

Sons Of The American Legion—Detachment of Virginia



FOCUS

Taking A Closer Look

Volume 14, Issue 1 Fall 2022



Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander – David Boggs
- Detachment Vice Commander—Tyler Vanice
- Detachment Vice Commander—Jarrod Vass
- Detachment Vice Commander—Jay Rarick
- Detachment NEC—Willie Morgan
- Detachment Alt-NEC— Jeff Lee
- Detachment Adjutant—Kevin Chaplin
- Detachment Asst Adjutant—Scott Williams
- Detachment Finance Officer—Jeff Evans
- Detachment Chaplain—Robert Wilson, Sr.
- Detachment Sgt. At Arms—Mark Young, II
- Detachment Judge Advocate—Steve Gower
- Detachment Historian—James Marsh

Inside This Issue

<i>Commander's Corner</i>	2
<i>Adjutant's Blog</i>	2
<i>Membership</i>	4
<i>Accomplishments</i>	5-6
<i>Oratorical</i>	7
<i>Squadron Everlasting</i>	8
<i>Detachment Photos</i>	11

Be The One Initiative

SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton (IN) adopted the American Legion's Be The One initiative as part of his theme for the 2022-23 year.

The program will destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.

Why is this a priority right now?

Today, the No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. It is estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each day. That's

more than 6,000 annually. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. As the Global War on Terrorism continues, there will be more veterans facing mental-health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

What will Be the One achieve? At its core, The American Legion is activating a national platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. The Be the One campaign will: 1) Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need. 2) Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities. 3) Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.



About This Issue

This will be the first issue for the 2022-23 administrative year. This issue will focus on 'Be The One' and show some of the new SAL Branding.

There is a message from SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton in this issue.

We are still very early in the year. However, Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming very soon. Please don't forget those in need this Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Detachment Comman-

Der Boggs talks about his goals and plans for his year.

Detachment and National Accomplishments are in this issue. This information is really useful in recruiting new members into the Sons. Please share this with your Squadron.

Commander's Corner—David Boggs



As I sit down to write Notes from the Commander for the upcoming edition of the Focus, our Fall Conference is just around the corner, on October 21st through 23rd in Williamsburg, Virginia. These conferences allow us to meet again, exchange ideas, or gain new ones, as our detachment and squadrons continue to move forward. One thing that stood out while I attended our National Convention in Milwaukee in August was how our organization is changing. With the election of our new National Commander Chris Carlton and his Vice Commanders, our

our National Sons of the American Legion once again is exploring new ideas and processes that will lead our organization forward. It also helps our detachment and squadrons explore how to adapt to further our mission and outreach to our community. It is always good to look back at what we accomplished, but we also need to look for what is ahead of us as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Sons of the American Legion!

There are a couple of items I would like to touch on. If you have not filed your New Officer form for 2022-2023, please do so as soon as possible. We need updated and correct contact information to help in our communications. This year, we are looking to increase our Consolidated Squadron Reporting from all of our squadrons to 100 %. I know we can do this, and I am asking the squadron commanders and adjutants to help us reach this goal. Finally, I would like to see 100 % of our squadrons using My Legion to report their membership online. This helps keep our number reporting accurate and makes reporting membership so much easier.

As I speak with all of you I ask “Whose Service and Sacrifice” do you honor as a member of your Sons of the American Legion, and where do you serve? You are needed to help move us forward!

I hope to see you at our next conference.

For God and Country, David Boggs, Detachment Commander

Adjutant's Blog—Fall 2022 Kevin Chaplin



We are well into the new SAL membership year. Hopefully you have already renewed your membership for the 2022-2023 year. So far, we have been reaching our membership goals by the deadlines. At the time of writing this article, we are very close to reaching the 25% benchmark of our goal for membership. Let's keep up the good work. We still can process those late 2021-2022 memberships that have not yet renewed. This is a great time to contact them and get both last year and this year's membership. We have over 760 members that have not renewed for 2021-2022 and many of them have been members for 10, 15, or 20 plus

years. Let's contact them and make sure they are ok. Find out why they no longer wish to be a Son and honor the service of our Veterans. Squadron Commanders and Adjutants can contact me if they need help running their Squadron Rosters.

MyLegion.org is great resource for every member, not just the Squadron Commander or Adjutant. Once you log into MyLegion.org, you can subscribe to any of the newsletters the Sons and the Legion produce. These are electronic newsletters that are produced and emailed out on a regular basis. You will not get any of these unless you opt in or check the box. Some of the newsletters available are The Legion Commander's Message, Flag Alerts, The SAL Commander's Message, Legion Riders and Training in the American Legion. Getting access is easy and your Squadron Adjutant can help you if you do not have an email address associated with your account.

By now, each Squadron should have elected new officers. Please make sure your Squadron submits their New Officer form to the Adjutant so we can update our contact lists and keep you updated with important information throughout the year. This form can be found on our website. www.vasons.org.

If your Squadron has not submitted the new Squadron Data Report or SDR, please do so as soon as possible. (See Page 3). This form documents your Squadron's dues structure and will allow your members to renew their dues online using the National website. Many of you have been asking for this capability and it is finally coming. This feature will be turned on soon and it is vital that your Squadron's dues information is accurate. Please contact me if you need assistance completing it. The form can be found on the SAL website. www.vasons.org.

For God and Country...Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Adjutant,

Purpose is why we journey; passion is the flame that lights the way.



**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
2023 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after convention.

Essay Title: *"What does patriotism mean to you?"*

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2023

Be The One—Continued From Page 1

I'm a veteran. What can I do to support this initiative? While this program is designed to help all veterans, we know that everyone responds differently to stresses, have different life experiences and have varying results in types of treatment. However, the following are guidelines intended to provide help before a crisis situation develops.

The American Legion encourages you to Be the One to: 1) Talk with others about how you are feeling. 2) Ask for help when you know you need it. 3) Know there are millions of people ready to help you. 4) Remember your family and friends care.

I'm a spouse, partner, family member, caregiver, friend of a veteran, or interested civilian. What can I do to support this initiative? The stigma associated with mental health issues is a barrier to veterans seeking assistance. They fear loss of their job, think they can handle their situation themselves, or don't believe others can understand their situation. Family members may be the first to recognize the signs that their loved one needs help, but they may lack the knowledge of how to approach the situation. If you have a family member, friend, business associate or have another connection with someone who is a veteran, The American Legion encourages you to Be the One to: 1) Ask veterans in your life how they are doing. 2) Listen when a veteran needs to talk. 3) Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

What can my American Legion post do to help? American Legion posts will be instrumental in the success of this campaign. They have the power to foster unity and camaraderie, and get support quickly to veterans in crisis. In non-emergency situations, posts can also: 1) Educate members, other veterans and civilians about the campaign. 2) Display resources at your post or in your community. 3) Share events or success stories on the legiontown.org platform.

Continued on page 7

Membership Pointers

1. Please make sure your Squadron has turned in their Squadron Data Report Form.
2. Please make sure your Post Adjutant has updated the Post Records with the current Squadron Commander and Adjutant's name.
3. Please make sure that your Squadron Adjutant has access to MyLegion.org..
4. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible.
5. Please do not hold any memberships!!!
6. Please direct all Membership Questions to the Detachment Commander or Detachment Adjutant.



Upcoming Membership Target Dates

November 9, 2022	35%
December 14, 2022	45%
January 19, 2023	60%
February 15, 2023	75%
March 15, 2023	80%
April 19, 2023	90%
May 17, 2023	100%
July 26, 2023	105%



Sons of The American Legion
Accomplishments



June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022
for

DETACHMENT OF VIRGINIA

Overall Totals	
Dollars Donated \$	346,457
Hours Volunteered	57,587
Value of One Vol. Hour*	\$28.54
Volunteer Hours Value \$	1,643,533
Total Volunteer Value \$	1,989,990

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value*
Americanism	\$224,568	35,016	\$ 999,357
Children & Youth	\$40,540	8,513	\$ 242,961
Vets Affairs & Rehab.	\$46,742	4,955	\$ 141,416
Vets Employ & Edu.	\$1,850	80	\$ 2,283
Internal Affairs	\$32,757	9,023	\$ 257,516

Americanism	
<i>Boys State / Girls State</i>	with \$10,261 in Donations to Boys State / Girls State 1,382 Hours of Participation
<i>Legion Ed. Programs</i>	with \$575 in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Ideals Progs. 289 Hours of Participation
<i>Flag Programs</i>	with \$2,755 in Donations to Flags Presented (All) 802 Hours of Participation
	3,904 Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events)
<i>Flag Education</i>	with \$3,488 in Donations to Flag Education Progs. 286 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Ed. Programs</i>	with \$4,885 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded 86 Hours of Participation
<i>Oratorical Contest</i>	with \$15 in Donations to Oratorical Contest 57 Hours of Participation
<i>Color Guard</i>	with \$466 in Donations to Color Guard 449 Hours of Participation
<i>Community Service</i>	with \$17,457 in Donations to Other Organizations 17,477 Hours of Participation
<i>Scouting</i>	with \$3,500 in Donations to Scouting 3,735 Hours of Participation
<i>Jr. Shooting Sports</i>	with \$158,327 in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports 2,310 Hours of Participation
<i>Am. Legion Baseball</i>	with \$0 in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball 32 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Teams</i>	with \$10,700 in Donations to Other Teams 2,114 Hours of Participation
<i>Blood Drives</i>	with \$1,210 in Donations to Blood Drives 218 Hours of Participation
<i>N.E.F.</i>	with \$2,650 in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund 648 Hours of Participation
<i>Legacy Schol. Fund</i>	with \$1,300 in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund 1,096 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Amer. Projects</i>	with \$6,979 in Donations to Other Amer. Projects 4,035 Hours of Participation

Children and Youth	
<i>CWF</i>	with \$6,532 in Donations to Child Welfare Found. 419 Hours of Participation
<i>Special Olympics</i>	with \$2,786 in Donations to Special Olympics 766 Hours of Participation
<i>CMN</i>	with \$577 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. 48 Hours of Participation
<i>Ronald McDonald House</i>	with \$427 in Donations to R. McDonald House 48 Hours of Participation
<i>C.O.T.A.</i>	with \$1,627 in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. 188 Hours of Participation
<i>T.A.L. Vets. & Child. Found.</i>	with \$1,775 in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. 471 Hours of Participation
<i>Other C&Y Projects</i>	with \$26,816 in Donations to Other C&Y Projects 6,573 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	
<i>VAMCs & Facilities</i>	with \$5,075 in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities 410 Hours of Participation
<i>State Vets Facilities</i>	with \$200 in Donations to State Vets Facilities 40 Hours of Participation
<i>Nat'l Vets Assist. Day</i>	with \$550 in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day 68 Hours of Participation
<i>O.C.W.</i>	with \$14,699 in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors 755 Hours of Participation
<i>Fisher House</i>	with \$9,989 in Donations to Fisher House 236 Hours of Participation
<i>Other VA&R Projects</i>	with \$16,229 in Donations to Other VA&R Projects 3,446 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education	
<i>VE&E Projects</i>	with \$1,850 in Donations to VE&E Projects 80 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs	
<i>Other Totals</i>	with \$32,757 in Donations, Not Covered Above 9,023 Hours, Not Covered Above

*As reported by: [Independent Sector](#) in April 2021 .

Sons of The American Legion
2021-2022 Accomplishments



1,514 Squadrons (25.6%) Reporting
13 Districts (4.4%) Reporting

National Overall Totals	
Dollars Donated:	\$7,771,295
Volunteer Hours:	3,043,470
1 Volunteer Hour is Worth:	\$29.95
Volunteer Hours Value:	\$91,151,912
Total Volunteer Value:	\$98,923,207

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value
Americanism	\$2,668,475	2,271,503	\$68,031,515
Children & Youth	\$1,085,501	146,743	\$4,394,938
Vets Affairs & Rehab.	\$1,473,321	199,527	\$5,975,819
Vets Employ & Edu.	\$315,478	30,505	\$913,625
Internal Affairs	\$2,228,521	395,193	\$11,836,015

Americanism	
<i>Boys State / Girls State</i>	\$153,861 in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 16,024 Hours of Participation
<i>Legion Ed. Programs</i>	\$5,369 in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Meals Progs. with 4,424 Hours of Participation
<i>Flag Programs</i>	\$155,041 in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 341,654 Hours of Participation 336,840 Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events)
<i>Flag Education</i>	\$25,115 in Donations to Flag Education Progs. with 7,486 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Ed. Programs</i>	\$417,810 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 13,370 Hours of Participation
<i>Oratorical Contest</i>	\$9,506 in Donations to Oratorical Contest. with 4,339 Hours of Participation
<i>Color Guard</i>	\$74,242 in Donations to Color Guard with 72,396 Hours of Participation
<i>Community Service</i>	\$720,789 in Donations to Other Organizations with 1,522,651 Hours of Participation
<i>Scouting</i>	\$278,189 in Donations to Scouting with 37,700 Hours of Participation
<i>Jr. Shooting Sports</i>	\$42,776 in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 16,635 Hours of Participation
<i>Am. Legion Baseball</i>	\$130,492 in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball with 16,363 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Teams</i>	\$123,347 in Donations to Other Teams with 17,153 Hours of Participation
<i>Blood Drives</i>	\$8,012 in Donations to Blood Drives. with 4,915 Hours of Participation
<i>N.E.F.</i>	\$124,546 in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 6,625 Hours of Participation
<i>Legacy Schol. Fund</i>	\$54,605 in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 6,740 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Amer. Projects</i>	\$344,776 in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 183,030 Hours of Participation

