SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

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Top Ten Detachments 2026 Membership Percentage

1.	Dist. Of Col.	120.20%
2.	Utah	113.12%
3.	Philippines	108.33%
4.	France	101.80
5.	South Carolina	97.77%
6.	Wisconsin	96.95%
7.	Idaho	96.59%
8.	Latin America	95.65%
9.	South Dakota	95.56%
10.	Florida	95.19%

Statistics as of 30 March 2026

BE THE ONE

Special to *The Millennium*—Jeff Trout (IL), National Children and Youth Committee Chairman

April is National Children and Youth Month

Children and Youth Month is upon us! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to your SAL National Children and Youth Committee, and to thank them for all they are doing. Our Vice-Chairman is Chris Reachard from Delaware, who is focused on increasing donations for Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). Are you aware that your Detachment donations to COTA stay within your state? Next is Isaac Miller from Maryland … his focus is on the Children's Miracle Network (CMN). Once again, your donations stay within your state and can be earmarked for a particular project if you wish. Our third member is Tracy Wood, from Texas. He is working on spreading the word and helpful information to involve more squadrons in building a Youth Victory Garden. David Miller from Indiana is focused on Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF); this program is vital as it funds the training for our American Legion Service Officers who assist veterans with their VA disability claims at no cost, as well as funding the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program that provides grants to active-duty military and veterans with young children at home. Our last member is Brian Shedd, from Georgia; he had been assisting the Americanism Commission in recent years with the Youth Academy held at our National Convention. Recently that task has been handed to the Children and Youth Committee, so Brian will be compiling all the committee's work into progress reports, as well as working on ideas for what will be called the Youth250 room in Louisville, Kentucky.

Submitted Photo

More details will be coming about the Youth Room, so start making plans to bring your young Sons members as well as American Legion Auxiliary Junior Girls.

Submitted Photo

Victory Gardens are spreading and growing across the country; starting three years ago as a parent-child initiative under PNC JR Hall, Post 217 in Maryland was the pilot program for this, which ended up being broadcast on network news stories to some 16 states. Post 217 has continued to build their garden, and has even added a greenhouse this year with the assistance of some of their young gardeners. A tri-fold brochure was developed, which gives history of the Victory Garden as well as a QR code that links you to several

Continued on Page 3 >>>>

Mike Monserud (IA), Trailing Candidate for National Commander

Spread the Word

As the weather begins to turn warmer, and that bright glowing object in the sky is getting brighter, and the days are getting longer, *what are you doing in your community?*

Now is the time to get out in your community and start making yourself known. We were locked up all winter, and for many of us it was too cold to go outside and do any events. Now is a good time to get out and maybe do a community clean up at a park or a memorial. Let the community know that you are still around, and you are there for them and the community. Invite other organizations in your community to help, and then host a meal. This will fall under Americanism, as one of our Four Pillars. Part of Americanism is civic duty, so what could be a better chance to do that?

Another thing you can do is get out and walk around your community and look for homes that are flying a flag outside, stop and talk to them and tell them about the American Legion Family, and invite them to the post for an event. One thing I like to do is look at their flag, and if it needs replacement, replace it for them and let them know who you and invite them to contact you if the flag needs to be replaced again.

Emblem Sales has a flag program for your posts, so why not use it and get money for your post in the process? These are easy to do, and will get your name out in your community. We need to come out of the walls and make the community aware.

I have heard that communities are posting banners of veterans on the light poles in town of the veterans in the community. This is a good chance to approach your city and ask to help with this, and maybe donate and get the Legion Family name out there. We need to think outside of the box because of the way society has changed. We need to do something to grab people's attention. Does your town have a Facebook page? This is also a way of advertising. So, get outside and see if we can change the way we are relating to the community. If we do not change, then we are going to be forgotten, and then the post will disappear. The generational shift is every five years, so we always need to look at how we can change and adapt. Keep up the good work, and spread the word of the Sons of The American Legion.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Have some news to share?

Monthly deadline is the 25th

Email us at rusty.myers@ymail.com

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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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SAL NATIONAL ADJUTANT
Anthony W. Wright (PA)
SAL NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS

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Southeast:	Bryan Hine (TN)
Central:	Steve Honigfort (OH)
Midwest:	Chris Casey (NE)
Western:	C. Frank Meraz Jr. (CA)

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Distribution Schedule:

Check your email inboxes for the SAL Newsletter / *Millennium* on the second Wednesday of the month (subject to change):

13 May 2026
10 June 2026
08 July 2026
12 August 2026
09 September 2026
14 October 2026

April is National Children and Youth Month—*Continued from Page 1*

flyers that help you to determine what type of garden is best for you and what grows best in your region, plus so much more. This brochure is offered digitally so that you may print as many as you like to share with your Legion Family.

Adopt one of these great programs to support and involve the children in your community. There is still plenty of time during Children and Youth Month. Download the Victory Garden brochure, and consider some type of garden to engage and interest the youth in your area. If you start now, you would be able to show the beginnings of your garden to the community as you celebrate American Legion Family Day on April 25th. *Cover Photos: legion.org*

Victory Gardens grow more than food –they grow family time, teamwork, and pride.

Learn more and download the literature by scanning this QR code

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

A Little of Everything this Month

As I put this newsletter together on one of the LONGEST plane rides of my life, I think about how this is one of my favorite kinds of newsletters to edit—it's a little of everything.

Of course, it's Children and Youth Month, so we have a good deal of content dedicated to that. As one of the Four Pillars, this month gives us an opportunity to focus on family and the future … to focus on our children.

The National Children and Youth Committee provided us with an article about some of their priorities this year, while also pointing out that 25 April—or the last Saturday in April in each year—is American Legion Family Day. It's a day to open the doors of our Posts, engage the community, and get vets, their kids, and local families involved.

You will also find a great article by my dear friend Greg Shaffer from New Jersey. I've known Greg for a number of years now, where he has served as the detachment's Children Organ Transplant Association, or COTA, Chairman. He is unbelievably passionate about helping our COTA kids, and along with Rick Lofgren, CEO and President of COTA, his article sums up why this organization is one worthy of our efforts. You'll also find Mr. Shaffer's letter challenging our squadrons to donate $1 per member here as well.

One of our more interesting articles this month, though, is from Indiana, about Mountain Oysters. *If you know, you know…..*

National Commander Clancy was brave enough to give it a try. Butch say's that it "just tastes like a tenderloin" ….

I'll take your word on that, brother ….!

NVC Revell fed us a great article about the wonderful things going on in the Detachment of Washington, DC. Right now they are somewhere around 120% for membership, and are doing great things while they are on the path to revitalization. Revell also sums up the Unofficial Northeast Gathering, as does NVC Casey the Midwest Gathering.

Photojournalist and contributor Mike Pook (WI), who sits on the National Media and Communication Commission, wrote up a piece about the Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service Contest. Long story short, if you've seen you squadron's photo in this newsletter, that means we'd picked it because its's engaging … so submit it for an opportunity to be recognized with a national award. Read Pook's article for details.

