



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY



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

## CHILD WELFARE STARTS A NEW YEAR!

Michael Arner, CWF Chairman

Last year we did another outstanding job for the CWF, when the Detachment of New Jersey raised over \$11,000. In the past three years we have raised in excess of \$33,000. What an outstanding effort by the squadrons in our great state!

The CWF Committee will meet at least three times this coming year to discuss plans of how to raise the monies that are needed. The first meeting will be held on Sunday, August 22, 2004, at American Legion Post 338 in Leonardo. The post is located on Hwy. 36.

I am asking all squadrons to send a representative to this meeting. The input we get from you will help us proceed into the future. All your help and input with help this committee make its goals. We are hoping to have another banner year like the ones to which we have become accustomed.

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE

I would like to thank all the SAL members who supported me last year. As I begin a new term in 2004-2005 as Detachment Vice Commander, I really look forward to working with my fellow vice commanders. This year I will be in charge of Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Hudson, and Essex Counties. If anyone needs to get in touch with me, send me an e-mail to the following address: frankjiosi@yahoo.com and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Frank Jiosi, Jr.  
SAL Detachment Vice Commander

## THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER

Carl Albern, Jr.

It's that time again. All squadrons should be receiving their new membership cards, which are being distributed through the Legion DEC's in the counties. Check with your County Legion if you have not yet received them. Also, remember to send in your updated officer sheets if you have not already done so. The information is important to the Department so that it has addresses to send squadron mailings. If it doesn't receive this information, you will not get mail this year. Please make sure you send it in, even if you fill in one or two offices.

## MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP!

Kenneth M. Esposito, Sr., 2004-2005 Membership Chairman

Hello, Fellow Comrades. By now you squadron should have received its new 2005 membership cards. All squadron adjutants or membership chairmen who have not received them, please contact me at the e-mail address on the Detachment website and we will get them to you.

This year's commander, Gary Nelson, does things in a "BIG," no, "VERY BIG" way. He has challenged this Detachment to pass the 10,000 member mark. The books for 2004 show that we have 8,212 members. Yes, the 159 squadrons of New Jersey did a great job, but, if you do the math, we need to pick up almost 1,800 new members for 2005 to succeed.

With this said, the Commander's Challenge has been passed on to you, the squadrons. Each and every squadron is challenged to recruit eleven new members this year. Another goal is to start or reactivate ten squadrons. All of this is attainable.

We also need to keep our current members interested in our organization so that we can maintain one of the highest renewal rates in the nation. Please stay tuned to this column for updates on the challenges and other pertinent information that can be useful to you squadron.

## WEBSITE

Does your website have an upcoming event? Please submit it to the Detachment website. We can advertise your event. You may have other members from across the Detachment who wish to attend. The webmasters are always open to suggestions for the site. If you have any, submit them by e-mail to webmasters@njsal.org. ca

## 2004-2005 DETACHMENT MEETINGS

Regular meetings for the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey, are tentatively scheduled for 9:45 A. M. on August 21, October 30, December 11, February 5, and April 6 in Trenton's War Memorial Building. The state convention will be at the Boardwalk-Convention Center, Wildwood, June 10. Every Son who has a card is encouraged to come out to these meetings. pm



# DETACHMENT OFFICERS 04-05

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**Vice Commanders:**

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**Sgt-at-Arms:**

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Brett Stadtler  
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Rainer Soto

**Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:**

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**ANEC:**

Carl W. Albern , Jr.  
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WWW.NJSAL.ORG

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers,

I want to thank each and everyone that voted for me for this prestigious position, and having the confidence that we as a team will have a great year. The year is young and we have already appointed most of the chairmen for our committees, so they can get a jump on their jobs.

My Detachment Commander Project will consist of buying wrought – iron furniture, cement patio's and benches for the Paramus Veterans Home. Flyers will go out shortly in which you can purchase either a chair, table, cement patio, or bench with your Post, Unit, or Squadron for a certain donation each. When you buy one or more items a small plaque will be put on each item so we know who bought it.

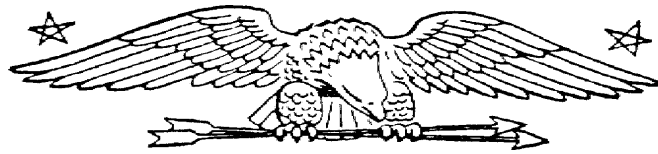
I am looking forward to seeing a lot more people at Detachment meetings and hopefully getting more people involved with different committees and having fun at the same time.

