



Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Seminar October 2018 – Indianapolis, IN

Volume One of Two — The Detachment Commander's Section

This book belongs to

Detachment of

HEADS UP! ! !

- Throughout the day National Officers or Chairmen may visit us. Since these men are doing the work of the National Organization this weekend — and some of them sit on more than one Committee and / or Commission — their schedules don't allow a fixed time of attendance. Their input is invaluable so please expect and maybe anticipate these "interruptions."
- The School is designed to give you both a broad and detailed view of the National Organization and how it can help you be the best to your Detachment. There is so much information that this school could easily last a week. Don't expect to process all of the information presented right away. Take notes and follow up later with a letter or phone call if needed to anyone you meet that you feel could help you. No one expects you to be the expert. But you do have to know how to find and access the experts.
- There will be no smoking during the sessions. However, feel free to excuse yourself whenever needed to have a "personal break." We want you to be comfortable. Come and go as you please. Just try not to distract from the other Commanders if you can help it.
- Notice there are two scheduled breaks other than lunch. If you want a beverage (non - alcoholic please) to sip on during the school, please bring it along. There will be water provided by the hotel.

National Detachment Commanders Leadership Seminar 2018 - 2019 SEMINAR AGENDA

- 9:00 AM National Detachment Leadership Seminar
- Registration / Sign Up
- 9:15 AM Commander's Workshop – Past National Commanders: Michael Deacon (IA)
- Welcome & Introductions Joe Gladden (MD)
- Goals of the Workshop
National Organization
- Structure, operations, players
- Administrative responsibilities
- Committees and Commissions
- Role of the N.E.C.
- 10:30 AM Roles & Responsibilities – Past National Commanders: Michael Deacon (IA)
- Job descriptions of Detachment Officers Joe Gladden (MD)
- 11:45 AM Guest Speakers
- National Officers
- 12:00 PM Lunch / Break
- National Vice Commander Regional Round Table
- 12:15 PM Sons of The American Legion - Chairmen
- Americanism - Membership
- Children & Youth - MTD
- Child Welfare - Convention
- Finance - Legislative
- Resolution - Veterans' Employment & Education
- VA & R - Public Media Communications
- Internal Affairs
- 1:15 PM Break – Brain Teaser
- 1:25 PM Administrative Session – Past National Commanders: Michael Deacon (IA)
Joe Gladden (MD)
- 2:30 PM Q & A
- 2:45 PM Break – Brain Teaser
- 3:05 PM Parliamentary Procedure
- 3:55 PM Q & A
- 4:00 PM Public Speaking
- 4:40 PM Q & A
- 5:00 PM Congratulations!

ABOUT YOU!!!

- This is an informal survey of the Detachment Commanders National Instructional Institute.
- We'd like to know a bit more about you.
- Our goal is to make each year's seminar more meaningful than the last. Please take the time to fill out this survey, but remember that it is optional.
- If you choose to complete this survey, turn it in to one of the instructors when you've finished.
- The Survey form is located on the last page of this book.

Introductions

- **Introduce yourself to the Class**
- **Name**
- **Detachment**
- **Title**
- **# of Years as a member**
- **What are your expectations of today's class**
- **Name your favorite college football team**

Commander's Seminar

Notes

National Detachment Commanders Leadership Seminar 2018 - 2019

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National Detachment Commanders Leadership Seminar 2018 - 2019

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Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commanders Seminar

1ST Detachment Commander's Session

2ND Detachment Administrative Session

Detachment Commander's Session

A National Organization

**B Detachment Roles &
Responsibilities**

C Guest Speakers - Goals

D Commission / Committee Chairmen

National Organization

- ***National Operations***
- **National Structure**
- **The National Team**
- **Commissions & Committees**
- **The National Executive Committee**
- **The Role of the National Executive Committeeman**
- **The National Convention**

National Organization

National Operations

- Membership
 - Yearly Issuance of Membership Cards.
 - Processing of Membership Cards from Departments
- Printing Services
 - Membership Applications
 - Data Forms
 - Promotional Materials
- Incentives & Awards
- Administration of Membership Goals
 - What is your Detachment's Goal?
 - Determination of Goal Dates
 - Membership Reports

