SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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THE MILLENNIUM

Volume 1 | Issue 2 | Number 2 | **December 2023**

Commander Hall's Homecoming Announced

At the Fall Meetings held in Indianapolis last October, National Commander Don "JR" Hall, Jr. announced plans for his celebration.

"JR's Journey Homecoming" will be held April 12 & 13, 2024 in Linthicum, MD.

Friday's events will include a visit to Glen Burnie Post 40 for dinner. Saturday's schedule includes a trip to the US Naval Academy, with lunch in the Officer's Club. The night will be topped off with Commander Hall's Homecoming Banquet.

For additional information, please contact Homecoming Chairman Joe Lohman at squadron60@verizon.net.

Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1.	Hawaii	79.17%
2.	South Dakota	74.18%
3.	France	73.21%
4.	Louisiana	69.14%
5.	Wisconsin	66.73%
6.	Georgia	61.14%
7.	Montana	58.02%
8.	Illinois	57.70%
9.	Iowa	56.33%
10.	Mississippi	55.84%

as of November 20, 2023

THE MILLENNIUM
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All information must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon the twentieth of each month and must be made electronically by emailing the editor.

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FOLLOW US:

Hall: Share stories of your veteran family members on Legiontown

The American Legion | November 3, 2023

SAL National Commander Donald "JR" Hall's slogan this year is "Representing More Than Me."

It's a message he wants the entire Legion Family to take to heart.

In a new video, Hall discusses why he chose that slogan: his grandfather, Ed Hall, an Army veteran of World War II.

"This year, as I travel, I'm introducing everyone to my grandfather. He is why I do what I do," Hall said.
"I ask that the entire American Legion Family join me in honoring your family's service."

Hall is encouraging Legion Family members to share photos and short stories about the veterans they support at Legiontown.

"Make sure your membership is worth the commitment they made to serve our country," Hall added.

If you have not seen the Commander's message, you can view it here.

DID YOU KNOW?

A Squadron in Arizona donated $30,000 at the 2023 Fall Meetings

18 new Squadrons have been chartered this year

Source: The American Legion

Top Ten Detachments Child Welfare Foundation Donations

1.	Arizona	$46,055.00
2.	Ohio	$17,493.00
3.	Florida	$15,600.00
4.	Pennsylvania	$10,880.28
5.	Virginia	$10,152.00
6.	Texas	$7,800.00
7.	Michigan	$5,213.00
8.	Colorado	$4,950.00
9.	Minnesota	$4,534.00
10.	New York	$3,616.00

as of November 17, 2023

Member Mentorship Mission: The Five Pillars of Mentorship

Butch Ray, Staff Contributor

My many years of membership did not happen all of my own accord. Way back in the early 2000's Past Detachment Commander Tommie Cisna (Now Past National Commander 2008-2009) invited me to a Detachment Convention. No big deal except for the fact that he then invited me to a DEC, then a District Meeting, and he kept in touch with me often, in fact VERY OFTEN!

I did not realize it at the time, but he was **"Mentoring"** me. As a result, I learned, I became involved, I fell in love with the Sons of The American Legion and I continue to work the mission and programs of The American Legion Family today.

In my current role of Membership Chairman of the Central Region I did a bit of research on why Mentoring is important! Did you know that it costs five times more to recruit a new member than to keep a current member? So, how do you keep a new member from letting his membership lapse? You mentor them! Below please find an article I found outlining the **"Five Pillars of Mentorship."**

Collectively, from the profiles of a wide assortment of successful people from various walks of life, we could conclude that the foundation principles of mentorship are the five pillars of Interest, Investment, Involvement, Inculcation, and Inspiration.

