

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Wisconsin**

Springl Detachment Executive Committee Minutes April 18, 2026

Opening

Call to Order

Saturday April 18, 2026 Detachment Commander Christopher Dannenmann (434) called to order the Springl Detachment Executive Committee meeting being held in Portage, WI at 12:30 pm.

Salute the Colors

Invocation

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Reciting of the S.A.L. Preamble

Blue Star Banner Ceremony

Welcome by Detachment Commander Christopher Dannenmann (434)

Roll Call of Detachment Officers

Taken by the Detachment Adjutant David Faust (245). Voting Officers:

Detachment Commander	Christopher Dannenmann	(434)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Steven R. DuBois	(143)	Excused
Detachment Vice Commander	Jeremy Mason	(015)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Dave Hodgson	(522)	Present
Detachment Vice Commander	Randy Timms	(375)	Excused
Detachment Chaplain	John L'Huillier	(434)	Excused
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Rick Helms	(070)	Present
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms	Ray Dzieciol	(534)	Absent
National Executive Committeeman	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Alternate National Executive Committeeman	Mike Pook	(375)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	Allen Watry	(038)	Present
Past Detachment Commander	David Fuller	(209)	Absent
Past Detachment Commander	Robert Sirovina, Jr.	(434)	Present
1st District Commander	Michael A. Hellquist	(021)	Excused
2nd District Commander	Dave Hodgson	(522)	Present
3rd District Commander	Dave Havlik	(491)	Excused
4th District Commander	Terry Barrington	(416)	Present
6th District Commander	Shawn D. McCrary	(075)	Present
7th District Commander	Scott Johnson	(051)	Absent
9th District Commander	Robert G Seide	(038)	Present
10th District Commander	Rick A. Talford	(291)	Present

Roll Call of Non-Voting Detachment Officers

Detachment Judge Advocate	Allen Watry	(038)	Present
Detachment Historian	Mike Pook	(375)	Present
Detachment Adjutant	David R. Faust	(245)	Present
Detachment Assistant Adjutant	Christopher Sherman	(071)	Present
Department S.A.L. Chairman	Christopher Dannemann	(434)	Present

A motion was made by Past Detachment Commander Allen Watry (038) to recognize Alan McCormick (229) as the representative for the Third District with voice only. The motion was seconded by 6th District Commander Shawn McCrary (075) and passed.

Introduction of Guests

The following guests were introduced:

- Wisconsin Department Adjutant Julie Muhle

Reading of the Previous Minutes

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Christopher Sherman (071).

Past Detachment Commander Robert Sirovina Jr. (434) made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2026 Detachment Executive Committee meeting as published. The motion was seconded by 4th District Commander Terry Barrington (416) and passed.

Official Correspondence

Detachment Adjutant David R. Faust (245):

- Correspondence included:
 - A discussion on inviting a national officer for the 26-27 year, with a suggestion to invite candidate Mr. Monserud to the upcoming convention.
 - A heartfelt thank-you message from the family of Thomas Petrie for the detachment's support and participation in his services.

Detachment Officer Reports

Detachment Vice Commander – Steven R. DuBois (143) Districts (10, 11, 12) along with District Commanders.

See attached report.

- Vice Commander Dubois was excused.
- The commander for District 10 Rick Talford emphasized the importance of quarterly communication from squadrons. He has successfully achieved 100% quarterly reporting for nine months.
- This process helps track activities for CSRs and provides a clear view of district engagement.
- It was noted that the 12th district is in the process of being formed for the SAL.

Detachment Vice Commander – Jeremy Mason (015) Districts (2, 6, 9) along with District Commanders.

See attached report.

Highlights from the Districts:

- **District 2:** Focus is on member engagement. The district is working on establishing new squadrons in Allentown, Mayville, Rio, and Fredonia. Communication and direct support at meetings are key strategies.

- **District 6:** A "block try" fundraiser for ALF is scheduled for May 30th in Fond du Lac. The spring conference is April 26th, with a follow-up visit to Manitowoc on April 27th to discuss a new squadron.
- **District 9:** Squadrons are active with color guards, funeral honors, and the all-SAL baseball program (Squadron 38). The district is planning summer travel to all nine squadrons and is holding fellowship events like a cheese fest and a hockey game outing.

Detachment Vice Commander – Dave Hodgson (522) Districts (3, 7, 8) along with District Commanders.

- District Three is at 105% membership, ranking in fourth place.
- District Seven is at 85% and District Eight is at 82%.
- In District Seven, 5 out of 11 squadrons are at 100%.
- Smaller squadrons in northern areas, with minimums of 10-15 members, have difficulty holding meetings, impacting support.
- District Eight faces similar issues, with 4 out of 9 squadrons at 100%.
- Younger members' availability for events can be limited, but their desire to honor veterans remains strong.
- District One is performing well at 99.27% membership.
- District Four is at 85.16%, with one squadron at only 11.11%. Reaching their target would bring the district to 98%.
- District Five has only two members, at 13.33% of its goal. These members live in the Fourth District.
- The Third District is now up to 19 squadrons.
 - Richland Center submitted paperwork 5-6 weeks ago.
 - A district vice commander will follow up with Argyle.
- Communication is difficult with about half of the squadrons that do not hold regular meetings.
- A lack of education was identified, as many Legion posts were unaware of what a Sons Squadron was. Educating posts has been helpful.
- The Third District Spring Conference will be held tomorrow in Dodgeville at the Legion Post building.
- The "Coin Challenge" is active again, with proceeds from collecting pocket change going to the ALF Dog program.
- The September Relay is scheduled for September 12th.
 - This event supports troop and family support and raises awareness for veteran suicide prevention.
- A member has been calling non-renewing Legion and SAL members to understand their reasons for not renewing.
- A joint meeting between a squadron and its post is suggested to improve engagement, allowing SAL members to attend post meetings.

