

PROGRAM

105th ANNUAL CONVENTION – WESTCHESTER, NY 2023 -THE AMERICAN LEGION – DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

The order of the program is subject to change without notice therefore, it is important that Delegates and Alternates be present at all times. It is VERY IMPORTANT that ALL Delegates and Alternates be in their seats at all times in order to do justice to the County which they represent AND as a mark of respect for the people who have come to address our Convention attendees. For your convenience and to allow for relaxation, sessions are limited to the morning hours only.

WEDNESDAY – July 19, 2023

10:00AM – 3:00PM – Registration of Delegates, Alternates, and Guests at **Westchester Marriott**
(Thursday – Saturday registration begins at 8:00 AM.)

2:30 PM – Department Executive Committee Meeting

THURSDAY – July 20, 2023

9:00 AM	Convention Assembles	
	Call to Order	Department Commander David Riley
	Advancement of Colors	Department Color Guard
	Invocation	Department Chaplain Fr. Robert J. Sweeney
	Pledge of Allegiance	Department Master-at-Arms Richard Calbo
	National Anthem	Steve Felsenfeld , Convention Co-Chair
	POW/MIA Remembrance	Keith Koster
	Call to Convention/Roll Call	Department Adjutant James W. Casey

Greetings	General Convention Chairman	Westchester Convention Chairman Ronald Tocci
Welcoming Remarks		Westchester County Executive - George Latimer
Welcoming Remarks		President Puppies Behind Bars Gloria Gilbert Stoga
Memorial Service		Department Chaplain, Fr. Robert J. Sweeney
Report		Department Commander David Riley
Report		Department Treasurer John C. Clancy
Report		Credentials Chairman Richard K. Morris
Address, National Vice Commander		Paul Kennedy
Report		National Executive Committeeman Michael Bowen
Report		National Security Chairman – Peter Del-Debbio
Presentation of Legionnaire of the Year		Chairman, Joseph Goonan
Report		American Legion College Dean Timothy Collmer
Report		Resolutions Chairman – Frank Peters
Presentation of Law & Order Awards		Chairman, Cynthia Nelson
Report -		Scouting Chairman Stephen Mataraza
Presentation		Eagle Scout of the Year - Samuel Mozzillo
Report		Jr. Shooting Chairman Lawrence Behling
Presentation of Americanism Awards		Chairman John Miga
Presentation of Dept. Membership Awards		Chairman Gene Ordmandy
The American Legion Mountain Camp Trust		Trustee, Denis McEneaney

**DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BEFORE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS EVERYDAY RECESS –
Followed by District Caucuses**

FRIDAY – July 21, 2023

9:00 AM	Convention Assembles	
	Call to Order	Department Commander David Riley
	Invocation	Department Chaplain Rev. Robert J. Sweeney
	Pledge of Allegiance	Department Master-at-Arms Richard Calbo
	Roll Call	Department Adjutant James W. Casey
Greetings		A/L Auxiliary President Nancy Babis
Report		Department Historian Frank Carletta
Address & Presentation		Legislative Committee Chairman Lee Hinkleman
Report		AL Boys' State Director David Cariddo
Remarks		2023 American Legion Boy's State Governor - Jonah Williams
Report and Introduction		Oratorical Chairman Anthony L. Paternostro
Address		2023 Oratorical Winner – Ian Chung
Report		Credentials Committee Chairman Richard K. Morris
Report		Resolutions Committee Chairman – Frank Peters
Report		Public Relations Chairman Robert G. Stronach
Presentation		Department Public Relations Award – Janice Gravely
Report		Veteran Services Committee Chair- Eilene Fisher
Presentation		Sampson Service Officer of The Year Award - Eilene Fisher
Report – DSO's		NYC - David Sprinkle & Buffalo Office- Carrie Ahearn
Presentation		Meritorious Service Award – Pat Rourke
Presentation		Employment Chairman Thomas C. Rielly
Presentation		Children & Youth Chairman Arthur Forman

