



FOCUS



Volume 10, Issue 1 January 2019

Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander –Jeff Lee
- Detachment Vice Commander—Fred Vaccarella
- Detachment Vice Commander—Victor Graulau
- Detachment Vice Commander—Joe Gallagher
- Detachment NEC—Linwood Moore
- Detachment Alt-NEC– Richard Pregnall
- Detachment Adjutant—Scott Williams
- Detachment Ass't Adjutant—Kevin Chaplin
- Detachment Finance Officer—Jeff Evans
- Detachment Chaplain—Robert Wilson, Sr.
- Detachment Sgt At Arms-James Logan
- Detachment Judge Advocate-Steve Gower
- Detachment Historian—Dellie Suiter

Inside This Issue

Commander's Corner	2
Adjutant's Blog	2
Det Conv Photos	4
NEF	5
Junior Activity	6
Four Chaplains	7
Squadron Everlasting	9

'Honoring The Past...Continuing The Legacy'

The campaign slogan of SAL National Commander Geg 'Doc' Gibbs of New York set the focus for the 2018—19 year. The centennial year of The American Legion. This year marks a major milestone in the history of the American Legion. And yes, it is a rich history. A history that made a huge impact on our country.

The American Legion began in 1919. A group of twenty officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.), in France in World War I is credited with planning the Legion. One officer, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. When the first organization meeting took place in Paris in March, 1919, about 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended. The meeting, known as the Paris Caucus,



adopted a temporary constitution and the name The American Legion. It also elected an executive committee to complete the organization's work. It considered each soldier of the A.E.F. a member of the Legion. The executive committee named a sub-committee to organize veterans at home in the U.S. The Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis, Missouri, in

May 1919.

Founding

As is confirmed by The National Library of the American Legion and its official supporting documents, the first post of the American Legion is George Washington Post 1 in Washington, D.C. Organized March 7, 1919, it obtained the first charter issued any post of The

Con't page 4

About This Issue

One For All.

For the first time., we added an activity for our Junior Members. Word hunt dealing with US Presidents.

One question, we would like for all of our readers to

Think about is what can we do to get our 20 to 30 year old members active and to join?

Please remember that we still need all of your help to support Clint Bolt for his campaign for SAL National Commander.

Commander's Corner—Jeff Lee 'All For One & One For All'



SAL National Commander Leading Candidate, Clint Bolt Installs Detachment Commander, Jeff Lee with his wife, Robin Lee.

I'm honored to serve as your Commander for the Detachment of Virginia and be a part of Team 100 in this, the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. I became eligible for membership through my father's service in the Navy during WWII.

My dad, James S. Lee, Sr., loved the American Legion and was the Grande Chef de Garre for the 40/8 in 1997. He often encouraged me to become a SON, but I didn't join until a career change took me off the road eleven years ago.

I did not serve in the military and wanted to honor my father and everyone else who stepped up by joining and contributing to this veteran's organization. I have been a SON for ten years and have served one year as Sergeant-at-Arms, four years as Vice-Commander and four years as Commander for Squadron 284 in Colonial Heights.

This year's Team 100 theme seeks to motivate members to capitalize on the publicity generated by The American



Robin Lee, places the Detachment Commander's pin on Detachment Commander, Jeff Lee.

Legion's Centennial Anniversary. It encourages us to actively promote Legion Family programs and values within our community to make them aware of what we do for veterans. It also seeks to leverage this publicity and promotion of our program values and benefits for the purpose of soliciting new members.

Adjutant's Blog—January 2019

We are off to a great start in what promises to be another great year in the Detachment of Virginia. Congratulations and thanks to Steve Gower serving as SAL Southern Region National Vice Commander. Congratulations to Clint Bolt on being Leading Candidate for SAL National Commander. We also congratulate Jeff Evans on his appointment to the SAL National Child Welfare Committee. Lastly, congratulations to Brett Reistad for being American Legion National Commander. Commander Reistad is an American Legion Member at Post 270 (McLean) and a member of Squadron 10 (Manassas).

One of the goals for the year is to find ways to get our 20 to 30 year old SAL Members more active at our Squadrons and posts. If you have any ideas please feel free to share them with us. Please email me at SonsVA-DetADJ@comcast.net.

We are going to be making a few

Changes to how we do our Spring Conference. We are going to be looking for more input from our attendees. So, please plan to come to our Spring Conference in early March in Portsmouth.

Please consider a fundraiser for Clint Bolt for his SAL National Commander campaign.

We are going to leave the contact information that was included in the last issue of the focus in this space. If your Squadron has any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Past Detachment Commanders. If we can assist, please let us know.

Here are some of those Past Detachment Commanders and their email addresses. Linwood Moore—NEC (woodman989@Aol.com), Bob Borkovich—Past Det. Cdr.,

(vapittfan959@yahoo.com), Jeff Evans, Detachment Finance Officer (vacobblers@cox.net), Steve Gower—Detachment Judge Advocate (stevegover@cox.net). Scott Williams—Detachment Adjutant (SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net), and Clint Bolt—Detachment Scholarship Chairman (sonscdbolt@aol.com). We are here to serve and to help in any way possible. We all want the same things. We want our organization to be successful and for all of our Blue Cappers to be successful in their support of our programs. So, please feel free to reach out to any of our Past Detachment Commanders for assistance. **Scott Williams—Detachment Adjutant**



Commander's Corner con't

Cont. from page 2 Keep in mind; it's our members who carry out Legion Family programs that make a difference in our communities.

The Commander's theme this year is "All for one & one for all" to focus on the American Legion Family & **ALL** US veterans.

I've set some goals to accomplish this year as the Detachment's contribution to the Team 100 effort. They are:

1. Secure 100% of this year's membership goal set by the Detachment. Willie did a tremendous job last year. I'm committed to maintaining and hopefully building on that momentum, but I need your help.
2. Start at least one (1) new Squadron in the coming year. Many posts haven't started a family yet and this presents a great opportunity to grow the Legion Family base
3. Collect \$1.00 per member for the Commander's project. This year I've selected the National Emergency Fund (NEF) as my project. My desire is to deliver this amount over and above the great contributions Squadrons normally make to NEF over the course of the year.
4. Solicit sufficient funding for Clint Bolt's campaign for S.A.L. National Commander. Clint still needs to raise a lot of money to allow him to carry the campaign to Squadrons around the county. It would be quite an honor to have someone from the Commonwealth hold the National Commander's seat and you can be sure, Clint is extremely well qualified. Virginia has not had a S.A.L. National Commander since Chuck Belles, of Squadron 28 - Dumfries held that office in 1989.

Yes, these are exciting times and I consider myself most fortunate to have the support of good men like yourselves to advance our legacy. I'm often humbled when visiting Squadrons around the Commonwealth in their posts as I witness your selfless donations of time, talent, and effort. Make no mistake about it, YOU make this organization great.

I'm truly grateful and extend my thanks to each and every one of you for your service to our veterans. You do make a difference in our community, state & nation.

Let's stay busy & have a great year - **Go Team 100!**

Jeff Lee, Detachment Commander, Virginia.

Detachment Convention Pictures



Various Detachment Convention Photos—Detachment Scholarship Award Winner, Squadron Award Winners and Donations, Candidate Bill Oxford addressing the Sons, Officer Elections, presentation of Son of the Year Award—photos by Det. Ass't Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin.

Cover Story—from page 1



The American Legion on May 19, 1919. Originally, the post was named the “General John Joseph Pershing Post Number 1” in part to it’s members’ sincere admiration of Pershing as a man, as well as their appreciation for his career as a soldier in the United States Army. However, at the St. Louis caucus that same years, members decided that posts of the American Legion should not be named after a living persons, and therefore the “Pioneer Post” was given its new and current name. The post completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization. It set up temporary headquarters in New York City and began its relief, employment, and Americanism programs.

Congress granted the American Legion a national charter in September, 1919. Among the founders was Ernest O. Thompson (1892-1966) of Texas, later Lieutenant General of the Texas National Guard, a member of the Texas Railroad Commission, and an expert on petroleum issues.

