Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander – Doug Ferrell
- Detachment Vice Commander – Richard Pernall
- Detachment Vice Commander – Dellie Suiter
- Detachment Vice Commander – David Tuck
- Detachment NEC – Steve Gower
- Detachment Alt-NEC – Linwood Moore
- Detachment Adjutant – Scott Williams
- Detachment Finance Officer – HB Hall, Jr.
- Detachment Chaplain – Robert Wilson Sr.
- Detachment Historian – Willie Morgan
- Detachment Sgt At Arms – James Logan
- Detachment Judge Advocate – Clint Bolt

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Sons Attend 2014 National Convention

The Sons Of The American Legion, Detachment of Virginia sent 12 delegates to this year's National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. The National Convention was the place to celebrate the year's accomplishments for our Organization at the National, State, and Local levels. Officers for the new administrative year are nominated and elected at the National Convention.

For the 2013—14, Sons donated 472,906 Total Volunteer Hours, 20,566 Visits, and $1,172,358 for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Sons Nationally donated $1,174,933 and 166,825 Hours to Children and Youth Programs. For Americanism, Sons donated $2,033,159 and 738,304 hours. For the 2013—14 year, the Sons Of The American Legion reached the $6 million mark in donations to the Child Welfare Foundation. The Detachment of Florida was the Detachment that pushed the Child Welfare Donations over the $6 million mark.

The Detachment of Virginia got recognition at the National Level this year. Virginia won the Membership Award for Highest Retention Rate in the Southern Region. The Detachment also won an award for donating over $2.00 per member to the Child Welfare Foundation.

Jeff Evans from Squadron 327 in Norfolk was nominated and won election as the National Vice Commander for the Southern Region. In the picture above, Mr. Evans is giving his acceptance speech at the National Convention. Alternate NEC, Linwood Moore was appointed to the National Child Welfare Foundation Committee. Bob Borkovich was appointed to the National Homeland Security Committee. Clint Bolt was appointed as Chairman to the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Squadron 293 Holds Steak Dinner Fundraiser

With the proceeds, Squadron 293 will be able to sponsor a Boy to Boys State.

Despite varying weather conditions, we were able to deliver steaks cooked to order in a timely manner. Thanks to Legionnaire Adam Porter for cutting our steaks. Thanks to SAL Members Kevin Pewtherer, Dan Miller, and Scott Williams. Thanks also to Auxiliary members Carroll Maus, Audry Rodriguez, Liz Miller, and Brigid Gaine.

Squadron 293 held a very successful Steak Dinner to benefit Boys State.
First, let me say, it is an honor to serve for a second year as Commander for the Detachment of Virginia, one of the best detachments in the country. Congratulations to Bill Bryant, on his nomination as National Vice Commander for the American Legion. We would also like to congratulate Jeff Evans on his election as National Vice Commander of the Sons Of The American Legion. We would also like to congratulate Clint Bolt on his appointment as Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Linwood Moore on his appointment to the National Child Welfare Committee, and Bob Borkovich on his appointment to the National Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee.

At the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, recently, the Detachment received a couple of awards for the hard work that the Sons have put in this year, and it was my honor to accept the awards on behalf of the Detachment. We received the highest renewal rate in the Southern Region in membership with a certificate and the Child Welfare Foundation for exceeding the $2.00 per capita in the Detachment. We also received the 100% ribbon for membership.

I look forward to working with Department Commander, Gerald Rhodes and Department Auxiliary President, Nancy Harting.

The Sons membership theme for this year is “Building Bridges”, to the future. My project is supporting the Endowment Fund. We will continue to work on getting our young members involved and active in all of our projects.

Thank you again! Let’s work on our membership and help Virginia’s Vice-Commander to “shine” in membership. Please turn in all Membership!!

Lastly, Welcome Home Dan Dellinger!! Thank you for all you do!

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We are off to a great start this year. We had over 35 Consolidated Squadron Reports turned in this year. Thank you to all of the Squadrons who turned in reports this year. Here are a few detachment highlights based on the reports turned in this year. The Detachment donated 34,459 hours and $124,828 to Americanism; 6,977 hours and $42,082.32 to Children and Youth Programs; and 48,671 hours and $65,661.50 to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation programs.

Please start tracking your Squadron Hours and Dollars donated, now. We would like to have more Consolidated Reports turned in this year.

We are finalizing our Detachment Directory for this year. Several Squadrons have contacts without email addresses. We need to have at least 2 email contacts per squadron. A majority of our communication is done via email due to increasing postage costs.

Please like us on Facebook at Sons Of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia.

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Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers over their passing. If you have any Squadron Member who has passed on to Squadron Everlasting, please email the information to SonsVA-DetADJ@comcast.net.

Rest in Peace Comrades!!
The American Legion National Emergency Fund

One of National Commander Mike Moss’ project this year is the American Legion National Emergency Fund. His goal for the National Emergency Fund is $50,000.

