



THE TORCH

September/November

Edition 1



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LEGION COLLEGE SESSION

The Department of New York American Legion College completed another successful session over Father's Day weekend. SUNY Morrisville was a gracious host to the students and faculty, and provided an excellent environment for instructing Legionnaires. Once again, every district in the department was well represented with Ontario county leading the way by sending the most students to Morrisville. As soon as the students arrived on Friday, the College began immediately with an introduction and leadership courses taught by Dean Hannan in the main classroom. Saturday was the busiest day of the weekend with classes starting at 8 am and going well into the evening. The students and faculty were able to blow off the steam of the long day at Kelley Phillips Post #569. The officers and staff at the post were very accommodating to everyone at the college and made sure that a great time was had by all. Sunday was the final day of the college and final group presentations were completed and then followed by graduation. The students in attendance had a very positive experience and their appreciation was shown in the many hugs and handshakes that were given before their departure. We are looking forward to an even bigger and better year in 2013!



Cmdr W. Michael Bowen and Legionnaire Edward Altenau during graduation.

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- *New Officers elected for the NYALCAA*
- *The Legion College and Alumni Association meets Social Media*
- *The Plan to Boost Alumni Membership*
- *Words From The Dean*
- *A Very Distinguished Graduate Of The Quarter*
- *First Annual NYALCAA Dinner to be held in 2013*



The Torch

Dept. Commander

Timothy S. Van Patten

Dept. Adjutant

Richard M. Pedro

Dean of NYALC

M.F. Hannan

NYALCAA President

P.R. Harper



Above— Downtown Rochester

NEW NYALCAA OFFICERS ELECTED DURING CONVENTION

During the 2012 Department convention in Rochester, new officers were nominated and elected to office for the American Legion College alumni association. Past alumni President Raymond Freyn led the meeting as nominations began to flood the floor on the new leadership. When it was all said and done, Pierre Harper was elected as President, Gary Shacker was elected as Vice-President, Jon Badi was elected as Secretary, Jean Williams was elected as Finance Officer and Paul Passineau was voted as the Sergeant of Arms. The 52 members who were present seemed to be quite satisfied with the newly appointed officers and the overall direction of the alumni association.



2012 Legion College Faculty

JOIN THE TEAM!

Do you think you have what it takes to be an instructor for the college? Dean Hannan is now taking applications for instructors for 2013. Interviews will take place at mid winter 2013 and instructor class will be held April 2013 in Geneva. The selection and training of instructors is only every two years. So don't wait until the last minute, get your application in now. The applications are on the Department web site under the Legion College. (www.ny.legion.org/american_college.htm)

PNC MICHAEL J. KOGUTEK TRANSFERS TO POST EVERLASTING

The Torch is sad to report that PNC Michael J. Kogutek passed away on August 30, 2012. PNC Kogutek was elected as the National Commander of the American Legion during the 1980-1981 American Legion year. Commander Kogutek served in the U.S. Navy as a Petty Officer during World War II. The Past National Commander was well known and respected across the entire American Legion and provided a wealth of experience and knowledge to all Legionnaires. May our dearly departed Past National Commander rest in peace.



PNC Michael Kogutek

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our goal for this year is to get our membership to the highest number of alumni possible to pay their dues to the NYALCAA. There are many reasons that people do not pay their dues, but the most common one that we hear is that many people don't attend the mid-winter conference. This year we hope to make it easier for all of the alumni by giving you the opportunity to pay your dues by mail. Once your dues have been received and processed, you will be sent your current year membership card. Dues for the 2012/2013 membership year need to be paid by January 31st to not be considered delinquent. The annual dues are \$5.00 per year and we are encouraging members to pay multiple years in advance if possible. Your dues give the alumni the chance to offer scholarships to the districts and provide the college with whatever they may need to keep the college strong. The 2012 class was able to see the benefit of the alumni association directly. Your alumni association provided the college with a beautiful flag and posts which allowed us to present colors for the first time in the history of the college. We also are able to provide the money to order the beautiful lapel pins that are presented to every graduate of the NYALC.



FACT
 SINCE THE
 INCEPTION OF
 THE NY
 AMERICAN
 LEGION COLLEGE
 OVER 800
 LEGIONNAIRES
 HAVE
 GRADUATED.

THE NY LEGION COLLEGE MEETS SOCIAL MEDIA!

The American Legion College has been on Facebook for a little over a year now and has received good reviews from alumni, supporters and our fellow Legionnaires. We have thousands of page views and 50 “likes” from people who have visited our page. The Facebook page has information, photos and videos from past NY Legion College sessions and gives Legionnaires across the world a chance to see what we are all about. There are many Legionnaires who are not signed up on facebook, but the good thing about our page is that you don't have to have an account to view it. Feel free to check us out at www.facebook.com/nylegioncollege and show YOUR page some support!



Facebook.com/nylegioncollege

PASS THE WORD.....

Once we have graduated from the Legion College and head back to our Posts, Counties and Districts, our fellow legionnaires look for us to come back with a wealth of information and newfound knowledge. There are many things that come up for debate when it comes to our organization. One of the greatest debates is how to wear our cover and decorating it with pins and patches. Well to put to rest, here is a visual explanation of the proper way to display pins and patches on your cover.

The displays shown on the right are the only way that an American Legion cover should be decorated at any time. It has also been debated that five year service stars are the exception to the rule of wearing pins forward of the line. That information is false and there is no exception to the rule. When a Legionnaire is wearing his/her cap they are considered to be in uniform and we need to ensure that not only Legion College grads, but all Legionnaires are wearing their uniform properly.