Chaplain's Retreat Information

- The American Legion is hosting a Chaplains retreat at Camp American Legion from June 1st to 5th.
- This year, the event is expanded to a week-long event and is open to spouses.
- The retreat aims for an attendance of 50 chaplains or couples.
- Information is available on the wilegion.org website under events.

Detachment Vice Commander – Randy Timms (375) Districts (1, 4, 5) along with District Commanders.

See attached report from District 1 Commander Michael Hellquist.

Detachment Chaplain – John L'Huillier (434)

No Report.

Detachment Historian – Mike Pook (375)

See attached report.

Highlights:

- The book is up to date as of last Saturday's testimonial dinner.
- Mike discussed submitting articles and pictures to the Badger Legionnaire and the national newsletter. A picture from the fourth district spring meeting was featured in the national newsletter.
- "Snapshots of Service," a national-level submission for noteworthy pictures was mentioned. A submission form is required. The program was started in 2008 by National Historian Michael L. Lowell.
- A reminder was given for squadrons or districts to notify Adjutant Dave and Historian Mike by July 1st if they plan to submit a yearbook for the state competition.

"Operation Homeless Veterans" Yearbook

- Mr. Pook created a photo album yearbook documenting all "Operation Homeless Veterans" encampments since 2019.
- The book includes fundraising numbers for various locations and years, such as Hartland, Orfordville, La Crosse, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee County, and Balsam Lake.
- The book also contains photos from National Commander Bill Clancy's visit. Speaker 4 suggested replacing these pages in the future with more information about the program's evolution.
- One copy of the book will be signed by DEC members and given to National Commander Bill Klein.
- A second book was created, and its intended recipient on the national level is undecided. It was suggested to bring it to the NEC to find a suitable home.
- Speaker 4 submitted a cost report for reimbursement for producing the two books.

Discussion on a Historic Flag

- A very old and fragile flag, originally from the Milwaukee American Legion, is in Speaker 2's possession.
- It was suggested to take a group photo with the flag laid out on a large table after the meeting for historical documentation.
- The flag's origin traces back to the 2010 national convention, where it was left behind and claimed by Dennis Stockfish, who then passed it on.

National Executive Committeeman – Christopher Sherman (071)

- The NEC meeting is in two weeks. Attendees will include Mike Pook, Shawn McCrary, myself, Allen Watry, and the David Faust
- Nominations for national committees were submitted:
 - Alan Watry for National Convention and Meetings.
 - Sean McCrary for Americanism.
 - Mr. Pook for Media and Communications.
 - Christopher Danneman for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.
- No resolutions from the State of Wisconsin have been sent.
- Resolutions are expected to come before the NEC meeting.
- A full report on what took place at the NEC will be provided at the convention.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Mike Pook (375)

See attached report.

With no objection the above reports were received and filed.

Department S.A.L. Chairman – Christopher Dannemann (434)

See attached report and below report from the Detachment Commander

Detachment Commander Christopher Dannenmann (434) turned the meeting over to Detachment Vice Commander Jeremy Mason (015).

Detachment Vice Commander Jeremy Mason (015) called on Detachment Commander Christopher Dannenmann (434) for his report.

Detachment Commander – Christopher Dannenmann (434)

See attached report.

Highlights:

- The Detachment of Wisconsin is strong, with seven new squadrons and potentially ten more posts interested in starting squadrons.
- The commander urged members to continue fundraising for key programs.
- The commander was active in "Operation Comfort Warrior" events and attended the Washington conference and wreath-laying ceremony at the WWI, Vietnam, and Korea memorials.
- He also attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage, the Oratorical contest, and various other ALRA meetings, VA visits, and district conferences.

Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Deadline Clarification

- A question was raised about the correct due date for Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSRs).
- The group's understanding, and the date on the website, is June 1st.
- It was clarified that Commander Bond's mention of April 1st was an effort to encourage earlier submissions, as the Legion also struggles with timely reporting.
- **Conclusion:** Members should follow the June 1st deadline as stated on the website. There is no need to dispute the April 1st date mentioned by others.

Commander's Report and Upcoming Activities

- Members were encouraged to take the Wisconsin American Legion college course.
- A reminder was given to conduct weekly and monthly buddy checks, including for widows and orphans.
- Key upcoming dates and events were announced:
 - SAL NEC meeting and detachment convention: July 15th-19th in Appleton.
 - National convention: August 27th-31st in Louisville.
 - National Poppy Day.
 - Honor Flights.
- Members were encouraged to organize Flag Day events to increase public recognition.

Past Detachment Commander Robert Sirovina Jr. (434) made a motion to approve the Detachment Commander's reports as given and submitted. The motion was seconded by 4th District Commander Terry Barrington (416) and passed.

Committee and Commission Reports

Programs Committee – Terry Barrington (416)

Americanism – Shawn D. McCrary (075)

See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Children & Youth – Robert Sirovina, Jr. (434)

See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

National Security – John Hoeft II (234)

See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation – John Edelblute, IV (434)
See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Finance Commission – Christopher Sherman (071)
See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Internal Affairs Commission – Jeremy Mason (015)
Legislative – Steven R. DuBois (143)
See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Membership – David Fuller (209)
See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Officer Development & Policy – Christopher Sherman (071)
See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Public Relations – Robert G Seide (038)
See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Convention Credentials, Resolutions, and Rules – Jeremy Mason (015)
No report.

Detachment Subcommittee on Resolutions – See attached 2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings.

Without objection the above reports were received and filed.

Resolutions, Motions and Petitions

Subcommittee on Resolutions Chair Allen Watry (038) presented Resolution DEC-2026-01 Titled “Updates to Constitution and Bylaws concerning Sergeant-at-Arms”.

10th District Commander Rick Talford (291) made a motion to forward this to The American Legion and the 2026 Detachment Convention. The motion was seconded by Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms Rick Helms (070) and passed.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Appointments

There were no appointments made at this meeting.