The Preamble to The American Legion Constitution sums up the theme of the National Endowment Fund, "... devotion to mutual helpfulness." This phrase is more than just mere words on paper; it's our pledge of support to Legionnaires and their family members. Since the early 1920s, The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion Family members in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and wildfires.

The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than $8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

The fund provides up to $1,500 for qualified Legion Family members and up to $5,000 for Posts. The eligibility requirements are: 1. Applicant must have been displaced from his or her primary residence due to a declared natural disaster. 2. Applicant must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.

3. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

Eligibility open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to $1,500) Legion Posts (up to $5,000). Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

Donations can be brought to a Conference or Convention or mailed to: The American Legion National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Please consider making a donation to this worthwhile program. Also, please be sure to record your donations on your Consolidated Squadron Report Form under Americanism. Information from the American Legion National Website.

Operation Comfort Warriors

One of Detachment Commander Ferrell's projects this year is Operation Comfort Warriors.

Operation Comfort Warriors is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. OCW ensures that patients at U.S. military hospitals and warrior transition units are given items like sweat suits, DVDs, puzzles, electronic devices, books, calling cards and more. OCW also provides larger items such as ping pong tables, entertainment centers, computers, kayaks and other recreational goods for use by wounded warriors in common areas.

Many of these service members have left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

Donations can be brought to a Conference or Convention. Please be sure to include your donation on your annual Squadron Report.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

SAL National Commander, Mike Moss’ goal for the Child Welfare Foundation is $400,000 for this year. The Child Welfare Foundation is the Hallmark Program of the Sons Of The American Legion.

Our foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with a means to educate the public about the needs of child.

Ren across this nation.

Not all American children grow up inside the comfortable definition of normal childhood development. For thousands, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer and perseverance. Many of these youngsters require specialized care. To overcome their obstacles, they need help from you and the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

The Child Welfare Foundation supports these groups through grants each year. The Child Welfare Foundation awarded over $566,000 in grants for the 2015 year. The SAL sponsored or co-sponsored nine grants this year. For more information, go to www.cwf-inc.org. Information from CWF Website.
Membership Minute - Linwood Moore

Virginia is sitting in 4th place in the Southern Region in membership and 12th overall on a National Report. The Southern region is first in the Nation in membership. In Virginia, I would like to thank the squadrons that have stepped up to the plate and sent your membership in to help keep Virginia in the running at the national level.

We could be doing even better if every Squadron sent in membership in, even if it is only one or more. Please don’t hold any membership. Several Squadrons have sent their Membership in over the last couple of weeks to clear up some of the zero squadrons. Thank-You for your co-operation in helping to complete our bridge.

There are still some Squadrons who have not turned in any Membership.

In the Eastern Region we still have ONE squadron with zero membership - Squadron 1997 (Hampton). In the Northern Region, there are FIVE squadrons with zero memberships - Squadron 156 (Orange), Squadron 215 (Goochland), Squadron 126 (Buena Vista), Squadron 188 (Harrisonburg), and Squadron 21 (Winchester). In the Western Region, there are TWO Squadrons with Zero memberships - Squadron 3 (Roanoke) and Squadron 43 (Chase City). Note the zero Squadrons here are after the Fall Conference.

Congratulations to the Squadrons that have achieved 100% Membership. The 100% Squadrons are Squadron 49 (Smithfield), Squadron 186 (Midlothian), Squadron 242 (Sandston), Squadron 55 (Fredericksburg), Squadron 270 (McLean), and Squadron 7 (Pulaski).

Welcome new Squadron 34 out of Leesburg that was chartered in September.

Linwood Moore, Membership Chairman

American Legion Endowment Fund

National Commander Mike Moss’ has the American Legion Endowment Fund as one of his Special Project’s for the year. We are including some information on the program here. We hope that as you plan donations for the remainder of the year that your Squadron will consider this program as a possible donation. Commander Mike’s goal for the American Legion Endowment Fund is $90,000.

Since its creation by World War I veterans in 1925, The American Legion Endowment Fund has delivered nearly $25 million in financial assistance for disabled veterans, military families and young people who lost parents in service to our nation. Income from Endowment Fund investments is used to fund Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs.

Temporary Financial Assistance is one of the programs funded by the American Legion Endowment Fund. Since its establishment in 1925, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program has awarded cash grants to minor children of veterans who are eligible for American Legion membership. 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.

Department Service Officer (DSO) Schools is another program supported by the American Legion Endowment Fund. Every year the VA & R Commission holds two training schools to teach DSO’s the latest changes in Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Court of Appeals for veterans claims, regulations, procedures, and laws to ensure they provide the best service to the veterans they assist.

