



# FOCUS



Volume 6, Issue 3 July 2015

## Detachment Officers

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

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## Squad 284 Law And Order Night



Squadron 284 (Colonial Heights) held its seventh annual Law and Order Night in May. Squadron 284 sponsored the event along with American Legion Riders Chapter 284. Alternate NEC, Linwood Moore said that

It was American Legion Post 327 (Norfolk) that gave him the idea to do this. During his year as Detachment Commander, he attended American Legion Post 327's Law and Order Night. The event impressed him enough to take it back to his post. When he suggested it to the post, the Post approved the Squadron running the event.

Awards were presented at the event. The awards were presented to the State Police, Colonial Heights Police Department, Colonial Heights Fire Department and EMS, Telecommunicators, and Sherriff's Office. Nine plaques were presented at the event.

Mr Moore said that there were over 100 in attend-

ance, that included Auxiliary Department President, Nancy Harding, Detachment Commander, Richard Pregnall, and Past Detachment Commander A. D. Carter. Delegate Kirk Cox was the keynote speaker at the event. He has spoken at the last six of seven events. Nine Colonial Heights City Council Members attended the event.

The event was included a dinner of Steamship Round, Barbeque, vegetables, and desert prepared by members of Squadron 284. Mr Moore said the event cost over \$1,200 paid for by fundraisers. The satisfaction is recognizing those who do the work to keep the communities safe.

## About This Issue

This issue will try to summarize the 2014-15 year. We are going to feature a few events that have taken place since Issue Number 2 - like Squadron 284 Law and Order Night above. We will also talk about our efforts on get-

ting our younger members actively involved by sharing an update from Squadron 162.

There will also be a more extensive photo collection going back to the beginning of the year to show

The activities that our Detachment has been involved in.

We want to thank everyone for all of their hard work throughout this year. We have had another great year. !

## Commander's Corner—Rick Pregnell

First thank you to the Detachment for all the hard work everyone has done over the past year. With August around the corner I ask that any Squadron that may have any membership in hand turn them in ASAP. We just need over hundred membership turned in to reach our 100% goal.

In regards to Consolidated Reports, 30 Squadron have reported so far this year. Based on those reports received the Detachment has done a fine job this year as all ways. Overall totals as of now are 27,383 Hours of Service and Donations totaling \$108,640. Americanism 14,466 Hours of Service with \$56,901 in Donations, Children & Youth 3,634 Hours of Service with \$35,628 in Donations,

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation 9,284 Hours of Service and \$16,111 in Donations.

These numbers come from only 30 Squadron out of 70 Squadron in the Detachment of Virginia. Just imagine what the numbers would be if all 70 Squadron were to report their Hours of Service and Donations for the past year. It is not late to turn in a Consolidated Reports! Please if anyone has a Consolidated Report and needs help call myself or any member of the Detachment Executive committee. We are more than happy to help with any questions you may have.

As the Leading Candidate for this upcoming year, I look forward to working with everyone and "Illuminating the Future". **Richard Pregnell, Detachment Commander.**



## Adjutant's Blog—Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams

We have had a great year so far. Commander Rick talked about our Consolidated Reporting above and we talked about it more on the next page.

We still need to tighten those bolts on our bridge to the future. The structure is in place and is a good structure. We are currently about 150 members short of our Detach-

ment goal and less than that for our National goal. The Southern region as of today is still in first place this year. We hope this will continue to National Convention in August.

Please continue working the 2015 Membership even if you have your 2016 cards. Be creative. See if you could have a member pay for one year and get 2—2015 and 2016. We

really need your help.

Also, please continue to send the names of deceased members to Linda at Department. This is where I get the information for Squadron Everlasting.

We thank you for all of your hard work this year. We look forward to seeing you in a few days at our State Convention in Roanoke.