Interest. *Most mentorship tales begin with a young person being mentally "blown away" by someone taking an interest. The most meaningful message I received was the "meta-message" of someone taking an interest in me.*

Investment. *Most mentorship books involve not only taking an interest, but also investing some time. The return on investment (ROI) is sometimes sadly not witnessed by the mentor, but the mentee is often internally grateful for a lifetime and will very likely repay the investment by becoming a mentor for some other person/s in future years. To quote Proverbs, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

Involvement. *Most mentorship stories include uncommon involvement. Successful people in all walks of life seem to have received special guidance and then internalized that guidance. A mentor of Denzel Washington, an English Teacher Robinson (Bob) Stone expressed of Denzel in a recommendation letter to the American Conservator Theatre that stated,* ***"If you don't have the talent to nurture this young man, then don't accept him"*** *Be sure to recognize and encourage the talents you see in those you choose to mentor.*

Inculcation. *Many people have great mentors, but not every mentee soars like Denzel Washington. Like a great quarterback needs a great receiver, a great mentor needs to inculcate great qualities in the mentee! The touchdowns in life always involve teamwork. In a sense, the mentor and mentee perform a dance combining the rhythm and chemistry between the passer and receiver.*

Inspiration. *Perhaps the key difference of a life changing mentorship relationship is the ability to inspire. Encouraging and inspiring others shows that not everyone does it by themselves, but that we should always remember the people who help us. Not every mentorship yields great results, but every mentorship event regardless of how unremarkable can leave an indelible mark on a young person and who knows where that mark will reappear in a future year.*

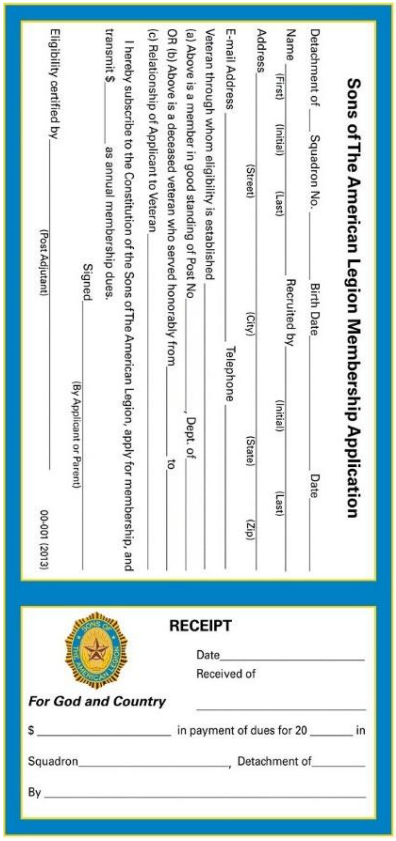
Conclusion. *The common threads of Interest, Investment, Involvement, Inculcation, and Inspiration are pillars of mentorship,* ***but the bottom line is caring!*** *If you care enough to mentor someone, some mentees will care enough to respond and someday repay the investment with extraordinary success and repeat the cycle.* ***Mentorship in many ways is the highest form of leadership.***

Reprinted with permission from the Author, Michael J. Piellusch MA, MS, DBA, Adjunct Professor of the University of the Potomac. Edited for space and content.

Harley Gaddey, Past SAL Detachment Commander of North Carolina, was recently promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade, and serving on the USS Enterprise. Harley was very involved in Boys State. His interest in joining the Navy was through his time in SAL and Boys State. The Department of North Carolina was very supportive of his decision, even though they lost a great volunteer and mentor for North Carolina's SAL and Boys State.

submitted by PNC Dave Stephens

HAVE YOU RECRUITED A NEW MEMBER?



Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of ____ Squadron No. ____ Birth Date ____ Date ____

Name ____ (First) ____ (Initial) ____ (Last) ____ Recruited by ____ (Initial) ____ (Last)

Address ____ (Street) ____ (City) ____ (State) ____ (Zip)

E-mail Address ____ Telephone ____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established ____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. ____, Dept. of ____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from ____ to ____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran ____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit $ ____ as annual membership dues.

Signed ____ (By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by ____ (Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2013)

RECEIPT

Date ____

Received of ____

For God and Country

$ ____ in payment of dues for 20 ____ in

Squadron ____, Detachment of ____

By ____

The Newshound

A special section for Young Sons of The American Legion ages 16 and under

About the Junior Shooting Sports Program

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, and competition. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females can participate, through Legion sponsorship; disabled youth are encouraged to join, as competitive shooting is a sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors. Contact your local Legion post, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Auxiliary unit for information about affiliating as a club or individual.