National Organization

National Operations

Membership

Chartering Authority

Program Administrator

Tracking & Accountability

Data Processing Operations

Materials Source

- Membership Applications
- Member Data Sheets (Transfers)
- Promotional Brochures

National Renewal Program

• Postcard Mailings

➤ October

➤ March Follow-up

➤ May Follow-up

The National Update

Communication to

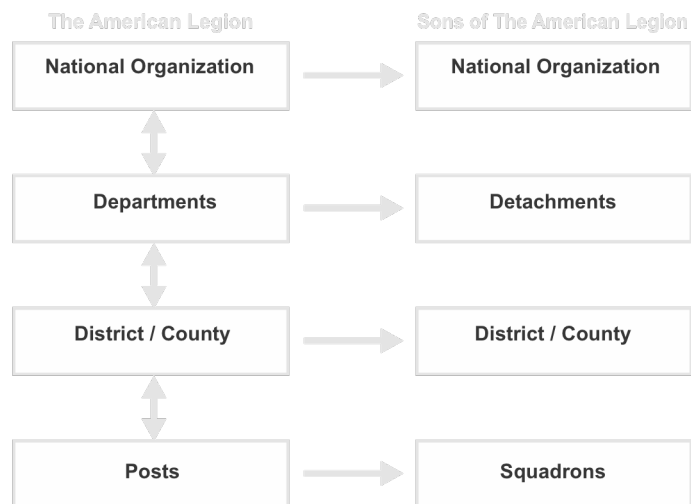
Detachments & Members

National Organization

- National Operations
- *National Structure*
- The National Team
- Commissions & Committees
- The National Executive Committee
- The Role of the National Executive Committeeman
- The National Convention

National Structure

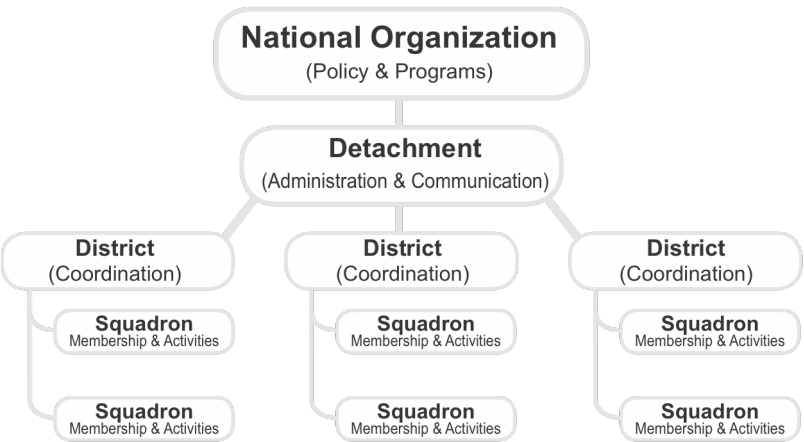
The Sons Parallels with the American Legion



Commander's Seminar

Notes

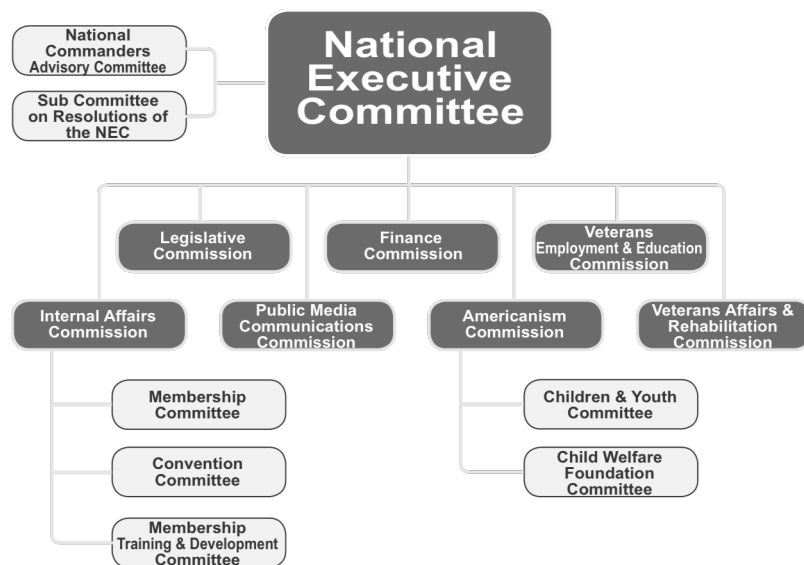
National Organizational Structure



National Officers



Commissions & Committees



National Organization

- National Operations
- National Structure
- *The National Team*
- Commissions & Committees
- The National Executive Committee
- The Role of the National Executive Committeeman
- The National Convention

