



“Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage”

Commanders Communication—February 2020

Homeless Veterans—Commander’s Special Project: As you know our special project this year is to help homeless veterans. It has been said many times that no one who fought for our freedom should ever have to sleep on the street. It is a very sad situation and we need to do whatever we can to raise awareness of this problem. Hartland Squadron 294 is hosting a very special event on February 14th & 15th. The parking lot of Post 294 will be transformed into a “cardboard village” and members will be sleeping outdoors in cardboard boxes for those two nights. I am packing my sleeping bag and my deer hunting clothes and heading to Hartford to join the group in raising awareness of homeless veterans. Why not grab your warmest clothes and come and join us? If you aren’t much for the great outdoors, you can come out and support this great cause by making a cash donation. Non-perishable food items are also needed. A flyer with all the information is included in this mailing. Please support this great event!



Meet Operation A.L.F. American Legion Family

Operation A.L.F. is our new program to support children of deploying parents. Our brand new soft and cuddly pup will soon be available for us to provide comfort to the children of our nation’s heroes. When we had the Josh program the entire Legion Family was very generous in their support and we hope that will continue. We have already participated in several deployments this year and there looks to be more coming. More information will be provided in future mailings. Please continue to support this great program. Send donations to: SAL Finance Chairman Tom Petrie, 808 E Cady St, Watertown, WI 53094.

Deployments: We have been privileged to participate in a few more send-off ceremonies in the past few weeks. We still have a number of the small G I Josh Dogs to distribute and we will continue distributing them when we are asked to participate in these very important and meaningful events.



Mid-Winter: Another Mid-Winter has come and gone! We were privileged to have Central Region National Vice Commander, Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer with us for the weekend. Doc brought greetings from National



Commander Clint Bolt and shared information on his goals for the year. Our training session this year looked a lot different than it has in the past. The session on Saturday started with the SAL's best actors presenting a "bad" meeting, showing just how not to run a meeting. It was great! Our guest presenters were Auxiliary National Leadership Chairman, Diana Sirovina, and Auxiliary 2nd District President Amy Luft. Both are graduates of Wisconsin Legion College and co-chaired the Auxiliary's training program for several years. They brought us great information on how to run a meeting the right way, reporting, membership and fundraising. The power point program can be found on our website, www.wisal.org on the Resources tab. They also provided handouts for a meeting script, officer duties and how to take good minutes. If you would like more info or have questions for them,

email me at wisalcmdrbob@att.net and I will forward your questions or comments to them for answers. More trainings are being planned for future events, so if there is something that you would like to see included in the training, please email me with your ideas.

Preamble Change: Are you aware that there has been a change to some wording in our Preamble? The American Legion made the change earlier this year and all Squadrons and Districts everywhere need to make this change. Changes shown below.

"PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE, WE MALE DESCENDANTS OF THE VETERANS OF THE GREAT WARS **ALL** WARS, ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER AS THE "SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION" FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;

TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER;

TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A TRUE SPIRIT OF AMERICANISM;

TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES OF OUR FORMER MEMBERS AND THE ASSOCIATIONS OF OUR MEMEBRS AND OUR FOREFATHRES IN THE GREAT WARS **ALL** WARS;

TO INCULCATE A SENCE OF INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION;

TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF BOTH THE CLASSES AND THE MASSES;

TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT;

TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOOD WILL ON EARTH;

TO SAFEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY;

TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR FRIENDSHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS;

TO ADOPT IN LETTER AND SPIRIT ALL THE GREAT PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THE AMERICAN LEGION STANDS AND TO ASSIST IN CARRYING ON FOR GOD AND COUNTRY."

Constitution & Bylaws: As long as you are making changes, it's probably a good time to dig out your Constitution and Bylaws, dust them off, and read them! One notable change that needs to be made is the change in eligibility dates due to the passing of the Legion Act last summer. Wording now reads: *All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, and December 7, 1941, to date, 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.* After you make any changes and they are approved at your meeting, please upload a copy to your squadron on the Detachment website, www.wisal.org on your Squadron Information page.

Commander Visits: The year is moving right along, and I am really looking forward to visiting more of your events and meetings. Please feel free to email me the details of your event at wisalcmdrbob@att.net. There is also a "Request a Visit" form on our website that you can use. Go to: www.wisal.org/requestvisit

Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR): I know it's only February, but it is time to start thinking about what you will be reporting on the CSR this year. It is much easier to keep track of what you are doing now rather than rushing to gather it all when the report is due. We only had 50% reporting last year. I know we can and will do better this year. Squads do so many great things, please take a little time and report it! Reporting your activities is not bragging, it's telling how important the things you do are for our veterans, active duty military and their families and our communities.

Historian Update: At Mid-Winter the Detachment Executive Committee approved the appointment of Mike Pook of SAL Squadron 449 as our Historian for this year. Mike is a photojournalist and is committed to documenting activities of our SAL statewide and creating a history that will highlight the outstanding things our squadrons are doing every day. If you have pictures and stories of activities that your squad has been involved in since our convention last July, please make every effort to share them with Mike. Going forward, please share details of all your events with Historian Mike. Remember to include your complete squadron name, the date of the event, the type of event you are hosting, and who was involved. Include the names of anyone in your pictures. Don't forget to provide a contact number or email in case more details are needed. If you are on Facebook, you can IM him or email him at mikepook@yahoo.com.



www.mysal.org The American Legion National Headquarters has designed a secure internet site that allows officers access to SAL membership records. This site will assist with day to day membership duties and allow better communication with members. This Squadron Support Program allows you to view and edit membership data on file at National Headquarters. This information is considered confidential and access should be closely monitored. An Authorization Form must be completed and returned.

Membership: I want to officially welcome the members of our newest Squadron Osseo 324! Congratulations to the 44 squadrons that are at 100% or more, and 13 of them are at an all-time high! Congratulations also go out to 5th, 9th and 10th Districts who are all over 100%! Outstanding!! Wisconsin is at 87.43% in membership, ranking 6th in the Nation and first in Central Region. Great job everybody! Let's keep it going! The goals that were announced at the beginning of the year are well within our reach if we just continue to contact our members and get those memberships turned in. Please don't hold on to them, send them in as you receive them. If you need help feel free to contact me or the Vice Commander for your district. Vice Commanders are David Fuller, 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Districts; Rich Ruland, 3rd & 7th Districts; Allen Watry, 6th, 8th & 9th Districts; and Steven DuBois, 10th, 11th & 12th Districts. Their contact information can be found on the website.

Please share the information in this newsletter with all your members! Communication is the key to our success. Send me pictures and articles about your projects and events and I will include them in a future newsletter. Thank you for all you do for our veterans, active duty military and their families and our communities! Keep up the great work!



Bob Sirovina, Jr
Detachment Commander
Sons of the American Legion-WI
9428 W Eden Pl
Milwaukee, WI 53228-1410
414-321-1479-home
414-881-0721-cell
wisalcmdrbob@att.net



HELP HOMELESS VETERANS!!



The Sons of the American Legion Squad 294 will be sleeping in the parking lot of Legion Post 294 at 231 Goodwin Ave, Hartland, WI, on February 14th and 15th of 2020. Our goal is to raise awareness of homeless veterans. We will be accepting cash donations as well as non-perishable food items.

100% of the donations will be kept in Southeast Wisconsin and donated to the organizations listed below. The Legion Post will be open and there will be live music on Friday Night.

Please stop by and visit our cardboard village and feed our fishbowl. Thank you very much.

Milwaukee Homeless Veteran Initiative



Website: <https://www.wisconsinvets.org/>

Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin



Website: <https://vetsoutreachwi.us/>

Please contact a SAL representative to make a generous donation to help these homeless veterans. For more information or questions you can contact member Terry Casper @ 262-227-1712