Air Rifle Competition. The annual 3-Position Junior Air Rifle National Championship is a tournament that begins with postal matches. State and/or regional champions are determined and advance to a qualification round (also a postal match) to determine the athletes who will earn expense-paid trips to compete in the national championship. The national championship is a shoulder-to-shoulder match held each July.

For more information, please send an email to americanism@legion.org.

The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic'; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies – (Authorized version.)

reprinted from Squadron Handbook of the SAL, updated 2023

Preamble to the National Constitution Sons of The American Legion

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and our forefathers in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Do you want to spread some holiday cheer? If you answered yes, we have a way for you to do it, and to put a smile on the face of a veteran.

There is a holiday card on the next page. Just print, color, fold, and present to a veteran. You could color more than one and hand deliver them at your American Legion Post. If you do, please send us some pictures!

Wishing you the BEST holiday season ever!

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Made Especially for you by
a member of
Sons of The American Legion

Don "JR" Hall

From the Commander

Hello Again Legion Family,

As we are approaching the holiday season we should remember to celebrate and be thankful for all of our family and friends we have, and also make sure we are thoughtful of our friends and family that have suffered the loss of loved ones. Holidays are great and yet they can be very tough for some. Many of our veterans go through some tough times during the holidays and we all need to Be the One that is there for them.

Recently I spent time with a veteran that suffers from PTSD and after about an hour of serious thoughts things started to lighten up and they laughed some. I realized that I did not say very much to them, but I just listened. I have heard it said that God gives us two ears and one mouth so we will listen twice as much as we talk.

As I was honored to speak on Veterans Day to many Veterans and others my subject was to Thank them for our Freedom. Sometimes I think we all take it for granted and it can be a word we use without thinking a lot about it. There have been men and women wearing the uniforms of our military for years, fighting for and defending our freedom. It is because of them we have the freedom to celebrate our holiday however we choose to. So, as you celebrate with your family and friends remember to think of our military still around the world defending our rights and keeping us a free country. Take time and do a Buddy check on a veteran from your post or neighborhood to make sure they know we care, and they are in our thoughts.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season.

"Representing More Than Me"

Terry Harris, National Vice-Commander

Midwest Region Update

We are well into our membership year and the Midwest Region is doing a fantastic job. There is no need to talk numbers because everyone should be receiving the membership reports from National or their regional membership chairman. With the region realignments it does give an entirely new look to the membership in the Midwest Region. Again, great job!

The one thing I have learned as a member of this great organization is that it is not at all about me! Anything I get done is because of someone else. I have had the honor of having a couple of Zoom calls recently to see what other Detachments are doing. Nebraska does a great job working with youth and trying to make sure our young members are included. They held their first Youth Academy at their recent Detachment Convention. From all signs it was a rousing success. I am looking forward to my visit to Nebraska for their 2024 Convention. They have great leadership, and they will accomplish great things in the future.

I've also been privileged to have a Zoom Meeting with the Detachment of North Dakota. One of their goals this year is to achieve another Triple Nickel award. I sincerely hope they can achieve this as it will only make us stronger. North Dakota has strong leadership, but they are also trying to mentor their members to be able to lead the Detachment in the future. We spent some time brainstorming ways to get members more active and how to keep them engaged with the things a new member likes to do. One of the worst things that can be said it "we tried that; it didn't work." Try it again and tweak it. It may just work.

I have been able to attend a few events in Kansas (my own Detachment) and have always enjoyed working with The American Legion Family. Get out and see what's going on and maybe that will trigger new ideas. Sometimes we all get wrapped up in our own little shell and can't see what others are doing. You never know what you can come up with when you are outside of your box.

I am anxious to start making personal visits to other Detachments. I was in Windsor, Colorado on the 18th of November for an awards banquet. This trip gave me the chance for my wife and I to visit family in Colorado. We always look forward to that. I also have trips planned to Oklahoma after the holidays and then of course, to other Detachments later on in the year.

As Commander Hall has stressed, "Representing more than me." I represent my dad, Joseph A. Harris, Jr. US Army Retired and my mother, Della M. Harris, a Korean War Era Veteran. God Bless them both.