Our trailing candidate for National Commander, Mike Monserud of Iowa, is a prolific writer as well … and always submits articles almost monthly. He also won "Spotted by a Son" in March.

One of the articles, though, I'm terrifically juiced about is PNVC Butch Ray's take on "Why Tradition Matters."

Each month, we have an editorial meeting for *The Millennium*, where we run through the cut sheet for the upcoming month and stack the newsletter. We've had discussions for months about doing a "how-to" series for the benefit of up-and-coming squadron officers and members—providing not only guidance, but a punch list of sorts about how to serve in offices and appointments at the local and state level.

This is where we've always believed *The Millennium* can excel … as a vehicle for teaching and learning. Butch's article is truly one of the best submissions we have ever had, as it speaks to everything about who we are as Sons.

He dissects the meaning of the Preamble, and how those words apply to what we do as Sons everyday—in the greatest traditions of who we are as a almost 100-year old organization. As Butch writes, ***"The Preamble's words shape our identity."***

And, as we do every month, we showcase pictures from squadrons and detachments from around the country. Make sure you submit those as well—let us know what you're doing.

On a personal note, I'm writing this on the 12-hour flight back from a vacation in Oahu. I'm ending this editorial writing about that trip to Hawaii because it touches on my favorite topic—**the importance of Legion Family.**

I grabbed a licensee plate from my home post before we left, and I contacted the Department of Hawaii to see if we could drop by and do an exchange. Hawaii's Department Adjutant George LeCompte was kind enough to set up a time I could visit. He couldn't be there, though, but Department Secretary Ms. Tammie Patrick-Massey was.

I've never talked to her before—but I immediately felt that common bond of family with her. We chatted for a while, and got to take a photo.

My point is, *what a fantastic thing we all belong to* … where a kid from New Jersey can travel half way around the world and speak to someone as if I've known her for years. This—and all of the things this month—really made me proud to be a Son.

Editor's Photo

Greg Shaffer (NJ), Detachment COTA Chair

Children's Organ Transplant Organization: 40 Years

I am sure there are many of you who have not heard of this amazing organization, so when I was approached and asked to do this article on behalf of The National Children and Youth Committee, I took the opportunity.

COTA started a mission 40 years ago, in April 1986, to serve every family that comes to them and ensure that no child is denied a second chance at life due to financial issues. COTA feels it is important to meet every family's needs. When the families become a part of COTA, there is no cost for services, 100% patient benefit and a lifetime of support for expenses. No fees are charged for patient services. There are many more reasons to support COTA, but too many to list. More information can be supplied to you by request or going on the COTA web site. (COTA.org)

In 1986 Burton Woolery Post #18 in Bloomington, Indiana got COTA off the ground. They saw a need to help transplant kids and their families. Since then, The American Legion Family has raised more than $2,500,000 since 1988. Every dollar that is raised in your state, stays in your home state. None of the money raised pays for salaries, travel, materials, or COTA.org. Every dollar for kids benefits their transplant in your Detachment. COTA has a long-standing relationship with The American Legion and feels this is critical to the COTA families. There are many ways that you can raise money for COTA. Many Posts will have BBQ's or dinners which could include an Auction to help raise money. You can do Bowling for Life, Golf for Life, Walk A-Thon, Bike A-Thon or Dance A-Thon. These are just a few ways to help raise money for the COTA families. Also, in New Jersey we have come up with ways by charging fines to members. If someone is eating or drinking with their cover on it could be a $5.00 fine. The higher up you are in the Detachment, the more each fine could cost you. Another way is if some one's phone goes off during a meeting. (Phones should be silenced during any meeting.) These are some fun ways to help raise money for COTA. There will be much more information that will be shared with you down the road. Please consider becoming part of this amazing organization by supporting these amazing children and their families.

Let me tell you a little about myself. My name is Greg Shaffer and I have been a member of The Sons of The American Legion for 20 years. I belong to Post #174 in Wayne, NJ. My eligibility is through my father, a Marine Corp. Veteran WWII. 10 years ago, I was approached by my good friend Joe Imperato, a Navy Veteran and member of the American Legion, to get involved with raising money for COTA. He showed me many ways that we could help COTA families by having BBQ's and dinners. The more I was involved, the more I wanted to do to help the transplant families. Through the years I have meant many families and listened to their stories. This just made me want to do more. Also, becoming good friends with COTA CEO Rick Lofgren, has given me a lot of knowledge and kept me involved. I am reaching out to each state Detachment to get involved with COTA. Seeing what this organization does for transplant children and their families will make you feel amazing. You can get more information on COTA and what they do by going on their web site, COTA.org. You can also reach out to me at, shiftyshaff@gmail.com. I will do whatever I can to help you out or put you in touch with the proper people.

A National Challenge: $1 per Member to Support COTA

To all SAL Detachments:

As you all know I have been assigned to be the National COTA contact for The Sons of The American Legion.

As your contact, I am putting out a challenge to help raise money for this wonderful organization. My challenge for each Squadron this year is to donate $1.00 per member towards COTA. Each dollar raised will stay within the Detachment to help kids and families – no overhead, no costs to the families, and 100% to help with transplant expenses in your state.

Can you imagine how much money we would raise?

Please donate what you can. Any amount given will help these children and their families.

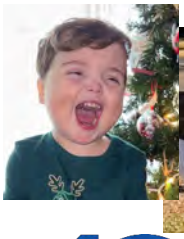
You can look on their web site for more information: https://cota.org.

Checks should be made out to: The Children's Organ Transplant Association.

On the memo line please put your Detachment & Squadron #___ , this way you will get credit for your donation.

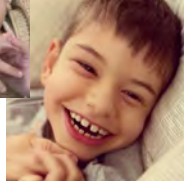
Mail your checks to: The Children's Organ Transplant Association 2501 West COTA Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403.

Mail a copy of your check to whomever is your COTA Detachment Chairman. This way they can keep a running total for the year. If you have any questions, please contact me at 201-665-0228, or email me at shiftyshaff@gmail.com.



40 YEARS Then. Now. Always. Giving Hope.

Children's Organ Transplant Association



Harl "Butch" Ray (IL), Contributor to *The Millennium*

Why Tradition Matters: Ritual is our Living Legacy

Why we say what we say: Since its founding in 1932 under the guidance of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion has understood something about patriotism. The rites, rituals, language, and traditions we use and practice as part of Squadron installations and member initiation ceremonies are not antique relics. They are the continued framework that binds generations together for a shared purpose.

Why Ritual Still Matters: In an age that often prizes speed and instant gratification, these ceremonies can seem unusual—perhaps even unnecessary. Yet these rituals perform a critical function. They slow us down. They call us to attention. It reminds us that we are taking part in something larger than ourselves.

These ceremonies are not simply administrative acts. They are moments when the ideals and mission of our organization are formally transferred, reaffirmed, and renewed. When an officer accepts the charge of his office, he does more than agree to perform duties—he publicly commits himself to the Squadron's mission. That charge, carefully worded and solemnly delivered, connects him to every officer who has stood in that place since 1932.

