



# National Children & Youth Quarterly E Newsletter

## “Knowledge is Power” 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

***“The mission of the Sons of The American Legion Committee on Children & Youth is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs, and activities of The American Legion. The Committee’s responsibility is to promote the care and protection of the children of veterans; improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home; prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth; maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs; and such other purposes as maybe assigned to it by The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; and to assist The American Legion Children and Youth Program in carrying on for God and Country.”***

The Children & Youth Committee will be sending this E newsletter out quarterly so as to keep everyone current on an important Pillar of The American Legion. We encourage any Detachment or Squadron to send information to us of events on involving children & youth in your area.

Our committee consists of 5 members as follows in case you would like to contact any of us for further information or to share information as well

John Waite- [waitejohn@comcast.net](mailto:waitejohn@comcast.net) (802-384-0088)

Ronnie Grist- [radarg@att.net](mailto:radarg@att.net) Children & Youth Month, resolutions

Thomas Marsden- [saltom@usa.net](mailto:saltom@usa.net) Child Safety

Jim Gaddis- [jerimiah\\_579@yahoo.com](mailto:jerimiah_579@yahoo.com) The American Legion

John Lawrence- [1964m20e@gmail.com](mailto:1964m20e@gmail.com) Family Emphasis

I hope all had a Great Holiday Season and we are now through the first month of the New Year and the “Knowledge is Power” tour continues. The knowledge you gain we ask you to share, we also ask you to share what your Detachment’s and Squadrons are doing, because what you do may spark an idea for the next squadron to try.

At our Fall NEC meeting we had Kim Harvey in from the program Angels & Doves, it is an Anti-Bully Program ( [www.angelsanddoves.com](http://www.angelsanddoves.com) ) which was a CWF grant recipient. Bullying is reduced 50% when a school brings in a Professional Presentation. This is a great program to promote and use during Children & Youth Month (April). Contact Kim at 317-870-1100 or email [kim@angelsanddoves.com](mailto:kim@angelsanddoves.com). She will give you all the information to bring her program to your detachment.

Our Military Kids ( [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org)) another CWF grant recipient is very important for those children of deployed guardsmen, reserves, as well as children of wounded warriors. Some quick facts- nearly 2 million have been affected by wartime deployments since 9/11. Research shows activity counteracts stress. Children are allowed to pick the activity they want to participate in while parents are gone. 56,000 grants have been delivered since 2005, totaling in excess of \$22 million. For every \$1 raised .93 cents directly supports each child.

**Please Vote Below!**



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Our Military Kids is in the race for the [LIDS Foundation Tip the Hat Contest](#) and we need your vote. The non-profit that collects the most votes by February 12 will receive a grant of **\$125,000!**

**Voting is easy:** Click on the [Vote Now](#) link below, select Our Military Kids (in pop-up window), and submit your vote! 🖐

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Multiply your vote by voting once from each device (your phone, laptop, tablet, etc) and share the link on Facebook, Twitter, and e-mail. Tell your family, friends, and coworkers.

**VOTE NOW**



Knowledge to share with your squadrons and communities:

- February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month- 1 in 10 teens who have been on a date have also been physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year. More information is available at [www.breakthecycle.org](http://www.breakthecycle.org)
- March is National Reading Awareness Month- more than ½ the children in this country – 13 million will not hear a bedtime story tonight. We can help change that. [www.readaloud.org](http://www.readaloud.org) it only takes 15 minutes
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month- since 1983 by presidential proclamation April was declared child abuse prevention month. In 2014 646,261 children were abused, 1,580 died. For more information on what you can do visit the National Child Traumatic Stress Network [www.nctsnet.org](http://www.nctsnet.org)

**The American Legion has celebrated April as Children & Youth Month since 1938**, and this year will be no different. That's why I am asking Detachments and Squadrons to plan events in your communities and states. If we can be of any help our cover page has our contact information.

For the Betterment of Our Children

John Waite

National C&Y CHM

"Celebrated as "Children and Youth Month" Since 1938, April is the perfect time of the year to demonstrate that The American Legion Family is committed to its community, and especially its children.

Post families can host a child or youth themed community event (Children's Award ceremony), invite a subject matter expert to present at a meeting (Children's Miracle Network – CMN, Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA), collaborate on a project with a local school (collecting donations for Children's Home); or any number of other activities.

Children represent the future of our nation and it is up to us to equip them with knowledge, leadership skills and a commitment to service that they will use as productive adult citizens of the United States."

The above came directly out of The American Legion, Children and Youth Programs pamphlet that can be received from the Americanism Commission of The American Legion, I did edit a little bit, but the wording was really, really good to begin with.

The pamphlet is divided into just a couple of categories, including stating and awesome mission statement:

The purpose of the Children and Youth Committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:

Assume care and protection for children of Veterans.

Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concerns for maintaining the integrity of the family home.

Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible. AND

Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

Category 1: Family Emphasis

Programs include, but not limited to: Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance. Both programs assist the financial situations of the child in the home directly.

## Category 2: Child Safety

Programs include: Gateway Drugs: harmful effects of drugs; Warning signs: suicide; Halloween Safety: warning of personal safety; Missing Children: identification programs to help ID children that have gone missing for whatever reason.

## Category 3: Children's Charities

Programs that are handled through National Headquarters are The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation that issues grant for educational and research studies on children health concern: diabetes, sickle cell, and cancer just to name a few; and The American Legion Endowment Fund: money available to assist Veterans and their families to adjust while struggling to return to a normal life, which started back in 1925.

They are a great deal of things that, we as members of The American Legion Family, can do ourselves for the children of this country. Here are a couple of easy and fun things that we can do, and enjoy food at the same time.

Ask your local IHOP (International House of Pancakes) when their Pancake Appreciation Day is, usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in February. Donations go to the Children's Miracle Network and you get a free stack of pancakes. Dairy Queen also gives money to CMN when you purchase a blizzard; this is usually in March, but again ask.

Children and Youth month is APRIL. Please try and carry out an activity of some kind. If all else fails, make a donation to one of the charities listed above preferably either CWF, NEF or the Endowment Fund.

For God and Country,

Ronnie Grist

Children and Youth Committee Member

### **Family Support Network**

We are halfway through the year and Children and Youth is progressing along albeit slowly. I am sure we will continue to build momentum and finish the year strong. Team 1 detachments consist of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia and Hawaii. I sent out emails to those that I have contact information for asking for some input. I did receive responses from most of those.

We have squadrons that are doing fund raisers in varying forms, steak dinners, golf tournaments and raffles etc. They have prepared food baskets for needy families over the holidays. Some detachments are polling their squadrons to find out what they are doing and to encourage them to march on.

Also do not forget about the Family Support Network. This is a system designed to help the family of active military personnel who have been deployed. The assistance comes in many forms it can be financial, helping with minor vehicle repairs, helping with yard work around the house or someone to talk to that understands what they are going through. The American Legion Family Support Network nationwide number for assistance is 1-800-504-4098 or you can go to the web site

[www.legion.org/familysupport](http://www.legion.org/familysupport)

For God and Country

John C. Lawrence, Algiers 218

National Children and Youth Committeeman, Team 1

### **Child Safety**

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." They are our future.

What can each of us do every day to nurture and protect America's children from physical and mental harm? Behind the wheel, use common sense. Speed limits in school zones, drug-free zones, school bus motor vehicle laws, and cell phone laws help safety.

Remember "Stranger danger". Make child safety more than just a slogan. One out of every nine boys and girls ages 5-14 is a latchkey one. Peers today are their main line support and influence unless parents get involved. Pay attention to children and teach them well. Don't encourage bullying, a power that scars its victims. Supervise kids. Get to know who they hang with at school, on the phone, on the computer.

Child-proof the house. Store medicines, over-the-counter as well as prescribed, safely away; don't forget household cleaners. Keep knives and tools out of easy reach. Invest in cabinet locks and electric outlet plugs.

Out on the road, put little ones in age-appropriate car seats; make older ones buckle up then buckle up too. Oh, DON'T SMOKE since all smoke is toxic, and kids learn by example!

Interested in learning more about child abduction, child sexual exploitation, and Internet safety? Go online to The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ([www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)). Its publications are available for free download.

Tom Marsden (NJ)

National Children & Youth Committeeman

## From our CWF Chairman Chris Carlton

Short and brief I would like to remind all of our members that we still have time to reach Commander Frain's goal. I am sure we all would like to see the great shaving at National Convention! An excellent way to raise money for C.W.F. is by purchasing one of the limited edition pins! Only 500 made and probably a little over 400 left if that. They are only \$100 dollars and can be purchased from national by using the order form on the flyer, (which I have also attached). Don't forget about the \$1.00 per member banner from C.W.F. it's also a wonderful way to show your squadron made a \$1.00 a member! All we need to do is one maybe two special fund raisers for C.W.F. and I am confident we can meet Commander's goal!

# The Baseball Plan

- 1) Every Detachment Starts out as a single "A" farm team
- 2) At .50 cents a member they become a "AA" team
- 3) At .75 cents a member they become a "AAA" team
- 4) At a dollar a member they are Major League Team
- 5) There will be Designated Hitters each month

6) We are looking for MVP's. MVP's will be the Detachments that send us a story in detail of the special event or fundraiser they do, in detail with pictures if possible and how much they raise.

7) We are all a part of an "ALL STAR TEAM", which includes the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

8) If the ALL STAR TEAM raises a million dollars this year we will see Dennis Boland and Commander Frain Shave their heads.



*Limited Edition C.W.F. Pin*



**Only 500 made!**

**\$100 a piece**

**DON'T MISS OUT!!!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Amount= \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ CWF credited to \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with payment to:

The American Legion National Headquarters

Attn: CWF

700 N. Pennsylvania St.

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

