



FOCUS

Taking A Closer Look



Volume 15, Issue 1 | October 2023

Detachment Officers

- Detachment Commander – Kevin Chaplin
- 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—Joe Gallagher
- Detachment Asst Adjutant— Scott Williams
- Detachment Finance Officer— David Boggs
- Detachment Chaplain— Robert Wilson, Sr.
- Detachment Sgt At Arms- Mark Young, II

Inside This Issue

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commander's Corner | 2 |
| Adjutant's Blog | 2 |
| SAL National Commander | 3-4 |
| Voter Voice | 7 |
| Intro | 9 |
| Centennial | 11 |
| Patch Program | 12 |

Linwood Moore—Elected SAL National Vice Commander



Past Detachment Commander, Linwood Moore, from Squadron 284 Colonial Heights was elected SAL National Vice Commander for the Southeastern Region at the 51st SAL National Convention in Charlotte in August. Mr. Moore served as Detachment NEC, Alternate NEC, Detachment Vice Commander, on various Detachment level Committees. He also was very active at his Squadron and Post by serving as Post 284's Bingo Manager and running many of the Squadron's Boston Butt Fundraisers for local charities and American Legion Programs.

The Southeastern Region (newly renamed to be in alignment with the American Legion) is made up of the following Detachments—Texas (New), Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and Virginia. Previous Southern Region National Vice Commanders from Virginia Mike Backus, PNC Chuck Belles, Robert Smith, Les Clevenger, Jim DeMarco, PNC Clint Bolt, Jeff Evans, and Steve Gower.

Don 'JR' Hall from the Detachment of Maryland was elected National Commander for the Sons of the American Legion. The other National Vice Commanders are Robert L. Bristo (MN) - Central National Vice Commander, John R. Cook (NH) - Northeastern Vice Commander, Terry A. Harris (KS) - Midwest National Vice Commander, and James R. Fischer (CA) Western National Vice Commander.

About This Issue

This is the first issue for the 2023-24 year. Virginia has another National Vice Commander for the Sons, Linwood Moore. Please see the article above.

We also will look more closely at the Patch Program

For our younger members, as well as some recent resolutions passed at the Fall NEC and the effect on the Sons organization.

We also will talk some about the upcoming Centennial Celebration in 2032 and

How we as a Detachment can work toward supporting that celebration.

Take a look at pages 5 and 6 for the Detachment and National Accomplishments for last year - a useful tool for recruiting new members.

Commander's Corner—Kevin Chaplin



Greetings fellow Sons and Legion Family members,

In alignment with the American Legion Family's continuing BE THE ONE theme, my theme this year is You're the One to Be the One. Each of us can BE THE ONE to make a difference to our communities, state, and nation through our programs that focus on veterans, the military and their families, and by promoting Americanism, supporting Children and Youth initiatives, engaging in The American Legion's legislative advocacy work, and participating in community service and civil preparedness. No one can do it all, but everyone can do something, and that one thing may be the action that makes a difference. Together we as an organization can BE THE ONE through our collective mission-driven activities.



American Legion Family members are also specifically charged this year with educating ourselves to be able to identify the warning signs exhibited by those who may be contemplating self-harm, and to be aware of resources that are available for immediate intervention. There are approximately 17 veterans who take their own lives every day. Our task is not to become mental health professionals, but rather to know who to contact for immediate crisis intervention when necessary.

My personal project this year is to raise funds and support Veterans and Athletes United, an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization run by veterans, whose mission is "To empower wounded, injured and ill veterans to fully live their lives and honor our fallen military heroes". This organization provides adaptive sports/recreation activities, accessible retreats, and networking opportunities through its VetNet program. Additionally, it exhibits the travelling Global War on Terror Memorial Flag at special events in the eastern portion of the U.S., and another

Continued on Page 3

Adjutant's Blog—Joe Gallagher



Wow here we are and it's October already. Things to make sure your squadron is getting done and into the Detachment. Have you done the following:

- Turned in your SDR report with your officers and their contact information.
- Remind your members to track their volunteer hours.
- **HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET FOR FALL CONFERENCE? If not please do ASAP. We are only two weeks away from the Fall Conference in Williamsburg.**
- **Detachment Committee Chairs, your Fall reports are due by Friday October 20. THIS IS A MUST**



