SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

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Squadron 541 (OH) assisted with dinner at American Legion Post 541 Family Christmas Day 2023 Dinner. The Family delivered over 200 dinners to the Continental, OH community free of charge. Over 25 American Legion Family volunteers and other community members helped with making and delivering dinners.

submitted photos

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1.	Hawaii	99.17%
2.	South Dakota	93.11%
3.	North Dakota	92.09%
4.	Wisconsin	88.18%
5.	France	87.50%
6.	South Carolina	83.69%
7.	Florida	82.80%
8.	Louisiana	81.66%
9.	Iowa	79.69%
10.	Maryland	79.29%

as of January 20, 2024

REPRESENTING More THAN ME

PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE

DONATE TODAY AMERICAN LEGION CLICK HERE

THE MILLENNIUM
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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 by emailing the editor.

Sons of The American Legion
Post Office Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1200

SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER
Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD)
SAL NATIONAL ADJUTANT
Anthony W. Wright (PA)
SAL NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS
Robert Bristo (MN)
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James R. Fischer (CA)
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Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor
Rusty Myers, Assistant Editor
Lou Michaels, Photographer/Reporter
Butch Ray, Reporter
Randy Timms, Reporter

FOLLOW US:

Post, Squadron donate food

Gladstone American Legion Post #71, Squadron 71 help fill food pantry

The Gladstone Michigan August Mattson American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion have made a $400 Donation to the Gladstone St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry.

According to Squadron Commander Randy Bruntjens and Post Commander Barry Holm, "Our groups were looking for a great way to give back to the Community and thought this donation just before Christmas when the shelves are a bit lower was the best time to help the pantry with their needs and their hope to re-stock the shelves. This is the time after baskets are filled when the need is the greatest."

The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion are working together. Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in S.A.L.

The Sons of The American Legion is more than just membership. On all levels, they have worked together with The American Legion to promote a wide variety of programs, including assisting the local posts in all activities, Veterans programs (VAVS), VA home and hospital volunteering, Children & Youth activities, and fundraising. S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 3 million. Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF MICHIGAN

Squadron 71 Commander Randy Bruntjens, Dale Rajala Gladstone Food Pantry, and Post 71 Commander Barry Holm.

submitted photo

The Newshound

A special section for Young Sons of The American Legion

Legion scholarship for 2024 Boys State, Girls State participants

The American Legion | January 3, 2024

If you are a high school junior who will be attending an American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State program this summer, you may be eligible for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship.

2022 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients attended a special event in Washington, D.C.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State and are a direct descendant (or legally adopted child) of a U.S. military veteran who served honorably on active duty during a period of war (April 6, 1917-Nov. 11, 1918; or Dec. 7, 1941, until a date as determined by Congress). The 2024 Samsung American Legion Scholarship application is online. Apply here.

All applications must be submitted using the online application system. Scholarship applicants must complete and submit their online application prior to 11:59 p.m. (local time) of Day 1 of their respective American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

The scholarship awards up to $10,000 for undergraduate studies (e.g., room and board, tuition, and books). Each applicant is selected according to his or her involvement in school and community activities, academic record, and financial need.

A Boys and Girls State participant from each state is selected as a finalist for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. During the American Legion's Fall Meetings in October 2024, the Committee on Youth Education will select the scholarship winners. All scholarship recipients will be notified of their award.

American Legion Legacy Scholarship recipient Reese Reiling who attends UMass Boston.

A scholarship for children of the fallen, disabled

The American Legion | January 9, 2024

If you are the child of a parent who lost their life while honorably serving on active military duty on or after 9/11 or is a post-9/11 veteran with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher, you are eligible to apply for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship.

The 2024 American Legion Legacy Scholarship application is online. The application deadline is March 27.

Since the Legacy Scholarship's first grant in 2004, 825 military children of the fallen and disabled have received over $6.2 million in financial assistance for higher learning. The following are ways the scholarship has helped recipients:

"Receiving this scholarship over the course of my medical school career has truly been a life-changing opportunity for me. This scholarship helped me alleviate the financial stress that comes with the rigorous training required to become a doctor."

"Thank you for awarding me with The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. It is a great privilege to be a recipient of your generosity, and I look forward to utilizing these funds in pursuit of my college education. Your help will allow me to pursue my dreams of becoming an officer of the CIA and for that I am extremely grateful."

