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Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1. Latin America 100.00%
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

National Commander: American Legion Family Day

Editorial: May is Military Appreciation Month

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Report

Membership Matters!

National Vice Commanders: Lucky 13, Be The One, and Re-membering Our Veterans

Florida: Squadron donates \$14,000 to Hero of a Child



April is American Legion Children and Youth Month: "A Square Deal for Every Child"



Joe Lohman (MD), Chairman National Children & Youth Committee

National Committee Report

Greetings from the SAL National Children and Youth Committee. This year the committee is focused on bringing awareness to the National Children and Youth Month in April and American Legion Family Day on 26 April 2025, where American Legion posts are encouraged to open their doors to the community for a day to recognize the accomplishments of the American Legion family. April is also Military child month, recognizing the children of Military families over the world and the sacrifices they make while moving to different housing on a regular basis.

Another program the committee has focused on is the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF). VCF provides vital support for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care and due benefits and opportunities of disabled veterans and families. Commander Navarrete has given us a goal to raise \$500,000 for the VCF. This will help the foundation to be self-sufficient and be able to assist more veterans and children during emergency relief efforts.

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

We are also proud to announce that the Children and Youth Committee will be working with the Americanism Commission to assist with updating the Youth Academy program at the National Convention in August.

Here is what you can do this Children and Youth Month

American Legion Family members are encouraged to show their local communities our dedication to young people by supporting child health, education, family support and more. Start learning about what you can do by downloading the [National Children and Youth Month Brochure](#).

Support these programs

- [Child Well-being Foundation \(CWF\)](#) - links to brochure download
- [Veterans and Children Foundation \(VCF\)](#) - links to brochure download
- [Special Olympics](#)
- [Children's Organ Transplant Association \(COTA\)](#)

What you can do

- **Parent / Child Initiative:** Develop a program to support our younger members that involves both the parent and child. [In 2024, the national committee introduced a youth garden](#) where children can grow their own vegetables with assistance from parents and adults. Gardens included a pizza-shaped planter to grow pizza toppings and herbs such as basil and oregano.
- **Engage Younger Members:** Work with your ALA Juniors on the Patch Program, or run a program where your Young Sons receive the [10 Ideals Award](#) or the [Five Star Award](#) (links to download). Perhaps even run a Children and Youth Academy at your squadron or detachment.

For more, visit the national website at www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs



**Joseph Navarreté (NM),
National Commander**

American Legion Family Day

As we look to celebrate American Legion Family Day around the nation, let us all come together and honor those that have sacrificed so much for us to enjoy the freedoms we have today. These special events bring us together as veterans, their families, and communities as we celebrate the spirit of service and unity. The day highlights the important role of veterans and their families in the fabric of American society, and the dedication they show in supporting one another and their communities.

Activities will include local parades, picnics, barbecues, and various community service projects; these events foster camaraderie, promote family involvement, and raise awareness about the programs and benefits of being part of the Legion Family. They also offer an opportunity for the public to connect with veterans, learn about their experiences, and show gratitude for their service.

We are also gearing up for our National Executive Committee (NEC) spring meeting at the beginning of May. This is your opportunity to engage with the Sons of The American Legion's leadership, and be part of the decision-making process. This is where we have the chance to discuss key issues, propose initiatives, and vote on resolutions that shape our future. This process strengthens our mission of The Sons of The American Legion and provides a platform that impacts veterans, their families, and children.

Let us all join together and support Legion Family Day, and always remember...

"Todo es Posible con Dios y Familia - Everything is possible with God and Family."

**AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY**

Day!

Saturday, April 26, 2025



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

May is Military Appreciation Month

In May 1999, Congress via the late Senator John McCain (AZ) adopted a month-long observance in the United States dedicated to people who are currently serving in, and veterans of, the United States military. Each year, the month observance runs from 01 May to 31 May.

