



Suffolk County American Legion

Minutes and Reports

December 5, 2025

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Suffolk County American Legion

Suffolk County Minutes

December 5, 2025

Chelburg & Battle Post 388

Meeting Opening – 2001

Adjourned – 2150

Acting Commander Paul Gerecke opened the meeting with proper protocol.

Chaplain Ken Dolan Offered the opening prayer.

Roll call of Posts was taken by Adjutant Bill Coderre. Twenty-Two Posts out of Forty were present. We had a quorum.

Finance Officer Robert Robesch presented the finance report.

Roll call of posts:

POST NAME	POST #	DIVI	PRESENT	POST NAME	POST #	DIV	PRESENT
Babylon	Post 94	1	X	Leisure Glen	Post 352	3	
Huntington	Post 360	1		Harbor	Post 417	3	X
Northport	Post 694	1		Wilson Ritch	Post 432	3	X
Amityville	Post 1015	1		Arthur H. Clune	Post 1533	3	
Fuestel-Kurdt	Post 1120	1		Selden	Post 1633	3	
Hunter Squires Jackson	Post 1218	1	X	Irving Hart	Post 1766	3	
Greenlawn	Post 1244	1	X	John R. Cacioppo	Post 1848	3	X
Sgt. John Sardiello	Post 1634	1	X	Brunn Prchal	Post 1888	3	
Bay Shore	Post 365	2		Burton Potter	Post 185	4	X
Rusy Bohm	Post 411	2	X	Riverhead	Post 273	4	X
Smith Wever	Post 651	2		Mitchell	Post 281	4	
James Ely Miller	Post 833	2	X	Griswold Terry Glover	Post 803	4	X
Donald C. Munro	Post 944	2	X	Alfred R. Grebe	Post 1045	4	
Joseph Loeffler	Post 1006	2	X	Chelberg & Battle	Post 388	5	X
Herold Tierney	Post 1039	2		East Hampton	Post 419	5	X
Joseph Kovarik	Post 1146	2		Malcolm Ross White	Post 433	5	
Sherwood Bros	Post 1152	2		Arthur Ellis Hamm	Post 834	5	X
Four "S"	Post 1635	2	X	Hand Aldrich	Post 924	5	X
West Islip	Post 1738	2		Eastport	Post 1545	5	X
Wm. Merritt Hallock	Post 155	3	X				
Patchogue	Post 269	3	X	TOTAL			22

Quorum: **Yes** / No (14)

Roll call of officers:

Title	Name	PRESENT	EX/ABS
Commander	David Isaacs		EX
Adjutant	Bill Coderre	X	
Finance Officer	Robert Robesch	X	
Sgt at Arms	Marcel Jeffries		EX
Service Officer	Jeff Molitor	X	
Chaplain	Kenneth Dolan	X	
Historian	Steve Antonacci	X	
1 st Vice Commander	Joseph Regina	X	
2 nd Vice Commander	Sharon Hoover	X	
3 rd Vice Commander	Richard Knutson	X	
4 th Vice Commander			
5 th Vice Commander	Paul Gerecke	X	

Commander Isaacs opened the meeting with proper protocol @ 2001

Roll Call of Posts: (See Above) ☒ Quorum ☐ No Quorum

Motion made to Suspend the Reading of the Minutes from previous meeting and accept as written: PCC Robert Bruggemann

Motion **seconded**: P10th DC Gene Ordmandy

Motion to suspend reading of the minutes accepted.

Honoring:

Title	Name
Jr. Past County Commander	Kevin Eaton
Past County Commander	Ken Dolan
Past County Commander	Steve Antonacci
Past County Commander	Roby Johnson
Past County Commander	Jim Beecher
Past County Commander	William Farley
Past County Commander	Robert Bruggemann
10 th District Sgt. at Arms	Mike Pankowski
10 th Dist. Vice Commander & PNCC	Robert Robesch
Past 10 th District Commander	Gene Ordmandy
Past 10 th District Commander	Robert W. "Curly" Smith
Past 10 th District Commander	Phil Barczak
Past Department Vice Commander	Tom Wagner
Past National Vice Commander	Robert Neville

DIVISION REPORTS: See Attached

1st Division – Joseph Regina	See Attached
2nd Division – Sharon Hoover	See Attached
3rd Division – Rich Knutson	See Attached
4th Division –	See Attached
5th Division – Paul Gerecke	See Attached

COMMANDERS REPORT: Commander Isaacs

No Report: Commander Isaacs is currently facing a family emergency and is appropriately directing his attention there. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

FINANCE REPORT: Robert Robesch

See Attached

Motion made to accept the Finance Officers Report: 10th District Sgt. at Arms Mike Pankowski

Motion seconded: Membership Chair Fred Tartaglione

Motion to accept the Finance Officers Report accepted.

CHAPLAINS REPORT **See Attached**

Chaplain - Ken Dolan

ADJUTANTS REPORT No Report

Adjutant – Bill Coderre

SGT. at ARMS REPORT No Report

Sgt. at Arms - Marcel Jeffries .

SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT **See Attached**

Service Officer – Jeff Molitor

COMMITTEE REPORTS **See Attached**

Americanism	Joseph Regina		MIA/POW	Bob Bruggemann	X
Boy's State	Kevin Eaton	X	Missing In America Project	Kevin Eaton	X
Budget and Finance	Tom Wagner		MyLegion Coordinator	Bill Coderre	
Constitution & By-Laws	Bill Coderre		National Cemetery	Jim Beecher	
County Color Guard	Rich Knutson	X	Long Island National		
County Convention	Gene Ordmandy		National Cemetery Calverton	Dennis Morrill	
Credentials	Robert Robesch		National Commanders Dinner	Michael Pankowski	X
Dept. Commander's Visit	Kevin Eaton		Nominations	Kevin Eaton	X
Directory	Kathy Neilsen		Oratorical	Lenore Brathwaite	X
Distinguished Guests	Bill Coderre		Parliamentarian	Jim Beecher	
DMS Cards	Robert Lindsay		PCC Testimonial Dinner	Ken Dolan	
Gold Star Parents	Phil Barczak		Post Charters	Gene Ordmandy	
Historian	Steve Antonacci	X	Protocol	Gene Ordmandy	
Hospital Welfare	Fred Loucka		PTS Training	Fred Miller	
Judge Advocate	Michael Pankowski	X	Public Relations	Rich Knutson	X
Law and Order	Roby Johnson		PUFL	Robert Robesch	
Legion Riders	Jeff Molitor	X	Resolutions	Bill Coderre	
Legionnaire of the Year	Philip Barczak		SAL Advisor	Kevin Eaton	X
Legislative	Ken Dolan		Scouting	Jeff Molitor	X
Liaison to the Auxiliary	Roby Johnson		Suffolk County Veterans Advisory Board	John DiGilio	
LISVH at Stony Brook	Hank Lewis	X	VSO Northport	Jim Beecher	
Membership Chairman	Fred Tartaglione	X	Ways and Means	Fred Tartaglione	

Old Business: Commander Isaacs

- **As of July 1, 2024:** The Counties are now responsible for collecting their own per capita from their Posts See News You Can Use for Special Announcement from Department Adjutant Casey 2nd Division need to submit there Per Capita Payments

American Legion Dues Breakdown

2024		2025	
National	\$18.50	National:	\$23.50
Department:	\$16.00	Department:	\$16.00
County:	\$4.00	County:	\$6.00

As of 2025, Local Posts must directly send Per Capita to the County. \$6 x (# of paid members)

Bylaws should not have a specific amount for dues. Better to have a neutral phrase for example: *The annual dues for members of this Post shall be voted on once a year at the January regular meeting, including all assessments to the National, Department, and County organizations for the upcoming year.*

- Post 1039 has gone through the process of revitalization however, their Commander has not held any meetings and is not responding to the multiple attempts via phone, email, or in person to contact. Fred Tartaglione Membership Chair requested and was granted permission by County officials to contact the membership of Post 1039 an inquire if any of them would be willing to step up. Membership Chair Tartaglione is waiting for a response. If no response is received, the process to close the Post will once again be initiated.

New Business: Commander Isaacs

Sick Call:

- Ronny Conroy (Joseph Loeffler Post 1006) Hospitalized for Kidney infection. Currently home but please keep in thoughts and prayers
- Ernie Sawtell (Joseph Loeffler Post 1006) Hospitalized and had surgery 12-5-2025 and currently in ICU. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Yvette Blackwood (Hunter Squires Jackson Post 1218) Unfortunately cut her finger off on Thanksgiving. Due to quick action of her son, they were able to reattach the finger and she is on the mend. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.
- Michael Lankau (Eastport Post 1545) Had surgery and is currently in ICU. Please pray for him.
- Dennis Morrill (Eastport Post 1545) His surgery was successful. The shrapnel has been removed and Dennis is continuing to recover.
- Bob Browngardt (Chelberg & Battle Post 388) Home from the hospital after a broken hip and other medical issues. Please keep him in your prayers while he recovers.
- Fred Miller (Arthur H. Clune Post 1533) Please keep Fred in your Thoughts and Prayers, He was in Stony Brook but is now home.

Good of the Legion:

- **Be The One Buddy Check** is not just a one-time event in October. Let's keep the spirit alive and continue reaching out to our fellow Veteran Brothers and Sisters especially during this Holiday Season.
- **Oratorical December 6, 2025:** The Oratorical Contest will be held December 6, 2025 at the Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 from 1pm – 3:30pm. All are encouraged to attend!!!
- **VAVS:** Please donate to the VAVS: The monies go to all the programs in recreation and handouts for the residents of the nursing home and the rest of the facility.
- **No One Left Behind for Christmas:** Post 944 is hosting a free meal for all Veterans and First Responders on Christmas Day (12-25-2025) from 9am – 5pm. All are welcome: Questions: Call (516) 523-1423
- **Pearl Harbor Memorial: Sunday, December 7th:** Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony (Dropping of the Roses) At least 10 WWII Veterans attending and at least half which will be over 100 years old. Please come and support our veterans on Sunday December 7th at 10:30 start time at the American Air Power Museum.
- **Long Island National Pearl Harbor Ceremony** will take place after the dropping of the Roses ceremony at 1:00pm
- **Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony:** Hampton Bays Post 924 will be holding a ceremony Time: 11am at Shinnecock Inlet followed by light refreshments at the Post
ALL FREE: A great time to bring your Children, Grand Children and family to tour this great museum.
- **Trees for Troops:** Dees Nursery of Oceanside NY will donate Christmas trees from The Dees' farm to the men women and serving our nation overseas. Police escort with motorcycle run to JFK to ship the trees Time: 10am
- **Army Navy Game Tailgate Fundraiser: December 13, 2025** Donald C. Munro Post 944 Kings Park Bring a toy for the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. (\$20 Post donations requested as well) 1pm start
- **Breakfast with Santa December 14, 2025:** Rusy-Bohm Post 411 9-12pm \$25 Adults \$15 Kids Reserve your seat NOW!!! See flyer on the NYCU
- **Training Tuesdays: Tuesday, December 16, 2025** at Wilson-Ritch Post 432 in Port Jefferson NY Training on multiple subject areas/topics will begin. This month's topic: How to Welcome a New Member All members are invited to join. 6:30pm Training begins.
If you plan to attend, Please email Kathy Nielsen at: knielsen.ala@gmail.com If enough, attend \$5 for Food
- **Mid-Winter Conference: January 16-18, 2026** Hotel and Registration Info can be found on the NYCU There is a \$10 Registration fee and dinner tickets are \$65. Reserve your hotel room NOW!
Hospitality Room: We need - Beer, Wine, Soda & Mixers Chips & Other Assorted Snacks, Cups, Paper Plates, Napkins, Utensils Please bring donations to the January meeting.
- **Please view the Suffolk County News You Can Use: If not subscribed, you can access it on the Suffolk County American Legion website under NEWS. Click on "News You Can Use" This will bring you to archive of past newsletters. (Valuable Source of Info)**
- **Next Suffolk County Legion Meeting:** Friday, January 9, 2025 Patchogue Post 269 215 S Ocean Ave, Patchogue, NY 11772 7:00pm Dinner 8pm Meeting

