



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

National's CMN Committee is looking into how hospitals account for donations from the SAL. Last year \$180,000 was reported on C & Y forms.

Donations are made in various ways: (1) to CMN National Headquarters, Utah; (2) to American Legion National Headquarters, Indiana; and (2) directly to local CMN hospitals. No procedure is recommended; however, it is important to note that in the first two instances 50% of donations made are redirected to Children and Youth and in the last case 100% of donations are kept by the local hospital. tm

CMDR. DEACON FETED

NEC Tom Marsden attended the Homecoming of Sons of the American Legion National Commander Michael Deacon in Ames, Iowa November 5-7.

Over the mountains, through the woods, guests toured the countryside by train. Along the way they crossed over a metal trestle and lunched at a local post whose home is a log cabin. Following this year's theme "Sheriffs vs. Outlaws", men sported 10 gallon cowboy hats and the Western look. A Harley Davidson cap and several fore and afts and stuck out in the crowd.

It was a true Legion Family celebration. National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus (MI) and National Auxiliary President Sandi Dutton (MD) joined Cmdr. Mike as 180 members of the American Legion, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the S. A. L. came together. Dignitaries present included PNAL Cmdr. (MD), our own PN Aux. Pres. Bailey, SAL PNC's J. R. Stillwell (IL), Dave Stevens (IN), Royce Ducette (LA), Joe Maine (MN), Rick Cook (OK), Neal Warneck (KN), and SAL Leading Candidate Bill Sparwasser (MD). tm

THE EDITOR'S DESK

Editor Thomas E. Marsden attended the New Jersey American Legion Press Club of New Jersey Awards dinner October 24, 2004, at the Roselle Park American Legion Post. There the Press Club awarded the SALute, the Detachment newspaper, a special plaque for publication excellence. It also awarded its writers two plaques for editorials, "Veterans Day" and "They Are Our Heroes". To those who make the paper what it is, a big thank you. Without you, there could be no paper. em

MEMBERSHIP NEEDS TO PUSH CW

Michael Arner, Chairman

In October I went to the NEC in Indianapolis and attended the CWF meeting. New National Chairman Mark Arneson asked each Detachment to try to raise \$1 more than the highest total it ever raised. That means our goal is \$14,800. We will need all your support and commitment to reach this.

Let's get back to a dollar a member. On top of your regular donation this should increase our annual donations by about \$2,000. So far we have raised just a little over \$6,000, so we have a way to go. All donations must be in to National no later than May 29, 2005.

The squadrons need to do their part in helping us raise the needed money. I know that in the past the squadrons have been the backbone of CWF efforts. We need all of you to step up once again.

If you would like, I will come to your squadron and show you ways how to raise the money. You can contact me by phone at 732-977-2773 (cell) or e-mail arner@njsal.org. This is a team effort and we are counting on you to help us. As Cmdr. Nelson says, there is no I in team.

FALL NEC

The Fall NEC was held in Indianapolis, Indiana October 8-10, 2004. New Jersey's Sons in attendance were Cmdr. Nelson, NEC Tom Marsden, ANEC Albern, Child Welfare Chairman Arner, Convention Chairman Gallagher, and PDC Esposito.

Child Welfare R. A. T. 's (Regional Adult Action Team Leaders) have been reactivated. Their goal is Catching All Time Highs with detachments exceeding past contributions. 2003 was our all time high with \$14,795.

Resolutions that carried include:

- (1) NEC 10-F04 Grass root Lobbyist of the Year
- (2) NEC 9-F04 New Squadron Organizational Manual
- (3) NEC 8-F04 Youth Recruitment Brochure tm

BULLETIN

All National Legion Information Conference sessions for 2004-2005 have been cancelled. The Legion cites cost and attendance problems as its reasons. tm



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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Fellow Brothers,

As we get closer to the holiday season I would like to wish everyone a Happy & Healthy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year. A friendly reminder to send in your membership per capita and cards, as we do have a membership challenge with both the American Legion and Auxiliary. Remember we need 11 new members from every squadron to attain our goal of 10,000 this year. For the squadrons that have attained this already keep on going to pick up the slack of others.

Letters should have been already recieved by all Posts, Units, and Squadrons about my Detachment Commander's Project. as in the letter all the money is going directly to the Veterans. Anyone that needs a letter explaining please E-Mail me at *commander@njsal.org* or you can phone me at my office at (201) 943-6500 or my cell (201) 370-1365. Please ask your friends, family, employer to try to help, we need to raise a minimum of \$40,000, any donation is appreciated.

On the fun side of the Commanders Project we have come up with a pledge by the pound for my diet called "The Battle of the Bulge," My starting weight was 354 lbs on October 30,2004 and whatever I weight in at on April 2, 2005 will determine what you would owe. If I don't lose weight or stay the same I will personally donate \$1000 of my own money. Again if you need a pledge forms either call Bob Valania Detachment Commander's Project Chairman at (973) 277- 8160 or myself and we will send them to you, once filled out return them to Bob and in April we will send out the results and hopefully what you owe.

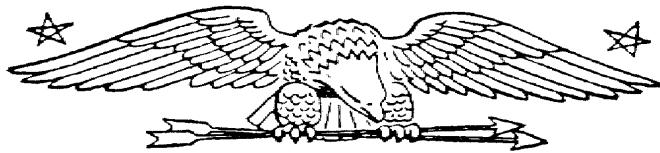
We are doing a great job so far in all our committees, and I would like to thank everyone for working so hard. Keep up the good work and this year we will all remember. Remember we are a team, and there is no "I" in the word team.

