

# Sons Of The American Legion—Detachment of Virginia



## FOCUS

### Taking A Closer Look

Volume 14, Issue 2 February 2023

BE  
=THE=  
ONE

#### 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

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#### Buddy Checks and the SAL

SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton (IN) attended several functions in Virginia in December 2022. While in Virginia, Commander Carlton and Detachment Commander, David Boggs did an in-person Buddy Check with NEC Man, Willie Morgan. Mr. Morgan was at home recovering from a recent lengthy hospitalization.

Mr. Morgan was very appreciative of the in-person Buddy Check by SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton.

Commander Carlton said many times throughout his year as SAL National Commander, that Buddy Checks are an important part of the 'Be The One' initiative being promoted by American Legion National Commander, Jim Troiola.

As Sons Members, Buddy Checks are a good way to check on our members who have not been seen. It also helps them to feel a part of something larger than themselves that they are included in another 'family'. By maintaining close contact with our members, we can help with whatever needs they may have. We are living in difficult times and the recent COVID pandemic caused many difficulties.

Buddy Checks can also be helpful to check in on the well being of Veterans families and the families of those on active duty. We, Sons, members can help Veterans Families with needs they may have. This will take some of the burden off of the veteran and help he or she to focus on their own needs.

We all need to work together to support our fellow members and the families of our veterans in these difficult times.



#### About This Issue

This will be the Second issue for the 2022-23 administrative year. This issue will focus on 'Be The One' and Communications

There are the two messages from SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton in this issue.

We are at the halfway point in the year. Please continue to track your volunteer hours and dollars donated for your Squadron's CSR. SDRs are due in April.

Detachment Comman-

Der Boggs provides a mid-year update.

An updated calendar of events shows when CSRs are due as well as dates for the Department Convention in July and American Legion College in August.

## **Commander's Corner—David Boggs**



As I write this 'Notes from the Commander' article for this upcoming edition, our Mid-Winter Conference has been held, and our upcoming Spring Conference is in a few weeks in Portsmouth Virginia. The dates are March 3-5, 2023 at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel. I encourage you to attend if possible.. Meeting other squadron commanders is a great way to hear how they are doing, and to gather new ideas, as well as meet other members of our legion family. Our National Commander, Christopher Carlton will also be attending, so

a good turnout of squadrons would be great. Don't forget to make your reservations as soon as possible, the rooms go quickly.

My project this year is the Veterans and Children's Foundation. I would like to ask that if possible, your squadron contribute to this very worthwhile fund. There is nothing more important than giving back to our charities.

In the next few months, Consolidated Squadron Reports will be due. I ask each squadron to please submit these when they become due. This information is vital to the American Legion Department of Virginia, and well to National, as this information is included in the Commander's report to Congress. I am pushing for a 100 % response from our detachment. Any project or cause that you support, no matter how small, should be reported. The Vice Commanders will be following up to talk to the post/squadron commanders if their report is not completed.

Finally, I would like to say Thank You for all that you do to support your post and your community. Whether your squadron is small or large, together we can and do make a difference every day. Never forget that!

As I close, we all wear the blue cap for a reason. Most importantly to honor the service and sacrifice of someone we hold dear. Wear it Proudly!

**For God and Country, David Boggs, Detachment Commander**

## **Adjutant's Blog—February 2023 Kevin Chaplin**



We have some fantastic news for members that have been wanting to renew online. This feature has been recently turned on and any member can renew online using the following link. <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/SAL-Renew> For any online membership renewals, the member will be charged \$5 for the National portion of the dues, \$10 for the Detachment portion of the dues and the balance will be what your Squadron charges. National will send the Detachment amount and the Squadron amount to Department Headquarters. They will then submit the Squadron portion to the Post

or Squadron. If your Squadron has not submitted the new Squadron Data Report or SDR, please do so as soon as possible. This form documents your Squadron's dues structure and if your Squadron has not submitted their form, members who renew online may be charged the incorrect dues amount. The form can be found on the SAL website. [www.vasons.org](http://www.vasons.org)

Soon it will be time to report your Squadrons' activities, donations, and involvement in the Legion Programs on the Consolidated Squadron Report or CSR. This report contains very important and valuable information. The Legion uses this data when they report to Congress and it shows the true value the Legion provides to our communities, state and the Nation. Last year the Detachment of Virginia donated over \$346,000 and volunteered 57,587 hours which has a value of \$1,643,533. We did this with only 46% of the Squadrons reporting. Consolidated Squadron Reports need to be completed and submitting by May 19th, 2023. We will have the form available on the website and we will email it to all Adjutants, Commanders, and Point of Contacts for each Squadron. We are shooting for 100% turn in rate this year. The Legion achieved this last year with their Consolidated Post Report (CPR) and with your help, we can do this too.