Commander's Seminar

Notes



Gregg 'Doc' Gibbs
Sons of The
American Legion
National
Commander
2018-2019

SAL National Team **National Vice Commanders**



National Team

National Adjutant – Anthony Wright

**National Assistant Adjutant, Emeritus
– Harold Thompson**

National Assistant Adjutants

Robert J. Avery

Scott Thornton

David Ridenour

Ed Sheubrooks

Scott Williams

Jeffrey E. Hicks

National Team

National Sgt-At-Arms – Gregory A. Falco

National Assistant Sgt-At-Arms

Lyle Larson

Brian K. Waters

Raymond P. Giehll III

Austin Diaz

Charles Curtis

Commander's Seminar

Notes

National Team

- National Commander's Aide – Gary Denmon
- National Judge Advocate – Joseph Paviglianti
- National Historian – Timothy Van Patten II
- National Chaplain -- David Rippe
- National Newsletter Editor – Mike Pipher
- National Web Master –
- National Events Coordinator – Clifford Hall

National Organization

- National Operations
- National Structure
- The National Team
- *Commissions & Committees*
- The National Executive Committee
- The Role of the National Executive Committeeman
- The National Convention

National Commissions

Americanism Commission

Donald Hall (MD) – Chairman

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD) – Chairman

Internal Affairs Commission

Mark A. Tansel (IN) – Chairman

Legislative Commission

Thomas Deal (MD) – Chairman

Public Media & Communications Commission

Seth A. Rippe (NE) – Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Harl Ray (IL) – Chairman

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Chris Carlton (IN) - Chairman

National Committees

Sub Committee of the N.E.C. on Resolutions

John Jennings (FL) – Chairman

Advisory Committee to the National Commander

PNC Douglas P. Bible (MN) – Chairman

Committee on Committees

PNC Raymond P. Giehll Jr. (IN)

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Reports to Americanism Commission

Mark Nave (PA) – Chairman

Children and Youth Committee

Reports to Americanism Commission

Joseph A. Korba (NJ) – Chairman

Commander's Seminar

Notes

National Committees

Member Training & Development Committee

Reports to Internal Affairs Commission

Charles E. Treat (AZ) – Chairman

Convention Committee

Reports to Internal Affairs Commission

Greg Spaulding (IN) – Chairman

Membership Committee

Reports to Internal Affairs Commission

Joseph R. Navarrete (NM) – Chairman

National Organization

- **National Operations**
- **National Structure**
- **The National Team**
- **Commissions & Committees**
- ***The National Executive Committee***
- **The Role of the National Executive Committeeman**
- **The National Convention**

National Organization

- **National Executive Committee**
 - Administrative/Legislative Body
 - One Member Per Detachment
 - One Alternate Member Per Detachment
 - Rules of the NEC
 - Commission & Committee Structure
 - Meetings:*
 - Post Convention
 - Fall
 - Spring
 - Pre Convention

National Organization

- **National Operations**
- **National Structure**
- **The National Team**
- **Commissions & Committees**
- **The National Executive Committee**
- ***The Role of the National Executive Committeeman***
- **The National Convention**

Commander's Seminar

Notes

National Organization

National Executive Committeeman:

- Shall represent the Detachment at all National Executive Committee meetings and the National Convention.
- Shall give a report to the Detachment Executive Committee on all important matters coming out of those meetings.
- Is required to attend all meetings of the Detachment.

National Organization

National Executive Committeeman:

- Is the Official Escort of all National Guests when they are visiting the Detachment. It is also his duty to pick up and deliver all National Guests from airports, train stations, or bus depots.
- Is the escort of National Guests to various functions, such as: Detachment Conventions, D.E.C. Meetings, The Distinguished Breakfast at the Convention, The Department Convention, The Department Auxiliary Convention, parades and etc.
- Is to introduce the National Officers to the Detachment Body.

