SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

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Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1.	Latin America	UPDATE!
2.	South Carolina	99.18%
3.	South Dakota	97.88%
4.	New Hampshire	95.24%
5.	Florida	94.36%
6.	Virginia	93.81%
7.	Hawaii	93.28%
8.	Wisconsin	92.67%
9.	Idaho	92.64%
10.	Maryland	92.03%

Statistics as of 31 March 2025

BE THE ONE

Inside *YOUR* SAL Newsletter this Month

American Legion Family Day!

Editorial: *"...lets make sure the world sees the great we do."*

Membership Matters!

Be The One

Wisconsin: Supporting our Scouts

Texas: Active at "A Taste of New Orleans"

Florida: Sons donate $8,000 to Special Olympics

Special to The Millennium—Rusty Myers (NJ), Editor

Celebrating American Legion Family Day!

In October 2022, The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution Number 7, American Legion Family Day. The resolution established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April — this year falling on 26 April.

Here are a few examples of post families that opened their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary.

In recognition of American Legion Family Day and the Columbia, Illinois community Columbia American Legion Post 581 Commander Chris Pulcher, the American Legion Post 581 Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion members Jim Vogt and Mark Jackson presented an American Legion Family donation to the local St. Baldrick's Foundation for their 4th Annual Fight Against Childhood Cancer in partnership with Ace's Wild and The Snow Angels.

Lake City, Florida Post 57 held a huge event which drew hundreds from the community on American Legion Family Day. In their first-ever Family Day event, the post fed over 350 people. Members were there to do face-painting, plus they had a car show, a mobile blood drive, a dunk tank, and music and entertainment. Organizations from the community also participated, including the local Sea Cadets, JROTC, the Florida Highway Patrol, and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. Outstanding job, Florida!

Arlington, Vermont Squadron 69 held a Fishing Derby on American Legion Family Day, with lots of smiles; 42 kids and their parents braved the rain to participate.

>>More American Legion Family Day Events Pages 2 and 3

Rusty Myers, Squadron 105 Belleville, NJ

Post 105 Family uses American Legion Family Day to promote COTA

"The National Executive Committee voted in 2022 to create American Legion Family Day on the last Saturday of April… a day when we are supposed to open the doors of our Post to let the community know all of the good things we do," spoke Rusty Myers when addressing the event's attendees. "***We can think of no better way to show what we do then by holding a fundraiser to benefit COTA.***"

Children's Organ Transplant Association.

Myers, adjutant for Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 in Belleville, was speaking at a picnic that the Post 105 Family held on 27 April to benefit the Children's Organ Transplant Association, or COTA. This is the second year Belleville's American Legion Family - veterans, Sons, and Auxiliary members - have held this picnic, though their support for COTA has been something membership has been passionate about for a while. Most recently, in November, the SAL organized a comedy show for COTA.

Submitted Photo: SAL-NJ COTA Chairman Greg Shaffer, left, and PDC Matt Thalasinos

Supporting COTA is a component of the "The Four Pillars" of The American Legion's national priorities … working to better the lives of our children and youth. COTA helps remove the financial barriers to a life-saving transplant by providing fundraising assistance and family support.

The day was windy and cold, even though the New Jersey weather had been in the 70's the week before. Perhaps 80 people came out to the picnic - many of them members of "the Legion" from around the state - to have a fun time with good food and great friends. Between tickets, a 50/50, and basket raffles, the event raised almost $2,000 for kids with transplant expenses.

Submitted Photo: ALA Department of NJ 2nd Vice President Lisa Natale and SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers sporting their COTA hats.

It's especially important to note that all of the funds raised in New Jersey stay in New Jersey. Last year, the NJ American Legion Family raised a record $93,000 for the charity.

"Events like this highlight the incredible generosity and compassion that define our Belleville veterans' community", noted Belleville Mayor Michael Melham who not only attended, but is an SAL himself. "I commend Post 105 for being a true staple in our township and for their unwavering dedication to helping children in need of life-saving transplants."

The national COTA organization always makes an extra effort to have transplant families attend events throughout the country, so those at fundraisers can put a face to what they are raising money for. For a second year in a row, the Latchman family attended Belleville's event. Melissa and Dan Latchman, parents of Aliyah, noted that "We are so grateful to those who took the time and effort to put this event together and host our family. Everyone is so welcoming and we truly appreciate each and every person who attended to support COTA."