The dignity of these ceremonies is magnified by their age. Words repeated for nearly a century carry weight precisely because they have endured. Generations of members have spoken them in times of war and peace, prosperity and hardship. Tradition lends gravity; longevity lends authority.

The Power of "Strange" Words: Some may smile at words that seem uncommon in everyday speech: inculcate, vindicate, perpetuate, tolerance, indigent, reposed. Yet these words were chosen with care—and they matter.

Inculcate, means to teach by persistent instruction. It reminds us that patriotism, honor, and service are not accidental traits; they are taught, practiced, and reinforced.

Vindicate, speaks to defending and upholding principles. The organization exists not merely to remember the sacrifices of veterans, but to justify them by working our mission in their honor.

Perpetuate means to make something continue. The SAL does not exist for one generation; it exists to carry forward the ideals of Americanism and service.

Tolerance, underscores unity. Members may differ in background, profession, or opinion, yet remain bound in mutual respect.

Indigent calls attention to those in need. Service is not abstract—it is directed toward real people, our veterans and children who need aid and compassion.

Reposed, reflects trust placed in officers and members. Confidence is not assumed; it is earned and honored.

These words appear not only in SAL ceremonies but also in the manuals and ceremonies of The American Legion itself. They are preserved in Post and Squadron handbooks because they articulate, without doubt, the organization's ideals. Their continued use shows us that the language of 1919 will still shape the character of 2026 and beyond.

Language shapes thought. When we speak elevated words, we elevate our thinking. When we use language rooted in principle, we remind ourselves that our mission is principled.

The Preamble as a Renewed Obligation: Each time the Sons of The American Legion's Preamble to the Constitution is read aloud, it is a reaffirmation. Every member present is, in effect, restating his personal obligation to the ideals of justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty to community and nation.

Repetition is not redundant; it is reinforcement. The Preamble's words shape our identity. They declare who we are, why we exist, and what we promise to uphold. When spoken together, they unite all of us into a common declaration of our mission. It says: We are still here. We still believe. We still serve.

The Charge to Officers: The charge delivered to each officer during installation is one of the most meaningful elements of the ceremony. It is both a reminder and a mandate. It emphasizes responsibility over recognition, service over self. "No rank among us as we each serve as the equal to each other".

Officers are entrusted with confidence by their fellow members. They are instructed to act with fairness, diligence, and to follow the Constitution and bylaws. This charge links authority directly to accountability—a timeless principle of good leadership.

When that charge is delivered in the traditional language of the organization, it carries the accumulated wisdom of nearly a century. It reminds the officer that he is not inventing his leadership position; he is inheriting it.

Dignity Through Age: Some organizations look to abandon tradition. The Sons of The American Legion demonstrate relevance by preserving it. These ceremonies are dignified by their very age because they have been tested by time. They have endured because they continue to express truths about service, honor, and patriotism that do not change with fashion.

Continuity fosters stability. Stability fosters trust. Trust fosters service.

In maintaining the rites and rituals of these ceremonies, the SAL does more than honor the past—it safeguards the future. It shows new members that they are stepping into a lineage, not merely signing up for a program.

A Living Legacy: The ceremonies of the Sons of The American Legion are not museum pieces. Every time the Preamble is spoken, every time an officer accepts his charge, every time a new member is initiated, the organization renews its covenant with its founders, its veterans, and its communities.

Those "strange" words are not strange at all. They are deliberate. They are durable. And they are deeply relevant.

For nearly a century, they have helped inculcate devotion, vindicate sacrifice, perpetuate service, practice tolerance, aid the indigent, and honor the trust reposed in its members.

That is why the rites matter.

That is why the language matters.

That is why the tradition endures.

Facebook.com, Tony Orona, Jr.: S.A.L. Detachment of California—*22 March 2026*

California: From the "Front" … District 21 Meets in the Great Outdoors

District 21 held its scheduled meeting under unusual circumstances, as access to the Post building was unavailable. Without hesitation, the meeting was conducted on the front steps of the American Legion Post.

A quorum was established, and business moved forward as planned.

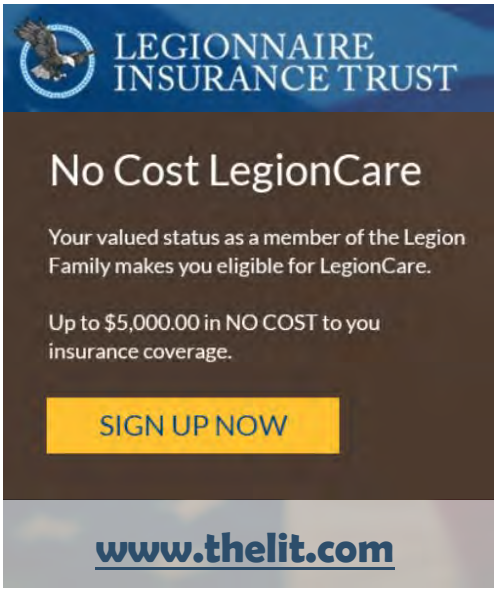
This moment reflected the spirit of the Sons of the American Legion — committed, adaptable, and always ready to serve. No matter the setting, our mission continues.

Membership currently stands at 80.88% — and District 21 is locked in, pushing forward, and on track to reach 100%.

During the meeting, District 21 successfully completed the first round of nominations for the 2026–2027 District officers. Congratulations to all nominees who have stepped forward to lead.

Facebook Photo: The Sons of District 21 (CA) on the steps in front of Post 53 (Hemet, CA).

Facebook Graphic: Jason Miller (MD)



Facebook.com, Detachment of Maryland

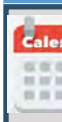
Maryland: Detachment Leadership Visits Patriots Point

In March, Maryland Detachment Commander Miller and guests visited Patriot Point to tour the facility.

Patriot Point provides a peaceful retreat on Maryland's Eastern Shore, dedicated to helping wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and their families. This retreat helps them rest, recover, and reconnect through outdoor activities and supportive programs.

Commander Miller's project aims to replace the existing fire pit at Patriot Point with a new fully accessible one, so all veterans, including those with mobility challenges, can safely gather and enjoy it together. The project focuses on improving accessibility and ensuring every veteran who visits Patriot Point can take part in the fellowship and camaraderie around the fire.

Facebook Photos



Make Note of these Important dates on The American Legion Calendar

15 April	**Purple Up! For Military Children Day**
25 April	**American Legion Family Day**
1-3 May	**Spring NEC Meetings**
08 May	**V-E Day**
16 May	**Armed Forces Day**
22 May	**National Poppy Day**
25 May	**Memorial Day**
14 June	**Flag Day and US Army Birthday**

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

"Mentoring Moments"

In the regular Squadron Meeting Script, after the POW/MIA chair recognition and before the Pledge Allegiance, is where the Blue Star Banner recognition is placed. The following excerpt is from the Detachment of Virginia Squadron Meeting Script:

SQUADRON COMMANDER: "Resolution NC 2-03, adopted at the 32nd National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, calls for the display of a Blue Star Banner at all meetings of the Sons of The American Legion as a symbol of our support of all the military personnel serving this great country. Let us never forget that every day these individuals are protecting our liberty. The Sergeant-at-Arms will place the Blue Star Service Banner."