## Squadron Everlasting

***Please Keep These Comrades and their families in your thoughts and prayers!***

Joseph Daly (Squadron 162), Raymond Case (Squadron 180), Danny Callihan (Squadron 148), Wes Helsey (Squadron 21), James Bankert (Squadron 320), Patrick Kelleher (Squadron 2), Carl Driskill (Squadron 2),

Gary Wade (Squadron 2), Wayne Lowe (Squadron 164), Charles Carroll (Squadron 72), Russal White (Squadron 72), Joseph Warzecha, Jr. (Squadron 1976), Edward W Edwards (Squadron 7), Steve F Hare (Squadron 7), Charles L Kalbaugh, Jr. (Squadron 293), Andrew D Webb (Squadron 159) - Elton Morgan, Jr. (Squadron 67), Ed Muddiman

(Squadron 85), and Frank Kelly (Squadron 148), Wayne G. Sweet (Squadron 79), Ted Byers (Squadron 176), John E. Weikel (Squadron 7), Clarence B. VanDyke (Squadron 164), Raymond R. Belcher (Squadron 164), Wayne R. Lowe (Squadron 164). ***Rest In Peace Comrades!***

## Squadron 162 Holds First Junior Meeting

On April 18, 2015, Squadron 162 (Lorton) held its first Junior Meeting at the post home. 1st Vice Commander Dave Wallace convened our initial Junior Squadron members meeting in our Post Hall on Apr 18th with Detachment Commander Richard Pregnall who made a special visit to show his support of this new initiative. We had two junior members in attendance at this meeting: Jeremy Wallace and new S.A.L. member Matthew Adams.



*Photo by Victor Graulau. First Vice David Wallace teaching the Ten Ideals program. Two Junior Members - Jeremy Wallace (Left) and Matthew Adams (Right).*

Detachment Commander Pregnall introduced himself to the junior members and spoke about CWF as well as other activities within the S.A.L. The Sons also was provided a brief historical background of the S.A.L. using their Junior Squadron

Member handbook and also introduced them to "The Ten Ideals Program" beginning with the first Ideal: Patriotism by First Vice Commander Wallace.

Their homework assignment for May's meeting, which will be held on May 16th at 12pm, is to write a 100 word essay about the Poppy Program; demonstrate how to properly fold a flag, along with raising and lowering a flag and encouraged to bring at least one new potential junior SAL member to the next meeting. The Junior Squadron members also had an additional new member that signed up: Devin Williams but was unable to attend the first meeting due to SAT preparation.

Our junior members are the future of our great organization. Please consider starting a junior squadron at your local Squadron. We have plenty of Junior Squadron Member Handbooks available. Please contact Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams at 571 236-4831 or via email at [SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net) to get these.

## Consolidated Reporting—Updated

As Commander Rick mentioned in his Commander's message, we received just under 30 reports, so far for the 2014-15 year. The totals for each of the main areas—Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation are preliminary. Has your Squadron turned in a Consolidated Report Form? It is not too late. The absolute latest we can receive reports is at the State Convention on July 18, in Roanoke.

Consolidated reporting is vitally important to our organization. These reports tell the story of what we, as a Detachment, did over the past year. All of the Squadron reports are consolidated into totals for the Detachment for the year and are judged at the National Level. If our totals are high enough, our Detachment will be recognized for our accomplishments for the year.

It is important to remember that

Our Detachment totals will be combined with the other Detachments to present a total National Sons report for the year. Our National totals are combined with that of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary and then reported to Congress. This information is what helps our organization get the support for Veterans it does, like the GI Bill as an example. We need your help! Our veterans are depending on it!!!

## Social Media—The New Way To Communicate

Social Media is the new way of communicating in this Hi Tech age we live in. Facebook, Twitter, and other are the new 'in thing'. These are great tools to reach out and recruit new members. But we must be careful. We want to keep the message positive and informative. We need to share accomplishments, events, and share information about our programs. We don't want to publish

Negative information, things that could damage our organization.

We would encourage our Squadrons to set up their own Facebook Page if their respective post has one set up. This would be a great way to promote your events, share Squadron news, and recruit new members.

Our Detachment has its own Face-

Book page, 'Sons Of The American Legion Detachment Of Virginia.' We currently have 218 likes. We should have at least 10% of our Detachment Membership liking our Facebook Page. So, if we are at 4,600 members, can we get to 460 likes before the end of the year. Check us out and see what we are doing. See what our Squadrons are doing.

## National Emergency Fund

With the Summer months upon us and Hurricane season now here, it is a great time to remind everyone of one of the great American Legion Programs, the National Emergency Fund. The National Emergency Fund is one of Sons National Commander, Mike Moss' projects this year.

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

tornadoes, earthquakes and wildfires.

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

NEF helps those affected by well-known disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy and lesser-publicized tragedies such as flooding in South Dakota or Illinois, or wildfires in the southwest.