National Organization

- National Operations
- National Structure
- The National Team
- Commissions & Committees
- The National Executive Committee
- The Role of the National Executive Committeeman
- *The National Convention*

National Convention

- Meeting of “The Assembly”
- Registration & Credentials
- Convention Rules
- Convention Committees
- Action by Resolution
- Election of National Officers
- Approve National Budget
- National Awards
- Reporting to the Membership

Commander's Seminar

Notes

National Convention

Delegates & Delegations - Certification of Delegates

- Elected by Detachment Convention
- Based on Membership
- 105 % Cut Off Date – Delegate Strength
- Delegate Registration Fee
- Apportionment of Delegates
- Delegation Chairman & Secretary
- Alternate Delegates
- The Caucus

National Organization

National Convention

Convention Committees

- Americanism
- Children & Youth
- Constitutional Amendments
- Credentials
- Internal Affairs
- Membership
- Finance
- Legislation & Rules
- VA & R

National Organization

National Convention

Election of National Officers

- National Commander
- National Vice Commanders
 - East Caucus, National Vice Commander
 - West Caucus, National Vice Commander
 - Central Caucus, National Vice Commander
 - South Caucus, National Vice Commander
 - Midwest Caucus, National Vice Commander

Detachment Officers' Duties & Responsibilities Module

Commander's Seminar

Notes

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Commander

- Chief Executive Officer
- Spokesman for the Detachment
- Supervise all other Officers

This individual is entrusted with the important duty of teaching and protecting the cardinal principles of the Sons of The American Legion and the supervision of duties of all other officers of the Detachment. He is guided by the National and Detachment Constitution & Bylaws and by the decisions of the NEC and the Detachment's governing body yet, responsibility for the Detachment's success rests largely upon his shoulders.

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Vice Commander

- Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- Acts for the Commander in his absence or removal
- 1st Vice Commander – Usually the Membership Chairman
- 2nd Vice Commander – Usually the Americanism Chairman

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Vice Commander

- The responsibilities of this office are devoted largely to the membership activities of the Detachment and other duties as assigned by the Commander. There is nothing more important to the lifeblood of the Detachment than membership.
- The First Vice Commander should be willing and able to fill in for the Detachment Commander if the need arises.

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment 2nd Vice Commander

- The responsibilities of this office are concerned primarily with patriotic observances, the development of Detachment activities, and planning entertainment and social features that may be scheduled in conjunction with Detachment meetings.
- Some Detachments may also place this officer in charge of the Detachment's Americanism Program.

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Area / District Vice Commanders

- Acts for the Commander within his specific geographic area
- Coordinates the formation and administration of Districts
- Gives bi-monthly reports to Legion Area Commander
- Gives bi-monthly reports to Area SAL Commissioner

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Adjutant

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Official record keeper (minutes, report, etc.)
- Official correspondent for the organization
- Certifies officers & delegates
- Prepares and sends all required reports from the Detachment to National Headquarters

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Adjutant (*continued*)

This officer is the secretary of the Detachment maintaining contact with individual Detachment Officers as well as Squadrons and the National Organization. The Adjutant also keeps Detachment records and publishes any necessary orders, announcements, and instructions to the Executive Committee as well as the Squadrons.

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Finance Officer

- **Chief Financial Officer**
- **Keeps financial records & may approve disbursements**
- **Handles receipts, deposits & disbursements if required**
- **Works with Department Headquarters to track disbursements for future budgets**
- **Assist Detachment Finance Commission in preparation of the Detachment yearly budget**

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Finance Officer

This officer has the responsibility of receiving Detachment monies and paying all Detachment bills when the Detachment Commander, and/or the Detachment Finance Commission has given authorization for payment. The Finance Officer should have financial reports ready for every Detachment meeting.

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Chaplain

- Spiritual Officer
- Offer prayers at all organization functions
- Officiates at Memorial Services & Funerals
- Sends condolences and get well messages
- Conducts Memorial Services at Detachment Meetings & Detachment Conventions

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Chaplain

This officer is responsible for the spiritual leadership of the Detachment. In addition to attending all meetings, he should be ready upon occasion to take part in the initiation of new members, dedication ceremonies, and the funeral services of a comrade. His opening and closing prayers should be in tune with the type of meeting being attended. The Chaplain needs to be aware of the sick and injured members of the Detachment and take it upon himself to send the appropriate cards or well wishes.