Comrades, let's make this the year that we exceed all our goals, Membership, Volunteer Hours, Contributions and as a special goal from yours truly your Detachment Adjutant, your paper work. If there is something of interest to you or your squadron that you would like to have sent to you from National, IE: Legislative, Membership, etc. Let me know via email to saljgallagher@gmail.com so that I can help you get registered at national or department to get these emails that are sent out on a regular basis. It is always good to stay informed as to what is going on in The Sons of the American Legion. Your Detachment DEC stands ready to assist you, so don't hesitate to reach out to us for assistance. If you aren't getting response let me know please. Also if you would like to serve on a detachment committee let us know that as well.



Commander's Corner—Continued from Page 2

was recently completed to travel west of the Mississippi. The purpose of these travelling GWOT Memorial Flags constructed of dog tags of the fallen is to raise awareness of the sacrifice paid by America's heroes to protect our freedom. For more information about the great work done by Veterans and Athletes United, go to <https://www.vetsau.com/>

Throughout this 2023-2024 administrative year, I challenge you to join me to BE THE ONE to make a difference, to retain a member, to recruit a member, to be mission-driven, to support our programs and to support Veterans and Athletes United. **Detachment Commander, Kevin Chaplin**

SAL National Commander Message - September

We are off and working to make 2023/24 a great year! What an honor to be elected as your national commander and be able to represent my grandfather's service in the Army during World War II. "Representing More Than Me" is my slogan for the year because I truly believe that is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper it is a commitment to pay respect to our family members service in our military. Let's make sure that our commitment is worth the sacrifices they made.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization, and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in VA&R, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security are they are still the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the four pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so all you need to do is raise one dollar per member for each OCW(VA&R), CWF (Children and Youth) your departments Boys State program(Americanism), and hold a blood drive(National security). You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is not that hard to do, if we plan and work to get it done.

I believe that the Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in the work we do to help our veterans, children and community.

Aaron Tippon sang a song that said, " You got to stand for something or you will fall for anything". Let's stand for what is right and show that our families service is worth all of us being the best son we can be. "Be The One" in more ways than one.

Presenting More Than Me,

Donald "JR" Hall

National Commander

Sons of The American Legion



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**



**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

SAL National Commander Message - October

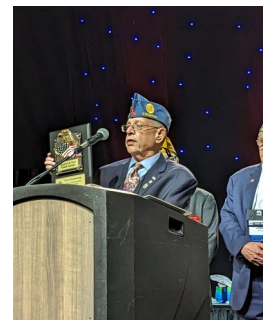
Greetings Virginia Legion Family ,

Ready or not here comes the fall. As fall moves in days get shorter, darker, and the temperature drops leaving more people to stay inside where its warmer. That also stops us from seeing each other as much which means not seeing our neighbors, veterans and friends as much. Darkness is not always good for everyone so please remember during these times to “Be The One” to do Buddy checks on your neighbors, veterans and friends. You will never know how much a phone call to someone will mean when they are alone.

Veterans Day falls on a Saturday this year so it removes many excuses why we can’t get out to honor our American heroes. I hope each Squadron is planning to do something at your home post to let our veterans know that we appreciate their service to our great nation. It is also a great time to have a Flying Flags for Heroes event. That would be a great way to honor all of our veterans that have been called to Post Everlasting. If you post or squadron does not have a event planned then look for memorials in your area and go place a flag yourself, take a picture of it and post it on legiontown.org . We all need to find a way to make sure our military, past and present know that we support them and are here for them.

Remember you signed up to honor your family members service, so ask yourself, What am I doing to truly honor their service? You don’t have to do it the same way I do, honor your family service your own way. Show your pride in your families service and your appreciation for others. Talk to a veteran in need and “Be The One” to change a life or save a life.

Representing More Than Me,
 Donald JR” Hall
 National Commander
 Sons of the American Legion



Pictures from the 51st Sons of the American Legion Convention in Charlotte, NC. Top row PDC, David Boggs with 2 National Children and Youth Awards for Squadron 2 in Petersburg. PDC Fred Vaccarella accepting the Marvin Naye VE & E Award for Evan Glendenning from Squadron 327. Bottom row Installation of the 2023-24 National Vice Commanders with NVC Linwood Moore.