The fund provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for posts.

The American Legion's National Emergency Fund is set up to quickly and efficiently provide money to affected Legion Family members and posts. A full 100 percent of donations to NEF are turned into grants. Donations are not used to cover administrative and promotional costs. Please consider supporting this vital program. Checks can be mailed to The American Legion, National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN, 46206.

For more information, please go to: [www.legion.org/emergency](http://www.legion.org/emergency). We hope that your Squadron will consider making a donation in the upcoming year. **Source—American Legion Website.**

## PDC Fargo Wells Boys State Recognition

Past Detachment Commander, Fargo Wells was recognized at the 2015 session of Boys State in Virginia for his service to Boys State. He served over 30 years as a Boys State Counselor. Mr. Wells was inducted into the Boys State Hall of Fame this year. The picture to the right is Mr Wells receiving his Boys State Hall of Fame Plaque.

Fargo Wells is a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 290 Stafford where he serves as commander and has held that office for over 10 years. He has also been to four National Conventions and held the office of Detachment of Virginia Commander in 1999-2000. Fargo was an American Legion Boys State delegate himself in 1977 in Mac Arthur City when it was held at Lynchburg College. He returned to Boys State in 1980 as a Junior Counselor for a few years. He took a break to attend Virginia Commonwealth University as a



Marketing Education Major where he served as president of his Fraternity, Theta Delta Chi while working at Houlihans in Richmond.

He later returned as Counselor where his City won Best City Four Years in a row. The Hall Of Fame Plaque reads—In recognition of his over thirty years of dedicated and loyal service to The American Legion Boys State of Virginia. Fargo is Hereby recognized for his outstanding humanistic qualities and

accomplishments not only to the Boys State program but for his continuing service to the local, Department, and National organization of the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion. Fargo is held in the highest esteem by his peers and honored by his associates for his contributions and achievements; and who, for God and country, has unselfishly placed his self below others and service above personal gains in his defense of democracy, freedom, equality and justice. Therefore before this body, it is my distinct honor to elect to and enshrine

R. Fargo Wells in the American Legion Boys State Hall of fame.

Given this 26th Day of June Two Thousand fifteen.

## Leadership College 'Developing Future Officers'

Each year, The Sons Of The American Legion holds a Leadership College in conjunction with the American Legion Leadership College, in August. The 2015 Legion College will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Midlothian from August 7 to 9.

This is a great opportunity for those who are new members of the Sons Of The American Legion and newly elected Squadron Officers to learn more about our organization and its programs.. Topics covered will be Officer's Duties, Membership, Programs, and Consolidated Reporting.

With elections coming up over the next couple of months, it would be good to start planning to send someone or a group from your Squadron to our Legion College in August. Registration fees are \$70 and should be sent to Department Headquarters by July 23, 2015. Rooms at the Richmond-Midlothian Doubletree Hotel are \$105.37 per night including tax. Reservations need to be made separately with the hotel by July 23, 2015.

This will also be a great opportunity to meet your newly elected Detachment Officers for the 2015- 16 year. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Detachment Year in Review



**2014 Detachment Convention.** Left photo is 2014 Detachment Scholarship Award Winner, Bruce Reid II, his family, and Detachment Scholarship Chairman, Clint Bolt. Right photo—Past Detachment Commander, Jeff Evans and Past National Vice Commander, Clint Bolt draw the Detachment Cruise Award Winner.



**2014 Legion College—**Detachment Sgt At Arms, James Logan receiving his Legion College Diploma with Past Detachment Commander, Doug Ferrell (Left Photo), Detachment Vice Commander, David Tuck receiving his Legion College Diploma, with Past Detachment Commander, Doug Ferrell.

**2014 SAL National Convention in Charlotte, NC.** Above photo are the Detachment award winners for Detachments who contributed over \$2.00 per member for the 2013-14 year to the Child Welfare Foundation. The Detachment of Virginia won an award for contributing over \$2.00 to the Child Welfare Foundation. Past Detachment Commander, Doug Ferrell along with other Detachments are in the photo above with the 2013-14 SAL National Commander, Joe Gladden, from Maryland. The Child Welfare Foundation is the Hallmark program of The Sons Of The American Legion.

# Detachment Year In Review—Con't



2014 Fall Conference - Membership Chairman, Linwood Moore, presenting National Membership Award and All Time High to Past Detachment Commander, Doug Ferrell.