New Business

There was no new business.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion

Community Support and Donations

- A post commander has been taking trips to deliver blankets and socks to vet shelters or homeless shelters from Mount Hope to the Kenosha area.
- There is a high demand for blankets at these shelters.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Squadron 75 will hold a poker run on June 13th.
- District Six will hold a brat fry on May 30th to kick off a competition between district commanders.
- Squadron 375 hosts a car and bike night on the third Wednesday of each month from May to September.
- Squadron 294 is having a poker run on May 16th (Armed Forces Day).
- The Tenth District conference will be held on April 25th and will feature a joint preamble with all four parts of the family (Legion, Auxiliary, Riders, SAL).

Candidacy Announcements for Detachment Vice Commander

- Mr. McCrary Squadron (075) announced his candidacy for Vice Commander.
- Mr. Barrington (416) also formally announced his candidacy for Detachment Vice Commander.

Closing

Benediction

Retirement of the POW/MIA Chair Cover

Commander's Charge

Retirement of the Colors

Adjournment

With no other business, Detachment Commander Christopher Dannenmann (434) declared the April 18, 2026 Spring Detachment Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm.

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Christopher Sherman (071)

I will be attending the 12th District Conference. I have recently been traveling.

1. On February 7th attended the Polk county meeting. requested approval to start a 12th District SAL organization. Motion made and approved to move forward with efforts.
2. On March 7th attended the Badger Boys State Board meeting. reminding them the SAL actively recruits and supports Badger Boys State and its programs
3. On April attended the Hayward SAL meeting. Good turnout. two participants were planning on joining. When they found out you only needed 10 members to start a squadron, they decided to try and get there own squadron. They were from Exeland.
4. On April 11th attended the joint testimonial dinner Good time had by all.
5. On April 14th attended Post meeting in Superior. Gave New Squadron talk. Hope they will get it together and charter a new Squadron.
6. On April 15th attended the Osceola post meeting. Discussed with their Legion Baseball coach promoting the Legion and the SAL at their baseball games.
7. On April 16th attended a meeting with the Bruce post. Seven people attended. Gave talk on starting a new squadron. Answered any and all questions. Seemed very interested on gathering information on starting a new squadron;
8. On April 18th attending the 12th District Spring Conference. I will be attempting to get three volunteers to start a 12th District SAL organization.

Potential new Squadrons in the 12th District: Superior, Bruce, and Exeland.

Steven DuBois, Detachment Vice Commander



Spring DEC Conference April 18, 2026

Good morning fellow Legionnaires, Sons, and distinguished guests, and anyone I missed. I apologize I am not there to deliver this in person, however, I have suffering and recovering with a severe upper respiratory infection. Thank you to Terry, who has graciously offered to deliver my report.

I always want to start out with the positive items. I wanted to thank leadership from Detachment down for supporting the 1st District and its endeavors. The group gathered here today has done and will continue to do amazing things in the SAL and I couldn't be prouder to be a member during our historic growth. Being a District Commander and being able witness said growth firsthand was humbling and gratifying. I have learned quite a bit over the last year and have been able to affect some real change both in my personal life and within the SAL. Change is not always a bad thing. It is a real, breathing, challenging thing.

Unfortunately, I did not accomplish nearly as much as I was hoping for in such a short tenure. I had lofty goals and had a real plan on being able to accomplish them, had I chosen to run and stay in the position for an election cycle. But God had other plans for me and I have embraced those with open arms.

On to membership, the first district is at 99.27% with a goal of just 6 more members. I am 100% percent sure we will meet our goal or surpass it. I am very happy to we have zero goose eggs and Okauchee is up and thriving! It was an honor to present their charter and items to them to begin their chapter within the American Legion Family. I will be reaching out to each of the 7 squadrons that have not reached 100% status and see if they can each have just 1 more member pay their dues. That will push us over the goal line.

I have done little traveling since our last meeting. With the health issues between myself and my grandfather, I have been severely limited. I did however attend several functions. I went to the sleepout in Hartland and was elated to see so many other district commanders and leadership present. Thank you to all those that made that trip and effort. The first district held a bowling fundraiser for Badger Youth Camp. I am under the impression, that went very well but am unsure of the amount that was raised. I have reached out but have not received a response. I have also traveled to an aging squadron commanders' home and helped him to understand how to use mylegion to process dues. I am hopeful that he can retain the information, but have assured him, he need only to reach out for help if he needs it.

I want to end my report with a scripture that has been weighing on my mind as of late. I apologize if it doesn't belong here, but it's funny what comes to mind and when.

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; not it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – Isaiah 43: 18-19

Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Wisconsin
1st District of Wisconsin

With so much change happening in the world, in our lives, and within the organizations we belong, we must remember not to dwell on the past. Find a new way of thinking, a new way of doing things. If it doesn't work out the way you were hoping, try yet another way.

This concludes my report Mr. Commander and SAL Leadership. Thank you for allowing me to serve.
For God and Country,

Mike Hellquist
1st District Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Wisconsin



Vice Commander Mason's Report

Vice Commander Mason's Report

Overall Performance

- **Districts:** 2, 6, 9
- **Squadrons:** 43
- **Goal:** 1,434
- **Current Membership:** 1,552
- **Percent of Goal:** 108.23%
- **100% Squadrons:** 33
- **All-Time High Squadrons:** 18
- **Renewal Rate:** 92.47%
- **Over Goal by:** 118 members
- **Zero-percent squadrons:** 1

District 2 Summary

Counties: Jefferson, Columbia, Dodge, Washington, Ozaukee, Sheboygan

- **Squadrons:** 23
- **Goal:** 750
- **Current:** 827
- **Percent of Goal:** 110.27%
- **100% Squadrons:** 20
- **All-Time High:** 11
- **Renewal Rate:** 93.33%
- **Over Goal by:** 77

Wins and Support needed

- High-volume district with **strong top performers** (West Bend, Grafton, Mequon-Thiensville, Port Washington).