No further business – Chaplin lead us in closing prayer

Hand Salute

Meeting adjourned: 2150

Respectfully submitted

Bill Coderre

Adjutant

Suffolk County American Legion

Suffolk County American Legion

Financial report

5-Dec-25

For the period ended November 30 , 2025

General Account:

opening Balance 39,754.44

<u>Deposits:</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>remitter</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/6/25	Post 1120	78.00
11/6/25	Post 352	18.00
11/6/25	Post 1888	162.00
11/6/25	J. Beecher	40.00
11/6/25	Post 1006	36.00
11/6/25	Post 1635	54.00
11/6/25	Post 944	162.00
11/6/25	R. Kampel	36.00
11/6/25	K. Crumlish	36.00
11/6/25	T Wagner	36.00
11/6/25	J. Enright	36.00
11/6/25	S. Antonacci	18.00
11/6/25	R Knutson	18.00
11/6/25	N. Crumlish	18.00
11/6/25	A. Callender	18.00
11/6/25	Cash	20.00
11/13/25	W+M	196.00
11/13/25	C+Y	45.00
11/13/25	Post 388	696.00
11/13/25	Post 1545	480.00
11/18/25	Post 269	690.00
11/18/25	Post 411	456.00
11/18/25	Post 834	576.00
11/18/25	Post 1738	40.00
11/18/25	Post 1738	426.00
11/18/25	Post 419	52.00
11/18/25	ost 1120	18.00
11/30/25	Interest	3.45
Total deposits		<u>4,464.45</u>

<u>Disbursements</u>			
<u>Check#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amt.</u>	<u>Payee</u>
2004	11/6/25	30.00	Supp Com Calv
2006	11/10/25	56.00	Paul Gerecke
2007	11/13/25	200.00	Post 833
Total disbursements			<u>286.00</u>

Ending balance	<u>43,932.89</u>
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Monies held:

SAL	312.60
PTS	1,716.12
VAVS	500.00
1st Div	709.12
Total	<u>3,237.84</u>

Boy's State	23,962.28
CD	35,102.10
	<u>59,064.38</u>

Total All accounts	<u>102,997.27</u>
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Total available	<u>99,759.43</u>
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Description

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Per Capita
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Per Capita
Per Capita

Description

Dues
4th div exp
mtg food

SUFFOLK COUNTY PER CAPITA STATUS

as of 11/25/25

Suffolk Co

Suffolk Co																	2026			
Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	11/25/25	Rate	Amt due	Amt paid	Latest Date	Prior year Adjustm	Balance DUE	2025 Actual	Proj early Per Capita @	2026 Goal	Per Capita @ 100%	Refu Paid	Renewal %	Per capita %
totalMbrshp														Mbrshp						
NY-0094	Babylon Inc	Babylon	2	23	133	0	158	6.00	948.00			-	948.00	191	1,146.00	191	1,146		82.72%	0.00%
NY-0155	William Merritt Hallock	Lake Ronkonkoma	2	14	104	1	121	6.00	726.00	912.00	10/3/25	24.00	(162.00)	153	918.00	152	936		79.61%	125.62%
NY-0185	Burton Potter	Greenport	0	7	29	0	36	6.00	216.00			(12.00)	204.00	42	252.00	43	246		83.72%	0.00%
NY-0269	Patchogue	Patchogue	2	26	59	0	87	6.00	522.00	690.00	11/3/25	(72.00)	(240.00)	113	678.00	115	618		75.65%	132.18%
NY-0273	Riverhead	Riverhead	0	12	62	0	74	6.00	444.00	528.00	10/13/25	(54.00)	(138.00)	88	528.00	90			82.22%	118.92%
NY-0281	Mitchell	Shelter Island	0	10	47	0	57	6.00	342.00			240.00	582.00	91	546.00	93	798		61.29%	0.00%
NY-0352	Leisure Glenn	Ridge	0	1	22	0	23	6.00	138.00	120.00	10/27/25	-	18.00	32	192.00	34	204		67.65%	86.96%
NY-0360	Huntington	Huntington	0	19	22	0	41	6.00	246.00			(54.00)	192.00	61	366.00	62	318		66.13%	0.00%
NY-0365	Bay Shore Inc	Bay Shore	0	2	17	0	19	6.00	114.00			-	114.00	19	114.00	19	114		100.00%	0.00%
NY-0388	Chelberg Battle Inc	Sag Harbor	1	9	86	0	96	6.00	576.00	696.00	11/13/25	-	(120.00)	118	708.00	119	714		80.67%	120.83%
NY-0411	Rusy-Bohm	Islip	1	8	40	0	49	6.00	294.00	456.00	11/6/25	(48.00)	(210.00)	76	456.00	78	420		62.82%	155.10%
NY-0417	Harbor	Setauket	0	20	8	3	31	6.00	186.00			(49.00)	137.00	56	336.00	57	293		54.39%	0.00%
NY-0419	East Hampton Town	East Hampton	9	13	85	0	107	6.00	642.00	52.00	11/3/25	18.00	608.00	155	930.00	155	948		69.03%	8.10%
NY-0432	Wilson Ritch	Port Jefferson Sta	4	34	148	1	187	6.00	1122.00	912.00	11/18/25	(144.00)	66.00	281	1,686.00	283	1,554		66.08%	81.28%
NY-0433	Malcolm R White Inc	Southampton	0	4	0	0	4	6.00	24.00	24.00	9/23/25	-	-	6	36.00	6	36		66.67%	100.00%
NY-0580	Nathaniel H Topping	Bridgehampton	0	0	0	0	0	6.00	0.00			-	-	0	-	0	-			
NY-0651	Smith-Wever	Sayville	0	15	41	0	56	6.00	336.00			(70.00)	266.00	81	486.00	81	416		69.14%	0.00%
NY-0694	Northport	Northport	0	5	51	0	56	6.00	336.00			34.00	370.00	158	948.00	160	994		35.00%	0.00%
NY-0803	Griswold-Terry-Glover	Southold	3	13	118	1	135	6.00	810.00			(24.00)	786.00	173	1,038.00	175	1,026		77.14%	0.00%
NY-0833	James Ely Miller	Smithtown	2	16	132	0	150	6.00	900.00	1,206.00	8/12/25	(48.00)	(354.00)	200	1,200.00	198	1,140		75.76%	134.00%
NY-0834	Arthur Ellis Hamm	Westhampton	0	2	89	0	91	6.00	546.00	576.00	11/11/25	(16.00)	(46.00)	96	576.00	96	560		94.79%	105.49%
NY-0861	Raymond Cleaves	Mattituck	0	2	0	0	2	6.00	12.00			-	12.00	9	54.00	0	-			
NY-0924	Hand-Aldrich	Hampton Bays	8	6	67	0	81	6.00	486.00			414.00	900.00	100	600.00	101	1,020		80.20%	0.00%
NY-0944	Donald C Munro Inc	Kings Park	2	13	48	0	63	6.00	378.00	127.00	11/29/25	420.00	671.00	83	498.00	86	936		73.26%	33.60%
NY-1006	Joseph Loeffler	Brentwood	2	17	47	1	67	6.00	402.00	258.00	10/21/25	-	144.00	88	528.00	88	528		76.14%	64.18%
NY-1015	Amityville	Amityville	0	4	5	1	10	6.00	60.00			-	60.00	27	162.00	28	168		35.71%	0.00%
NY-1039	Herold-Tierney	Central Islip	2	2	3	0	7	6.00	42.00			(168.00)	(126.00)	10	60.00	11	(102)		63.64%	0.00%
NY-1045	Alfred R Grebe Inc	Fishers Island	0	5	3	0	8	6.00	48.00			90.00	138.00	15	90.00	15	180		53.33%	0.00%
NY-1120	Feustel-Kurdt Inc	Lindenhurst	0	13	42	1	56	6.00	336.00	174.00	9/10/25	(84.00)	78.00	82	492.00	84	420		66.67%	51.79%
NY-1146	Joseph Kovarik	Bohemia	2	7	22	0	31	6.00	186.00			6.00	192.00	56	336.00	58	354		53.45%	0.00%
NY-1152	Sherwood Brothers	St James	14	7	88	1	110	6.00	660.00			(12.00)	648.00	94	564.00	96	564		114.58%	0.00%
NY-1218	Hunter-Squires-Jackson	Amityville	0	5	3	0	8	6.00	48.00	90.00	10/8/25	(16.00)	(58.00)	21	126.00	23	122		34.78%	187.50%
NY-1244	Greenlawn Inc	Greenlawn	2	8	86	0	96	6.00	576.00			-	576.00	137	822.00	140	840		68.57%	0.00%
NY-1533	Arthur H Clune	Mastic Beach	6	12	50	0	68	6.00	408.00			(151.00)	257.00	91	546.00	94	413		72.34%	0.00%
NY-1545	Eastport	Eastport	2	9	52	0	63	6.00	378.00	480.00	11/13/25	(48.00)	(150.00)	81	486.00	81	438		77.78%	126.98%
NY-1633	Selden	Selden	0	7	14	0	21	6.00	126.00	156.00	10/8/25	(6.50)	(36.50)	25	150.00	26	150		80.77%	123.81%
NY-1634	Sergeant John Sardielli	W Babylon-Deer Park	0	8	57	0	65	6.00	390.00			(16.00)	374.00	85	510.00	87	506		74.71%	0.00%

NY-1635	Four-S	East Islip	0	8	8	1	17	6.00	102.00			78.00	180.00	18	108.00	20	198	85.00%	0.00%
NY-1738	West Islip Inc	West Islip	1	10	57	5	73	6.00	438.00	466.00	11/14/25	(108.00)	(136.00)	85	510.00	89	426	82.02%	106.39%
NY-1766	Irving Hart	Setauket L I	0	3	0	0	3	6.00	18.00	12.00	11/28/2025	(66.00)	(60.00)	12	72.00	12	6	25.00%	66.67%
NY-1839	Wayne Middleton Inc	North Babylon	0	0	0	0	0	6.00	0.00			18.00	18.00	3	18.00	5	48		
NY-1848	John R Cacioppo	Medford	0	8	16	0	24	6.00	144.00	180.00	9/9/25	(18.00)	(54.00)	30	180.00	32	174	75.00%	125.00%
NY-1880	Leisure Village	Ridge	0	0	0	0	0	6.00	0.00			-	-			0	-		
NY-1888	Brunn-Prchal	Rocky Point	0	2	34	0	36	6.00	216.00	162.00	10/1/25	12.00	66.00	39	234.00	38	240	94.74%	75.00%
NY-1941	Pearl Harbor Memorial	Port Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0	6.00	0.00			-	-	0	-	0	-		
NY-2016	Farmingdale State Coll	Farmingdale	0	0	0	0	0	6.00	0.00			-	-	0	-	0	-		
SUM:			67	409	1995	16	2487		14922.00	8,277.00		69.50	6,714.50	3,381	20,286.00	3,421	20,596	72.70%	55.47%

Posts eligible for 5% rebate As well as new mbr refund Paid percapita for 100% of prior year total.

American Legion Family Post 1634 West Babylon Newsletter for Joseph Regina

From Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 American Legion Family <TroopMail@TroopWebHost.org>

Date Sun 11/23/2025 12:21 PM

To Joseph Regina <secondvice.post1634@gmail.com>; Joseph Regina <gijoe608@hotmail.com>

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**



Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 Family

Sunday, November 23, 2025

[Log On To Our Website](#)

Upcoming Events

Officers and Trustee Meeting **Saturday, November 29, 2025** at 10:00 AM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

. . .

ALA MEETING **Tuesday, December 2, 2025** at 7:00 PM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

. . .

MONTHLY POST MEETING **Thursday, December 4, 2025** at 7:00 PM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

. . .

Post Christmas Party/Dinner **Saturday, December 6, 2025** at 6:30 PM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

Sign Up Status:

Joseph Regina - Undecided

\$30 per person

Includes appetizers, dinner, dessert, music, raffles

See the 3rd Vice Committee for tickets

. . .

Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

Officers and Trustee Meeting **Thursday, December 18, 2025** at 7:30 PM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

Legion Family Breakfast with Santa **Saturday, December 20, 2025** at 10:00 AM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

Sign Up Status:
Joseph Regina - Undecided

ALA MEETING **Wednesday, January 7, 2026** at 7:00 PM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

MONTHLY POST MEETING **Thursday, January 8, 2026** at 8:00 PM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

Legion Family Breakfast **Saturday, January 17, 2026** at 10:00 AM
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

Sign Up Status:
Joseph Regina - Undecided

Modern Hunters Dinner **Sunday, January 18, 2026**
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634

Sign Up Status:
Joseph Regina - Undecided

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Suffolk County American Legion

Second Division Report

December 5, 2025

Donald C. Munro Post 944

Meeting Opening – 1919

Adjourned – 2015

Commanders Report: Commander Hoover

Due a family emergency, Commander Hoover was unable to attend the 2nd Division meeting. Please see attached report.

Post Reports:

Post 365 - Bay Shore: In process of selling their Post building. Bay Shore schools has dropped their suit and just waiting on the Judge to give the final approval for the sale. (Took Five (5) Years)

Post 833 - James Ely Miller: Held a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Smithtown Veterans Plaza on November 11, 2025 10:45am. The Town of Smithtown honored a Post member Tom Mooney who served 35 years as the AL Post 833 Service Officer as well as VFW Post 10870 Commander. Tom passed away in the Fall of 2023. The Town dedicated a section of the Plaza in Tom Mooney's Name. Will create a quiet seating area.

Post 944 - Kings Park: Invited to the Nassau County Police Veterans Ball. On November 10th, held their Patriots Dinner celebrating the 250 anniversary of the US military. Very successful event with 65 people in attendance. Preparing for the upcoming Tailgate Party for the Army/Navy Game on December 13th. Asking everyone to bring a toy to donate to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program.

Post 1635 - Four "S" : Celebrated Veterans Day by attending the ceremony at the Islip Town Hall. Then went to Rusy-Bohm Post 411 to celebrate World War II Veteran David C. Palmers 100th Birthday. David served in the United States Army 1942-1946 WWII served in Europe Jan 26, 1945- April 20, 1946. Attended the funeral for the Past President of the Gold Star Mothers, Dorothy Oxendine at Long Island National on November 17, 2025

Post 1738 - West Islip: Celebrated Veterans Day with a Ball at Captain Bills. Very Nice affair.

Post 411 - Rusy Bohm: No Report

Post 651 - Sayville: No Report

Post 1006 - Joseph Loeffler: No Report

Post 1039 - Herold-Tierney: No Report

Post 1146 - Joseph Kovarik: No Report

Post 1152 - Sherwood Brothers: No Report

New Business: Commander Hoover

- SAL Legal Opinion: SAL is a Program and members are classified as social Non-members not parity of Rights with Legionnaires or Auxiliary members. SAL cannot have their own EIN or tax-exempt status. All SAL finances run under the Post – they cannot have a separate account

Good of the Legion:

- **December 5, 2025:** County Meeting: Chelburg & Battle Post 388 Sag Harbor, NY 7pm Dinner 8pm Meeting
- **December 6, 2025:** Oratorical Contest held at Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 Time: 1-3pm All are encouraged to attend.
- **December 16, 2025:** Training Tuesday: Training Tuesday Location: Wilson-Ritch Post 432 1450 Hallock Ave. Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776 Time: Session Begin: 6:30pm (Various Topics to be Discussed)
- **November 22, 2025:** Turkey Distribution VA Hospital Northport NY 10am (FCFS)
- **December 13, 2025:** Army/Navy Game Tailgate Party Location: Donald C Munro Post 944 Kings Park, NY Time: 1pm \$20 Donation suggested
Toys for Tots Fundraiser Please bring a toy to support this worthy program hosted by the US Marine Corps
- **Nominations:** Jr. Past County Commander Kevin Eaton addressed the Division. He has only received one (1) nomination for 2026-2027. Post 833 nominated Bill Coderre for County Commander. If any other Post would like to nominate a candidate for any County Officer position, please get the nomination to him so he can read it into the record at the next County meeting.
- **Boys State:** Jr. Past County Commander Kevin Eaton stated that the buses for Boys State have gone up. Normally its \$600 per now it will be \$608. The County has some money in the Boys State fund so it will eat the extra \$8. However, if Morrisville State College ups their cost, then the amount per candidate will have to go up. More will be known after Mid-Winter January 16-18, 2026. Boys State is June 26-July 2, 2026

Be The One Buddy Check is not just a one-time event in October. Let's keep the spirit alive and continue reaching out to our fellow Veteran Brothers and Sisters especially during the Holiday Season.

- **Next 2nd Division Meeting:** Friday, December 19, 2025 Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 6:30pm Dinner 7pm Meeting

No further business – Chaplin lead us in closing prayer

Hand Salute

Meeting adjourned: 2015

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Hoover

2nd Division Commander

Sharon Hoover

Joseph Loffler Post 1006 Oct 18- Nov 21 , 2025

Buddy Checks continue to be on going throughout the year

Oct 25th attended the Legislative breakfast

Nov 1- Post 1006 97th Anniversary Brunch held at Post, well attended

Nov 1- Social area Halloween Costume Party

Nov 1- Aux fundraiser raffle drawn- did well

Nov 7- attended the SCAL meeting

Nov 8- Veteran's Day Dinner Dance held in back hall, Law & Order presented certificate to SCPD Officer. Attendance could have been a lot better.

Nov 10- Attended the BHS Freshman Campus Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony, 5 Legionnaires and 2 Auxiliary members attended and the Post was presented with a plaque, the students and staff conducted an impressive ceremony.

Nov 14- Regular Post Meeting held, new member voted in.

Nov 19- presentation of food gift cards (\$1500) at the Northport VA, for Veterans ; 3 Post Officers and Madam President Unit 1006 in attendance.

Nov 21- attended 2nd Div Meeting

Upcoming events;

Dec 6- Oratorical to be held in the Post Hall. All are welcome to attend; and or assist.

Dec 13- Squadrant 1006 fund raising raffle to be drawn, proceeds towards Boys State & other veteran needs. Army/Navy game festivities.

Dec 20- Post Christmas Party to be held in Social Area, Auxiliary Raffle to be drawn, proceeds towards Girl State & other Veteran needs.

AMERICAN LEGION SUFFOLK COUNTY – 3rd DIVISION

MEETING – Monday November 17, 2025

Location: William Merritt Hallock Post 155 Lake Ronkonkoma, NY

Called to Order: 19:00

Posts Present: (6) William Merritt Hallock Post 155-Lake Ronkonkoma, Patchogue Post 269-Patchogue, Harbor Post 417-Stony Brook, Wilson Ritch Post 432-Port Jefferson Station, Selden Post 1633, and John R Cacioppo Post 1848-Medford.

Roll Call: Quorum Presen

Previous meeting minutes were read and accepted by the membership.

Membership – As a county meeting we have met our current goal of 65%. I have sent out the latest membership report to you and it is on NEWS YOU CAN USE. As you will notice I have added a column to the report showing how many each post needs to sign up to make our current goal. There are posts out there that need just a few and others need help. Ask me if you need help I am available to all.

Finance Report – As reported by Gene Ordmandy:

Checking Balance as of September 30, 2025	\$ 6,219.37
Total Deposits of \$	0.00
Interest of \$	0.05
Withdrawals of \$	-300.00
Grand Total of \$	5,919.32
Breakdown as follows:	
General Fund	\$ 2,136.91
Veterans Assistance Program	\$ 2,011.16
Children & Youth	\$ 1,621.00
Donations	\$ 0.00
Post Dues	\$ 150.00
Interest	\$ 0.25
Others	\$ 0.00
Grand Total	\$ 5,919.32

Motion to accept Finance report: William Merrit Hallock Post 155. Motion **Second:** Selden Post 1633 **Passed**

Unfinished/Old Business: There was a question if there was any further word on the Military Ball. We then broke off as a “committee of the whole” to discuss what was needed and who would get the information needed before we approach other Divisions and Suffolk County. Adjutant Fred Tartaglione brought up for discussion that the flagpole for our 3rd Division Flag needs to be replaced at an approximate cost of \$50. After some discussion a Motion was made by John R Cacioppo Post 1848-Medford and seconded by Wilson Ritch Post 432. Motion was brought to the floor and unanimously passed.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Good of the Legion – Finance Officer Gene Ordmandy mentioned that on December 7, 2025 which is a Sunday, Wilson Ritch will hold a ceremony at Port Jefferson Harbor. All posts are welcome to attend. The ceremonies start precisely at 10:00am. Commander Knudsen announced that the next county meeting will be Friday December 5, 2025 at the Sag Harbor Post at 8:00pm. Dinner at 7:00pm. He also mentioned that November 18th 2025 is Training Tuesday at Wilson Ritch Post 432 starting at 6:30pm. The subject of this training is “Community Engagement.” All are welcome to attend. The Suffolk County Oratorical Contest will be held at the Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 in Brentwood. It will start at 1:00pm on December 6, 2025, All are welcome to attend. Midwinter Conference is being held at The Desmond Hotel in Albany from January 16-18, 2026.

Sick Call – Fred Miller

Children & Youth: We collected \$32.00

Next Month’s Meeting - will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025 at the Harbor Post 417. This will be our Holiday Party & meeting. We will meet at the Stony Brook Firehouse at 394 Nichols Road just north of Nesconset Highway in Stony Brook. Dinner at 6:00pm Meeting at 7:00pm.

Being of no further business the meeting was brought to a close.

Adjourned: 21:30

As submitted by:
Fred Tartaglione,
Adjutant 3rd Division



SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION 4TH DIVISION

REPORT FOR 5 DECEMBER 2025

1. RIVERHEAD POST #273 - Post held its annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Eternal Flame Memorial located at the Suffolk County Historical Society in downtown Riverhead on the 11th, followed by reception with food and beverages at the post. Post held its annual Christmas party on Wednesday, 3 December and will hold a 'loyal customers' night with band on 18 December. Rentals continue to go well with post booked up through January and into February.
2. GRISWOLD-TERRY-GLOVER POST #803 - Dances planned at the post for February and April. Hosted Veterans Day ceremony on 11 November followed by brunch sponsored by local Rotary Club. Work continues on parking lot, relocation of dumpster and improved fencing. Post members will be decorating the post on Friday, 5 December. Auxiliary Unit will be hosting Snacks With Santa from 4 to 6 PM on Monday 8 December. 'Southold Santa and Mrs. Santa' will be on hand to make this a special evening for the children. Post will hold its potluck Christmas dinner on 12 December.
3. BURTON POTTER POST #185 - Post members attended Veterans Day salute breakfast at Greenport Elementary School on 10 November and joined Southold Veterans Day observance and brunch. Upgrades to meeting room and bar area now complete. Held a pre-Thanksgiving dinner with post members, all had a good time. Scheduled a quarterly Dining-In for December, as well as an Army-Navy Game gathering. Event committee reaching out to local bands to set up concerts in the New Year. Commander recalled to active duty with the 42nd Division Artillery!
4. MITCHELL POST #281 - Post held Marine Corps Birthday ceremony on 10 November. Post held Veterans Day ceremony on the 11th at the post, with dinner for all local veterans that evening. Auxiliary unit will hold event during the holiday season. Upgrades to women's restroom complete, kitchen renovation to begin in the New Year. Working on long-range plans to renovate/upgrade bowling alley, leagues scheduled Tuesday through Friday nights.
5. ALFRED R. GREBE POST #1045 - No report received.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. E. Gerecke

P. E. GERECKE

Commander, 5th Division (for 4th Division)



SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION 5TH DIVISION

REPORT FOR 5 DECEMBER 2025

The 5th Division met at Chelberg & Battle Post #388 on 25 November. Posts #388, #834, #924 and #1545 in attendance. Commander Jack Prizzi welcomed the attendees and dinner was served at 1830. Meeting proper began at 1915. The following reports were received:

