



# The Ohio SALUTE

An Official Publication of Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio

[www.ohiolegion.com](http://www.ohiolegion.com)

December 2016 - Volume 20, Issue 4

## A Message from the Detachment Commander



Greetings my fellow SONS!!!

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's hard to believe that 2016 is over. Where has the time gone?? I guess time does fly when you're having fun.

In October, I had the honor and privilege of attending American Legion Department of Ohio Commander Ron Chapman's homecoming. I had a great time and it was great to see all The Legion Family in attendance. The next weekend it was off to American Legion Auxiliary President Denise Conrad's homecoming, which was at the French Quarters in Perrysville. Needless to say we all had a great time!! Then of course the next weekend was my homecoming, which I would like to say a big thank you to everyone that attended. I am truly blessed to have so many friends. I would like to say thanks to Rob Brewer for being my MC that night. He did a great job, as if we had any doubts. Thanks Rob!! A special thanks to my wonderful wife Nikkie. Without her none of it would have been possible!

At our last DEC meeting we were made aware of some staffing changes at Department Headquarters. We learned that Jason Graven will no longer be the SAL Department Liaison. Instead he will oversee media relations and reaching out to the younger veterans in hopes of bringing them into The Legion Family. I would like to thank Jason for his guidance and support of the SAL, and I am sure that he will do a great job at his position. Our new Department Liaison is now Brenda McGowan. Brenda as worked at Department Headquarters for some time now and we look forward to working with Brenda and moving the Detachment forward in the coming years.

Our Mid-Winter Conference is right around the corner, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Conference. As a reminder, we are now at the Crown Plaza North and we will be there the same time as the Legion and the Auxiliary, so if you plan on staying the weekend, I hope you have called the hotel for a room.

God, bless you all and God bless this country!!

*Dan Finnell, Detachment Commander*  
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# SALute The Ohio

December 2016 - Volume 20, Issue 4

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## First Vice-Commander



Hello everyone!

Another busy quarter has had me running around the state. I began with Dan Finnell's Homecoming and winning the Brown Jug, followed by visiting the District 14 Convention, District 5 Golf Outing, Annual Gun Raffle in Willington, and making

stops at several posts with "0" memberships out there.

Don't forget to send in your memberships! 45% was due on December 14.

Have a safe Holiday Season!

For God & Country,  
Evan Mahlman, First Vice-Commander  
(419) 966-1212  
[SAL1stVice@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SAL1stVice@OhioLegion.com)  
[mbsb2014@bright.net](mailto:mbsb2014@bright.net)

## Second Vice-Commander



Dear Fellow SAL. Members,

The Elections are now past us. Maybe your preferred candidate won or maybe lost, but in our nation, a nation built on laws, come January we will have a peaceful transfer of power, unlike so many other countries. We should all take a moment to Thank a Veteran for that.

As for myself, recently I have visited District, 2 on October 2 and District 3 October 9, after attending the NEC in Indianapolis, Indiana. Then I visited District 14 on October 30, and of course we all had a great time at Commander Dan's Homecoming on November 5.

In the coming weeks, I will be visiting District 4 on Sunday December 11 and will be at my home Post on December 18, as I once again will put on the white beard and red coat to help out Santa.

Ticket sales for our annual raffle are going SLOW. Please remember ALL profits go to Child Welfare, and Mr. & Mrs. Claus say they would make great Christmas gifts and or stocking stuffers.

In Closing, my wife and I want to wish each and every one of you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Dale Anderson, II, Second Vice-Commander  
6780 Sherwood Trail  
North Royalton, Ohio 44133  
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## Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio

☆☆☆ **RAFFLE** ☆☆☆

Drawing to be held  
at the Detachment Convention

**Sunday  
May 21, 2017**

1st Prize - \$1,000.00 in Ohio Lottery Instant Tickets

2nd Prize - \$500.00 in Ohio Lottery Instant Tickets

3rd - 7th Prize - \$100.00 in Ohio Lottery Instant Tickets

**Ticket Donation  
1 for \$5.00 or 6 for \$25.00**

Checks should be made payable and mailed to:

Dale Anderson, II  
6780 Sherwood Trail  
North Royalton, Ohio 44133

Winner Need Not Be Present

Almighty God, Whose great power and eternal Wisdom embraces the universe, watch over all policemen and law enforcement officers everywhere. Protect them from harm in the performance of their duty to stop crime, robbery, riots and violence. We pray that you help them keep our streets and homes safe, day and night. We commend them to your loving care because their duty is dangerous. Grant them strength and courage in their daily assignments. God, keep your hand of protection upon them. Grant them your almighty protection and unite them safely with their families after duty has ended. Please God, grant us this wish. Amen.

Respectfully,

Bernie Kessler, Chaplain

[SALChaplain@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALChaplain@OhioLegion.com)

[kesslerbernie@gmail.com](mailto:kesslerbernie@gmail.com)

## NEW STANDARD DETACHMENT EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio now have several general email addresses available to reach your Detachment representatives. These addresses will be passed from one office holder to the next so you can always get in touch with the current person. The addresses are listed below:

- [SALCommander@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALCommander@OhioLegion.com)
- [SAL1stVice@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SAL1stVice@OhioLegion.com)
- [SAL2ndVice@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SAL2ndVice@OhioLegion.com)
- [SALChaplain@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALChaplain@OhioLegion.com)
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- [SALANEC@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALANEC@OhioLegion.com)
- [SALAdjutant@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALAdjutant@OhioLegion.com)
- [SALJudgeAdvocate@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALJudgeAdvocate@OhioLegion.com)
- [SALHistorian@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALHistorian@OhioLegion.com)  
(for photos and newspaper clippings)
- [SALNews@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALNews@OhioLegion.com)  
(for submissions to *The OhioSALute*)

## Chaplain's Corner



As we begin the new year, my wish for you comes from something I saw online, "Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God."

I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas season filled with love, laughter and happy remembrances of those who are no longer with us. I trust that you all said a prayer for those away from loved ones, whether for military service or illness, and also for the homeless that they are able to find support and adequate shelter.

Please keep law enforcement and first responders in your prayers and pray for a decline to zero the number of those attacked in the line of duty.

Some of you have asked for a copy of the prayer for law enforcement I use. It comes from research of a few different prayers.

*Law Enforcement Prayer*



## Adjutant's Notes



**2017 Mid-Winter Conference.** The **Mid-Winter Detachment Executive Committee** meeting will convene at 8:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North – Worthington Hotel, 6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus, OH 43229 on Friday, January 20, 2017. All elected and appointed Detachment

Officers, Commission and Committee Chairmen, District Commanders and District First Vice Commanders are required to attend. Dress is Legion-casual except for Detachment Officers. Our guests this weekend will be Mike Lawler (WI), National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, and Danny Smith (NE), Leading Candidate for National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion.

The **Detachment Mid-Winter Conference** will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to hear the reports of all our state commission and committee chairmen directly and ask questions about the programs they are leading. Dress is coat and tie for everyone, please.

**REMINDER:** Housing reservations for the Mid-Winter Conference must be made by calling the hotel directly at (614) 885-1885, option 2, and asking for the "American Legion Conference" rate. *Do not go through Department S.A.L. Liaison Brenda McGowan for this one.* The deadline to call is Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, but I strongly advise you not to wait that long. The hotel fills up quickly for that weekend and many members will not be able to get in to the Legion's room block. Call early!

**2017-2018 Commission / Committee Appointments.** Anyone interested in being considered for an appointment to serve on one of the Detachment or National Commissions or Committees must fill out the appropriate recommendation form (available from the Detachment website, <http://www.ohiolegion.com>). Click on the "Forms" link at the top of the page, then scroll down the page to the SAL section in the middle. Send your completed form(s) to Ohio's NEC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin at [SALNEC@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALNEC@OhioLegion.com) before January 6 to be considered.

The Past Detachment Commanders Club will be hosting their annual Reverse Raffle at Post 532 in Columbus at 5:30 PM on Saturday after the Mid-Winter Conference.

Tickets are \$10.00 each. Please contact any of the PDCs if you would like to buy some. Winners do not need to be present to claim their prize, but it is a good event to attend.

Please keep our men and women in uniform in your prayers during this holiday season. On behalf of the Detachment of Ohio, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For God and Country,

Scott J. Thornton, Adjutant  
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[SALAdjutant@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALAdjutant@OhioLegion.com)  
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## Judge Advocate



What Should You Do, When Should You Do It, How Do You Know, Who Do You Ask?

When a question or conflict arises do you settle it by asking the oldest guy in the room? He's been around the longest. Do you go with the loudest guy in the room? He seems confident. I know ask the Commander or Adjutant, after all they keep getting reelected.

What if you still disagree? There are many ways to get an answer, but there is only one way which is correct and binding, Your Squadron Constitution and Bylaws!

Constitution and Bylaws are two separate documents that are often confused as words that denote the same document, when strictly speaking; there is a difference between them as they have different meanings. The Constitution is the main document of an organization that determines the fundamental aspects of the said organization. The Bylaws determine the detailed guidelines of the organization. This section consists of matters such as duties of officers, duties of advisor, committees, impeachment, elections, finance, and amendments.

It is important to know that the constitution describes the organization and the bylaws govern the day to day functions of the organizations. This is the main difference between the two words, namely, constitution and bylaws.

see *TOWNS page 5*

TOWNS continued from page 4

That is why every squadron should have on hand a copy of their unique squadron's constitution and bylaws and have them updated on a regular basis to keep them from being in conflict with the Detachment and National Constitution and Bylaws of The Sons of The American Legion.

Before questions arise concerning your Squadron or District always consult your commander, adjutant, and advisor for your Constitution and Bylaws. If a copy cannot be found please check to see if a copy has been recorded at Detachment Headquarters. If no file copy can be found I recommend appointing a committee and downloading the suggested constitution and bylaws format from the national website <https://www.legion.org/sons/files/handbook16.pdf>, starting on page 36 and have the appointed committee develop them.

With no official constitution and bylaws to go by as a guide you can also refer to your sponsoring Post / District Constitution as a guide until one is voted on and accepted by your membership.

PDC Bill Towns, Judge Advocate  
[SALJudgeAdvocate@OhioLegion.com](mailto:SALJudgeAdvocate@OhioLegion.com)  
[docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:docbill@neo.rr.com)

## Buckeye Boys State



The Buckeye Boys State Officials visited Miami University on October 8, 2016. They were met by University, County, and State

officials to tour the campus. As you have probably heard by now, Buckeye Boys State has moved from Bowling Green State University to Miami University. They were very impressed with the visit and a 5-year contract was signed.

Preparations are under way for the move so that everything will be ready for June when the young men show up for their 8-day stay. The information for the schools and American Legion Posts and SAL Squadrons is going to be sent out very soon. As soon as they receive the information, things will start moving for Posts and Squadrons to pick their selections for the 2017 edition of Buckeye Boys State.

If there are any Squadrons out there that wish to sponsor a young man to Buckeye Boys State, contact your Legionnaires.

Tim Conway, Chairman  
Buckeye Boys State  
(419) 276-6422  
[truckertim622001@yahoo.com](mailto:truckertim622001@yahoo.com)

## Child Welfare Foundation



I recently had the opportunity to attend the American Legion's Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis. Here's a brief recap.

It began, as most conferences do, with welcomes from distinguished guests and included reports from both the American Legion Auxiliary and the SAL on C&Y donations and project hours. The totals were large, and probably even larger considering that both speakers mentioned the lack of Consolidated Squadron Reports turned in nationwide.

Resolutions training took place in the morning. This gave the attendees information on why and how we submit Resolutions to Detachment and National. There is plenty of good information on [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) for anyone considering a submission.

Angels and Doves of Indianapolis presented on anti-bullying. Their program goes into our K-12 schools and teaches students how to help other students handle bullying. This results in more of a peer-to-peer solution instead of an adult-based program and is much more successful at finding at-risk kids that could be afraid to go to school and/or even contemplating suicide.

The Family Support Network seeks to make sure that military families do not shoulder the burden of service alone. In these changing times within our military it's not unusual for Guard and Reserve units to be paired with active-duty units. These Guard and Reserve units don't always have the support network in place that many of our active-duty units have available. It's important we support all of our military when we can.