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SATURDAY – July 22, 2023

9:00 AM	Convention Assembles	
	Call to Order	Department Commander David Riley
	Invocation	Department Chaplain Fr. Robert J. Sweeney
	Pledge of Allegiance	Department Master-at-Arms Richard Calbo
	National Anthem	Steve Felsenfeld , Convention Co-Chair
	Roll Call	Department Adjutant James W. Casey
Greetings		Detachment Commander SAL Timothy VanPatten II
Final Report		Credentials Committee Chairman Richard K. Morris
Presentation – Scholarship Awards		Department Commander – David R. Riley
Report		Veteran Preferences – Al Etkin
Report		JROTC Advisor John R. Kasmer, Jr. & Jeffrey Cipolla
Remarks		JROTC Cadet Issac Deng
Achievement Award –		Presented by Tim Collmer
Supporting Special Olympics		Recipient Emily Brushafer
SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS		
		Presentation of Colors to Retiring Department Commander
		Nomination of Department Officers
		Election of Department Officers
		Installation of Department Officers
UNFINISHED BUSINESS		
Raffle Drawing – Sweepstakes & 50/50		Department Commander David Riley
Benediction		Department Chaplain Rev. Robert J. Sweeney
Retirement of Colors		Department Color Guard

ADJOURNMENT

NEWLY ELECTED DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN REPORTS
BY CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

American Legion College	Dean	Tim Collmer
American Legion Riders	Director	Ed Morris
Americanism	Chairman	John Miga
Audit - Internal	Chairman	Joseph Porempski
Back to God	Chairman	Robert A. Conway
Baseball	Chairman	Michael Macchonie
Blood Donor	Chairman	Ken Weaver
Bowling	Chairman	Ritchie Turck
Children & Youth	Chairman	Arthur Forman
Constitution & By-laws	Chairman	W. Patrick Falvey
Compensation	Chairman	John C Clancy
Compliance	Chairman	Dennis McCarthy
Contest Advisory & Awards	Chairman	John P. Siefert
Convention	Chairman	James R. Bojanowski
Credentials	Chairman	Richard K. Morris
Distinguished Guests	Chairman	Mikel P. Buczkowski
Education & Scholarship	Chairman	Leslie Crossett
Employment	Chairman	Thomas C. Rielly
Energy & Conservation	Chairman	Thomas Wagner
Family Support/Heroes to Hometowns	Chairman	Kathryn Kindle
Finance	Chairman	Denis McEaney
Foreign Relations	Chairman	Gabe Mui
Golf Tournament	Chairman	Auseklis Krumins
Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness	Chairman	Juan Diaz
Jr. Shooting Sports Program	Chairman	Lawrence L. Behling
Law & Order	Chairman	Cynthia Nelson
Legionnaire of the Year Award	Chairman	Joseph Goonan
Legislative	Chairman	Lee Hinkleman
Media & Communications	Chairman	Robert Stronach
Membership	Chairman	Gene Ordmandy
Mid-Winter Conference	Chairman	Harvey Martel
National Security	Chairman	Peter DelDebbio
National Security	ROTC Advisor	John R. Kasmer, Jr.
Oratorical	Chairman	Anthony L. Paternostro
POW/MIA Liaison	Chairman	Dennis E. McLoone
Protocol	Chairman	Sharon Rayno
Resolutions	Chairman	Michael Suter
SAL	Advisor	Carl Griffith
Scouting	Chairman	Stephen A. Mataraza
Veterans Service	Chairman	Eilene Fisher
Veterans' Cemeteries	Chairman	Robert Dyer
Veterans' Preference	Chairman	Al Etkin
A.L.I.V.E	Chairman	Janice Gravely

2022-2023 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

COMMANDER

David R. Riley

DEPARTMENT VICE-COMMANDERS

Districts 1 & 9 Colleen McCarthy

District 2 & 10 Paul Schottenhamel

Districts 3 & 4 Edwin Burmaster

Districts 5 & 6 Leo Mackin

Districts 7 & 8 James Bojanowski

ADJUTANT

James W. Casey

TREASURER

John C Clancy

CHAPLAIN

Rev. Robert J. Sweeney

HISTORIAN

Frank Carletta

JUDGE ADVOCATE

W. Patrick Falvey

NEC

W. Michael Bowen

ANEC

Timothy VanPatten, Sr.