Vice Commander Mason's Report

District 6 Summary

Counties: Marquette, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Winnebago, Calumet, Manitowoc

- **Squadrons:** 11
- **Goal:** 281
- **Current:** 300
- **Percent of Goal:** 106.76%
- **100% Squadrons:** 8
- **All-Time High:** 4
- **Renewal Rate:** 87.19%
- **Over Goal by:** 19

Wins and Support needed

- Standouts: Neenah, Mt. Calvary, St. Nazianz, Montello.
- **Needs help:** Winneconne (0%).

District 9 Summary

Counties: Brown, Outagamie, Marinette, Oconto, Kewaunee, Door, etc.

- **Squadrons:** 9
- **Goal:** 403
- **Current:** 425
- **Percent of Goal:** 105.46%
- **100% Squadrons:** 5
- **All-Time High:** 3
- **Renewal Rate:** 94.54% (best of Mason districts)
- **Over Goal by:** 22

Wins and Support needed

- Appleton, Hortonville, Kimberly driving overperformance.
- Green Bay and Wabeno lag.



Vice Commander Mason's Report

Activities Since Last Report

- Veterans in Crisis – Hartland
- Veterans in Crisis – Mequon
- Veterans in Crisis – Fond du Lac
- District 9 Meeting
- Detachment Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting
- Detachment Meetings
- 2 ALF Deployments
- Four Chaplains Service – Appleton
- Holiday Parade

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy Mason

Detachment Vice Commander

Districts 2, 6, and 9

10th District S.A.L.
Report

April 2026

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>activity (HRS)</u>
(53) Eau Claire	Bingo (12), Legion BB (30), Honor Guard (14), Admin. (15)
(61) Prescott	Meat raffles + Bingo
(77) Chippewa Falls	considering S.A.L. (mtgs)
(80) New Richmond	monthly meals, meat raffles (21), Monthly Breakfast (18), fish fry (6), Gun show (4), S.B. assist. (30), Bartending (21), Easter Egg hunt (200)
(98) Cumberland	High School 2 Heroes donation \$500, Post 98 remodeling donation \$16,500
(111) Somerset	Meat raffles (9), Snow Plowing (11), Bartending (72), Mtg's (6), Legion Maint. (25), Aux. Easter party (4), Aux. chili contest (7), Somerset school lunch donation (2), Hometown Hero Hall donation (4), S.A.L. Raffle donation collection (5)
(121) River Falls	S.A.L. fundraiser, MAVMA chix fry, Rotc + Valentines dance assist, Trap team chix fry, Rider's chili contest - GARY 1 st Place
(154) Mondovi	considering S.A.L. Organizing a squadron
(158) Maiden Rock	NO activity
(168) Glenwood City	NO activity
(224) Alma	Organizing New Squadron
(240) Baldwin	Legion chix fry assist., Memorial Day Hometown Hero display prep.

SquadronActivity (HRS)

(291) Meetings (71), office (17), Events (8), Vet assist. (7) W.A.A. (3),
Augusta color guard (3), Honor Guard (2), Memorial Care (2)

(301) awaiting "Charter"
Woodville

(324) No activity "Chaplain passed away"
Osseo

(326) Fish Fry's + funeral assistance
Boyd

(353) Chili Cook off, (2x) gun raffles, Wooden flag raffle, fish dinners on
Cernell Good Friday

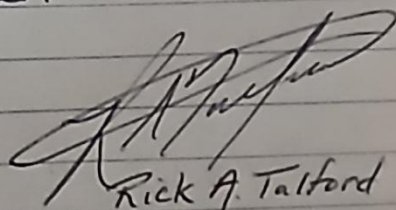
(365) Mtg's (43), fish fry's (72), Legion Hall Project (40)
Plum City

(432) Honor Guard services - no mtg's
Hammond

(550) Monthly Mtg's, Bingo + Cribbage, card raffle, donations to
Brckett Town of Washington Fire Dept. & Chippewa Falls Veterans Home wish
list.

Note - (9) months / (3) Quarters of 100% reporting
by Squadrons in the 10th District.

Very Proud of these guys keeping the line
of communication open



Rick A. Talford
10th District S.A.L.
Commander

The Detachment of Wisconsin, DEC Meeting, April 18, 2026

By Mike Pook,
Detachment Historian and
Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Detachment Historian

The Yearbook is up to date to the recent American Legion Family Testimony Dinner on April 11, 2026.

As the Historian, I continue to submit articles and pictures to both the Badger Legionnaire and National newsletter.

Snap shots of service submissions. If your Squadron pictures can be submitted to the yearbook for consideration, then you should also submit them to the National Snap shots of Service competition. In the April edition of the National Newsletter, The Millennium, A article written by Mike Pook, outlines some guidelines along with how to submit them.

Reminder, Squadron's with Year books need to alert Mike Pook and David Faust before July 1, if you will have submissions for State Convention.

“Operation Homeless Veterans” - Detachment of Wisconsin - Photo Book
Highlights the Detachment of Wisconsin, Squadrons and Districts who have hosted a Homeless encampment since the start in 2020. The Plan is to submit these two books to National SAL at the Spring meetings.
(seeking re-imburement)

Alternate National Executive Committee
Spring Meetings is May 1 & 2, with NEC on May 3.
Monthly I attend the Zoom Millennium meeting and sometimes get assign articles to write for the upcoming edition. Watch for mentor moments in each edition. Beyond being the ANEC, I am a member of the National committee of the Media Communications Commission, MCC.

Mike Pook

From: Commander Christopher Dannenmann, Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of WI
To: Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin
Date: 18 April 2026
Subject: Commander's Report to the 2026 Spring Detachment Executive Committee

To the Officers, Committee members, visitors and honored guests,

The state of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin is strong.

Thank you for choosing the Sons of The American Legion to honor your family members who have served. Special thanks to all of the Post, District, Detachment, Blue cappers and dual members. Your selflessness dedication to The American Legion Family, its heritage and legacy shines because of YOU.

