

The Ohio SALute



April 2023 | Volume 27, Issue 4 | www.ohiolegion.com

From the Commander

Good day American Legion Family Members!

On Saturday, February 25 through until Wednesday, March 1, PNVC Jeff Vrabel Sr, PDC Bill Towns, PDC Bernie Kessler, and I represented the Detachment of Ohio at The American Legion Washington Conference. It was nice to see the monuments again; the last time seeing them in person for me was 1989. We made a trip to Capitol Hill on Tuesday February 28 to speak with the staff from the offices of Brand Wenstrup and Marcy Kaptur. PNVC Jeff Vrabel Sr. and I attended the Homecoming for National Commander Chris Carlton in Indianapolis, Indiana March 24, & 25.

Speaking of April, guess what is approaching. The deadline for all paperwork to be submitted by May 1. Gentlemen, get those Officer Certification Forms, Squadron Data Reports, and Consolidated Squadron Reports filled out and submitted as quickly as possible. Just giving you a friendly reminder before we start sending out emails and making phone calls asking you why those forms are yet to be submitted.

From May 5 to May 7 your detachment officers will be in Indianapolis for Spring National Executive Committee meetings. Then we get ready for our Detachment Convention in Marietta May 19 – May 21. I want to wish all the candidates the best of luck for the offices for which they are running and for a successful year.

Thank you to everyone for the exceptional work this year and looking forward to seeing you all in Marietta.

April is here, so please get your invitations in for Installation of newly elected District Officers. April 22 is rapidly approaching, and I would like the best of luck to PNVC Jeff Vrabel Sr. with first ever Central Region Extravaganza that will be a great success.



US POSTAGE



The Ohio SALute

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The Ohio SALute



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Dennis Albright, Commander
Dave Dilts, First Vice-Commander
Tim Conway, Second Vice-Commander
Jeff Vrabel, Jr., Chaplain
Scott Thornton, Adjutant
Gary Lang, National Executive Committeeman
Jon Coakley, II, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
Doug Hancock, Immediate Past Commander

PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor



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SUBMITTING ARTICLES: All submissions are to be made electronically to salnews@ohiolegion.com. If you need assistance, please send an email to same. All articles must be submitted in accordance with the following schedule:

SUMMER EDITION for July, August, September due no later than June 14

FALL EDITION for October, November, December due no later than September 11

WINTER EDITION for January, February, March due no later than December 7

SPRING EDITION for April, May, June due no later than March 17



BE THE ONE

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dave Dilts, First Vice-Commander

davidleedilts@hotmail.com

(740) 319-1255 C | (740) 455-2187 H

Hello fellow Sons,

WOW, the year is going fast. Although our year is coming to an end in a few months, we still need to work on membership. We are doing well in the Central Region, but there is always room for improvement.

I want to thank the Detachment for all their hard work making us look good. I would also like to thank the 4th District for inviting Susan and I to their Blue Jug party. I was honored to participate in the ceremony.

I am looking forward to seeing and talking to everyone at the Marietta convention.



RENEW ONLINE TODAY

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Tim Conway, Second Vice-Commander

truckertim622001@yahoo.com

I once again would like to thank everyone who helped sell tickets for my first raffle. I also want to thank all those that purchased tickets. The raffle was very successful.

Our next raffle will be a super 50/50. All tickets are \$5.00 per ticket. Please see your District Commander for tickets. I have mailed tickets to all of the District Commanders. The drawing will be held on Saturday May 20th at our Convention.

I hope to see everyone in May at Convention.

NAME _____	Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio Super 50/50 Raffle to be held on Saturday during the Annual Convention of the Sons of The American Legion in Marietta, Ohio Tickets \$5 donation Winner need not be present. Proceeds to benefit SAL donations.
PHONE _____	

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Jeff Vrabel, Jr., Chaplain
jeffvrabeljr@gmail.com

Greetings fellow Sons!

I was pleased to be invited to speak at the Fifth District Conference on March 12. One thing I announced at the meeting was that even though I am your Chaplain, please pray for me as I have recently been appointed as Chaplain for the New Middletown and Campbell Police Departments. Please keep WWII Veteran and Former President Jimmy Carter and his family in your prayers, as he was admitted under hospice care. This, however, doesn't mean that death is imminent. Sometimes you go under hospice care, it is just simply to be comfortable and not treat anything else. I personally have taken care of patients that have been on hospice for close to two years.

I have stressed locally to put WWII Veterans at the forefront. I recently watched a video narrated by a WWII Veteran. He stated "We are members of the Greatest Generation. We are taking the final curtain call of our life..." How fitting is this? They are dwindling at fast rates, and in the next few years they may be all gone. Visit them in residential care facilities, bring as many of them as possible to Post/Squadron events, and most importantly, document their stories. Soon, there will be no first-hand stories.

As always, reach out for any needs at all.

For God and Country.

Scott Thornton, Adjutant

scottj.thornton@gmail.com

Squadron and District Officer Elections. Welcome to Spring and election season for the Sons of The American Legion! It's time to be thinking about who will lead your squadrons, districts, and the detachment for the year 2023-2024. Please remember that your new squadron and district officers are required to be elected and certified to Detachment Headquarters by May 1. Links for the combined squadron and district certification form (PDF, XLS and online) are available from the "SAL Forms" section of the SAL page on the department website, <https://www.ohiole-gion.com/sal/>.