MASTER-at-ARMS

Richard F. Calbo

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

1st Peter DeDebbio

2nd William Magnuski

3rd Thomas Burrall

4th William Liberis

5th Daivd Rowe

6th Cassondra Fawcett

7th Dale Mosher

8th Henry Link

9th George DeChamp

10th Frank Colon, Jr.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR AWARD

YEAR	LEGIONNAIRE	POST	COUNTY	DISTRICT
1981	Donald Heath*	Honeyford Memorial Post 110	Greene	3 rd
1982	Estelle Mohr*	Staten Island Women's Post 1598	Richmond	2 nd
1983	Edward Lawrence	Kirk-Casey Post 366	Seneca	7 th
1984	James A. Capasso*	Henry Cornell Post 234	Saratoga	4 th
1985	Howard Bushart*	Williamson Post 394	Wayne	7 th
1986	Frederick C. Schmaling*	Port Chester Post 93	Westchester	9 th
1987	Levi Bentley*	Johnson-Costello Post 355	Yates	7 th
1988	David Ossman*	Leo Laders Post 130	Rockland	9 th
1989	Vincent J. Tripi*	Harvey L. Brady Post 354	Livingston	4 th
1990	Albert A. Sheldrake*	Medos A. Nelson Post 504	Clinton	4 th
1991	Helen G. Jacob*	Erieco Women's Post 1586	Erie	8 th
1992	Francis R. Tripi*	Harvey L. Brady Post 354	Livingston	7 th
1993	Edward J. Klimek*	Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520	Albany	3 rd
1994	John J. Glegota, Jr.*	Niagara Frontier Post 1041	Erie	8 th
1995	Peter Holowecki*	Williston Post 144	Nassau	10 th
1996	Richard F. Williams*	Town of Esopus Post 1298	Ulster	3 rd
1997	Thomas P. McKee*	Betowski-Van De Mark Post 492	Tioga	6 th
1998	Joseph E. Sills, Jr.	Kingston Post 150	Ulster	3 rd
1999	Vincent J. Buccigrossi*	Geo. Washington Memorial Post 1872	Kings	2 nd
2000	James W. Wyckoff*	Manning-Lilla Post 463	Seneca	7 th
2001	Andrew Affrunti	Floyd Bennett Post 1060	Kings	2 nd
2002	Paul A. Cortright*	John B. Lyman Post 904	Jefferson	5 th
2003	Louis D. Ulino	Massapequa Post 1066	Nassau	10 th
2004	Dennis McCarthy	West Seneca Post 735	Erie	8 th
2005	Alfred DeMizio*	Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520	Albany	3 rd
2006	Steven W. Bowman	Russell B. Childs Post 769	Clinton	4 th
2007	Alwin H. O'Donnell	South Buffalo Post 721	Erie	8 th
2008	Salvatore Ascione*	Dept. of Water Supply Gas and Electric Post 1008	New York	1 st
2009	Charles W. Dolson	Sergeant Ronald Grey Post 1542	Putnam	9 th
2010	John A. Murray	Kirk-Casey Post 366	Seneca	7 th
2011	Edward R. Lupian	Gerald O'Neil Post 1683	Rensselaer	3 rd
2012	Walter T. Gaun	Kirk-Casey Post 366	Seneca	7 th
2013	Frank F. Gee	Lt. B.R. Kimlau Post 1291	New York	1 st
2014	Charles Schack	East Aurora Post 362	Erie	8 th
2015	Linda S. Yelle	Montgomery Post 912	Clinton	4 th
2016	Joseph Mondello	Theodore Korony Post 253	Bronx	1 st
2017	Betsy J. Gips	Mead Post 163	Madison	6 th
2018	Robert C. Gardner	George F. Riordan Post 974	Broome	6 th
2019	Shirley Connolly	Marne Post 270	Putnam	9 th
2020	Wayne Baumgartner	Milton J. Brounshidle Post 205	Erie	8 th
2021	David Cariddo	Mahopac American Legion Post 1080	Putnam	9 th
2022	Gabe Mui	Lt. B.R Kimlau Chinese Memorial 1291	New York	1 st

*Deceased

SAMPSON SERVICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Department of New York Service Officer of the Year Award was started in 1998 to recognize and encourage extraordinary technical expertise and dedication of professional service officers in the execution of advocacy services for military personnel, veterans, and their dependents.