Each blue star on a banner represents one family member serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. A gold star over the blue signifies that a service member has died in service.

Join the annual crusade to place one million flags and honor our veterans.
Log the flags you place at:
www.flyingflagsforheroes.com/

Celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial by taking part in The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge. Your participation, whether as an individual or part of a team, helps honor our veterans and uplift communities nationwide while promoting physical fitness, mental wellness, and community service.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a $30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

Register Here
www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge

Chris Casey (NE), National Vice Commander Midwest

A Weekend of Brotherhood and Purpose

The Sons of The American Legion marked a historic milestone on 14 March 2026, hosting the first-ever Midwest Region Gathering at the Benson American Legion in Omaha, Nebraska. This inaugural event brought together 36 members, representing seven of the region's eight detachments. Centered on the theme, "A Weekend of Brotherhood and Purpose," the gathering provided a meaningful opportunity for learning, connection, and forward momentum.

Submitted Photo

Submitted Photo

The weekend kicked off Friday evening with a meet-and-greet at Benson American Legion Post 112. Members enjoyed fellowship, and heard remarks from National Vice Commander Chris Casey ... setting the tone for a productive and engaging event.

Saturday featured a full day of leadership development and training, complemented by a working lunch and continued networking. Sessions included "Technology and the Use of AI" presented by Shawn Davis, "Five Star and Ten Ideals" by Todd Kabella, and "SAL Awards" led by Casey Hanson. A collaborative roundtable discussion with Mike Monserud, Terry Harris, and Chris Casey offered valuable insight into NEC expectations, committee and commission work, and the National Vice Commander selection process.

Submitted Photo

One of the most impactful aspects of the gathering was the opportunity to strengthen connections across state lines. Members shared experiences, celebrated successes, and explored innovative strategies to address common challenges. These conversations reinforced a shared mission: serving veterans, supporting communities, and preserving the legacy of The American Legion.

Throughout the event, participants remained engaged in workshops and discussions while building camaraderie through fellowship. The exchange of ideas and best practices highlighted the strength and unity of the Midwest Region. As the Sons of The American Legion continues to grow and evolve, events like the Midwest Region Gathering play a critical role in strengthening the organization's foundation. The Omaha meeting served as a reminder that when members come together with a shared vision, the impact is far greater than any one individual or detachment alone.

Jeremy Revell (VT), National Vice Commander Northeast

Spotlight on DC: Dual Members Helping to Revitalize

Last Spring during the National Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of The American Legion, the Department of the District of Columbia NEC Christopher Herndon asked to sit in. Following the meeting, the Northeast Region held their typical caucus - and during that I had the opportunity to speak with Chris. He informed me that at their convention he would be installed as the Detachment of DC Commander and wanted to begin the work of revitalizing the Detachment. Chris was not unfamiliar with the duties of Commander as he had previously served as Department Commander. With a line of communication open we had a few conversations to keep me up to speed with the progress. Chris built a team of trusted members and began the work. He travelled to Squadrons and worked with his own to become more active. To date the turnaround has been exemplary. DC now stands first in the Northeast and the Nation for membership with 115.73%. Chris and the Detachment have also set a goal of supporting the Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) at $1 per member for the Detachment. Currently his Home Post and Squadron have each donated to CWF exceeding the $1 per member. Chris is always quick to ask questions, seek advice and learn more about the Sons of The American Legion. The Detachment of DC is in good hands and I look forward to their continued growth and participation in SAL programs.

Facebook Photo

Facebook.com, Gaither Espey (NY) - *09 March 2026*

South Carolina: National Commander Makes Official Visit, Plants Trees

Facebook Photo

Facebook Photo: Commander Clancy and crew planting trees in front of some of South Carolina's Tiny Homes

With an early start down in Myrtle Beach, SC, the group visited Veterans Welcome Home & Resource Center, eating at Veterans Cafe & Grill for breakfast.

Stops throughout the day included:

- Hutton House for Veterans just coming into their program. Seven private rooms with community kitchen and living space.
- 21 tiny homes which allows more independent living. Here the Detachment of South Carolina planted two trees in honor of Commander Clancy's father and grandfather. A couple larger tiny homes for veterans who have been around and help with programs.
- Stopped at the thrift store they run to help with cost.

Groups can sponsor a tiny house and have group name displayed.

Please note a correction to the previously communicated dates for the SAL Spring NEC. The correct dates are Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3, 2026.

Commission and Committee meetings will continue to be held at the Sheraton. However, the NEC meeting itself will be conducted at The American Legion National Headquarters.

The NEC meeting will begin at 2:00 PM on Saturday.

Kevin Chaplin (VA), National Media Communication Cmsn. Chair

Use AI to Increase Your Note-taking Productivity

How many of you reading this article are responsible for taking minutes for your Post, Squadron, or District meetings? Do you also find yourself taking notes for work meetings? As the Detachment Adjutant, I am tasked with taking minutes, preparing meeting summaries, and distributing them to all attendees. I can tell you from experience that taking and preparing minutes is often a thankless chore—and one I personally dread. It must be done because it is important work, but I still dislike the amount of time and effort it requires.

I have recently found a valuable tool that can make summarizing meeting notes and turning them into ready-to-distribute minutes much easier. I am talking about using AI, or Artificial Intelligence. I purchased a device from Plaud.ai that records the audio of meetings and phone calls, then provides an audio recording, transcript, highlights, and summary. The transcripts and summaries are very accurate. In most cases, I only need to spend a few minutes identifying and labeling speakers and reviewing the content for accuracy.

Plaud.ai Photo: The Plaud Note Pro, an example of one of many AI voice recorders.

You do not need to purchase a dedicated device to use this technology. You can record a meeting on your phone and upload the recording to ChatGPT, Grok, or another AI model and request a summary. For me, the Plaud device simplifies the process, and its meeting summary templates make the workflow very efficient. Do not be afraid to try this new technology—it has been a significant time saver for me, and it can be for you as well. **Feel free to reach out if you would like more information.**

Bruno Williamson (OH), National VA & R Chairman

Sons Visit to Washington VA Medical Centers

Members of the SAL National VA&R Commission, after attending the morning session of TAL VA&R meeting, visited the Washington DC VAMC (VA Medical Center) on March 2nd while in DC for the Washington Conference. During the visit, we had a VA S.A.V.E. (signs, ask, validate, expedite) veterans suicide awareness training. Our thanks to Ogbechie Lfeanyi and Ahmad Hayatullah from the VA's mental health ward for conducting the training.

Submitted Photos

We also extend our gratitude to VSS Ryan Hinely with CDCE for escorting us and providing a small tour of the VA. Thanks to the generosity of our members during the wreath-laying ceremonies the day before, we were able to donate $1101. My heart felt "Thank You" as well to members of the commission that brought items to donate for CDCE and Recreation Therapy. These non-cash donations were worth $2000.