May was adopted because it has more than a few patriotic military holidays and remembrances ... among them:

- **Silver Star Banner Day:** Per Congressional resolution, 01 May is an "official day to honor wounded, ill, and injured veterans."
- **Victory in Europe Day:** Observed on 08 May, this day marks the end of World War II in Europe.
- **Military Spouse Appreciation Day:** Celebrated on the Friday before Mother's Day, this day recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of military spouses. This year it falls on 09 May.
- **Armed Forces Day:** Celebrated on the third Saturday of May, this day honors those currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. This year it's on 17 May.
- **Memorial Day:** Observed on the last Monday of May, this federal holiday commemorates the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. This year it is on 26 May 2025.

Shortly after the end of the Civil War in 1865, communities across the nation began the tradition of Decoration Day, which wouldn't be formalized into Memorial Day until 100 years later. Decoration Day was set aside as a day to remember the over 700,000 war dead from the four-year war between the states, in the footsteps of what Abraham Lincoln spoke about in the Gettysburg Address in 1863—"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion ..."

As a Son, make sure you do your part in May to honor and remember their service and sacrifice ... on Armed Forces Day, those still serving in uniform, and on Memorial Day, those who fell while in uniform.

THE MILLENNIUM

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All information must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon the twentieth of each month and must be made electronically by emailing the editor at rusty.myers@ymail.com

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SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Corrections:

In the Page 4 article of March's newsletter, "American Legion Family attends the 91st annual Lincoln Pilgrimage in Illinois" which was continued from page 1, we misidentified Jeffrey Van Horn (IL) as the Department Adjutant as opposed to the Detachment Adjutant for Illinois .

Distribution Schedule:

Check your email inboxes for the SAL Newsletter / *Millennium* on these dates (subject to change):

May 14, 2025
June 11, 2025
July 9, 2025
Aug. 13, 2025
Sept. 10, 2025
Oct. 8, 2025
Nov. 12, 2025




 The logo for Sons of The American Legion, featuring the text "SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION" in a blue oval with a stylized American flag graphic.

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

National Americanism Commission
American Legion Family Day
2025 Guidance

Purpose: to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April (April 26, 2025). It encourages posts to open their doors to members of their community for a day and celebrate our accomplishments.

Sons of The American Legion (SAL) members can coordinate with their Posts to showcase Americanism by:

- Have “Be The One” information available.
- Make sure there is a serviceable American Flag present
- Pamphlets for Americanism “Youth Programs” should be available. (Boys Nation, Oratorical, Legion Baseball, Shooting Sports, etc.)
- Contact your Department regarding the availability of the “Star-Spangled Kids Kits” created by the Auxiliary.
- Host a blood drive (falls under Americanism in the SAL).
- Host a flag-etiquette program with a flag retirement ceremony.
- Place flags to honor veterans and record your event on the Flying Flags for Heroes website. Flags can be ordered from American Legion Emblem Sales.
- Have comic books and coloring books available. They can be ordered from American Legion Emblem Sales.
- Recognize individuals and businesses in your community at the event by utilizing the “SAL Flag Appreciation Certificate”

**Questions: Chairman Jeffrey Hicks (NJ);
 call/text: (609) 206-6583; natsalamer@gmail.com**

 @SonsAmericanism





Bruno T. Williamson (IL), National VA&R Commission Chairman

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Report

Well as they say, timing is everything. In my last article, I told you about the Federal Hiring Freeze and how it was going to affect VA volunteers. So, what happens? A few days later the VA gets an exemption, and we are all back in business. Timing is everything.

Let us talk about Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services Representatives & Deputy Representatives (VAVS rep/deps). What is that? Well, you are the man, the myth, and possibly the legend. You are our liaison between your VA & your detachment, districts, and squadrons. How do we know what the VA needs, and more importantly what our veterans need, unless we have a Son on station getting that information and bringing it back home?

What does it take to be a Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Representative? You must be a Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteer, which means you must go through the VA's on-boarding process. This entails going through training, background checks, finger printing, badging, and for some volunteer positions, a physical exam. Upon completion of the VA process, you are now an RS volunteer, and you will participate in regularly scheduled assignments under VA supervision. But guess what ...you only must volunteer four times a year to keep that status.