Have you logged into MyLegion.org yet? 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.

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

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

## A Word From Our Vice Commanders



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. As it's a new calendar year, it should serve a reminder that 2022 membership expired on December 31st. Thankfully you knew that and had all your officers and members renewed and are at 100 renewal rate, right? Right?.... It's still not too late to make that happen.

As of the beginning of February, the northern region has over 75% of its members renewed. It would be nice to have it at 100% and it is possible and easy. How? Let your squadron members know that they can renew their membership online. That's right! As of the beginning of the

year, SAL members can pay their dues online. In the first month, 66,000 SAL members across the country renewed their membership. Please have your membership create an account. Once that is done, they can scroll to the bottom of the website, click on "Renew Membership" and enter their information. It's that easy!

Please remember that we have a new Facebook Account! You can find it easily at [www.facebook.com/DetachmentofVirginia](http://www.facebook.com/DetachmentofVirginia). As of today, we have 74 Likes and 80 Followers. We would like each member in our Detachment to like our page and share its content. It's the easiest way to share information on what is going on in the Detachment of Virginia. You can also share what is going on with your squadron to this page as a way to promote your events.

The Detachment's website, [www.vasons.org](http://www.vasons.org), is going to be overhauled over the next few months. We hope to have it ready by the Spring Conference but like all good things, time and patience are needed for quality. With this new site, it should be easy for you to get information needed for supporting your squadron and for awards.

As for work, Your Detachment Officers continue to work behind the scenes to make the organization run smoothly. We continue to hold meetings, like our Mid-Winter Conference in January, in which we worked on some issues and formulated plans for the remainder of the year. After the business was complete, we placed flags at a memorial like any good patriotic organization should. A 13th District Meeting was called for February 5, which all SAL Members and the Legion Family were invited to, hosted by Goochland Squadron 215.

Please reach out to us when you can. We always appreciate hearing from squadrons and from our members in general. Are you interested in serving the organization? We are always looking for help and committee members. **Tyler Vanice, Detachment Vice Commander.**



Over the past few months I worked with Squadrons in the Western Region who have not reported Membership. These issues have been resolved or are being resolved. I visited Squadrons 274 (Madison Heights) and 104 (Appomattox).

I also am working with the Western Region Department Vice Commander to bring the SAL to the attention of the Post Leadership. I went to the 7th and 10th Districts meetings in February with the

Western Region Department Vice Commander in February. I will be going to the 8th District in March.

I contacted all of the Western Region Squadron Leadership to encourage all of those Squadrons to submit their CSRs and report their Americanism accomplishments for this year. I am going to be their advocate for them at the Detachment level.

**Jay Rarick, Detachment Vice Commander.**



American Legion Post 327 and Unit 327 celebrated their 75th Anniversary in December with Department Commander Rick Oertel, SAL National Commander Christopher Carlton, Detachment Commander, David Boggs, Detachment Vice Commander, Jarrod Vass, and Past Detachment Commander Fred Vaccarella.

**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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

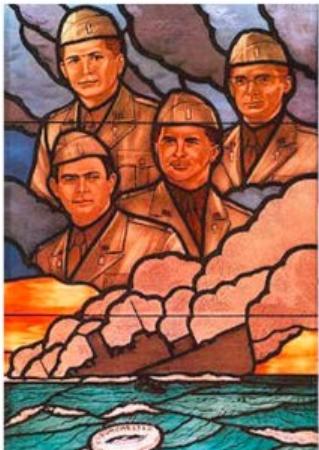
Unit winner due to Department on: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Department Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Remembering Four Chaplains Month

## After the sinking of the SS Dorchester



Pentagon Chapel – Washington, DC

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943, the Four Chaplains were posthumously awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** and **Purple Heart** on December 19, 1944. They were given to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.