1. EAST HAMPTON POST #419 - (via email) Vets Day ceremony in East Hampton Village a success w/reception at post thereafter. Post bade farewell to USN Seabee vet Vincent Balcuns on 29 November at Fort Hill Cemetery in Montauk. On 1 December Suffolk County Legislator Anne Welker presented WW2 Army veteran Martin Sylvester with the Suffolk County Veteran of the Year Proclamation. Martin served on D-Day, the Hurtgen Forest, Battle of the Bulge and also escaped capture several times. Post Christmas party scheduled for 20 December. Commander Jeff Kiger will participate with his pipe band at the 84th Anniversary ceremonies on board USS ARIZONA on 7 December. Post Auxiliary Unit donating \$500 in gift cards to the VA hospital in Northport. Post adopting USCG Station Montauk over the holidays.
2. CHELBERG & BATTLE POST #388 - Veterans Day parade held on 11 November capped by brief ceremony & refreshments at post afterward. Veterans Day dinner was a big success with approximately 80 members and guests in attendance. Post hosting County meeting on Friday, 5 December and St. Andrew's Church annual dinner on Saturday, 6 December. Post Christmas party will be held jointly with Auxiliary on Monday, 8 December. Post has 3 potential Boys' State participants identified. Post attended wake for long time member Charles Corwith on 10 November. Long-time member John Baer passed away on 30 November. Memorial service pends. Post donated \$250 toward 5th Division gift card drive for families at the 106th Rescue Wing and \$500 to Lions Club toy drive. Post running 'Buddy Check' effort in early December.
3. MALCOLM ROSS WHITE POST # 433 - (via separate contact) Post supported Southampton Historical Museum event on 8 November at Southampton Cultural Center profiling stories of local vets. Post joined w/local CVO for Veterans Day observance at Agawam Park on the 11th. Working on plans and fundraising for expanded 2026 July 4th parade.
4. HAND-ALDRICH POST #924 - Post held a bucket brigade on the weekend prior to Vets Day to raise funds for flags to line streets, netting over \$2,800.00. Post held Veterans Day observance on the 11th at the post. Bingo nights continuing well for the local Lions Club, which hosts them, and the post bar. Turkey distribution went well and clothing drop box proving a big success.
5. ARTHUR ELLIS HAMM POST #834 - On 15 November post members completed final Adopt a Highway effort for the year. On Saturday, 8 November post held a Food Drive & Poppy

Distribution at Lidl Supermarket in Westhampton Beach, netting over \$500 as well as 4 shopping cartfuls of non-perishables. Members participated in Center Moriches Veterans Day parade on 9 November and WHB Middle School Vets Day observance on 10 November. Post is exploring establishment of both an Auxiliary Unit and a Sons Squadron as well as participation in the Southampton July 4th parade in 2026. On 2 December groundbreaking was held for the new Westhampton Community Center, so hopefully the post will have a home by the Spring of 2027.

6. EASTPORT POST #1545 - Post held a bucket brigade on 8 November, netting \$4,530.00. Post members participated in the Center Moriches Vets Day parade on 9 November, a special 'Life for Service Members' lunch event at St. Joseph's College on 10 November and a Vets Day ceremony at the same location on 12 November. Post held its own ceremony on Tuesday, 11 November. Remsenburg/Speonk Elementary School donated \$551 raised at bake sale to the post. A local community meeting was held at the post on 18 November with local Representatives Karen Dunn and Mike Iasilli to discuss the proposed Sunrise Highway exit into Eastport/Speonk. Post will be open for Army-Navy game on 13 December and will hold its annual Christmas party on 20 December. New security system has already proved effective, filming 5 young vandals. Footage given to local police for action. Post donated \$250 toward 5th Division gift card effort.

7. Division Commander briefed on the following items:

1. MEMBERSHIP
2. NEXT COUNTY MEETING - 5 December at Chelberg & Battle Post #388
3. VETS APPRECIATION DINNER - Wednesday, 29 Oct at SHHS - Success
4. PER CAPITA/DEL PUFL PAYMENTS
5. CALVERTON CEMETERY - Open again for full operations
Wreaths - 2600 so far / 344 vols.
6. GIFT CARDS FOR 106TH RESCUE WING
NB: Final total of cards donated \$1000.00

7. PCC MIKE PANKOWSKI BRIEFED ON:

1. ISSUES CONCERNING SONS SQUADRONS
2. ORATORICAL COMPETITION 6 December at Joseph Loeffler Post #1006

8. Meeting concluded at 2024. Next meeting Tuesday, 27 January at East Hampton Post #419.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. E. Gerecke

P. E. GERECKE
Commander, 5th Division

Chaplains Report

PCC Ken Dolan

November 10, 2025: Attended the Nassau County Police Veterans Ball at Crest Hollow

November 11, 2025: Veterans Day participated in the VFW's Veterans Day events in Kings Park

November 15, 2025: Attended the Kings Park Chamber of Commerce Luncheon and delivered the Salute to the Colors.

November 22, 2025: Distributed 1000 Turkeys at the Northport VA Hospital



Service OFFICER Report – December 2025:

Big changes for VA benefits focus on expanding PACT Act care for toxic exposures, streamlining survivor benefits, easing access for women and older Vets (WWII), and upcoming changes to how tinnitus is rated, alongside routine Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) and new legislative pushes for catastrophic injury pay. Key updates include direct enrollment for millions, new presumptive conditions, and improved survivor support systems.

Major Expansions & New Laws

- **PACT Act Expansion:** Millions more Vets (Gulf War, Post-9/11, etc.) can enroll for toxic exposure-related care (burn pits, Agent Orange) starting March 2024, years ahead of schedule.
- **Survivor Support Reforms:** The VA is streamlining Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) with a new survivor outreach team and automation efforts to reduce backlogs.
- **Women Veterans:** Easier access to gynecology care and screenings for breast cancer risk from toxic exposure.
- **WWII Veterans:** Expanded eligibility for VA health and nursing home care, with enrollment in Priority Group 6.
- **New Presumptive:** More conditions linked to Agent Orange (like bladder cancer, hypothyroidism) are covered.

Upcoming & Recent Changes

- **Tinnitus Rating Change (Soon):** Tinnitus will no longer be a standalone condition; it will only be rated if service-connected with non-compensable hearing loss.



- **COLA**: Disability compensation rates increase annually with Cost-of-Living Adjustments (e.g., for 2025, there was an 8.7% increase).
- **Catastrophic Injury Proposals**: New legislation aims to provide significant extra pay (e.g., \$10k/year) for Vets with severe injuries like paralysis or TBI.

Other Recent Updates

- **Medical Bill Relief**: VA is working to provide relief for backlogged medical bills.
- **Copay Exemptions**: Indian/Urban Indian Veterans are exempt from certain copays.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey Molitor
Service Officer
Suffolk County American Legion

Boys State

Jr. PCC Kevin Eaton

Should have more definite numbers after Mid-Winter in January. The buses did go up in cost however, the County is going to make up the difference.

If Morrisville College raises their fee's, the increase will cause the cost per candidate to Boys State to increase.

Posts should be in the process of interviewing boys for the program. Continue checking the website at Department for the updated application and accompanying paperwork.

Boys State will be from June 27 – July 2, 2026

Still looking for volunteers to help with the program. It can be a Legion member or a Sons of the American Legion member.

Make the sure the candidates have an 80 + average.

**AMERICAN LEGION – SUFFOLK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK**

COLOR GUARD

November 2025 Monthly Report

November 11 –

Various Color Guards in the communities they represent were leading the activities of Veterans Day, albeit windy conditions, to honor those who served and are still serving.

Report Submitted by:

Richard Knutson
Color Guard Liaison

Historians Report

PCC Steve Antonacci

1980s

HISTORY STEVE ANTONACCI

Aug. 26, 1982

The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of "The Wall" in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project.

July 21, 1983

The Legion announces its sponsorship of an independent study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans. Congress receives the results of The American Legion-Columbia University Study of Vietnam-Era Veterans in 1989.

Jan. 1, 1989 The Veterans Administration is elevated to cabinet-level status as the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Legion fought hard for the change, arguing that veterans deserve representation at the highest levels of government.

Oct. 16, 1989

The long-standing objective of the Legion to improve adjudication procedures for veterans' claims is achieved when the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals becomes operational. Most of the provisions contained in the law creating the court were originally included in the Veterans Reassurance Act, written by the Legion and introduced in Congress in 1988.

1990s

Judge Advocate Report

Judge Advocate - recent issues in regards to the Son's of the American Legion leads me to remind all Posts that have Son's Squadrons that the Son's of the American Legion is a program of the American Legion (similar to many of our other programs) and that the Sons are not members of the American Legion. Please review letter from Department Adjutant James Casey in regards to this issue. Any questions on this can be brought to my attention or the County Son's Advisor Kevin Eaton.

Michael Pankowski
Past Commander
Suffolk County American Legion



Legion Riders Report – December 2025:

- December 9th 2025 ABATE will be awarding checks at the Elks Club in Centerreach starting at 1830. You must be present to pick up your check.
- **Sayville American Legion Riders:** No report.
- **American Legion Riders Chapter #94 (Babylon):** No report
- **American Legion Riders Post 1006 (Brentwood):** No report
- **American Legion Riders Post 1244 (Greenlawn):** No report
- **American Legion Riders Post 269 (Patchogue):** No report
- **Fundraising:** No report
- **Legacy Scholarship Fund:** No report
- **Parades and Escorts:** No report

Honoring the Fallen: Riders are active in escorting military units and honoring fallen service members.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey Molitor
Legion Rider Chair
Suffolk County American Legion

December 2025 NYS Veterans Home Status Report

1. Current Status (open for business or not; % occupied)

The census is fluctuating between 314-318 (so they are pretty full without the final unit being open). We do want to open the final unit this winter...with that being said we are making a BIG push to speak with American legions, VFWs and Libraries to let Veterans know about their benefits and entitlements (why they should choose the LISVH over another skilled nursing). Ther Adult Day Care Program remains full at this time as well—with only a couple of spots open on Saturdays.

2. Special project completed or in progress

The courtyard project made it's match goal of \$250,000!!!! But, they do estimate the project costing MILLIONS so the fundraising continues! If any of the posts are doing any fundraisers or golf outings please remind them to think of their brothers and sisters at the LISVH.

Earlier in the month we participated in the Great Place to Work Survey. We are so happy to report that 87% of our employees feel the LISVH is a great place to work—we are rated on a number of categories and we are very excited to have this distinction.

We also were rated by US News and World Report as one of the best nursing homes in America. They reviewed almost 15,000 nursing homes—so we are honored to be added to this prestigious list!!!

A. Events

- December Special events Not Sponsored
 - Weekly poker/Pinochle- \$100
 - Weekly Friday Reflections Unit entertainment- \$200
 - 12/1 Breakfast Club \$200
 - 12/2 Zumba- \$150
 - 12/2 Boxing- \$150
 - 12/2 Entertainment- \$100
 - 12/3 entertainment \$200
 - 12/4 Animal Program- \$400
 - 12/5 holiday sing along- \$150

- 12/6 entertainment- \$250
 - 12/7 Dinner and a movie- \$600
 - 12/11 Boxing- \$150
 - 12/11 Holiday Party- \$300
 - 12/14 entertainment \$200
 - 12/16 Holiday lights trip- \$200
 - 12/20 entertainment- \$300
 - 12/21 Hanukkah party -\$700
 - 12/24 Christmas eve entertainment- \$300
 - 12/25 Strolling music- \$300
 - 12/28 entertainment- \$200
 - 12/29 chocology program- \$300
 - 12/30 chefs club- \$500
 - 12/31 NYE Bash- \$500
-
- December Events Sponsored
 - 12/1 garden club
 - 12/3 community trip Cradle of aviation
 - 12/5 Adult Education program
 - 12/7 Air power museum
 - 12/7 Army Brass band
 - 12/8 animal therapy
 - 12/9 Lunch Club sponsored by the Elks (Massapequa)
 - 12/10 Winter wonderland sponsored DAV
 - 12/10 SWR Band
 - 12/10 community trip to Seaford Am Legion
 - 12/11 Dinner and music sponsored by Am Legion 155
 - 12/12 Holiday Songs- music group with SBU
 - 12/13 entertainment with Eddie Trap (gratis)
 - 12/14 Sayville Post trip
 - 12/15 vet mart- various donors throughout the year
 - 12/16 animal visits sponsored by the strolling alpacas
 - 12/18 vets variety show (gratis)
 - 12/18 Longwood school performance
 - 12/22 West Hampton Choir
 - 12/23 Bingo sponsored by Suffolk County Am Legion Aux
 - 12/25 pet therapy
 - 12/26 Drum circle- SBU music therapy
 - 12/27 youth development performance

Note: NY State does not support all expenses that cover items/events that are needed to run a successful operation. Exclusions include entertainment events such as fishing trips, Bingo prizes, card games, in-house entertainment. The Home is dependent upon outside contributions. Any Posts that can step up and help the Home (which helps fellow veterans) would be greatly appreciated. Some day one or more of your post members could be residents at the State home.

For future months they also have "Standing" programs that re-occur. None of our reoccurring programs have a consistent sponsor, so if there is a group that would like to reach between 50-100 residents on a regular basis we can use support for the following programs:
Tuesday and Thursday Poker Pinochle- \$150 per week would cover both games
Friday- Reflections (dementia unit) entertainment- \$150 weekly
Sundays and Wednesdays in house entertainment- \$400 weekly for both programs, or \$200 weekly to cover one of the days

4. Needs - Immediate vs. nice to have

*Nose hair trimmers and wireless headsets for the TV are immediate
Scratch off tickets (for game prizes), gift cards to local restaurants, Walmart or Target gift cards to pick up individual needs, such as new shirts for residents and crafts for programs are nice to have.*

5. Volunteer Opportunities

Many opportunities exist at Vets home. Contact them direct for information.

Contact:

Samantha Calandrino, CTRS, LMSW

Coordinator of Community Outreach & Volunteer Services

Long Island State Veterans Home

100 Patriots Road • Stony Brook, NY 11790

Voice: (631) 444-8590 | Fax: (631) 706-4662

Samantha.Calandrino@lisvh.org

Suffolk County Membership Report

December 5, 2025

Comrades,

Unfortunately, I have to announce that we have not met our goal of 75%, we were 56 members short of goal. I have updated our county report to show those posts who have not processed any membership since the last report. We only hit 73.3%. Of 41 posts in our county 1/2 have not processed any members since the last report. We need to keep the momentum going. As always I am here to help anyone who needs it. If your post is in double digits needed you need to step it up and get to your members and explain the need for getting their dues paid. I know it is tough around the holidays but we can't take our foot off the accelerator. We need to keep plugging away. Please if you need help ask! Respectfully, Fred Tartaglione Suffolk County Membership Chairman

Department of New York 2026 Membership
as of 12/1/25

Including Encumbered HQ Transfers

Legend:	
Met Goal Of:	100%
Met Goal Of:	75%
Needs Help	>75%
No Change	###

Suffolk Co

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewa	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal	# needed for Goal	# needed for Goal
NY-0094	Babylon Inc	Babylon	2	23	134	0	159	191	83.25		32
NY-0155	William Merritt Hallock	Lake Ronkor	2	14	105	1	122	152	80.26		30
NY-0185	Burton Potter	Greenport	0	7	30	0	37	43	86.05		6
NY-0269	Patchogue	Patchogue	2	26	62	0	90	115	78.26		25
NY-0273	Riverhead	Riverhead	0	12	63	0	75	90	83.33		15
NY-0281	Mitchell	Shelter Islan	0	10	48	0	58	93	62.37	12	35
NY-0352	Leisure Glenn	Ridge	0	1	22	0	23	34	67.65	3	11
NY-0360	Huntington	Huntington	0	19	22	0	41	62	66.13	6	21
NY-0365	Bay Shore Inc	Bay Shore	0	2	17	0	19	19	100.00		
NY-0388	Chelberg Battle Inc	Sag Harbor	1	9	86	0	96	119	80.67		23
NY-0411	Rusy-Bohm	Islip	1	8	40	0	49	78	62.82	10	29
NY-0417	Harbor	Setauket	0	20	9	3	32	57	56.14	11	25
NY-0419	East Hampton Town	East Hamptc	10	13	93	0	116	155	74.84	1	39
NY-0432	Wilson Ritch	Port Jeffersc	4	34	151	1	190	283	67.14	23	93
NY-0433	Malcolm R White Inc	Southampton	0	4	0	0	4	6	66.67	1	2

NY-0580	Nathaniel H Topping	Bridgehampt	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0		
NY-0651	Smith-Wever	Sayville	0	15	45	0	60	81	74.07	1	21
NY-0694	Northport	Northport	0	5	51	0	56	160	35.00	64	104
NY-0803	Griswold-Terry-Glover	Southold	3	13	118	1	135	175	77.14		40
NY-0833	James Ely Miller	Smithtown	2	16	138	0	156	198	78.79		42
NY-0834	Arthur Ellis Hamm	Westhampto	0	2	89	0	91	96	94.79		5
NY-0861	Raymond Cleaves	Mattituck	0	2	0	0	2	11	18.18	7	9
NY-0924	Hand-Aldrich	Hampton Ba	8	6	68	0	82	101	81.19		19
NY-0944	Donald C Munro Inc	Kings Park	2	13	48	0	63	86	73.26	2	23
NY-1006	Joseph Loeffler	Brentwood	2	17	48	0	67	88	76.14		21
NY-1015	Amityville	Amityville	0	4	5	0	9	28	32.14	12	19
NY-1039	Herold-Tierney	Central Islip	2	2	3	0	7	11	63.64	2	4
NY-1045	Alfred R Grebe Inc	Fishers Islan	0	5	3	0	8	15	53.33	4	7
NY-1120	Feustel-Kurdt Inc	Lindenhurst	0	13	44	1	58	84	69.05	5	26
NY-1146	Joseph Kovarik	Bohemia	2	7	22	0	31	58	53.45	13	27
NY-1152	Sherwood Brothers	St James	14	7	88	1	110	96	114.58		
NY-1218	Hunter-Squires-Jackson Inc	Amityville	0	5	3	0	8	23	34.78	10	15
NY-1244	Greenlawn Inc	Greenlawn	2	8	87	0	97	140	69.29	8	43
NY-1533	Arthur H Clune	Mastic Beac	6	12	50	0	68	94	72.34	3	26
NY-1545	Eastport	Eastport	2	9	52	0	63	81	77.78		18
NY-1633	Selden	Selden	0	7	15	0	22	26	84.62		4
NY-1634	Sergeant John Sardiello Inc	W Babylon-L	0	8	58	0	66	87	75.86		21
NY-1635	Four-S	East Islip	0	8	8	1	17	20	85.00		3
NY-1738	West Islip Inc	West Islip	1	10	57	0	68	89	76.40		21
NY-1766	Irving Hart	Setauket L I	0	3	0	0	3	12	25.00	6	9

NY-1839	Wayne Middleton Inc	North Babylc	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.00	4	5
NY-1848	John R Cacioppo	Medford	0	8	16	0	24	32	75.00		8
NY-1880	Leisure Village	Ridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0		
NY-1888	Brunn-Prchal	Rocky Point	0	2	34	0	36	38	94.74		2
NY-1941	Pearl Harbor Memorial	Port Jeffersc	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0		
NY-2016	Farmingdale State College	Farmingdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0		
		SUM:	68	409	2032	9	2518	3432	73.3683	56	914

District Summary Including Encumbered HQ Transfers

	District	New	PUFL	Renew:	HQ	Totals	Goal	Goal
1	NY Dist 0001 LGN	73	337	711	3	1124	2001	56.17
2	NY Dist 0002 LGN	30	406	1148	9	1593	1982	80.37
3	NY Dist 0003 LGN	75	616	2557	9	3257	4493	72.49
4	NY Dist 0004 LGN	131	977	3798	11	4917	7218	68.12
5	NY Dist 0005 LGN	188	1110	5490	12	6800	9860	68.97
6	NY Dist 0006 LGN	76	699	2960	6	3741	5796	64.54
7	NY Dist 0007 LGN	152	1040	4904	24	6120	8731	70.10
8	NY Dist 0008 LGN	203	1199	6593	9	8004	11446	69.93
9	NY Dist 0009 LGN	93	733	2916	14	3756	5343	70.30
10	NY Dist 0010 LGN	108	1154	4191	16	5469	7650	71.49
11	NY Dist 0099 LGN	1	1134	4396	0	5531	7529	73.46
	Sum:	1130	9405	39666	113	50314	72068	69.784

Department of New York Totals

	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Transfers		Goal	% of Goal
Sum:	1130	9405	39666	113	50314	72100	69.815

Legend:	
Met Goal Of:	100%
Met Goal Of:	75%
Needs Help	>75%
No Change	###

POW-MIA Report

For November 2025

The remains of twelve of our fallen comrades have been recovered, identified and returned to their loved ones.

WORLD WAR 2

Corregidor Island, Cabanatuan POW camp.

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Charles S. Atteberry, 26

U.S. Army Pvt. Henry D. Bordner, 24,

U.S. Army Cpl. James M. Walker, 46,

Hengshan County, Hunan Province (China)

U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Morton Sher, 22,

Papua New Guinea

U.S. Army Technician Fifth Grade Ell T. Simantz, 23,

U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. John A. Pagliuso, 24,

Meiktila, Burma

U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Sidney Burke, 22,

Europe:

Saint-Marcouf in Normandy

U.S. Army Technician Fifth Grade Daniel Wyatt, 39,

KOREAN War:

U.S. Army Cpl. Earl E. Kibbey, 18, POW

U.S. Army Pfc. Harold B. Dulyea, 23, POW

U.S. Army Cpl. Donald J. Birmingham, 22,

U.S. Army Cpl. Robert L. Brewster, 19,

Currently from WWII, there are 71,823 still unaccounted for. 7,391 still missing from the Korean. 1,566 American servicemen and civilians still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, 6 missing from the Gulf War and 126 from the Cold War.

**May God bless, heal, and protect all who survived our Nations Conflicts.
And to all those who gave their lives and lay in unmarked repose;
may their souls rest with Him in eternal peace.**

Missing in America Project Report

Dec 5, 2025

The M.I.A.P has announced that the following State will be having Services for the following unclaimed Cremains of Veterans and Spouses.

Dec 10: Washington State, 20 Veterans 10 Spouses to be interred at Tahoma National Cemetery.

There is nothing, to report for New York State at this time.

Kevin Eaton

MIAP Chair



Missing In America Project

Veteran Recovery Program

www.miap.us

National President/Director
Don Gerspach
573-512-1419
Director@miap.us

Vice President
Clyde "Tex" Taylor
206-458-8927
VP@miap.us

The Washington State Missing In America Project (MIAP) Team will lay to rest the unclaimed remains of 20 veterans and 10 spouses on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at the Tahoma National Cemetery. MIAP is working with Dignity Memorial's Evergreen Washelli Funeral Home and Cemetery. Due to ongoing construction we can't confirm which committal shelter we will have. When you arrive, please check with the volunteers at the public information center and proceed to the shelter.

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 1:00

All are invited to attend the ceremony to honor our American Heroes.

**Tahoma National Cemetery
18600 SE 240th St
Kent, WA 98042**

POC:

Thomas E Keating, WA State Coordinator 360-259-6826
Lynn Lake, WA State Assistant Coordinator 425-445-7173

National Cemetery Long Island National

PCC Jim Beecher

Due to government shutdown, there have been no meetings. Now that that has concluded, they're anticipating a meeting on December 14, 2025.

National Cemetery Calverton

10th District Sgt-at-Arms Mike Pankowski

The cemetery is once again fully open to the public. 10,800 wreaths will be delivered to Calverton for distribution. Of those 10,800, 1600 are grave specific meaning their families will pick them up and place them on their loved ones grave.

