Sons + Legion programs = winners!

Membership
Hartline Award (*Detach w/ most squadrons*) - Pennsylvania

Houghton Award (*greatest % increase in membership*)
- Category 1 - Rhode Island
- Category 2 - Colorado
- Category 3 - Iowa
- Category 4 - Arizona
- Category 5 - Florida

Highest Renewal Percentage by Region
- East - New Hampshire
- South - Virginia
- Central - Iowa
- West - Nevada

Largest Squadron - Newport Harbor, CA Squadron 291
(1528 members)

First in Each Region to Reach 100%
- East - France
- South - Georgia
- Central - Iowa
- Midwest - South Dakota
- West - Utah

Americanism
Atwood/Beyea/York Memorial Award
- Detachment - Georgia
- District - District 1- Georgia
- Squadron - John B. Handte Squadron 89, Vestal, NY

National Emergency Fund
Largest Donations Per Capita in Nation - Arkansas
- East - Connecticut
- Central - Iowa
- Midwest - Montana
- West - Oregon

Child Welfare Foundation
Garland Murphy Award (*largest donation*) - Ohio
Udie Grant Award (*top Legion Family combined*) - Florida
Excellence Award (*largest per capita*) - Mississippi
Meritorious Achievement Award - France

Largest Per Capita by Region
- Midwest - Colorado
- Central - Illinois
- East - France
- West - Oregon

Largest Donations by Region
- East - Pennsylvania
- West - Arizona
- South - Florida
- Midwest - Colorado

Community Service
Scrapbook Winners
Squadron - La Plata, MD Squadron 82
Detachment - Louisiana

Historian
History Book Award
- Squadron - Lake Plata, MD Sq 82
- Detachment - Vermont

Children and Youth
- Detachment - Georgia
- District - Fourth District, Georgia
- Squadron - Colton, CA Squadron 155
- Midwest - Round Rock, TX Squadron 447
- Central - Holmen, WI Squadron 284
- East - Leonardo, NJ Squadron 338
- West - Arlington, WA Squadron 155
- South - Huntsville, AL Squadron 237

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Charles B. Rigsby Award (*Volunteer of the Year*)
Bruno Williamson, Rantoul, IL Squadron 287
Kirby Kepler Award (*best squadron rehab report*)
Corsicana, TX Squadron 22
Allan I. O'Brian Award (best District rehab report)
District 9 - Georgia
Earl Webster Award (*best Detach rehab report*)
Georgia

Color Guard
Stillwell Award
Detachment of California 12th District

Commander's Legacy Scholarship Awards
- Largest Donation - Maryland
- South - Tennessee
- Central - Indiana
- Midwest - Nebraska
- West - Arizona

Right - On Friday, National Commander Gladden offered to sell 100 golden challenge coins for $20 apiece in an effort to raise money for his project this year - The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund. ***Above -*** It took Sons delegates less than five minutes to snap up all of the coins. The effort raised more than $6,500 because the Detachment of Florida purchased just one of the coins with a donation of $4,500.

National Update

Official Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion

Special National Convention Issue — August 24, 2014

Above: The 43rd S.A.L. National Convention was opened with the posting of colors. ***Right:*** Just hours before his election as National Commander, Mike Moss hosted a reception inside the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Sons race through Charlotte

Sons of The American Legion conducted their 43rd National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina this weekend, ground zero for NASCAR racing. The annual event began early Friday afternoon and concluded Sunday, bringing together Sons from all corners of the country. Convention Credentials Committee Chairman Harold Thompson, Jr. reported 47 of the organization's 52 Detachments were represented this year. A total of 880 delegates, 33 alternates and 106 guests were in attendance. That was not a record, but slightly higher than last year.

Thompson has served as the Credentials Chairman of every S.A.L. National Convention since 1987 and has seen many changes in the event through the years. One major change he would like to see, and has been working on with National Headquarters staff, is a plan to make it possible to fill out more of the organization's forms electronically so they can be submitted via e-mail.

By the time National Commander Joe Gladden completed his final task and banged the gavel to adjourn, delegates had elected a new National Commander, five National Vice Commanders and had turned in several tens of thousands of dollars in donations.

Newly elected National Commander Mike Moss conducted his first post-convention N.E.C. meeting and announced a host of new appointments and initiatives.