Last year, they told Aliyah's story - "At 9 months old Aliyah received her life saving liver transplant from a donor and we have been forever grateful that she has remained in good health for the most part. COTA has been with us every step of the way and has helped with any transplant related expenses, such as copays for her immune suppression medicine, hospital travel expenses incurred going back and forth to Chop (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) where she spent most of her first year at. While the road to her recovery and transplant journey hasn't been easy, COTA helped put us at ease with regards to the financial burden and I'm so happy they will be there for her throughout her life."

Lisa Natale, Second Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of NJ, who donated a kidney herself to save a strangers life, also attended the event. "As a living donor, I've firsthand seen the constant doctor's appointments and testing that children undergo … to have the American Legion recognize this, and help these families with the financial burden, is life changing."

The final donation, which will include additional donations from the Post 105 Family, will be given at the Department Convention in Wildwood in June.

"The American Legion Family has stepped up yet again to serve our country, and recently to help our most vulnerable citizens – transplant children", remarked Rick Lofgren, CEO and President of COTA when asked for comment. "The members of the Detachment of New Jersey have helped Jersey kids working with COTA for more than 30 years, and have again demonstrated they believe in service above self."

Submitted Photo: Attendees at the COTA Picnic held on 27 April at Post 105 in Belleville, NJ

Facebook.com and legion.org

Other American Legion Family Events across the country

Facebook Photo

30 youth Anglers ranging from 3 to 15 years old showed their angler skills at the very successful 1st Annual Family Day and Youth Fishing Derby on April 26th. Wingate Landing Post 340 on Lake Seminole and Bainbridge Post 502 cohosted the event.

Facebook Photo

In Henderson, NV, BMI Post 40 hosted a barbecue provided by its American Legion Riders chapter, with music, games, raffles, a photo booth, and more.

Facebook Photo

Continental, OH, American Legion Post 541's event included information about Be The One, along with an interactive map for veterans to place a flag where they were stationed during their service, a hog roast, children's activities, and live music.

Facebook Photo

In Spotsylvania, VA, Post 320's Legion Family invited the public to learn about the Legion Family and its community partners, scholarships, American Legion Baseball, the post's Scouting program, veterans assistance and more—along with food, music, and fun.

Michael Vozar (IL), National Americanism Comission

American Legion Family Day in Illinois

Post 911 in Wauconda, Illinois was one of many Posts across the country celebrating American Legion Family Day with their communities, opening the doors and celebrating our accomplishments with a beautiful blend of activities and information. Showcasing Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs, National Security, and Be The One.

Post 911 Family members were on hand to personally greet visitors, proudly explain and answer questions about programs, membership, benefits, and highlighting their Be The One mission. They were supported by a great resource table with plenty of information on Legion Family programs.

Flags were also collected for retirement and disposal. Post 911 riders were on hand with their motorcycles to explain the energetic camaraderie and fundraising activities of their group supporting veterans and youth. Wauconda Police provided an exciting canine demonstration, with the Wauconda Fire Department providing a popular "Touch a Truck" opportunity . Of course, the petting zoo was a big hit, as were cornhole games and a never ending supply of hot dogs!

It was a wonderful turnout educating the community about our programs, showcasing our commitment to Veterans, Children and Youth, Americanism, and National Security; and creating interest in membership.

All Submitted Photos

Russell "Rusty" Myers III (NJ), Editor, "The Millennium"

"...lets make sure the world sees the great we do."

Over the next few weeks, in what is left of Military Appreciation Month, we'll all be part of our home post's Memorial Day remembrances. Be it a ceremony at your local cemetery, or a parade down Main Street, almost every American Family does something—it's that "priceless heritage" that we as Sons lay claim to.

Shortly thereafter, many of us will hold elections, installations, and conventions.