Welcome aboard to all of our newest members and squadrons throughout the state. We currently have 7 new squadrons that have been chartered so far this year. We may have as many as 10+ Posts that have shown intent on New Squadron formation.

The ALF Dogs continue to be a favorite with each event we attend. We recently had one event and several more are pending for spring and summer. Your fundraising efforts are needed now more than ever to support this cornerstone program of our Detachment.

Events:

- Operation Comfort Warrior
- Washington Conference & Wreath Laying
- Lincoln Pilgrimage
- Oratorical
- LEBW Tissue Transport
- ALRA Meetings
- VA visits with Commande3r Bond and President Hembrook
- District Conferences & Squadron visits
- The SAL National Commander Bill Clancy here February 13-15 to participate in the Operation Homeless Vets at Hartland and Fond du Lac. He plans to raise OHV to National Prominence showcasing our work in Wisconsin.
- Joint Testimonial dinner The Clubs at Strawberry Creek
- Register for National American Legion Basic College
- Register and attend WALC and become an alumni
- Due your weekly & monthly buddy checks + widows and orphans
- Prepare your CSR's. Fill out the paperwork and submit it to Detachment
- Attend our monthly Zoom meetings
- Vice-Commander update calls
- My gratitude and thanks to our Vice-Commanders for attending the Midwinter Conference and various meetings across the state within TAL Family; Department, Sons, Auxiliary and Riders.
- COLUMBIA Protocol Training

Upcoming Events:

- CSR's – June 1st, 2026
- SAL NEC Meetings
- Detachment Convention – July 15th – 19th, 2026 Appleton, WI
- National Convention – August 27th – 31st, 2026 Louisville, KY
- Spring Conferences & Installations

2026 Commanders Spring DEC Report

- Squadron Formation Meetings
- National Poppy Day – May 23rd, 2026
- Honor Flights
- Flag Day – June 14th, 2026
- ALRA State Ride – June 25th – 28th, 2026

You all have accomplished SO much- let's keep track of the difference we are making. Whether its Operation Comfort Warrior, Badger Boys State, Child Well-Being Fund, or a Blood Drive. Report all of your Squadron activities on your CSR's. Please send them into Detachment by June 1st so Congress can see what the Sons of The American Legion do to strengthen the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

Where there is a need, there is a Son.

Respectfully,
Chris Dannenmann, Commander

2026 Spring DEC Committee Commission Meetings

Programs Committee Reports Terry Barrington

Americanism Report Shawn McCrary:

- Resolution in progress to streamline historian yearbook submissions; new judging criteria to improve fairness.
- Plan to adopt cloud uploads for yearbooks to allow pre-convention judging; transition not ready for spring convention.
- Proposal to increase shooting sports scholarships from two \$2,500 to two \$10,000 awards; action expected at spring NEC in a couple of weeks.
- Request for squadrons to share activities via email/Facebook; submissions encouraged to Mike and the SAL photo page/newsletter.
- National effort: record 1,000,000 flags placed for Flying Flags for Heroes; use QR code flyer for quick reporting.

Children and Youth Report Bob Sirovina, Jr.:

See attached Report

Highlights:

- Limited reports received from squadrons on Children and Youth activities.
- ALF program shipments: Squadron 106 (Seymour) purchased a case; \$300 covers case and shipping.
- Donations: Squadron 84 donated \$50; ALA donated \$250.
- Yellow Ribbon event at a Milwaukee motel; distributed \$100 to attending kids.
- Snowstorm disrupted deployments; trailer stuck in Kenosha; high school assisting to assemble packages for kids who missed out.
- Needed 100 dogs; 58 leftover; donated 42 more to meet the need.
- Inventory status consolidated across locations: ~1,350 dogs available (800 in trailer, 500 at home, plus boxes elsewhere).
- Honor Guard support with posts 434 and 27; 20 services so far this year, three more next week.
- Discussion on squadrons purchasing for local uses (e.g., fire departments, hospitals) and fundraising (e.g., raffles). Raffles are potentially allowable if proceeds directly benefit the ALF program.
- Conclusion: Ad hoc committee to be formed to create a formal policy covering management, distribution, funding, eligibility, branding, and fundraising, drawing on past Josh Dog materials; Bob appointed chair, with volunteers to draft policy ensuring consistency and eligibility rules.
- Squadron 75 launched a legacy scholarship fund: three \$250 scholarships in Fond du Lac high schools this year; request to include North Fond du Lac next year.
- Preference to sponsor identifiable participants (e.g., Badger Boys State) rather than anonymous checks.

National Security Report John Hoeft III:

- Addition to national ad hoc committee on National Emergency Preparedness (chair: Steve Navarrete, NM).
- Focus on resource responses for national/regional emergencies; provide training and guidelines; build a roadmap from squadrons to detachments to regional/national response.
- “Heroes to Hometowns” connects service-disabled veterans with local resources.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Report John Edelblute IV:

See attached Report

Highlights:

- Activities include volunteering at VA facilities, homelessness awareness, “Be the One” suicide awareness, National Salute to Veterans Week, and Wreaths Across America.
- Wisconsin “Reclaiming Your Path” aims for a mental health navigator in 50 posts; warm handoffs to local resources.
- Notes on July Fourth challenges for some veterans and encouragement for suicide prevention training.
- Discussion of certified VA representatives at specific locations; opportunities near VA hospitals.
- Positive testimony about Fisher House support and local efforts providing meals and support.

Internal Affairs Commission Reports Jeremy Mason

Legislative Update Jeremy Mason for Steven DuBois:

- Focus areas: suicide prevention, ending veteran homelessness, women veterans’ care/research, C&P exam challenges, balancing community care with VA primary coordination, Guard/Reserve GI Bill for service abroad, constitutional amendment on flag desecration, concurrent receipt for medically retired combat-injured veterans.
- Reminder to use “voter’s voice” grassroots tool; subscribe to weekly grassroots email to simplify contacting representatives.