Congress wanted to award the **Medal of Honor** to the Chaplains, but due to the strict regulations for the heroism to be displayed under fire, they could not.

A one-time only posthumous **Special Medal for Heroism** was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. *The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.*



## Congratulations Detachment of Virginia on Making Our 75% Membership Goal !

## 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

March 15, 2023	80%
April 19, 2023	90%
May 17, 2023	100%
<b>July 26, 2023</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>Delegate Target Strength</b>	



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

## BE THE ONE

### OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

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

Have you renewed your membership?

JANUARY - 2023

Happy New Year, Sons of The American Legion,

We're just past the 60 percent membership target date and I'm pleased to see that 47 of the 55 Detachments have reached that mark. And I want to congratulate the 15 Detachments who have already reached the 75 percent membership goal, led by the Detachment of Hawaii, which has reached 106.49% of its year-end goal as of Jan. 16.

I'm also thrilled that SAL members are now able to renew their membership online, at [Legion.org/SAL-Renew](http://Legion.org/SAL-Renew). Thank you for your patience as our national staff worked to make online renewal a possibility. Don't forget that you can set up automatic annual renewal when renewing your membership online.

And of course, you can continue to pay your dues in person at the squadron level.

It's important to note that squadrons need to submit their Squadron Data Reports (SDR) so that we get an accurate membership count as well as get your squadron's dues in our system. The SDR is available at the Sons of The American Legion website under [Publications and Forms](#). The SDR should be sent to the Detachment and the email address [Post and Squadron Reports \(postsqdnupdates@legion.org\)](mailto:Post and Squadron Reports (postsqdnupdates@legion.org)) for processing.

Let's do all we can to make this our strongest membership year yet!

And let's also not forget, it is a new year, but our mission is still the same: to support our veterans and their families.

What are you doing to "Be The One?" There are many resources and ideas at [Legion.org/BeTheOne](http://Legion.org/BeTheOne). Please use these resources to "Be The One" to help a veteran in need. And don't forget to share your efforts through the link on the Be The One website.

I would also like to ask for your continued support of The American Legion's other efforts, such as the <https://www.legion.org/vcf> (VCF), the [Child Welfare Foundation](#) (CWF), and more. These programs and others serve such a vital role, and it's your charity that makes it happen.

Thank you all for your efforts to support our veterans and the entire Legion Family!

Be the One!

With passion and purpose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Carlton".

Christopher Carlton  
Sons of The American Legion  
National Commander

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



# 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](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS) P: 317-630-1205 F: 317-630-1413

February – 2023

#### Support BE THE ONE through American Legion Family Day

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We often talk about “The American Legion Family.” It’s such an important part of how we support our veterans.

The American Legion’s National Executive Committee unanimously passed [Resolution No. 7](#) last October to create an event called American Legion Family Day. Prompted by a resolution from the Detachment of Maryland that was initially approved by the SAL NEC, this resolution establishes the event to be observed annually on the last Saturday in April, with posts opening their doors to the community and celebrating the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons, and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The resolution also calls on the Legion Family to use the day to promote BE THE ONE. The terrible impact a veteran’s suicide can have on his or her family is devastating.

That’s why I encourage you to not only participate in your post’s American Legion Family Day event, but to use the event to “Be The One.” Share with the community why the program is so important and how your squadron and post are helping reduce and eliminate veteran suicide.

Brochures can be downloaded at [Legion.org/Publications](http://Legion.org/Publications) and [Legion.org/BeTHEOne](http://Legion.org/BeTHEOne)

Thank you all for your efforts to support our veterans and the entire Legion Family!

Be the One!

With passion and purpose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Carlton".

Christopher Carlton  
Sons of The American Legion  
National Commander



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

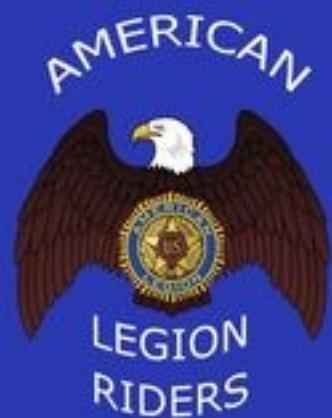


## 2nd Annual Car Show & Open House

# AMERICAN LEGION POST 28

May 20, 2023 11AM - 3PM

17934 LIMING LANE, TRIANGLE, VA 22172



JOIN US FOR MUSIC, FOOD & DRINKS, GAMES, & RAFFLES

\$20 ENTRANCE FEE

RAIN DATE: TO BE DETERMINED

## Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee Notes

### Americanism—Squadron CSR Reporting—Jay Rarick

The time is now to begin submitting success stories for the Detachment of Virginia Americanism Awards. What is Americanism? According to the 2019 Squadron Handbook:

