THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Squadron 124
38 Broad Street
Westfield, Massachusetts 01085

S.A.L. Squadron124 Meetings – Second Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M.

COMMANDER'S Message

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 is through the first quarter of its fifth membership year and we're off to an outstanding year. It's both humbling and gratifying to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion and to honor those who serve. Since the reactivation of the S.A.L. Squadron 124 charter in the 2014 membership year, we've worked extremely hard to support American Legion Post 124 and the four pillars of service of the American Legion. Membership is critical to our success and without a doubt membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We need to continue our focus on recruiting and retention to remain healthy, viable and relevant.

I had the honor and privilege to be a Delegate to the 46th Convention of the Sons of the American Legion this past August. At the national convention, I was humbled to accept the National Children & Youth Award for 2017 for the Eastern Region. The Westfield Squadron 124 to win this award is quite significant. The Eastern Region comprises the Detachments of all six New England states, the Detachments of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, West Virginia and the Detachment of France. To win a national award that recognized our efforts with Children & Youth is something that all of us in the American Legion Post 124 family should take great pride in. At the Detachment Convention convened in June 2017 in Plymouth, the Squadron won the 2nd annual and consecutive winners of the Thomas W. "Wiggy" Wigmore Four Pillars of Service Award. This is the most significant and prestigious award presented by the Detachment of Massachusetts. This award is based upon our donations of money and volunteer hours to support Veterans and Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth, and National Security (the four pillars of the American Legion).

At the American Legion National Convention, Denise Rohan of Wisconsin was elected as the National Commander, the first woman Commander of the American Legion. Her theme for the 2017-2018 membership year is "Family First". National Commander Denise Rohan recently said, "We all have our personal families, when you join the military, you find out you get new brothers and sisters, when you go through basic training - You get a new family. You learn that you need to depend on each other." The same is the case with the American Legion, which Rohan described as a "great family," comprised of the "Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders. You put that family together, and you can do extraordinary things." The leadership of the American Legion Post 124 family shares those same beliefs and the National Commander of the American Legion Denise Rohan. I think you'll find that we've come a long way in these last few years in living those words at American Legion Post 124.

Danny Smith of Nebraska was elected as the National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion at the National Convention in Reno. Commander Smith's theme for the year 2016-2017 is "We can do it!" That is "*To come together as an organization and work together with those common goals we all share."* Clearly, Commander Smith fully supports the same vision of "Family First" as National Commander Rohan of the American Legion has shared with us. S.A.L. National Commander Danny Smith has established goals for the Sons of the American Legion that the Westfield Squadron 124 will fully support to meet or exceed. These goals include supporting the Endowment Fund and donating $ 0.50 per member, National Emergency Fund: $ 0.50 per member, Child Welfare Foundation, donate $ 1.00 per member and to encourage all members to promote and support Americanism Programs. The Westfield Squadron 124 goal for membership is to Retain, Recruit and obtain 103 % of the 2016-2017 membership - Goal is 193 total members.

Each of us shares a responsibility in helping our great American Legion Post 124 Family to grow in numbers. Membership is a critical element in our service to God, Country and Community.