Sons of The American Legion
Accomplishments



June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023
for

DETACHMENT OF VIRGINIA

| Overall Totals | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Dollars Donated \$ | 377,717 |
| Hours Volunteered | 89,680 |
| Value of One Vol. Hour* | \$29.95 |
| Volunteer Hours Value \$ | 2,685,916 |
| Total Volunteer Value \$ | 3,063,633 |

| Pillar | Donations | Hours | Hours Value* |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|
| Americanism | \$188,610 | 54,802 | \$ 1,641,305 |
| Children & Youth | \$75,850 | 10,867 | \$ 325,452 |
| Vets Affairs & Rehab. | \$55,366 | 9,254 | \$ 277,157 |
| Vets Employ & Edu. | \$7,227 | 3,192 | \$ 95,600 |
| Internal Affairs | \$50,665 | 11,566 | \$ 346,402 |

| Americanism | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Boys State / Girls State</i> | \$9,105 in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 277 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Legion Ed. Programs</i> | \$125 in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Ideals Progs. with 82 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Flag Programs</i> | \$5,702 in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 3,130 Hours of Participation 5,704 Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events) |
| <i>Flag Education</i> | \$3,241 in Donations to Flag Education Progs. with 619 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other Ed. Programs</i> | \$7,743 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 855 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Oratorical Contest</i> | \$310 in Donations to Oratorical Contest with 69 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Color Guard</i> | \$3,644 in Donations to Color Guard with 1,847 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Community Service</i> | \$72,567 in Donations to Other Organizations with 33,157 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Scouting</i> | \$37,963 in Donations to Scouting with 3,557 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Jr. Shooting Sports</i> | \$1,884 in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 772 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Am. Legion Baseball</i> | \$3,339 in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball with 42 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other Teams</i> | \$21,510 in Donations to Other Teams with 4,218 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Blood Drives</i> | \$1,135 in Donations to Blood Drives with 408 Hours of Participation |
| <i>N.E.F.</i> | \$2,530 in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 479 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Legacy Schol. Fund</i> | \$3,600 in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 1,744 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other Amer. Projects</i> | \$14,212 in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 3,547 Hours of Participation |

| Children and Youth | |
|---|---|
| <i>CWF</i> | \$15,887 in Donations to Child Welfare Found. with 3,109 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Special Olympics</i> | \$2,466 in Donations to Special Olympics with 993 Hours of Participation |
| <i>CMN</i> | \$577 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. with 142 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Ronald McDonald House</i> | \$427 in Donations to R. McDonald House with 56 Hours of Participation |
| <i>C.O.T.A.</i> | \$627 in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. with 80 Hours of Participation |
| <i>T.A.L. Vets. & Child. Found.</i> | \$1,895 in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. with 566 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other C&Y Projects</i> | \$53,971 in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 5,921 Hours of Participation |

| Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>VAMCs & Facilities</i> | \$9,045 in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 1,419 Hours of Participation |
| <i>State Vets Facilities</i> | \$3,315 in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 871 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Nat'l Vets Assist. Day</i> | \$2,710 in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day with 234 Hours of Participation |
| <i>O.C.W.</i> | \$7,982 in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 389 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Fisher House</i> | \$6,850 in Donations to Fisher House with 184 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other VA&R Projects</i> | \$25,464 in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 6,157 Hours of Participation |

| Veterans Employment and Education | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>VE&E Projects</i> | \$7,227 in Donations to VE&E Projects with 3,192 Hours of Participation |

| Internal Affairs | |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>Other Totals</i> | \$50,665 in Donations, Not Covered Above with 11,566 Hours, Not Covered Above |

*As reported by: [Independent Sector](#) in April 2022 .