The Legacy Scholarship provides financial aid for graduate or post-graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans and other supplies needed to achieve a higher education. It is a needs-based scholarship – the grant amount each scholarship recipient will receive will be based on his or her financial need after all federal and state aid is exhausted. Recipients will have a year to use the grant and may reapply to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship up to six times.

The number of scholarships awarded, and the amount of financial aid granted to each awardee (this includes returning applicants) will be determined on donations to the scholarship fund and one's financial needs.

For additional information about the scholarship and eligibility requirements, please learn more here.

The 2024 American Legion Legacy Scholarship recipients will be selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Spring Meetings in May.

NVC John Cook donates blood at recent blood drive held by Post 46 in Conway, NH. NVC John Cook is fulfilling Commander Hall's 4-pillar Challenge.

submitted photos

donate BLOOD save life

WREATH LAYING

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Washington, DC

Contact your National Executive Committeeman or Alternate National Executive Committeeman for more information

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

www.legion.org/baseball

The American's Creed

Resolution passed by U.S. House of Representatives

April 3, 1918

I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

by William Tyler Page

Important Web Links

The National Public & Media Communications Committee has created this Important Web Links document for our members, as well as for all members of the American Legion Family, to use to get to some of our most important websites. Please save this document and refer to it often. Thank you!

SAL National Web Site
https://www.legion.org/sons

Publications and Forms (SDR, Handbook, Awards and much more)
https://www.legion.org/sons/publications

Subscribe to Newsletters (requires signing into MyLegion.org)
https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/My-Account/Opt-In-Out

Millennium Newsletters
https://sites.google.com/view/teamvrabel/the-millennium?authuser=0

Round-Up Newsletters
https://sites.google.com/view/teamvrabel/round-up-newsletter

Newsletter Digital Archives
https://www.legion.org/library/258352/50-years-sons-american-legion-newsletters-now-available

Be The One
https://www.legion.org/betheone

Voter Voice
https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home

Membership Reports
https://www.legion.org/sons/membership-reports

SAL Resolutions
https://www.legion.org/sons/resolutions

Future Meetings
https://www.legion.org/sons/events

Emblem Sales Digital Catalog
https://emblem.legion.org/catalog-legion.asp

Business meetings schedule

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 Wednesday 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 | 7:00 p.m. Mtn
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 | 03/06/23 | 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

Bruno Williamson, Chairman

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Report

Hello my brother Sons,

Your members of the National VA&R Commission hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season. It is hard to believe that January is about over. In this article we will talk about another program that your National Commission is promoting. The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) is an amazing rehabilitation program for our Veterans.

Nationwide Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) use the creative arts as a form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities.

From across the country each year Veterans who are enrolled at VA health facilities compete in local creative arts competitions. With categories in the visual arts that range from oil painting to leather work to paint by number kits. There are also categories in writing, as well as the performing arts from music, dance, and drama. The winners at the local level are then sent to National for judging with first, second and third being awarded. The first place winning Veterans are then invited to the NVCAF which is hosted by a different VA each year. I will say that I have been lucky to have gone to five different NVCAF stage/art shows which are free to attend & they are amazing to see. And I was lucky enough to have been able to volunteer for the entire week of the festival in April of 2023 in St Louis, MO. And I cannot begin to tell you what collaborating with these Veterans for the week hearing their stories and seeing what the Creative Arts is doing to help with their seen and unseen injuries.

Veterans who are enrolled with a VAMC and receive care there or at a CBOC or Vet Center are eligible for the festival. Veterans can submit only one piece per category but can submit in multiple categories.

The co-sponsors for the event are the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National American Legion Auxiliary. The 2024 festival is from May 11 - 18 and is sponsored by the Denver VAMC. If you are interested in going to the stage and art show, contact the Dept of Colorado American Legion Auxiliary for the free tickets. If you want to volunteer contact the Colorado Auxiliary or the Denver VA and ask for Volunteer Services (CDCE) to find the point of contact for the event. You will not be sorry after either going to the show or helping with the event.