Correct– Notice how all pins are behind the yellow line. No pins or patches ever go in front of the line where the post number is located.



Incorrect– Notice the 2 pins that are placed in front of the yellow line. The pins placed over the post number and over the department logo are incorrect.



Correct– Notice there are no pins or patches on the emblem side of the cap. The only embroidery allowed is to identify your post, county, district or department.

JUST SO YOU KNOW.....



Shown Above–Many Posts distribute “Stars For Our Troops” packets just like this, but the American Legion does not endorse the use of the flag in this manner.

The National Americanism Commission does not subscribe to the practice of cutting the United States flag into individual pieces prior to its proper disposal no matter what the reason or occasion may be. The Commission is of the opinion that when the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display it should be disposed in its entirety, preferably by burning. The flag began as a whole; therefore it is to be disposed of as a whole. We are aware of organizations such as "Stars for Our Troops" that takes in old, tattered and worn out American Flags, has volunteers cut each embroidered star from the flag, disposes of the stripes properly, and places each star into a tiny plastic bag with a card for members of the Armed Forces at home or overseas. The American Legion does not endorse this use of the flag in this manner.

Information provided by Mike Buss

National Deputy Director of Americanism and Children and Youth

GRADUATE OF THE QUARTER

The graduate of the quarter is none other than our 2012-2013 Department Commander Timothy Van Patten. Commander Tim is a 2005 graduate of the NYALC and has been a member of the organization for over 40 years. Commander Van Patten was selected because of his service to the American Legion and his positive representation of the College across the Department. In an interview with the commander, he expressed how much attending the college has influenced his Legion career and that he is a great advocate of Legionnaires attending the program. Commander Van Patten also discussed that during his visitations across the Department, that he will be spreading the word to about all of the positive things that the college has to offer to all legionnaires. The NYALCAA congratulates Commander Van Patten and we look forward to you continuing to do great things for the NYALC, the Department of New York and the organization as a whole.



Commander Timothy S. Van Patten

2013 CONVENTION WILL HOLD 1ST ALUMNI DINNER



The NYALCAA will be holding its first annual alumni dinner during the 2013 Department convention in Niagara Falls. This dinner will give the alumni of the college a time to fellowship with one another and enjoy a fun night out during convention. The dinner will be held after the parade at the LaSalle American Legion Post in Niagara Falls and will feature a Chinese auction, door prizes and many other fun activities. The proceeds from the event will go towards the NYALCAA to further provide for the College and the

Alumni association. Tickets are \$15.00 per person and will be available at mid winter conference and via the order form on the back of the newsletter. We are asking all of the alumni to wear their red alumni polo shirts to the dinner and all that do not will be subject to a \$1.00 fine. There are a limited number of tickets available, so make sure that you purchase your tickets as soon as possible. The dinner menu will be published in the December edition of the Torch.

WORDS FROM THE DEAN

The American Legion College of New York class of 2012 graduated this past Father's Day and returned home to begin their journey on the path to being a better Legionnaire. They join the more than 750 graduates who are moving up the ranks in their posts, counties, and districts.

The reputation of our college is improving at a rapid pace. We hosted a female Native American Legionnaire from the Department of Montana this year. She was on a 'recon' mission: her Department is hoping to start a college and heard we had one of the best in the country. With close to 50% of our faculty graduates of the National Legion College, we **are** a tough act to follow! While at the national convention in Indianapolis, I was approached by leaders from two other states who are also interested in our college.

Tell fellow Legionnaires to start planning *now* to join you as a graduate, as part of our 10th anniversary class of 2013! Don't let them wait until the last minute to apply as we usually have a waiting list.

We, again, are expanding our faculty and curriculum to provide the best and latest the Legion has to offer. We will be training new instructors next April, so if you are interested in becoming part of one of the Department of NY's most dynamic committees - submit your application directly to me **no later than December 1st**. Interviews will be conducted at Mid-Winter, so don't let the clock get away from you!

The faculty and I look forward to seeing as many of you as we can in the coming months. We also hope you encourage fellow Legionnaires to learn for themselves the many benefits of attending The Legion College of NY.

MF Hannan,
Dean



THE BACK PAGE

If you have graduated from the NYALC, have been elected to a new office, received a new position or just have something that you want to pass along, let us know so we can pass it along in the Torch! Please send all articles and information to NYALCAA@gmail.com and we will do our best to get it in the next edition!



NYALCAA ORDER FORM

Check membership year(s)

- 2012/2013 Membership Year \$5.00
- 2013/2014 Membership Year \$5.00
- 2014/2015 Membership Year \$5.00
- 2015/2016 Membership Year \$5.00
- 2016/2017 Membership Year \$5.00
- Alumni Dinner Ticket(s) @ \$15 per ticket



Total: _____

Method of Payment

- Money Order
- Check

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Graduation Year 20_____

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH!

Please send your check or money order with a self addressed stamped envelope to the NYALCAA Finance Office:

Jean Williams
2087 Michigan Road
Wayland, New York 14573-9525

THANK YOU!

The NYALCAA would like to thank all of the alumni for paying their dues. It is the support that you all give that allows our College and the alumni to continue doing great things. If you know a classmate that has not paid their dues, please encourage them to do so!



Legion College Dorms at SUNY Morrisville

Please feel free to copy or print this form to submit your dues payment to the NYALCAA. Be advised that you DO NOT have to pay multiple years of dues at one time and paying more than one year in advance is your own personal option. Please annotate your graduation year on your check.