Sons of The American Legion
2022-2023 Accomplishments



Consolidated Reports Summary
Published: August 25, 2023

| National Overall Totals | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Dollars Donated | \$9,626,133 |
| Hours Volunteered | 3,288,625 |
| Value of One Vol. Hour* | \$31.80 |
| Volunteer Hours Value | \$104,578,288 |
| Total Volunteer Value | \$114,204,421 |

| Pillar | Donations | Hours | Hours Value* |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Americanism | \$3,618,952 | 1,693,574 | \$53,855,663 |
| Children & Youth | \$1,367,160 | 157,893 | \$5,021,001 |
| Vets Affairs & Rehab. | \$1,497,915 | 898,126 | \$28,560,407 |
| Vets Employ & Edu. | \$141,783 | 22,002 | \$699,664 |
| Internal Affairs | \$3,000,323 | 517,030 | \$16,441,554 |

*As reported by: [Independent Sector](#) in [April 2023](#) .

| Americanism | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Boys State / Girls State</i> | \$204,182 in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 34,983 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Legion Ed. Programs</i> | \$10,116 in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Ideals Progs. with 1,934 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Flag Programs</i> | \$191,726 in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 165,867 Hours of Participation 367,659 Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events) |
| <i>Flag Education</i> | \$37,941 in Donations to Flag Education Progs. with 56,066 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other Ed. Programs</i> | \$457,368 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 21,230 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Oratorical Contest</i> | \$9,211 in Donations to Oratorical Contest with 3,086 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Color Guard</i> | \$120,955 in Donations to Color Guard with 80,165 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Community Service</i> | \$1,092,307 in Donations to Other Organizations with 931,588 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Scouting</i> | \$217,429 in Donations to Scouting with 81,049 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Jr. Shooting Sports</i> | \$39,568 in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 11,478 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Am. Legion Baseball</i> | \$212,856 in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball with 26,678 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other Teams</i> | \$164,562 in Donations to Other Teams with 19,181 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Blood Drives</i> | \$48,054 in Donations to Blood Drives with 7,870 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Nat'l Emer. Fund</i> | \$76,308 in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 3,337 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Legacy Schol. Fund</i> | \$45,650 in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 7,824 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other Amer. Projects</i> | \$690,718 in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 241,240 Hours of Participation |

| Children and Youth | |
|--|--|
| <i>Child Welfare Foundation</i> | \$304,330 in Donations to Child Welfare Found. with 21,675 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Special Olympics</i> | \$129,194 in Donations to Special Olympics with 10,259 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Children's Miracle Net.</i> | \$31,487 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. with 1,409 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Ronald McDonald House</i> | \$20,850 in Donations to R. McDonald House with 952 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Children's Organ Transplant Assn.</i> | \$32,125 in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. with 4,095 Hours of Participation |
| <i>TAL Vets. & Child. Found.</i> | \$71,935 in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. with 19,698 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other C&Y Projects</i> | \$777,239 in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 99,805 Hours of Participation |

| Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>VAMCs & Facilities</i> | \$230,968 in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 28,870 Hours of Participation |
| <i>State Vets Facilities</i> | \$119,229 in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 13,864 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Nat'l Vets Assist. Day</i> | \$29,627 in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day with 3,306 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Op. Comfort Warriors</i> | \$51,990 in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 4,832 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Fisher House</i> | \$94,679 in Donations to Fisher House with 8,130 Hours of Participation |
| <i>Other VA&R Projects</i> | \$971,422 in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 839,124 Hours of Participation |

| Veterans Employment and Education | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>VE&E Projects</i> | \$141,783 in Donations to VE&E Projects with 22,002 Hours of Participation |

| Internal Affairs | |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>Other Totals</i> | \$3,000,323 in Donations, Not Covered Above with 517,030 Hours, Not Covered Above |

Voter Voice Sign Up

VoterVoice is a comprehensive digital advocacy solution to help the American Legion mobilize American Legion Family Members, amplify the American Legion message, and take action on the legislation and regulations that matter to you.

The American Legion’s Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for connecting the American Legion Family members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion’s legislative priorities.

It's Simple & Painless and just freaking easy!! Take two minutes and become an advocate for all veterans! Joining VoterVoice allows you to continue supporting the ideas and beliefs of The American Legion, The American Legion Family, and the individual who gave you eligibility to join the Sons and become the Sons member you are today.



BE THE ONE

If you're a veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or text 838255.

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.



2024 IS NOW
SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION
RENEW TODAY!!!

| 2024 National Membership Target Dates | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | September 13, 2023 | 10% | 6 ❤️ February 14, 2024 ❤️ 75% |
| 2 | October 18, 2023 | 25% | 7 March 13, 2024 80% |
| 3 | November 15, 2023 | 35% | 8 April 10, 2024 90% |
| 4 | December 13, 2023 | 45% | 9 May 15, 2024 100% |
| 5 | January 18, 2024 | 60% | 10 July 24, (DSTG) 105% |





2023 Detachment Convention Photos



Photos from the Detachment of Virginia 2023 Detachment Convention in Herndon, Virginia. Top Row—Left to Right—newly elected officers for the 2023-24 year Detachment Vice Commander, Jay Rarick, Detachment Commander, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Vice Commander, Jarrod Vass, and Detachment Vice Commander, Tyler Vanice. Second and Third Photos, Children and Youth Chairman, Jarrod Vass presenting the Detachment Children and Youth Awards. Bottom Row—Left to Right—PDP Lisa Chaplin places the Detachment Commanders Pin on Detachment Commander, Kevin Chaplin, PDC Bill Feasenmeyer installs Detachment Commander Kevin Chaplin, and newly elected officers introduced to the American Legion Department of Virginia.

Representing More Than Me.



Introduction to the Detachment of Virginia— Sons of the American Legion



While visiting Post 364 the other day, Squadron Commander Jack Rike asked me to write a short introduction to the Detachment of Virginia, Sons of the American Legion (SAL). Where the Squadron is the bedrock of the organization (the local “Chapter” if you will) the Detachment is the State level of the organization.

The Virginia Detachment of the Sons of the American Legion is a thriving organization boasting approximately 4,400 members across three regions and seventeen districts within the state. As a key program under the American Legion Department of Virginia, the Detachment of Virginia proudly collaborates with other vital members of the American Legion Family, such as the Sons of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the American Legion Riders. Together, we work towards a shared mission to support and serve our communities.

The Detachment represents the Squadrons to the Department of Virginia [American Legion] and to the National SAL Headquarters. Every year at the Department/Detachment Convention, the Detachment elects new officers for the coming year. The Detachment Commander sets goals and challenge projects for the Squadrons under the headings of **Americanism**, **Children & Youth (C&Y)**, **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)**, **Veterans Employment & Education (VE&E)**, and the **Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)**; as well as other endeavors.

When your Squadron sends in its yearly forms, such as the **Squadron Officers’ Report (SOR)**, **Squadron Data Report (SDR)** and **Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)**, the Detachment uses the vital information in these reports to document the Squadrons’ points of contact each year, their physical and mailing addresses, dues, and their contributions to Americanism, C&Y, VA&R, VE&E and CWF.

It would take a separate article to discuss each of these, but your hours are converted by the Detachment to equivalent Dollars and added to your donations to show how we are supporting the American Legion, the Post, Veterans, and the Community. I will simply leave it to say these numbers are added to those of your Post, the Post’s to the Department’s and so on up to National where the **National Commander of the American Legion** uses them when going before Congress to show the benefit the Nation’s Veterans get for the Legion’s Congressional Charter. In 2022-2023, the SAL Detachment of Virginia reported a **Total Volunteer Value of \$ 3,063,633** with only 38 out of 68 Squadrons reporting! Your contributions are valuable and need to be recognized!

The Officers of the Detachment for 2023-2024 are:

Kevin Chaplin, Squadron 284 — Commander — commander@vasons.org

Tyler E. Vanice, Squadron 176 — Vice Commander (North) — northvice@vasons.org

Jarrold Vass, Squadron 368 — Vice Commander (East) — eastvice@vasons.org

Jay A. Rarick, Squadron 17 — Vice Commander (West) — westvice@vasons.org

Joe Gallagher, Squadron 284 — Adjutant — adjutant@vasons.org

David Boggs, Squadron 16 — Finance Officer — finance@vasons.org

Your Vice Commanders are your direct contact to the Detachment. They are ready and willing to help with any questions you may have that cannot be answered at the Squadron level. [For Squadron 364, you are in the Northern Region, which includes the 16th District, and your Vice Commander is Tyler Vanice.] We want to hear what you are doing! We are here to help and look forward to the opportunity to visit with you. **Detachment Vice Commander, Jay Rarick.**



Resolutions create 2 new SAL committees

Among the resolutions approved by The American Legion's National Executive Committee (NEC) at the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis were three directly related to the Sons of The American Legion (SAL).

Resolution 22 creates the Sons of The American Legion Commander's Advisory Committee, whose purpose is to discuss issues germane to the SAL and recommend courses of action to The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission.

The committee, consisting of a chairman and six members, as well as the SAL National Commander who will have no vote, will collect detachment recommendations and in turn recommend to the Internal Affairs Commission chairman nominations for SAL national commission and committees and SAL national officers.

Resolution 21 creates the SAL Resolutions Screening Committee, which will "consider at any time any resolutions to be assigned to the appropriate SAL commission or committee for the purpose of (a) classifying those resolutions; (b) consolidating them; or (c) eliminating duplications, as well as for the purpose of recommending to the commissions and committees the disposition of the resolutions."

That committee will be chaired by the chairman of the Legion's Internal Affairs Commission and will include three American Legion members and three SAL members.

The NEC also approved Resolution 19, a \$250,000 donation from the SAL Reserve Fund to the Veterans & Children Foundation. That donation was approved at the SAL National Convention. ***The American Legion***

Make TAP accessible throughout service, Legion testifies

Kevin O'Neil shared his story of transitioning out of the Air Force during his testimony to a joint meeting of the Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services on Oct. 18. Watch the entire hearing here (O'Neil's testimony begins at the 2:50:58 mark).

"My own transition journey began as I was driving down an unpaved road in Djibouti, Africa, with two of my fellow airmen," O'Neil, Veterans Employment and Education policy associate for The American Legion, testified during the hearing, Military to Civilian Transition: Ensuring Success After Service. "I proposed the question: What do you plan to do when you separate? Neither knew. The uncertainty in their responses propelled me to start thinking about the path that I would take following my military career."

With just over a year left in his enlistment, O'Neil hatched a plan to return to school. He obtained bachelor's and master's degrees after separation.

"While I am incredibly proud of these accomplishments, I recognize that I was fortunate enough to have found my path well before my separation," he testified. "This cannot be said for all servicemembers, and I believe that this is why we are here today."

The hearing focused on military programs such as the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) that assists servicemembers as they return to the civilian world.

"TAP offers a plethora of information that servicemembers can utilize to achieve success post-military service, but there are improvements that can be made," O'Neil testified. "One improvement is seeing that servicemembers begin TAP no later than 365 days prior to their anticipated separation."

He cited a Government Accountability Office report released in December 2022, that found 70% of servicemembers are not completing TAP within the mandated timeframe.

"With over 200,000 servicemembers separating annually, that equates to around 140,000 transitioning servicemembers who may have less than a year to plan for their future," O'Neil said. "This is far too many servicemembers who may find themselves unprepared for the transition to civilian life. In light of the information gathered in this study, The American Legion would like to offer a couple of suggestions to remedy this issue."

Those include:

- Look to the Veterans Affairs' Military Lifecycle modules as a best practice for providing vital information regarding the transition process. The modules comprise 14 comprehensive sessions that allow transitioning servicemembers and their families to access TAP information throughout their service. "If the (Department of Labor) were to create online modules, similar to those offered through the VA, servicemembers and their spouses would have greater access to information that will prepare them for a successful career post-military service."
- Create an app accessible at any time throughout ones' military career. Such an app would provide information about TAP, as well as the programs offered by DOL, the Department of Defense and other agencies. "Through interagency partnerships, and the creation of a comprehensive military lifecycle app, we could ensure that servicemembers and their families have unfettered access to information that will assist in transitioning to civilian life." ***The American Legion***

100th Anniversary Sub-Committee Officially Meets

History was made October 6, 2023, at the Fall NEC Century Committee Meeting as CENTCOM Chairman Jeff Vrabel Sr. called for the first official report of the 100th Anniversary Sub-Committee. Vice Chairman PNC Bob Worrell started by introducing the Initial sub-committee members working on this important project. PNC Kevin Winkelmann (TX) Chairman, PNC Robert "Bob" Worrell (IN) Vice-Chairman, PNC David Faust (WI), PNC Greg Doc Gibbs (NY), William "Bill" Towns (OH).