We are now coming into February, and February is not just for romantics. The week of February 14th is a special week for the VA System. Over nine million of our women & men veterans are celebrated during **National Salute Week**. Our Veterans that are cared for in VAMC's, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, Domiciliary, & Nursing Homes. The purpose of the National Salute to Veterans Program is to pay tribute & express our appreciation to our Veterans, increase community awareness of the role of the VAMC & to encourage the public to visit our hospitalized Veterans & to hopefully become volunteers.

In closing, please remember our Veterans in VAMC's, Community Living Centers (CLC), nursing homes and our State-run VA Homes. They get a lot of visitors and events during the holidays but tend to get lost in the shuffle as the year progresses. Even if you are from a small squadron and you do not have the resources to do a facility wide event. You can always sponsor an event on the wards. You can do a ward bingo or a cookout, cater an event. The wards are typically 20 – 30 patients and it would not cost your squadron very much to do something at that level.

'Together, Making a Difference"

Joe Lohman, Chairman

Children & Youth Committee

Greetings from the SAL National Children and Youth Committee!

This year, the committee is focused on bringing awareness to the National C&Y month in April and American Legion Family Day on April 27, 2024, 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.

The C&Y committee had a meeting last month to discuss the approval of their parent/child initiative project. We decided to introduce a pizza garden to support the parent / children initiative. The garden will be a project where the parent/child will work together to make the ingredients of a pizza locally at the post home or a personal location. The children will learn the basics of horticulture by preparing the soil, sunlight, and the right plants to make the project a success. After harvesting the product, the post family can make the pizza together for dinner or sell a few pizzas for a fundraiser.

Some concerns addressed were that the pizza garden would not be as successful in the northern states due to colder weather. Overall, the plan was well accepted by the C&Y Committee, Americanism Chairman Casey, and the C&Y NEC liaisons.

In addition, the garden is easy to make and there are many websites that can provide tips on how to make a successful pizza garden.

We continue to promote the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) program which is a premier organization that provides fundraising assistance to transplant families.

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. This year's goal for the Detachments to donate to the VCF is $1.00 per capita. This will help the foundation to be self-sufficient and be able to assist more Veterans and Children during emergency relief efforts.

We continue to work with the Americanism Commission updating the Youth Academy program at the National Convention. The C&Y Committee has been assigned to develop a badge program working with the National Program Coordinator for junior activities to obtain patch and badge approvals. We plan to have additional information in April 2024.

The C&Y Committee hopes everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring NEC.

Daryl VerStreate Jr., Chairman

Membership Committee

Daryl VerStreate Jr
National Membership Chair

Membership ending in 2023 ended at another all-time high for the National Organization. 46 of 55 Detachments over 100% with a final count of 380,743 members for 103.52% and a retention rate of 89.36%.

Following the homecoming celebration of Detachment of Ohio Commander David L. Dilts, Ohio Sons donated leftover food to the Zanesville Police Department in appreciation of their hard work and dedication. Seen here are Detachment 1VC Tim Conway, Detachment Asst. Adj. Shane Eaton, Gary Cox, Dept. Commander Jason Rue, Officer Downing, NEC Gary Lang, and ANEC Jon Coakley.

submitted photo

We have had another spectacular year as far as of January 19th 60% goal we have 53/55 Detachments over goal. Currently, we have 287,071 memberships turned in for 75.13% and a renewal rate of 68.07%. On January 19th of 2023, we had 263,022 Memberships turned in for an increase of 24,049 members.

The Committee has some wonderful things in the works soon to be released. Please keep your eyes peeled for some exciting news shortly.

At the convention, I Mentioned membership only works when all levels from the National organization to the squadron level work together for a common goal. I believe the numbers speak for themselves. Communication is key to success.

Please keep up all the good work around the organization. We are excellent at obtaining new members. Let us see what we can do to close the back door to keep members and increase our retention rate.

Blair Miles, Chairman

Legislative Commission

We are fast approaching the deadline for submitting your Wreath Form for the Washington Conference. The deadline for this is Saturday, February 3rd. This is very important to get this turned in by then because it dictates the number of bus seats needed, which lets us know how many buses to get. We'd hate to turn anyone away, but we must adhere to this deadline. With your help, this won't be a problem.

I'd like to thank you all once again for helping all Committee and Commission Chairmen in getting our information out to the Detachments. Communication is the key, and you're a very big part of it. Again, thank you so very much with this. You guys are awesome!

For God and Country.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION