

Sons Of The American Legion—Detachment of Virginia



FOCUS

Taking A Closer Look

Volume 12, Issue 1 October /November 2020

Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander – Victor Graulau
- Detachment Vice Commander—Joe Gallagher
- Detachment Vice Commander—David Boggs
- Detachment Vice Commander—Tyler Vanice
- Detachment NEC—Willie Morgan
- Detachment Alt-NEC– Jeff Lee
- Detachment Adjutant—Kevin Chaplin
- Detachment Ass't Adjutant—Scott Williams
- Detachment Finance Officer—Jeff Evans
- Detachment Chaplain—Robert Wilson, Sr.
- Detachment Sgt. At Arms—Jeremy Wallace
- Detachment Judge Advocate—Steve Gower
- Detachment Historian—Mark Young, Sr.

A New Era...



The above picture is a screen shot of our first ever Virtual Detachment Convention held back in July of this year. 2020 has brought a lot of changes. Yes we can say this is a beginning of a new era. A new era of doing things differently and having to adjust to change on the fly. Every Detachment across the country is having to adjust to doing things in new ways. We here in Virginia are doing likewise. Our Virtual Convention in July was done via Zoom. Since the Detachment Convention, we moved to a different way of doing video/virtual conferences and that is using 'GoTo Meetings'. My Squadron is doing a combination of in-person and Zoom Meetings for our monthly meetings. We all need to find ways to continue to conduct Squadron Meetings whether it is in person meetings or a combination of in person meetings and virtual or whatever works for your particular Squadron.

It also means we need to be creative in continuing to do fundraisers so that we can continue to support the American Legion. Tell us what your Squadron is doing in these difficult times.

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About This Issue

This will be the first issue for the 2020-21 year. We all hope this finds everyone safe and healthy.

Please remember to do your 'Buddy Checks' with your Squadron Members. It is important to let them know that we care.

This issue will introduce our new Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau and new Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin. Please take note of their articles and support them fully with their requests.

We also will explain our Membership Theme 'Let's Go' for the 2020-21 year and show our SAL 2020 National Accomplishments.

We will also have another word search for our Junior Members to work on.

Commander's Corner—Victor Graulau



Det. Cdr. Graulau presenting Det. Sgt. Arms, Jeremy Wallace with his cover in August 2020.

The start of the year has led all of us into uncharted waters. This all started several months ago with the COVID 19 restrictions and as of this time, we have bouts of civil unrest, and a highly contested Presidential election. All of these things are

are making it rather difficult for our Legion Family throughout the Commonwealth. Social Distancing and face coverings have become the “New Normal” For the Legion Family it means no conferences, conventions and membership meetings at our post homes, and various venues throughout Virginia. We have turned to new ways of conducting business, with the use of distance learning and conferencing tools. Special events are now put on hold until the time comes where we can get the pandemic under control and back to some semblance of operating as a Veterans Service Organization.

While the pandemic has slowed us down considerably, we trudge on as best as we can. The Detachment of Virginia is working with the squadrons



Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau, addresses the Virtual Detachment Conven-

to conduct operations as best as they can. We are being proactive in the areas of membership, training, Veteran's advocacy and fundraising.

Some of you may ask: How are we able to do this under the current situation? It is simple we use the tools that are available to us. **Continued on pg. 3**

Adjutant's Blog—October 2020 Kevin Chaplin

As your new Detachment Adjutant, I would like to share a little about myself. I am eligible to be part of this great organization through my grandfather, William Young. He served in the Navy on a ship the South Pacific during WWII. I have been a member for 9 years. I became involved with the American Legion while assisting my mother-in-law, Past National Auxiliary President, Peggy Thomas during 2012-2013. I was a Commander for Squadron I for three years before transferring my membership to 284 in Colonial Heights. I am also serving as the Commander for Squadron 284 this year. I have been serving as the Membership Chair and Assistant Adjutant for the Detachment of Virginia for the past several years. I have also been appointed to a three-year position on the National Public and Media Communications Commission. I have a background in information technology, and I have owned a small IT company for the past 31 years.

We have been working hard to update our contact information for the Detachment, specifically the Squadron Officers for the 2020-2021 year. We have about two thirds of our Squadrons who have completed the New Officers form for this year. Please send me your contact information so we can keep you updated with important announcements and correspondence. We have also started emailing important information to every Virginia SAL member that we have a valid email address for. If you have not been receiving my emails, please contact me. You can reach me at kchaplin@lexacom.net.

The Detachment of Virginia will soon be participating in Online Membership Renewals at the Squadron level. We are waiting for approval to start our pilot program with several Squadrons. How does online Membership

Renewal work? The first step is to create an account on MySAL.org as soon as possible. This will give you electronic access to your members' contact information and you will be able to make changes if needed. You can also download lists that contain phone numbers, addresses and email information. Each Squadron that wishes to participate will need to complete an Authorization form where you will provide some banking information. Once you have been authorized, setup and trained, you will be able to complete your Squadron's Membership Renewals online. The dues to National and the Detachment will be electronically drafted out of your bank account, (\$10 -Detachment and \$5-National per member). National will then send the Detachment their portion of the dues and along with renewal information. This has been very successful in other states this way. **Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Adjutant**

Commander's Corner con't

Cont. from page 2 We held our Detachment Convention virtually, and we plan to hold our Fall Conference virtually as well. For those who have a computer you are invited to attend our virtual session on 24 October at 12:30pm. We will be posting the details on the Detachment Facebook page, the VASONS.ORG website, and hopefully the VALEGION.ORG website as well. We encourage all the Squadrons have at least one representative present during this conference. We want to see and hear from you!

If you don't have a computer, you will be able to dial into the conference on a land line and/or smartphone. We will be passing the information out to the Detachment Vice Commanders, and they will reach out to the squadrons in their respective regions.

Let's talk about membership for a bit. In 2019 the National Sons of The American Legion voted to increase the membership dues by five dollars, which went into effect 1 June 2020. Why was this done? That is quite simple, the operating costs of the SAL have been increasing steadily for the last two decades, and the last time the Sons voted a dues increase was approximately 20 years ago. As a non-profit organization, the Sons operating costs come out of donations and membership dues. This may affect your processing of membership for this year, and now is the time to inform the Sons of your squadron of the dues increase if you have not done so already. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Detachment Vice Commander in your area or email the Detachment Adjutant.

Lastly, I want to tell you about the **Veterans and Children's Foundation**. This program replaced the Endowment Fund. The VCF is my program for the year and I would like for every squadron to make a donation to the VCF. Your donation will go to provide our Veterans the means to get on their feet. To read more about the VCF, you can visit https://www.legion.org/donate/endowment_fund.

I hope to see all of you at the Virtual Conference or in my somewhat limited travels throughout the Commonwealth. **Victor I Graulau Jr., Commander SAL Detachment of Virginia.**

Membership Pointers



Colsen Moore, SAL 284 Member and grandson of PDC, Linwood Moore. Picture appeared on the National Renewal Notice Postcards.

1. National per member dues increased to \$5 per Resolution 14. For the 2021 Membership year please be sure that your transmittal is \$10 for Detachment plus \$5 for National, per member when transmitting Membership to Department.
2. If your Squadron has not signed up for MySAL National Membership Tool, please do so as soon as possible.
3. Weekly Detachment Membership Reports are available at www.vasons.org.
4. Squadrons can request the Detachment Membership Report be sent to them by signing up through the Department Website at on the main landing page 'Click HERE To Sign Up For The Virginia American Legion Email List'.
5. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible.
6. Please do not hold any memberships!!!

American Legion History—100 Years of Service Part IV



Here is the next installment in the rich 100 Year History of the American Legion. We are going to look at key dates and events in the next several decades.

1960s

Sept. 1, 1966—The Legion voices great concern over the fate of prisoners of war in Vietnam. Today, the Legion urges a full accounting of all POWs and troops missing in action; and has formed a special group from among the nation's major veterans organizations to continue pressing for further resolution of this issue.

Aug. 24, 1969—The Legion's National Executive Committee establishes the National Emergency Fund as a result of the effects of Hurricane Camille.

1970s

May 1, 1972—The Legion implements a Halloween safety program for children; it remains the only national program of its kind.

April 1, 1975—The Legion-sponsored Freedom Bell goes aboard the Freedom Train during its tour of the country in celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. Six years later, the bell is dedicated at its permanent home in Columbus Plaza, opposite Union Station in Washington.

1980s

Aug. 26, 1982—The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project.

July 21, 1983-The Legion announces its sponsorship of an independent study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans. Congress receives the results of the "American Legion-Columbia University Study of Vietnam-era Veterans" in 1989.

Jan. 1, 1989-The Veterans Administration is elevated to Cabinet-level status as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Legion fought hard for the change, arguing that veterans deserve representation at the highest levels of government.

Oct. 16, 1989-The long-standing objective of the Legion to improve adjudication procedures for veterans claims is achieved when the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals becomes operational. Most of the provisions contained in the law creating the court were originally included in the Veterans Reassurance Act, written by the Legion and introduced in Congress in 1988.

1990s

Aug. 2, 1990-The Legion files suit against the federal government for failure to conduct a Congress-mandated study about the effects of Agent Orange on veterans who served in Vietnam.

Oct. 11, 1990-The Legion creates the Family Support Network to assist families of servicemembers deployed for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East. Through local posts, the network offers a wide range of assistance, including financial assistance, mowing lawns, baby-sitting and more. *Today, FSN continues to assist families affected by military activation and deployment.*

June 15, 1991- The Legion hosts its first Junior Shooting Sports National Air Rifle Championships at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. *Today, more than 2,000 high school students a year enter the contest, which teaches gun safety and marksmanship.*

Squadron Donations for American Legion Programs

At our virtual Fall Conference, Squadron donations for American Legion programs was discussed. Due to the unprecedented times we are in, all of the American Legion Programs are desperately in need of support. If your squadron has donations for the various American Legion Programs, please send those donations to the address below. Our Finance Officer will then send them on to National Headquarters for processing.

Jeff Evans

Detachment Finance Officer

6349 Cabot Ave

Norfolk, VA 23502

Also, please send an email to Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin at kchaplin@llexacom.net with your Squadron Number, charities donated to, and amounts per each charity. Thank You!!!

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Please remember our Veterans and Military in your Thoughts!!



MySAL - Why My Squadron Should Sign Up For MySAL

The Detachment of Virginia is moving to online Membership Processing. As of right now, there are 30 plus Squadrons out of 70 that have signed up for MySAL. Unfortunately, this means that about 50% or more have not signed up for MySAL. MySAL will be a critical tool for your Squadron to use to process online Membership.

Here is what Squadron 293 has been able to do with MySAL—updated for 2020. Yes, MySAL did help us achieve 100% Membership in the last Membership Year. we downloaded the information for our Squadron. We were able to create a mailing list and use Mail Chimp as our Mail Distribution tool to contact our Squadron Members. We use the information from MySAL in the Mail Chimp tool for meeting times, upcoming events, fundraisers, etc. The Mailchimp Tool is free for up to 1000 email addresses.

We created a Membership Invoice where we promoted some of our accomplishments at the National, State, and Local levels and explained what their dues money was used for including donations to CWF and NEF. We also requested updates on the Member's information. We then mailed these membership invoices or renewal notices to our unpaid members through Mailchimp.

When our members sent their dues in along with their updated membership information, we can go into MySAL and update their membership information, 'real time'. With access to MySAL, your Squadron can better maintain your membership records.

If your members have a change to their information, have them fill out a Member Data Form and use that as your backup when updating their information in MySAL. By maintaining these records on MySAL, this will help you communicate with your members. It will also help the National Organization communicate with your members through The National Update. (SAL National Newsletter). **Continued on page 6**



MySAL –Why My Squadron Should Sign Up

Continued from Page 5 MySAL is set up to do Transfers, if you are processing membership online. You can use MySAL to update Birthdates, Phone Numbers, and E-mail Addresses. With this information available to you online, your Squadron can keep your members informed on Squadron and Post activities.

It is important that we work on getting all of our Members Birthday's input into MySAL. One of the goals of the National Organization is to try to get a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Membership Program in place for the Sons. Birthdates are extremely important toward reaching this goal.

You can keep your members informed on Squadron and Post activities. Remember that our members are the lifeline of our organization and we need to make them feel a part of something larger than our local Squadron. MySAL will help do that. If your Squadron has not signed up for MySAL.org, please do so today!

We would like to see all of our Squadrons signed up for MySAL. The form is available at www.legion.org/sons and look for the MySAL on the right hand side. We are including a copy of the Squadron MySAL sign up form in this issue of the Focus. **Scott Williams, Detachment Assistant Adjutant**

American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation: A Foundation of Hope

Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau along with SAL National Commander Clint Bolt's project for this year is the American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation. Here is some additional information from the American Legion Website regarding this program of the American Legion.

Since its creation in 1925, The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation has delivered over \$30 million in financial assistance for disabled veterans, military families and young people who lost parents in service to our nation. Income from the foundation investments is used to fund Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs and Temporary Financial Assistance, which provides funds to minor children of active duty or American Legion members.

For decades, The American Legion has provided essential support for disabled veterans and families facing difficulties. The organization's founders made a commitment to ensure support for those who needed The American Legion most.

In 1924, newly elected American Legion National Commander James A. Drain undertook a massive fundraising challenge. His goal was \$5 million – equivalent to \$71 million in today's dollars. The purpose was twofold: to fund service officer training and provide free assistance for disabled veterans and to extend a financial safety net for needy military and veteran families with children. Born of this twofold purpose was The American Legion Endowment Fund.

Since then, The American Legion Endowment Fund has given over \$30 million in vital assistance to tens of thousands of veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and their families.

'Lives are being touched' U.S. Army veteran Ken Lee of Oroville, Wash., is one example. Multiple back surgeries had left him and his family buried in medical bills, living in a 17-foot trailer and moving from park to park. He learned from an American Legion service officer that Temporary Financial Assistance was available and his children were eligible. Soon, Lee was paying it forward, a service officer himself, helping others in need.

Ivan and Shavonne Redhorn of Great Falls, Mont., watched in dismay one January afternoon as flames engulfed their home. They lost everything. "I felt like life just crumbled," said Ivan, a U.S. Army combat veteran of the war on terrorism. The parents of six children, they received short-term housing assistance, thanks to the Temporary Financial Assistance program.

Service officers connect the dots between veterans and military families and the help that's available to them, such as Temporary Financial Assistance grants.

"We will fight tooth and nail for you," says North Dakota American Legion service officer Jim Deremo. "It can be a long battle. It can be a tough battle ... exasperating. But when you pick up the phone and you're able to say, 'We won,' that makes it all worth it."

A New Goal To Continue The Mission Service officer support and TFA grants often go unnoticed in local communities.

Continued on Page 7

American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation: A Foundation of Hope

Continued from Page 6 That is why it is essential that The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation – a new name for timeless, life-changing assistance – is recharged, and promoted not simply as a fundraiser but also as an awareness builder to show what The American Legion means to veterans, troops and children.

The American Legion's founders invested in a future of service a century ago.

Today, as The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation prepares to provide critical help for new generations, a target of \$25 million – equivalent to about onethird of the financial contributions received in 1924 and 1925, at a time when total membership was just over 600,000 – has been set as a new goal to strengthen The American Legion's service and support for those in need, well into the organization's second century. **Source—The American Legion Website**



American Legion History—100 Years of Service Part IV

Aug. 24, 1994—The Legion announces the creation of the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition of organizations and individual citizens united to work for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration. Since 1995, the amendment has passed in the House by an supermajority six times: in 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005. In 2006, the amendment fell one vote short of passage in the Senate.

Sept. 24, 1994—The American Legion announces partnership with the Smithsonian Institute's Air and Space Museum to develop an exhibit for the bomber Enola Gay, which dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Previous museum plans had drawn intense criticism from veterans, scholars and the public.

Jan. 30, 1995—The American Legion announces acceptance of scaled-down exhibit "without political commentary" for the Enola Gay, ending the greatest controversy in the Smithsonian Institute's 149-year history.

Oct. 1, 1995—The Legion forms the Persian Gulf Task Force to enhance service for the newest generation of wartime veterans, thousands of whom suffer from illnesses linked to their service in the region.

Sept. 16, 1996—The Legion awards a \$20,000 college scholarship to each of the 10 inaugural Samsung American Legion high school scholars.

June 11, 1997—The National Emergency Fund surpasses the \$1 million mark in cash grants given to flood victims who belong to the Legion family. Most grant recipients reside in the flood plains of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Minnesota and North Dakota.

Sept. 3, 1997—The Legion presents its first National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award at the 79th National Convention in Orlando, Fla.

2000's

March 29, 2000—Senate Joint Resolution 14, the constitutional amendment that would return the people's right to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration, falls four votes short of the necessary 67 to override a presidential veto.

Aug. 28-30, 2001—The American Legion passes resolution to rekindle Blue Star Service Banner program.

Sept. 12, 2001—The American Legion reactivates the Family Support Network following terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Oct. 10-11, 2001—The American Legion creates the American Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of military members killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

For our Junior Members

Veterans and Remembrance Day Word Search

Veterans & Remembrance Day

"The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." - Douglas MacArthur



N S T I Z V J H W I E K W A R
 N A O I D H E R O E S U J A M
 X O P L C Q R T T L N Y I O I
 A X V A D E W W E A I K E W L
 I Y Y E T I Q W L R U D Z X I
 H F W P M R E A Y M A R A G T
 U I M O A B I R A I E N L Y A
 H O N O R R E O S S P N S C R
 J S R O O L A R T T O Q S E Y
 P F I M B L D D F I D T B X M
 R V E S R Y V U E C X M H C E
 I M P E A C E H T E E E R G D
 D X U Y V L S K E M Q K Q Q A
 E E O E E C E L E B R A T E L
 H S P O P P Y R T P K G M P S

MEMORIAL	CELEBRATE	WAR	PATRIOT	ARMISTICE
PEACE	PARADE	SOLDIERS	BRAVE	HEROES
MEDALS	VETERANS	POPPY	REMEMBER	WORLD
HONOR	PRIDE	HOLIDAY	NOVEMBER	MILITARY

For our Junior Members

Constitution Day Word Search Solution

Constitution Day

S	E	T	A	T	S	D	E	T	I	N	U	E	E
I	M	L	S	S	N	C	F	M	E	V	A	T	I
T	E	A	T	F	I	I	R	T	O	T	A	T	N
E	N	W	E	E	G	E	E	E	E	N	M	M	D
E	T	S	T	E	M	M	E	T	H	M	E	S	E
M	I	E	A	A	R	N	D	N	R	A	R	I	P
R	R	N	F	I	I	R	O	E	S	M	I	G	E
T	E	D	G	Y	D	N	M	M	R	E	C	T	N
M	U	H	H	T	A	O	R	N	D	N	A	T	D
C	T	O	T	R	Y	I	M	R	N	D	N	I	E
S	R	A	I	E	E	T	O	E	Y	M	E	M	N
E	M	S	E	B	I	A	O	V	M	E	T	I	C
M	C	N	N	I	N	N	S	O	B	N	U	T	E
V	T	D	M	L	S	T	W	G	W	T	I	C	O

- NATION
- RIGHTS
- INDEPENDENCE
- AMERICA
- UNITED STATES
- GOVERNMENT
- LIBERTY
- AMENDMENT
- FREEDOM
- LAWS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/626/>

S	E	T	A	T	S	D	E	T	I	N	U	E	E
I	M	L	S	S	N	C	F	M	E	V	A	T	I
T	E	A	T	F	I	I	R	T	O	T	A	T	N
E	N	W	E	E	G	E	E	E	E	N	M	M	D
E	T	S	T	E	M	M	E	T	H	M	E	S	E
M	I	E	A	A	R	N	D	N	R	A	R	I	P
R	R	N	F	I	I	R	O	E	S	M	I	G	E
T	E	D	G	Y	D	N	M	M	R	E	C	T	N
M	U	H	H	T	A	O	R	N	D	N	A	T	D
C	T	O	T	R	Y	I	M	R	N	D	N	I	E
S	R	A	I	E	E	T	O	E	Y	M	E	M	N
E	M	S	E	B	I	A	O	V	M	E	T	I	C
M	C	N	N	I	N	N	S	O	B	N	U	T	E
V	T	D	M	L	S	T	W	G	W	T	I	C	O

Membership 2021—Let's Go

The Detachment of Virginia's Membership Theme for the 2021 Membership Year is 'Twenty Nine-Let's Go', based on the Motto of the 29th Infantry Division.

The 29th Infantry Division (29th ID), also known as the "Blue and Gray Division", is an infantry division of the United States Army based in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. It is currently a formation of the U.S. Army National Guard and contains units from Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia.

The emphasis will be on Recruiting new members, Renewing our existing members, and Reinstating members whose membership has lapsed.

The more members we have the more support we can give to the American Legion Programs.

Our Phase 2 goal is 80% Membership by Spring Conference with all Squadrons being at 80% Membership and having a 70% renewal rate. Phase 3 targets will be for Squadrons to be at 90% to 100% Membership with a renewal rate of 90% by the Department Convention in July.

