



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

The committee is very grateful for all the donations received last year. Detachment managed to break the record it set in 2004-2005. The total raised for 2006-2007 was an amazing \$5,000. Thank you to the Ten Polar Bears from Post 133 Woodbury, led by Jim Lightcap and Bob McKinney. They are a great bunch of guys who participate in the Polar Bear Plunge every year. They raised \$1,170. Another thank you to Squadron 372 Cherry Hill for an outstanding donation of \$1,000. I would also like to thank everyone else who made a donation this year. Way to go, guys!

Our committee has been challenged to raise \$10,000 this year, and I plan to do it with your help. Donations for 2007-2008 are now being accepted. If you would like to make one, please make your check or money order out to S. A. L., Detachment of New Jersey and write Special Olympics in the memo space.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time by e-mail Rodriguez@njsal.org/sjr5959@aol.com or by phone at 973-609-2136. My mailing address is: Steven John Rodriguez, NJSAL Special Olympics Chairman, 295 Wilson Avenue, Fairview, New Jersey.

BOYS STATE

Rob Lasky, Chairman

A. L. Jersey Boys State is held each year at Rider University in Lawrenceville and is mainly sponsored by the local legion posts throughout the state. Delegates become citizens of a mythical 51st state as they learn about local, county, and state government in the week-long leadership seminar that begins on Fathers Day each year. This year, 769 delegates attended. There are 50 Boys State programs throughout the nation--all sponsored by the American Legion.

The completely volunteer staff at ALJBS is composed of a mixture of Legionnaires, SAL members, former statesmen, and friends of the program. There is always a need for staff members at ALJBS. We had six SAL members on staff this year, and we would like to see more of a presence there next year and for years to come. Next year's session will be held June 15-20, 2008, with staff reporting on June 14. For information on joining the staff of American Legion Jersey Boys State, please contact the SAL Boys State Chairman Rob Lasky at lasky@njsal.org.

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

Edward T. Marsden, Vice Chairman

When I returned home from the state convention, I found a check from Squadron 262 Audubon waiting in the mailbox. Please follow its lead. Send your donations to Chairman Mike Arner. Checks should be made out to CWF with any credit notations on the memo line. Whatever we manage to collect from June 1 on will be presented at National Convention in Reno next month.

Twenty squadrons from twelve different counties are largely responsible for our contributions to CWF. Just imagine how much more New Jersey's Sons could do if every one of our 150+ squadrons in every one of our 21 counties sent a donation. As of May 31, 2007, the National Legion Family gave \$622,292.73 with \$321,227.92 of that amount from the National SAL. Our Detachment's \$13,515 missed being in the Top Ten in dollar donations nationally with Texas taking Category IV honors from us by only \$173.66.

SON OF THE YEAR

Edward T. Marsden, Chairman

Gary P. Nelson has been selected as 2006-2007's Son of the Year. Gary received a cap, pin, and plaque honoring this at the Wildwood Convention. Gary is a year life member of the S. A. L. His membership is through Bergen County's Squadron 365 Fairview.

Gary's help to veterans, visits to VA facilities, distribution of flags, commitment to the Boys Scout program, promotion of the Legion Family, and personal support of charities including CWF, Special Olympics, and the Spinoza Bear, are ongoing. His work with the cannon now exhibited at his home post, participation in National's MNI program, and teaching SAL College are some highlights in his last year's volunteerism efforts.

MEMBERSHIP

The June 27, 2007 membership report shows New Jersey in 39th place nationally with 8,775 members and 97.2% of goal. Of the fourteen detachments in the Eastern Region, it stands at #7. Everyone needs to promote membership. Families and children of current members are one good recruiting base. Follow up calls to those members not yet renewed is a possible way to renew interest. pm



DETACHMENT OFFICERS 07-08

Commander:

Frank Jiosi
commander@njsal.org

Vice Commanders:

Amel Balega
vcbalega@njsal.org
Phil Boyd
boyd@njsal.org
Patrick Gallagher
gallagher@njsal.org
Dave 'Duke' Haring
haring@njsal.org
Joe Korba
vckorba@njsal.org

Adjutant:

John Gillman
adjutant@njsal.org

Judge Advocate:

Ken Esposito, Sr
esposito@njsal.org

Chaplain:

Lenny Free
chaplain@njsal.org

Historian:

TBA
historian@njsal.org

Sgt-at-Arms:

Kermit Riley
Joseph Ruggiero
Joseph Colontone
Brett Stadtler
Steve Rodriguez

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

Thomas Gray
K.J. Esposito

NEC:

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

ANEC:

Edward T. Marsden
emarsden@njsal.org

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



We, the Detachment of New Jersey, just finished another very successful convention in the great city of Wildwood. The past was tremendous, and great hospitality was shown by the counties I visited while in Wildwood.

I would first like to congratulate my vice commanders Amel Balega, Joe Korba, Pat Gallagher, Dave "Duke" Haring, and Phil Boyd. Thank you for the service you are about to render to the Detachment of New Jersey. To all my other officers, who include Jay Gillman, my adjutant, he will be there to help anybody who needs it. He does a tremendous job as adjutant--one of the best I've seen.

As the Detachment pushes forward, things are only going to be better. We have new people getting involved like Chaplain Lenny Free from Sq. 415 Saddlebrook. He is one of the best singers you ever want to hear. He will be my project chairman.

The project is an American Idol fundraiser to go to immediate needs for all six veteran facilities in New Jersey. It will be formatted the same as the TV show with events held at several American Legion posts throughout the state. The grand final will be at a designated location to be announced later. All the information on this project will be mailed out to each Legion Family post very shortly, so keep an eye and ear out for this. It should be a lot of fun. Lenny Free and his wife Debbie will chair the committee, so all calls and info will go through them.

I also would like all the committee chairmen to take part this year. We have tremendous programs and all will get better this year. A few of the highlights are Rob Lasky of Squadron 455 New Egypt becoming Boys State Chairman. Let's not forget Steve Rodriguez of Special Olympics Committee trying this year to raise an all-time goal of \$10,000. Good luck, Steve. Everybody is behind you. The Son of the Year Committee needs to get back to the blue caps on the squadron level. We have to support them more. If you're getting it done, let this Detachment know please.

Also, at the convention, I want to shout out to Squadron 19 Bayonne for their donation of \$500 for my project. They have set the ball in motion. Let's hope everybody will follow suit.

With the year just starting, I've made a promise to visit every county at least twice this year. I will never stop visiting because I took the oath of office. I feel that I am more than a paper commander, and my face will be seen. Thanks for your support June 24 at High Point.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Past Commander Arner for his service as commander just a year ago. I hope you will be with me at his testimonial July 14. I will be there for my friend. Please join me in congratulating Mike on a great year.

Don't forget to mark July 28 on your calendar. The Committee to Elect Tom Marsden is holding its first official fundraiser, a pig roast, at Post 338 Leonardo. Let's do the right thing and help Tom out. Congratulations to Tom on his accomplishments over the years.

In closing, I would again like to congratulate everybody for a great convention in Wildwood. Keep up the good work in hopes of a successful 2007-2008 detachment calendar year.

Frank Jiosi, Jr., SAL Det. Cmdr. 2007-2008



DATES TO REMEMBER

36th SAL Nat. Conv., Reno, NV	August 24-26
Labor Day	September 3
2008 10% Membership Target	September 12
2008 25% Membership Target	October 11
Fall NEC Meeting	October 13-14
Columbus Day	October 8
SAL Fall NEC	October 13-14
Election Day	November 6
Veteran's Day	November 11

THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

Thomas E. Marsden, Chairman

The Detachment of New Jersey will hold its 16 POW-MIA Annual Watchfire at dusk September 21 to dawn September 22. Be with the Legion Family on Seaside Heights beach. There is no rain date; this event has never been canceled. Contact me at saltom@usa.net or by mail at 151 Queen Ann Road, Brick, NJ 09723 for further information. Shore Boro Post 351 is host post.

A CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM AT WORK

Luc Marsden, PDC

It isn't easy for the Espinellis. Father Arcy is in the Navy ready to be deployed, refused compassionate leave. Mom can no longer work because she is needed at home to care for a sick little girl and a baby brother. So when Squadron 133 was giving out its Spinoza Bears, it made Ryla Espinelli its first priority.

Little Ryla Amor is a three year old cancer fighter. On May 9, 2006, she was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Besides her daily meds at home, she goes to the hospital weekly for lab appointments and spinal taps. She is a courageous little champion facing at least another year of chemotherapy.

Thank you, comrades, for allowing me to present a bear. Your actions helped a family, and, after all, veterans and children are what our organization is all about. You were there for a comrade in need. I only regret that generous and giving volunteers like you did not get to see the look on Ryla's face as she played with Spinoza. Her smile was a big pay back.



THE WALL THAT HEALS

July 26-29 a mobile half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, D. C., was on exhibit in the Beach Front North section of Long Branch. Various veterans service organizations and active duty military representing all services were in attendance. Russ Mailard did a great job massing of colors the many ceremonies scheduled. The Sons thank him for the time and effort he and his color guard have put in to honor veterans. pm

GET WELL SOON

A full and quick recovery to PDC Neal Newlin (1993-1994). Last month he was hospitalized at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital to remove an aneurysm. His surgery included a new mechanical heart valve and plastic tubing in the veins. Neal is in good spirits, at his mom's, and on the mend. Send cards to 1484 Lords Corner, Felton, Delaware 19943. pm

GO WESTWARD YOUNG MAN

The SAL's 75th Anniversary Celebration is sure to play a big part in the 36th Annual Convention of the Sons of The American Legion. Mark your calendars for August 24-26, Sparks Convention Center. New Jersey's Legion Family is being housed at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, 2500 East Second Street, Reno, Nevada 89595.

If "the biggest little city in the world" doesn't have enough to keep you busy then Virginia City and Lake Tahoe are nearby. Go to www.legion.org and click on "Programs" and "National Convention" for tour descriptions and sign up forms. pm

POW-MIA AWARENESS

Thomas E. Marsden, Chairman

The League of Families opposes Representative Peter King's (R-NY) H. Res. 111 setting up a select committee. Please let your congressmen know how you feel about this measure. Investigations into previously disproved claims of conspiracy and cover up in the past have tied up resources with accounting put on hold.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Thomas E. Marsden, National Security Subcommittee

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security is sponsoring National Preparedness Month in September. It will focus on Back-to-School, Business Preparedness, Multicultural Preparedness, and Home and Family Preparedness. Do you know what to do in a national emergency? Check out www.citizencorps.gov/cc/showEvent.do?submitCalendar.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

The NPRC is working to help members the Legion Family get through paperwork. For military veterans and next of kin of deceased ones, DD214's and other military records can be requested on the internet (<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>). Mailroom processing time and delays caused by incomplete information now no longer slow down completing necessary paperwork. pm

THE EDITOR'S DESK

I am proud to be again named editor-in-chief of our detachment newspaper. The last five years of the SALute are archived on www.njsalute.org along with a search engine for easy reference. It's up to you to send in articles and photos if you truly want this to be YOUR newspaper. Picture quality remains a problem in printing. For the best results please send digital copies electronically using either the .tiff or .jpg format. This year's deadlines are August 31, October 31, December 31, 2007; February 29, and April 30, 2008.

BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to dual member Airman Lukasz A. Marsden, Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Two, for his promotion to Petty Officer Third Class. pm



DETACHMENT OFFICERS & APPOINTMENTS

607 New Jersey delegates voted in Commander Frank Jiosi and Vice Commanders Amel Balega (Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren), Phil Boyd (Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem), Patrick Gallagher (Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Union), Dave Haring (Hunterdon, Mercer, Ocean, Somerset), and Joe Korba (Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May); Lenny Free, Chaplain with Carl Alber, Jr. and Edward Marsden elected last year as NEC and ANEC.

The membership approved resolutions on finance committee members, committee appointments, filling vacancies, and scheduling meetings as well as the appointments of John Gillman, Adjutant; Kenneth Esposito, Sr., Judge Advocate; Kermit Reilly, Joseph Colontone, Steven Rodriguez, Joseph Ruggerio, and Brett Stadtler, Sgts.-at-Arms; and KJ Esposito, and Thomas Gray, Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms. A historian is still to be announced.

At his reorganization meeting, Cmdr. Jiosi named as commission and committee chairs:

Veterans Serv. & Rehabilitation--Kent Hehl

Americanism--George Abrams

Boys State--Robert Lasky

Community Affairs--Amel Balega

Flag History/Dedication--Joseph Ruggerio

Color Guard--George Abrams

Drug & Alcohol Prevention--TBA

POW/MIA--Thomas E. Marsden

Religious Emphasis--Lenny Free

Son of the Year--Edward T. Marsden

Children & Youth--James Lightcap

CWF--Michael Arner, Chair; Edward Marsden, Vice Chair

Essay Contest--Phil Boyd

Special Olympics--Steve Rodriguez

Young Citizen's Award--Joe Korba

Internal Affairs--James Noble

Commander's Advisory--All PDC's

Commander's Project--Lenny Free

Constitution & Bylaws--Carl Alber, Jr.

Convention--Patrick Gallagher

Finance--Michael Arner

Scholarship--Joseph Colontone

Internet--Carl Alber, Jr.

Legislative--Edward Marsden

Membership--Dave Haring

Public Relations--Amel Balega

PUFL--James Noble

Resolutions--TBA

Legion College--TBA

Salute--Thomas E. Marsden

Ways & Means--Joe Korba

Frank Sickle 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 18, October 20, December 1, 2007; February 2, April 5, 2008 with the state convention at the Wildwood Convention Center June 13. pm

Captions: Cmdr. Arner with Pres. Fabian;

Cmdr. Arner with Cmdr. Robbins;

NEC Alber with Nat. VC East Newman;

ANEC Marsden with Son of the Year Gary Nelson;

Sq. 120 Linden Memorializes PDC Richie Phillips;

The Detachment Struts Its Stuff



CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT

The Detachment of New Jersey hosted its 45th annual convention at the Wildwood Convention Hall on June 8th. It was dedicated to the memory of PDC Richie Phillips. Joseph Gladden (MD), current National VA&R Chairman, gave a moving speech on the needs of our soldiers and our veterans today in time of war. SAL National Vice Commander East Andrew Newman (PA) was in attendance as was Leading National SAL Vice Commander East Candidate Thomas E. Marsden (NJ).



Sq. 338 again led the state in CWF donations so the PDC Ray Miller rotating trophy will remain for now in Leonardo. CWF award recipients included Union County's Sq. 102 Linden, Monmouth County's Sq. 321 Union Beach, and Morris County's Sq. 175 Rockaway. pm



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS AUGUST 31, 2007.