"Americanism: One of the four pillars of The American Legion The SAL plays a vital role in The American Legion to promote an understanding and appreciation of American government; the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship; and activity in the American way of life through youth activities, community service, education and educational facilities, and proper U S flag etiquette as well as the protection of the U S flag from physical desecration The SAL participates both as counselors and participants in Americanism programs such as Boys Nation, Boys State, Oratorical Contest, Scouting, and Junior Shooting sports in addition to providing scholarship money to various programs."

I daresay that Americanism also includes participation in Color Guards, Funeral Honor Guards, Memorial Day and other patriotic occasions and service events where we promote the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and service.

The Detachment wants to tell your stories, but we can not if you do not tell us about them! Please, SEND ME A MESSAGE AND TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EFFORTS! The Americanism Committee wants to have candidates for Detachment Americanism Awards for large, medium, and small Squadrons. What you do for your communities and Posts is important.

The bottom line is that your Squadron is an asset to your sponsoring Post! Sons can augment Post programs (in addition to their own). The SAL Squadron is a Force Multiplier!

ü If qualified and willing, a SAL can fill any non-elected position.

ü Squadrons participate in:

- o Selecting candidates for & operation of Boys' State.
- o Selecting candidates for Law Enforcement Cadet.
- o Assisting in judging the Oratorical Contest.
- o Volunteer at VA Hospitals.
- o Volunteer to assist Veterans.
- o Participate in Post Honor & Color Guards.
- o Any American Legion program or project...
- o Run and manage SAL specific projects...

In addition, many other things, such as support by your Squadron Members to other Charitable Organizations (e.g., working with Boy Scouts; assisting at community centers or food pantries; etc.) can count towards Americanism. Please feel free to ask me or any Detachment Officer for assistance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me. The quickest ways are through e-mail [detachmentvicewest@vasons.org](mailto:detachmentvicewest@vasons.org).



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.

## **Detachment Committee Notes—Con't from Page 9**

### **Children and Youth—Jarrod Vass**

Time for Outside activities!!!!!! Spring is almost here! Time to start planning those outside youth activities. Yes, outside is right. Let's get the youth to set the electronics down and get fresh air. I'd like to Challenge each Squadron to get creative and host a youth event. Think outside the box, pick a pillar and make it fun. For example try a Bike Rodeo and teach them safety & bike laws for that new bike they got for Christmas or Volunteer for your local Youth Sports Team anything. Show us how you get involved. Submit pictures of Squadron members involved with youth to the Detachment's Facebook page @ (Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Virginia) tag them #BETHEONE. If you're not following the Detachment yet, then follow us today. Lastly, Please remember that April is Children and Youth Month.

### **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation—Joe Gallagher**

The American Legion of which the Sons of the American Legion are a part exist to support the 4 pillars that are the foundation of our organization from the very beginning in 1919. These pillars being our foundation were adopted by Congress for the American Legion when Congress chartered the organization.

The first pillar is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. VA&R does and has always stood on the front line of change for our veterans. Within VA&R many areas have been developed to support our veterans and in so many ways. Areas like: Assisting and supporting our veterans in their VA medical care, benefit claims and getting registered in the VA health system, temporary financial assistance programs. Also supporting our VA medical centers, as well as support through arts and crafts, supporting our veterans and assisting them with their hobbies, supporting veteran caregivers and survivors and the list goes on and on.

Each Squadron should become familiar with the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation pillar and determine within their squadron how they wish to support this pillar and make a difference in the lives of veterans no matter how big or small, each step of support allows this pillar to continue its intended support of our veterans and the growth needed into new areas or support.

If you need help with your VA&R pillar please feel free to reach out to me, your detachment VA&R committee chair and I will help you and your squadron in anyway that I can.

Let's do our part as the SAL by ensuring that our Veterans are cared for now and into the future.

### **Upcoming Events**

**March 3-5, 2023**

**Spring Conference**

**April 2023**

**SDR Submission**

**May 5-7, 2023**

**Spring NEC, Indianapolis, IN**

**May 19, 2023**

**CSR Submittal to Detachment**

**June 3, 2023**

**Detachment CSR Grading**

**June 23, 2023**

**Legion Day, Boys State**

**July 13—16, 2023**

**Department Convention**

**Herndon, VA**

**Aug 4-6, 2023**

**Legion College**

# Communication - Lifeline Of Our Organization

We always say that Membership is the Backbone of our organization. Communication is the Lifeline of our organization. The worst thing we can do is not to communicate with our members.

The Detachment of Virginia can pride itself on many things. One thing is that with our size, we are well represented at the National Level. We have people serving as Chairman, Public Media and Communications Commission, member of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission, member of the Membership Committee, member of the Internal Affairs Commission, and Assistant National Adjutant. The people serving in these capacities are serving because of their ideas, experience, and knowledge of the programs of the Sons of The American Legion.

Our National Officers, Commissions, and Committees work hard throughout the year—not just at the Fall and Spring NEC Meetings—but all year to work the programs, promote the programs, and come up with new ideas to support these programs.

This information is not meant to stay at the National Level. It is meant to be sent down to the Detachments and from the Detachments to the Squadrons and from the Squadrons to the ‘Blue Cap’ Members.

Yes, we said it—the information is meant to come down to our individual members. The intent is to inform but also share ideas within our Detachments and Squadrons. But even more importantly to make our ‘Blue Cap’ members feel as though they are a member of something larger.

There could be ideas for membership drives that are successful in Washington DC and could work in Virginia. There are fundraising ideas that are successful in Colorado that could be successful in Virginia. The exchange of ideas through communication can help our organization grow and become a stronger organization.

When this information is shared with our ‘Blue Cap’ members, some may be interested and want to work one of these projects for your Squadron. This is where we need to keep the information moving to ALL of our members—whether they serve as an officer or not.

One could argue the same thing for our Detachment. We have two conferences—Fall and Spring and a State Convention each year. We also have a SAL Legion Leadership College in August each year. We share a lot of information on these programs at these meetings. We also share a lot of information on what our Detachment is doing throughout the year.

As we move forward in time, technology improves our communication. The internet and social media are the top two forms of communication. We cannot let technology prevent us from making the personal phone calls, offering a hand shake, or saying hello to a member you have not seen. Regardless of how we do it, we must always be in communication with all of our members whether it is through the Internet, social media, or a phone call.

Over the past several years, it has become cost prohibitive to mail information out to our various Squadrons. Postage costs have increased and will continue to increase for the foreseeable future. This has forced us to change the way we communicate with our Squadrons. We have to communicate through our website, Facebook Page, or via email.

For the Detachment to communicate with our ‘Blue Cap’ members, we need the Squadrons to provide Contact information for each of the Squadrons. To date, our Adjutant has less than 50 percent of the Squadrons Contact information. This is less than 30 Squadrons of our 60 plus that appear on the Membership Report each week. We are making an urgent request from our Squadrons to send their Officer Lists into our Detachment Adjutant ([kchaplin@lexacom.net](mailto:kchaplin@lexacom.net)), as soon as possible.

The Detachment of Virginia does a majority of its communication through e-mail, our Detachment Website ([www.vasons.org](http://www.vasons.org)), or our Detachment Facebook Page - Sons Of The American Legion, Detachment of Virginia (New Facebook page set up July 2022).

We want to make sure that ALL of our Squadrons are getting the best and most up to date information about our activities, conferences, and conventions. We want to have more participation by our Squadrons at our Convention and Conferences.

