



“Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage”

Commanders Communication—March 2021

Mid-Winter...in May: By now, everyone knows will be going to Mid-Winter in May. At least we won't have to worry about snow covered roads and sub-zero temperatures, I hope! This year's session will be May 7th through 9th at the Ho Chunk Conference Center in Baraboo. Registration and schedule of events is available at www.wilegion.org. SAL Committee meetings are scheduled on Friday, with a training session and DEC meeting on Saturday. More details will be available soon. Be sure your squadron is represented! The Legion has many great sessions scheduled and there will be a lot to learn.

The SAL will be holding a basket raffle at Mid-Winter with all proceeds donated to the Commander's Special Project-Homeless Veterans! If you would like to donate a basket, please contact me. Baskets need to be at our table in the lobby on Friday. Your donations are appreciated!

Operation A.L.F.: Please remember to support this outstanding program with your generous donations. We have no idea at this time when we will be able to attend deployment ceremonies, but we need to be ready when that day comes.

A.L.F joined me on March 1st at the Legion's virtual Washington DC Conference. We attended the National Security Commission meeting & the VE&E panel discussion. Not meeting in person was different, but the program was very informative. On March 4th, Legion National Commander Bill Oxford presented his virtual testimony to the Joint House and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. If you would like to review the Commissions notes or view the Commander's testimony, go to www.legion.org



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 help with this problem. Statistics show that this year there is as much as a 30% increase in veterans seeking assistance. Please continue your generous support for this great cause.

On February 12th to 14th SAL Squadron 294 held their second annual “sleep-out” to raise awareness of this growing problem. Their members and friends slept outside in freezing temperatures and falling snow in cardboard boxes and tents, because as their Commander Mark Pape put it, *“We want to bring real awareness of what our veterans go through when they are homeless. We're not going to cancel because of weather, do the homeless cancel because it's cold?”* The event raised thousands of dollars, in addition to a truckload of non-perishable food items. 100% of all funds raise at this event were donated to agencies located in southeastern Wisconsin. Congratulations to Squadron 294 for another outstanding event!

The American Legion Basic Training Course: The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online. The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined, and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline, and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. The Course is arranged into 5 major topic areas (History & Organization, VA&R, National

Security, Americanism, Children & Youth) and 1 concluding section. Each section will present information about the topic via text, images, and video. Why not take a little time and learn more about The American Legion? Go to www.legion.org/alei.

More Cancellations: In case you have not heard, Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State have been cancelled for this year. In addition, the National finals of the Oratorical Contest have also been cancelled due to the ongoing concerns about Covid 19.

Consolidated Squadron Reports: It may be a couple of months before Consolidated Squadron Reports are due but it's not too early to start getting your information together. 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 about 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, activity duty military and their families and our communities.

AWARDS: Are you aware of the many awards your Squadron could win? From membership to program participation, your squad could be eligible to win one of these prestigious awards. But you can't win if you don't submit your reports!

Squadron Membership Awards: Taken from the membership transmitted and processed through June 1st

- **Jack Key Plaque:** This plaque goes to the First Squadron to reach 110 % of its previous year's membership. The previous year's total is based on the amount turned in by the close of the Annual Convention.
- **Armin Tews Plaque:** This award goes to the squadron that has attained the greatest percent increase in membership, over the last year by June 1st.

Other Squadron Awards:

- **Robert Wilcox Plaque** for Best Americanism Program
- **81**
- **Lillian Priest Plaque** for Best Children and Youth Program
- **Mary Ann Nelson (M.A.N.) Plaque** for Best Community Service Program
- **Thomas A. Knox Plaque** for Best Rehabilitation Program
- **Dale E Daily Plaque** for Highest Amount Per Capita to the Operation A.L.F. Program
- **Don Priest Plaque** for Best Overall programs and activities, based on Annual Reports
- **Dillman Plaque:** This award goes to the squadron that has submitted the best Squadron History Book.
- **Commanders Project Plaque:** This award goes to the squadron that has made the greatest contribution per capita to the Commander's Project.

Annual Squadron Data Report: The form filing your report is attached. Central Region Vice Commander Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer asked that we share this information with all squads. It is vitally important that you complete and return this form no later than May 1st. Please note that the dues amount you will collect for next year and the person that will receive them are listed on this form. One thing to note: please be sure your squadron members dues are sent to someone that will receive them and process them right away. The easiest and most economical way to process your dues is by using www.mysal.org. Everything can be done online, saving you postage and trips to the post office.

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. If you are not the person who would be using the website, please share this information with the person in your squad that should have the information.

News from National Headquarters:

8 SAL detachments set all-time membership highs in 2020...The American Legion, FEB 01, 2021:
Eight Sons of The American Legion detachments achieved all-time highs for membership in 2020. The detachments of Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Iowa, **Wisconsin**, Oklahoma, and South Carolina reached all-time highs in membership.

I also received this email that I want to share with all of you, since every squadron in our Detachment contributed to our success last year:

Detachment Commander Sirovina, Detachment Vice Commanders and fellow SAL Leadership, When you go above and beyond this membership achievement merits recognition. The behalf of Department Commander and Department Leadership, we wanted to personally congratulate everyone (and those not attached) on an outstanding job for 2020 SAL Year End Membership Report. This takes a strong team working together endlessly to achieve exceptional results, so thank you to everyone that contributed to 106.143% triumph. This achievement is a direct reflection of your leadership and abilities to reach "All-Time High" results. Thank you for your continued support Leaders!

*One Team One Fight,
Nathan Gear
Department Adjutant
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin*

We had an outstanding year, and these accolades are the result of the hard work and dedication of all our squadrons. Thank you all!

Membership: As of the Membership Report on March 4th, we are at 82.23%. So far, we have exceeded all the National goals, and are leading the Central Region, great job everyone! We now have 2 Districts, 5th and 10th, and 40 squadrons at or above 100%. Congratulations to the following squadrons:

- District 1: #21 Kenosha 109.09%, #48 Beloit 100%, #91 Oconomowoc 103.70%, #183 Genoa City 100%, #196 Delafield 105%, #294 Hartland 109.52%, #375 Mukwonago 110.68%, #405 Dousman 103.23%
- District 2: #15 Juneau 107.14%, #36 West Bend 120%, #189 Watertown 100%, #305 Johnson Creek 105.56%
- District 3: #214 Darlington 102.90%, #245 Cross Plains 102.52%, #385 Verona 109.09%, #437 Mazomanie 109.38%, #481 Madison 101.21%. #491 Cazenovia 100%, #501 Madison 115%
- District 4: #180 Milwaukee 102.38%, #192 Franklin 100%
- District 5: #406 Milwaukee 100%
- District 6: #33 Neenah 136.36%, #43 Ripon 136.36%, #366 Princeton 111.11%, #454 Mt Calvary 163.16%

- District 7: #65 Rome 109.52%, #73 Neillsville 110%, #115 Elroy 100%
- District 8: #63 Clintonville 100%, #117 Shawano 100%, #339 Almond 100%
- District 9: #60 Kimberly 100%, #258 Little Chute 103.45%
- District 10: #98 Cumberland 350.00%, #158 Maiden Rock 100%, #168 Glenwood City 100%, #326 Boyd 100%
- District 11: #93 Tomahawk 100%
- District 12: #143 St. Croix Falls 100%.

We have done a great job so far this year, and I thank you for your efforts!

That was the good news, now for the not-so-good news. We are about 300 members behind where we were last year at about this time. Call all your members that have not paid this year. As of now, those that have not paid are no longer in good standing, are not allowed to hold an office, or vote at meeting, and they lose access to all the benefits that are part of their membership. Please contact them as soon as possible and get them back to good standing. Please do not hold memberships, send them in as soon as you received them! If you need help, please feel free to contact me or your Detachment Vice Commander. We would be happy to help you make calls to your expired members. Don't forget to find new members also. Talk to family, friends, co-workers, and ask if they are eligible to join. You might be surprised that your next new member is right there just waiting to be asked!

It has been a long winter and It probably seems worse because we have all been stuck in our homes for so long. The last couple nice days make me think spring might be coming. Remember to keep doing your "Buddy Checks" with not only your members, but Post and Auxiliary members too. We need to stay connected with all our members. I know that many of our squadrons are finding ways to volunteer their time to help our veterans and their communities in spite of the unusual circumstances this year. Thank you for all you do!



Our Detachment Convention will be held on July 16-19, at the Marriott Madison West, in Middleton. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this annual event. All SAL members are welcome to attend. More details will be available as we get closer to the event.

If you have events coming up, please let me know so I can plan to stop by. I am looking forward to attending Legion Spring Conferences this year. I hope to see many of you there.

Please share this newsletter with all your members. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for all you do for our veterans, active-duty military and their families and our communities.

Bob Sirovina, Jr., Detachment Commander
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REMEMBER:
 Wear R.E.D on Fridays...
 Remember Everyone
 Deployed!



*Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Wisconsin*

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608-745-1090 Fax: 608-745-0179

Email: adjutant@wisal.org Website: www.wisal.org

SQUADRON INFORMATION FORM

Squadron Number _____ Squadron City _____

MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting Place Name _____
(e.g. American Legion Post 12345)

Meeting Street Address _____

Meeting City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Meeting Occurrence _____
(e.g. 2nd Tuesday of the month, Last Wednesday of the month)

Meeting Time _____ (AM / PM)

SQUADRON GENERAL INFORMATION

Annual Dues _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Squadron phone number _____

Squadron email address _____

Squadron or Post Website _____

Squadron or Post Facebook _____

Squadron or Post Other Social Media _____

SQUADRON COMMANDER

Commander First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Commander phone number _____

Commander email address _____

SQUADRON ADJUTANT

Adjutant First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Adjutant phone number _____

Adjutant email address _____

SQUADRON ADVISOR

Advisor First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Advisor phone number _____

Advisor email address _____

PRIMARY CONTACT

Choose one: Commander _____ Adjutant _____ Advisor _____