New district officers should use the "[2022 EMBLEM SALES ORDER FORM](#)" link in the Membership area on the Forms page to order their new uniform cap and name tag.

Squadron officers may order their own caps and name tags from Emblem Sales at National Headquarters directly.

Consolidated Squadron Reports. Along with the 2024 Officer Certification Forms, your squadron must complete a 2023 Consolidated Squadron Report Form. This is the form you need to use to document all your activities, programs, donations, etc. for the 2022-2023 administrative year. Please take a few minutes to tally your hours and the monies involved in support of Sons of The American Legion programs.

District Adjutants should also file a report for their district's activities independent of the squadrons in their boundaries.

The Microsoft Excel version of the report is available from the SAL page on the department website to help you get everything right. Enter your data in the yellow fields on the "Details" sheet to have the report form filled in automatically. Just print three (3) copies of the completed report once you're finished.

Please note that National is no longer printing paper reports. They are encouraging everyone to use a fillable PDF file or the squadron's mySAL portal.

Whichever way you choose to create the report, you need to file two (2) paper forms with the department as your official, submitted copies.

Not every squadron or district will have information for every item, so just report what you have done, whether it's a little or a lot. At a minimum, fill in the squadron summary details at the top and send it to HQ.

Please note: Prior Year and Current Year do not mean 2022 and 2023! We want your paid membership counts for last year (final) and this year (to date). This matters for determining per capita-based convention awards.

The form calls for using the period from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. Note that if your squadron wishes to be considered for the 2023 Commander's Program Award, your report and all donations must be received at Detachment HQ by May 1.

Annual Squadron Data Report. Along with the two Ohio forms mentioned above, it is also time to submit your Annual Squadron Data Report. This form updates your key Squadron addresses, phone numbers, websites, meeting times, etc., and the dues rates you charge your regular, dual, and junior members. This form is also available from the SAL page on the department website. This needs to be

done annually for the yearly changeover of the membership database at national.

Annual Report Forms Submission Instructions. In order to ensure proper handling of your annual reporting forms, please send them to the department headquarters membership division at membership@ohiolegion.com and cc: me at saladjutant@ohiolegion.com. Together we will ensure that they are recorded in the detachment's records and forwarded to national headquarters as required.

NOTE: Squadrons will not receive their 2024 membership cards until the 2024 Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR), the 2024 Squadron Officer Certification Form (OCF), and the 2023 Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) have been submitted to Department Headquarters. ALL 3 forms are due by May 1!

2023 Detachment Convention – May 19-21. The call and related files for the 59th Annual Detachment Convention have been published on the website – see the [Detachment Convention](#) page under the Events link. We will be at the Wyndham Marietta Conference Center (formerly the Quality Inn) hosted by Squadron 389 and District 11.

ATTENDEE REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT DETACHMENT HEADQUARTERS BY FRIDAY, MAY 5! This is not a post-mark date. No registrations will be accepted after that except to register guests.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL BY FRIDAY, MAY 5! Call the number listed on our website / in the call to get the agreed room rates. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anyone wishing to be selected as a delegate to the National Convention in Charlotte, NC should be in attendance at the Detachment Convention. District Commanders should prepare their delegate lists in the order they wish to nominate their members.

2025 Detachment Convention Bids. We will be reviewing bids to host the 2025 convention at this year's Detachment Convention in May. Please submit all bid packages to either Convention Screening Chairman Bill "Buster" Sutterlin or me before the opening session on Friday night. Contact either one of us if you need a copy of the bidding guidelines and documents.

See you all in Marietta!

Individual SAL Online Membership Renewal is Here! Finally, and it's been a long time coming, but individual SAL

members can now renew their membership online at <https://legion.org/sal-renew>. You will be charged the current dues rates at the time, including national, Ohio, and your local squadron per capita. Payment is by credit card. You have the option of setting up an automatic renewal as well, if you wish.

Remember earlier when I wrote about the need to submit your Annual Squadron Data Report every year? Well, that's how national knows how much to charge for the squadron dues for the online renewals. If your rate(s) change then they might not collect the right amount and you'll be left having to chase your members for any difference.

One of the big benefits of renewing online is that your membership is paid-up as soon as the transaction posts. If you didn't realize it, until your dues payment is deposited by national headquarters you are considered not paid. If you pay your local squadron and they don't send it to detachment headquarters and on to Indianapolis in a timely manner, you may have a new membership card in your hand, but it really doesn't count. Another reason why we're always saying, "Don't sit on membership (at the squadron)."

Bill Towns, Judge Advocate

docbill@neo.rr.com

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Assistant Judge Advocate

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

Gary Lang, National Executive Committeeman

salnec@ohiolegion.com | glang3263@roadrunner.com

Greetings Everyone,

It was good to see many of you at the Midwinter Conference as I believe it was a real productive meeting.

We nominated eight members for National Commissions and Committees: Jon Coakley for CWF, Jeff Vrabel, Sr for Century, Jeff Vrabel, Jr. for Century, Bill "Buster" Sutterlin for VA&R, Dennis Albright for Century, Bill Towns for Century, Scott Thornton for National Adjutant, Bernie Kessler for Legislative. If appointed to these positions, I'm confident they will all do an excellent job.