Children and Youth	
<i>CWF</i>	\$245,916 in Donations to Child Welfare Found. with 36,952 Hours of Participation
<i>Special Olympics</i>	\$99,688 in Donations to Special Olympics with 16,786 Hours of Participation
<i>CMN</i>	\$23,647 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. with 774 Hours of Participation
<i>Ronald McDonald House</i>	\$21,950 in Donations to R. McDonald House with 3,056 Hours of Participation
<i>C.O.T.A.</i>	\$10,982 in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. with 2,481 Hours of Participation
<i>T.A.L. Vets. & Child. Found.</i>	\$31,970 in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. with 9,468 Hours of Participation
<i>Other C&Y Projects</i>	\$651,348 in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 97,226 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	
<i>VAMCs & Facilities</i>	\$230,634 in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 28,735 Hours of Participation
<i>State Vets Facilities</i>	\$115,655 in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 13,228 Hours of Participation
<i>Nat'l Vets Assist. Day</i>	\$56,454 in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day with 6,356 Hours of Participation
<i>O.C.W.</i>	\$57,332 in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 3,055 Hours of Participation
<i>Fisher House</i>	\$139,385 in Donations to Fisher House with 3,412 Hours of Participation
<i>Other VA&R Projects</i>	\$913,861 in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 144,741 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education	
<i>VE&E Projects</i>	\$315,478 in Donations to VE&E Projects with 30,505 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs	
<i>Other Totals</i>	\$2,228,521 in Donations, Not Covered Above with 395,193 Hours, Not Covered Above

Published: August 26, 2022

Be The One Initiative—Continued from page 4

My post is conducting an event to raise awareness about PTSD and/or suicide prevention. Is there a brochure we can provide to attendees? Yes, there is a brochure in development now that will be available for a free download soon. Check back for more information.

Where can I get more information? Keep checking in for new resources, stories and other information at legion.org/betheone. You can also sign up to receive email about new announcements.

What's the quickest way to get help in an emergency? If you are a veteran in crisis, resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1) Call 988 and press 1. 2) Text 838255. 3) Visit the [VA Crisis Line website](#).

Source: The American Legion Website

Promoting Oratorical Competitions

During the American Legion Oratorical Conference with department program chairmen in September, Department of North Carolina Oratorical Chairman Joseph Reale Sr., shared a few ways to promote the Legion's Constitutional speech contest among high school students.

"We need to reach out to all the various school systems that are out there. And try to get in the door with all of them," he said. For homeschool students, Reale said each county should have a homeschool point of contact. "You can reach out to that individual and they have the rosters of all the homeschool students in that county. We need to use every means available to get into every type of school system that's out there." Reale shared the following ways that can help promote the program: 1) Visit high schools at the beginning of the year and bring Oratorical Contest flyers or brochures (available on legion.org/publications) to history, English and speech educators. And discuss the scholarship money that students can earn through the program to help with college education – scholarships are available at the post, district, and department level. The national competition awards over \$203,000. 2) Introduce yourself to the school principal, counselors and JROTC instructors. 3) Invite educators to your post oratorical competition "They get to see it live, hopefully feel good about it, and they will then become your spokesperson at the high school level and get more interested in it," Reale said. 4) Advertise in the school newspaper and the local paper and radio. 5) Attend PTA meetings to share with parents the scholarship benefits of the oratorical program. 6) Invite oratorical winners to speak at your post about their experience with the program. "Use them as your best sales representatives at the schools that they come from," Reale said. "No one is going to be more enthusiastic than they are to tell their friends and other students what this meant to them." 7) Invite other civic organizations to your post to meet oratorical winners and disseminate program information. Or take your oratorical winner to other organizations to speak, like the Kiwanis. Attendees at the oratorical conference also shared their best practices.