Don Whitehead, a Task Force Officer with the FBI, reported on Internet Crimes Against Children. It was, at times, graphic and very disturbing. The ability that bad people have, to do bad things, to good people, is frightening.

see CWF page 6

CWF continued from page 5

I'm both sorry that we live in a world that has a task force for this, and glad that we do and that they are able to get some of these bad people off the streets. It was definitely a hard hitting presentation, but then, that's probably what he intended.

The American Legion Education and Scholarship Programs covered the Legacy Scholarship Fund which has expanded its eligibility, this year; to include the children of veteran's who have a 50% or greater disability, as determined by the VA. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship, once again, awarded 10 \$20,000 scholarships. Both of these programs have moved to online applications with the result being more applications and more completed applications. Information provided by the applicants is also easier to verify through this process.

Finally, there was two presentations by 2016 CWF recipients.

Our Military Kids provides grants to children of deployed and wounded service members. The grants pay for participation in extracurricular activities and tutoring programs that nurture and sustain the children while a parent is serving or recovering from injuries.

The National Children's Cancer Society has received 4 CWF grants dating back to 2004. They provide emotional, financial, and educational support to children with cancer, their families and survivors. Since 1987 they have helped over 38,000 children and their families with over 62 million dollars in distributions.

If anyone is interested in these presentations, the power points they used are available on Legion.org, under Children & Youth, at the bottom of the page, under Conference Presentations. Unfortunately, the FBI presentation on Internet Crimes Against Children is not available.

On the CWF front, as of Thanksgiving, Ohio is in 7<sup>th</sup> place nationally, with a total donation of just over \$10,400. Arizona looks to be keeping pace with their stated goal of donating over \$100,000 so we might be looking at a second place finish this year.

I look forward to getting some of those CWF banks back from you at Mid-winter. I can also pass out a few more for you to fill before Convention. I'll have plenty of CWF shirts and merchandise to sell. And don't forget the PDC's Reverse Raffle.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cary Kuhl, Chairman  
(440) 839-2487  
[cary.kuhl@gmail.com](mailto:cary.kuhl@gmail.com)



Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Ohio  
POW/MIA Raffle  
Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Henry  
Golden Boy Engraved Rifle .22cal  
(#193 of 1000)

Proceeds from the raffle will go to erecting POW/MIA Empty Chair  
Memorials at Sporting Venues around the Detachment of Ohio.  
Tickets are a donation of \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00  
Drawing will be held in May 21, 2017 at the Ohio Detachment Convention.



For tickets please contact the Detachment POW/MIA Chairman:  
PDC Jon W. Coakley II  
[BigBuckeyeJC@aol.com](mailto:BigBuckeyeJC@aol.com) Cell # (614) 804-2184



Lest We Never Forget!

## Special Olympics

### A Message from the Department Chairman



I have been Special Olympics Chairman for the Department of Ohio for the last 13 years, and now it's time to retire. I'm 81 years old and it's time to pass the baton to someone younger. As a dual member, I am also retiring as the Great First District SAL Advisor. My last day will be the first day of The American Legion Convention in 2017.

see MESSAGE page 7

MESSAGE continued from page 6

For the last 63 years, I have been a member of our great organization, and a very proud to be a member of the SAL for the last 30 years. I have been throughout this great country, and we have the greatest SAL members from Ohio throughout this land. For me, this has been one of the greatest rides of my life, and I want to thank everyone for their friendship!

I still have a year yet to go, so let's all finish the jobs we started.

THANK YOU ALL!

Bob Mendoza, Chairman  
Special Olympics

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation



### Cleveland Fisher House.

The Greater Cleveland Fisher House (GCFH) is announcing that the GCFH capital campaign has reached its fundraising goal of \$3 million as of July 15. The targeted time window for groundbreaking is late 2016 with a build window of 10 – 11 months. The formal GCFH capital campaign will wind down by the end of this year and then transition from a capital campaign task force to The Friends of the Cleveland Fisher Houses committee. Funds donated going forward will be used to purchase deep-discounted airlines tickets for Fisher House families traveling to and from Cleveland (done through the Fisher House Hero Miles program). Funds will also be used to obtain “entertainment values” for the families. Finally, funds will be used to assist Fisher House families with children who may educational scholarship needs. Greater Cleveland Fisher House will now actually be two homes with 12 – 14 suites and will accommodate up to 50 family members. The houses will be built adjacent to the grounds of The Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in University Circle, Cleveland.