As of this writing, the Detachment of Ohio is 13th out of 52 Detachments in the Nation. As of this writing, we are 1st place in the Central region with 88.75%--Way to go OHIO! Let's keep sending those dues in, I know we can make 100% by our National Convention in August with this continued effort.

Its election time for your Squadrons, we need to have your officer's certification and along with your consolidated report forms turned in before the due date of May 1. Our National Commander Chris Carlton from Indiana and our National leading candidate JR Hall from Maryland are currently scheduled to be at our State Convention in May in Marietta. I would like to see us be 100% by the time they arrive. It's a very reachable goal.

Regarding, our state convention it is nearing May 19-21 in Marietta, Ohio, the hotel is starting to fill up. More information will be coming out shortly on an overflow hotel. Please refer to Bill Towns email for updates on this information. Let's not forget the Sternwheel boat ride, currently it is half full, which reservations are due by May 1. Registration for this can be found on the Legion website.

The overflow hotel for the convention is:

Baymont by Wyndham
701 Pike Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750
(740) 374-9660

Rate \$67.61
Code Sons of American Legion

As membership is falling nationwide in the SAL and Legion, when's the last time you signed up a new member, not only SAL, but remember that we are an American Legion family; you can also sign up Legion and Auxiliary members. The more that you sign the up, the bigger our family can grow.

As we have had some pretty bad storms and train derailments, let's please not forget to continue to do our buddy checks. It does not hurt to check on your neighbor, friends, and relatives.

Let's not forget our National Commanders project "Be the One" campaign.

Jon Coakley, II
Alternate National Executive Committeeman
salanec@ohiolegion.com | bigbuckeyejc@aol.com

Hello Fellow Sons,

As NEC Lang said, it was great seeing everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus. The new hotel was a nice improvement over years past. I'm also looking forward to seeing you all in Marietta for our Detachment Convention in

May. It's great to see, once again, a contested race for Detachment Chaplain. Best of luck to both candidates!

I don't want to report on our committees and commissions because that's what our chairman's do. As I said before, I don't want to step on anyone's toes. Our chairman work too hard to prepare their reports so.... But, with spring fast approaching, now is the time you reach out to the veterans or elderly people in your communities to see if there is anything you can lend a hand with. It might even be to just sit a while and talk. Please do your buddy checks. You don't know what some people are going through and that few minutes might just make the difference. As our National Commander says, "Be the One!"

Soon NEC Lang, your Detachment officers, and I will be attending the Spring NEC Meetings in Indianapolis. We're looking forward to gaining new and useful information to share with you all at Detachment Convention. As I said earlier, can't wait to see you all in Marietta!

For God and Country.

Matthew Baxter, Historian
mbaxter_ohio_sal_historian@yahoo.com

Doug Hancock, Immediate Past Commander
douglash21@aol.com



District 1
Jake Wisnewski, Commander
wisnewskijacob@gmail.com

District 2
Randy Matthews, Commander
load529@yahoo.com

The Second District is trying to get everyone to quota. We still have some work to do, but we are getting close. All zero squadrons are gone, and we finally have all of our paperwork cleared.

The next district conference will be held April 2, 2023 in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Our guest speaker will be Detachment Commander Dennis Albright.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Detachment Convention!

District 3

Troy Davis, Commander
tldtms51300@msn.com

District 4

Mark Haeufle, Commander
haeufle77@gmail.com

Sons assist Kentucky flood victims

Ron Wissman, Detachment of Ohio

SAL Squadron 138 Hamilton, Ohio mission was to collect donations and money for the aftermath of the floods that devastated Southeastern Kentucky. They contacted Douglas Day American Legion Post 152 in Whitesburg, KY. to see how they could help the Post that was helping Legion members and residences of Whitesburg.



Squadron 138 members presenting a check to American Legion Post 152 in Whitesburg, KY in the amount of \$3,000 for the aftermath from the floods.

They raised \$3,000 for Legion Post 152 to help their Post members were in need. They also took over \$2,000 worth of cleaning supplies and stayed all weekend, helping Legion members clean up their homes. Post 152 also has an SAL Squadron and an Auxiliary, with a Military Cemetery beside the Post

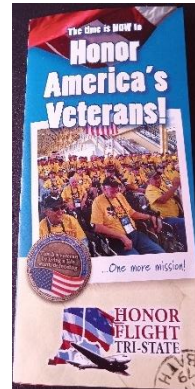


Squadron 138 members Sgt.-at -Arms Chad Huff, 1st Vice Darrel Vaughn, Commander Lee Calihan, Adjutant Clay Calihan, and Dave Calihan.

Squadron 69 hosts Honor Flight event

Ron Wissman, Detachment of Ohio

Squadron 69 Reading hosted an informational luncheon and registration meeting for veterans Honor Flight Tri-State Cincinnati for the Fourth District veterans.



The program was SAL Squadron 69, where Second Vice-Commander Christopher Wilson idea and he ran with it. Getting the Honor Flight staff, sent out flyers, got the food, door prizes and putting the program together, also even got the Mayor of Reading, Robert Bemmes, to come and speak. The veterans could also sign up to go to Washington, DC for free that day of the event.