Be the One!

Rusty Myers, Staff Contributor

Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness

This happened at my home squadron in Belleville, New Jersey – and it speaks directly to how amazing our organization is. I feel like this is a story that has to be told.

This story's basis is in the words that we as Sons of the American Legion (SAL) – as well as members of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary – recite at each and every meeting. It lies towards the end of the Preamble to the Constitution of all of our respective organizations … the words that we exist **"to consecrate and sanctify our**

friendship, *by our devotion to mutual helpfulness…*"

That mutual helpfulness is evident in much of what we do … it is shown in every moment when we support the four pillars of the organization – Veterans Affairs, Children and Youth, Americanism, and National Security. It is in how we look out for our veterans, as in the "Be the One" veterans mental health awareness campaign. In how we work to make the lives of our children better. In how we work towards the betterment of our community, state, and nation.

But it is most important in how we look out for each other. As Americans. As fellow Sons. As friends. As brothers.

This week, a member addressed the fourteen members present at a SAL monthly general meeting, towards the end. He began speaking about family.

He lost his mother a few months ago, whose health seesawed over the previous months and years. She was a dear friend of the Squadron and the Post, who we all miss very much. Both he and his children shared a house with her, which since her passing is now stuck in probate. As anyone who has been through this is aware, it seems like an open-ended shoveling out of money just to keep the estate afloat until everything is settled.

This Son is a man filled with pride who never asks for help, even now going through perhaps the hardest time of his life.

He asked for a loan from the squadron – in a substantive amount, offering his truck as collateral – planning to repay it once the house affair was settled and transferred to his name.

And now is the part that speaks to the best of who we are as Sons of the American Legion.

After no more than 15 seconds, members at the meeting start taking bills out of their wallets. Not twenties, but hundreds … $100 from this member, $200 from these members, $300 from another member.

After thirty seconds, $2,080 was on the table. All without anyone being asked to give from their own pocket. Stunning. Just stunning.

And not from members who are rich in money, but from people who are rich in words becoming action. Not one of the 14 members asked for his money back; it was given in the spirit of brothers helping out a brother in need. Sons just doing a good thing for a buddy, and in so doing living up to every square inch of what this organization stands for. Living up to our devotion to mutual helpfulness. Truly awe inspiring.

I am proud to stand amongst men of this caliber. I am honored to be part of an organization filled with people of such integrity … of such strength of character. And though those fourteen members are representative of the entire membership of this squadron, the organization nation-wide is made up of such men. That is truly a testament to their devotion to doing the right thing.

If you are not involved, I implore you – do so. Become a member. Make a difference in the lives of our veterans, of our children, of our communities – and of each other. Contact your local American Legion Post to join – as a vet, as a son, or as a spouse, or family member … and Be the One to make a difference in someone's life.

Post 105 is located on Washington Ave. in Belleville, NJ, next to the Motorcycle Mall, and is open daily from Noon to Midnight.

Bruno Williamson, Chairman

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Your National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has hit the ground running. I would like to introduce you to your commission and their region of responsibility. For the West Nat Chairman Bruno Williamson (IL), Southeast Vice chairman Eddy Seeger (TX), Northeast Jeffry Gibson (AL), Midwest Seth Rippe (NE), & for the Central Bill "Buster" Sutterlin (OH). Your Detachment VA & R Chairman will be receiving information from all of us throughout the year.

All the Commission members will be reporting on a VA&R specific program this year. And we will talk about them in future articles. A couple of programs I want to talk about in this issue are Commander Hall's VA&R project **Operation Comfort Warrior** (OCW) which is also a part of the Commanders **Squadron 4 pillars program.** Approximately 20% of our OEF/OIF Veterans suffer from TBI/PTSD. OCW was created to provide non-essential items to help with the recovery of our wounded military personnel. Needs lists are provided by going to VAMC's, transition units & in our own communities.' As the lists are received, The American Legion orders them and delivers them as fast as they can. Items are as simple as sweat suits, gift cards, iPads to fitness equipment. To learn more and to donate go to www.legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors.