We must promote the Legion family and work together as a team to make leaps and strides on our predecessors. Remember there is no "I" in the word team and we as the S.A.L. will work together to further our cause.

If any squadron needs a Vice Commander or myself to come to a meeting or event please go either to our web site at [www.njsal.org](http://www.njsal.org) and find your Vice Commander for your area or you can reach me at (201) 943-6500 office or (201) 370-1365 cell.

For God and Country

Gary P. Nelson  
Detachment Commander



## DATES TO REMEMBER

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Detachment Meeting Trenton 9:45 A.M.       | August 21               |
| National Convention, Nashville, Tennessee. | August 27-29            |
| Labor Day                                  | September 1             |
| Watchfire Seaside Hts 7:00 P.M.            | September 17            |
| Fall N.E.C.                                | October 9-10            |
| Columbus Day                               | October 11              |
| 2005 25% Membership Date                   | October 13              |
| Detachment Meeting Trenton 9:45 A.M.       | October 30              |
| 2005 35% Membership Date                   | November 10             |
| Thanksgiving                               | November 25             |
| POW-MIA Tree Lighting                      | TBA                     |
| 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-<br>March 2 |

## WATCHFIRE

Have you ever wondered about why the SAL Watchfire is in Seaside vs. Liberty State Park or some other historical site? It wasn't always in a resort community. It used to be held in the city.

Chris Fatal first organized it as a campfire on Garrett Mountain, Paterson in 1992 and again 1993 for a handful of Sons. People living nearby fearing danger called the local fire department in and halted the burning. At the October Detachment meeting, Tom Marsden volunteered to take over the memorial service and relocate it to a safe, centralized site.

Island Beach State Park approved the watchfire, and plans for a bonfire evolved. One by one, permits, insurance, publicity, getting enough wood, site planning and preparation, and the program were arranged. Post 351, Legionnaire Chuck Robbins, PDC's Ernie Wilson, Duane Conant, Neal Newlin, Jim Noble, Ed Marsden, Luc Marsden, and the Marsden family, all helped make it happen.

Things were coming together. Watchfire #3 was scheduled to coincide with Pearl Harbor Day. It would be held on the same day as Shore Boro's POW-MIA Tree Lighting Ceremony just a couple of miles away down the road. High winds, bitter cold, flooding roads, local fishermen didn't stop it or any of the ones that followed, although firewood floating away shortened one at 3:00 A. M. while rangers evacuated the strip.

In 1999 Seaside Heights approved the Detachment request for relocating the Watchfire to where it is now held on the oceanfront at Hierung Avenue and the Boardwalk.

The Watchfire has never been canceled or postponed the annual event. Once scheduled things went on as planned. Even last year's Hurricane Isabel did not delay its start. Watchfire #13 is set for the same time the nation observes POW-MIA Recognition Day.

Every year attendance has grown. Help break 2003's record crowd. Everyone is welcome. Stop by for as long as you like, from dusk to dawn, Friday, September 17, to Saturday, September 18.

Join the Sons of the American Legion and its Legion Family. Help kindle the blaze that proves Americans have not forgotten. May the fireside flames and the glowing embers help light the way to freedom for America's unaccounted veterans of wars.

The all night vigil begins at 7:00 P. M. and ends at 7:00 A. M. The memorial service for those lost in war will include an empty chair, an empty table, the POW/MIA flag up close, songs, poems, prayers, a reading of names, and a flag retirement ceremony.

For more information, please contact Chairman Tom Marsden via phone (732-255-5939) or e-mail (saltom@usa.net).

Food and drink will be available throughout the night but NO ALCOHOL. There is no cost for attending the Watchfire. If a member, squadron, or county has supplies and refreshments to donate, it will be appreciated; however, nothing is required. lm

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Sons of the American Legion will hold its 33rd Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, August 27-29, 2004. Official housing will be at the Courtyard by Marriott. 40 members of New Jersey's Legion Family are expected to attend. Plan on being there with them.

Music City, USA, is a lively place. Honky Tonk Highway, The District, Printer's Alley, Country Music Hall of Fame, Ryman Auditorium, and, of course, the Grand Ole Opry, make it the entertainment mecca it is. Classical symphony, ballet, opera, and theater round out popular country, rockabilly, jazz, blues, gospel and rock 'n roll sounds. There is something for every taste.