Four sections are scheduled to receive wreaths. As of this time it looks like volunteers will get approximately six wreaths to place.

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2025

Time: 9am

National Commanders Report

National Commanders Dinner - Scheduled for Friday April 17 at Antums in Queens to Honor National Commander Dan Wiley from Kansas. We are still awaiting what the final price will be. Please save the date! Thank you

Michael Pankowski
Past Commander
Suffolk County American Legion

Suffolk County American Legion

My Name is Roland Frank I am the lead Director, Past Commander and past Financial Officer at William Merritt Hallock American Legion Post 155 in Lake Ronkonkoma NY I have worked closely with Fred Tartaglione for the past 5 years. Fred is a devoted legionnaire and a credit to post 155. Fred has served as Post155 Adjutant and is presently the Commander.

Fred is also very active in our division presently serving as adjutant. I would like to recommend that Fred Tartaglione be chosen as the next County Finance Officer.



Roland Frank
Lead Director
Past Commander
William Merritt Hallock
American Legion Post 155



Oratorical Committee Report

December 3, 2025

Dear Comrades:

Well, the time is now here - and I hope you are as excited as I am to hear the wonderful speeches from our youth. I am sure at this very same hour they are preparing and maybe even a little nervous, but one thing is guaranteed their speeches will leave you in awe, educate, and motivate all of us in attendance.

TRUST me you want to be there, and you do not want to miss this event – it is one of the highlights of our County.

I can only hope we will have a decent turnout on Saturday. I urge you to make your way and spend part of the day with us as these HS Students explore our nations constitution. I don't know about you – but I always walk away prouder. Proud of my service, but especially in today's environment – proud to be an American.

Volunteers are needed to make the contest a success. In addition to audience members there are a lot of moving parts behind the scenes to help move the program along. Thanks to all the volunteers. A special thank you to the last-minute ones to fill in the gaps.

I met with Commander Sharon Wednesday evening. We reviewed the last minor details, walked thru the set up, and are all set.

The attached are the assignments I have thus far. If you are unable to commit, please let me know.

STUDENTS:

We have a total of (4) students.

Special shout out to our District Chairman Jeff Molitor for assisting me while on Vacation to help answer participants questions/concerns. I spoke with the student Wens. Night and he is excited as ever.

Competition Date:

Saturday December 6, 2025

**Place: Joseph Loeffler Post 1006
(Brentwood Post)**

Time: 1:00 pm -3:30 pm

198 First Street, Brentwood, NY 11717

Set Up time is 12:15.....yes, I know that cuts it close, but there is another function in the hall – so if you were planning on coming early, or plan on going to the bar – sorry. Please refrain and sit in your car till 12:30 so we do not disrupt the church service.

H.S.J.#1218 and Post #1006 are donating some light refreshments to be shared while the judges are deliberating.

Students/guest will arrive at 1pm. I asked the Judges to arrive at 1230.

*The students will be in the BAR area – so please try to keep that area clear until after the competition.

See you Saturday!!

Lenore Brathwaite (631) 805-7199

Suffolk County Oratorical Chairperson

SCAL Oratorical Committee

Proposed Volunteers - 2025

Timekeepers:

1. Kevin Eaton, PCC & Boys State Chairperson
2. Steve Antonucci, PCC, 10th District Historian
3. Jim Beecher, PCC Back up

Sgt. Of Arms: Marcel Jeffries

Student Escorts:

1. 3rd Division Vice Commander Richard Knuston, 10th District Public Relations
2. Bill Farley, PCC

Judges:

1. Ms. Yvette Mathis – Educator – Wyandanch School District
2. Fred Tartaglione, Jr. SCAL Membership Chairman, 10th District Membership Chairperson
3. Bill Coderre, County Adjutant Vice Commander

Holding Room Monitors:

1. Joseph Loeffler Post #1006 Volunteer – Dianne and Cisco
2. Kathy Nielsen – Holding Room/Assigned Topic Timekeeper

Tabulators:

1. PNCC Robert Robesch – Finance Officer, Budget and Finance Chair, 10th District Treasurer, Credentials, Blood Drive
2. Brian Fowler, County and District Commander SONS
3. PCC Bob Bruggemann, MIA/POW Chairperson

Jeff Molitor – 10th District Oratorical Chairperson, Scouting Chair, Legion Riders

**AMERICAN LEGION – SUFFOLK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK**

PUBLIC RELATIONS

November 2025 Monthly Report

November 11 –

Multiple Posts had Veterans Day activities throughout their respected communities.

Pictures and Text Published in “News You Can Use” and various local media outlets.

Report Submitted by:

Richard Knutson
Public Relations Officer

James Ely Miller Post 833
51 Juniper Ave
Smithtown, NY 11787

Resolution 2025-12

Resolution: A Resolution to Establish the Beckstrom-Wolfe Family Scholarship
Submitted by: James Ely Miller Post 833

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Spc. Sarah Beckstrom and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, dedicated members of the West Virginia National Guard, demonstrated exceptional bravery and selflessness by volunteering for "Operation D.C. Safe and Beautiful" to protect the nation's capital; and

WHEREAS, while in the line of duty, these two courageous service members were brutally ambushed, resulting in the tragic death of Spc. Beckstrom and critical injuries to Staff Sgt. Wolfe; and

WHEREAS, Spc. Beckstrom and Staff Sgt. Wolfe embody the highest values of the National Guard and made significant sacrifices in service to their state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Members of the National Guard make significant sacrifices in service to their community and nation; and

WHEREAS, The families of these National Guardsmen often suffer immeasurable loss and hardship; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the American Legion to honor the profound sacrifice and enduring bravery of these National Guardsmen and to provide tangible support to their immediate families;

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to the welfare of veterans, their families, and the community, as stated in its Preamble; and

WHEREAS, The Four Pillars of the American Legion are the guiding principal of our institution

WHEREAS, The Third Pillar: Americanism is the cultivating of patriotism, civic responsibility, and strong character through youth programs and community engagement

WHEREAS, The Fourth Pillar: Children & Youth focuses on the well-being of America's youth through programs that support family integrity, prevent substance abuse, and fund child welfare initiatives.

RESOLVED, By the members of James Ely Miller Post 833 to implore that the American Legion provide financial assistance in the form of a Scholarship for post-secondary education to the siblings and or children of National Guardsman Army Spc. Sarah Beckstrom and Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, the two West Virginia National Guard members who were ambushed in Washington D.C., The Suffolk County American Legion and The American Legion, Department of New York embark on a campaign to promote the Establishment of the Beckstrom-Wolfe Family Scholarship Fund.; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That, if adopted, this Resolution be forwarded to the National Organization for action to create the Beckstrom-Wolfe Family Scholarship Fund.

This is to certify that the above resolution was adopted by James Ely Miller Post 833 on December 4, 2025.

Richard Pandolf
Richard Pandolf
Commander
James Ely Miller Post 833

Alexander Callender
Alexander Callender
Adjutant
James Ely Miller Post 833

SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

S.A.L. ADVISORS REPORT

Dec 5, 2025

The 2025 Walk-A-Thon Checks were distributed on Nov 25, 2025 to the Long Island State Veterans Home and on Dec 3, 2025 to the Northport VA. Each Facility received a check for \$1,740 and was presented to them by Walk-A-Thon Committee Chair, PNC SAL Chris Cerullo. Once again thank you to all who donated their time and money to this year's event.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

KEVIN EATON

S.A.L. ADVISOR



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

November 6, 2025

LEGAL OPINION

Subject: The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion and the four rules of an American Legion Program

For 50 years, the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) has co-existed at all levels of The American Legion. However, this has also created a perception that SAL members have the same rights and privileges as those in The American Legion, and this misinterpretation of the rules, which has gone largely unchecked or uncorrected in some areas, is starting to cause some very real problems for the organization. Recently, this has grown into a larger concern as we hear reports of Posts being audited and, when asked for their membership rolls, submitting the names of SAL members in addition to those of regular members.

This opinion seeks to clarify for everyone that the Sons of The American Legion is a program, not simply a cheaper alternative that comes with the same rights and privileges as a traditional member. Further, leadership at all levels – Post, District, Department and National – must be knowledgeable on what the rules governing veterans and non-profit organizations are and safeguard the integrity of our organization by ensuring that no person or group jeopardizes our future by operating in a manner not consistent with the laws and regulations set by Congress and the IRS.

BACKGROUND

Shortly after the end of hostilities in World War I in Paris, France, LTC Theodore Roosevelt – the oldest son of the former president – had a conversation with George White, a fellow servicemember and editor of The Oregonian, a Portland newspaper; from this discussion, The American Legion would be born. Roosevelt would suggest the immediate establishment of a new servicemen's organization that would include all AEF members, as well as those soldiers who remained stateside as members of the military during the war. Roosevelt and White advocated this proposal ceaselessly until they found sufficient support at headquarters to move forward with the plan. In September 1919, Congress formally recognized the creation of The American Legion when both Houses of Congress passed our congressional charter and signed it into law.

Congress has deemed it in the national interest to afford congressionally chartered organizations some latitude to raise money and lobby Congress that is not available to many other non-profits. As one non-profit trade publication noted:

Above all, 501(c)(19) organizations offer financial, medical, psychological, and social support to veterans, their families, and the community. Through rehabilitation programs, support networks, and advocacy, these groups enhance veterans' mental health, employment opportunities, and overall well-being. These programs strive to secure a better future for those who have served. However, their impact extends far beyond supporting veterans, as they provide vital assistance to entire communities by mobilizing trained veteran volunteers in fields such as logistics, emergency response, and more during disasters.

At the 1932 National Convention in Portland, OR, The American Legion, while in general session, voted to approve Resolution 28, which established a youth program called "the Sons of the Legion." The Committee on Junior Activities called for "The National Organization of The American Legion to approve, encourage, and foster organizations of sons of members of The American Legion." Resolution 456 adopted at the 14th National Convention, states in the two whereas clauses "In the propagation of an organization for such boys' future around a fine idea, and assist in the bringing out the best type of citizenship," and "[a]n organization of this sort will bring the father closer to his son and make a better Legionnaire of him." The first resolve clause states, "One, that The American Legion officially propagate, recognize, and sponsor an organization to be known as the Sons of The American Legion." Upon the adoption of Resolution 456, it was believed, "Because The American Legion is such a unique organization, with eligibility so highly restricted, it can have no successor. But it can have an heir to whom it can bequeath all its treasured heritage."

THE PROBLEM

We are hearing more and more anecdotal evidence (and indeed some is even being sent to us) that various Departments and Posts are incorrectly interpreting the IRS code regarding the SAL, and, crucially, may be taking actions that could jeopardize The American Legion's non-profit status.

Congress sets the membership eligibility criteria for The American Legion, and the laws that govern it are found in Title 36 of the United States Code, Chapter 217, which deals exclusively with our organization. Eligibility is addressed explicitly in 36 USC 21703, a provision most recently amended with the passage of the Legion Act in 2019, and the Internal Revenue Service has promulgated rules based on what the Congressional intent was in the enactment of those laws. For us, the problem arises because Congress and the IRS have created differing rules for veterans of various conflicts, rules that largely do not apply to the SAL.

The IRS, in its Audit Technique Guide for Veterans Organizations, defines a member of a 501(c)19 with the following characteristics:

1. An individual eligible for membership under the constitution and bylaws of the veterans' organization.
2. May attend and vote at membership meetings.
3. Hold office in the organization.
4. Participate in State or National Conventions.
5. Posts remit membership dues for the individual to the central organization.