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Historian

- **Archives Officer**
- **Prepares the Commander's Scrap Book**
- **Maintains and preserves important historical records**
- **Detachment Photographer**

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Historian

This officer maintains a current record of the activities of the Detachment as a means of continuing a historical account of its endeavors over the years. The Historian should start a scrapbook, take pictures, send articles to newspapers, and could be the public relations person of the Detachment.

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms

- Security Officer
- Maintains order and decorum during meetings
- Has custody of the colors and other physical assets
- Responsible for setting up the meeting room

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms

This officer is the sentinel or outer guard of the Detachment. In addition to being the custodian of the flag and Detachment standards, he should be ready at all times to assist the Detachment Commander. During meetings he is the eyes and ears for the Commander keeping the flow of traffic to a minimum during meetings and announcing and escorting any guests to the speakers table. This officer is accountable for all Detachment Property.

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Judge Advocate

- Legal Counsel
- Offers rulings on parliamentary procedures, constitutionality, etc.
- Advises the Commander and other Officers about their authority when asked.
- Serves as Parliamentarian
- Is familiar with Roberts Rules of Order
- Writes Resolutions
- Updates the Detachment Constitution and Bylaws

Commander's Seminar

Notes

Detachment Officers' Duties

Detachment Judge Advocate

This officer is the interpreter of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Detachment and may at any time be called upon by the Commander and other Officers and Members of the Detachment to rule on the legality of their actions and decisions insofar as they affect the good of The Sons of The American Legion.



Special Guests

S.A.L. Fall NEC 2018

Notes

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs



“Honor the Past and
Continue the Legacy”

Promote membership, and
The American Legion’s
ideals, principles and
programs

Honor our predecessor's'
achievements by
maintaining their successes
by moving forward to
greater success

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs



Reach 400,000 Members

Achieve greater than 90%
retention of membership

Promote a focused attention
to recruiting Legion and
SAL members in the 25-35
age group

\$8 Million dollar mark in
CWF total donations
by the Sons

Commander's Seminar

Notes

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Greg "Doc" Gibbs was elected national commander of the Sons of The American Legion in Minneapolis, Minn., during the 47th national convention of the Sons of The American Legion.

Greg “Doc” Gibbs was born in Buffalo, NY, the son of a World War II combat Marine. Doc comes from a three-star WWII family where his father and his two uncles all served in WWII and in Korea. Doc’s father served in the Pacific Theater in such hot spots as Bougainville, Iwo Jima and Tinian. The Marine Corps ethic had been passed down to both Doc and his younger brother growing up under some strict rules. Doc’s younger brother, Jeff, served in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Doc has served the Sons for over 19 years through the Hamburg Post #527 in Western New York and received an honorary life membership from his Squadron and Post in 2015. Hamburg is a suburb of Buffalo, NY and boasts the largest Post in combined Legion Family membership in New York. He is currently a tenured university professor and has served as a public school administrator, holding a doctorate/PhD degree from the University of New York at Buffalo in administration. As a tenured Associate Professor, Doc has chaired the Educational Leadership department and served as program director at St. Bonaventure University for the past 13 years.

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Greg served for several years as the only university faculty member on the “Veteran Friendly Campus Committee” at St. Bonaventure University since its inception, setting policy and making recommendations to the university to create a better environment for admissions candidates from the military and newly enrolled veterans and their families.

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Greg’s most recent activity has been as the Legislative Chairman for the Detachment of New York for the past 8 years. While serving as Legislative Chairman he was honored to receive the George B. Evans Grassroots Advocate of the Year in 2013 at the Houston, Texas convention from National SAL Commander Huntzinger (PA).

Doc continues to serve on Congressman Christopher Collins (Rep.-NY) Veterans Affairs Committee. While serving as SAL National Vice Commander, Doc had the opportunity to attend the American Legion Congressional Hearing given by Legion Commander Michael Helm in 2014, sitting in place of Commander Michael Moss (CO).

Commander's Seminar

Notes

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Doc has attended National NECs and Conventions since 2006 and has served as a committee member on the National Children and Youth Committee for several years, National Vice Commander from the East, and most recently as Chairman of the Americanism Commission under Commander Kevin Collier (AK).