Det. Vice Commander, Rick Pregnall at AL Post 320 Oratorical Competition with the 12th District Commander.



Spring Conference 2015 - SAL PNVC, Clint Bolt, SAL Nat'l. Vice Cdr., Jeff Evans present SAL Committee Chairman Ermeritus, Chic Ferguson with Honorary Detachment Commander's Cover and Plaque. PDCs AD Carter and Bob Borkovich and NEC Steve Gower also honored Mr. Ferguson.



Squadron 284 held a Boston Butts Fundraiser on April 5. The Squadron made over \$1,700 from the event. This is one of this Squadron's major Fundraisers during the year. They do two of these fundraisers each year. One in November—one week before Thanksgiving and one in the Spring—one week before Easter. The profit made on this event paid for two boys to attend Boys State and two girls to attend Girls State. The remaining funds were used to help award Squadron Scholarships to local Colonial Heights High School Students. At the Fall Fundraiser, they donated one to a new Post 284 member who was unemployed. They have donated these to Homeless Shelters.



SAL 180 Christmas Party-PNC Dan Dellnger in top photo. SAL Member taking pictures of children sitting on Santa's lap. Post 180 Legion Family with Santa Claus at the Christmas Party at Post 180 - Vienna



Detachment Mid Winter Meeting. Newly appointed Det. Cdr. Rick Pregnall installed by SAL Nat. Vice Cdr., Jeff Evans. Mid Winter Meeting Attendees group photo. Det. Chaplain, Robert Wilson at Wreath Laying Ceremony at Blandford Cemetery, Petersburg.

# Detachment Year In Review—Con't



SAL Squadron 293 (Purcellville) -Squadron Adjutant, Scott Williams, receives Upper Loudoun Little League plaque for its 2014 sponsorship of the Hamilton T-Ball Pirates.



2015 Spring NEC—various Detachment of Virginia Sons members representing the Detachment at the National level in various meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.



SAL 284 Members prepare the dinner for the SAL 284 Law and Order Night held in May. See article on page 1.



Squadron 325 (Danville) 2015-16 officers installed with Department Adjutant, Dale Chapman.



Past Detachment Commanders serving as Counselors at Boys State. PDCs Bob Borkovich, Fargo Wells, Thom Guthrie, and Linwood Moore. PDC Wells was recognized for his 31 years of service to Boys State. See article on page 4.



National Vice Commander Jeff Evans, from Virginia, pins SAL National Commander Moss' Pin on Past Department President Pat Knight's grandson at the 2015 Department of Virginia Spring Conference.



## 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 Richard Pregnall, Detachment Vice Commander, Dellie Suiter (Eastern Region), Detachment Vice Commander, David Tuck (Western Region) or Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams. We would be glad to help you in any way to get a Squadron started.

### THE FOCUS

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

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

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

Please send your articles to Scott Williams at [SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net)

**'It's not what we do, it's who we are!'** - *Michael Peterson*

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.

### **\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

Please send all email correspondence to the Detachment Adjutant at [SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net). I have been told that there have been email messages sent to the Detachment Adjutant which were never received. However, we do not check the old email account—[SonsVADetADJ2yahoo.com](mailto:SonsVADetADJ2yahoo.com). Please do not use this email address anymore. We rarely check that email account. Thank You!!

**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, Rick Pregnall, NEC, Steve Gower, Alt NEC, Linwood Moore, or Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams. It is a great honor to serve and represent your Squadron.

### **Help Wanted!**

The Detachment is looking for an Assistant Detachment Adjutant. We are looking for someone to help compile, maintain, and distribute the Detachment Directory in Microsoft Access or another Database program.

If interested, please contact Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams at 571 236-4831(Cell), 703 687-4775(Home), or by email at [SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net](mailto:SonsVADetADJ@comcast.net).

### **Sons Of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia**

#### **"The Focus"**

**Articles and information contributed by:** Detachment Commander Richard Pregnall, Linda Hardwick (Department Headquarters), Detachment Adjutant, Scott Williams, Linwood Moore, and David Wallace, Squadron 162. **Photographs provided by:** Scott Williams, Linwood Moore, Squadron 284 Members, and Detachment Commander, Richard Pregnall, and various other SAL members.

**Edited By:** Scott Williams