

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF



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Detachment Convention Screening Committee PDC Dan Segraves, Chairman

The 2024 Detachment Convention will be held in Findlay, May 17-19, sponsored by District 1 and Squadron 3 of Findlay. The 2025 convention will be held in Chillicothe. We are currently accepting applications for the 2026 convention.

We have been asked by the Department of Ohio to again consider combining our convention with theirs. That would move ours from mid-May to late-June / early-July. I have asked this year through articles in the *Ohio SALute* for your opinion on this matter. I have had very few responses. From what I did receive and meeting with Department Adjutant JD Robinson, these are some of the thoughts.

Those in favor of the combined meeting mention only scheduling one event a year, saving resources for those that go to both. The ability to negotiate lower rates based on attenders. Possibly bringing more members traveling with families.

Some of those against mention the fact that we currently go to different locations and bring the detachment to the local areas where the combined meeting would be limited to five locations on a rotation. The lack of available rooms. The SAL being treated as "second class" attendees in reference to room availability and meeting space.

Miscellaneous comments include, schedules would need to be modified for both groups. The SAL must finish before The American Legion due to needing to ratify SAL business. SAL would probably need to change from three to two days. The SAL DEC yearly meeting schedule would need to change. Is The American Legion willing to change to an earlier schedule to accommodate the change? Attendance at all three conventions has seen a downward trend. Would this possibly help to increase attendance?

If we keep with the current system, we need to see more bids from other locations in the state.

I am asking all to be ready to decide at the convention in Findlay.

Note: Regardless of the body's vote, we will still decide on the location for a Detachment-only convention in 2026 because the Legion has already locked in their contract for that year. If the vote is in favor of combining the conventions, the first joint event would not be until 2027.