The American Legion and National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) internship program is another program supported by the American Legion Endowment Fund. This program provides training for American Legion staff assigned to the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) and to Department Service Officers on temporary assignment to the BVA.

Your Squadron can donate to this program at a Conference or Convention or by sending your donation to: The American Legion Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Please be sure to record your donation on your Consolidated Squadron Report Form. Information from the American Legion Website.
Leadership College
‘Developing Future Officers’

Each year, The Sons Of The American Legion holds a Leadership College in conjunction with the American Legion Leadership College, in August. The 2014 Legion College was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Midlothian.

This is a great opportunity for those who are new members of the Sons Of The American Legion and newly elected Squadron Officers to learn more about our organization and its programs. This year we covered topics such as Officer’s Duties, Membership, Programs, and Consolidated Reporting. We broke the class up into small groups so each group could prepare a sample Consolidated Report Form.

We had a guest speaker, Emily Dillon from the Chesterfield County Emergency Preparedness Office to talk about Civil Preparedness as part of our Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness program.

This year’s Spirit Award Winner was Richard Cunningham from Squadron 180—Vienna. Congratulations!

Each Squadron should plan to send someone to Legion College. Legion College in 2015 will be at the Doubletree Hotel in Midlothian in August 2015.

Squadron 284 Holds Fundraiser At Richard Bland College

Squadron 284 held a recent fundraiser at Richard Bland College to benefit Wounded Warriors and McGuire’s VA Hospital. They served almost 500 people at the event. The Ft Lee Band played the National Anthem and other music. The Ft Lee Chaplain opened the event with a prayer. The Squadron gave the leftover food to the Ft Lee Band. Thanks go to Linwood Moore, Jeff Lee, Michael Latham, Mario Medeirous, Carl Brandt, and George Dimirack. Linwood Moore

Detachment State Convention Photos

Detachment Scholarship Award winner, Bruce Reid II (Left 2 Photos) and Detachment Cruise Winner.
Squadron 162 VA & R Luncheon

It started well over twenty years ago and is still going strong. What is it that continues to this day? The answer is quite simple: The VA&R Luncheon at American Legion post 162. The VA&R Luncheon had its humble beginnings with the Auxiliary Unit 162, which provides meals for the DC Veterans’ Home, an assisted living center for retired disabled veterans. The unit provides anywhere from 45-70 meals three times a year at American Legion Post 162. The VA&R Luncheon is held on the third Wednesday in November, January and March.

So, what does a function like this have to do with an SAL squadron? At the request of Unit President, SAL Squadron 162 assumes many minor, but important roles at each luncheon, some of the Sons serve as bus boys and escorts, and one provides entertainment during the midday meal. While the responsibility has fallen on different individuals over the last several years, squadron members take time off from work to assist the women of Unit 162 Lorton Virginia. Whether it is the Squadron Commander, the Chaplain, or just a few squadron members, there is always a group to help serve in any way possible.

The next VA&R Luncheon is scheduled for November 19, 2014, and several members of Squadron 162 will be there to help in whatever way is needed. Victor Graulau—Detachment Public Relations Chairman.

Detachment Photos From Legion College and Sons National Convention

WANT TO ADD A SQUADRON?

If your post does not have a Squadron and is interested in starting up a Squadron, you need 10 members to charter a Squadron. It also needs to be approved by the sponsoring American Legion Post.

If you need more information about starting a Squadron, please feel free to contact Detachment Commander Doug Ferrell, Detachment Vice Commanders-Richard Pregnall (Northern Region), Delfie Suiter (Eastern Region), David Tuck (Western Region) or Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams. We would be glad to help you in any way to get a Squadron started.

THE FOCUS

The Focus is the Detachment of Virginia, Sons Of The American Legion’s E-Letter or newsletter. This is a great tool for our Squadrons to promote their activities and accomplishments. Every Squadron does something within the Detachment. It can be putting flags on veterans graves to a Fisher House Fundraiser to having a Squadron Member who is an Eagle Scout to a Child Welfare Foundation Fundraiser. We want to hear what your Squadron is doing.

It does not take that much time to put a simple article together for The Focus. A few of our Squadrons contributed articles to this issue. The basic points or questions the article needs to answer are as follows: 1. What was the event? Dinner, Raffle, etc. 2. Who held the event? 3. What was the event for? 4. When was the event held? 5. Where was the event held? 6. Other highlights from the event…. 7. What were the results from the event? How much did you raise?

We are in REAL need of getting articles from our Squadrons on their various activities. We received over 35 Consolidated Reports this year. We know Squadrons are active. We want to hear from you!

Please send your articles to Scott Williams at SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net

‘It’s not what we do, it’s who we are!” - Michael Peterson

Sons Of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia

“The Focus”

Articles and information contributed by: Detachment Commander Doug Ferrell Linda Hardwick (Department Headquarters), Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams, Linwood Moore, and Victor Graulau. Photographs provided by: Scott Williams, Linwood Moore, Steve Gower, and Victor Graulau.