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Doc has served as Squadron, County, and District Commander in the past years and has also served as Detachment Commander for New York in 2011-2012. He also served as National SAL Vice Commander from the East in 2014-2015 under Commander Mike Moss (CO). One of Doc's proudest accomplishments was being the co-founder of the William P. O'Connell Memorial ROTC Scholarship from the New York District 7 and 8 Sons that is now in its tenth year, giving scholarship and recognition to a worthy cadet at two of New York's universities that boost large ROTC programs (Rochester Institute of Technology and St. Bonaventure University). Doc received a National American Legion Award for his "contribution and impact to education" from National Legion Commander Paul Morin in 2006.

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

He is a 9 year member of the Legion Riders, Orchard Park Post #567 and also proud to wear the colors of the 9-11 Memorial Post #2001 Riders Group as a charter member as well. Doc attended the New York Legion College in 2011, the first year the Sons were invited to attend. Doc has been honored to serve as a Legion College of New York Faculty member the past four years, the only SAL member to ever do so, co-teaching a session on legislation.

Doc currently serves as the VAVS representative to the Buffalo, NY VA Hospital.

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Doc joined TALARC (The American Legion Amateur Radio Club) in 2011 when it first started. He holds a general license under the call sign WA2GKG. He has successfully completed the three NMI (National Management Institute) training sessions, the American Legion Extension Institute program, and the SAL 5 Star and 10 Ideals Programs.

Doc organized and ran the Erie County, NY level Oratorical Contest for the Legion for several years. He has served as a judge at the National Oratorical Contest in Washington and sat on the first committee to help organize the National American Legion-Samsung Scholarship Alumni Association in 2016.

Commander's Seminar

Notes

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Doc is the Sons representative on the “Vets 4 Vets” Erie County American Legion Committee that is on a multi-year mission to build the first shelter for homeless women vets and their children in New York State. This concept differs in the fact that single mothers who are vets can seek shelter there with their children while they get their lives together and seek education and employment opportunities; all at no cost to the women veterans.

His daughter and son have been members of the Legion family and he has been married to his wife Pam for over 44 years. Pam’s father, Albert Kramer II, also served in the Army just prior to the Korean War.

National Commander – Greg “Doc” Gibbs

Doc and his wife serve as Rotarians with the West Seneca, NY Rotary Club and is also a 36 year member of Amherst Lodge F&AM #981 and a Shriner with Ismalia Shine of Buffalo, NY. Doc received a prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award from West Seneca Rotary in 2013 for work with veterans and local community.

Greg has served as President of the State University of New York at Fredonia Alumni Association for over 7 years and currently serves on the University’s Foundation Board as well.

With his campaign motto of “Honoring the past.....Continuing the Legacy”, he truly looks forward to helping our national organization move forward and aiding the Legion as they approach their next 100 years of service to veterans, military, and our youth.

National Vice Commander (East)

Michael S. Cotten

A twenty three year member of Squadron 28, Oak Orchard Delaware, Mike has held many positions within the Squadron and Detachment, mainly as Adjutant and Commander, as well as Committee chair for, Budget, Membership C&Y, Convention Planning.

Past member on the National Children and Youth Committee. Married for 26 years to Jean and together we have a wonderful daughter and Unit 28 Auxiliary member who attends the University of Delaware.

Owner and operator of Cotten Engineering in Seaford Delaware, a small Engineering and surveying company.

Attended Texas A&M University and participated in the Corps of Cadets.

Both brothers are Squadron 28 members and Live in Texas with my mother who is 94 years young.

“Honor the Past and Continue the Legacy”

- Honor the Past and Continue the Legacy, and continue the great work that has been performed by my predecessors.
- Promote membership, and The American Legion's ideals, principles and programs
- Promote a focused attention to recruiting legion and SAL members in the 25-35 age group

Commander's Seminar

Notes

East Goals

1. **Child Welfare Foundation \$1.50 per member**
2. **National Endowment Fund \$.50 per member**
3. **National Emergency Fund \$1.00/member.**

Each Detachment and Squadron has their local charities where they donate. This is where your local squadron is recognized by your community and where you may draw potential members.

Please document and advertise your contribution to the community and send in your photos.

How we will achieve our Goals

- Through coordination and open sharing of current resources. Allow input from the Detachments during the monthly conference calls and promoting successful and unsuccessful activities with all. Monitoring and communicating status of our programs and projects against the established goals.
- Initiating a one-on-one communication with the Detachments for regular updates on members and activities. Try to make it fun!