They advised others to: 1) Use social media to promote the program, including creating a separate LinkedIn profile just for the oratorical contest. 2) Attend eighth grade graduations where parents will be to speak about the program, so they are aware of it as their child prepares for high school. 3) Ask high school student government presidents to read a quick blurb about the oratorical program during morning announcements to generate more interest. This is what Department of Florida Oratorical Chairman Mary West has done in Jacksonville. **Source—Round Up.**



If your Post Home does not have one of these signs up, please work with your Post Commander/Adjutant to ensure that this important information is posted in a highly visible location.

Remember to get out and Vote on Election Day, November 8, 2022!!



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
BE THE ONE
 OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS P: 317-630-1205 F: 317-630-1413

Let's set our goals high this year

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

It has already been a busy and productive time since my election as your SAL National Commander at the 50th SAL National Convention in Milwaukee. I look forward to seeing you during my travels.

I want to take a moment to share with you some of my goals for this year.

Membership. Membership is, of course, a priority every year. We would like to reach 103 percent membership by the end of the year. A key to reaching that goal is by focusing on our renewals. I believe that many of our members want to be involved and active; they just don't know how. We need to find out what those inactive members are interested in, what they are good at and give them a job to do. By helping them feel productive and included in the great work we do, we can help ensure that they will renew their membership and spread the word to other potential members.

"Be the One." I am proud to support the "Be the One" campaign. We all know that suicide and mental health are key issues our veterans must face daily. We want to destigmatize asking for mental health support and create opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need. Our veterans shouldn't fear the consequences of asking for help.

To "Be the One" means to ask a veteran and their family how they are doing. To "Be the One" means to listen when a veteran or their family needs to talk. To "Be the One" means to reach out when a veteran or their family are struggling. We all need to "Be the One."

Veterans & Children Foundation. American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola has set a goal to raise \$2 million for the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF) this year. I want the Sons of The American Legion to be the biggest contributor to his goal. We can reiterate to The American Legion that, when we put our minds together and work together, we can accomplish great things.

Be the One!

With passion and purpose.

Sincerely,

Christopher Carlton
 Sons of The American Legion
 National Commander

"Purpose is why we journey, passion is the flame that lights the way."

Veterans & Children Foundation



KEY METRICS

3,000+

Number of trained and accredited American Legion service officers who provide free benefits counseling and claims application representation for veterans and their families.



750,000

Approximate number of veterans receiving free disability claims assistance at any time free of charge by trained and accredited American Legion service officers nationwide.

\$1,500

Potential amount of one American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grant to help military and veteran families cover the costs of basic household needs during a crisis.

\$842,000

Average amount in annual American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants awarded between 2012 and 2016.

\$30 million

Approximate amount in cash grants issued from The American Legion Endowment Fund and Veterans & Children Foundation to families in need since 1925.

\$25 million

Fundraising goal to make the American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation sustainable for the future.

\$14.25 billion

Amount in VA disability benefits secured for veterans in 2020 alone by American Legion-accredited service officers.

\$1.1 million

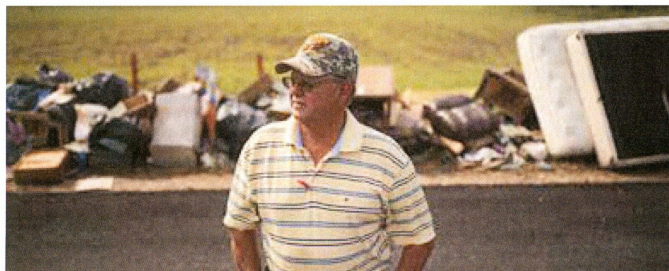
Amount in VA disability benefits secured by Oklahoma American Legion service officers, working night and day, between June 2020 and April 2021, the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2,080

Number of children whose homes were stabilized by American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants in 2013 alone, a year of over \$1 million in cash-grant distributions for military and veteran families facing unexpected financial crises.

\$1.1 million

American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants urgently distributed in one month to 1,713 junior enlisted members of the U.S. Coast Guard with children at home who had a 35-day pay delay due to the January 2019 government shutdown.



\$15,500

Amount in American Legion Temporary Assistance cash grants awarded to military and veteran families who lost everything after Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Veterans & Children Foundation



Our Impact

Free service for 750,000+ veterans

You see it in the news right now – toxic exposure to Agent Orange or burn pits, invisible wounds of war, unexplained illnesses and other conditions related to military service. These veterans who fought for our country now fight for care and accountability from the government they swore with their lives to defend. Navigating the VA benefits system can be complex. Veterans often give up, leaving them with debilitating conditions; or worse, they die before their claims applications are decided. This is where more than 3,000 American Legion service officers make all the difference.

Accredited American Legion service officers receive special training to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to any veteran or family member of a veteran looking for answers. They help veterans apply for VA disability benefits and assist with critical information, referrals and resources on education, training, employment, business, death benefits and more.

American Legion representatives secured an estimated \$14.25 billion in VA disability compensation and other benefits for veterans and their families in 2020 alone. Without service officers, these benefits would have gone unused.



\$500K-\$1M distributed annually in Temporary Financial Assistance



The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program awards hundreds of cash grants a year to help minor children of military personnel and qualified veterans. These grants help families in crisis with needs like food, shelter, utilities and medical costs, to stabilize homes.

During the 2019 federal government shutdown, members of the U.S. Coast Guard went over a month without paychecks. The American Legion stepped in, delivering over \$1 million

in Temporary Financial Assistance to more than 1,700 junior enlisted personnel who had minor children at home.

Be there for a service member or veteran in need

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation directly provides:

- Necessary training for service officers who provide vital, free support.
- Grants that help active-duty military and veteran families with children during their time of need.
- Hope when it seems there is nowhere else to turn.

About the Foundation

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation funds a vast network of service officers who provide free assistance to veterans applying for disability benefits they earned through military service. The foundation also extends a financial safety net for military and veteran families with children, who are facing unexpected financial hardships that threaten the stability of their homes.

The American Legion delivers more than hope for America's veterans and military families. We deliver results.

Cases in Point

Tennessee Legionnaire Walter Culberson lost his job when the pandemic hit.

The American Legion responded by providing him with a one-time grant that paid for two months of utilities, food and gas. It was the lifeline he needed until he got a new job and could provide for his family once again.

From June 2020 to April 2021, Oklahoma American Legion Post 88 anticipated the need for benefits assistance during the pandemic.

The post's team of service officers maintained regular socially distanced office hours and worked tirelessly from home on claims.

The result: nearly \$1.1 million in benefits for disabled veterans and their families in the local community.

LEARN MORE ONLINE
LEGION.ORG/VCF

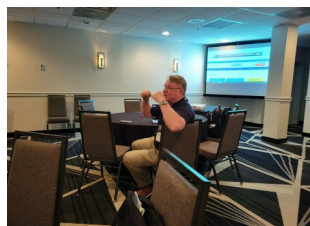
Join your fellow American Legion members who support the Veterans & Children Foundation

Squadron Everlasting

Please keep the families of the following members in your thoughts and prayers—Sean Adams (148), Donald Chenault (284), Charles Frazier (53), Frederick Kuester (175), and Gerald Willis, Jr. (327). 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).



Around The Detachment



Photos from around the Detachment including Detachment Convention, SAL Legion College, 50th SAL National Convention, Squadron 368 at Denbigh Day Parade, Post 284 Legion Family Fundraiser, Squadron 25 Breakfast and September Meeting, and SAL Fall NEC.





THE MEANING OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM

NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOENIX 2021 - YOUTH TRAINING

The Star

Represents our country, and the five-point program
of the Sons of American Legion.

Patriotism • Citizenship • Discipline • Leadership • Legionism

The Ten Points

Represent the ten ideals of every SAL Member

**PATRIOTISM • HEALTH • TRAINING • KNOWLEDGE • HONOR
FAITH • HELPFULNESS • COURTESY • REVERENCE • COMRADESHIP**

The Blue of the Emblem

Like the blue of our flag, stands for justice.

The Wreath

is in memory of our comrades, and those of our fathers
who willingly gave lives for their country.

The Two Stars

Stand for freedom and democracy.

The Sun

As background represents the Sons of The American Legion
and the rays represent the loyalty of its membership

The Design of the Emblem

is taken from the emblem of The American Legion
but is oval in shape so as to be easily distinguished.

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, David Boggs, Detachment Vice Commander, Jarrod Vass (Eastern Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Jay Rarick (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 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. 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

November 11, 2022

Veteran's Day

November 24, 2022

Thanksgiving Day

December 7, 2022

Pearl Harbor Day

December 25, 2022

Merry Christmas!!

January 1, 2023

Happy New Year!!

January 2023

Day on the Hill

February 2023

Mid Winter Meeting

March 3-5, 2023

Spring Conference

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, David Boggs, 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 David Boggs Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Scott Williams, American Legion Website, and The Round Up. **Photos provided by:** Tyler Vanice, Scott Williams, Squadron 327, Squadron 284, Jarrod Vass, and Squadron 25.

Edited By: Scott Williams