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle And For his widow and orphan”

YEAR	SERVICE OFFICER	POST	COUNTY	DISTRICT
1998	Robert G. Mitchell	Adirondack Post 70	Saratoga	4 th
1999	Edward L. Mazzochi	Argyle Post 1518	Washington	4 th
2000	Derek M. Davey	Beaver River Memorial Post 1663	Lewis	5 th
2001	Warren J. Manor*	Plattsburgh Post 20	Clinton	4 th
2002	Jerold A. Klein	Northport Post 694	Suffolk	10 th
2003	Robert B. Whitbeck	Greenville Post 291	Greene	3 rd
2004	Franklin E. Tower*	Butts-Clark Post 204	Orleans	8 th
2005	James A. Carra	James Cooke Post 931	Ontario	7 th
2006	Albert D. Ramsey	Frank A. Rea Post 1163	Westchester	9 th
2007	John B. Sampson	Hughes-Skiba Post 535	Cattaraugus	8 th
2008	P. Earle Gleason	Johnson-Costello Post 355	Yates	7 th
2009	Ronald Romaszka	Wilson Ritch Post 432	Suffolk	10 th
2010	Daniel Morea	Beacon Post 302	Dutchess	9 th
2011	Denis Oliver	Charles E. Westcott Post 173	Steuben	7 th
2012	Nelson E. Rivera	Arlington-Town of Poughkeepsie Post 1302	Dutchess	9 th
2013	Frank E. Hollister	Walter Klein Post 532	Livingston	7 th
2014	Steven Bowman	Russell B. Childs Post 769	Clinton	4 th
2015	Donna W. Kestner	Homer Russell Smith Post 587	Oswego	5 th
2016	Peter J. Fazio	Watertown Army & Navy Post 61	Jefferson	5 th
2017	William Rodriguez	William Merrit Hallock Post 155	Suffolk	10 th
2018	Eder E. Paredes	Donald M Konrad Post 1954	Westchester	9 th
2019	Jeremy Marshall	Canandaigua Post 256	Ontario	7 th
2020	Carrie Ahearn	Johnson-Costello Post 355	Yates	7 th
2021	Daniel Griffin	White Plains Post 135	Westchester	9 th
2022	Eilene Fisher	Timothy Murphy Post 248	Schoharie	3 rd
2023	Dana Verissimo	Mahopac Post 1080	Mahopac	9 th