Moss is now the man in charge

"Getting prepared for this day has been two and a half years in the making. It's a very humbling experience," says Mike Moss, newly-elected National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. Moss hails from the Detachment of Colorado. He was elected Sunday by delegates to the S.A.L.'s 43rd National Convention meeting in Charlotte, NC.

Moss says membership will have the highest priority during his year as Commander. The theme he'll work under is "Building Bridges to the Future," a slogan that underscores the importance of bringing together more hands and legs to accomplish the important work within the programs of The American Legion Family.

He also has a goal of raising awareness and funds for The Legion's National Emergency Fund and its Endowment Fund.

By the time he hands the reigns over to his successor

Continued on Page 2

Another gift given by our parents

Few people have a better grasp of the concept of legacy than S.A.L. members. So delegates had no trouble on Friday relating to a visit made by USAA representative Jonathan Villela to talk about USAA's Legacy Program (not to be confused with The Legion's Legacy Scholarship). USAA is a full service financial company that offers banking, insurance, investment opportunities and more to members of the military and their immediate families. Like so many other Legion-related benefits available to Sons, USAA services are available to S.A.L. members if a parent is signed up for one of the company's products. USAA is one of the largest corporate contributors to American Legion programs.

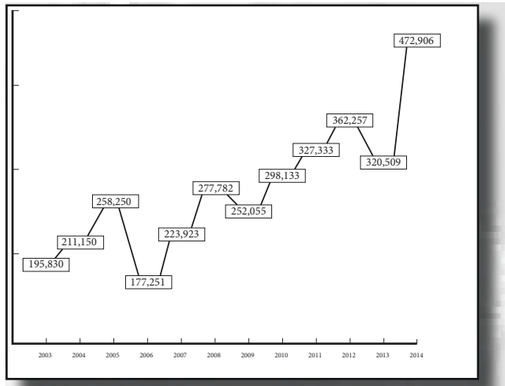
Many faces - all of them special guests

Dozens of year-end awards were announced and handed out throughout the convention. In addition, nearly all of The American Legion Family's national leaders took a turn giving greetings and well wishes to the delegates. Among the special guests were American Legion National Commander Daniel Dellinger and National Adjutant Dan Wheeler, Auxiliary National President Nancy Brown-Park, Auxiliary National Secretary Mary Buckler, the Honorary Junior President, the Legion committee and commission chairmen with oversight of the S.A.L., a pair of Past National Commanders as well as a pair of future National Commanders.

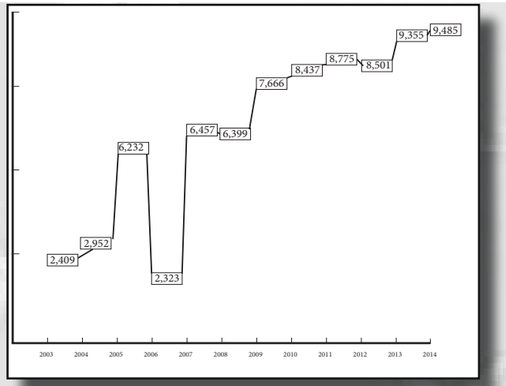
Moss / from Page 1

next year in Baltimore, Moss is convinced Sons will be able to raise $50,000 for N.E.F., another $90,000 for the Endowment Fund, several hundred thousand dollars for the Child Welfare Foundation and see the ranks of the S.A.L. swell to over 370,000 members.

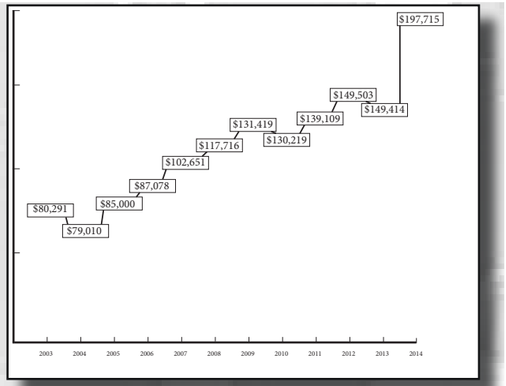
Sons logging a decade of growth and service