Keep an eye open for the flyer for the Detachment Commander's Testimonial as seats are limited and it will be on a first come first serve reservations. Tickets will be prepaid.

Again if anyone needs to see myself or one of the Vice Commander's please either E-Mail or call me.

For God and Country

Gary P. Nelson
Detachment Commander



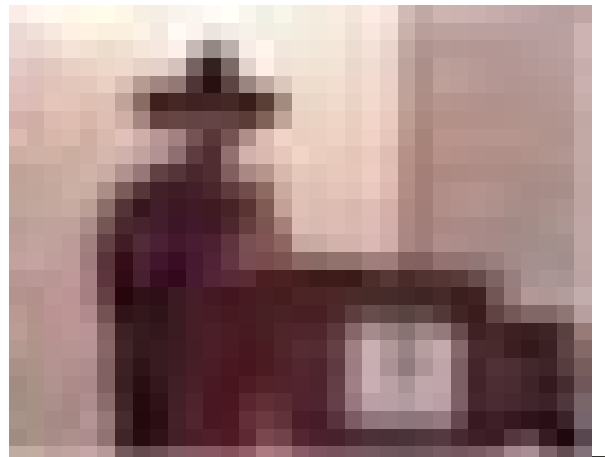
DATES TO REMEMBER

POW-MIA Tree Lighting Post 351 Seaside	December 4
2005 45% Membership Date	December 8
Detachment Meeting Trenton 9:45	December 11
Christmas	December 25
New Years Day	January 1
2005 60% Membership Date	January 12
For God and Country Service Lakehurst	February 3
2005 75% Membership Date	February 9
Washington Conference	February 27- March 2

C W B L P A T R I O T I S M E C A E K C
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AMERICA
 BLUEHAT
 COMRADESHIP
 COURTESY
 DISCIPLINE
 FAITH
 FLAG
 HELPFULNESS
 IDEALS
 JUSTICE
 LEADERSHIP
 LOYALTY
 OVAL
 PORTLAND
 PROGRAM
 REVERENCE
 SONS
 STAR
 TRAINING
 WREATH

AUXILIARY
 CITIZENSHIP
 COUNTY
 DETACHMENT
 EMBLEM
 FATHERS
 FREEDOM
 HONOR
 INDIANAPOLIS
 KNOWLEDGE
 LEGIONISM
 MEMORY
 PATRIOTISM
 POWMIA
 RAYS
 SERVICE
 SQUADRON
 SUN
 VOLUNTEER



SAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Many fraternal organizations are social. The Sons of the American Legion is that and much, much more. Did you know that in '04 the S. A. L. was a member of the National VAVS Board, had 42 registered representatives, volunteered 211,150 hours, and recorded 9,889 visits?

Sons presented 1,619 flag education programs, gave 11,555 flags to schools, distributed 115,487 flags at parades and ceremonies, and conducted 1,439 flag retirement ceremonies. They logged 2,952 color guard appearances.

Sons sponsored 798 Boys State representatives, 304 baseball teams. They gave time and money to scholarships, scouting, junior shooting sports, and the oratorical program. They were involved in Special Olympics.

The S. A. L. logged in 310,201 hours in Americanism programs, completed 300,909 service hours in community service, and spent 6,714 hours in educational programs. They completed 57 Five Star and Ten Ideals programs.

The Sons of the American Legion continue to be the single largest contributor to the Child Welfare Foundation. They have committed themselves to the Children's Miracle Network.

Just add up all the volunteer hours and donations. \$1,311,043 and 125,926 service hours to all the various Child Welfare programs is really a very big accomplishment. pm

NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISITS NEW JERSEY

The Department Auxiliary hosted a dinner November 13, 2004, to honor its National President Sandi Dutton (MD). Representing the Detachment of New Jersey were Cmdr. Nelson and NEC Tom Marsden. Also in attendance were Sons Carl Alber, Mike Arner, Pat Gallagher, and Jim Noble.

Pres. Dutton told the audience that being in New Jersey was like being home. She was glad to be comfortable, relax, be herself. She commented how lucky the state us to have a Past National President like Elsie Bailey.

Pres. Dutton, like a runway model, proudly displayed the gifts that the Legion, Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary, and Sons as she freely walked among guests. She greeted old friends, made new ones. tm

MEMBERSHIP

National's latest report for 2004-2005 shows the New Jersey Sons of the American Legion has 2,178 members. That puts the state as of November 10, 2004, into 26th place with 34.049% of its target goal--just missing 35%. Get those membership forms in now so the SAL can end the year on a high note. Seek new members. New Jersey has a 88.28% renewal rate. We lost almost 1,000 members last year so search out members yet to renew. pm



Heaven sings
Angel wings
People's prayer
Presents everywhere
Yon snow fresh

Nativity creche
Epiphany star
Wise men from afar

Yuletide ho-ho
Elves on the go
Almost the day
Reindeer sleigh

Good, bright
Joy, light
God above
All love

These are the signs of holiday times.
May they always live in our hearts.
May we never forget their meaning.

The staff of the SALute extends
To family and friends
Its best wishes and hopes for peace
For not only this Christmas season
But for always. pm



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS DECEMBER 31, 2004.