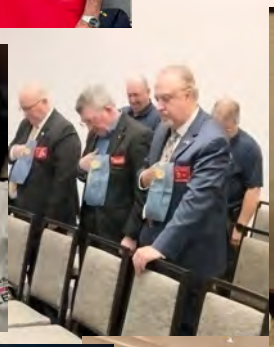
Take lots of photos. Tag them on Facebook with #SALSTRONG, or email them to the editor at rusty.myers@ymail.com. Next month, I'd like to do a few pages of photos of some of the new faces we're installing as local squadron officers, and pictures of us taking the next step within the Sons of The American Legion leadership at our counties, districts, and detachments. A few pages to celebrate the friends we've made and the good time's we're having within the organization, and of what our Sons across the country have done to honor the fallen over Memorial Day Weekend.

Please also email the American Legion Media & Communications Division how your American Legion Family is observing this sacred holiday by emailing sbrooks@legion.org, as well as put a few words and some pictures up on legiontown.org.

National PMCC (Public and Media Communications Commission) Chairman Kevin Chaplin (VA) said when making his report at the May national meetings ***"We all know this organization does some truly amazing things for our veterans, children and youth, active military and families ... lets make sure the world sees the great we do."***

The Chairman was speaking at the time about the Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service awards PMCC holds each year—application forms for both awards are available at the SAL Publications Page at www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/publications-and-forms under Public and Media Communications. The deadline is 30 June, and this is a fantastic way for your squadron to get recognized for those great things we do that Chairman Chaplin spoke about.

Photos from the Spring NEC (National Executive Committee) meetings, 2-4 May in Indianapolis



This page, Facebook Photos: Mike Pook (WI), Chris Casey (NE), Jeff Hicks (NJ), Chris Beasley (AZ), Charles Curtis (CA), Jason Miller (MD)

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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 at rusty.myers@ymail.com

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Mike Monserud (IA), National Vice Commander Midwest

Join Detachment Leadership

With our Detachment Conventions approaching in a few months, now begins the time when choices have to be made on who is going to lead your Detachments for the next year. If you want to make a difference and enact change, throw your hat into the race and make a splash. We are always looking for the leaders of tomorrow. Reach out to the senior leadership and help make a difference and lead our great organization into the future. If you have not been to a national meeting and want to see one, I encourage you to attend one and see what it offers and if it is something that you want to progress to. It will give you a sense of how the National Organization works and you can provide a different perspective from someone who has a different view on what you want to see in the future. Reach out to someone who you think of as a mentor and ask them to help provide you with the knowledge and resources to move to what you may strive to do. Not everyone has an aspiration to move up to serve at the National level or Detachment level and that is fine. I know of many people who stay in their communities and support the local community and their Veterans the best that they can, and you can be proud of accomplishing that in itself. It is up to all of us to make sure that the SAL is going to be around for the next 100 years. Always remember that we are all part of the SAL because of someone else. We owe it to them to keep their legacy alive and we can do this by making sure that we are building the leadership of tomorrow. Honor our veterans and carry on the legacy, and this great organization will not only be around for the next 100 years, but many more past that.

> ***"If you want to make a difference and enact change, throw your hat into the race and make a splash."***
>
> ***-NVC Monserud***

Harl "Butch" Ray (IL), National Vice Commander Central

We are SO Close!

"The steeper the mountain, the harder the climb, the better the view from the finish line!" - Paula Julie Abdul, American singer, songwriter, dancer, choreographer, actress, and television personality.

Good day my fellow Sons!

Do you know what time it is? It is time to finish the job we started way back in 2024! We are SO close! As of the April 9th 90% membership report, nationally we have 364,377 confirmed members! That represents 91.1% of our 400,000 member goal! We are 6,000 members ahead of where we were last year at this time and only need 35,623 more cards to reach our goal! WOW, just WOW!

We cannot rest! President John F. Kennedy once said... "We must use time as a tool, not as a couch!" So I say to the SAL, LET'S GET MOVING! Let us not delay but continue to fight for every last one of our former members and signing up new ones! We need to keep moving forward in completing the Mission of the Sons of The American Legion to assist every single veteran and child in our country!

Our goal is just a few short steps away! What kind of competitor sees the finish line and slows down? Not us! No sir, we continue to move forward and work on all of the programs of The American Legion! We have not come this far, just to come this far! Together we can and we will reach this and many other goals set before us! Remember success is empty if you arrive at the finish line alone!

Patriot William Penn said that... "Time is what we want most, but what we use worst" We need to rededicate our efforts these last few months to be sure we finish the work that has been set before us! We need to close April, The American Legion Children & Youth month on a strong note! Do not forget to get your donations for the Child Well Being Foundation and the Veterans & Chilrens Foundation to the National HQ by the May 31st deadline!

A man that never sets foot on the track will certainly never cross the finish line. Keep up the GREAT work my friends and I know we will not fail! Let us once again set a new ALL TIME HIGH record for membership!

"Spotted by a Son"

In April's "Spotted by a Son", we asked if you could find the POW/MIA logo. It was in the "Sons on Social Media" section, on Page 6...

The newsletter email went out on 09 April at 12:48pm, and by 6:44pm we had a winner…

David Stephens Krietenstein Squadron #104, Terre Haute, IN

Stephens served as National Commander 1982-83, and currently serves as his squadron chaplain, 6 District SAL Adjutant, Detachment VAVS Committee, CONA (Committee on National Appointments, and as an Instructor for Detachment Commander's training

Make sure that you keep an eye out on the last page of The Millennium each month for the "Spotted by a Son" graphic hidden within the newsletter. But be quick in writing the editor—the first email wins!

PNC David Stephens, Squadron 104 (Terre Haute, IN) with ALA National President Trish Ward

"A goal is a dream with a finish line!" - Duke Ellington

Facebook: Claude R. Batchelder Squadron 72 Alton, NH

Taps: PNVC John Cook (NH)

John Cook was an honored member of the Sons of the American Legion. He wholeheartedly served his squadron, the Detachment of New Hampshire and at the National level. Most recently, he held the position of Adjutant for Sons of The American Legion Squadron 8 in Dover, NH where he was an Honorary Life Member. He has held many positions throughout the years. He is a past SAL Commander and Adjutant for Conway, NH, Squadron 46. His efforts at the squadron level helped him to achieve the position of the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of NH Vice Commander and eventually the Detachment of NH Commander of the SAL. Upon completion of his term, he was the Alternate NEC before moving up to the Northeast Membership Chairman. He was then elected as the SAL National Vice Commander for the northeast region. He has participated in many different committees at all levels.

Rest in Peace, John. You will be missed by the Sons of The American Legion and the entire American Legion Family. Our thoughts are with his wife, Denise, and his close friends and family.

@ Email your story to The Millennium
rusty.myers@ymail.com

Fred Brock Post 828 Public Affairs: Legiontown, USA

Texas American Legion Family at Taste of New Orleans

To increase their visibility in the community and engage with veterans and their families, members of Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 participated in the 38th Annual Taste of New Orleans held at the Sunken Garden Theater.

Legiontown, USA: Members of the post, to include Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members, manned an information booth to educate veterans and the others about The American Legion

The three-day event, hosed by the San Antonio Zulu Association (SAZA) Commission, Inc., is one of Fiesta San Antonio's most popular events.

Fiesta San Antonio started in 1891 as a one-parade event to honor the memory of the heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto. It has grown into a celebration of San Antonio's rich and diverse cultures. This year's Fiesta San Antonio began April 24 and will conclude May 4.

Legionnaires, joined by Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members, manned an information booth to educate veterans and the others about the organization and encourage eligible persons to join the American Legion Family.

Legiontown, USA: Squadron 828 Commander Wendell Nance speaks with a son of a veteran about joining the Sons.

According to Post Commander Burrell Parmer, Taste of New Orleans brings together people from all areas of the city, to include out-of-town guests.

"Being at Taste of New Orleans provided the post another opportunity to be seen and talk to people," said Parmer. "Not only were we able to recruit some new members, but also to speak with Legionnaires who requested a transfer into our post."

Many veterans, including active-duty service members, visited the booth in addition to those who came by to thank the Legionnaires for their service.

ANEC Mike Pook (WI), Staff Contributor "The Millennium"

"Mentoring Moments"

Hat pins ranged in size, colors and shapes. As a general rule, you should limit hat pins on your SAL cover; they can also only be on the right side and securely fastened to your cover.

Editor's Photo

Reproduced from villages-news.com, 27 April 2025

Florida Sons donate $8,000 to Special Olympics

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 in Lady Lake presented its 2025 Special Olympics donation check to Denise Breneman, Director of Civic Partnerships and Events for the Special Olympics of Florida.

Villages-news.com photo: Special Olympics athlete Will Brenaman, Florida Special Olympics Director Denise Brenaman and Sons of the American Legion Commander Danny Roe, are pictured from left.

Over the past five years, the Sons have donated over $28,000 to Florida Special Olympics. This year's donation was $8,000. Denise expressed her sincere thanks for the Son's continued support, not only with funds, but also with volunteers at some of their local events. In March, several Sons members volunteered at the Special Olympics Equestrian and Corn Hole events held at the Ocala World Equestrian Center. Denise's son, Will, a Special Olympics athlete, described his involvement in sports competitions over the years and how that has helped him learn various skills and also how to be a good sportsman, how to train, and how to enjoy the thrill of sports competition.

About 77,000 athletes compete in over 20 different sports during the year all over Florida, and are helped out by over 51,000 volunteers and 18,000 coaches. The Sons Squadron #347 in Lady Lake currently has 1,090 members and donates over $100,000 every year to many local, state, and national causes. They raise funds partly through selling meals 3-days per week at the Legion, and partly through membership dues and donations. They also host an annual golf tournament in May to benefit Florida Children & Youth programs. Last year they raised $20,000, and this year they expect to raise even more, thanks to generous donations and sponsorships from local businesses and individuals.

Reproduced from the Independence Bulletin Journal, 28 April 2025

Iowa charters Squadron at Cedar Rock Post 434

Several dignitaries of the American Legion Department of Iowa officially welcomed a new Sons of American Legion Squadron to American Legion Cedar Rock Post 434.

John Klotzbach Photo: Detachment and Department leadership presenting the new charter.

All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

According to Post 434 Commander Matt Chesmore the group has been trying to form for a few years.

Earlier this month Post 434 members gathered with friends and family to witness the official dedication and chartering of the SAL Squadron. Mark Huenefeld was selected to be the SAL Commander.

Post 434 is located at 100 Water Street North. Meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Reproduced from The Vermont Journal, 24 April 2025

Vermont Sons host bowling tournament

On Saturday, March 29, the Ludlow Sons of the American Legion hosted their first bowling tournament, as a fundraiser to support the veterans and youth in our community. Sixteen teams competed to claim bragging rights as the overall winner.

The winning team, shown below, consisted of John Pickielnok, Marion Pickielnok, Jacob Pickielnok, and Hailey Pierce.

The Sons thank all the teams for supporting this event, as well as the following lane sponsors who also contributed to help make this tournament a success.

A huge thank-you goes out to the following: Ballard Hobart American Legion Post 36, Ballard Hobart Unit 36 Auxiliary, Big Pops Sandwich Shop, Built-Rite Forestry Equipment LLC, Clear Choice Pool & Spa Service, Countryside Alarms Inc., CSStoneworks, Dave Berry Woodworking, 802 Auto Body, The Eatery by Vermont Bliss, Gassetts Group, Hair by Paula, The Honey Dew Man, Jeff Stearns Excavation, LaValley Building Supply, Ludlow Insurance Agency, Ludlow Side Hill Cronchers Snowmobile Club, Master Plumbing and Heating Inc., Pete's Painting, Ramunto's Brick Oven Pizza, Sanderson Contracting, Squeels on Wheels BBQ, Stewart Maple, The Hatchery, and Wright Construction Co. Inc. Also, a special thank-you to Shawn and Deb at Maple Lanes in Claremont for their hospitality and allowing us to host this event.

John Klotzbach Photo, below: Members of Post and Squadron 434 of Cedar Rock, IA

Excerpts taken from legion.org

Be The One: "Changing Live and Saving Lives"

At its core, Be the One is The American Legion's top priority, a mission to reduce the number of veterans and service members who die by suicide. It involves everyone throughout the entire American Legion Family. Post members are able to support Be the One by conducting Buddy Checks, raising awareness of resources for veterans in their communities, taking the Columbia University training so they know what to do in a potential time of crisis, and more. Posts, units, and squadrons can work together to host or support events aimed at bringing the darkness of suicide into the light. By talking about it, raising awareness and fostering camaraderie, you are demonstrating how to "Be the One." At the department level, staff can elevate awareness about how posts and members are contributing to the cause, and also create opportunities for training sessions, fundraisers, awareness events and other means to promote Be the One. At the national level, staff is promoting the initiative through various marketing, internal media and external media means. National Headquarters staff is also focusing energies on creating more training opportunities, resource materials and other ways that posts and members can further the mission.