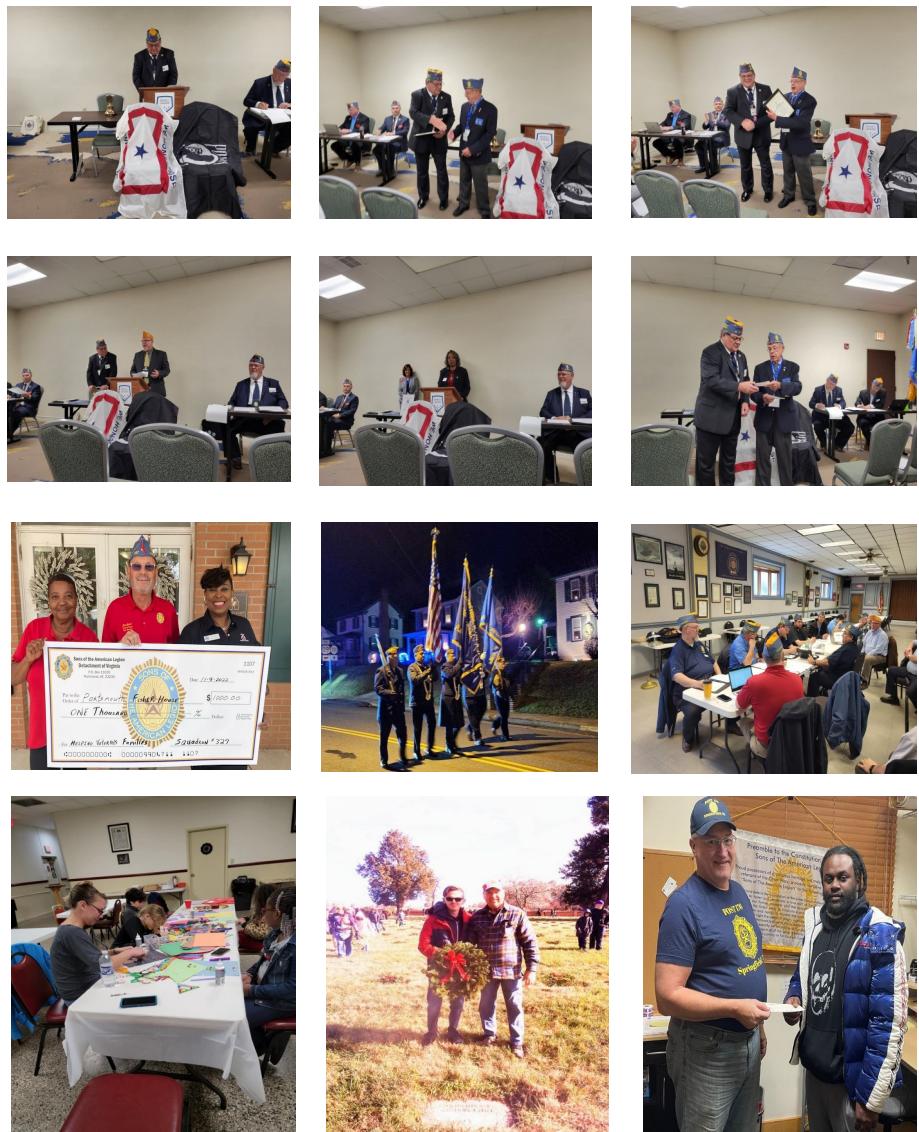
What are our next steps. First, if you are a Squadron Officer, please check your email a couple of times a week. Secondly, encourage your members to provide you with their email addresses. Lastly, share this information with your Squadron Members. **Scott Williams, Assistant Detachment Adjutant**.

## 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), Gerald Willis, Jr. (327), John Archdeacon (199), Steven King (146), and Jacob Nicholas (177). 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



From Around the Detachment—Fall Conference Photos from October 2022 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Squadron 327 presenting a \$1,000 donation to the Portsmouth Fisher House. Squadron 17 along with Post 17 participating in a Christmas Parade. Squadron 25 Community Service. Squadron 17 Detachment Vice Commander, Jay Rarick participating in a Blood Drive. American Legion 327 Juniors and Jr SAL working on Christmas Cards for Veterans. Wreaths Across America in Virginia. Squadron 176 donation to the local community.





## 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

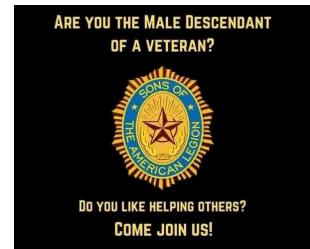
Find us on 

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.



**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, Detachment Vice Commanders—Tyler Vanice, Jarrod Vass, Jay Rarick, Joe Gallagher, and The Round Up. **Photos provided by:** Tyler Vanice, Scott Williams, Squadron 327, Squadron 284, Jarrod Vass, and Squadron 25.

**Edited By:** Scott Williams

**PASSION  
PURPOSE**