**Sandusky OVH.** The Fifth District is raising money to purchase 1 or 2 pinball machines to donate.

They always need volunteers and do have a wish list you can donate too.

If you want to donate call Kim Lewallen at 419-625-2454 X1216. Squadron 733 continues to donate peanuts to the rec center.

**Operation Comfort Warriors.** The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

The American Legion contacts officials at military hospitals, warrior transition units, and surrounding communities, and obtains lists to determine which items are needed by wounded, injured or ill service members. Once a need is identified, the items are ordered by the Legion and delivered in an expeditious manner. It's as simple as that. No red tape.

For God and Country,

Robert Showalter, VA&R North Chairman  
[roshow2850@yahoo.com](mailto:roshow2850@yahoo.com)  
(419) 307-1259

Hello from VA&R South!

For nearly 95-years, The American Legion has been the leading advocate for proper healthcare. The American Legion has been behind the VA since 1930; in 1989 it became Department of Veterans Affairs. The American Legion has brought in \$255 million to veterans in Ohio.

The American Legion has 7 offices throughout the state. A lot of veterans pushed aside their job and education for military service. Some veterans that returned home have physical and personal problems.

One of those problems is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. There are 3 types: 1) flashbacks, 2) nightmares, and 3) being around people. Some return to normal others do not. Others suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury, or TBI, mostly caused by concussions and headaches.

Don't forget the Gifts For Yanks this program in the state of Ohio. It was started in 1952 giving to hospitalized veterans. On November 5, the Chillicothe VA had a parade and program honoring all veterans. The veterans that were able came outside to watch, others watched from inside. The parade gets bigger every year.

Gerald Palmer, VA&R South Chairman  
[gerpalm60@gmail.com](mailto:gerpalm60@gmail.com)

see VA&R page 8

National Commander Jeff Frain has emphasized that VA&R is one of the key programs for the SAL. So many programs to support in VA & R area. What are you doing to promote programs for veterans? There are many things you can do. There are four VA medical centers in the state. If you live near one of them, go register to be a volunteer. If you live near Cleveland, how about helping by becoming the SAL Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) representative. The VAVS representative is the voice of the SAL on the voluntary service committee. We need to do our part to make sure we are represented. See the paragraph below from the NEC meeting.

Doug Murphy VA&R Vice Chair reviewed VAVS statistics with the group. As of June 30, there were 66 Reps. and on September 30, an estimated 68 Reps. He said that there were 48 Facilities as of June 30 and an estimated 50 as of September 30. There were 195 regularly scheduled volunteers and an estimated 203 regularly scheduled volunteers as of September 30. The total hours volunteered were 15,653 as of June 30 and an estimated 18,847 as of September 30. Mr. Murphy discussed the duties of Reps. and Deps.

Volunteers should work one day per week and need to attend quarterly meetings. Regular Volunteers and Occasional volunteers are needed. This is the primary area of need at this time.

There are other programs to support veterans. Remember this one for our returning vets. Operation Comfort Warrior helps veterans with procuring needed items they can't get elsewhere or can't afford.

Fisher House – I recently spoke with Chris Stanley. He is the Executive Director of the Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc. He reported that the Cleveland location is still in the planning stages and will serve more than the VA facility there. It will also serve veteran families at other medical facilities in and around Cleveland. The new Fisher House at the Dayton VAMC is tentatively scheduled for groundbreaking in April 2017. We as the SAL should find ways to support the Fisher House organization.

Let's not forget those who may have been lost in the shuffle years ago. The Missing In America Project is still strongly supported by Sons of The American Legion. Eligible Veterans and their wives can be buried in National Cemeteries. They also are entitled to a headstone wherever they are buried. They need to get the remains off of the shelves and buried with honors. MI-

AP.US is the website for the Missing In America project. In Ohio we need to contact Steve Ebersole as our contact for the MIAP.