We are coming into the holiday season, a season in which we hope to spend time with our families and friends. This is also a time for **Wreaths Across America** (WAA) where we, Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, & teach the next generation at more than 4000 locations in the US, at sea and abroad. You can be a part of this amazing day of service to our fallen service members by

volunteering at a cemetery near you. The National WAA day this year is December 16,2023 but check with your National, State, or public cemetery to see what day they are placing their wreaths. I will tell you; it is a day you will not forget. You can also sponsor a wreath with a general donation or if you would like it to go to a specific National cemetery or service person, you can do that also. Please visit their web site at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

I know that it is November and to talk about a February VA program may be crazy, but you need time to make plans. The week of February 14th is a special week for the VA System. Over 9 million women & men veterans are celebrated during National Salute Week. Our Veterans are cared for in VAMC's, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, Domiciliary, & Nursing Homes. The purpose of the National Salute to Veterans Program is to pay tribute & express our appreciation to our Veterans, increase community awareness of the role of the VAMC & to encourage the public to visit our hospitalized Veterans & to hopefully become volunteers.

Some of our goals for this year are to increase our standing at our VA Medical Centers (VAMC). Currently we have representation in 29 VAMC's. With 44 VA Volunteer Service (VAVS) Representatives, Deputy Reps or Associate Reps. Our national goal is to have a VAVS Representative in 55 of our VAMC's. There is some confusion, however. That if we have a rep in a CBOC that adds to our number of VA's. That is not the case, as much as we want & need Reps in our CBOC's they are all tied to a specific VAMC. So, case in point my own VA, Illiana has 5 CBOC's. If we have me at Illiana & 5 Sons at the CBOC's that does not mean, we have representation in 6 facilities. We have representation in one system if you will. Another goal is that we are asking that our current Reps recruit one new Regularly Scheduled (RS) volunteer this year. You only must volunteer 4 times a year to be considered an RS volunteer. And you do have to go through paperwork process at your VA. The **Charles Rigsby Award** – currently the Rigsby award only recognizes the volunteer efforts of our members doing work in our VAMC's. But VAMC's are not always close for our members & we have people doing amazing VA& R work in other places. such as: volunteering at State VA's, Fisher Houses or working the many different programs for our veterans & active duty. So, the commission will have a resolution in the spring to add all VA & R volunteering to the award.

And lastly, social media – We have restarted the National VAR Facebook site and renamed it: Sons of the American Legion National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. If you are on Facebook, please join the page. We want to see what our brothers from across the country are doing for VA & R.

On behalf of your VA & R commission we would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, the merriest of Christmases, a Happy Hanukkah, and a safe News Year.

Randy Timms, Staff Contributor

How I became a Son

In 1911, my maternal grandfather sailed on the Lusitania from Sweden to America. He was 19 years old. His half-sister had come a few years earlier and he knew this was to be his new home. In June of 1917, he enlisted in the United States Army and was shipped to France to fight Germany in WWI. He was 25.

He became part of Battalion F, 18th Artillery, 3rd Army Division. He fought in now famous places called Verdun, Argonne, St. Mihiel and more. I'm not sure when, but at some point, he was overtaken by mustard gas. Although quite deadly, he survived. Grateful to be alive, he spent 6 months in a French hospital recovering from this poison gas attack. He lived to be 86 years old and suffered regularly with stomach issues the doctors claimed was an after-affect from the gas.

Decades later, I was invited to speak about an event at a local Legion Post. After my presentation, the Post Commander asked me why I was not a member of SAL. I had no clue what he was talking about! After explaining the Sons of the American Legion to me, I began to look into the organization. I truly didn't know if this was a legitimate group or not. So, I asked some of my veteran friends. Some had not heard of it either. Others knew of it and urged me to join. I was impressed and joined in late 2017.

I was made eligible from my grandfather's service. He was a very proud American Legion member. Although he passed away many years prior, his service made my application acceptable.

Today, when we're offering our opening ceremonies and POW/MIA recognition, I think about how grateful I am for Grandpa Carl's service and his dedication to his new country. Although I was not able to serve my Country in that manner, I can serve those who did through the Sons of the American Legion.