There is a lot more to the town than the Tennessee Titans. FDR once visited the Maxwell House Hotel. After sampling its coffee, his words, "Good to the last drop," are part of history.

Nashville is rich in culture. Libraries, Fisk and Vanderbilt Universities, and its Center for Visual Arts make it the Athens of the South. Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, Belle Meade Plantation, Centennial Parks' Parthenon, Cheekwood's Botanical Gardens, and Travelers Rest are popular local attractions. pm

## EDITOR'S DESK

The deadline dates for 2004-2005 are June 30, August 31, October 31, December 31, February 28, and April 30 without exception. All photos and articles are due on or before the deadline printed on the last page. Any material missing deadline will be held for consideration in the next issue.

The staff of the paper is not large enough to plan, photograph, edit, block, etc. for every officer, the commission chair, and the committee chair. It is each man's responsibility to submit his own article not report. Articles should be brief--a few sentences to a few paragraphs at most. Cost limits the Detachment from mailing out newsletters longer than four pages.

The staff encourages members to use The Reader's Forum to express ideas and suggestions. It would like to put together a Bits and Pieces feature that keeps members informed about member, squadron, county, and detachment happenings. Members can also submit creative material, *original* songs, poems, short stories, and art appropriate to a veteran's oriented paper.

Articles will be edited as appropriate for spelling, capitalization, and punctuation at least. When space is an issue, articles will be cut from the bottom up. The Commander's Message will stand as submitted--unedited.

The reader may notice slight changes in the SALUTE's format. As recommended by Ed Marsden, newspaper chairman, all article text will be the same font and size, Times New Roman 11. Titles will be in bold 12 followed either by the author's byline or identifying initials at the end. lm



## **DETACHMENT CONVENTION**

Thomas E. Marsden, Convention 2003 Chair

Record delegate strength registered for the convention and voted in Gary Nelson, Commander; Sean Howarth, James Lightcap, Joseph Colontone, Frank Jiosi, Spike Abrams, Vice Commanders; John Gillman, Chaplain; Thomas Marsden, NEC; and Carl Alber, ANEC. These elected officers along with appointed officers (Carl Alber, Adjutant; Thomas Marsden, Judge Advocate; Mike Burhart, Historian; Kermit Reilly, Bret Stadler, Bill Schimminger, Rainer Soto, Sgts.-at-Arms; K. J. Esposito, Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms; and Ryan Gibbons, Commander's Aide) were approved and duly sworn.

The PDC presented Outgoing Cmdr. Hehl with a Past Commander's Pin. Gary Nelson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nelson, placed the Incoming Commander's cap on his head. The membership passed a new constitution and bylaws as well as a resolution increasing member dues by \$1 for programs. The floor rejected a resolution creating a separate central storage facility for the SAL.

At the post-convention reorganization meeting, these positions were approved:

Veterans Serv. & Rehab. Comm.--Frank Jiosi, Chairman  
Hospital Parties--Frank Jiosi  
VAVS--Edward McCloskey

Americanism Commission--Sean Howarth, Chairman  
Essay Contest--Sean Howarth  
Children & Youth--TBA  
Special Olympics--Steven Rodriguez  
Child Welfare--Michael Arner  
Children's Miracle Network--Edward McCloskey  
Flag History/Dedication--William Schimminger  
Community Affairs--William Schimminger  
Color Guard--Spike Abrams  
Legislative--Ted Steltman  
Drug & Alcohol Prevention--  
Young Citizen's Award--James Lightcap  
Detachment Commander's Project--TBA  
POW/MIA--Thomas E. Marsden  
Son of the Year--Nicholas Wingler  
Religious Emphasis--John Gillman

Internal Affairs Commission--James Noble, Chairman  
Commander's Advisory--All PDC's  
Membership--Kenneth Esposito, Jr.  
Constitution & Bylaws--John Gillman  
Public Relations--Joseph Colontone  
Convention--Patrick Gallagher  
Salute--Edward Marsden  
Ways & Means--Kent Hehl  
SAL College--James Noble  
Internet--Carl Alber, Jr.  
Ernie Wilson Scholarship--Nicholas Wingler



Commander Gary Nelson and his new officers gather for the memorial service at High Point.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS AUGUST 31, 2004.**