1910’s

The first national convention of the American Legion was held from November 10-12, 1919, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at which time the attendees adopted a permanent constitution and elected officers to head the organization. The original purpose of the Legion was to “preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the great war”. Prior to World War I, few rural working-class, or even middle-class Americans traveled to Europe. For a majority of urban Americans, their understanding of Europe had been acquired through the European immigrants they knew. Thus the 2 million Americans who had served in the American Expeditionary Forces had very different experiences than their families, friends and neighbors. The American Legion allowed these young men and women who had served “Over There” to re-integrate into their hometowns and to still remain in contact with others who had been abroad. . The Legion served as a support group, a social club and a type of extended family for former service men and women. Some Legion groups engaged in strikebreaking activities during this time and into the 1930’s. In 1919, a new American Legion group in Washington was involved in the Centralia Massacre (Washington).

In the next issue, will be part 2 of this story, where we will talk about the American Legion history, it’s early years, and the G. I Bill. **Information from Detachment of Virginia Legion College Information.**

National Convention Photos



Various photos from the National Convention in Minneapolis. Left to right top row Installation of SAL National Officers for 2018-19. Detachment of Virginia Commander Willie Morgan and Jeff Lee. Detachment Delegation. American Legion Family Officers at the Nat'l. Cdr. Reception.

National Emergency Fund

Jim Borgman, SAL National Americanism Commission

"... **devotion to mutual helpfulness.**" This phrase is more than just mere words on paper; it's our pledge of support to Legionnaires, Sons and their family members. 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 Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) provided immediate financial assistance to paid members of the American Legion including all Sons of The American Legion members and posts. The fund provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for posts.

A few highlights worth noting from just last year in 2017 are:

- In September 2017, Post 81 in Melbourne, Fla., dispatched a truck with relief supplies for hurricane victims in Texas. The next day, Hurricane Irma caused heavy roof damage and flooding at the post building. Nine days later, thanks in part to a NEF grant, Post 81 was operating once again, serving its community.
- For 40 years, American Legion member Ray Kacer has lived in his home a mile from the Colorado River in Wharton, Texas. Until Hurricane Harvey rolled through, the home had never flooded. NEF funds helped Kacer and his family recover as they began to rebuild their lives while their home underwent a major restoration.
- Post 230 in Spring Lake, N.C., used NEF funds as part of its recovery after a hurricane-spawned storm left the building under several feet of water. The post reopened in the fall of 2017.

2018 so far has brought another wave of disasters including the most extensive wild fires in the West and the devastation of "Michael" in the Southeast, these disasters are seemingly never ending.

I urge every member reading this to consider dedicating their next Squadron/Post fundraiser wholly or at least in part to this invaluable fund. No matter where you live, this fund could very well make a world of difference in your **getting back on your feet** in a time of need. You may not live in an area susceptible to hurricanes or wild fires, but tornadoes can be a part of your reality. Moreover, where does one live that is not subject to their home being lost due to lightning strikes? The fund will be there for you, please be there for the fund, please consider donating to our **NEF**. **Source Legion.org/NEF**

A Few Membership Reminders

The weekly Detachment Membership Reports are available on the Detachment Website at www.vasons.org.

When transmitting memberships for multiple years, please separate transmittals to one membership year per transmittal.

Next Detachment Membership Target Date is February 6, 2019 at 75%



For our Junior Members



US Presidents

Find all of the US President names. The names can be up, down, forward, backward, or diagonal.



ADAMS
ARTHUR
BUCHANAN
BUSH
CARTER
CLEVELAND
CLINTON
COOLIDGE
EISENHOWER
FILLMORE

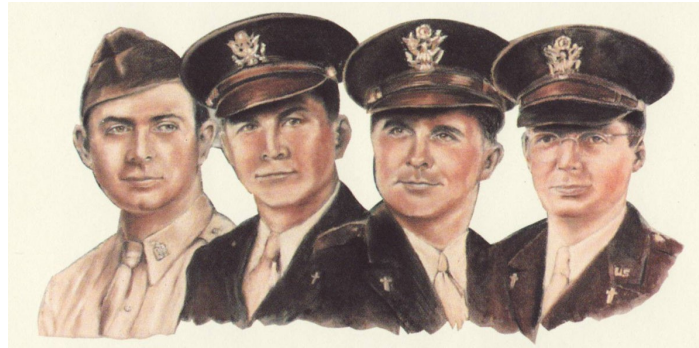
FORD
GARFIELD
GRANT
HARDING
HARRISON
HAYES
HOOVER
JACKSON
JEFFERSON
JOHNSON

KENNEDY
LINCOLN
MADISON
MCKINLEY
MONROE
NIXON
OBAMA
PIERCE
POLK
REAGAN

ROOSEVELT
TAFT
TAYLOR
TRUMAN
TYLER
VAN BUREN
WASHINGTON
WILSON

Solution will be in the next issue of the Focus

The Saga of the Four Chaplains



It was known as Torpedo Junction, the U-boat infested icy waters of the North Atlantic during World War II. On February 3, 1943, the USAT DORCHESTER, an old coastal steamer quickly pressed into military service, was slowly making her way through those waters bound for Greenland.

An enemy submarine, stalking the ship undetected, fired a torpedo toward the ship's aging flank making a direct hit in the engine room. Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to starboard. The four Chaplains calmed frightened men, got them into the spare lifejackets, and urged them over the side.

When last seen, they were standing together on the deck leading men in prayer. With arms linked in friendship and heads bowed in prayer, they sank beneath. The self-sacrifice of the four chaplains was a heroic act aboard the Dorchester, but it was the identity of those four young men representing three great faiths of the American people that add symbolism to their sacrifice.

It is our charge to see that brief, but significant, portion of American history is not lost, and that the lessons of cooperation and selfless service are proclaimed. If you have not attended a Four Chaplains Memorial Service, you owe it to yourself to see this moving ceremony, find an enactment in your area and attend. None in your area? This ceremony is easy to put together, all the information to facilitate an enactment can be found on the Legion's website by simply entering Four Chaplains Ceremony in the search box, or by visiting fourchaplains.org. *Jim Borgman, SAL National Americanism Commission*

SAL National Commander Fundraiser Photos



Various pictures from the SAL National Commander Fundraiser, for Clint Bolt, at American Legion Post 28 in Dumfries. Pictures with Leading Candidate Clint Bolt, SAL National Vice Commander, Steve Gower, Detachment Officers Jeff, Lee, Fred Vaccarella, Joe Gallagher, Victor Graulau, Kevin Chaplin, Jeff Evans, and Scott Williams.

Detachment of Virginia Accomplishments—2018



Detachment of Virginia 2018 Accomplishments



Americanism

27	# of Boys sponsored at Boys State
\$ 8,485.00	Cost
15	# of Girls sponsored at Girls State
\$ 3,300.00	Cost
6	# of Squadron Color Guards
239	Total # of appearances
\$ 2,250.00	Cost
1016	# of Flags presented
\$ 1,890.00	Cost
23	Flag Education Programs
\$ 660.00	Cost
104	Hours
23	Flag Retirement Ceremonies
2,375	Flag presented (Cemeteries & Parades)
\$ 1,210.00	Cost
6,750.00	In Scholarships Awarded
349	Hours for Educational Programs
22,856	Community Service Hours
\$ 15,375	Community Service Donations
\$ 3,250.00	National Emergency Fund (N.E.F.)
37	# of Blood Drives
18	# of Pints Collected
3	American Legion Baseball Teams
\$ 1,710.00	Sponsorship Cost
2	Boy Scout Troops Supported
\$ 1,750.00	Sponsorship Cost
4	5 Star / 10 Ideals Program
\$ 430.00	Sponsorship Cost
\$ 51,975	Overall Total Cost of Support for Americanism Programs
25,516	Overall Service Hours for Americanism Programs

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

201	# of Visits to Homes/Centers
740	Hours of Service
\$ 1,730.00	Cash Donations
\$ 10,270.00	Cost of Items Donated
11	# of Veterans helped (VA Day)
29	Hours of Service
\$ 600.00	Cost
\$ 2,400.00	Support the Troops
474	Service Hours
\$ 2,240.00	Fisher House - Donations
74	Hours of Service
\$ 22,256.00	Other Misc. Donations
10613	Other Misc Hours of Service

Children & Youth

\$ 19,216.00	CWF Donations
300	CWF Hours of Service
1	# of Josh Dogs given away
\$ 2,180.00	CMN Donations
114	CMN Hours of Service
\$ 1,290.00	Special Olympics Donations
130	Hours of Service
\$ 6,563.00	Other C&Y Projects Donations
2233	Other C&Y Projects Hours

Overall Totals of Hours & Dollars Donated from Virginia Squadrons

\$ 134,795	Overall Cost of Donations for all Programs
43,456	Overall Service Hours for all Programs

Job Well Done Detachment of Virginia!!