I look at Carl's mess kit, his picture in uniform, his worn 48-star flag and the flag that covered his casket and remember what he and so many have done for my freedom. I can never be grateful enough.

Being a member of the Sons of The American Legion is an honor. It is one I take seriously and one I would highly recommend to every son of an eligible veteran. There is room for everyone and

a place where you can honor your heritage as well as the veteran next door.

And, if you happen to ride a motorcycle, being a member of the SAL entitles you to become a member of the American Legion Riders. For me, I serve both organizations. As the current State Secretary for the Wisconsin Legion Riders, and the Past President for District 1 Riders, and as the current District 1 Commander and the Assistant Detachment Adjutant for the SAL. I enjoy giving of my time and whatever talents I may have to improve the lives of all veterans.

If you have a servant's heart. If you have a desire to honor your forefathers. If you care about this country and wish to serve those who keep it free, please consider joining the Sons of The American Legion. Reach out to me at saldistrict1@gmail.com with any questions you may have.

Sons business meetings set

Sons of The American Legion is announcing its 2023 – 2024 Zoom Business Meeting schedule. To attend on the appropriate date, please click the link on the meeting you would like to attend. If you will be calling in, the number for all meetings is (877) 853-5257.

These meetings are open to all members to listen in and find out more about the organization, learn about how national programs are going, and get ideas that may work at home.

Central Region
Second Tuesday Quarterly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429
11/10/23 | 12/12/23 | 03/13/24 | 04/09/24 |
06/11/24 | 08/13/24

Midwest Region
Fourth Wednesday Quarterly | 8:00 p.m. Mtn
Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685
09/27/23 | 12/27/23 | 03/27/24 | 06/26/23

Northeast Region
Third Wednesday Quarterly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 980 7046 7820 | Passcode: 469 153
09/20/23 | 12/20/23 | 03/20/24 | 06/19/23

Southeast Region
First Wednesday Quarterly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543
06/06/23 | 12/06/23 | 03/26/23 | 06/05/23

Western Region
Third Wednesday Quarterly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 964 2285 1563 | Passcode: 433 552
09/20/23 | 12/20/23 | 03/20/24 | 06/19/24

Americanism Commission
Third Monday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918 | Passcode: 571 659
10/16/23 | 12/18/23 | 02/19/24 | 04/15/24
06/17/24 | 08/19/24

Finance Commission
Third Thursday as scheduled | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702
09/21/23 | 02/15/24 | 04/18/24 | 07/18/24

Internal Affairs Zoom Business Meeting
Fourth Thursday Bi-Monthly | 6:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 932 2650 4089 | Passcode: 725 519
10/26/23 | 12/28/23 | 02/22/24 | 04/15/24
06/27/24 | 08/22/24

Legislative Commission
Second Thursday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912
10/12/23 | 12/14/23 | 02/08/24 | 04/11/24
06/13/24 | 08/08/24

Public Media & Communications Commission
Fourth Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 914 4414 8114 | Passcode: 977 759
10/24/23 | 12/26/23 | 02/27/23 | 04/23/24
06/25/23 | 08/27/23

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Second Monday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 971 3717 7471 | Passcode: 712 824
11/29 23 | 12/11/23 | 02/12/24 | 04/08/24
06/10/24 | 08/12/24

Veterans Education & Employment Commission
Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 989 2627 5747 | Passcode: 26060
11/19/23 | 12/21/23 | 02/15/24 | 04/18/24
06/20/24 | 08/15/24

Century Committee (CENTCOM)
Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429
10/10/23 | 12/12/23 | 03/13/24 | 04/09/24
06/11/24 | 08/13/24

Child Welfare Foundation Committee
Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786 | Passcode: 780 858
09/21/23 | 11/16/23 | 01/18/24 | 03/21/24
05/16/24 | 07/18/24

Children & Youth Committee
Second Monday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587 | Passcode: 799 095
09/11/23 | 11/13/23 | 01/08/24 | 03/11/24
05/13/24 | 07/08/24

Member Training & Development Committee
First Monday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 957 9605 2218 | Passcode: 528 704
09/04/23 | 11/06/23 | 01/01/24 | 03/04/24
05/06/24 | 07/01/24