The objectives are to:

- Compile a complete written history of The Sons of The American Legion.
- Assist each Detachment to complete their history.
- Encourage each Squadron to complete its history.
- Celebrate starting at the 2027 National Convention through the 2033 National Convention.
- Convention 2027 Highlighting 1932-1951 The Beginning
- Convention 2028 Highlighting 1952-1971 The Rebirth
- Convention 2029 Highlighting 1972-1991 The Formative Years
- Convention 2030 Highlighting 1992-2011 The Growth Years
- Convention 2031 Highlighting 2012-2031 The Defining Years
- Convention 2032 Kicking of the yearlong Centennial Celebration.
- Profile Squadrons with 60 plus years of service.
- Profile former award winners.
- Highlight 50 plus year members.
- Open Conventions 2027-2032 with a video about the highlighted period.
- Plan and carry out all activities of the Centennial Celebration.
- Work with Committees on Membership, Convention, CENTCOM, Public Media, and others as needed.
- Do a Time Capsule fundraiser to be kept at National Headquarters until 2132.
- Develop a Founders Award to honor members for serving the programs we support.
- Present The American Legion with a gift in honor of our Centennial (large and dynamic).

For this to happen we are requesting that each Detachment appoint a point of contact to the 100th Anniversary Sub-Committee. There is also a need for every American Legion Family Member to collect, and record old documents, pictures, awards, newsletters, and items of interest. To register as a Detachment Contact, Donate Historical Items (Digital Copies are acceptable), or just to find out additional information contact:

Chairman PNC Keven Winkelmann

knwink@msn.com

Vice-Chairman PNC Bob Worrell

rworrel23@icloud.com

Past National Historian Bill Towns

docbill@neo.rr.com

Bill Towns, SAL Round Up Volume 5, Number 7, Issue 206, October 15, 2023

How the ALA Junior Patch Program Benefits Our Younger Members

There are several ways American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Juniors and Sons of The American Legion (SAL) youth members can be active participants of The American Legion Family. One route is through the Patch Program. Regardless of residency and whether she/he belongs to a unit or squadron, Junior Auxiliary members and SAL youth members can serve their communities and veterans, and learn about patriotism, health, fitness, and leadership through this program.

There are three levels of patch criteria:

- Red — Level 1: Kindergarten through third grade
- Gold — Level 2: Fourth grade through eighth grade
- Blue — Level 3: Ninth grade through 12th grade (or 18 years old)

Juniors can earn a wide variety of patches through this program.

A special Junior patch has been created for our Junior members and SAL youth to help raise money for the National Presidents' Scholarship Fund. We hope every Junior and SAL youth will be involved in some activity to raise money for scholarships, which are funded by the Educating Children of Warriors Fund.

Any Junior or SAL youth can earn this patch by raising at least \$5 for each year of their age. For example, a 17-year-old would raise a minimum of \$85 ($17 \times \$5 = \85).

Money can be raised in a variety of ways. Juniors and SAL youth can solicit donations from family, friends, Legion Family members, or contribute themselves. They can coordinate fundraising activities such as bake sales. Funds can be raised individually or as a group, but each Junior or SAL youth receiving this patch needs to have raised the required minimum funds for their age. The goal is for the youth of our organization to be involved and aware of the scholarship project. Checks should be made out to *National Treasurer, American Legion Auxiliary with National Presidents' Scholarship* in the memo line.

Here are a few examples of the criteria for patches, depending on the grade level:

Red (kindergarten through third grade)

Americanism: Educate yourself about the rights and responsibilities of an American citizen. Must complete three of eight activities. Required: Learn and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at a meeting or your school.

Activities to choose from include enter the Americanism Essay Contest for your age group, draw the American flag and identify the proper number of stars and stripes, or study the history of Independence Day and tell an adult what it means to you.

Gold (fourth through eighth grade)

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: We assist and enhance the lives of those who have served our country. Must complete six of nine activities. Required: Send eight greeting cards to hospitalized or ill veterans and research three other organizations that help veterans.