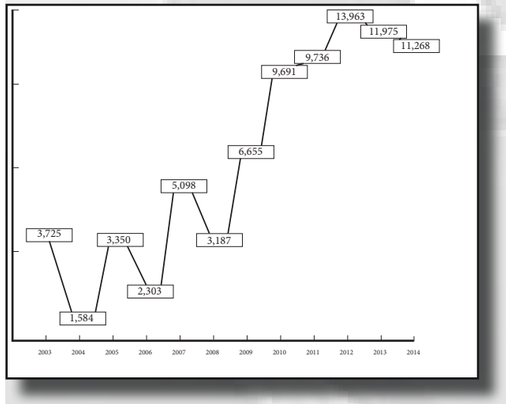
VAVS Volunteer Hours



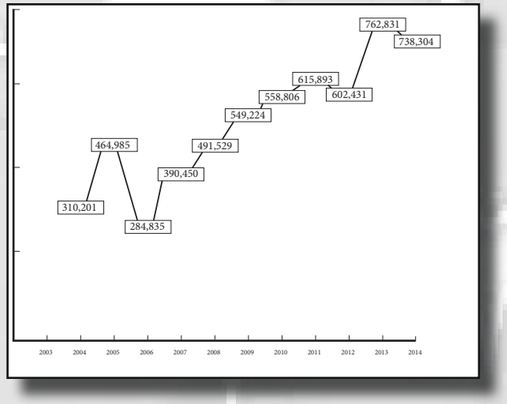
Color Guard Appearances



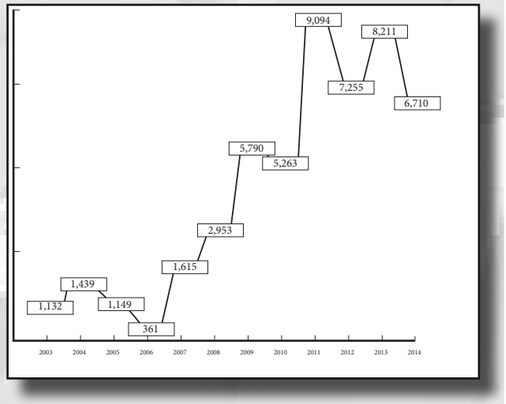
Support for Special Olympics



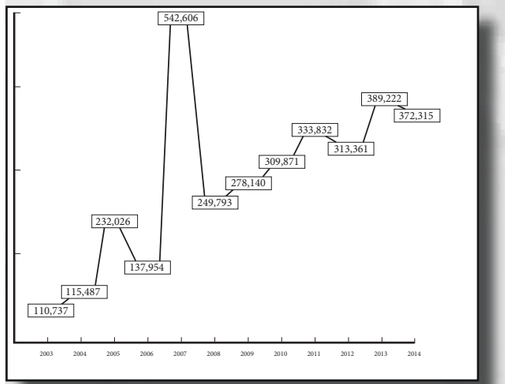
Junior Shooting Volunteer Hours



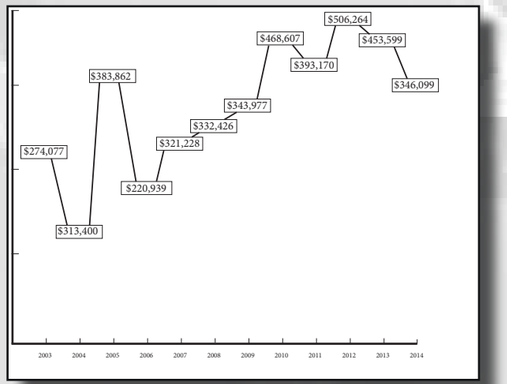
Americanism Volunteer Hours



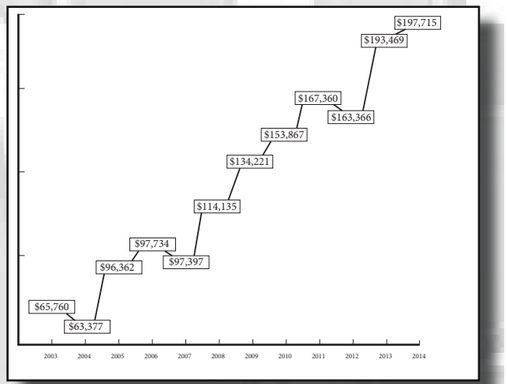
Flag Retirement Ceremonies



Cemetery/Parade Flags Donated



CWF Contributions



Boys State Sponsorships