Membership Committee
Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 989 3388 3350 | Passcode: 546 900
09/19/23 | 11/21/23 | 01/16/24 | 03/19/24 |
05/21/24 | 07/16/24

National Convention Committee
Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 953 4866 3402 | Passcode: 670 002
09/12/23 | 11/14/23 | 01/09/24 | 03/12/23
05/14/23 | 07/19/24

Daryl VerStreate Jr., Chairman

Membership and Squadron Activities

Membership this year is off to a wonderful start. We have managed to hit every goal this year so far.

When comparing the numbers, Nov 21, 2022, we stood at 145,071 memberships turned in as of Nov 15, 2023, we had 150,367 turned in for an increase over all of 5,296 members being turned in. A job well done by all.

As of November 8, 2023, recap 2023 Membership Stas.

Total Actual Membership turned in is - 378,928 for 103.03% of goal.
Renewal Percentage - 88.95%
Detachments at 100% - 44

Squadron Data Reports. Encourage all squadrons that have not turned in an SDR to record what is charged at the squadron level to please do so. To ensure the proper amounts are up to date within MyLegion when members are paying online. How many members have paid online? A wonderful question, to date for 2024 - 2,609.

Jim Coates, Chairman

Veterans Employment and Education

Hello from the Veterans Employment and Education Commission as we settle into another year of service to our veterans and honoring those who did not come home or are no longer with us.

Current members of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission are: James Coates-Chairman, James Stewart-Vice Chairman, Fred Vaccarella, William Stem, James Noble, Dennis Henkemeyer, Jon Kingston – NEC Lead, James Stewart-NEC Liaison, Eddy White-NEC Liaison, Jacob McCarty-NEC Liaison.

Our VE&E goals for this year involve: 1) moving the needle on where we left off last year. We begin with continuing to build our relationships with The American Legion VE&E Commissions and Committees at all levels; 2) working to assist and promote TAL "BE THE ONE" Program; and 3) continue to support, educate, and promote activities that help our service members establish credentials that will transfer to the civilian work force.

Like all other Commissions and Committees, we have been charged by Commander Hall to identify potential Children and Youth Programs for members 16 years of age and younger. Some of the programs we have come up with or heard from others about are:

- Flag Etiquette and Americanism
- "Bust Bullying" Anti-Bullying campaign
- Suicide Prevention.

The programs selected by the VE&E Commission to pass on to Vice Commanders are:

- COTA (Childrens Organ Transplant Association)
- Work with the Red Cross in sponsoring, through VE&E a Blood Drive at Convention.

This past year's Marvin Nay Award was presented to Evan Glendinning, Squadron #327, Norfolk Virginia. In the future we hope to establish a letter to be sent to all applicants that did not win the Marvin Nay Award, thanking them for their contributions and service to our Veterans.

While it is the responsibility of the commission to pass along as much information as possible, the success of the VE&E Commission will be dependent on Detachments and Squadrons with "boots on the ground" at the local levels. WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Identify the active community-based veterans service providers in your area, understand what their needs are, and try to help them meet those needs. Hold a fundraiser/donate to a veterans' outreach program/VOLUNTEER!

We wish you all a Great Holiday Season. Thank You for all that you do!

Joe Lohman, Chairman

Children and Youth

Greetings from the SAL National Children and Youth Committee. This year the committee is focused on bringing awareness to the National C&Y Month in April and American Legion Family Day on April 27, 2024, where American Legion posts are encouraged to open their doors to the community for a day to recognize the accomplishments of the American Legion family.

We are also working on promoting the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) program which is a premier organization that provides fundraising assistance to transplant families. COTA's services and guidance are provided at no charge to transplant families.

Another program the committee has focused on is the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF). VCF provides vital support for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care and due benefits and opportunities of disabled veterans and families. This year's goal for the Detachments to donate to the VCF is $1.00 per capita. This will help the foundation to be self-sufficient and be able to assist more Veterans and Children during emergency relief efforts.