So now, you want to be the SAL Representative at your VA ... **you want to be one and UNCLE Bruno WANTS YOU to be a SAL VAVS Representative.** Brothers, this process is now even simpler. You fill out the SAL rep/dep application, get it to me by mail, email carrier pidgin, or owl ... just get it to me. I send a certification letter to your Chief of CDCE at your VA, and you are now one of our VA Representatives.

Some of the responsibilities are recruiting volunteers, promoting in our organization monetary and material donations, completing the Annual Joint Review (AJR), and attending the quarterly CDCE meetings.

My brothers, I need your help. I have a goal for this year of the Sons having Representatives in 60 of the 150 plus VAMC's across the country. We are currently at 45 with 5 more in the on-boarding process. We are so close to reaching that goal. Can YOU Help a Brother out? If you need an application, contact

me at nellazecca@mchsi.com. The VA&R Commission developed a VAVS handbook a couple of years ago. Please contact me and I can email it to you.



From the VAVS Handbook: The U.S. Veterans Administration Center for Development & Civic Engagement Office or formerly Voluntary Service (VAVS), operates the largest volunteer program in the federal government supplementing staff and resources in all areas of patient support.

Types of Volunteers

- **Regular Scheduled Volunteers** – Individuals that participate on a regularly scheduled assignment under VA supervision and have completed the background check process.
- **Occasional Volunteers** – Those that do not meet the requirements of Regular Scheduled, ie; special events or patient activities helpers.

Traditional Volunteer Assignments

- Patient escort
- VTN drivers
- Red Coat Ambassadors
- Friendly visits/Hospice Care
- Clerical positions
- Chaplain Services
- Pharmacy
- Recreation therapy

Other Volunteer Assignments

- Fundraisers off/on station
- Gardening
- Monthly Birthdays
- Audiology/Pharmacy helpers
- Bingo or other activities

Services rendered for functions performed other than those assigned by the VA in the Volunteer assignment given, are not credited hours for the VA's records, but may be accounted for by the affiliated Organization of the Volunteer.

Email nellazecca@mchsi.com for the VAVS handbook in its entirety



NVC Harl "Butch" Ray (IL) Contributor, "The Millennium"

Lucky 13

Regarded by many as an unlucky number, 13 has played an important part in American history.

Having been born on Sunday July 13, 1958, I've come to embrace the number 13. In my life it has never brought bad luck ... in fact, my youngest daughter was born on the 13th and my wife and eldest daughter were born on the 26th (13 times 2).

- The number 13 has played a big part in America's history as well. Friday the 13th has been a lucky day for the United States.
- George Washington became Commander and Chief of the American Revolutionary Army on Friday the 13th.
- The first election held in America took place on a Friday the 13th.
- Construction began on the White House in Washington D.C. on a Friday the 13th.
- The State of Arkansas received its state constitution on a Friday the 13th.

In fact, the number 13 runs consistently through American history, also with luck.

- The United States began with 13 colonies, there are 13 stripes in "Old Glory", and the first flag boasted 13 stars.
- The official seal of the United States contains 13 arrows, 13 letters, 13 laurel leaves, 13 berries, and an American Eagle with 13 feathers in each wing.
- Our national motto, "E Pluribus Unum" contains 13 letters.
- It took 13 days for the 13 ships of the American Expeditionary Force to reach France in World War I in 1917.
- The commanding officer of the American troops, John J. Pershing has 13 letters in his name.

So don't fear the number 13! It has been intertwined in American history and mostly as a lucky number!





Thom Skelley (TX), Trailing Candidate for National Commander

The Four Pillars: Americanism

The American Legion's Americanism Pillar serves as a core principle of the organization, focusing on promoting and preserving American values and patriotism. At its foundation, Americanism seeks to foster an understanding of the principles of democracy, citizenship, and the responsibilities that come with living in a free society. The Legion works tirelessly to instill respect for the flag, the Constitution, and the nation's history among Americans of all ages. Through various programs, such as youth leadership initiatives and educational outreach, the Americanism Pillar aims to cultivate a strong sense of national pride and civic duty in the hearts of all Americans.



