving under our new SAL Detachment Commander Patrick Gallagher. He is dedicated and a great leader who deserves our complete loyalty and hard work to ensure that this year is a success for him and the Sons.

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

by John N. Gillman

Well, a new year is upon us and a great convention was had by all. Congratulations to Commander Patrick Gallagher and best wishes for the upcoming year!

Paperwork is the lifeblood of the Detachment and there are two special notes that need to be brought up. The first is the Consolidated Report Form. Even though it is late it can still be sent in because the information on it can still be used by National. The second is Officer Report Form. Please send it in or you will not receive mailings from Trenton.

Our newsletter, the SALute, is sent through these mailings, and it would be great to see every squadron in the state receive the award winning SALute. So, again, please send in these forms so the Detachment of New Jersey can stand proud!

CWF REPORT

by Steve Catena

Hi all, I am the new Chairman of the CWF Committee for the Detachment of New Jersey. I will be working closely with PDC Mike Arner who will be lending his support and assistance whenever possible. Commander Gallagher is looking for us to break the amount raised from last year which was \$10,100. My goal is to raise at least \$12,000 this year, which can only be done with your help. If your squadron, county, post or unit wishes to make a donation or run an event to raise funds, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your anticipated support of this outstanding program. Steve Catena, CWF Chairman. Cell: 732-915-2964 or e-mail: fireems71@aol.com.



Incoming Commander Pat Gallagher Surrounded by His Family



Sq. 338 Leonardo Carries the U. S. Flag



The New Jersey Legion Family

DETACHMENT OFFICERS & APPOINTMENTS

This year's delegates to the state convention voted in Commander Patrick Gallagher and Vice Commanders Amel Balega (Passaic, Morris, Sussex, Warren), Phil Boyd (Burlington, Camden, Hunterdon, Mercer), Steve Catena (Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, Union), Dave Haring (Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Ocean), and Joe Korba (Atlantic, Cape May, Salem, Gloucester, Cumberland); Joe Colotone, Chaplain with Carl Alber, Jr. NEC and Kent Hehl ANEC.

No resolutions were presented. The appointments of John Gillman, Adjutant; Gary Nelson, Judge Advocate; Kermit Reilly, Ed Downs, Joseph Ruggerio, and Brett Stadtler, Sgts.-at-Arms were approved with a historian still to be announced.

At the reorganization meeting, Cmdr. Gallagher named as commission and committee chairs:

Veterans Serv. & Rehabilitation--Kent Hehl

Americanism--George Abrams

Boys State--Robert Lasky

Community Affairs--TBA

Flag History/Dedication--Joseph Ruggerio

Color Guard--George Abrams

Drug & Alcohol Prevention--TBA

POW/MIA--Thomas E. Marsden

Religious Emphasis--Joe Colontone

Son of the Year--Dean Staknys

Children & Youth--TBA

CMN--Ed Downs

CWF--Steve Catena

Essay Contest--Phil Boyd

Josh Dog/Spinoza Bear--TBA

Special Olympics--Steve Rodriguez

Young Citizen's Award--Steve Catena

Internal Affairs--James Noble

Commander's Advisory--All PDC's

Commander's Project--TBA

Constitution & Bylaws--Carl Alber, Jr.

Convention--Joe Korba

Finance--Gary Nelson

Scholarship--Joseph Colontone

Internet--Carl Alber, Jr.

Legislative--Kent Hehl

Membership--Dave Haring

Public Relations--TBA

PUFL--James Noble

Resolutions--TBA

Legion College--TBA

Salute--Thomas E. Marsden

Ways & Means--Joe Korba

Norm Marlin will serve as American Legion SAL Committee Chairman. The schedule of meetings at the War Memorial Building, Trenton is set for 9:45 A. M. August 16, October 18, December 6, February 7, and April 4, with the convention at the Wildwood Convention Center June 11-13.

CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT

The Detachment of New Jersey hosted its convention at the Wildwood Convention Hall on June 13th. National Vice Commander East Thomas E. Marsden was in attendance .

New Jersey is honored to have Carl Alber (Community Relations), Ken Esposito (Paid Up For Life), and Tom Marsden (National Security) at National. We can look with pride to accomplishments like donating \$10,490 to CWF, \$6,212 to Special Olympics, \$1,335 to the National Emergency Fund, \$875 to the Children's Miracle Network, and 25 Spinoza Bears to children of deployed military.

AWARD WINNERS (by category)

Americanism

1st--Sq. 338, Leonardo

2nd--Sq. 262

3rd--Sq. 408

Membership--Category A

1st--Sq. 170, Roselle Park

2nd--Sq. 139

3rd--Sq. 43

Membership--Category C

1st--Sq. 148

2nd--Sq. 184

3rd--Sq. 293

Community Service

1st--Sq. 338

2nd--Sq. 455

3rd--Sq. 408

Special Olympics

1st--Sq. 338

2nd--Sq. 262

3rd (TIE)--Sqs. 346 & 372

Boys State--Sq. 372

CMN--Sq. 8

Ernie Wilson Scholarship--Bryan Lysenko

Son of the Year--Michael Popp Sq. 455

Children & Youth

1st--Sq. 120 Lambertville

2nd--Sq. 4, Vineland

3rd--Sq. 346, Neptune

Membership--Category B

Sq. 129, Toms River

Sq. 209

Sq. 284

VA&R

1st--Sq. 348, Brick

2nd--Sq. 8

3rd--Sq. 72

Children & Youth

1st--Sq. 262

2nd--Sq. 372

3rd--Sq. 8

CWF

1st--Sq. 373

2nd (TIE)--Sqs. 194 & 9

3rd--Sq. 175

All award winners were determined from the consolidated reports that the squadrons submitted. Any donations not on these forms were not considered in the judging. Results would have been different if every squadron filled out the form.

A THANK YOU TO THE SONS

This is part of a letter received after the Detachment of New Jersey awarded Bryan Lysenko the \$3,000 Ernie Wilson Scholarship.

I offer my heartfelt thanks for the substantial generosity of the Ernest Wilson Memorial Education Scholarship. I did receive another scholarship or \$500.00 but your scholarship was AMAZING. What a difference that one will make. Once again, thank you for your support, generosity and thank you for investing in my future.

With sincere thanks,
Bryan Lysenko