PNVC, PDC Dan Sagraves, VA&R Commission Chair  
[dansagraves@twc.com](mailto:dansagraves@twc.com)

## From the Editor



Gentlemen,

One of my favorite things that I do for our organizations is this newsletter. It is a way for me to stay involved and to promote this great organization. It is also one of the most frustrating things I do for our organization, in that we don't always get enough information, or information/articles are not sent in on time.

At last year's Mid-Winter Conference, there was discussion on the future of *The Ohio SALute*, and whether we would continue to have a newsletter. I feel it is very important that this publication continue, because members from all over the world can go to our website and see what Ohio Sons are doing.

We have one more edition after this one, with a deadline of **FEBRUARY 28, 2017**. It will also be the last edition before the Annual Convention. Please get your information in as soon as possible. We can list candidates for offices if we have the bio and picture of the candidate. We can also have pics from Mid-Winter and the PDCC Raffle. But I cannot run these types of stories if things are not submitted in a timely manner.

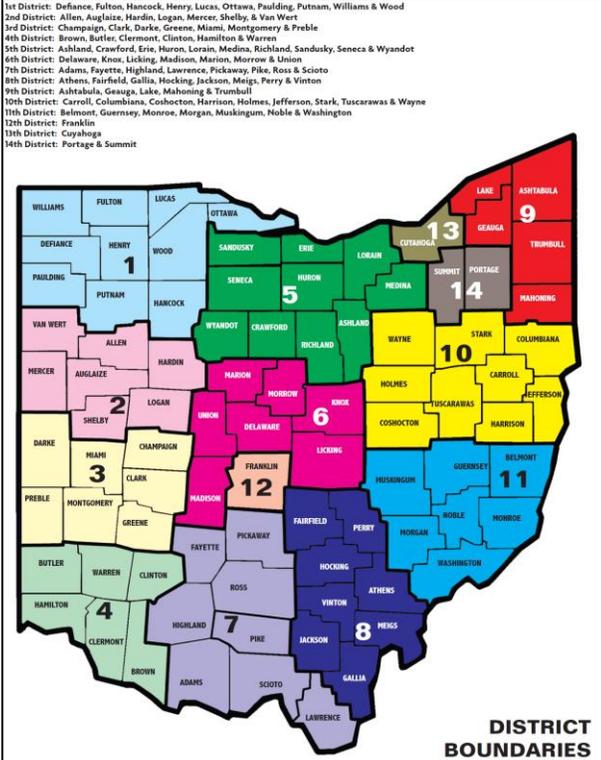
I guess we can say that the future of our publication could be riding on this.

As a reminder, when submitting information via email, please send in Word format. If I need something in a different format, I will contact you. Photos should be submitted in jpeg format in the highest resolution possible.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor  
*The Ohio SALute*  
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# STATE ROUND-UP



## Fifth District

The annual Gold Star Mothers Memorial Ceremony was held at the Mohican State Park Memorial Shrine in Loudonville, Ohio on Sunday, September 25, 2016. District 5, Squadron 257 members helped with the set-up and take down of tables and chairs for the event.



(l. to r.) Brad Swires, Gary Boden and PDC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin.

## Third District

In September the 3<sup>rd</sup> District American Legion and Sons of The American Legion joined to sponsor a poker run for the benefit of the Children's Miracle Network. The event began and ended at Post #586 in Tipp City. While the rain cut the ride short, the event was still a success and raised \$1,200 for CMN. The group also donated 21 Josh Dogs from a previous fundraiser.

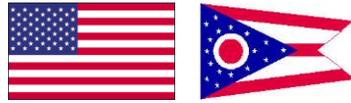


Making the presentation to Dayton Children's Hospital were left to right, Past Commander Dennis Dickey (353), American Legion 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander Bob Weiler (707), Kristy Brown from Dayton Children's, SAL 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander Dan Sagraves (200), and SAL 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice-Commander Dan Ferryman (746).



(l. to r.) Gold Star Mother President Rebecca Frank and Gold Star Mother Lisa Hedrick place the wreath at the flag pole in front of the Shrine.

**The Ohio SALute**  
 Next Deadline: February 28, 2017



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 in the Life of a Child**

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 that difference!**

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