"Together Making a Difference"

David Hanson (IN), Adjutant, Squadron 216 Middletown

Indiana: Squadron Holds Annual Mountain Oysters Dinner

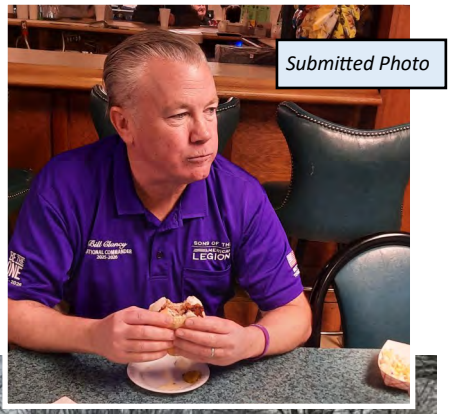
National Commander Bill Clancy regularly travels the length and breadth of the country, and attends a great many events and dinners. Some are fun. Some can be boring. Not many of his visits provide the kind of new experiences like the one he found in February, when he visited Middletown, IN American Legion Post 216 at the invitation of the post's Sons squadron.

The fact that Middletown's Sons have traditionally conducted an annual fundraiser is not unusual. It's what they serve up for lunch that often produces a generous heap of hesitation from some and lip-smacking smiles from others. The dish of the day is commonly referred to by its polite name: "mountain oysters." More accurately, the delectable edibles are pig testicles.

Squadron 216 always invites Indiana's Detachment Commander to their Mountain Oyster Fest. Having a National Commander attend and dine was a first for the squadron. Clancy admitted this was a first for him too, and he was quick to add that the "oyster" sandwiches were very good.

As a gesture of their appreciation, Squadron 216 donated to The American Legion Children's Well-Being Foundation on behalf of Commander Clancy. A donation was also made to this year's project of Detachment Commander Ken Corbeille, The Department of Indiana American Legion Endowment Fund. The day's dining experience was also a first for Corbeille. Following the luncheon, Commanders Clancy and Corbeille led an entourage of Sons as they visited a handful of nearby Legion posts.

The Squadron 216 Mountain Oyster fundraiser is very popular throughout the community of Middletown and regularly sells out. However, the squadron has faced difficulties continuing the fundraiser in recent years because suppliers of the main dish have been dwindling. The testicles arrive frozen. They are sliced and sit in a saltwater bath for three days. On the day of the luncheon, they get battered, breaded, and pan-fried. Most diners prefer the "oysters" served as sandwiches, but some hearty souls prefer them served plain on a platter.



Submitted Photo

Submitted Photo

Gary Crawford (NJ), Editor, the Detachment of NJ SALute

New Jersey: Merci "40 and 8" Boxcar from WWI Found

In 2025, a small consortium of like-minded individuals were let in on a secret. These people, consisting of historians who researched railroad, military, and other historical subjects, were told of the possibility that New Jersey's "forty-and-eight" Merci Train boxcar, long feared destroyed or at the very least missing, had been found. The group was sworn to secrecy, lest a stampede of well-intentioned people show up who might interfere with the acquisition of the car.

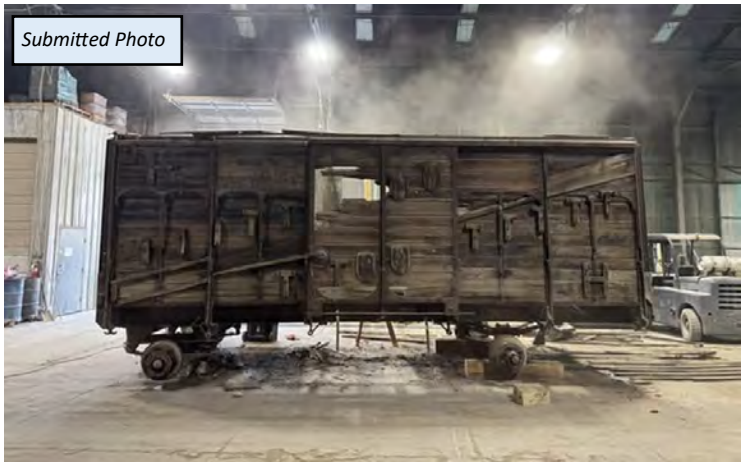
First on the agenda would be the accuracy of the car's heritage, its condition and possibility of restoration, and condition that would allow it to be transported. Experts in these fields would be brought in to inspect the car at its location in Tennessee after the National World War One Museum and Memorial first discovered the car in 1993.

Smithsonian Photo: New Jersey's 40-and-8 boxcar on display in Trenton in 1949.

Missing and feared destroyed, New Jersey's 40-and-8 boxcar, one of 48 others presented to the then-48 states, with the 49th car shared between the then-Territory of Hawaii and Washington DC, was in gratitude to the United States' assistance to France and Italy after both World Wars.

On Feb 2, 1949, the French freighter Magellan arrived in New York Harbor and unloaded at New York Central Railroad's Weehawken NJ pier, the 1870-1880s-built World War One era French boxcars to be presented to each state in thanks for the assistance given to war devastated France and parts of Italy.

After its ceremonial presentation, New Jersey's boxcar was entrusted to the New Jersey American Legion and Grand Voiture du New Jersey as a monument and parade float. However, sometime after 1958, its whereabouts were unknown, and researchers believed it had been lost or destroyed.



Submitted Photo

It all began in 1947, when Washington Post columnist Drew Pearson proposed providing assistance to the worn-torn countries, especially food and medical supplies, among other needed materials. Assembled as the American Friendship Train, the contents of some 700 boxcars full of donated supplies sailed to France.

In gratitude, France and parts of Italy shipped the 49 surplus boxcars filled with countless donations from the citizens, including gifts, trinkets, dolls, World War One medals, badges, and memorabilia, and thank you cards from children. The project was named The Merci Train, aka The Gratitude Train, thanking the USA for their help in defending and rescuing them from the ravages of war.

The car had been missing since 1958, with unverified claims that it had been scrapped. The boxcar was rediscovered in Tennessee by the National World War One Museum and Memorial in 1993, and placed in their warehouse in Kansas City, Missouri. The car was confirmed as the New Jersey boxcar in 2024, and donated to the United Railroad Historical Society of New Jersey, with plans to restore it at their Boonton yard. The New Jersey State Museum has a collection of French gifts from the boxcar.

Veterans recalled wondering how forty men or eight horses could actually fit in these boxcars. Cramped and rough riding with no seats, toilets, or any other comfort options, men spoke of having to arrange themselves in rows so some could sleep. Still, some remembered it sure beat marching.

Surplus after WW1, the cars were put back into service during WW2, transporting men and materiel to the front and returning with casualties. During the German occupation of France, many cars were used by them to transport men, supplies, and sadly, POWs and prisoners destined for the concentration camps.

Once delivered to the US, the cars were transported to their respective destinations by railroad flatcar and flatbed truck, to be displayed as each state saw fit; many at American Legion Posts. Some were converted to road use with truck axles and wheels to be used in parades, while others found permanent homes indoors or under cover. As they were built for France's narrow gauge railroads (1000mm / 3 foot 3-3/8 inch gauge), they wouldn't be able to run on American standard gauge tracks (4 feet 8-½ inches). Plus the boxcars weren't equipped with air brakes or other required safety features.