Program Deadlines, Events

Detachment representatives, should have the membership goal deadlines in their calendars.

They should also strive to beat those deadline dates by a minimum of 1 week due to mailing and processing to National.

For Membership: Start sending out dues reminders now! Do not wait for the National mailing.

CWF deadline for this year's contributions end in May so send your CWF contribution early.

Program Deadlines, Events

Consolidated reports need to be submitted to National no later than 30 days prior to convention and Squadrons need to have their reports submitted to their Detachments as specified by the Detachments.

Certification of officers for both the Squadrons and Detachments as well as the Detachment officers report, Certified Election of Officers and Detachment Chair Reports should have been submitted. This is so the National Committees have a direct line to the Detachment Committee Chairs for each program.

National Vice Commander (South)

Steve A. Gower

I have been a member of Squadron 327 for 30 years serving on the Executive Board since my first meeting when I was elected Squadron Historian. I have served as Commander a number of times, and as Finance Officer, Adjutant, and Historian.

On the Detachment level...I have served as Detachment Commander 2006-2007, Detachment Vice Commander and currently serve as Judge Advocate, Nominating Committee Chairman, VA Leadership College Director for the SAL, and SAL Son of the year Committee Chairman.

On National level I have served 4 years as Alternate NEC, 4 years NEC, a member of Homeland Security Committee, a member of Child Welfare Foundation Committee, Southern Region Membership Chairman and as a member of the VA&R Commission.

I am also a graduate of the SAL National Management Institute. My proud membership comes through my father who served in the USCG during Korean War.

"Honor the Past and Continue the Legacy"

- Our mission is to spread the word of Commander Gibbs , to share his message and goals to all the Blue capers . They are the life blood of our organization. We need to let them know that without all the hard work they do, we would not exist.
- I need to get all the information coming out from National as well as our NEC meetings to the leadership teams in all the Detachments. They in turn should make sure all of their respective Squadrons receive it.

Notes

South Goals

1. Our mission is to reach an all time high in membership this year with a 90% renewal rate.
2. We also want to help the American Legion by going out and recruiting new Veterans to join our Legion family.

How we will achieve our Goals

We all must get in board with *“Team 100”*.

Do so by signing up new members to the American Legion, through this effort... we also increase the opportunity to sign up more Sons and Auxiliary Unit members.

This will help the whole organization grow.

Commander's Seminar

Notes

Program Deadlines, Events

Upcoming Dates to mark your calendars:

*Washington Conference weekend of
February 24, 2019*

Spring NEC May 6-9, 2019

*101st National Convention held in Indy
August 23-25, 2019.*

These are our National functions.

*All squadrons and detachments should also mark all
events happening in your own states and towns.*

*Please note all activities that help and honor our
Veterans.*

Other Information

*My advice to you is to look around your class...YOU are our
future!*

*Take advantage of the knowledge you will learn here. Some of
you will go back and serve your Detachments well and some of
you will get inspired to come back and serve at the National
level.*

*Inside this class are some future National committee members,
NEC, committee chairmen, and maybe a future National
Commander.*

*All of our National leaders started their journey right where
you're sitting. This is a great way to learn about the SAL at
the National level and develop some friendships that will last a
lifetime.*

National Vice Commander (Central)

Matthew T. Christie

A 25 year member of Squadron #690 in Palatine, Illinois, I have worked my way up through the ranks from Squadron to current National Vice Commander.

Employed as an electrician since 1985, I have worked a number of other jobs in addition.

I am was recently married to my wife, Liz, who is a member of the Palatine Auxiliary. We both volunteer not only for the Legion functions, but are also valued volunteers for our community including our local Jaycees and Rotary Club.

“Honor the Past and Continue the Legacy”

- Honor the past - Continue the Legacy as we celebrate the American Legion's 100th anniversary. To give our parent organization the best birthday present with the highest membership and highest donations. *“A banner year.”*
- Increase Membership and offer help to each state as needed. To be a key contact person assisting you with making direct contact with the appropriate persons that can fulfill your needs. (Committees and Commissions).

Commander's Seminar

Notes

Central Region's Goals

Increase membership by getting younger members more involved.