We Want To Hear From You—What Can We Do To Reach Out To Our 20 and 30 Year Old Members?

As a Detachment, what can we do to reach out to our 20 and 30 year old members? What can we do to actively engage them at our Squadrons and Posts in Virginia? Please send any comments or suggestions to Detachment Commander Jeff Lee, SAL National Vice Commander, Steve Gower, Detachment Vice Commanders, Fred Vaccarella, Victor Graulau, Joe Gallagher, Detachment NEC, Linwood Moore, Detachment Alternate NEC, Rick Pregnall, Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams, or Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin. Thanks!!



Squadron Everlasting

Please keep the families of the following members in your thoughts and prayers - Carroll Griffith (7-Pulaski), Donald McGraw (7-Pulaski), Harold Bade (16—Lynchburg), William Hogan (28-Dumfries), William Harrell (53 Front Royal), Doug Ramos (53 Front Royal), Donald Appenzeller (56 Northampton), James Meyers (74 Charlottesville), Calvin Dinkle (77 Strasburg), Larry Smith (79 South Hill), Dennis Leigh (85 Arlington), Winston McGraw (85 Arlington), Roy Newlin (85 Arlington), Wilbur Rawlings (85 Arlington), Henry Simmons (85 Arlington), Cory Orndorff (146 Hopewell), Glenn Anderson (148 Colonial Beach), Buddy Earl Dickens (148 Colonial Beach), Kevin Clark (159 Chincoteague), Terry Clevinger (164 Grundy), William Meaker (176 Springfield), Christian Tomsey (176 Springfield), Eugene Miller (177 Fairfax), Edward Turkaly (180 Vienna), Jimmie Duff (188 Harrisonburg), Larry Gochenour (199 Woodstock), John Gray (233 Richmond—Varina), and Howard Perross (284 Colonial Heights).

Please keep the families of these Squadron members in your thoughts and prayers. Please provide any Sick Call or Deceased Members to Detachment Chaplain Robert Wilson, Sr (robertawilsonsr@gmail.com) and Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams (SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net)



For additional information on the American Legion Centennial Gala, please go to www.valegion.org

Fall NEC Leading Candidate Reception Photos



Photos from the SAL National Leading Candidate reception for Virginia's Clint Bolt at the Fall NEC Meetings in Indianapolis. Pictures with leading Candidate Clint Bolt, Rita Feasenmeyer, Willie Morgan, Patricia Knight, Joan Mitrione, SAL National Vice Commander Steve Gower, Jeff Evans, Willie Morgan, Dellie Suiter, and many others.



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 Jeff Lee, Detachment Vice Commander, Fred Vaccarella (Eastern Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Joe Gallagher (Western Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Victor Graulau (Northern 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

Find us on 

Like us on Facebook - Sons Of The American Legion Detachment Of Virginia. We currently have 310 likes. With our membership at 4,500, we should have 450 likes on our Facebook Page. This is one great way to promote our activities and accomplishments. Please like us today to keep up with our Detachment Activities.

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

SAL 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 4.2 million.

Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, SAL is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL.

Upcoming Events

Det Mid Winter Mtg	February 16, 2019
Washington Conference	February 24-28, 2019
Spring Conference	March 1—3, 2019
Department Convention	July 12-14, 2019

Detachment Officers and Committee Members Needed - If you are interested in serving at the Detachment Level—either as an officer, committee chairman, or committee member, please contact Detachment Commander, Jeff Lee, NEC, Linwood Moore, Alt NEC, Richard Pregnell, or Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams. It is a great honor to serve and represent your Squadron.



Sons Of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia

"The Focus"

Articles and information contributed by: Detachment Commander Jeff Lee, Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams, and SAL National Americanism Commission Member, Jim Borgman, **Photographs provided by:** Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams, and various SAL Members from the Detachment.

Edited By: Scott Williams