Edited By: Scott Williams
### Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- 75 REGISTERED (VAVS) REPRESENTATIVES
- MEMBER OF NATIONAL VAVS BOARD
- 472,906 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS RECORDED WITH 20,566 VISITS AND $1,172,358 IN CASH AND GIFTS
- $77,181 DONATED TO FISHER HOUSE WITH 4,126 HOURS
- 8,044 HOURS WITH $32,378 TO THE FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

### Americanism
- 1,165 BOYS STATE REPRESENTATIVES AT A COST OF $193,469
- 9,485 COLOR GUARD APPEARANCES AT A COST OF $71,207
- 1,571 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TEAMS SPONSORED AT A COST OF $156,359
- OTHER TEAMS SPONSORED AT A COST OF $133,501
- $73,859 IN SUPPORT OF SCOUTING
- $7,412 IN DONATIONS AND 2,399 SERVICE HOURS TO THE ORATORICAL PROGRAM INVOLVING 196 CONTESTANTS
- 11,268 HOURS AND $26,027 TO JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS
- 28,683 FLAGS PRESENTED AT A COST OF $64,955
- 954 FLAG EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT A COST OF $13,543 WITH 5,792 HOURS
- 6,710 FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONIES
- 372,315 FLAGS PLACED AT CEMETERIES & GIVEN AT PARADES AT A COST OF $79,283
- $316,169 IN SCHOLARSHIPS WITH 11,672 HOURS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
- 282 – 5 STAR / 10 IDEALS PROGRAMS AT A COST OF $5,785
- VARIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AT A COST OF $799,067 AND 670,421 SERVICE HOURS
- $39,119 IN DONATIONS TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND
- A TOTAL OF $2,033,159 AND 738,304 HOURS OF SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICANISM PROGRAMS

### Children & Youth
- SINGLE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION: $346,099 WITH 54,809 HOURS OF SERVICE
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS - $197,715 DONATED WITH 19,346 HOURS OF SERVICE
- CHILDRENS MIRACLE NETWORK - $71,829 IN DONATIONS WITH 7,065 SERVICE HOURS
- $491,012 AND 83,559 HOURS IN SUPPORT OF OTHER CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS, BRINGING THE TOTAL YEARLY DONATIONS TO ALL C & Y PROGRAMS TO $1,174,933 WITH 166,825 SERVICE HOURS

### 2014 MEMBERSHIP
352,889 MEMBERS IN 6,039 SQUADRONS IN 52 DETACHMENTS
### Americanism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item/Program</th>
<th>Quantity/Details</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Boys sponsored at Boys State</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>$14,940.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Girls sponsored at Girls State</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$8,180.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Squadron Color Guards</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$1,720.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total # of appearances</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>$841.00</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Flags presented</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>$484.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flag Education Programs</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$602.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flag Retirement Ceremonies</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$1,954.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flag presented (Cemeteries &amp; Parades)</td>
<td>1,954</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Scholarships Awarded</td>
<td>10,100</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Blood Drives</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>$484.00</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Pints Collected</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Baseball Teams</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>$1,275.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Troops Supported</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$2,520.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Star / 10 Ideals Program</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$185.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Total Cost of Support for Americanism Programs</td>
<td>124,828</td>
<td>$124,828.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Service Hours for Americanism Programs</td>
<td>34,459</td>
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### Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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<th>Item/Program</th>
<th>Quantity/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Visits to Homes/Centers</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>$2,876.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours of Service</td>
<td>3416</td>
<td>$13,821.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Donations</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>$1,510.00</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Veterans helped (VA Day)</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours of Service</td>
<td>1175</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisher House - Donations</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$4,405.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Misc. Donations</td>
<td>7298.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Misc Hours of Service</td>
<td>22,126.86</td>
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### Children & Youth

<table>
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<th>Item/Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CWF Donations</td>
<td>13,035.00</td>
<td>$1200</td>
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<tr>
<td>CWF Hours of Service</td>
<td>48,098</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Emergency Fund (N.E.F.)</td>
<td>4,610.00</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Josh Dogs given away</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMN Donations</td>
<td>4,749.00</td>
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<td>CMN Hours of Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Olympics Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours of Service</td>
<td>196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other C&amp;Y Projects Donations</td>
<td>22,729.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other C&amp;Y Projects Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Total Cost of Support for all Programs</td>
<td>248,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Service Hours for all Programs</td>
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### Overall Totals of Hours & Dollars Donated from Virginia Squadrons

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<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Donations ($$$)</th>
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<tr>
<td>34,459</td>
<td>$124,828.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>6,977</td>
<td>$42,082.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>48,671</td>
<td>$65,661.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>90,106</td>
<td>$232,572.22</td>
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