FOUR RULES OF A SUBSIDIARY PROGRAM

SAL squadrons, detachments, and the national organization are not stand-alone Veteran Service Organizations; rather, they must co-exist through the adoption and sponsorship from a post and cannot have their own EIN or tax-exempt status. This means that the SAL is under the full autonomy of its sponsoring post. If the post chooses to allow the squadron to use the post's EIN and tax-exempt status, that would be predicated on whether the squadron (program) is in full compliance with the Four Rules of a Program. Moreover, the rights and privileges of a program are not the same as those of a Legionnaire, or member of the American Legion Auxiliary. For example, the post bar, restaurant, canteen, or other social activity is intended for Legion members (veterans) of the post, their bona fide guests, and members of the Auxiliary unit, with the revenue remaining in the tax-exempt category. The IRS defines a bona fide guest as an individual a member invites to participate in an activity and pays for his expenses. If the guest pays for his own recreation or food, he isn't a bona fide guest. Social non-members are not eligible for membership in The American Legion. The members of the SAL squadron would be considered social non-members, and therefore, any sales or revenue generated from social non-members may also be subject to Unrelated Business Income (UBI) Tax by the IRS.

The IRS provides an example in the "Tax Guide for Veteran Organizations" (rev. 4-2018.):

Post A has 1,500 individuals who participate in the club's bar and gaming activities. 1,200 are veteran members who are eligible for membership as described in the post's constitution and bylaws. 300 are social non-members. Social non-members are not eligible for membership.

The veterans' organization satisfies the section 501(c)(19) membership requirements because its members are all past or present members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The social non-members are treated as members of the general public for 501(c)(19) purposes. Income from non-member sources may be subject to the unrelated business income tax.

Interpreted by the IRS, SAL members are considered social non-members when they utilize a post's social activities (if the operations are not already open to the general public and paying UBI tax for the income derived), and may generate taxable income if a Legion post member does not sign in that individual and pay for all food and entertainment for the guest. This includes all social or recreational activities of a Post not related to one of the other exempt purposes of a 501(c)19. In all such activities, an SAL member is not considered a member of the organization; therefore, revenue generated by these non-members may be considered taxable income, unless a Legion post member officially signs the non-member into the post and pays for all their purchases and services or another exception to UBI is claimed (such as volunteer labor exception).

In summary, the SAL program should be viewed as a participatory initiative that fosters the development of youth into patriotic Americans as outlined in the SAL Preamble; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism, preserve the memories of veterans from all wars, to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state

and nation, to safeguard the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness, and the last phrase; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands, and to assist in carrying on for God and Country, promotes American values and helps them become productive citizens in our society.

The SAL, as a program, is equivalent to an ALR chapter, Boys' and Girls' State, or Oratorical. All of them are Legion programs, but do not entitle participants or members to equal rights and privileges with veterans eligible for a TAL membership or to privileges commensurate with members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Certainly, no post would assume that a member of the Post's American Legion Baseball team would have unfettered access to the post commensurate with what a Legionnaire enjoys, but some Posts then turn a blind eye to members of the Sons of The American Legion, despite the SAL also being a program.

In order to deal with these issues, we have long had rules governing program operations. Attached to this opinion, you will find our latest incarnation of those rules, along with an acknowledgement section to be signed by the program participant or leader as the Post or Department may determine. Together, these four rules governing Leadership, Rules, Reports and Controls apply to all programs of The American Legion, whether they are our exclusively Youth Programs (Oratorical, Boys State, Shooting Sports, etc.) or programs like the SAL or The American Legion Riders. Regardless of what the program is — whether it be an ambulance service, a rodeo, a yacht club, a cruiser club, or some other program — the four rules apply to each of them.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark C. Seavey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark C. Seavey, Esq.
National Judge Advocate, The American Legion

Officers,

At the fall NEC meetings, a legal opinion from National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey was distributed regarding the Four Rules of a Program. Attached is an update to that legal opinion.

Please note that this updated document is structurally identical to the one distributed to the NEC at the Fall meetings. However, to clarify some of the concepts discussed therein, the NJA's office have incorporated the language used by the IRS in their audits (defining what constitutes membership) and included some clarifying language.

Here's the gist of the **11/06/2025 legal opinion on the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)**:

- **Bottom line:** SAL is a **program of The American Legion**, not a parallel membership class. Treat it like ALR, Boys State, Oratorical, etc.—valued programs, but **not** Legion membership with equal rights and privileges.
- **Why this matters now:** Some Posts and Departments are blurring lines (e.g., submitting SAL names during audits as “members”), which **risks our 501(c)(19) status**. The opinion is issued to stop that drift and align practices to IRS and federal charter rules.
- **IRS lens on SAL at post homes:** For IRS purposes, **SAL members are “social non-members”**. Revenue from their purchases can be **Unrelated Business Income (UBI)** unless a Legionnaire signs them in as a bona fide guest **and pays for all** of their food/entertainment, or another UBI exception applies. The opinion quotes the IRS' veterans' org guide and illustrates with the IRS's bar/gaming example.
- **Program status & EIN:** SAL squadrons/detachments **are not stand-alone VSOs and cannot have their own EIN or tax-exempt status**. They operate **under the sponsoring Post's autonomy**—and only use the Post's EIN **if** they comply with the program rules.
- **The Four Rules of a Program (framework the opinion applies to all programs):**
 1. **Leadership** – Program leadership remains under the **sponsoring Post's** authority.
 2. **Rules** – Programs operate under TAL governing documents and applicable law; **program rights ≠ member rights** (e.g., no automatic access to post social privileges).
 3. **Reports** – Programs must meet required reporting expectations to the Post/Department/National (e.g., keep program rosters separate from TAL membership rolls).
 4. **Controls** – Financial and operational controls reside with the Post; EIN use is contingent on full compliance.

(The opinion names these four areas and applies them to SAL and other programs; the acknowledgement form referenced is attached to the opinion's rules package.)

- **Operational implications called out in the opinion:**
 - **Don't count SAL in TAL membership rolls** for audits, meetings, or eligibility metrics. The IRS definition of a "member" for 501(c)(19) is specific to those **eligible under TAL's constitution/bylaws with voting/office/convention rights**—which does **not** include SAL.
 - **Post social areas (bar/canteen/restaurant):** Intended for **Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and bona fide guests**. SAL members, absent the bona fide guest conditions, are **non-members** for IRS purposes; revenue may be UBI.
 - **Treat SAL like any Legion program** (e.g., ALR, Baseball): participation and service, **not** parity of rights with Legionnaires or Auxiliary members.
- **Context & authority:** The opinion roots SAL's origin as a **youth program** created and sponsored by TAL via National Convention actions, reinforcing program—not membership—status. It also cites Title 36 (TAL charter) and IRS guidance that govern eligibility and tax status.
- **Recommended Post actions** (aligned with the opinion & existing Post operations guidance):
 - Keep **separate rosters**: TAL members vs. SAL participants. Do **not** include SAL on TAL membership lists or audit submissions.
 - Tighten **social-area procedures**: If you allow SAL in the bar/canteen, ensure bona fide guest sign-in **and** the Legionnaire pays, or be prepared to **track/report UBI** with proper accounting.
 - Confirm **financial and governance controls**: All SAL finances run under Post oversight and controls; no separate EINs.
 - Re-train officers/volunteers on **program vs. membership** distinctions; use the **Officer's Guide** sections on post governance and committee oversight as your baseline.
- **Related governance reinforcement:** National guidance urges Posts to **cooperate** with SAL as a program while keeping roles clear and operations compliant (see the Officer's Guide on cooperation and Post operations).

VETERANS STRENGTHENING
AMERICA

Matthew E. Herndon | Director

Internal Affairs & Membership

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e: mherndon@legion.org | w: www.legion.org

t: 317-630-1406



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York

2026 Membership Report as of November 20, 2025

Squadron	Location	Charter Date	SDR	OCF 25-26	New	Renew	Total	Goal	%GOAL	VARIANCE
District 10										
Nassau County										
NY SQDN 0044	Malverne	26-Apr-1934	x		0	45	45	53	84.91%	-8
NY SQDN 0246	Baldwin	19-May-1939			0	5	5	31	16.13%	-26
NY SQDN 0304	Manhasset	18-Mar-1935			0	0	0	10	0.00%	-10
NY SQDN 0334	Floral Park	5-Apr-1934	x		0	19	19	19	100.00%	0
NY SQDN 0854	Andrew Fatscher	21-Apr-1934			1	1	2	45	4.44%	-43
NY SQDN 0958	East Rockaway	3-Mar-1939	x		5	24	29	81	35.80%	-52
NY SQDN 1033	Elmont	2-Aug-1935			0	2	2	31	6.45%	-29
NY SQDN 1066	Massapequa	6-Dec-1954			11	46	57	117	48.72%	-60
NY SQDN 1082	East Meadow Memorial	13-Feb-1934	x		11	67	78	65	120.00%	13
NY SQDN 1711	Levittown	1-Nov-1965	x	x	2	60	62	141	43.97%	-79
NY SQDN 1812	Plainview	9-Mar-1959			0	2	2	32	6.25%	-30
COUNTY TOTAL			5	1	30	271	301	625	48.16%	-324
Queens County										
NY SQDN 0103	Little Neck-Douglaston	14-Apr-1937			0	0	0	10	0.00%	-10
NY SQDN 1404	Broad Channel	30-Dec-1985			0	23	23	38	60.53%	-15
COUNTY TOTAL			0	0	0	23	23	48	47.92%	-25
Suffolk County										
NY SQDN 0094	Babylon	5-May-1934	x	x	3	38	41	60	68.33%	-19
NY SQDN 0185	Burton Potter	17-May-1940	x		1	10	11	17	64.71%	-6
NY SQDN 0269	Patchogue	18-Jun-1937	x		0	1	1	16	6.25%	-15
NY SQDN 0273	Riverhead	2-Jul-2001			3	14	17	15	113.33%	2
NY SQDN 0419	East Hampton Town	24-Aug-1956		x	9	43	52	90	57.78%	-38
NY SQDN 0432	Wilson Ritch	6-Sep-1934	x	x	5	33	38	86	44.19%	-48
NY SQDN 0651	Smith-Wever	17-Oct-1957	x		0	5	5	20	25.00%	-15
NY SQDN 0803	Griswold-Terry-Glover	4-Mar-1997			5	15	20	31	64.52%	-11
NY SQDN 0833	James Ely Miller	29-Jul-2021	x	x	9	102	111	150	74.00%	-39
NY SQDN 0924	Hand-Aldrich	17-May-1940			0	2	2	18	11.11%	-16
NY SQDN 1006	Joseph Loeffler	2-Mar-1959	x	x	2	40	42	83	50.60%	-41
NY SQDN 1120	Feustel-Kurdt	20-Jan-1936			0	5	5	10	50.00%	-5
NY SQDN 1146	Joseph Kovarik	9-Jun-1958	x		1	11	12	24	50.00%	-12
NY SQDN 1244	Greenlawn	27-Feb-2007	x		0	13	13	17	76.47%	-4
NY SQDN 1533	Arthur H Clune	13-Oct-1933	x	x	3	47	50	55	90.91%	-5
NY SQDN 1634	Sergeant John Sardiello	11-Jun-1956		x	0	2	2	31	6.45%	-29
NY SQDN 1738	West Islip	28-Feb-1958	x		6	21	27	21	128.57%	6
NY SQDN 1839	Wayne Middleton	9-Jul-1958	x		0	1	1	10	10.00%	-9
COUNTY TOTAL			12	7	47	403	450	754	59.68%	-304
10TH DISTRICT TOTAL			17	8	77	697	774	1427	54.24%	-653



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

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November 6, 2025

LEGAL OPINION

Subject: The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion and the four rules of an American Legion Program

For 50 years, the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) has co-existed at all levels of The American Legion. However, this has also created a perception that SAL members have the same rights and privileges as those in The American Legion, and this misinterpretation of the rules, which has gone largely unchecked or uncorrected in some areas, is starting to cause some very real problems for the organization. Recently, this has grown into a larger concern as we hear reports of Posts being audited and, when asked for their membership rolls, submitting the names of SAL members in addition to those of regular members.

This opinion seeks to clarify for everyone that the Sons of The American Legion is a program, not simply a cheaper alternative that comes with the same rights and privileges as a traditional member. Further, leadership at all levels – Post, District, Department and National – must be knowledgeable on what the rules governing veterans and non-profit organizations are and safeguard the integrity of our organization by ensuring that no person or group jeopardizes our future by operating in a manner not consistent with the laws and regulations set by Congress and the IRS.

BACKGROUND

Shortly after the end of hostilities in World War I in Paris, France, LTC Theodore Roosevelt – the oldest son of the former president – had a conversation with George White, a fellow servicemember and editor of The Oregonian, a Portland newspaper; from this discussion, The American Legion would be born. Roosevelt would suggest the immediate establishment of a new servicemen's organization that would include all AEF members, as well as those soldiers who remained stateside as members of the military during the war. Roosevelt and White advocated this proposal ceaselessly until they found sufficient support at headquarters to move forward with the plan. In September 1919, Congress formally recognized the creation of The American Legion when both Houses of Congress passed our congressional charter and signed it into law.

Congress has deemed it in the national interest to afford congressionally chartered organizations some latitude to raise money and lobby Congress that is not available to many other non-profits. As one non-profit trade publication noted:

Above all, 501(c)(19) organizations offer financial, medical, psychological, and social support to veterans, their families, and the community. Through rehabilitation programs, support networks, and advocacy, these groups enhance veterans' mental health, employment opportunities, and overall well-being. These programs strive to secure a better future for those who have served. However, their impact extends far beyond supporting veterans, as they provide vital assistance to entire communities by mobilizing trained veteran volunteers in fields such as logistics, emergency response, and more during disasters.

At the 1932 National Convention in Portland, OR, The American Legion, while in general session, voted to approve Resolution 28, which established a youth program called "the Sons of the Legion." The Committee on Junior Activities called for "The National Organization of The American Legion to approve, encourage, and foster organizations of sons of members of The American Legion." Resolution 456 adopted at the 14th National Convention, states in the two whereas clauses "In the propagation of an organization for such boys' future around a fine idea, and assist in the bringing out the best type of citizenship," and "[a]n organization of this sort will bring the father closer to his son and make a better Legionnaire of him." The first resolve clause states, "One, that The American Legion officially propagate, recognize, and sponsor an organization to be known as the Sons of The American Legion." Upon the adoption of Resolution 456, it was believed, "Because The American Legion is such a unique organization, with eligibility so highly restricted, it can have no successor. But it can have an heir to whom it can bequeath all its treasured heritage."

THE PROBLEM

We are hearing more and more anecdotal evidence (and indeed some is even being sent to us) that various Departments and Posts are incorrectly interpreting the IRS code regarding the SAL, and, crucially, may be taking actions that could jeopardize The American Legion's non-profit status.

Congress sets the membership eligibility criteria for The American Legion, and the laws that govern it are found in Title 36 of the United States Code, Chapter 217, which deals exclusively with our organization. Eligibility is addressed explicitly in 36 USC 21703, a provision most recently amended with the passage of the Legion Act in 2019, and the Internal Revenue Service has promulgated rules based on what the Congressional intent was in the enactment of those laws. For us, the problem arises because Congress and the IRS have created differing rules for veterans of various conflicts, rules that largely do not apply to the SAL.

The IRS, in its Audit Technique Guide for Veterans Organizations, defines a member of a 501(c)19 with the following characteristics:

1. An individual eligible for membership under the constitution and bylaws of the veterans' organization.
2. May attend and vote at membership meetings.
3. Hold office in the organization.
4. Participate in State or National Conventions.
5. Posts remit membership dues for the individual to the central organization.

FOUR RULES OF A SUBSIDIARY PROGRAM

SAL squadrons, detachments, and the national organization are not stand-alone Veteran Service Organizations; rather, they must co-exist through the adoption and sponsorship from a post and cannot have their own EIN or tax-exempt status. This means that the SAL is under the full autonomy of its sponsoring post. If the post chooses to allow the squadron to use the post's EIN and tax-exempt status, that would be predicated on whether the squadron (program) is in full compliance with the Four Rules of a Program. Moreover, the rights and privileges of a program are not the same as those of a Legionnaire, or member of the American Legion Auxiliary. For example, the post bar, restaurant, canteen, or other social activity is intended for Legion members (veterans) of the post, their bona fide guests, and members of the Auxiliary unit, with the revenue remaining in the tax-exempt category. The IRS defines a bona fide guest as an individual a member invites to participate in an activity and pays for his expenses. If the guest pays for his own recreation or food, he isn't a bona fide guest. Social non-members are not eligible for membership in The American Legion. The members of the SAL squadron would be considered social non-members, and therefore, any sales or revenue generated from social non-members may also be subject to Unrelated Business Income (UBI) Tax by the IRS.

The IRS provides an example in the "Tax Guide for Veteran Organizations" (rev. 4-2018.):

Post A has 1,500 individuals who participate in the club's bar and gaming activities. 1,200 are veteran members who are eligible for membership as described in the post's constitution and bylaws. 300 are social non-members. Social non-members are not eligible for membership.

The veterans' organization satisfies the section 501(c)(19) membership requirements because its members are all past or present members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The social non-members are treated as members of the general public for 501(c)(19) purposes. Income from non-member sources may be subject to the unrelated business income tax.

Interpreted by the IRS, SAL members are considered social non-members when they utilize a post's social activities (if the operations are not already open to the general public and paying UBI tax for the income derived), and may generate taxable income if a Legion post member does not sign in that individual and pay for all food and entertainment for the guest. This includes all social or recreational activities of a Post not related to one of the other exempt purposes of a 501(c)19. In all such activities, an SAL member is not considered a member of the organization; therefore, revenue generated by these non-members may be considered taxable income, unless a Legion post member officially signs the non-member into the post and pays for all their purchases and services or another exception to UBI is claimed (such as volunteer labor exception).

In summary, the SAL program should be viewed as a participatory initiative that fosters the development of youth into patriotic Americans as outlined in the SAL Preamble; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism, preserve the memories of veterans from all wars, to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state

and nation, to safeguard the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness, and the last phrase; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands, and to assist in carrying on for God and Country, promotes American values and helps them become productive citizens in our society.

The SAL, as a program, is equivalent to an ALR chapter, Boys' and Girls' State, or Oratorical. All of them are Legion programs, but do not entitle participants or members to equal rights and privileges with veterans eligible for a TAL membership or to privileges commensurate with members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Certainly, no post would assume that a member of the Post's American Legion Baseball team would have unfettered access to the post commensurate with what a Legionnaire enjoys, but some Posts then turn a blind eye to members of the Sons of The American Legion, despite the SAL also being a program.

In order to deal with these issues, we have long had rules governing program operations. Attached to this opinion, you will find our latest incarnation of those rules, along with an acknowledgement section to be signed by the program participant or leader as the Post or Department may determine. Together, these four rules governing Leadership, Rules, Reports and Controls apply to all programs of The American Legion, whether they are our exclusively Youth Programs (Oratorical, Boys State, Shooting Sports, etc.) or programs like the SAL or The American Legion Riders. Regardless of what the program is — whether it be an ambulance service, a rodeo, a yacht club, a cruiser club, or some other program — the four rules apply to each of them.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark C. Seavey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark C. Seavey, Esq.
National Judge Advocate, The American Legion

Officers,

At the fall NEC meetings, a legal opinion from National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey was distributed regarding the Four Rules of a Program. Attached is an update to that legal opinion.

Please note that this updated document is structurally identical to the one distributed to the NEC at the Fall meetings. However, to clarify some of the concepts discussed therein, the NJA's office have incorporated the language used by the IRS in their audits (defining what constitutes membership) and included some clarifying language.

Here's the gist of the **11/06/2025 legal opinion on the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)**:

- **Bottom line:** SAL is a **program of The American Legion**, not a parallel membership class. Treat it like ALR, Boys State, Oratorical, etc.—valued programs, but **not** Legion membership with equal rights and privileges.
- **Why this matters now:** Some Posts and Departments are blurring lines (e.g., submitting SAL names during audits as “members”), which **risks our 501(c)(19) status**. The opinion is issued to stop that drift and align practices to IRS and federal charter rules.
- **IRS lens on SAL at post homes:** For IRS purposes, **SAL members are “social non-members”**. Revenue from their purchases can be **Unrelated Business Income (UBI)** unless a Legionnaire signs them in as a bona fide guest **and pays for all** of their food/entertainment, or another UBI exception applies. The opinion quotes the IRS' veterans' org guide and illustrates with the IRS's bar/gaming example.
- **Program status & EIN:** SAL squadrons/detachments **are not stand-alone VSOs and cannot have their own EIN or tax-exempt status**. They operate **under the sponsoring Post's autonomy**—and only use the Post's EIN **if** they comply with the program rules.
- **The Four Rules of a Program (framework the opinion applies to all programs):**
 1. **Leadership** – Program leadership remains under the **sponsoring Post's** authority.
 2. **Rules** – Programs operate under TAL governing documents and applicable law; **program rights ≠ member rights** (e.g., no automatic access to post social privileges).
 3. **Reports** – Programs must meet required reporting expectations to the Post/Department/National (e.g., keep program rosters separate from TAL membership rolls).
 4. **Controls** – Financial and operational controls reside with the Post; EIN use is contingent on full compliance.
(The opinion names these four areas and applies them to SAL and other programs; the acknowledgement form referenced is attached to the opinion's rules package.)

- **Operational implications called out in the opinion:**
 - **Don't count SAL in TAL membership rolls** for audits, meetings, or eligibility metrics. The IRS definition of a "member" for 501(c)(19) is specific to those **eligible under TAL's constitution/bylaws with voting/office/convention rights**—which does **not** include SAL.
 - **Post social areas (bar/canteen/restaurant):** Intended for **Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and bona fide guests**. SAL members, absent the bona fide guest conditions, are **non-members** for IRS purposes; revenue may be UBI.
 - **Treat SAL like any Legion program** (e.g., ALR, Baseball): participation and service, **not** parity of rights with Legionnaires or Auxiliary members.
- **Context & authority:** The opinion roots SAL's origin as a **youth program** created and sponsored by TAL via National Convention actions, reinforcing program—not membership—status. It also cites Title 36 (TAL charter) and IRS guidance that govern eligibility and tax status.
- **Recommended Post actions** (aligned with the opinion & existing Post operations guidance):
 - Keep **separate rosters**: TAL members vs. SAL participants. Do **not** include SAL on TAL membership lists or audit submissions.
 - Tighten **social-area procedures**: If you allow SAL in the bar/canteen, ensure bona fide guest sign-in **and** the Legionnaire pays, or be prepared to **track/report UBI** with proper accounting.
 - Confirm **financial and governance controls**: All SAL finances run under Post oversight and controls; no separate EINs.
 - Re-train officers/volunteers on **program vs. membership** distinctions; use the **Officer's Guide** sections on post governance and committee oversight as your baseline.
- **Related governance reinforcement:** National guidance urges Posts to **cooperate** with SAL as a program while keeping roles clear and operations compliant (see the Officer's Guide on cooperation and Post operations).

VETERANS STRENGTHENING
AMERICA

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Subject: Scouting Report- December 2025

Scouting Program:

I have purchased 5 additional citizenship medals from flag and emblem. Costing \$156.29 or \$31.26 per medal

Eagle Scout of the Year is due to the District by February 1 2026. It is due to the Department by March 1st 2026. Only one per District will be submitted. Last year, Suffolk County submitted a Scout but other Counties sent them directly to the Department. Those scouts were disqualified because they did not go through the district.

Eagle Scout of the year is a scholarship worth \$10,000 with 3 runner ups valued at \$2500 each. All program submissions are found on the Dept website under scouting.

[Eagle Scout Nomination Form](#) (PDF)

[Outstanding Boy-Scout-Troop-Nomination-Form](#) (PDF)

[Outstanding Cub-Scout-Pack-Nomination-Form](#) (PDF)

[Outstanding Explorer-Post-Nomination-Form](#) (PDF)

[Scouter of Year-Nomination Form](#) (PDF)

[Venturing-Crew-Nomination-Form](#) (PDF)

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey Molitor
Scouting Chair
Suffolk County American Legion