We maintain our membership by working toward an overall goal of 105% membership. We can do this by having Membership drives in front of Walmart, Lowes or from your local Boy Scout Troop. Carry applications for all three organizations and ask family members, friends, and co—workers to join. Ask prospective members what they are interested in doing and get them involved early.

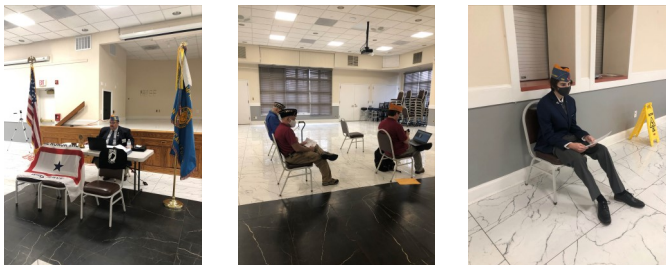
There are various incentives available for Membership. There is the National Membership Recruiting Award for recruiting 5 new members. At the Detachment level there is an award for recruiting 3 new members. We also have the Detachment Award, Chuck Belles Memorial Award for Squadrons who achieve 110% Membership as of the American Legion Birthday. Membership Excellence Award to any American Legion Family Member who recruits 3 new members into the Sons of the American Legion.

The Legion Act passed in 2019 expands the recruiting for Sons Members. The Legion Act extends eligibility to those Veterans Honorably Discharged since World War II to become members of the American Legion. This provides the option for up to 6 million new American Legion Members and up to 1 million new Sons members.

A few final thoughts. First, let's have fun. Second, let's focus on membership so we can successfully carry out the American Legion Programs. And, finally, while keeping this fun and friendly—Remember our priceless heritage, Recruit new members, Retain our existing members, and Re-instate those members whose membership has lapsed.

If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chairman, Kevin Chaplin at kchaplin@lexacom.net.

Detachment Virtual Fall Conference—October 2020



Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau, Detachment Sgt At Arms, Jeremy Wallace, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Scott Williams, and other members gather at American Legion Post 176 for the Detachment Virtual Fall Conference.

Squadron 180 Meeting



Detachment Commander, Victor Graulau attends a Squadron 180 Meeting to present Detachment Sgt At Arms, Jeremy Wallace with his Detachment Officer's cover.

Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead

Sons of the American Legion National Accomplishments 2020

Sons of The American Legion

2019-2020 Accomplishments
August 28, 2020

1,353 Squadrons Reporting

Total Dollars Donated
\$6,037,918

Total Volunteer Hours
1,364,335

Volunteer Hours Value
\$37,109,912

Total Volunteer Value
\$43,147,830

Americanism	
<i>Boys State / Girls State</i>	\$ 184,537 in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 15,906 Hours of Participation
<i>Legion Ed. Programs</i>	\$ 3,087 in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Ideals Progs. with 1,903 Hours of Participation
<i>Flag Programs</i>	\$ 143,090 in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 29,073 Hours of Participation 182,688 Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events)
<i>Flag Education</i>	\$ 26,014 in Donations to Flag Education Progs. with 7,932 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Ed. Programs</i>	\$ 344,453 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 10,918 Hours of Participation
<i>Oratorical Contest</i>	\$ 12,088 in Donations to Oratorical Contest with 2,456 Hours of Participation
<i>Color Guard</i>	\$ 69,860 in Donations to Color Guard with 56,620 Hours of Participation
<i>Community Service</i>	\$ 846,659 in Donations to Other Organizations with 478,549 Hours of Participation
<i>Scouting</i>	\$ 60,858 in Donations to Scouting with 20,743 Hours of Participation
<i>Jr. Shooting Sports</i>	\$ 30,472 in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 14,727 Hours of Participation
<i>Am. Legion Baseball</i>	\$ 142,142 in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball with 28,541 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Teams</i>	\$ 83,551 in Donations to Other Teams with 21,752 Hours of Participation
<i>Blood Drives</i>	\$ 10,706 in Donations to Blood Drives with 5,879 Hours of Participation
<i>N.E.F.</i>	\$ 54,303 in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 4,101 Hours of Participation
<i>Legacy Schol. Fund</i>	\$ 34,404 in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 4,318 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Amer. Projects</i>	\$ 313,542 in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 48,867 Hours of Participation

Children and Youth	
<i>CWF</i>	\$ 176,381 in Donations to Child Welfare Found. with 23,264 Hours of Participation
<i>Special Olympics</i>	\$ 132,654 in Donations to Special Olympics with 14,833 Hours of Participation
<i>CMN</i>	\$ 28,316 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. with 1,510 Hours of Participation
<i>Ronald McDonald House</i>	\$ 15,091 in Donations to R. McDonald House with 1,625 Hours of Participation
<i>C.O.T.A.</i>	\$ 22,770 in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. with 3,550 Hours of Participation
<i>T.A.L. Vets. & Child. Found.</i>	\$ 16,977 in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. with 5,330 Hours of Participation
<i>Other C&Y Projects</i>	\$ 370,499 in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 56,656 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	
<i>VAMCs & Facilities</i>	\$ 192,786 in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 45,332 Hours of Participation
<i>State Vets Facilities</i>	\$ 154,372 in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 19,745 Hours of Participation
<i>Nat'l Vets Assist. Day</i>	\$ 20,230 in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day with 7,120 Hours of Participation
<i>O.C.W.</i>	\$ 46,550 in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 13,611 Hours of Participation
<i>Fisher House</i>	\$ 61,745 in Donations to Fisher House with 3,655 Hours of Participation
<i>Other VA&R Projects</i>	\$ 441,843 in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 115,671 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education	
<i>VE&E Projects</i>	\$ 62,961 in Donations to VE&E Projects with 22,545 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs	
<i>Other Totals</i>	\$ 1,934,977 in Donations, Not Covered Above with 277,603 Hours, Not Covered Above

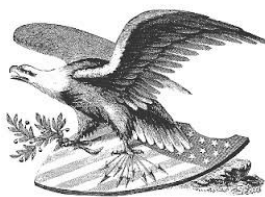
355,661 Total Members

6,209 Total Squadrons

55 Total Detachments

Squadron Everlasting

Please keep the families of the following members in your thoughts and prayers - PNC— Steve Laws (NC), Robert Campen (Squadron 2), Thomas Jones (Squadron 7), Mike Dennis (Squadron 21), David Kees (Squadron 21), Gus Muccin (Squadron 56), James 'Buck' Owen (Squadron 104), Adam Kolstrom (Squadron 148), Clayton Shepherd (Squadron 148), Paul Klunk (Squadron 159), Daniel Maida (Squadron 221), and Myron Amos (Squadron 1097). If your Squadron has any members who have passed away, please notify our Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin (kchaplin@lexacom.net) and Detachment Chaplin, Robert Wilson, Sr. (robertwilsonsr54@gmail.com).



Detachment Communications

In an effort to improve Detachment Communications, we are using a new email tool to send email messages throughout the Detachment. To date we have almost 2,000 email addresses from Sons Members across the Detachment. The Detachment is using Mailchimp email tool to handle high volume emails. We ask that when you receive emails from the Detachment to please open them. The email tool tracks this kind of information. If you want to receive these emails, please send your email address to Kevin Chaplin, kchaplin@lexacom.net. Thanks!

Around The Detachment



Around The Detachment—Top Left Photo American Legion Post 284 Family (Squadron Commander, Kevin Chaplin, AL 284 Second Vice Commander, Jerry Chenault, Unit 284 President, Lynne Norton, and AL 284 Commander, Skip Klaas, Second Photo—Squadron 293 Lasagna Dinner—Squadron Commander, Fred Lyne and Squadron 293 Member, Andy Rider wearing the CWF Kids Aprons,. Bottom Row—Left SAL National Commander Bolt presides over the Virtual Fall NEC Meeting, Squadron 176 Pig Roast with Detachment Commander Victor Graulau and Vice Commander, Tyler Vanice; SAL 284 Snapshots of Service with Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin.



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, Victor Graulau, Detachment Vice Commander, Joe Gallagher (Eastern Region), Detachment Vice Commander, David Boggs (Western Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Tyler Vanice (Northern Region), or Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin. 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 454 likes. 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

Thanksgiving	Nov 26, 2020
Pearl Harbor Day	Dec 7, 2020
Christmas Day	Dec 25, 2020
Mid Winter Meeting	Feb 13, 2021
Spring Conference - Virtual	Mar 6, 2021

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, Victor Graulau, NEC, Willie Morgan, Alt NEC, Jeff Lee, or Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin. 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 Victor Graulau and Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, **Photographs provided by:** Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Scott Williams, and various SAL Members from the Detachment.

Edited By: Scott Williams