We are proud to announce that the C&Y committee will be working with the Americanism Commission to assist with updating the Youth Academy program at the National Convention.

We will soon be sending out C&Y Action alerts to bring awareness and promote our C&Y programs. The C&Y Committee wishes everyone to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

2023 2024
INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD FORM (IRA)

Date _____
Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy (select date by clicking inside the box)

Recruiter Name _____ Member ID# _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____ Detachment _____ Squadron # _____

☐ MAIL TO RECRUITER ☐ MAIL TO SQUADRON

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

TO QUALIFY: RECRUIT FIVE (5) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

** INCLUDE FIRST & LAST NAME AND MEMBER ID# FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS BELOW (LEGIBLY)

** A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE SONS MEMBER JOINING FOR THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS

INFO: PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW AMERICAN LEGION AND/OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR POST OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.

NOTE: ONLY ONE (1) AWARD PIN WILL BE PROVIDED TO RECRUITER PER YEARLY INCENTIVE

** SUBMIT AWARD FORMS BY JUNE 30 TO QUALIFY FOR THIS INCENTIVE **

	FIRST & LAST NAME	MEMBER ID#
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

INSTRUCTIONS: SAVE THE COMPLETED FORM, THEN EMAIL TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN APPLICABLE

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN:

NORTHEAST REGION:	ROBERT MANZO (MD)	(EMAIL) BMANZO1085@YAHOO.COM
SOUTHEAST REGION:	THOM SKELLEY (TX)	(EMAIL) THOMSKELLEY@TWC.COM
CENTRAL REGION:	HARL "BUTCH" RAY (IL)	(EMAIL) BUTCH.ILSAL@GMAIL.COM
MIDWEST REGION:	MIKE MONSERUD (IA)	(EMAIL) MIKEMONSERUD@GMAIL.COM
WESTERN REGION:	DAN ASHLEY (CA)	(EMAIL) POTATO480@LIVE.COM

VISIT WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS/PUBLICATIONS FOR OTHER AWARDS AVAILABLE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION | BE THE ONE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 * WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS * P: 317-630-1205

Stand for the Four Pillars, stand for the Legion Family

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We are off and working to make 2023-24 a great year! What an honor to be elected as your national commander and be able to represent my grandfather's service in the Army during World War II. "Representing More Than Me" is my slogan for the year because I truly believe that is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper it is a commitment to pay respect to our family member's service in our military. Let's make sure that our commitment is worth the sacrifices they made.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization, and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security and they are still the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, all you need to do is raise one dollar per member each for Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), the Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) and your department's Boys State program (Americanism) and hold a blood drive (National Security). You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is not that hard to do, if we plan and work to get it done.

I believe that the Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in the work we do to help our veterans, children, and community. Aaron Tippin sang a song that said, "You've got to stand for something or you will fall for anything." Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth all of us being the best Son we can be. "Be The One" in more ways than one.

Sincerely,

Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

"***Representing More Than Me***"

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION | BE THE ONE

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

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NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE
NATIONAL FOUR PILLAR SQUADRON CRITERIA & VALIDATION FORM

Children and Youth

Donate $1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. *Please list check # and submission date*:

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

Donate $1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors. *Please list check # and submission date*:

Americanism

Donate $1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to your home Department's American Legion Boys State Program. *Please list check # and submission date*:

National Security

Host a blood drive or donate $1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 payable to the hosting organization of the blood drive. *Please list date blood drive held, quantity of blood donated & recipient organization and/or list check # and submission date*:

Squadron Name: Squadron No:

Squadron Address:

Submitted By: Title:

Return Application to: Thomas Deal, 1434 Clayton Street, Perryville, MD 21903
(email) tom.deal@verizon.net

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
An Official Publication of Sons of The American Legion
THE MILLENNIUM
Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206

THE MILLENNIUM

Mission Statement

To disseminate information in a timely manner to members of The Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family, and to increase membership, member engagement, and to promote the Sons of The American Legion to outside the organization.

Vision Statement

To reach as many Sons of The American Legion members, American Legion Family members, and interested parties as possible to share our message, and to provide inspiring information about The Sons of The American Legion that can be printed, viewed online, and on mobile devices.