There are many ways to lend support. Like other sanctioned American Legion initiatives, it is best to take the concept for Be the One and incorporate it into the needs of your community. The majority of posts already conduct events that can be adapted for a Be the One event. Those include a fundraising ride, cornhole tournament, car show and other activities that posts regularly conduct. Still, there are other ways to support Be the One. For example, a large post in a populous area might want to consider a symposium or similar event where VA staff members, mental-health experts and community agencies that support mental health and similar topics could present their information to veterans, their families and others. A smaller post in a rural area might want to conduct Buddy Checks as a way to educate local veterans about Be the One and the assistance the post and other community groups can provide.

National Headquarters distributed a sample printed toolkit in 2024 to departments. The sample represented some of the many materials available at the dedicated resource page, **legion.org/betheone/resources**. On that page, you will find a "start here" PDF, links to how-to videos, brochures that can be customized for local use, pop-up banners, wallet-sized cards and other resources.

Stories and ideas about what other Post Families have done are also available at **legion-town.org/be-the-one**.

BE THE ONE

Learn how to help a veteran in crisis

As part of The American Legion "Be the One" mission to end veteran suicide, the Legion has joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities.

To register for the 90-minute course online, or to see in-person sessions, go to: www.legion.org/betheone/training.

Via your myLegion account, you can also opt-in to the "Be the One" newsletter, or go to www.legion.org/betheone/resources for branding and public relations resources.

Editor's Note: *This article about Be The One was published by request of a reader, Chaplain Larry Haltz of Squadron 241 (IA). We appreciate your feedback … and encourage all of our readers to let us know what you want to read about by way of emailing the editor at rusty.myers@ymail.com with ideas, or by completing the email survey many of you had received.*

AMERICAN LEGION BE THE ONE

Facebook Photo: National Sergeant-at-arms Matt Griffis (AZ)

ANEC Mike Pook (WI), Staff Contributor "The Millennium"

Supporting our Scouts

The American Legion has supporting Scouting since 1919. It is a natural bridge between Scouting and the Sons of the American Legion as they both help build character and positive traits in our country's youth. The Scouting program teaches scouts of any age and gender what is flag etiquette, how to be a member of a color guard and properly dressed in your uniform. On the Consolidated Squadron Report (CRS) form, under Americanism, Scouting has its own line item. The American Legion honors an Eagle Scout of the Year at the National Convention and at the State Conventions as well. The winners receive scholarships. There is even a Square Knot Award for adult leaders. The Scouting units are looking for a meeting place and someone to hold their charter. Sponsoring a scouting unit is pretty easy, as they pretty much run themselves.

ANEC Mike Pook with Eagle Scout Jack Adams at his court of honor at the sponsoring post.

In Scouting, the highest rank is Eagle. Many Scouts start down this path, but only a few earn this award. Beyond the six different ranks one must earn, there are 21 required merit badges and service hours one must fulfill. The Eagle Scout project itself is first writing out and submitted for approval before any physical work is to begin. The Scout and not the parent or leaders must coordinate the service project and their labor force. The Scout is responsible for all aspects of the project to completion and beyond. Often years later, Scouts will return to help with the upkeep of their projects.

Jack H Adams of Scouting Troop 363, which meets at the American Legion Post 375, Mukwonago Wisconsin. Jack is a seven year member of Sons pf the American Legion, Squadron 375. Jack has developed as a natural born leader as he earned his way through the various scouting ranks and youth leadership positions. In December of 2024, Jack earned his Eagle Scout rank. His Eagle Scout Project benefited his American Legion Post. Jack saw a need and did something about it. At Post 375, Mukwonago, there is a nice pavilion used for outside meetings and activities. There was no paved walk ay and people would walk over the grass to get there. Walking impaired legion family members were at risk at falling because of the uneven ground. Jack's Eagle Scout project created an all brick walkway from the parking lot to the pavilion. Jack held his Eagle Court of Honor at American Legion Post 375 on April 26, 2025. Jack is looking at Criminal Justice in the future.