How we will achieve our Goals?

Promotion and guidance.

Program Deadlines, Events

Emphasize Membership target dates

*Support committee and commission events
– local and regional*

Attend District and State meetings

*Support District and
State fundraising events*

Other Information

*Help promote
our goals
For success*

National Vice Commander (Midwest)

Peter Sierminski

My Eligibility is through my Father, Peter J. Sierminski (deceased) who served on the USS Duluth in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theater.

I am a 24 year member of John Harold Buckley Squadron 32 in Longmont Colorado.

I am employed by BMC in Fort Lupton Co. in the construction industry designing both commercial and residential properties.

My National service includes serving 6 years as Chairman of the National Child Welfare Foundation Committee. Additionally, I am a Past National Asst. Sargent-at-Arms. I am a National Management Institute graduate.

I am married to my wife Candy for 19 years and reside in Longmont, CO.

Commander's Seminar

Notes

"Honor the Past and Continue the Legacy"

- "Team 100" for the American Legion Family
- Giving the best gift to The American Legion on their 100th Anniversary...The all-time
- highest donations to Legion Programs Lead the Mid-west Region though the year and assist Detachments/ Squadrons when the need arises. During visitations bring forward the National Commander's mission to ensure we are working to attain his goals for the year. Make sure we make it a very memorable year and a successful one.

Midwest Goals

1. Make the Mid-west Region lead the Nation in per capita in donations to The Child Welfare Foundation. The Mid-west has always been a leader in total donations to all Legion programs. Put The Sons of The American Legion over the 8 million dollar mark in total donations to CWF. Won't it be great when we get to Eight.
2. Hit the 8 million dollar mark in total SAL donations to CWF- won't it be great when we get to eight!!!
3. Giving the best gift to The American Legion on their 100th Anniversary- highest donations to Legion Programs all-time.

How we will achieve our Goals

Communication is the key to our success. Please take the information you receive in Commander's Training back to your Detachments to share amongst your squadrons.

You are the leadership and carry a responsibility to our organization to ensure our success for the future.

The fate of our success depends on communicating down through our Blue Cap Members. They are the ones that can have the biggest impact in your communities.

Program Deadlines, Events

I encourage all of you to think about attending the Washington Conference held in Washington DC this coming year February 24-27, 2019. The Sons visit memorials as well as The Tomb of The Unknown Soldier to lay wreaths to show our respect for our veterans, They served our great nation and some paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy today. The Legion Family then goes up on the Hill together to meet with Congress on issues that support our veterans.

Please remember that The Child Welfare Foundation works on a fiscal year and in order to have your donations count for this year they need to be in by the last business day May 2019.

Membership is what keeps us strong and a powerful voice that gets noticed as we are out in our local communities. It is the key to our success.

Commander's Seminar

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Other Information

Become a integral part of TEAM 100.
All of us working together can make a difference in the lives of both our veterans and the children of our nation.
Working as a team is key to our success- MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
Thank you for all you do, your efforts don't go unnoticed.
Enjoy your time while here in Indianapolis and remember COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!!

National Vice Commander (West)

Edward M. Cleary
Ed has served in every capacity at the Squadron level and numerous positions within the Detachment: National Executive Committeeman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant/Finance Officer, Detachment Vice Commander, Membership Chairman & VA&R Chairman.
Ed has served on the National level as National Americanism Committeeman, National Child Welfare Committeeman.

“Honor the Past and Continue the Legacy”

We have a goal to reach:
400,000 Members.

Let's reach out to our younger
members....

EMPHASIZE Membership &
Training

West Goals

1. The goal for the Western Region is to Achieve 100% in membership by the American Legion Birthday in March.
2. Renewals are the secret to achieving this goal. We are looking for an average of 90% or better renewal rate from our Detachments

***Work membership
RENEWALS Early!***

Commander's Seminar

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Other Information

National Commander Gibbs has set a goal of reaching the \$8 Million dollar mark in CWF total donations by the Sons.

We can do this!

Better yet...\$9 million would be better.

Let's make the \$8 million mark and strive for the \$9 million mark!

S.A.L. Fall NEC 2018

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Commander's Seminar

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Volume One of Two — The Detachment Commander Seminar



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment Commander Seminar
October 2018 – Indianapolis, IN**