Out of the forty-nine Merci Train 40-and-8 boxcars delivered, forty-four are known to exist, now including New Jersey's. Merci Train boxcars listed as destroyed are those of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Nebraska, which was partially scrapped in 1951 and the remainder used as a shed until destroyed in 1961. The fate of Colorado's car is unknown. Illinois' car is believed to have been scrapped after a Chicago railroad show.

An important part of New Jersey's history has returned, sent in gratitude by the grateful citizens of a country almost wiped out in two world wars, if it weren't for the actions of Allied military forces coming to the rescue.

Submitted Photo

Happenings in the Detachment of Alaska

ABOVE—Facebook Photo: The Sons of The American Legion in Alaska … "All It Takes Is One"

BELOW—Facebook Photos: The Sons of Squadron 99 (North Pole, AK) holding a flag education course.

Squadron 182 (Eldora, IA) Sons of The American Legion held a Spaghetti & Chicken Alfredo Supper on March 12, 2026 at the Eldora American Legion, with all proceeds going towards replacement of Veterans Memorial Flags and East Lawn Avenue of Flags.

Winona Post Photo

ABOVE, RIGHT: The Sons of American Legion Squadron 150 (Petersburg, PA) held a soup fundraiser Feb. 28 for the Huntingdon County MilitaryShare Food Program. Reeder Swartz, Huntingdon County MilitaryShare Food Program, accepted a check from Bill Mills, Sons of American Legion, for $2,200. Taking part in the presentation were, from the left, front row, Swartz, Sue Keller, Mona Ayers, Jodi Hammers, Mills; second row, John Corbin, Scott Ellenberger, Dennis Goss and Chuck Delaney.

Winona Post—*06 March 2026*

WI: Squadron Supports Little League Baseball

Winona Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Squadron 9 member Rich Frahm presents a donation to Winona Recreation Coordinator Austin Powell. In the background from left are SAL members LaVern Hauschildt, Greg Lemmer, Randy Sobeck, Terry Selleck, Tom Hundt, and one the group's younger members, Jason Hundt-Dietrich. The Winona SAL donated $600 to fund Little League baseball shirts for Winona's youth rec program. The Winona SAL has been making yearly donations since 2012 to support this program.

Mike Pook (WI), Staff Contributor *The Millennium*

Snapshots of Service

Squadrons deserve recognition for carrying out the mission of The American Legion. Every year, squadrons hold events and fundraisers to support the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Each squadron creates their own mission that they stand for and are passionate about.

While doing these events, someone should always pull out their cell phone, put it in camera mode and "snap" off a few "shots."

In supporting the mission of The American Legion, squadrons are supporting more than Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. We support Children and Youth, Americanism and National Security. Beyond fundraising and presenting check donations picture opportunities, there is the service that we Son members do so very well. Remember to pause, take your cell phone camera out and capture the moments.

As you snap off a few shots of service, move about and try to capture an action picture from a different viewpoint. These pictures are more interesting to the person looking at the snapshot. Write down what is happening in the picture. Forward it onto the Post newsletter, local newspaper or even your Detachment Historian.

"Snapshots of Service" is a competition held by the national SAL organization wherein Sons of the American Legion squadrons are encouraged to submit photos each year showing their support of the Four Pillars and the Legion Family. Squadron recognition is nice on the national stage. The winners of the "Snapshots of Service" are announced at the National Convention.

The "Snapshots of Service" submission form is available online. The submission form asks for a model release to be filled out. When taking pictures in public locations, you do not need a model release. A person who is knowingly exposing themselves in public places does not have what is called a "reasonable expectation of privacy." As a photojournalist, I take pictures in public all the time without needing permission. Remember when photographing in public spaces, you generally don't need model releases if the images are used for editorial purposes, which includes personal social media sharing that documents daily life or newsworthy events. However, if you later decide to monetize these images or use them commercially, you would need to secure appropriate releases. Model release forms are included with the Snapshots of Service submission form, which can be downloaded at https://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/publications-and-forms.

For more information on "Snapshots of Service", click the graphic below.

Editor's Note: The National Media Communications Commission also runs a Videos of Service Contest.

Jeremy Revell (VT), National Vice Commander Northeast

A Long-Standing Tradition in the Northeast

Each spring the Northeast gathers to celebrate the National Vice Commander from their region. The event is held in their home state, and it brings people together from all over the northeast and the state for training, camaraderie, information sharing, and other various events. This year as the National Vice Commander I was proud to welcome everyone to the City of St. Albans in the great State of Vermont.

Team Green Mountain arrived on Thursday afternoon to begin preparations for the weekend and set up the hospitality room. That same evening a contingent of 15 SAL members arrived on the train from Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey. We all gathered together for an informal meal and to share stories.

Friday had many more arrivals followed by a meet and greet for the Candidate for National Vice Commander Henry Hasselhan from New Jersey at Green Mountain Post #1. The evening was filled with good food and an opportunity to meet people you didn't know and strengthen existing friendships. I welcomed everyone and introduced Henry to say a few words about his campaign to become our next NVC.

Saturday morning began with two events at the same time. Many of the various Detachment officers and members gathered at Green Mountain Post #1 for a training session led by PNVC's Mike Cotton and John Waite we spent several hours talking about various topics related to all aspects of the SAL. While this training was happening, others took a tour to Branon Maple Orchards where they could see the process and equipment used to produce maple syrup. A private tasting of many products was done, and the gift shop was overrun with SAL members and their families. Following the training and maple tour a casual lunch was had for SAL members prior to our unofficial caucus. The caucus was an opportunity to talk about our Committees and Commissions as well as each Detachment represented. Commander's projects, long running programs were discussed as well as successes and struggles across the northeast.

The weekend was capped off at Green Mountain Post #1 with a formal banquet followed by a roast and toast for me. Squadron #1 provided a fantastic prime rib and stuffed chicken meal, and desert was provided by VT PDC Henry Cleveland's Daughter. Funny stories were told and many gifts were exchanged. At the end I was able to address the room and thank all those who helped me along the way especially my family, PNVC John Waite and PDC Henry Cleveland who were instrumental in helping me on my journey in the SAL. Part of the reason I aspired to be at the national level was from attending these events and I hope someone who was there had the same feeling I did many years ago. I thank everyone who came and look forward to next years event.

Submitted Photo

Wisconsin's SAL 4th District Spring Conference, hosted by the Sons of Post 416 (Greendale, WI).

Detachment Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr., second from left, with Ohio Sons at the Mahoning Valley St Patrick's Day Parade

Sons of Squadron 67 (Liberty, SC) making a donation to the Pickens County Humane Society.

Squadron 492 (Lafayette, IN) incredibly humbled and honored to donate $500 to the Tippecanoe County Honor Guard., Supporting their mission to provide dignity and respect to our fallen heroes .

Squadron 45 (Manchester, IA) donating $500 to Second Helpings, a prominent hunger-relief organization, from the proceeds of their Soup and Sandwich Dinner.

Squadron 787 crew (Cicero, NY) along with Peg from the Auxiliary cooking fish sandwiches for Ash Wednesday.

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 189 (Barton, MD) presented a flag to the 8th grade Westmar Middle School boys basketball team to hang in the gym for the Gene Scaletta Memorial Basketball Tournament. In addition to the flag, the Sons made a donation as well.

Squadron 283 (Jacksonville, FL) presenting a check for $1100 to V for Victory, from their Trever Lawrence autographed football raffle. V for Victory provides critical everyday services to adults, children, and families battling cancer

Squadron 998 (Lawnton, PA) Sr. Vice Commander Brandon Debow dropping off over 300 pounds of meat that the squadron donated to Veterans Outreach of Pennsylvania.

Four Sons of the American Legion leaders are on the road today, traveling 642 miles to Vacaville, CA for the Detachment Executive Committee meeting. Front row left, Lee Lombard, and front right Mike Mattox. Back left Tony Orona Jr, back right Jim Fischer.

Squadron 11 (Havre, MT) holds an amazing fundraiser for a young boy who lost his hand, helping him and his family.

Squadron 541 (Continental, OH) donates $500 to Continental Volunteer Fire Department from funds raised at their Party Before the Game event held in November. Pictured are Chief Dean Williamson, firefighter Chase Ordway and SAL members Chris Hoeffel and Todd Bidlack.

Squadron 305 (Saint Pete Beach, FL) holding an event with all proceeds going to support Project R.E.L.E.I.F., a free in-home respite care program that provides trained volunteers to relieve persons who are caring for individuals with Alzheimer's disease .

Squadron 143 (Post Falls, ID) has donated $2,000.00 to help Newby-Ginnings expand their mission, which "is to provide resources, referrals and essential personal and household items to Veterans, Active Military and their families as well as families of our fallen heroes (Gold Star families) at absolutely no cost to them."

Left to Right: SAL Southern Area Commander Joe Galli, TAL Leading Candidate Jay Bowen, and SAL Detachment Commander Marc Colety visiting Bennington Post 13

Squadron 154 (Montrose , SD) was honored to present checks to the Montrose Summer Youth/Rec programs and Montrose Busy Bees for a new city sign.

Michigan Detachment Commander Clive R.A. Seydell, and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Clive C.A. Seydell were proud to attend and participate in the 71st Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bay City, Michigan. Center, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18 Little Miss Poppy .

An American Legion Birthday celebration on 15 March at Post 113 in Hardin, KY.

Adam Budner, right, and Todd Bidlack at the Department of Ohio Oratorical Contest.

Congratulations to Squadron 75's Andy Sehloff (Fond du Lac, W) for receiving a well deserved 6th District award for excellence in Americanism.

National Commander, Bill Clancy (Right) and his own sons, Geir (Front Left) and Stenn (Front Right) were presented with Squadron 283 (Los Angeles, CA) uniform shirts during the meeting.

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Illinois Detachment Executive Committee meeting in Macomb at American Legion Post 6.

Harl "Butch" Ray (IL), Natn'l Membership & Squadron Activities

Butch's Bullet Points

My fellow Sons!

Just last month I attended the Detachment of Illinois' Spring Executive Committee Meeting. In fact, our 63rd DEC. Going all the way back to 1963, the Illinois SAL has championed the mission of the Sons of The American Legion. In the Post Canteen, they had on the TV the beginnings of the NCAA Basketball Conference Tournaments ... and that set me to thinking...

Full-Court Press for the Future: Growing the Sons of The American Legion

Every spring, millions of Americans gather around televisions, phones, and office brackets for one of the greatest spectacles in sports: the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. It's a time when underdogs rise; legends are born, and everyone suddenly becomes an expert in last-second buzzer beaters.

But if you look closely, March Madness isn't just about basketball—it's about teamwork, perseverance, and believing that the next game is always winnable.

That sounds a lot like the story of the Sons of The American Legion.

A 94-Year Legacy and still in the Game

For 94 years, the Sons of The American Legion have carried forward the mission of honoring the service and sacrifice of those who defended our nation. We are the sons, grandsons, and descendants of those who wore the uniform—and through our work we keep their legacy alive.

Our founders understood something timeless: service to others strengthens both the community and the character of the person serving.

"There is no greater satisfaction for a just and well-meaning person than the knowledge that he has devoted his best energies to the Service of a good cause!" - Albert Einstein

That spirit has fueled nearly a century of SAL service—from supporting veterans and their families to strengthening American communities.

Today, we're still playing the same game our founders started in 1932. The difference is that the arena has gotten bigger—and the opportunity is even greater.

The Scoreboard: Where We Stand Today

Right now, our membership stands at 86.53% of our goal. That means we are just 55,122 members away from reaching another all-time high.

In basketball terms, that's not a deficit—that's a comeback waiting to happen.

Anyone who has watched March Madness knows that a 10-point lead can vanish in a couple of minutes when a team applies a full-court press. (Just ask Illinois!) The same is true for membership growth.

We don't need miracles. We just need teamwork.

Defense Wins Championships—Retention Wins Membership: Every great basketball coach will tell you: defense wins championships. In the SAL, our "defense" is retention. Right now, our retention rate is 78.71%. That means thousands of our brothers—men who once believed in this mission—simply haven't renewed yet.

But here's the encouraging part: they already said yes once.

Reaching out to non-renewed members isn't a cold call—it's more like calling a teammate back onto the court. Sometimes all it takes is a reminder: "Hey brother, we're still in the game. We could use you back on the team."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us:

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

Our organization answers that question every single day. And sometimes the best way to grow our ranks is simply reminding our past members that they belong here.

They are already part of the story—we just need to invite them back into the organization that honors service to others.

Organizations like ours ensure that the stories, sacrifices, and values of our veterans never fade.

If membership growth were a March Madness bracket, we might see a matchup like this:

Persistence vs. Procrastination

Spoiler alert: Persistence wins in overtime every time.

Every member of the Sons of The American Legion is part of that continuing story. When we grow our membership, we're not just increasing numbers on a report. We are honoring the sacrifices of our ancestors, strengthening our communities, and preserving American ideals for the next generation

The work we do today ensures that veterans—and the values they defended—are never forgotten.

The Full-Court Press: So, what does the path to victory look like?

It's simple:

1. Call our non-renewed members - Bring those teammates back onto the court.

2. Recruit eligible sons and grandsons - There are millions of potential members who share our heritage.

3. Tell the story of our mission - People join causes that inspire them.

4. Keep the spirit of service alive - Because service is contagious.

President Woodrow Wilson once said: *"There is no higher religion than human Service. To work for the common good is the Greatest Creed!"*

The Final Buzzer: At 86.53%, we are already deep into the second half. With 55,122 members to go, the championship is still within reach. And just like in March Madness, momentum can change everything. A few phone calls. A few conversations. A few invitations.

Suddenly the crowd is louder, the team is stronger, and the scoreboard starts moving in the right direction.

For 94 years, the Sons of The American Legion have honored those who served before us.

Now it's our turn to ensure that their legacy continues—So, lace up your sneakers, fill out your brackets, and get ready to run the membership fast break.

Because the next all-time membership high?

That's not just a possibility.

It's our next victory.

Facebook.com, American Legion Post 477 - St Nazianz, WI's Post—*02 April 2026*

Daniel Reinke Named Squadron 477 Son of the Year

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 477 (St Nazianz, WI) member of the year is Daniel Reinke.

Dan is passionate about Veterans and his accomplishments demonstrate that. He was a mainstay during the push to raise the funds necessary to ensure that the Eternal Flame in Manitowoc remains lit for years to come.

He continues to serve as the Project Manager for the Civil War Gravesite Restoration & Replacement project in Manitowoc County, so far he and his group of volunteers have restored more than 325 Civil War headstones and replaced 13 headstones along with four GAR markers.

And, of course, Dan has worked tirelessly as the Project Manager and Co-chair of the Tee It Up Fore Troops Gold Outing for the past three year raising and donating more than $117000 to Old Glory Honor Flight. He is serving in that role again this year, who knows where things will go!!

Dan helps out at many of the SAL and Post activities to include the Flights for a Flight Dart Tournament, our Walking Taco fundraiser, Tractor Days and Christmas in July.

Dan, thank you for supprting our Veterans and their Families....past and present. Well done!

Facebook Photo

Spotted by a Son

In March's newsletter, we asked if you could find the image of a poppy. The Millennium went out on 11 March, and by 9:19am we had a winner…

Mike Monserud
Squadron 182
Eldora, Iowa

Monserud has held every office at the squadron level; at the detachment he was the Vice Commander for 3 years, Commander for 3 years, and has been the Alternate NEC for the last 3 years. He also served on the National Membership Committee twice, Vice Chairman of the Legislative Commission, and as Chairman for Membership Training and Development. He also currently serves on the National Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee, and last year as the National Vice Commander, Midwest. He currently is the Trailing Candidate for National Commander.

He earned his membership from his grandfather, Howard Schlitter, who served in the Army in World War II and was assigned to the 942nd Field Artillery Unit, which participated in the Normandy Invasion.

He also served in the Navy as a Gunners Mate Second Class, and deployed for the Invasion of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served on the Guided Missile Cruiser USS Normandy CG-60, in US Strategic Command, and aboard the Amphibious Assault Ship USS Carter Hall LSD-50.

The Detachment of Massachusetts is proud to announce they raised over $11,000 for Children's hospitals at their 15th annual Partnership for Kids bowling tournament.

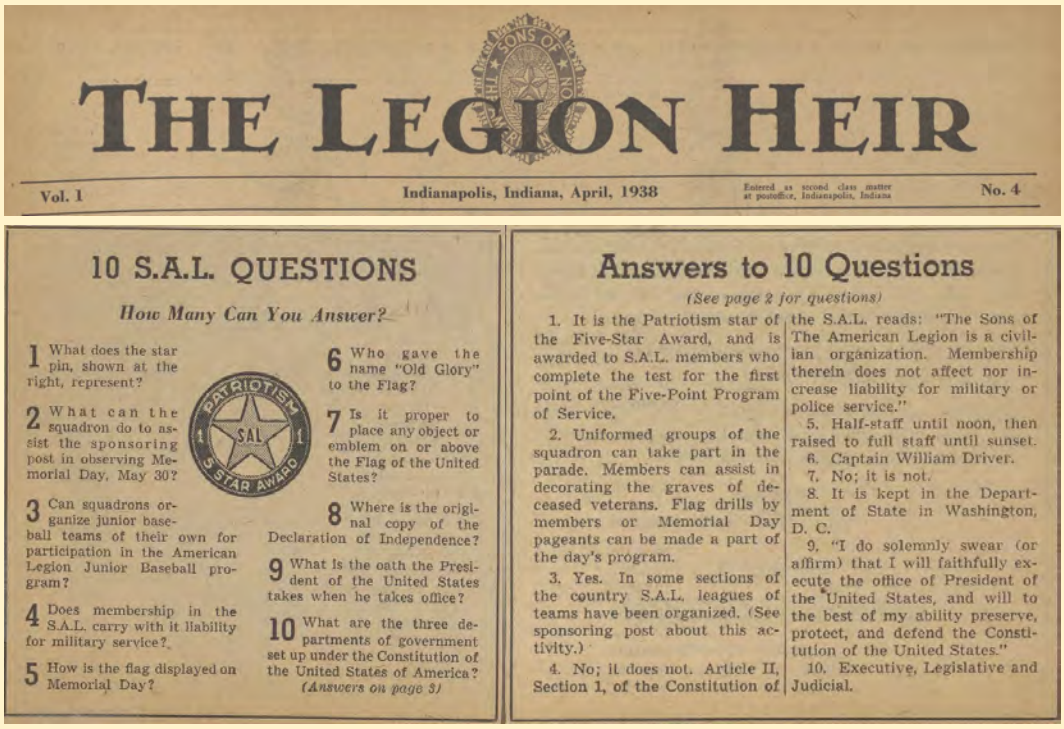
Facebook Photo

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion
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 .....



THE LEGION HEIR

Vol. 1 — Indianapolis, Indiana, April, 1938 — Entered as second class matter at postoffice, Indianapolis, Indiana — No. 4

10 S.A.L. QUESTIONS

How Many Can You Answer?

1 What does the star pin, shown at the right, represent?

2 What can the squadron do to assist the sponsoring post in observing Memorial Day, May 30?

3 Can squadrons organize junior baseball teams of their own for participation in the American Legion Junior Baseball program?

4 Does membership in the S.A.L. carry with it liability for military service?

5 How is the flag displayed on Memorial Day?

6 Who gave the name "Old Glory" to the Flag?

7 Is it proper to place any object or emblem on or above the Flag of the United States?

8 Where is the original copy of the Declaration of Independence?

9 What is the oath the President of the United States takes when he takes office?

10 What are the three departments of government set up under the Constitution of the United States of America?

(Answers on page 3)

Answers to 10 Questions

(See page 2 for questions)

1. It is the Patriotism star of the Five-Star Award, and is awarded to S.A.L. members who complete the test for the first point of the Five-Point Program of Service.

2. Uniformed groups of the squadron can take part in the parade. Members can assist in decorating the graves of deceased veterans. Flag drills by members or Memorial Day pageants can be made a part of the day's program.

3. Yes. In some sections of the country S.A.L. leagues of teams have been organized. (See sponsoring post about this activity.)

4. No; it does not. Article II, Section 1, of the Constitution of the S.A.L. reads: "The Sons of The American Legion is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service."

5. Half-staff until noon, then raised to full staff until sunset.

6. Captain William Driver.

7. No; it is not.

8. It is kept in the Department of State in Washington, D. C.

9. "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

10. Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

Be on the look out for "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!

See if you can find this graphic from the Department of Florida this month!