SAL members Keven Swensen dual member, 2 Vice Christopher Wilson speaking, Chaplain Jon Glace, SAL District Commander Mark Haeufle and Post 69 Commander Bruce Swensen.

It was a great day for the Veterans of the Tri-State and for The American Legion.

District 5

Dewey Kuhl, Commander
cary.kuhl@gmail.com

District 6

Ted Kohler, Jr., Commander
Tedk1959@gmail.com

District 7

John Conley, Commander
jrconley1896@aol.com

District 8

Phil Lightfoot, Commander
ncaablu@yahoo.com

Ohio S.A.L Eight District Commander Phillip Lightfoot– participated in two different events to honor the Fallen Heroes of this Great Nation.



In November 2022, Commander Lightfoot helped place Red Bows on the Graves of 3000 Hocking County Veterans for the Holiday Season. Red Bows are left on Until Mid-January.

December 15 thru 18, Commander Lightfoot was in Washington DC area to help place Wreaths on the Graves of Veterans and Fallen Heroes in Arlington National Cemetery as part of the Wreaths Across America.



On Friday, as part the Services by the Different Police and Military Branches from the State Maine (Home of the Wreaths Across America Headquarters). At the World War II Memorial, laid a Wreath at the Oklahoma State Column which the highlight by being selected by the Service's Director.





On Saturday, Lightfoot went to Arlington National Cemetery, to help lay wreaths on some 440,000 Graves of the American Military Fallen Heroes.

District 9

Tom Foss, Commander
commanderfoss@aol.com

District 10

Matthew Baxter, Commander
Mbaxter_ohio_sal_historian@yahoo.com

District 11

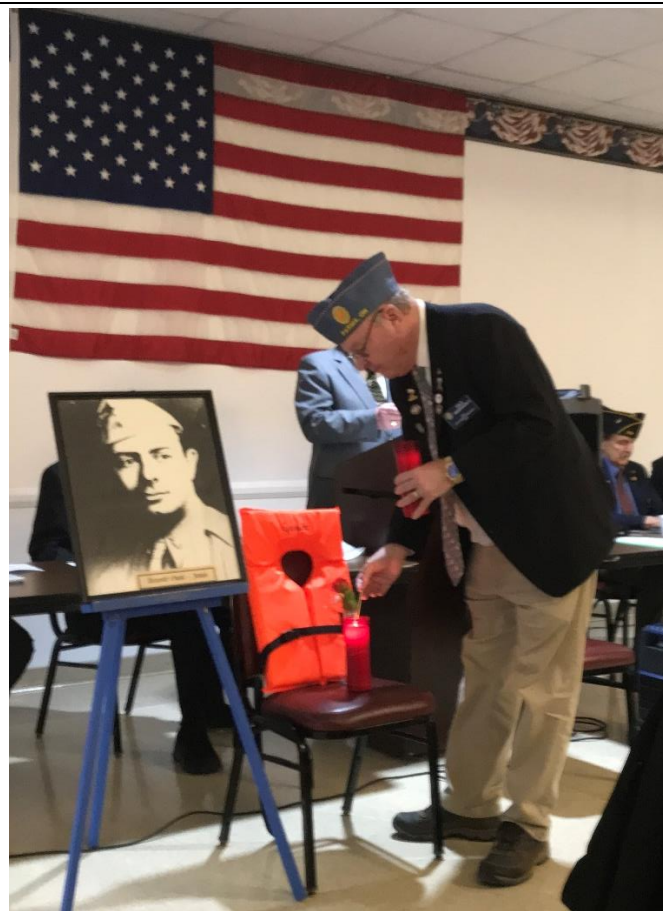
Chet Crooks, Commander
chetty_b@msn.com

District 12

Rocky Searles, Commander
rockysearles@centrylink.com

District 13

Adam Budner, Commander
blechabum@yahoo.com



Past Detachment Commander Dale Anderson, II lit candles during the Thirteenth District Four Chaplains Memorial Service last February.

On March 04, 2023, at American Legion Post 91, The American Legion 13th District celebrated the 104th birthday of The American Legion. Attend the event were many distinguished guests in attendance for the celebration. During the celebration Department Commander Charles Stennis, Department President Cindy Masowick, National Executive Committeeman Steve Masowick, 13th District Commander James Lockyer, 13th District President Kimm Bunch, and 13th District S.A.L. Commander Adam Budner all spoke and gave wonderful remarks.

This year's program at the birthday celebration was a leadership video by Retired Navy Seal Jocko Willink. It was great to see all the posts come out to celebrate the 104th Birthday of the American Legion.

Registration Now Open
First Annual
COLUMBUS Central Region
EXTRAVAGANZA
April 21 - 23, 2023

Email jeffurabelsr@gmail.com for conference registration



EXTRAVAGANZA

April 21 - 23, 2023



13th District President Kimm Bunch, 13th District S.A.L. Commander Adam Budner, Department Commander Charles Stennis, Tami Stennis, National Executive Committeeman Steve Masowick, Department President Cindy Masowick, Deborah Lockyer, and 13th District Commander James Lockyer.

District 14

Bob Carson, Jr., Commander

carsonrobert1957@gmail.com

Squadron 566 of Akron once again froze this year. February 17, 18, and 19 they once again had a booth at the Medina, Ohio Ice Festival. Four squadron members fought the cold and high winds to raffle off a block of ice with one thousand dollars frozen inside.

Strong winds made it almost impossible to set up a tent, but the Sons of 566 got it done, although they could only get 2 sides on as the wind blew the other two around.

Freddie Hartline, Bob Carson, George Niemoeller, our resident DJ, ice carver, etc. and Fred Hartline, Sr. manned the booth all weekend. Funds raised are designated to sponsor a delegate to Buckeye Boys State.

The Squadron handed out 200 American Flags and close to 20 applications for the American Legion Family.



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

ANNUAL POOL TOURNAMENT

APRIL 14-16, 2023

HOSTED BY:

American Legion Post 29
27 S 3rd St.
Zanesville, OH 43701



FRIDAY APR. 14TH
SINGLES MINI-TOURN
OPEN TO PUBLIC \$10

\$5
GREENS
FEE

SATURDAY APR. 15TH
SINGLES MEMBERS
\$15

\$5
GREENS
FEE



SUNDAY APR. 16TH
DOUBLES
\$40

\$5
GREENS
FEE

FOR QUESTIONS
CALL: 740-452-1457



Past Detachment Commander Bill Towns at the World War I Memorial in Washington, DC.



BUDDY CHECK

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

VRABEL



Detachment Commander Dennis Albright and National Chris Carlton prior to the Sons of The American Legion National Wreath Laying Ceremonies in Washington, DC.



HIO

Reports of Commissions and Committees

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Randy Mathews, Chairman

load529@yahoo.com

This time, I would like to ask everyone to look into the Five Star Program offered by Sons of The American Legion. How many of you have done this?

The Five Star points are:

- ★ Patriotism – Love of flag; love of country
- ★ Citizenship – Individual obligation of citizenship
- ★ Discipline – Respect for and obedience to rules
- ★ Leadership – Participation in group activities
- ★ Legionism – Knowledge of The American Legion

You can earn a pin as an award for each one of the five points, and when you have completed the program, you can earn a Five Star medal for perfection in SAL work.

Let's all make sure we are supporting our other programs, like American Legion Baseball, Buckeye Boys State, Scouting, and all the others.

Buckeye Boys State

John Vrzal, Chairman

vrzaljd@miamioh.edu

Legislative Update

Craig Smith, Chairman

craigsmith1958@gmail.com

Priorities for the 118th Congress:

1. Making sure that the Coast Guard gets paid in event of the government shutting down again...they are vital to our defense of the US coasts
2. Support for our Afghan allies

3. Protecting Veterans from predatory lenders Camp Lejeune exposed what can happen when you involve bad law firms
4. Implementation and oversight of the PACT ActM
5. Mental health and suicide prevention
6. Guard & reserve GI bill parity
7. Protecting the American Flag

As you can see, Congress has a lot and more to cover, so get with them and let them know what you want them to do.

I would like to thank Commander Albright for the appointment as Legislative Chairman this year. It's been great serving the S.A.L

Oratorical Contest

Rocky Searles, Chairman

rocky.searles@centrylink.com

POW★MIA Committee

Evan Mahlman, Chairman

e.mahlman216@gmail.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION

Bruce Forshey, Chairman

bruce.forshey@gmail.com

Children's Miracle Network

Adam Budner, Chairman

blechabum@yahoo.com | (216) 798-9254

I hope this article finds you all well.

On January 22, 2023, marked the start of Lunar New Year and the Year of the Rabbit in the Chinese zodiac. Lunar New Year is one of the world's biggest festivals centered around food, family, and togetherness. Since 2007, Panda Express has raised funds for Children's National Hospital by asking guests to round up at the register. These funds stay local and benefit patients and families. Panda Express associates and guests celebrating this Lunar New Year and take a moment to recognize their generosity and support for Children's National in 2022. Panda Express raised more than \$261,983 for programs that support the whole child, including their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. At Children's National, the Panda Cares Center of Hope is their Family Resource Center, which offers a range of support services for families and staff. CMN Hospitals are grateful for the ongoing partnership with Panda Express and their commitment to help improve health and create brighter futures.

Students from across the region have been working non-stop to engage their respective campuses to support local kids who receive care at Children's National Hospital. Student leaders volunteer year-round to organize events and raise awareness. Their efforts culminate in a 4-12-hour Dance Marathon. 10 schools hosted events where 1,500 students united to create something bigger than themselves. Dance Marathon programs collectively raised \$300,000 over the past school year and this dedication of the student volunteers should be an inspiration to us all. CMN Hospitals thanked every student, parent, alumnus and family member who supported Dance Marathon in 2023 to provide exceptional pediatric care, fuel research and strengthen the community. This generation is leading the way to help the next generation live healthy lives and follow their dreams.

Information taken from CMN Hospitals website

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Todd Bidlack, Chairman
toddbidlack@gmail.com

Fellow SAL Members,

If you attended our Mid-Winter conference, you may recall issues discussed during my report with donations to CWF not being credited to the SAL. I'm happy to report that with the help of our Legion DEC, we will soon be seeing credit for our hard work. Department Commander Stennis has reported that he is aware of the issue, and his DEC will be attempting to clear this up at their meeting in April. Hopefully at Detachment Convention in Marietta I will have an accurate amount of donations the SAL has forwarded to Department for the 2022-23 membership year.

Our last conference call with National SAL CWF Chairman Mark Nave showed some interesting thoughts and ideas with the SAL NEC. We will have some interesting merchandise to sell for the 2023-24 membership year. Possibilities include chef hats, aprons, phone chargers, and socks, just to name a few.

Also discussed was a way to make the application process information more readily available for organizations who would like to apply to receive the funds we are raising. Ideas such as videos and documents could be shared digitally with instructions on how and when the funds are available.

Lastly, don't forget to continue to make donations to CWF. Continue to send them to The Department of Ohio and continue to put SAL-CWF on the memo line of the check! This is the only way we have a shot of getting credit for the

fundraising dollars that you have donated. Thanks so much for keeping CWF the largest charity for the SAL in Ohio. It's truly an honor to serve as your chairman.

Veterans & Children Foundation

Bob Carson, North Chairman
carsonrobert1957@gmail.com

Adam Jones, South Chairman
glimmer_man72@yahoo.com

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, formerly known as The American Legion Endowment Fund, provides financial resources for the organization's Temporary Financial Assistance Program and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation support, including training for accredited service officers.

Charitable gifts to the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation are 100% tax-deductible because the foundation is its own 501(c)3.

Please consider donating today.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Dan Sagraves, Chairman
dansagraves@twc.com

As I am writing this article, I am optimistic that operations at our VA facilities are slowly returning to normal. As an example, we in the Third District will be able to resume our annual VA Memorial Day picnic. Members of the Fourth District have also been making VA visits. I do look forward to the time when we will be able to meet with and serve our veterans in person more often. Most of the facilities have options available. Check with your local hospital or clinic and see what jobs they may have to fill. We can still support the VA facilities with donations. Something as simple as coffee for a clinic is something you can do. The VA will supply a limited number of things like that, but we can always supply more to meet the need. All you need to do is contact the voluntary service office at any VAMC. Ask them what is needed and meet the need. You can also go to [VA.GOV](https://www.va.gov), find your local facility, and there will be links to this kind of information. As always, whatever you do, make sure it is documented on your consolidated squadron report.

I have had difficulty deciding how to write this, but here I go. In 1981 I became Detachment Chaplain. Since then, I have held some office or chairmanship for 42 years. I have been VA&R chair for about 15 years. I have decided it is time

to step away and “retire.” I feel that I have done all that I can with what is important work, and it is time for some new ideas. It has been an honor to be able to serve our veterans for as long as I have. I am grateful to my father and grandfather for the ability to be a member of this organization. I am thankful to all of my fellow members who have been there along the way. Be assured I am not going away and may take a position if asked.

Remember, we do this because we are proud possessors of a priceless heritage. Looking forward to seeing everyone at detachment convention in Marietta.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee

Robert Showalter, North Chairman
roshow2850@yahoo.com

Gerry Palmer, South Chairman
gerpalm60@gmail.com

All is calm down south. we have new director at the Chillicothe VA; he started March 26, coming to us from Huntington, WV.

We are starting to go in the buildings, getting back to be Red Coat Ambassadors. Different clubs are sponsoring a dinner once a month for \$3,500 to feed all the veterans that live there. There is a different sponsor each month. They are slowly bringing back bingo on the floors, but they are not combining all the units together.

VAWS are having meeting every quarter. The clubs are sponsoring the Wheelchair Games, and the VITI are helping the veterans for cars, hotels, money, gas, and whatever they need and that we can help with. We give out clothing, food, and pet supplies.

I think that's about it.

Veterans Employment and Education Committee

Wayne Lienau, Chairman
wlienau@bright.net

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Steve Honigfort, Chairman
shonigfort@yahoo.com

Greetings,

With Spring, we think of many things being reborn again. Colors return and replace the dull cold colors of winter. Now is also the time to brighten the future of the Sons of The American Legion. Time to get the word out to all members that we are a positive group of people who help many to make the world a better place. Positive energy does so much to boost any organization, so bring it on.

Our Detachment Commander Dennis Albright could also use everyone's support to finish his year successfully. Think to yourself, did I do enough? Would the veteran whom you got your eligibility through think you are working at your best to honor their service to this country? Survival of those memories are our responsibility, not just to the person next to you. Numbers speak volumes and more is possible at many levels to keep our group alive and to have a voice at State and National events.

Try signing up a veteran to The American Legion, as our parent group needs help and assistance also. The whole American Legion Family would benefit, as new members would also be created for the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. We must work together for the future, or there will be no future. Do you want the veterans to be forgotten and all the sacrifices they have given to this country?

It is up to you and everyone else to Git “R” Done.

Thank You!

The Ohio SALute



Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com | salnews@ohiolegion.com

End of an era. For over twenty years, Bill Towns has provided the Ohio American Legion Family with a weekly email blast containing information like coming events, reports, activities of interest, etc.

Due to increasing costs, Bill has decided to end this service. The last edition of “Your Towns News” was sent on Thursday, March 9, 2023. Although this email has ended, Bill's work has not, and he will remain a very active SAL member.

I want to personally thank Bill for his hard work and dedication, and for the thousands of hours he spent on this endeavor. You made a difference Bill, and I hope that you will return the email blast in the future. GREAT JOB!

Thank you also goes out to Detachment Commander Dennis Albright for allowing me to continue to serve as our newsletter editor. I enjoy the work, and like helping our members stay informed. Hopefully, I will be afforded the opportunity to serve in this capacity in the future.

Honor the veteran who made you eligible RENEW TODAY!!!

JOIN THE SAL

BE THE ONE

NEF

DONATE

EMBLEM
SALES

Convention Screening Committee

Bill "Buster" Sutterlin, Chairman

brs257@zoominternet.net

Hello Everyone!

It is St. Patrick's Day as I write this, and hope you are all having a great time and arriving at your destinations safely. Wow, it is the middle of March already. By the time you read this it will be Easter. May you enjoy the time with your families. Hope all of you are well.

We are two months away from our SAL Detachment Convention in Marietta. I hope to see many of you there because there are many good times to be had. Also, it is time for everybody to get your bids together for the 2025 Detachment Convention. These bids must be turned in by the wrap of the gavel at Friday night's meeting. The more bids we have, the better.

If you need the forms, you can call me at (419-651-2409) or you can contact Detachment Adjutant Scott Thornton. They are also on the SAL website. Please call me if you have any questions.

See you in Marietta!

Finance Committee

Mike Wiswell, Chairman

mikewiswell43068@gmail.com

Member Training and Development Committee

Bill Towns, Chairman

docbill@neo.rr.com | saljudgeadvocate@ohiolegion.com

Constitutional Review Committee

Bill Towns, Chairman

docbill@neo.rr.com

saljudgeadvocate@ohiolegion.com

Committee Appointments Committee

Gary Lang, Chairman

glang3263@roadrunner.com



Steve Honigfort, President

shonigfort@yahoo.com

Covering the Detachment Awards

Fred Hartline, Past National Commander

The William Welsh Award is presented to the squadron with greatest percentage increase over last year membership.

William, or Bill as many of us knew him, was the first Liaison for the Department of Ohio. He began serving in that position in 1962 when the SAL started to grow in membership. He was very instrumental in setting up the first Detachment convention. Bill was a big backer of the SAL, and in some cases, some of his other duties at Department Headquarters was put on the back burner to work our program.

Bill had many hats at Department Headquarters. He was Americanism Director, Boys State Assistant Director, and covered Children and Youth programs. just to name a few.

One of my many items I remember about Bill was the first National Convention in Chicago in 1972. Bill Verhelst and I were the official Delegates. Bill went to the department Adjutant, JP Hone, and asked for some funds for Bill and me

to go to the Convention. He was told no, and that there were no funds for that. Mr. Welsh had us bring back receipts for meals. He then somehow paid us for our meals.

Mr. Welsh, along with George Powell, Larry Hartline, Richard Riviotta, and Jack Masters, fought the battle to make the SAL grow over the years. There was a lot of time spent fighting JP Hone and a few Department Commanders who did not believe in the SAL.

Mr. Welsh served as liaison from 1962 till 1983 he was replaced that year, but his replacement resigned after two meetings. He returned to his position for a few more years before Al Brick became the SAL Liaison.

Central Region Extravaganza



2023 marks the first year that a gathering of members in the Central Region is officially taking place. Being held the weekend of April 21 – 23, 2023, CRE23 has a jam-packed line-up of great presenters and speakers. Attendees will learn, participate, have fun, and most importantly, come together to further the mission of the American Legion Family.

The Embassy Suites Airport in Columbus, Ohio is the location of the Extravaganza, and an evening of fun is planned for Saturday night, as there are tentative plans to visit American Legion Posts in the area.

Attendance is open to Sons, as well as to Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The event flyer appears later in this edition.

To register, please email jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. Please register early, as there is a limit of fifty participants, and spots are filling up fast.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel.

Here is the line-up of our topics and speakers:

Keeping Members Involved

Chuck Castle, Assistant Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio

Building an Effective Youth Program

The American Legion Auxiliary

Obtaining Discharge Documents

Dan Finnell, Past Commander
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio

CENTCOM Update

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Past National Vice-Commander
Sons of The American Legion

Public Speaking

Joe Mayne, Past National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

Honoring Veterans in Health Care Facilities

Jeff Vrabel, Jr., Chaplain
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio

Being a Military Kid & Working with the Media

Stacia Naquin, Anchor, WSYX ABC 6 & WTTE Fox 28
Columbus, Ohio

Servant Leadership

Joseph Paviglianti, Past National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

Be the One

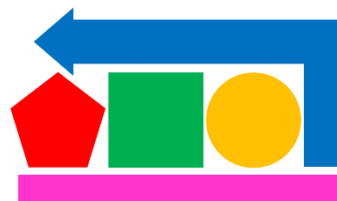
Suicide: Knowing the Signs, Prevention, & Support

Dr. Amberle Prater, PhD, LPCC-S
Suicide Prevention Clinical Lead Supervisor
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Columbus, Ohio

The full agenda can be found in the weekly newsletter Round-Up. If you do not receive this publication, please send an email to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.



Meeting of the Jeffs



There will be a Meeting of the Jeffs on Saturday, April 22, 2023 during the Central Region Extravaganza.