A key aspect of the Americanism Pillar is the American Legion's emphasis on youth development. Programs like the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State help young people understand the intricacies of government and encourage them to be actively engaged in their communities and the political process. These programs simulate state government operations, offering participants a hands-on experience that fosters leadership, public speaking, and critical thinking skills. The Legion also runs the Oratorical Contest, which promotes knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and the importance of public speaking, allowing young people to showcase their understanding of American democracy.

Moreover, the Americanism Pillar extends beyond the youth to engage veterans and their families in promoting patriotism and civic responsibility. By organizing events such as parades, flag-raising ceremonies, and Veterans Day observances, The American Legion provides a platform for veterans to share their experiences and contributions to the country. These events not only honor the service and sacrifice of veterans, but also remind the public of the importance of patriotism and national unity. In all its efforts, the Americanism Pillar of The American Legion plays a crucial role in ensuring that American values are upheld, passed on to future generations, and celebrated within the broader community.

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Since its establishment in 1925, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program has awarded cash grants to minor children of current active duty or American Legion members. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment. A single onetime non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to \$1,500 will be permitted for the minor child or children of a qualifying veteran.

www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/temporary-financial-assistance for more information

Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR): Due by 15 April!

Completing an annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) is necessary to inform your Detachment and National Headquarters of pertinent information regarding your squadron and, most importantly, membership renewal information. It must be forwarded to your Detachment & National Headquarters **no later than April 15th** in order for information to be processed for the first renewal notice.

Email [National HQ at kmoock@legion.org](mailto:NationalHQ@kmoock@legion.org) to request your SDR form



"Spotted by a Son"

In March's "Spotted by a Son", we asked if you could find the blue American Legion emblem in honor of the American Legion Birthday on 15 March. It was in the monitor on the picture above, on Page 11...

The newsletter email went out on 12 March at 12:18pm, and by 12:26pm we had a winner...

**Craig Davis
Squadron 111,
Dallas, Georgia**

Davis has been a member since 2022, and has served as his squadron's Finance Officer since 2023.



Craig Davis, Squadron 111 (Dallas, GA) and his wife Kristyne

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!

Expand your knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization online!
Take The American Legion Basic Training Course
<https://register.legion.org/alei>



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



A few members of Squadron 312 (St. Charles, MO) cooking 265 pork steaks for the monthly post dinner.



The Sons of Squadron 642 (Heyworth, IL) cooking one of their famous breakfasts. The same Squadron was recently recognized in the newspaper for their work at the McLean County Neighborhood Care center.



The District 8 Family of Nebraska celebrating American Legion Birthday at their convention



Squadron 136 (Chester, SD) receives their charter.



Illinois Detachment Commander Rich Allen donating blood.



Squadron 22 (Rapid City, SD) once again made a large donation to the Rapid City Area Schools student lunch program.



Squadron 75 (Fond du Lac, WI) had the opportunity to travel up to Balsam Lake and support American Legion Post 278 at their Freezing for a Reason event, raising funds to combat veteran's homelessness and suicide.



The Detachment of Vermont volunteering at American Legion State of Vermont Oratorical competition.



Squadron 21 (Kenosha, WI) with their Post Family at their St. Patrick's Day Parade



Joey from the Detachment of California at their DEC in March; part of the weekend included a Flying Flags for Heroes event at a local cemetery.



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



Wicks-Staley Sons of The American Legion Squadron 231 of Clayville, NY donates \$1,000 to the Clayville Library Association.

This donation will be used for library upkeep - mainly their windows, which are in need of restoration.



National VA&R Chairman Bruno T. Williamson and ALA VAVS Representative Patti Williamson provided National Commander Joseph Navarreté, Central Region National Vice Commander "Butch" Ray, and Illinois SAL leadership a tour of the Danville, Illinois VAMC on 28 March; they also visited Courage House, a residence for ten long term care veterans.



Squadron 166 (Lakewood, NJ) had their annual Veterans Luncheon at Leisure Park, a retirement home. A special thanks to Texas Road House in Howell Township for donating all the food for our veterans.



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

A Special Olympics Story

On the Consolidated Squadron Report CSR), under Children and Youth, there is a category for Special Olympics. This is one story how a squadron made a difference while support their local Special Olympics program and athletes.



Submitted Photo: (l to r) Squadron 375 Adjutant Chris Flury, Special Olympics volunteers, SAL Advisor Tim Flury, 2nd Vice Dennis Richey

It was Saturday night, February 15th in Wisconsin with bad weather being predicted. Community Squadron 375 of Mukwanago, WI choose Valentines weekend for their annual dance party. With a pending snow storm and possible bad road conditions, 64 brave souls came out to enjoy the band Classic Rock band. The Squadron had publicly announced that the 50/50 drawing cut would be given to Special Olympics. As squadron member worked the room, the 50/50 pot grew. At the first band break, the SAL Advisor, Tim Flury, started counting up the fund. It was determined that the 50/50 cut would be 200 dollars. The drummer in the band, Greg Stengel who is also a SAL member, selected and announced the winning ticket number. From the back of the room was heard, "I won!" said John Devalkenaere.

When John came up front of the room to collect his prize, John donate half of his winnings back to the SAL for Special Olympics! John then came up with an audience challenge ... if the other Audience members would donate \$100, then he would donate the other \$100 back for Special Olympics. Once Tim Flury count-



ed up the funds, it was declared that another \$170 was collected. John then stepped up again and added another \$30 to the fund, which now stood at \$600 for Special Olympics!

ed up the funds, it was declared that another \$170 was collected. John then stepped up again and added another \$30 to the fund, which now stood at \$600 for Special Olympics!

However, the story does not stop here. It was discovered that John was eligible to join the Sons of the American Legion. John filled out the membership form and turned it in along with his dues, thus becoming the newest SAL member of this Community Squadron. By publicly promoting where the 50/50 drawing funds were going, the patrons of the dance were more willing to donate to the cause. Adding the generosity of the "winner," it became a sizable donation to the local community Special Olympics program. At their March meeting, the squadron invited the volunteer leaders of the local Special Olympics program, where they brought two athletes with them. Special Olympics is a category under Children and Youth on the CSR, and is it an easy way to impact so many!

Facebook.com

A West Virginia American Legion Family donates a flag pole to a vet



The Sons and Legionnaires of Post 174 (Morgantown, WV) donated a flag pole to a local Vietnam Veteran, purchasing a flag and conducting a flag ceremony for him on his property.



Facebook Photos

Facebook.com

Florida Squadron donates \$14,000 to Hero of a Child



Facebook photo

On March 18th, The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 238 (Safety Harbor, presented two checks to local non profit organizations.

Proceeds from the most recent SAL Mini Golf Outing, along with an additional \$500 from Squadron 238, were donated to Hero of a Child totaling \$13,523.80.

Our local Safety Harbor Masonic Lodge 252 volunteered together with the Sons on February's third Friday, serving up burgers and hot dogs for our locals. As a show of gratitude and support, they also received a donation totaling \$1,238.



Facebook photo



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

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

Editor's Photo: Bergen County, NJ SAL Commander Mark Stahl conducting a meeting in January 2025

When at the meeting, should you want to speak, stand up and address the Commander as "Commander" and wait to be recognized; then you may speak. The presiding officer is referred to as "the Chair".

Submitted article

Florida Post 233 Fish Fry



Submitted photo

Ronnie Bass (Squadron 233) and Larry Vosmik (Post 233) generously caught and donated fish, for a successful fish fry event at Post 233 in Ponte Vedra, FL on March 7.

Bass was charged with working the fryer. Also helping in the kitchen were Auxiliary and Legion members.