Membership Update Jeremy Mason for David Fuller:

- Retention rate at 86%; emphasis on reengaging non-paying members to prevent shortfalls.
- Standing: 7th in nation; 1st in central region; national goals are growth-oriented beyond last year’s totals.

- “Triple nickel” goal (2026): total membership target 5,061; requirement of 5 new squadrons paying dues (7 chartered; 2 not turning in dues); renewal threshold ≥85% (met); approximately 230 remaining noted.
- 619 new members (~12.8% of membership); ~12–13% have not renewed (about 1 in 8).
- Squadron-level action: sponsors to ask non-renewing members why they didn’t renew; maintain pressure on goals.
- District-specific risks: Fourth District may lose one squadron and another post has problems; possible net loss of ~40 members; consider transfers to nearby squadrons due to overlap.
- Squadron 375 report: 194 current vs. 182 goal; 27 new members; best practices for retention and recruiting through personal contact and event engagement; call to recruit two new members per attendee before deadline.
- Membership report lists squadrons by county and identifies counties without SAL units; 12 counties without SAL units based on 70 county-level entries.
- Wisconsin has 72 counties; Shawano–Menominee and Buffalo–Pepin are combined into single county-level organizations per Legion records; review last page of membership report for details.
- There are 12 county-level entries currently lack SAL squadrons.
- Jesse (American Legion commander at Reedsburg) working to form a squadron.;
- 12th District Legion approved \$500 to help purchase district caps and has people to start a 12th District SAL; formal update expected in the afternoon.

Officer Development Update Christopher Sherman:

- Training was held at Midwinter conference.
- New Officer training will be on Sunday of State Convention.

Public Relations Update Bob Seide:

- Emails sent to district commanders requesting local event information to build a statewide calendar; few replies; ongoing effort via Facebook and websites; data hard to obtain.
- Plan to call district commanders to improve engagement and content flow; encourage broader advertising of community activities (e.g., bicycle safety events at posts).
- Push to flood social media with event photos and content.

Finance Commission Report Christopher Sherman

- Department Adjutant Julie Muhle was present and discussed various aspects of the SAL budget and Department Finances in general.
- For some context we have:
 - Our annual budget – in which monies come in and go out to pay operational costs.

- Restricted accounts – where excess funds go, from either our annual budget or fundraising, at the end of the fiscal year.
 - The fiscal year is July 1 – June 30.
- Much like Posts, Counties, Districts provide funds for their portions of Oratorical contests, Junior Shooting Sports, and the like, funding is needed for these same programs at the Department level.
- There was a request, that if Posts or Squadrons, Counties, Districts are raising monies to operate the programs at their levels, if those fundraisers could give 10% to help the Department run the Department level of those programs, it would be helpful.
- This is not a requirement, but a request.
- Those monies would go towards those programs only, and not for ongoing administrative operational costs of the Department.
- With the restricted accounts:
 - We should fundraise for our programs and avoid using monies in restricted accounts as much as possible.
 - Restricted accounts should remain as a backstop for unforeseen events or emergency situations. It's the rainy-day fund.
 - If there is a need to access funds from a restricted account, there is a process for this and there should be compelling reasons for it.
- Expense report forms are available for members to complete.

Resolutions Committee Report Allen Watry:

- Resolution DEC-2026-01 Titled “Updates to Constitution and Bylaws concerning Sergeant-at-Arms” was presented and read.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION-DETACHMENT OF WISCONSIN

SPRING DEC REPORT 4-18-26 CHILDREN & YOUTH PDC BOB SIROVINA, CHAIRMAN

Operation A.L.F.

- Shipments:
 - SAL Squadron 106, Seymour, WI-1 case \$300

- Donations
 - Sal Squadron 84, Monroe, WI, \$1500
 - ALA Ozaukee County Council, Cedarburg, Wi, \$250

- Deployment
 - Attended Yellow Ribbon event in Brookfield with Commander Dannenmann, distributed approximately 100 dogs

- Misc. Operation A.L.F. Information
 - Provided 42 dogs to Sue Turowski, Grafton Unit 355 for Grafton High School project to provide comfort bags to children of deployed service members. She needed 100 but had 58 left from last year's Camp Hometown Heroes project. These are for children of those that deployed 11/30 but we could not attend due to snowstorm.
 - Count of dogs on hand updated this weekend

Other Activities

- Participated in Post 434 and Post 27 Honor Guard for many funerals, 20 so far this year
- Attended National SAL Commander's visit
- SAL Representative at Zablocki VAMC

The American Legion's national security position is multi-faceted. Key aspects include:

Ensuring a well-funded, well-equipped and well-trained military.

Focusing awareness and surveillance on rogue nations, terrorist groups and global threats to U.S. security around the world.

Supporting the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and urging its steadfast protection of U.S. borders, ports and other entry points.

Enabling a decent quality of life for troops and their families – active duty and reserve-component alike – that includes reasonable compensation, benefits, health care, child care, and family support programs.

Providing an efficient and compassionate healing and transition program for wounded, ill or injured warriors.

Also within the Legion's national security pillar is the Foreign Relations Commission that works closely with the Department of State to seek peaceful solutions to conflicts around the world, and to advance the goals of U.S. foreign policy.

The American Legion's national security positions include these key areas:

Strong National Defense

A strong, adequately funded U.S. military is essential for global peace and prosperity in the 21st century. As the world's sole superpower, the United States must be able to deter aggression while maintaining the ability to fight and win wars when necessary. Our adversaries should have no doubt about America's resolve and means to respond with overwhelming force when national interests are threatened. Today, however, with the United States facing mounting debt obligations and unprecedented deficit projections, the defense budget has become an easy target. Nevertheless, The American Legion opposes any further decreases in U.S. defense spending.

"Ever-increasing entitlement spending is putting pressure on key spending priorities such as national defense, a core constitutional function of government. Defense spending has declined significantly over time, even when the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are included, as spending on the three major entitlements — Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid — has more than tripled." While the Iraq War is over and the Afghanistan War is winding down, the United States and its allies still face a dangerous and unstable world.

As part of the Budget Control Act of 2011, caps were placed on the defense budget and other forms of discretionary spending. In implementing these budgetary caps, the Obama administration proposed in its FY 2013 budget to cut Pentagon spending by roughly \$487 billion over the next decade. In addition, because Congress failed to meet the act's deadline to reduce the long-term deficit by \$1.2 trillion, the Pentagon now faces the worst-case scenario: current law now requires additional across-the-board, automatic cuts (sequestration) to the Pentagon budget, totaling more than \$500 billion over 10 years.

A wide range of America's civilian and military leaders have voiced grave concerns about the danger of further defense cuts, which would dangerously weaken America's standing in the world and undermine our leadership among allies. Furthermore, after more than a decade of warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. military hardware is in need of replacement and modernization, and our troops deserve the hard-earned benefits of service. We risk leaving our military a "hollow" force like that of the post-Vietnam War era, which took years to rebuild.

Therefore, The American Legion recommends an increase in U.S. defense spending to levels that represent 5 percent of gross domestic product. The Legion recommends that sufficient funding be provided to modernize the Army; strengthen the Navy's shipbuilding program; build Air Force fighters, tankers and specialty aircraft; develop national missile defense and cyberspace defense systems; and support NASA to retain dominance in outer space. The Legion urges DoD to use American companies whenever possible for military procurement.

The Legion also advocates greater military force end-strength to reduce stress on the reserves and National Guard, decrease the number of extended deployments and better position the United States in the event of a sudden national security emergency.

Military Quality of Life

Disabled military retirees have earned and deserve full concurrent receipt of their DoD retirement pay and their VA disability compensation, which come from separate budgets for separate purposes. Today, too many disabled military retirees are still forced to choose one or the other in what has become known as the "disabled veterans tax."

Military health-care programs must be fully funded without additional enrollment fees or co-payment increases for beneficiaries. TRICARE coverage should also be made permanent for members of the reserves.

Servicemembers who sustain injuries or illnesses while on active duty must be given fair and timely discharge processing, and their transition to civilian life and/or VA health care made seamless. The American Legion strongly supports a continuum of care for disabled veterans after they return to civilian life. The Legion encourages swift and efficient action to integrate various federal departments, agencies and programs to improve the transition process and sustain the continuum of care.

Homeland Security

Since 9/11 and the devastating hurricanes of 2005, America has become acutely aware of the danger posed by terrorist attacks and catastrophic disasters on U.S. soil. The American Legion works closely with government at all levels to improve disaster readiness in local communities and, at the national level, to ensure that a well-funded and efficient DHS is prepared for any catastrophic event.

DHS was created in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Since the inception of DHS, the Legion has supported the department's intent, purpose and arrangement: to harmonize myriad agencies, offices, businesses, community groups and others with readiness responsibilities and quick-response capabilities. The Legion is an active contributor to that effort on the local and national levels, and concurs with the DHS mission to coordinate domestic security - including effective customs operations and drug interdiction.

To help with that effort, the Legion supports funding for the U.S. Coast Guard's "deep water" initiatives to rebuild its fleet and modernize assets to more effectively fulfill responsibilities in maritime safety, law enforcement, homeland security, environmental protection and national defense.

Immigration Enforcement

The Pew Research Center has estimated that 11.2 million illegal immigrants lived in the United States in 2010. DHS's Office of Audits claims that, each year, more than one million aliens attempt to illegally enter this country without proper documentation or enter legally and violate their visas.

A broad exchange of intelligence and related action is needed among the Department of Justice and regulatory agencies that govern immigration policy and social services. Federal agencies must use modern systems and technology to aggressively track foreign nationals as a deterrent to terrorist activities. Failure to properly monitor illegal aliens threatens the security and future of America.

The American Legion urges Congress to adopt an immigration reform policy which emphasizes border security against those individuals attempting to enter this country illegally, and internal tracking of all resident aliens and illegal immigrants. The Legion opposes legislation granting amnesty and legal residency to illegal immigrants currently in the United States.

The Legion also opposes any change to Title V of the "Immigration and Nationality Act" (8 U.S.C. 1531-1537) that would require revealing the source(s) of secret evidence used in administrative deportation hearings by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The Legion encourages the federal government to provide sufficient resources to enforcement agencies tasked with curtailing illegal immigration, and encourages Congress to mandate continuation of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

Foreign Relations

As the leader of the free world, the United States has great and multiple responsibilities. The American Legion encourages increased federal funding for foreign relations and international affairs, and for the Department of State's continuing efforts to seek peaceful and diplomatic solutions to world conflicts. More funding should also be given to the Department of State's Civilian Response Corps initiative for deployment before, during or after armed conflict.

The Legion strongly supports the State Department and the functions it performs for American citizens overseas; it is the country's first line of defense in combating the myriad security threats that face America from outside its borders. Therefore, the Legion vigorously supports increased funding for the department, so it can maintain a credible initial deterrent to international threats to the United States and effectively promote American interests abroad.

The Legion also urges the president, Congress and the Department of State to significantly increase the number of foreign service officers in its ranks and to implement a veterans preference policy to enhance America's diplomatic missions by recruiting more qualified and experienced veterans.

In addition, the Legion recommends enhanced funding for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) within the Department of State, and recommends such funding be targeted for nations that may become sources of international terrorism.

Full Accounting of American POW/MIAs

A sacred value of The American Legion is the full accounting and repatriation of fallen U.S. servicemembers. The Legion supports Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command activities to locate and repatriate all recoverable remains of U.S. military personnel who have died or are missing in foreign battle zones.

In the Event of a Natural Disaster

To The American Legion, the provision of security for the nation includes protection of its citizens from the devastating financial effects of natural disasters. In the 1920s, not long after the organization's founding, the Legion entered into an agreement with The American Red Cross to assist in disaster relief and fundraising. The collaboration continued for about a half century until, in the wake of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the Legion created an autonomous disaster-relief entity, the National Emergency Fund (NEF).