*Deceased

Convention Sites

YEAR	#	DEPARTMENT	NATIONAL	YEAR	#	DEPARTMENT	NATIONAL
1919	1 st	Rochester	Minneapolis	1977	59 th	Binghamton	Denver
1920	2 nd	Albany	Cleveland	1978	60 th	Syracuse	New Orleans
1921	3 rd	Jamestown	Kansas City	1979	61 st	Rochester	Houston
1922	4 th	Syracuse	New Orleans	1980	62 nd	New York City	Boston
1923	5 th	Saratoga Springs	San Francisco	1981	63 rd	Syracuse	Hawaii
1924	6 th	Alexandria Bay	St. Paul	1982	64 th	Syracuse	Chicago
1925	7 th	New York City	Omaha	1983	65 th	Buffalo	Seattle
1926	8 th	Niagara Falls	Philadelphia	1984	66 th	Buffalo	Salt Lake City
1927	9 th	Troy	Paris, France	1985	67 th	Rochester	New Orleans
1928	10 th	Schenectady	San Antonio	1986	68 th	Syracuse	Cincinnati
1929	11 th	Utica	Louisville	1987	69 th	Lake Placid	San Antonio
1930	12 th	Saratoga Springs	Boston	1988	70 th	Niagara Falls	Louisville
1931	13 th	Syracuse	Detroit	1989	71 st	Buffalo	Baltimore
1932	14 th	Brooklyn	Portland	1990	72 nd	Binghamton	Indianapolis
1934	16 th	Buffalo	Miami	1991	73 rd	Rochester	Phoenix
1935	17 th	Rochester	St. Louis	1992	74 th	Buffalo	Chicago
1936	18 th	Syracuse	Cleveland	1993	75 th	Syracuse	Pittsburgh
1937	19 th	Troy	New York City	1994	76 th	Niagara Falls	Minneapolis
1938	20 th	Endicott	Los Angeles	1995	77 th	Rochester	Indianapolis
1939	21 st	Albany	Chicago	1996	78 th	Albany	Salt Lake City
1940	22 nd	Schenectady	Boston	1997	79 th	Syracuse	Orlando
1941	23 rd	Rochester	Milwaukee	1998	80 th	Buffalo	New Orleans
1942	24 th	Syracuse	Kansas City	1999	81 st	Binghamton	Anaheim
1943	25 th	New York City	Omaha	2000	82 nd	Niagara Falls	Milwaukee
1944	26 th	Buffalo	Chicago	2001	83 rd	Rochester	San Antonio
1945	27 th	Troy	Chicago	2002	84 th	Albany	Charlotte
1946	28 th	New York City	San Francisco	2003	85 th	Syracuse	St. Louis
1947	29 th	Niagara Falls	New York City	2004	86 th	Buffalo	Nashville
1948	30 th	Saratoga Springs	Miami	2005	87 th	Binghamton	Hawaii
1949	31 st	Buffalo	Philadelphia	2006	88 th	Rochester	Salt Lake City
1950	32 nd	Syracuse	Los Angeles	2007	89 th	Niagara Falls	Reno
1951	33 rd	New York City	Miami	2008	90 th	Albany	Phoenix
1952	34 th	Saratoga Springs	New York City	2009	91 st	Buffalo	Louisville
1953	35 th	Rochester	St. Louis	2010	92 nd	Syracuse	Milwaukee
1954	36 th	New York City	Washington, DC	2011	93 rd	Binghamton	Minneapolis
1955	37 th	Buffalo	Miami	2012	94 th	Rochester	Indianapolis
1956	38 th	Rochester	Los Angeles	2013	95 th	Niagara Falls	Houston
1957	39 th	Syracuse	Atlantic City	2014	96 th	Albany	Charlotte
1958	40 th	New York City	Chicago	2015	97 th	Buffalo	Baltimore
1959	41 st	Syracuse	Minneapolis	2016	98 th	Binghamton	Cincinnati
1960	42 nd	Buffalo	Miami	2017	99 th	Syracuse	Reno
1961	43 rd	Albany	Denver	2018	100 th	Rochester	Minneapolis
1962	44 th	New York	Las Vegas	2019	101 st	Buffalo	Indianapolis
1963	45 th	Rochester	Miami	2020	102 nd	Binghamton(CXL)	Cancelled COVID
1964	46 th	Syracuse	Dallas	2021	103 rd	Albany	Phoenix
1965	47 th	Buffalo	Portland	2022	104 th	Binghamton	Milwaukee
1966	48 th	Albany	Washington, DC	2023	105 th	Westchester	Charlotte
1967	49 th	Buffalo	Boston	2024	106 th	Niagara Falls	New Orleans
1968	50 th	Syracuse	New Orleans				
1969	51 st	Niagara Falls	Atlanta				
1970	52 nd	Buffalo	Portland				
1971	53 rd	Rochester	Houston				
1972	54 th	Syracuse	Chicago				
1973	55 th	Binghamton	Hawaii				
1974	56 th	Niagara Falls	Miami				
1975	57 th	Rochester	Minneapolis				
1976	58 th	Syracuse	Seattle				