Squadron 233 hosts Bingo in their post home, every Thursday night. Stop by for dinner at 6:30pm and stay for Bingo at 7:30pm. Post 233 is at 560 N Wilderness Trail, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32083

From The Chaplain

AMERICAN LEGION

BE THE ONE

How many passed by the beaten traveler who lay dying on the roadside before the Good Samaritan stopped to help? Our Lord commands us to love our neighbor. Are not Veterans in despair and depression our neighbors? Should not ALL American Legion Chaplains band together to Be-The-Ones who give hope to our Veterans...our neighbors in time of spiritual need? I challenge all chaplains to join the Be The One program to stop veteran suicides.

You Can Be-The-One
 GOD ALLOWS YOU-TURNS

ASSOCIATION of AMERICAN LEGION CHAPLAINS

Submitted by SAL Chaplain Larry "Grumpy" Haitz, Squadron 241 (LeMars IA)



John C. Lawrence (LA)
NVC Southeast Region

Be The One

Be the One is not just a pickup line. Be the One is not a check box to be filled when you go to one of the many training sessions that are available. Be the One is a mission and there are measurable and tangible outcomes from a mission.

When I visited Alabama in January, I had the pleasure of recognizing two outstanding members of the Legion family from Alabama.

October 15, 2024, The American Legion Department of Alabama received a distress call from Bryan Raines a proud but stranded Marine veteran. The marine had made his way to Mobile from Texas and had a run of bad luck with his transportation.

Henrietta Davis, Commander for Mobile American Legion Post 76, called Aaron Phillips, Mobile Sons squadron 76, who is also the Detachment adjutant for Alabama. Aaron's first call went to Paul Woodyard Sons Area five vice commander. Paul sprang into action, realizing the veteran was distraught and overwhelmed by his situation. Unable to get in touch with any other Legion leadership Arron and Paul took matters into their own hands and made an executive decision. These two Sons of The American Legion did what was needed and what was right. They proceeded to help Bryan. First, they talked Bryan down off the edge and then they purchased a bus ticket back to Texas and included additional funds for any necessities to make it through the night. These two gentlemen helped with the repacking Bryan's belongings which included the ashes of his friend and the ashes of his beloved dog. Bryan Raines was sent on his way that day by two caring and alert members of the American Legion Family, who stopped what they were doing that day to ensure that Bryan knew someone cared



about him. We talk about training; we check the boxes but here is just one example of it in action. Paul and Arron represented the true essence of the Be The One program.



Mike Monserud (IA)
NVC Southeast Region

Remembering our Veterans

Do you remember the reason you wear an SAL Cap? Do you remember the stories that came from that Veteran? It is why we all are members of this great organization. We need to continue to tell those stories and keep the memory of our Veterans alive to let the future generations know what happened, so we do not have history repeat itself. Also, along with keeping the memory of our Veteran alive, we need to keep the stories of all the Veterans we meet alive. This involves also visiting Nursing Homes, and Veteran's Home to meet with those Veterans to honor their service and let them know that the American Legion Family is there for them. Sometimes it's just sitting down over a cup of coffee and talking or just saying thank you. With the weather starting to turn warmer, now it is a good time to break open the Post doors and get back into the community and this is a good time to go see those Veterans who have been inside all winter and maybe even hold an event at the Post to get them to do something and come visit and while they are there make sure they do not have needs that are not being unmet. This is also a good time to look at your unpaid rosters and go check on those members and see if there is something that they need or if there is a reason to sponsor them because they may have had a tough year and just can't pay their dues for one reason or another. As we get closer to the end of the year you can look at a Sponsor program where you pick a select number of unpaid members and pay their dues to keep them a part of this organization. Ask them what the story of their Veteran is to remind them why they joined in the first place, to make sure they understand why their membership is important. It is up to all of us to continue on the legacies on the ones who gone before us and to make sure that this organization is around to make sure the Veterans of the future are taken care of.

Tag Your Photos
#SALSTRONG

Excerpts from legion.org

Snapshots and Videos of Service Awards Available

The National Public and Media Communications Commission reminds all of our members that the "Snapshots of Service" photo contest to help showcase the activities of Sons as they support the Four Pillars of the American Legion is accepting entries for 2025.

Submitted photos must be based on the Four Pillars of The American Legion — Americanism; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; Children & Youth; or National Security — and be in a digital JPG or TIF format. Submissions also will become the property of the SAL; must not have a right of restriction; must contain Sons with their covers or identifiable clothing on during the activity or event and a brief history of the event. Entries must be submitted from a squadron, with a maximum of three photos per category, and submissions must be from the current time period (Aug. 1, 2024 to 30 days prior to the National Convention).

Videos of Service: The SAL Video Contest is open to all members of The Sons of The American Legion; videos must contain members of the SAL with their covers or identifiable clothing on during the activity or event.

Videos fall under one of these categories:

- **Program Support:** Videos that highlight, promote, encourage, or display participation in our Legion programs
- **Community Engagement:** Videos that show detachments or squadrons involved in work in our communities
- **Membership and Recruitment:** Videos that encourage new members and renewals

Videos should be under (5) minutes and should be published to one of the approved social media platforms. Of note is that a link to the published video's location must be included on the award entry form.

The contest will run annually with start and end dates being the SAL 100% membership target dates.

Applications for these two awards are in the "Public and media Communications" tab at www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/publications-and-forms





NEXT MEETING MAY 20TH

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

APRIL 2025

NEXT TARGET DATE - APRIL 9TH - 90%

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.

 **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

- SQUADRON COMMANDER OF THE YEAR
- RECRUITER OF THE YEAR
- INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD
- BLUE BRIGADE AWARD
- ALL TIME HIGH HONOR RIBBON
- SQUADRON CITATION OF ACHIEVEMENT
- LARGEST SQUADRON
- 100 PERCENT SQUADRON HONOR RIBBON
- FIRST QUOTA DETACHMENT REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD

AWARD FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT
LEGION.ORG/SONS
(PUBLICATIONS & FORMS)

RENEW NOW!

MEMBERS NOT RENEWED FOR 2025 ARE NOW EXPIRED.

SCAN ME 

LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW

APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

THE AMERICAN LEGION HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH CHILDREN'S ISSUES SINCE THE EARLY 1920S. IN MANY INSTANCES, THE AMERICAN LEGION HAS BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN ON THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS.

IN 1938, APRIL WAS FORMALLY DESIGNATED AS CHILD WELFARE MONTH (NOW CALLED CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH) AND HAS CONTINUED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME, WE ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY THAT THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY IS DEDICATED TO AMERICA'S YOUTH.

LEGION.ORG/YOUTH



SONS OF THE
 AMERICAN
 LEGION **THE MILLENNIUM**

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

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To:

This Month, On The Back Cover



NVC Harl "Butch" Ray (IL)
Contributor, "The Millennium"

Monthly Special to *The Millennium*: "SAL—Did you know?"

As early as the 1921 by the third National Convention in Kansas City, MO, an organization of a youth group for son was being proposed, though there was not enough national appeal to generate interest at that time.

Various individual independent organizations started to spring up around the country. There were groups known by many different names; some of these were the Junior Legion, Sons of World War Veterans, Sons of American Legionnaires, and Legion-Heirs.

Three of the known Posts that sponsored these early organizations were Post 11 of Bridgeport, CT, Post 78 of Pontiac, IL, and Post 1 of Bute, MT.

In 1930 – At the 12th American Legion National Convention, in Boston, MA, a committee was created to study the feasibility of a youth organization for the sons.

In 1932 - At the 14th American Legion National Convention, in Portland, OR , a resolution was presented establishing a youth organization for the sons to be known as The Sons of the Legion with complete governing authority vested in The American Legion's National Executive Committee. Thus with the approval of the report, the original sons organization was born.

***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!



Find the POW/MIA Logo somewhere in this newsletter