The NEF assists stricken American Legion family members with immediate monetary assistance. Since its inception, the NEF has provided over \$7.5 million in direct financial aid to members and posts. In 2011, for instance, 314 NEF disaster relief grants totaling \$345,300 were awarded to veterans and their families. These NEF grants included those provided after the spring tornadoes and floods that hit the South and Midwest, leaving behind a trail of devastation. Among the victims assisted by NEF so far in 2012 are those displaced by Indiana tornadoes in early spring.

The National Emergency Fund is not the only source of American Legion disaster relief. At the grassroots level, Legion posts such as Post 210 in Montgomery, Ala., are always ready to assist. In 2011, Post 210 members came to the aid of tornado victims in Tuscaloosa, 100 miles away. Legionnaires and their neighbors spent two nights sorting and boxing donated goods such as food and clothing before heading to the storm-ravaged college town.

Heroes to Hometowns

An example of a prominent American Legion national security program is Heroes to Hometowns. Nationally and locally, the Legion works closely with the Department of Defense (DoD) to connect returning, service-disabled veterans with local resources to help them and their families.

With 14,000 posts worldwide, the Legion assists veterans and families of wounded military personnel as they transition back to civilian and community life, using the VA health-care system, TRICARE or TRICARE for Life.

Last year, Heroes to Hometowns assisted more than 1,100 veterans.



**04 APR 26 SAL Detachment of WI
SAL Spring DEC
Veteran Affairs & Rehab
Committee Chairman Report**

Greetings,

Here are some items of interest that you might consider.

The VA & R program is committed to promoting, supporting and providing services that enhance the lives of Veterans and their families. It, along with the other Four Pillars , is one of our premier programs in our organization. Activities may include but are not limited to:

- ~ Volunteering at VA Facilities**
- ~ Aiding Veterans in their Communities.**
- ~Raising awareness about homeless Veterans, many of whom have children**
- ~ Be the One, Suicide awareness and the mission behind it**
- ~Contributing to National Salute the Veterans Week events and Wreaths Across America**

Volunteers are a very important asset in the VA facilities systems. In fact, you could almost say they are irreplaceable. In the Milwaukee VA (Clement J Zablocki) they are at this time 302 volunteers with 76 VSO representing different organizations from which some of the volunteers are associated with. Last year in Milwaukee alone there were 57,180 volunteer hours recorded.

ALS has been classified by the VA as a presumptive illness

The office is now operating at full strength

Veteran Service Representatives are always available to help file a service-connected disability claim. If you know a Veteran who is thinking about filing a claim please encourage them to see a VSR rather than a lawyer or filing their claim themselves. VSR's are a great resource.

Reclaiming Your Path Wisconsin Project Update

Goal is to have a mental health navigator (MHN) in fifty posts throughout the state.

MHN would be a point of contact within each post to provide a warm handoff of the Veteran with a need to a local resource.

Kimberly Clark Program Update

Program was started in 2020. Over \$1M in product has been handed out to Veterans and their families in Wisconsin, as well as to members of the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee and 115th Fighter Wing in Madison.

July 4 Fireworks "Operation Safe Haven" for Veterans Mental Health America.

The program is meant to provide a safe place for Veterans and their families who experience negative reactions to fireworks.

R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention Training

Please consider taking this course on line or in person if available. The course is taught by our Department VA & R Chairman Curtiss Peck.

Thank You all once again for asking me to serve as your Veteran Affairs & Rehab Chairman.

Respectfully Submitted

John W Edelblute IV

SAL Detachment of WI

VA & R Committee Chairman

Resolution

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF WISCONSIN

Detachment Executive Committee

Date: April 18, 2026

Resolution: DEC-2026-01

Title: Updates to Constitution and Bylaws concerning Sergeant-at-Arms

Whereas: The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin is a Program of the American Legion Department of Wisconsin; and

Whereas: Programs are encouraged to align their Policies and Procedures to the Policies and Procedures of the American Legion Department of Wisconsin when and where appropriate; and

Whereas: There are benefits to the execution of Detachment Level Meetings of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin by having continuity from year to year within the offices of the Sergeant-at-Arms. **Now, therefore be it**

Resolved: by the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin assembled in convention on the 18th day of July, 2026 in the city of Appleton, Wisconsin, that our Constitution and By-Laws with an amended date of October 12, 2024 be amended as follows:

Constitution Article VI – ELECTIONS - Section 1

which currently reads:

The Detachment Convention delegates shall elect a Detachment Commander, four (4) Detachment Vice Commanders, a Detachment Chaplain, two (2) Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms, a Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman and a Sons of The American Legion Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

be modified to read:

The Detachment Convention delegates shall elect the following officers:

- a). A Detachment Commander, four (4) Detachment Vice Commanders, and a Chaplain, each to a one (1) year term at each Convention.
- b). A National Executive Committee Member (NEC) and an Alternate National Executive Committee Member (ANEC), each to a two (2) year term at Conventions held on Even Years only.
- c). Two (2) Sergeant-at-Arms at the 2027 Detachment Convention only. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes, provided he has also received a majority of votes of delegates present, shall be elected to a two (2) year term. The candidate for Sergeant-at-Arms receiving the second highest number of votes, provided he has received a majority of votes of

Title: Updates to Constitution and Bylaws concerning Sergeant-at-Arms

delegates present, shall be elected to a one (1) year term. Thereafter at all Conventions one (1) Sergeant-at-Arms will be elected to a two (2) Year Term.

And, be it further

Resolved: Section 4, which currently reads:

Section 4. The Detachment Convention delegates shall elect one (1) Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman and Sons of The American Legion Alternate National Executive Committeeman, for a two (2) year term, with the election to be held in the even number years. These Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeemen may succeed themselves by election of the Detachment Convention delegates.

Be removed.

And, be it further

Resolved: this resolution be forwarded to the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin for their approval.