In the State of Wisconsin, The Eagle Scout of the Year was selected from the Shawano Post 117. James V Lange's Eagle Scout Project was playground improvements. He created and built a Gaga Ball court. Gaga ball is a variant of Dodgeball. The scouting program requires scouts to put in service hours for each rank they earn. The scouts often wear their uniforms as they bus tables, and seat patrons at legion fundraisers. Scouts sell water and soda to the patrons. The scouts are often selling hot dogs at events and Scout popcorn. The Scouting values and the Legion's mission has lots of similarities. The youth male scouts and their male leaders are a source of potential new members for the Sons of the American Legion. Also the Scout activities and time spent could count towards the Consolidated Squadron Report form. It is truly an honor to be a part of a Squadron member's Eagle Court of Honor. Boys may age out of scouting, however this is not the case in the SAL. It's just a question on how the Squadron will keep them engaged in the mission and continue with their path into leadership.

SAL National Commander Navarreté at his April homecoming event in his home state of New Mexico, flanked by American Legion National Commander LaCoursiere and National President Ward.

The Sons on Social Media: A snapshot of the SAL around the country

Squadron 154 (Montrose, SD) presents a check for $16,108.23 from a recent fundraiser for the Montrose City Pool.

Squadron 121 (Bardstown, KY) of "Old Kentucky Home" Post 121 presenting two SAL Law Enforcement Awards.

Squadron 42 (Arlington, VA) Commander Shaun Tawzer presenting Trevor Keating the EMT of The Year Award. It was a busy night … the squadron gave the Firefighter of The Year Award to Alex Doren , Blake Madsen collected his 2024 Scholarship monies, and officer elections and installation was held.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kings County American Legion Family from Brooklyn, NY did their annual Walk-a-Thon which benefits 13 VA hospitals and 4 VA Homes in New York State.

Squadron 43 (Hollywood, CA) welcoming new members into the Sons of The American Legion, followed by a luau at the Post.

Post and Squadron 74 (Charlottesville, VA) doing a recruiting event at a local shopping center.

Commander Weiser from Squadron 730 (Harrisburg, PA), accepting the Guardian Award from PA District 19 Commander Wolfe, for their support of CWF.

We have confirmed the Easter Bunny is a member in good standing of Squadron 38 (Appleton, WI).

Department of Maine First Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie installs newly elected Stockholm, ME Squadron 136 Historian Emmett Anderson.

Squadron 223 (Sykesville, MD) donates $1,000 to the Carroll County Veterans Independent Project

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

NEXT MEETING MAY 20TH

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MAY 2025

NEXT TARGET DATE - MAY 14TH - 100%

Sons of The American Legion
2023-2024 Accomplishments

Consolidated Reports Summary
Published: August 23, 2024

National Overall Totals	
Dollars Donated	$10,656,134
Hours Volunteered	5,455,332
Value of One Vol. Hour*	$33.49
Volunteer Hours Value	$182,699,074
Total Volunteer Value	$193,355,207

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value*
Americanism	$4,807,821	4,644,639	$155,548,974
Children & Youth	$1,506,463	134,541	$4,505,761
Vets Affairs & Rehab.	$2,281,859	200,523	$6,715,524
Vets Employ & Edu.	$61,757	33,610	$1,125,599
Internal Affairs	$1,998,234	442,019	$14,803,216

Americanism

Boys State / Girls State	$305,008	in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 57,190 Hours of Participation
Legion Ed. Programs	$19,632	in Donations to 3-Stan / 10 Ideals Progs. with 2,247 Hours of Participation
Flag Programs	$178,055	in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 961,636 Hours of Participation
	648,634	Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events)
Flag Education	$26,635	in Donations to Flag Education Progs. with 97,537 Hours of Participation
Other Ed. Programs	$625,412	in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 17,770 Hours of Participation
Oratorical Contest	$25,412	in Donations to Oratorical Contest with 4,209 Hours of Participation
Color Guard	$91,479	in Donations to Color Guard with 93,603 Hours of Participation
Community Service	$1,173,943	in Donations to Other Organizations with 2,807,409 Hours of Participation
Scouting	$205,011	in Donations to Scouting with 89,441 Hours of Participation
Jr. Shooting Sports	$45,298	in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 16,214 Hours of Participation
Am. Legion Baseball	$237,846	in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball with 37,036 Hours of Participation
Other Teams	$501,118	in Donations to Other Teams with 26,007 Hours of Participation
Blood Drives	$27,491	in Donations to Blood Drives with 14,076 Hours of Participation
Nat'l Emer. Fund	$47,827	in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 2,224 Hours of Participation
Legacy Schol. Fund	$70,862	in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 10,853 Hours of Participation
Other Amer. Projects	$1,226,812	in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 405,128 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs

Other Totals	$1,998,234	in Donations, Not Covered Above with 442,019 Hours, Not Covered Above

Children and Youth

Child Welfare Foundation	$301,858	in Donations to Child Welfare Found. with 16,423 Hours of Participation
Special Olympics	$162,073	in Donations to Special Olympics with 11,236 Hours of Participation
Children's Miracle Net.	$54,528	in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. with 2,329 Hours of Participation
Ronald McDonald House	$24,971	in Donations to R. McDonald House with 2,580 Hours of Participation
Children's Organ Transplant Assn.	$50,224	in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. with 5,468 Hours of Participation
TAL Vets. & Child. Found.	$74,903	in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. with 11,366 Hours of Participation
Other C&Y Projects	$837,906	in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 85,139 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

VAMCs & Facilities	$318,340	in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 43,212 Hours of Participation
State Vets Facilities	$158,943	in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 10,654 Hours of Participation
Nat'l Vets Assist. Day	$25,522	in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day with 4,396 Hours of Participation
Op. Comfort Warriors	$40,739	in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 5,104 Hours of Participation
Fisher House	$99,868	in Donations to Fisher House with 5,499 Hours of Participation
Other VA&R Projects	$858,171	in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 129,459 Hours of Participation
Homeless Veterans	$566,373	in Donations to Homeless Veterans with 18,971 Hours of Participation
Troop & Family Support	$254,363	in Donations to Troop & Family Support with 16,992 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education

VE&E Projects	$61,757	in Donations to VE&E Projects with 33,610 Hours of Participation

*As reported by: Independent Sector in April 2024.

2,026 / 5,789 (35.00%) Squadrons Reporting | 392,153 Total Members | 12 / 614 (1.95%) Districts Reporting

90% MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

ALL SQUADRONS SHOULD SET A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL GOAL AT A MINIMUM OF NINETY PERCENT.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT IS THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP RETENTION. ALL SQUADRONS ARE URGED TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL MEMBERS ON A CONSISTENT BASIS INCLUDING ACTIVITIES WITHIN YOUR SQUADRON AND COMMUNITIES, EMAIL, NEWSLETTERS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND BUDDY CHECKS!

NINETY PERCENT (90%) RENEWAL DETACHMENT AWARD

AWARDED TO EACH DETACHMENT REACHING NINETY PERCENT BY THE 105 PERCENT TARGET DATE. DETACHMENTS WILL QUALIFY FOR A $100 EMBLEM SALES GIFT CERTIFICATE, AS WELL AS A CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT.

FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

AS MEMORIAL DAY APPROACHES AND WE HONOR THOSE NO LONGER WITH US BY PLACING FLAGS, WE REMIND OUR LEGION FAMILY TO JOIN OUR MISSION TO PLACE ONE MILLION FLAGS.

PLEASE GO TO THE WEBSITE PROVIDED TO UPLOAD YOUR PICTURES, LOCATION AND FLAG COUNT.

REMEMBER, EVERYDAY IS MEMORIAL DAY!

WWW.FLYINGFLAGSFORHEROES.COM

RENEW NOW!

MEMBERS NOT RENEWED FOR 2025 ARE NOW EXPIRED.

SCAN ME

LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
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THE MILLENNIUM
Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

Postage Here

To:

This Month, On The Back Cover …..

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

***Excerpt from the poem "For The Fallen"* (1914)**

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted:
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

"We will remember them"

Be on the look out ……. "Spotted by a Son"

Every month, The Millennium will hide a small picture or graphic inside the newsletter—first one to find it who email's rusty.myers@ymail.com will get their name published in the next newsletter and will receive a prize!

In honor of Memorial Day, find the "Battlefield Cross" somewhere in this newsletter