



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: THOMAS E. MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: PATRICIA MARSDEN
WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Steven J. Rodriguez, Chairman

Anyone who would like to make a donation to Special Olympics can do so by sending a check or money order to "SAL Detachment of NJ" with "Special Olympics" in the memo slot. Please send it to either 110 Anderson Avenue or 295 Wilson Avenue, Fairview, New Jersey 07022.

As of the Detachment's February meeting, \$1,200 was collected before Detachment approved donating another \$1,250 this year. Thank you to everyone for your donations.

RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS

Steven J. Rodriguez, Chaplain

I have the unfortunate duty to report that on February 7, 2007, PDC Richard Phillips was transferred to Squadron Everlasting. An impressive display of officers from both Detachment and Squadron 102 were on hand as PDC Phillips was laid to rest. May the memory of this man live on.

WE REMEMBER ONE OF OUR OWN



*RICHARD J. PHILLIPS, JR.
1955-2007*

1996 Sons of the American Legion State Commander
Longtime Member of Squadron 102 Linden

MEMBERSHIP

Dave "Duke" Haring, Chairman

For the second straight month, we missed our target date. January we missed by 3%; February we missed by 5%. What is going on? While some squadrons are doing great, there are many doing SQUAT!

It's very embarrassing to our Detachment and to our Department that there are 33 squadrons that have less than ten members sent in and must be suspended. That means those squadrons and everyone in them are not in good standing. If squadrons don't get memberships in, they are not eligible to vote in any elections--squadron, county, or Detachment. They are also not eligible to run for any office.

So, please, get your chairman or adjutant to send in the per capita and membership cards. This is our life blood, our membership. Holding on to membership and per capita is doing harm not good for our Detachment and for National. Again, send them in to Trenton.

We are presently 379 members short of 75%, our last target date goal. Let's try a little harder to meet our 80% target by March 20. We must show the Legion that we are worthy to belong to the American Legion Family by doing better than last year in our membership drive. It's crunch time. Let's get it done.

GET THE WORD OUT

New Jersey has as of February 28, 6490 members. While we should be recruiting new members, let's not forget our old ones. We must keep squadrons well informed and up and running. Currently there are 81 squadrons without officer forms on record--over 50% of active squadrons, 33 suspended, and 76 posts holding charters for suspended squadrons. Let's work on these sources for membership. pm

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

(Source: American Legion Magazine, March 2007)

A. L. Aux. Nat. Pres. JoAnn Cronin and Sal Nat. Cmdr. Earl Ruttkofsky have joined A. L. Nat. Cmdr. Paul A Morin in promoting three programs that reach deep into communities nationwide: the National Emergency Fund, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and the Child Welfare Foundation. Every commander, president and SAL Commander is encouraged to raise funds equal to their 2006 delegate-strength membership.



DETACHMENT OFFICERS 06-07

Commander:

Michael Arner
commander@njsal.org

Vice Commanders:

James Lightcap
vlightcap@njsal.org
Patrick Gallagher
vcgallagher@njsal.org
Phil Boyd
vcboyd@njsal.org
Frank Jiosi
vcjiosi@njsal.org
Amel Balega
vcbalega@njsal.org

Adjutant:

John Gillman
adjutant@njsal.org

Judge Advocate:

Thomas E. Marsden
ja@njsal.org

Chaplain:

Steve Rodriguez
chaplain@njsal.org

Historian:

Frank Norcross
historian@njsal.org

Sgt-at-Arms:

Kermit Riley
K.J. Esposito
Joseph Colontone
Dave Haring

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

Thomas Gray
Kevin Ritz
Joseph Ruggerio

NEC:

Carl W. Albern, Jr.
nec@njsal.org

ANEC:

Edward T. Marsden
emarsden@njsal.org

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Comrades,

With deep regret, I must inform you of the death of Past Detachment Commander Richard Phillips. Rich was the type of guy whom everyone liked and enjoyed being in his company.

I remember the good times that we shared over the years. He was funny at times, serious at others. His dedication to the Sons of the American Legion was built deep within him. He was always supportive of everyone in office; he cared about the future of the Sons of the American Legion. I had long conversations with Rich about how to lead this great detachment and how to get people interested in our organization.

His close relationship with Past Commander Ken Esposito was like watching a comedy act in progress. The two knew how to incorporate business and pleasure. I will surely miss him. I send my condolence to his family.

We are entering the final few months of this administration. We are behind in membership and need to get out and increase our efforts to retain the members we have and to recruit new members. If you need help in your membership efforts, please contact membership chairman Duke Haring or me.

I am still looking for help with the Commander's Project. To date we have only raised slightly over \$2,000. I am counting on you to help us reach our goal and complete this project. Please contact me if you have any ideas to raise the needed moneys.

I would like to congratulate Phil Boyd of Camden County on his election to position of Detachment Vice Commander. I know he will do a great job in the little time left to complete the year. Phil is also my essay contest chairman. He has sent out information to the squadrons. Let's get this to the schools and returned for judging by May 31, 2007.

I can't stress enough that we need your help at the Detachment level. I am asking you to come to our Detachment meetings and see what we are doing to serve you. Remember an organization is only as good as the members involved.

Right now one of our active PDC's Thomas E. Marsden is running for National Vice Commander East this August at the National Convention in Reno. We have not had anyone in this position since Charles Thran in 1996. We need to support Tom. Contact Jim Noble at PDCJN19@aol.com for information, ideas, even questions. Tom will represent 14 detachments, namely France, the New England states, and the Midatlantic states. This is going to take considerable time and great cost. He is our candidate and deserves our hand.

Convention is coming. I hope that some of you look to step up and join a committee on which you would like to sit. I know that most members are busy with family, but as I travel this state, I see a lot of members who are still out doing a lot for their squadrons and their county organizations. Please think about the future of the Detachment. Please help us help you.

For God and Country,
Michael Arner, Commander



DATES TO REMEMBER 2006-2007 CALENDAR

Detachment Meeting, Trenton	April 14
SAL College, Sea Girt	April 21
Department Commander Testimonial	April 28
Locustwood Memorial	June 3
Detachment Convention	June 8
High Point Memorial	June 24
Department President Testimonial	June 30
Detachment Commander Testimonial	July 14

NEW VICE

On March 9 Detachment scheduled a special meeting to fill former Vice Commander William Schimminger's term. Phil Boyd takes over Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, and Ocean Counties. Congratulations!

VA&R

Frank Jiosi, Jr., VA&R Chairman

I would like to thank everybody who participated in the VA&R Committee this year. A tremendous job was done by all the Legion Family members who helped out. Lyons VA, East Orange, Paramus, Menlo Park, and Vineland facilities thank us for visiting the veterans and entertaining them.

CHILD WELFARE

Edward T. Marsden, CWF Chairman

In the last seven years our Detachment has given \$70,000 to the Child Welfare Foundation. We can thank Cmdr. Arner for much of that success. Since 1999, he has helped New Jersey greatly with this fundraising. Right now our commander sits on National's Child Welfare Committee. Let's show everyone that we respect CWF and his work.

National's report dated February 15, 2007, shows New Jersey's Sons rank #15 in dollars donated with \$7,115. This is \$.80 per member, 35.6% of the goal set by National. Last year 8,870 members gave \$9,906 or \$1.12 per member. I know we all can do much better.

Members, squadrons, and counties, please be generous. Don't wait until the state convention to get your money in. The deadline for 2006-2007 credit is fast approaching. It is May 31, 2007.

TO HONOR OUR LEGION FAMILY HEADS

The American Legion Department of New Jersey will hold its testimonial for Commander Chuck Robbins Saturday, April 28. His banquet is set for the Holiday Inn, Manahawkin. Tickets are \$35 each. Please contact Nancy Robbins (732-270-8259) prior to April 21 for reservations or further information.

The state's Legion Auxiliary will pay homage to President Shirley Fabian on Saturday, June 30. Her tribute will be at the Hanover Manor in Hanover. Tickets are \$40 apiece. Call Julie Janeik (973-584-8660) for reservations.

The dinner for 2006-2007 S. A. L. Cmdr. Michael Arner has been scheduled for Saturday, July 14. Festivities will be at Yesterday's Restaurant, Hazlet. The cost per person is \$35. Carl Albern, Jr. is in charge of arrangements. All reservations must be received by July 1.

BURLINGTON ORGANIZES

Toby Houseworth

To help the Legion Family, Burlington County has formed the Burlington County Committee. Its officers are as follows:

Commander	Paul F. Zimmerman, Sr.	Sq. 194
1st Vice Cmdr.	Joe Vargo	Sq. 39
2nd Vice	Toby Houseworth	Sq. 194
Finance Off.	Kevin Mattis	Sq. 39
Chaplain	Hank Cruse	Sq. 11
Historian	Jeffrey Hicks	Sq. 526
Sgt.-at-Arms	Ed Downs, Jr.	Sq. 194
Judge Adv.	Kevin Houseworth, Sr.	Sq. 194
Adjutant	OPEN	
DEC	OPEN	
SAL Co. Chair	Sam Hayes	Post 509

We would like to thank Sam Hayes, BCEC Chairman, and Jay Gilman, Detachment Adjutant, for their help in forming the Committee.

SUPER TIMES

Dave "Duke" Haring

Seaside Heights Post 351 was the place to be Superbowl weekend. Saturday night was pro wrestling--single, tag team matches, women matches, and the Royal Rumble Championship Match. With great entertainment for all ages, future dates are set for Saturdays March 4 and April 14, 2007, at 7:00 P. M.

Superbowl Sunday we had the Legion Family at its best, working at the post. The place was packed. Post Commander and dual member George Morgan and his beautiful wife Patty spent two days preparing the food. With Dave Haring bar tendering, dual member Charles "Chicky" Eletto, and Sons Richie White and Charlie "The Hat" helped out while entertaining the customers.

Discounted drinks, door prizes were raffled off each quarter, and 50-50's at both half time and the end of the game made for a great time for everyone. Two cheers for everyone who put in so many countless hours on volunteer work at 351.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

The next issue of the SALute will be available at the State Convention. Every Son planning to run for Detachment office--either on the ballot or off the floor--has the opportunity to submit a bio (max. 500 words) by the April 30 deadline.

Look for these articles which tell about the candidates, their qualifications, their accomplishments. Everyone on the slate should inform the electorate why he should get the vote. Voters have a chance to ask questions as nominations come to the floor.

Remember many uncontested candidates will with time run for higher offices. Good old boys make great friends but at times are less qualified than the ones who aren't everyone's best buddy. Don't vote blind, and may the best man win!



INSPIRED BY THE UNNAMED HEROES

Thomas Marsden POW/MIA Chairman



A. L. Cmdr. Morin, S.A.L. Cmdr. Ruttkofsky, and Aux. Chaplain Koveleski at Washington Conference; Tom Marsden, Chuck Robbins, and Shirley Fabian Reflect; New Jersey Places Its Wreath in Arlington

I was honored to be part of the New Jersey Legion Family at the recent Washington Conference. I attended POW/MIA meetings and the fact-finding forum on illegal immigration. I met with national representatives--present, past, and future. I stood side by side with Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons. I saw the national monuments like the Washington Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean Monument, the Vietnam Wall, and even took a tour of the White House.

Yet still what impressed me most--after so many years and so many more visits--was Arlington National Cemetery and its Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

As Commander Robbins and President Fabian were escorted by the honor guard to the vault, I thought of my own son Luc now serving in the Navy. Soldiers everyday are liable to be called on any day, anywhere to make the supreme act of sacrifice--sailors with their ships; pilots with their planes; land forces with sniper bullets; even soldiers still on American soil. That is how it must be when a country is at war.

I believe every casualty deserves to be remembered. Each man or woman gave all for God and country. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stands for the bravery, valor, and honor that our military has shown and continues to show throughout our country's history.

There is little consolation to anyone who loses a loved one, still I am sure that the knowledge that the country remembers and cares helps. Fellow Americans, be proud of those who returned and even prouder of those who didn't.

WHAT DO YOU THINK * AN EDITORIAL

How can the United States accept more legal immigrants when at present there are over ten million aliens in this country illegally? The American Legion feels that national security, the national economy, and the welfare of our descendants must be considered.

U. S. Senator Sessions (AL), Alfonso Aguilar, U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Mark Krikorian, Center for Immigration Studies, Kris Kobach, Kansas City School of Law, Roy Beck, NumbersUSA, and Dr. John Forte, Hudson Institute all participated in a fact-finding forum on this topic.

The general consensus was that illegal immigration takes away from the open door to legal immigration. It has adverse economic effects as unskilled labor brings wages down. The U. S. A. must be able to defend its borders and needs comprehensive reform.

These are the American Legion's key positions on illegal immigration:

- (1) The Legion is not against guest worker programs; it is opposed to amnesty.
- (2) It supports enforcement of employer sanctions and civil penalties for those who hire illegals.
- (3) It calls on Congress to secure borders as needed.
- (4) It calls upon all law enforcement agencies to share database information and have federal, state, and local law enforcement arrest and detain those violating immigration laws.
- (5) It is against foreign-issued forms of identification that are not creditable, authentic, and accurate and supports tracking foreign students and monitoring their attendance.
- (6) It opposes giving illegal immigrants Social security benefits, unemployment compensation, other taxpayer supported public assistance, and in-state, federal and other government educational assistance grants.

* * *

Now, what do you think? Contact your legislators. Remember you elected them.

BITS AND PIECES

Glad to see that PDC Kenny Esposito is out of the hospital and on the mend....Hoping for a speedy recovery for Joe Colotone, Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms....Seaside Heights Post 351 honored the life of Bob Sisco with a repast February 24. Please remember him in your prayers.

The deadline for SAL College applications is March 23, 2007, with any substitutions one week later....The host post for Legion College will be Post #346 Neptune.

Sons wishing to participate in the CMN Boardwalk Walkathon in Wildwood, June 9 should contact its chair, Candy Howarth, for applications....Convention delegate registration forms should be mailed to William Breen at 16 Mt. Clement Avenue, Pine Hill, N. J. pm

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 30, 2007.