All Jeffs planning to attend the meeting must email jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. Jeffs do not need to attend the conference to attend this very important meeting.



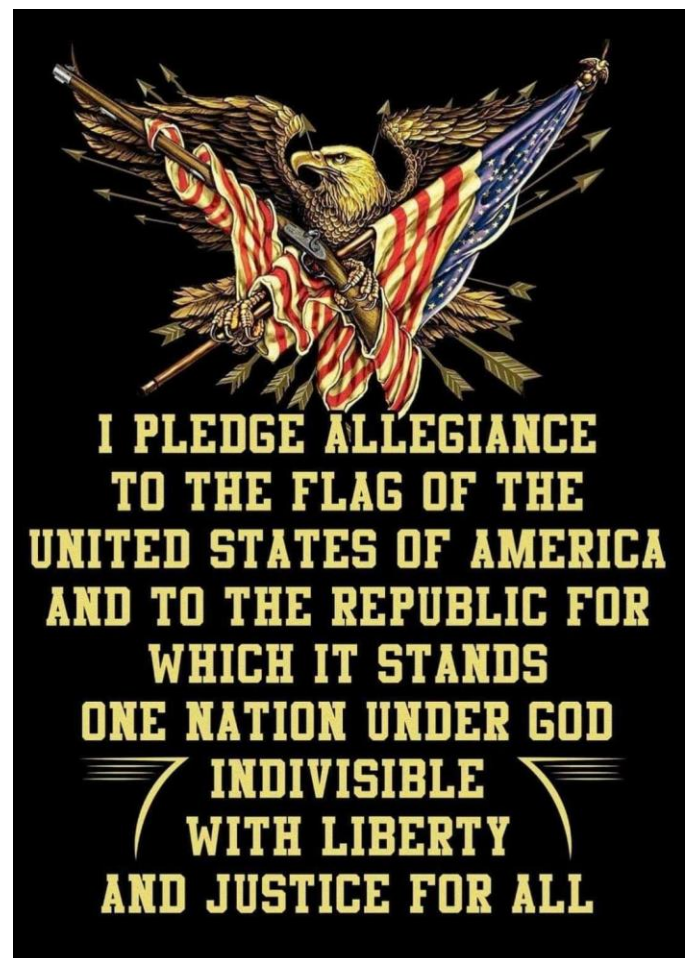
Membership is
no laughing
matter.
**PLEASE
RENEW
TODAY!!!**

VRABEL




THANK
YOU
for all you do

VRABEL



Candidate's Corner



castle

☆ **ELIGIBILITY**
Proud son of Lyle W. Castle
United States Army Air Corps
W.W. II P.O.W.

☆ **MEMBERSHIP**
Mt. Washington Squadron 484


☆ **EXPERIENCE**
Squadron 484 Commander, Historian, Chaplain, Sgt. At Arms
4th District Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Chaplain
Detachment of Ohio, Asst. Adjutant

☆ **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
Honorary Life Member Squadron 484
Only 4th District Commander to win the Blue Jug Award twice
2020-2021, 2021-2022
Denny E. Lahey, "Outstanding Squadron 484 Member of the Year"
2010, 2012, 2015
Ronald L. Wissman, Squadron 484 V.A. & R. Award
2018, 2020, 2022
Jack R. Davis, Community Service Award
2013 Presented by American Legion Post 484
Joe Ferreri, Extramural Award
2018-2019 Presented by American Legion Post 484
V.A.V.S. Representative Cincinnati V.A.M.C.

☆ **BACKGROUND**
Northwestern Military & Naval Academy
University of Cincinnati
Life Member of Norwood, Winton, Carthage,
Linwood Masonic Lodge #576
32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, Valley of Cincinnati
Honorary Kentucky Colonel
Retired from the Ohio Dept. of Transportation
as a Construction Project Manager

☆ **WHY I AM ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE**
Since my first days as a Son of the American Legion,
I have always believed that our longevity is due to the
fact of a strong Legion Family. As Detachment Chaplain,
I will be able to continue to be a voice to
support this effort while honoring all
of our Veterans both
past and present.

ELECT
CHUCK CASTLE
DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN
2023-2024
#SALSTRONG






Todd Bidlack
Candidate for SAL
Detachment Chaplain

Ride to the Top!

- SAL Eligibility through My Father Ed Bidlack (Viet Nam 1968-70) and Grandfather Carl Williams (WW2)
- Wife Becki, Son Nick (USMC -2011-16) & Daughter Nicole We have 4 grandchildren
- Head of maintenance for Durant Amusements since 1990, Project manager for County Electric since 2020, OHSAA licensed basketball official (25 Years)
- American Legion Education Institute Graduate
- Detachment CWF chairman 2022-2023
- Great 1st District SAL Commander 2015-2016
- Squadron 541 Commander 2012-15
- Squadron 541 Adjutant 2016-Present

My decision to run for Detachment Chaplain has been a goal for several years. The largest contributor to the decision is that my Grandfather, Father, and Son all served in the military. All in active duty. I missed out and did not enter the military. Therefore, I serve by volunteering in the SAL. Plain and simple, my aim is to serve veterans. To assist them with their needs the best I can. And to assist in carrying on for God and Country. I would very much appreciate your vote for Detachment Chaplain


SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION