SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

An Official Publication of Sons of The American Legion

# THE MILLENNIUM

Volume 1 | Issue 1 | Number 1 | **November 2023**

**COMMEMORATIVE FIRST EDITION**

## Welcome to the new Sons of The American Legion national newsletter!

Jeff Vrabel Sr., Editor

For many years, the national organization published a quarterly newsletter, called *National Update.* According to www.archive.legion.org, the last edition of *National Update* was published during the Spring/Summer of 2018. Since then, members have asked when the printable newsletter would return, but there was not much progress, until today. This new newsletter will contain information on national commission and committee meetings.

SAL newsletters include:
*The Legion Heir* – 1938-1941
*SALutations* – 1967-1985
*National Update* – 1986-2018
*The Millennium* – 2023-present

**Why *The Millennium?*** When the word millennium is typed in Google, a few definitions will appear. Here's what Google says millennium means:

noun: **millennium**; plural noun: **millennia**; plural noun: **millenniums**

1. a period of a thousand years, especially when calculated from the traditional date of the birth of Christ. "silver first came into use on a substantial scale during the 3rd millennium BC"
   a. **Christian Theology**
   the prophesied thousand-year reign of Christ at the end of the age (Rev. 20:1–5).
   noun: **the millennium**
   "Archer's treatise predicted that the millennium was close at hand"
   b. a period of good government, great happiness, and prosperity.
   noun: **the millennium** "the people must seize power—the millennium cannot be imposed on them from above"
2. an anniversary of a thousand years. *"the millennium of the Russian Orthodox Church"*
   a. the point at which one period of a thousand years ends and another begins.
   noun: **the millennium** "as we approach the millennium the only certainty is change"

I think we will all have our own idea of how the name of our newsletter relates to Sons of The American Legion, but here's my take:

Our organization is on the verge of great things. We have a renewed focus on recruiting younger members, and our national commissions and committees are laser focused on the task. As stated above, Sons of The American Legion is in a period of good leadership, great happiness in being part of the American Legion Family, and prosperity of increased membership.

There will be some that totally disagree with me, and there will be some that like the name. I think that as we move toward our centennial celebration in 2032, we will come to like the name, and our readership will increase.

If we think back to New Year's Eve 1999, many people thought the world was doomed. How would our computers react to three zeroes at the end of the date? Would things stop working? No one really knew what was in store.

But on January 1, 2000, at 12:00 a.m., we entered a new millennium, and we all had hope for a better future, a better life, and a better world. That may be the real meaning of the name of our newsletter; we all want things to be better for our veterans, our children & youth, and for our great American Legion Family.

*The Millennium* will do it's best to get as much information out as possible and will rely heavily on our national commission and committee chairmen to relay information. We will also count on our national commander and national vice-commanders to help too. Finally, we are developing a pool of staff contributors who will provide content each month.

Information on how to submit content, as well as the monthly deadlines can be found on page 2. Please make sure to follow the deadlines, and they cannot be extended due to our vigorous editing, review, and distribution schedule.

For quite some time, our members have asked for the return of a national, printable, newsletter. As of today, their request has been approved, and *The Millennium* is a new Official Publication of Sons of The American Legion.

THE MILLENNIUM
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Opinions expressed by authors are their own, and do not necessarily represent those of the Publisher or of the Editor.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS. Our goal is to promptly correct errors. Please email the Editor to report a mistake, error, to request a clarification. Please reference the edition, page number, and title of the article in question.

All information must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon the twentieth of each month and must be made electronically to the Editor by emailing the editor.

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**NATIONAL COMMANDER**
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**NATIONAL ADJUTANT**
Anthony W. Wright
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS**
Robert Bristo
John R. Cook
James R. Fischer
Terry A. Harris
Linwood A. Moore

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor
Butch Ray, Staff Contributor
Lou Michaels, Staff Contributor
Rusty Myers, Staff Contributor

**FOLLOW US:**

# National Officers, Chairmen to report on meetings, activities

Content for publications can be challenging, especially in volunteer organizations. Members want to be informed of what's going on, and the best way is to get it directly from the source of the information.

To achieve the goal of publishing pertinent content in a timely manner, our national officers and commission & committee chairmen have been asked to submit information following a set schedule.

The national commander will have the opportunity to contribute as often or infrequently as desired. The commander's schedule may dictate when reports can be made.

National vice-commanders will report as follows:

- Northeast each September and March
- Western each October and April
- Midwest each November and May
- Southeastern each December and June
- Central each January and July

Commissions and committees will make reports in opposite months throughout the administrative year, with commissions reporting in odd months, and committees in even months.

Subcommittees, ad hoc committees, and special committees will report at least two (2) times per administrative year at their convenience and as information warrants.

The national adjutant, national chaplain, national historian, national sergeant-at-arms, national parliamentarian, etc. will report at least two (2) times per administrative year at their convenience and as information warrants.

All submissions mut be received by noon on the twentieth of each month.

## *Millennium* seeking contributors

Help is needed to make sure we have the best national publication possible. With that in mind, *The Millennium* is looking for members to become staff contributors, who will work with the editor to provide relevant content for our members.

Staff contributors do not need to be professional writers or photographers, however they must be able to gather information and organize it into an article or story that, if necessary, can be edited and must be able to help with this publication on a regular basis.

We are also asking editors of detachment newsletters to be contributors, whether staff contributors or on an occasional basis.

If you want to help, please email the editor, who will compile a list and put the staff together. Zoom meetings will be held to coordinate responsibilities, to discuss story ideas, and for general information.

## Donald L. "JR" Hall Jr.
## National Commander
## Sons of The American Legion
## 2023-2024

Donald Lee "JR" Hall, Jr. has been a member of the Sons of The American Legion for over 20 years before being elected national commander in 2023. He is eligible through his grandfather, Ed Hall, an Army, World War II veteran.

Hall, and his wife, Margie, have been married 38 years and together they have three children and seven grandchildren. They all enjoy spending family time together as often as they can.

Volunteering has always been a part of Hall's life. He began coaching youth sports at age 18 and did so for over 25 years. He then turned his focus to the Sons of The American Legion.

He is a member of Glen Burnie Squadron 40 in Maryland, where he has held most offices and still volunteers regularly. He worked his way through the Southern Maryland District as vice commander and commander in 2011.

On the detachment level he has served as sergeant at arms, vice commander and in 2014/15 as the detachment commander. Hall also serves on the Detachment Internal Affairs Committee and the Detachments Mentorship Committee for future leaders.

He has taught youth classes at SAL conventions and meetings for the last several years.

On the national level, Hall has served on the SAL Internal Affairs Commission and the Americanism Commission, where he was the chairman for three years. During his time as chairman the Americanism Commission and Children and Youth Committee, Hall organized the first ever youth room at a national convention in 2019.

He enjoys working with others and offering ideas and planning. He believes in The Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Family.

"We can all make things better by working together," Hall said

# A look back

Here are the covers of the first edition of the three Sons of The American Legion newsletters. All editions can be found at www.archive.legion.org.

THE LEGION HEIR

Sons Serve As Pages in Convention

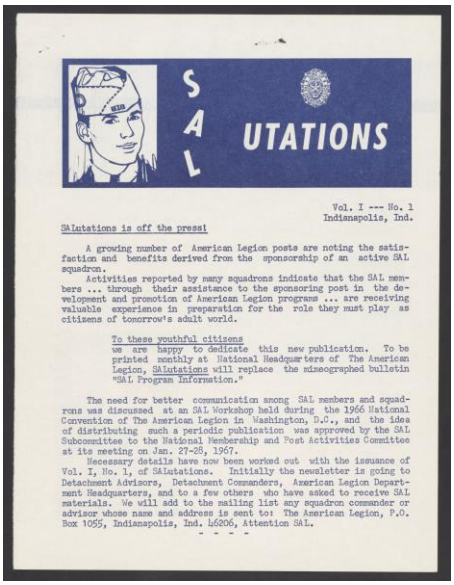
100,000 Members Goal Of 1938 Sons of The American Legion Drive

S.A.L. History In a Nutshell

New Squadron In Far North

YOUR HERITAGE

Arizona Sure Shots—National Sons of The American Legion Championship Rifle Team



SALutations

Vol. I --- No. 1
Indianapolis, Ind.

SALutations is off the press!

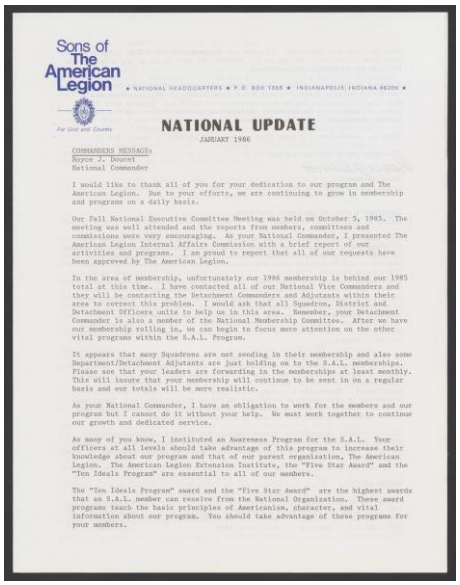
A growing number of American Legion posts are noting the satisfaction and benefits derived from the sponsorship of an active SAL squadron.

Activities reported by many squadrons indicate that the SAL members ... through their assistance to the sponsoring post in the development and promotion of American Legion programs ... are receiving valuable experience in preparation for the role they must play as citizens of tomorrow's adult world.

To these youthful citizens we are happy to dedicate this new publication. To be printed monthly at National Headquarters of The American Legion, SALutations will replace the mimeographed bulletin "SAL Program Information."

The need for better communication among SAL members and squadrons was discussed at an SAL Workshop held during the 1966 National Convention of The American Legion in Washington, D.C., and the idea of distributing such a periodic publication was approved by the SAL Subcommittee to the National Membership and Post Activities Committee at its meeting on Jan. 27-28, 1967.

Necessary details have now been worked out with the issuance of Vol. I, No. 1, of SALutations. Initially the newsletter is going to Detachment Advisors, Detachment Commanders, American Legion Department Headquarters, and to a few others who have asked to receive SAL materials. We will add to the mailing list any squadron commander or advisor whose name and address is sent to: The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206, Attention SAL.



Sons of The American Legion

NATIONAL UPDATE

JANUARY 1986

COMMANDERS MESSAGE:
Royce J. Doucet
National Commander

I would like to thank all of you for your dedication to our program and The American Legion. Due to your efforts, we are continuing to grow in membership and programs on a daily basis.

Our Fall National Executive Committee Meeting was held on October 5, 1985. The meeting was well attended and the reports from members, committees and commissions were very encouraging. As your National Commander, I presented The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission with a brief report of our activities and programs. I am proud to report that all of our requests have been approved by The American Legion.

In the area of membership, unfortunately our 1986 membership is behind our 1985 total at this time. I have contacted all of our National Vice Commanders and they will be contacting the Detachment Commanders and Adjutants within their area to correct this problem. I would ask that all Squadron, District and Detachment Officers unite to help us in this area. Remember, your Detachment Commander is also a member of the National Membership Committee. After we have our membership rolling in, we can begin to focus more attention on the other vital programs within the S.A.L. Program.

It appears that many Squadrons are not sending in their membership and also some Department/Detachment Adjutants are just holding on to the S.A.L. memberships. Please see that your leaders are forwarding in the memberships at least monthly. This will insure that your membership will continue to be sent in on a regular basis and our totals will be more realistic.

As your National Commander, I have an obligation to work for the members and our program but I cannot do it without your help. We must work together to continue our growth and dedicated service.

As many of you know, I instituted an Awareness Program for the S.A.L. Your officers at all levels should take advantage of this program to increase their knowledge about our program and that of our parent organization, The American Legion. The American Legion Extension Institute, the "Five Star Award" and the "Ten Ideals Program" are essential to all of our members.

The "Ten Ideals Program" award and the "Five Star Award" are the highest awards that an S.A.L. member can receive from the National Organization. These award programs teach the basic principles of Americanism, character, and vital information about our program. You should take advantage of these programs for your members.

AMERICANISM & PATRIOTISM

## Sons honor local businesses

Ohio Squadron 257 member Richard "Legs" Zickefoose, Beano's Buckeye Ballroom Owner Brad Bilancini, and Ohio Past Detachment Commander Bill "Buster" Sutterlin (OHSQ257). Bilancini was presented a certificate on June 28, 2023, for flying the American flag. They presented over sixty certificates to local business owners who fly the American flag every day.

photo courtesy Buster Sutterlin

COMMUNITY SERVICE

## Sons restore headstones

Gene Theroux (MA)

We are trying to share knowledge, experience, and get other veterans' organizations in other communities spun-up to accomplish veteran gravestone preservation and conservation.

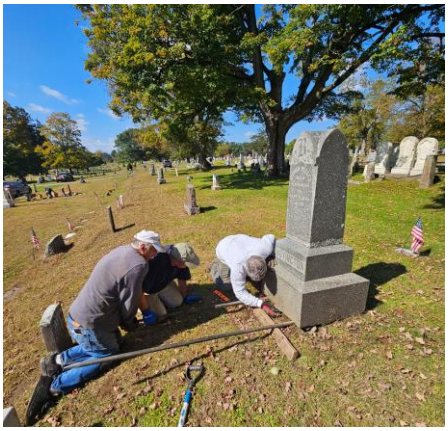
The team that I developed in Westfield (which comprises of veterans and members of both The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion) have worked and accomplished hundreds of repairs in the following cemeteries in Westfield, MA:

- Pine Hill Cemetery
- Middle Farms
- Old Burying Ground (AKA Mechanic Street Cemetery)
- Saint Mary's Cemetery
- West Parish Cemetery (AKA Mundale New)

The team from Westfield has been working two events a week since mid-April. Everything they've done has been fully documented and placed in Dropbox folders by cemetery and data. I maintain a database that is used to document work accomplished, forecast work, GPS burial coordinates are captured and updated both in the database and to the Find a Grave memorial.

Public outreach is critical and that is part of the process for placing in social media and we've had great media coverage as well.

For more information, please email gene.theroux@verizon.net.



VETERANS DAY
ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
SPACE FORCE
COAST GUARD
NOVEMBER 11, 2023
HONORING ALL WHO HAVE SERVED
WWW.VA.GOV

## Sons business meetings set

Sons of The American Legion is announcing its 2023 – 2024 Zoom Business Meeting schedule. To attend on the appropriate date, please click the link on the meeting you would like to attend. If you will be calling in, the number for all meetings is (877) 853-5257.

These meetings are open to all members to listen in and find out more about the organization, learn about how national programs are going, and get ideas that may work at home.

**Central Region**
Second Tuesday Quarterly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429
11/10/23 | 12/12/23 | 03/13/24 | 04/09/24 | 06/11/24 | 08/13/24

**Midwest Region**
Fourth Wednesday Quarterly | 8:00 p.m. Mountain
Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685
09/27/23 | 12/27/23 | 03/27/24 | 06/26/23

**Northeast Region**
Third Wednesday Quarterly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 980 7046 7820 | Passcode: 469 153
09/20/23 | 12/20/23 | 03/20/24 | 06/19/23

**Southeast Region**
First Wednesday Quarterly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543
06/06/23 | 12/06/23 | 03/26/23 | 06/05/23

**Western Region**
Third Wednesday Quarterly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 964 2285 1563 | Passcode: 433 552
09/20/23 | 12/20/23 | 03/20/24 | 06/19/24

**Americanism Commission**
Third Monday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918 | Passcode: 571 659
10/16/23 | 12/18/23 | 02/19/24 | 04/15/24 | 06/17/24 | 08/19/24

**Finance Commission**
Third Thursday as scheduled | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702
09/21/23 | 02/15/24 | 04/18/24 | 07/18/24

**Internal Affairs Zoom Business Meeting**
Fourth Thursday Bi-Monthly | 6:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 932 2650 4089 | Passcode: 725 519
10/26/23 | 12/28/23 | 02/22/24 | 04/15/24 | 06/27/24 | 08/22/24

**Legislative Commission**
Second Thursday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912
10/12/23 | 12/14/23 | 02/08/24 | 04/11/24 | 06/13/24 | 08/08/24

**Public Media & Communications Commission**
Fourth Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 914 4414 8114 | Passcode: 977 759
10/24/23 | 12/26/23 | 02/27/23 | 04/23/24 | 06/25/23 | 08/27/23

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**
Second Monday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 971 3717 7471 | Passcode: 712 824
11/29 23 | 12/11/23 | 02/12/24 | 04/08/24 | 06/10/24 | 08/12/24

**Veterans Education & Employment Commission**
Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 989 2627 5747 | Passcode: 26060
11/19/23 | 12/21/23 | 02/15/24 | 04/18/24 | 06/20/24 | 08/15/24

**Century Committee (CENTCOM)**
Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429
10/10/23 | 12/12/23 | 03/13/24 | 04/09/24 | 06/11/24 | 08/13/24

**Child Welfare Foundation Committee**
Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786 | Passcode: 780 858
09/21/23 | 11/16/23 | 01/18/24 | 03/21/24 | 05/16/24 | 07/18/24

**Children & Youth Committee**
Second Monday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587 | Passcode: 799 095
09/11/23 | 11/13/23 | 01/08/24 | 03/11/24 | 05/13/24 | 07/08/24

**Member Training & Development Committee**
First Monday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 957 9605 2218 | Passcode: 528 704
09/04/23 | 11/06/23 | 01/01/24 | 03/04/24 | 05/06/24 | 07/01/24

**Membership Committee**
Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 989 3388 3350 | Passcode: 546 900
09/19/23 | 11/21/23 | 01/16/24 | 03/19/24 | 05/21/24 | 07/16/24

**National Convention Committee**
Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern
Meeting ID: 953 4866 3402 | Passcode: 670 002
09/12/23 | 11/14/23 | 01/09/24 | 03/12/23 | 05/14/23 | 07/19/24

# The Newshound

A special section for Young Sons of The American ages 16 and under

The National Organization has implemented a "Parent-Youth Initiative," and commissions and committees are in the process of providing information to help get more youth involvement, as well as to recruit young members. Parents and members are encouraged to let Sons of The American Legion know what interests our younger members, and what parents would like to see the organization provide.

Please send your suggestions to Sons of The American Legion by emailing Century Committee Chairman Joe Gladden. Thank you for help to further the objectives of Sons of The American Legion.

## Newshounds needed

Do you like telling stories? Are you taking a class where you have to write? Do you have a joke or something else to say? Can you draw or take great pictures? If you do, WE WANT YOU!

*The Millennium* is looking for Newshounds ages 16 and under to write short stories, send pictures, and to just let us know what is going on at your Squadron. Newshounds will have their submissions published and everyone will get to know you, your squadron, and what activities your Young Sons are participating in.

The *Newshound* section will appear each month and spotlight our young Sons in action. If you want to help, please email the Editor for more information. THANKS!

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Life Should Cost Less

**You are just one click away from donating to your favorite American Legion program or charity. You can donate by visiting www.legion.org/donate, or by clicking the picture below. Thank you for your continued support!!!**

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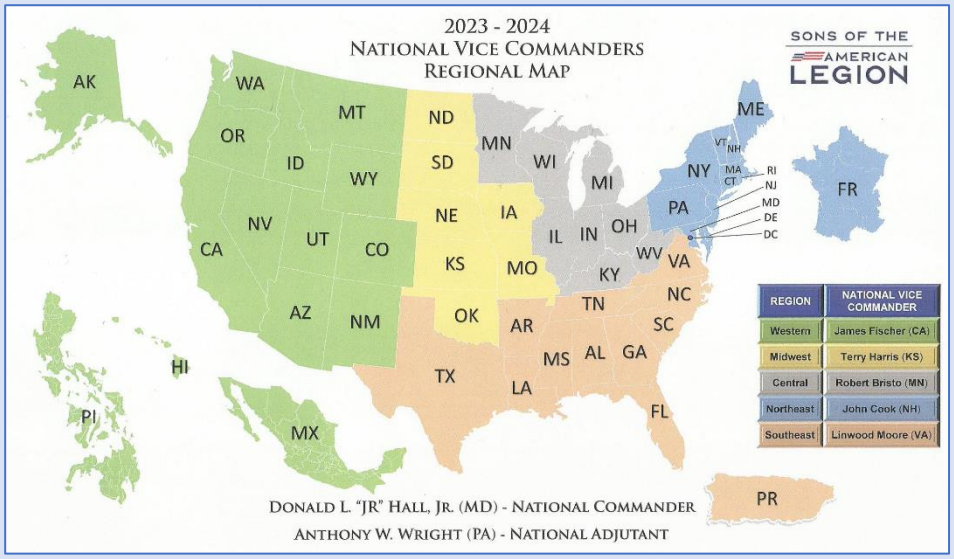
THE MILLENNIUM
Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206

NOVEMBER IS
NATIONAL RENEWAL MONTH
RENEW TODAY!

## New regions begin with 2023-2024 administrative year for SAL

In October 2022, a new National Constitution and Bylaws was put in place for Sons of The American Legion. There were some changes made that would make the Sons constitutional language to be more aligned with language in The American Legion National Constitution and Bylaws.

One of the more noticeable changes was to the SAL regions. Some detachments moved to different regions, and some regions changed names.

Also, part of the change was that all delegates at the national convention will now cast a vote, with their detachment, for all five National Vice-Commanders, and not regionally as in previous years.

It may feel awkward at first, as the realignment will create a different "feel" to the organization, but there will be new friends made, new rivalries developed, and new traditions started. In the long run, the regional realignment may prove beneficial to Sons of The American Legion, and the organization could see a dramatic increase in membership as new ideas and old practices will be shared differently. We may even find out that the new structure is just what the SAL needed to rejuvenate members, bring life into some of our programs, and produce ideas to benefit our veterans, our children & youth, and the entire American Legion Family.