Activities to choose from include volunteer to help a veteran or their family with yard work or chores, participate in a stand down for homeless veterans in your community or participate in a special holiday program for veterans through your school, unit, or church.

Blue (ninth through 12th grade)

Education: Educate yourself about the rights and responsibilities of an American citizen. Must complete nine of 12 activities. Required: Tutor another student or adult on an educational topic (reading, math, history, or another subject) for a minimum of five hours, raise \$25 for the National Presidents' Scholarship, and read a minimum of five novels or five non-fiction books during the school year and provide a written log of the books you have read.

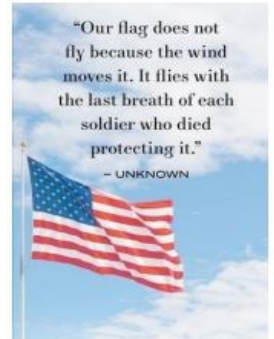
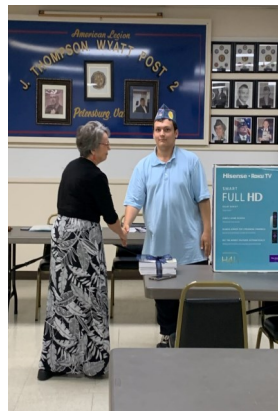
Activities to choose from include work with your teacher(s) to invite a veteran into your classroom, volunteer to help in an after-school reading program or organize a patriotic activity in your community in collaboration with The American Legion Family, mayor, or others.

For additional information about the Junior Patch Program, contact the National Junior Activities Committee at junioractivities@ALAforVeteran or 317-569-4500. *The American Legion Auxiliary Blog—Posted July 30, 2018, SAL Round Up Volume 5, Number 7, Issue 206, October 15, 2023*

Squadron Everlasting

Please keep the families of the following members in your thoughts and prayers— Howard Alexander (5), Dale Angell (148), Theodore Apostolakis (177), John Archdeacon (199), Donald Chenault (284), Floyd Cline (176), James Dawson (327), Alan Foster (146), Alfred Garrett (146), Jay Hall (148), Perry Howard (159), Steven King (146), George Lussier, III (28), Jacob Nicholas (177), George Shipe (53), and Colton Talley (144). If your Squadron has any members who have passed away, please notify our Detachment Adjutant, Joe Gallagher (kchaplin@lexacom.net) and Detachment Chaplin, Robert Wilson, Sr.

(robertwilsonsr54@gmail.com).



Pictures from around the Detachment— First and Second Rows are pictures from 2023 Legion College— Unit 2 and Squadron 2 receiving their Legion College Diplomas; Detachment Commander, Kevin Chaplin assisting in the presentation of Legion College Diplomas; Third Row—Squadron 2 (Petersburg) donates Flat Screen TV's to a local Women's Shelter; Fourth Row—Detachment Vice Commander, Jay Rarick meets with members from Squadron 7 Pulaski; Evan Glendenning of Squadron 327 is presented with the Marvin P Nay award from the 2023 National Convention. Bottom Row—PMCC Chairman, Kevin Chaplin gives is report at Fall NEC and National Convention.

RENEWAL IS THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS
MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

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, Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Vice Commander, Jarrod Vass (Eastern Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Jay Rarick (Western Region), Detachment Vice Commander, Tyler Vanice (Northern Region), or Detachment Adjutant, Joe Gallagher. 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, Kevin Chaplin, NEC, Willie Morgan, Alt NEC, Jeff Lee, or Detachment Adjutant, Joe Gallagher. It is a great honor to serve and represent your Squadron.



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Sons Of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia

"The Focus"

Articles and information contributed by: Detachment Commander Kevin Chaplin, Detachment Adjutant, Joe Gallagher, Detachment Assistant Adjutant, Scott Williams, Detachment Vice Commander, Jay Rarick, SAL National Commander, Don, 'JR' Hall, The American Legion, Bill Towns—SAL Round Up—October 15, 2023, American Legion Auxiliary Blog posted in the SAL Round Up—October 15, 2023.

Photographs provided by: Scott Williams, Detachment Vice Commanders, Tyler Vanice and Jay Rarick, American Legion Post 327, and various other Detachment Members.

Edited By: Scott Williams