



A Message from Commander Kessler



**Bernie Kessler, Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Ohio**

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Where do I begin? We are in a crucial time in our Country and our Organization.

American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford issued the following statement on June 12, 2020: “The American Legion stands on principles and serves purposes worldwide that are violated when justice, freedom and democracy are not applied equally, regardless of race, color, creed or class.” “Throughout its history, The American Legion has fought to improve racial equality not only for veterans, but for the communities they serve. In 1919, African-American veterans of World War I were among the or-

ganization’s founders who adopted a mission statement – **the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution – that pledges among other things ‘to maintain law and order,’ ‘promote peace and goodwill on earth’ and ‘safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.’** “Where the law has been broken, justice must be served. Where freedom has been denied, it must be returned, without prejudice. Our nation has much to consider as we continue to strive toward a shared goal found in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag: ‘with liberty and justice for all.’ All means all. Anything less than complete equality in the execution of these values today is as un-American now as it was in 1923.”

Here is a portion of my remarks from my first Legislative report to the 2014 SAL Convention. Remember, this was 2014.

“I really don’t want any part of the following...but I will say it anyway, “if you see something wrong and you don’t try to make it right, someone else, who is not as capable as you, will make it their way, and then everybody is worse off.

Then you become part of the problem, and we all pay!”

The other day I heard someone say, “I’m glad I’ll be dead before the President, and the liberals and those on the public dole destroy all I believe in. Then someone else can pay for the fall of my America.” I couldn’t keep silent and countered with, “What about your son and your grandchildren? Who is going to make sure their lives will be lived as Americans? Don’t they deserve at least that?”

You cannot raise your children or grandchildren the way your parents raised you, because your parents raised you for a world that I believe no longer exists. But now if you are silent you are part of the problem. If you speak, you are part of the problem. If you have to ask, you don’t understand. If you don’t ask, you don’t care.

I’m exhausted trying to figure out what we’re all supposed to do! A black man was killed by a white police officer. After seeing the video, I am appalled that this happened, but does it warrant rioting and killing others? Are we to mourn this death more than we would a family member or Veteran? Personally, I can’t, but I did read a meaningful article, “George Floyd’s Death Must Be a Catalyst for Accountability.”

See Kessler page 2

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HIO

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES: All submissions are to be made electronically to sal-news@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

Kessler continued from page 1



A few months ago, we called First Responders 'our Heroes'. Now, some people are advocating to defund law enforcement because they are racist and can't be trusted.

A few months ago, nothing was more important than social distancing. We gave up many of our liberties for it. We canceled schools, medical and dental procedures, canceled activities, closed businesses, eliminated every spring rite of passage from prom to graduation, denied people funerals, even at Arlington, and we wrecked the economy for it. Then came social justice, and social distancing was no more.

A thousand people at three memorials for someone they never even met, but I can only assemble 100 or less people. I don't want to scare that easily!

My last comment on today's society...NASCAR says team members no longer have to adhere to the US Flag Code during the playing of the National Anthem. The section reads: "When the flag is displayed – all persons should face and stand at attention with their right hand over their heart – persons should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart – when the flag is not displayed – all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed." That section has been eliminated.

I pray for common sense and civility to return. I am not a person who lives life in fear.

Now let's get motivated for the Detachment of Ohio 2021 membership year! First, remember the dues increase to National, it's now \$10.00 per member. Second, let's get on board with the MySAL.org website and sign up your Squadron. It is the future and soon there may be no alternative. When you receive your dues package, you will notice that there are no changes to the Commanders program. Because of the COVID-19 virus, all donations to American Legion programs nationwide were down. There is no reason to wait until Mid-Winter or Convention to make your donations. If you send your donation to Detachment Headquarters, we will make sure they are recorded and noted in the minutes of DEC meetings and Conferences. Holding donations could delay in members getting the help they need.

Lastly, you need to schedule your District meetings and events so that we can get a calendar update. I have rescheduled my 'Appreciation Dinner' from last March to October 17, 2020. Still in Bucyrus but the time will be determined by the starting time of the OSU/MSU football game in East Lansing. A new flyer will be available soon.

Until next time...to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Bernie Kessler, Commander



From the Editor



PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor
The Ohio SALute
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SALNews@ohiolegion.com
*"Serving Those Who Served...
Full Steam Ahead"*
MEDIA ALLIANCE

Gentlemen,

As you can see, we have a new format for a new membership year. It is my intention to give *The Ohio SALute* a fresh new look, while continuing to provide a quality publication.

In order for *The Ohio SALute* to be a continued success, I need your help. Please increase your submissions, including photographs, so we can show off what the Detachment of Ohio is accomplishing. I know that you enjoy this publication, and I want it to continue well into the future.

When making your submissions, please remember to include the **Who, What, Where, When, & Why** and include names of people in pictures. The best way for you to prepare your article is to tell a story. Make it seem like the reader was at the event. Paint a picture for them.

One of the hardest things to correct is when articles are submitted with the first letter of each work capitalized. Run a spell-check and grammar-check when you think you're done, and let the magic happen.

As a reminder, ALL Detachment Officers and Committee & Commission Chairmen are expected to have an article in each edition of *The Ohio SALute*. Many times, our members are looking for information in your article and too often there is none. Please make sure you submit by the deadlines to the left.

It is especially important that we document our success and submit articles to *The Ohio SALute*. If we do not, our newsletter could be eliminated, and no one wants to see that happen.

Finally, congratulations to our retained Officers. Good luck on your coming year! As you know, it will go

by quickly, and soon you will be looking back on your accomplishments.

Thanks again!

PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

Always remember to check in on the shut-in Veterans in this time of need.

For God and Country
Full Steam Ahead
#SALSTRONG

Dave Dilts, Chaplain

First-Vice Commander



Doug Hancock,
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I WANT YOU TO RENEW!!!

Second-Vice Commander



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From the Chaplain



Dave Dilts,
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I hope everyone is coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. I know it's put a damper on our SAL functions, especially Memorial Day services and the July 4th celebrations. We need to follow guidelines and listen to the ones in charge. Pray this will end soon.

I would like to thank Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 in Poland for inviting me to participate in their Memorial Day service at their Post. District 9 SAL Commander, Jeff Vrabel, Jr did an excellent job with their service.

Adjutant's Update



Scott Thornton, Adjutant
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COVID-19 Outbreak Update. Normally, I would use this opening section to congratulate Ohio's new Detachment Officers, but as you should know by now, we will not be having a Detachment Convention in 2020 and everyone is staying in place for another year until the 2021 convention. That will still happen at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg, and the 2022 Convention will be in Portsmouth.

A few of our Districts were able to hold elections and have certified new Officers for 2020-2021, while the rest are keeping their current Officers through next year. NOTE: Districts 3, 12, and 14 are still not certified – please send in your report ASAP! Your Commanders and First Vice-Commanders are not eligible to participate in the Detachment Executive Committee until you do.

As restrictions on gatherings are loosening up, our Posts are starting to resume activities, albeit under new arrangements. I would ask everyone to continue to observe the operating rules in effect and help to ensure the safety and health of our members and guests.

New Department S.A.L. Liaison Named. I would like to welcome Jermaine Ferguson of Department Headquarters as our newly appointed Liaison and membership director.

If there are any SAL-related issues that I cannot assist with, please direct your questions to him – his contact details are listed on the website.

See Thornton page 4

Thornton continued from page 3

Per Capita Membership Dues Increase – June 1, 2020. Please note that the National per capita dues increase from \$2 to \$5 went into effect on June 1, 2020 for all dues transmittals as of that date. You must now send \$10.00 to state headquarters instead of the old \$7.00 amount. Anyone using mySAL for direct submissions to National should have this adjusted automatically on their batches.

New Officer Certifications & Old Membership Cards. As I write this, we have received 2021 Officers Certification Forms from 144 of our 317 Squadrons, for 45.43%. Our Detachment Constitution sets the reporting deadline as May 1st and we have not relaxed that date despite the conditions we are all facing.

We need every other Squadron to submit their report immediately – this is half of the requirement to receive your new 2021 membership cards. Department cannot update our contact lists without the new Officer details – even if you have no changes to report.

The reporting form is available in multiple formats from the SAL section of the Forms page on <https://ohiolegion.com>. DO NOT RETURN YOUR OLD 2020 CARDS TO HQ – they don't want them back!

2020 Consolidated Squadron Reports Your 2019-2020 Consolidated Squadron (and District) Reports to are also due to Department Headquarters by May 1st, and we have received 132 so far for 41.64%, but can and need to do better. We are asking that they be filed by July 1st in order to receive your 2021 cards in the first batch of deliveries – assuming your Officers are certified! Please get yours in so we don't have to hound you about it.

Note that the content of the reporting categories has changed for this year – DO NOT USE OLD FORMS or we'll just kick it back. The current form is also available from the Department website.

The American Legion uses the data provided on the reports to help demonstrate to the U.S. Congress just

how much we do in support of our nation's veterans and children when the National Commander appears before it. Please submit the CSR form as soon as you can, even if you only update your membership data at the top, and make sure to use your paid membership counts for this year and last – not “2020” and “2019.”

Summer D.E.C. Meeting – July 18, 2020. The Detachment Executive Committee will meet virtually on Saturday, July 18, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Please note the earlier start as DEC members will not need to drive to Department Headquarters. The meeting is being held virtually as Headquarters cannot accommodate the whole DEC while maintaining prescribed social distancing. Meeting and connection information will be sent at a later date.

All elected and appointed Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairmen, District Commanders, and District First Vice-Commanders are required to attend.

I would ask everyone who will be giving a report at the D.E.C. meeting to file a copy with me (electronically, if possible) to facilitate the preparation of the minutes in a timely fashion. This really makes things much easier.

2020 National Convention – CANCELED! The 49th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion scheduled for this August 28-30 in Louisville, Kentucky has been canceled. All National Officers and Commission / Committee members will remain in place through the 2021 Convention in Phoenix.

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage.

Scott Thornton, Adjutant



National Executive Committeeman



**Bill “Buster” Sutterlin,
National
Executive Committeeman**
SALNEC@ohiolegion.org
shonigfort@yahoo.com

Hello Everyone!

I hope all of you are well. This has been a changing of times with many changes of how things will be done in the future.

I missed seeing many of you at our Detachment convention. Hopefully, we will be able to get together soon.

Memorial Day was quite different this year. I hope all of you did something to remember those who gave their lives while in service. We were able to hold a short ceremony in Loudonville and one in Perrysville. There were very few attendees (mostly family members) due to lack of advertising to prevent a large group. While activities and events can't be done the same, we need to find ways to continue to remember our Veterans.

What will you do for the 4th of July to celebrate Independence Day?

As we continue to go through these times of restricted visitations, please remember our veterans in assisted living and nursing homes. Send cards or notes to them. Just buying them a thinking of you card and having a group of members sign it will mean so much. Be sure to sign that it is from “Sons of the American Legion Squadron _____”. Don't forget to include some of our older members that live alone. We need to let our members who are ill know that we are thinking of them. When they are down, they need our support.

Stay safe and be well!

Until we meet again...

PDC Bill Sutterlin, NEC

Alternate National Executive Committeeman



Steve Honigfort,
Alternate National
Executive Committeeman
SALANEC@ohiolegion.org
shonigfort@yahoo.com

Fellow Sons,

Wow! Talk about a turn of events. What you mean is very little events. I am proud to serve another year As Alternat NEC and PR Chairman.

With the COVID-19 threat we must walk a fine line between "Safe or Sorry." As things begin to open back up, support for all those affected by the downturn is the utmost priority. It has been a big ouch to many, and many Posts have suffered, along with businesses. Let us get our support behind them any way we can.

Do a Buddy Check on the veterans in your area, along with fellow members. For those still waiting on unemployment benefits, maybe help with their dues might need to be done. The membership has suffered at some Posts and Squadrons due to the facilities not being open, and the lack of activities has hurt fundraising. If you can help out in any way, we might get the year jump started again.

I walk a fine line on some of the decisions being made, as many of you also do, but we must go with what is dealt to us. Time to make the best of it as they say and make it better. Let us support our Officers for another year and make up for lost time.

Events will be rescheduled as times permit, and we must show in numbers to make the next year successful. There is strength in numbers and a louder voice will be heard for our Detachment in future events if we are there.

Public relations is a high priority, as what the general public sees now will benefit all of us if good things are presented. The stupidity shown by some has taken over the news, maybe us doing something good just might break the ice toward a better and brighter future. Hopefully, the media

sources will pick up on that as we get out and about again doing the good that we do.

This Country ss still the best in the world, and the silent majority needs to be seen and heard from showing there are good people around doing things to make it better.

For God and Country,

PDC Steve Honigfort, ANEC

Judge Advocate



Bill Towns, Judge Advocate
docbill@neo.rr.com
SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com

Officers Certification Forms Are Way Past Due! Going back to the 2019 Ohio Detachment Convention We had 200 Squadrons and 4 Districts without the required May 1st paperwork.

Three months later at the Summer Detachment Executive Committee Meeting in July of 2019, an alarming 117 Squadrons were still not certified! Squadrons that could not work membership. Because without officers we could not send membership cards out.

Let's face facts, you cannot work membership without membership cards.

The Ohio Officer Certification Form is used for both Squadron and District Officers and is due along with the Squadron Consolidated Report each year before May 1. To those Squadrons and Districts which have cleared both forms We truly thank you!

For those listed as not cleared <https://www.ohiolegion.com/sal/sal-membership/> and still need help filling out the form <https://www.ohiolegion.com/forms/> Here are some tips.

After downloading the form remember Type in the information when you can - if printing PRINT CLEARLY - An unreadable form cannot be accepted.

All Page one officer's information is mandated and must be complete to receive new membership cards.

Starting at the top right of the form - Enter membership year 2020-2021. Do not enter Date or Name this is for when and who received it at HQ

Top left "Squadron Details" Enter Squadron Number, Membership dues Regular and Junior if Applicable. If this is a District Report leave this dues section blank.

Move to the Top Center "District Details." Enter your District number and District Per Capita amount.

Moving down "Squadron Meeting Information".

Enter the Week, Day and Start time of your meetings.

Enter the Location, Phone and Address where the meeting is held.

For District Reports, do not fill in Squadron Meeting Information section, there is a separate form for District Meetings time and place

"Officer's Contact Information" All Page one officer's information is mandated and must be complete to receive new membership cards.

DO NOT USE the Post Address, Email, or Phone Numbers for your Officers information!

The officers contact information is required as most information sent from District or Detachment is time sensitive and should not be delayed until a visit is made to the post.

Fill in Clearly the S.A.L. ID # and Squadron #.

Name line is sectioned for First, MI, and Last name so that it can be entered into the detachment officer's data base efficiently.

See Towns page 6

Towns continued from page 5

EMAIL - The Officers Email is a must! It is not mandated that officers have an email yet, but since most all Detachment documents are now electronically distributed for more efficient use of time and money, they are highly recommended.

Give mobile number whenever possible.

Do Not be afraid to give this important contact information as it is Not Sold or Distributed to outside organizations.

“American Legion Endorsement” Enter the Legion Commanders name, signature, Post, and Legion ID#

Page 2 “Other Officers” It is known that not all squadrons have all these offices. That is ok just be sure to fill in completely the ones you have. This helps with distribution of information vital to the Sons of The American Legion.

At the bottom of page 2 be sure to give the Immediate Past Commanders contact even if it the same. The box on the bottom right is blank. Use this for another Squadron officer you may have which is not listed above. (Trustee, Exec Board, etc.

SAVE A COPY for your Squadron Records in case the paper trail is lost, and a new copy is needed.

SEND A COPY to both Detachment Adjutant Scott Thornton and your District Adjutant.

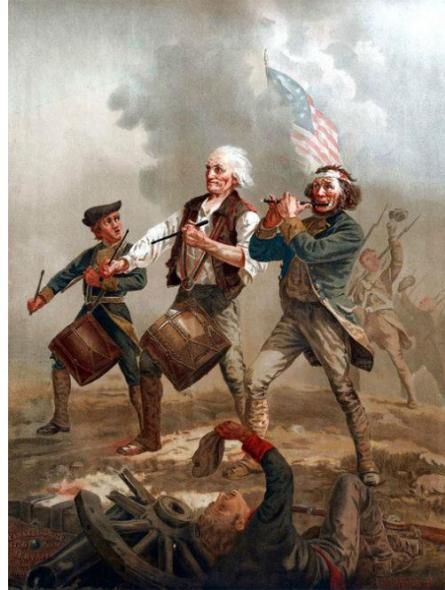
Remember these were due to be on file before May 1 of each year. Your DEC members will not be recognized at the close of the Convention if this form is not on file and you will not receive membership cards until the Officers Certification Form and the Squadron Consolidated report is received and filed.

AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING THERE ARE 175 SQUADRONS WITH OFFICERS NOT CERTIFIED AND/OR NO CONSOLIDATED REPORTS!

It is my sincere hope that many of you have corrected that issue by the time this gets printed.

PDC Bill Towns, Judge Advocate

Editor's Note: A copy of the Consolidated Squadron Report appears later in this edition.



Around hio

District 1



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
WAUSEON SQUADRON 265**

**14th ANNUAL
DREHER/HAYES/TANNER
MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING**

**July 11th at 12:00 noon
For more information contact
Steven Brown at 419-822-1230
or sbwauseon@aol.com**

**Proceeds to benefit
Veterans Banners**

District 5

On Saturday, June 13, 2020 Belleville Squadron 535 sponsored the Annual Spanky Memorial Golf Outing. 19 teams participated, and a fun time was had by all raising funds for Honor Flight while honoring and remembering PDC Ed “Spanky” Van Houten.



Photo courtesy Charlie Kvochick, Historian, Belleville Squadron 535

Finishing in first place are Louie Carrington, Matt Seifert, Doug Kelly, and Tobey McMillian.



Photo courtesy Charlie Kvochick, Historian, Belleville Squadron 535

Finishing in second place Jim Leyland, Mark Southward, Donnie Flynn, and Jiggy Brokaw.



Photo courtesy Charlie Kvochick, Historian, Belleville Squadron 535

Past Detachment Commanders Jon Coakley, Craig Smith, Jeff Vrabell, Sr., Dan Finnell, and Rob Brewer.



District 7



James Dickey American Legion Post 23 in Portsmouth held a Flag Disposal Ceremony on Saturday, June 14. Pictured left to right. Pictured L. to R. are Marisa Osman, Mike Parlin, Past Department Chaplain Susan Frasher, Post 23 Commander Jimmy Pinson & PDC Adam Jones.

Ross County Post 62 Flag Retirement Ceremony



Gerry Palmer of Squadron 62

District 9

Snow and cold wasn't in the forecast when this event was planned, but it didn't stop Squadron 336 Commander Ray Batykefer, Finance Officer Winston Bailey, and First Vice-Commander PDC Rex Buchs from grilling burgers for first responders on Friday, April 17, 2020. Squadron 336 provided 35 lunches to Painesville City Police Department, Painesville City Fire Department, and the Lake County Sheriff Department to thank them for their service to our community.



Poland resident places flags around community

MAR 28, 2020
Ashley Fox, Reporter
afox@tribtoday.com



POLAND — Whether in pouring rain or in the afternoon sunshine, Jeff Vrabel Jr. may be seen in the Poland community, flags in tow.

Following Gov. Mike DeWine's request to fly flags as we wait out the coronavirus pandemic, Vrabel wasted no time decorating his neighborhood with Old Glory.

Installing 85 miniature flags in about 25 minutes, Vrabel said it didn't take

long until he got a request to add more of the patriotic symbols.

"I got a call to do another neighborhood," he said on Thursday afternoon.

At his home in Poland, Vrabel flies two flags — one in the front yard and one behind the house — at half-mast each day, "because we have veterans that die every day. We have soldiers that die in war each day, he said.

As he lined up the small flags in front yards, Vrabel said the flags are free.

Residents don't have to return the flags, he said. "Anyone that asks, they get to keep it."

Each year, the Veterans Service Commission of Mahoning County allocates groups so many flags.

As there are oftentimes leftover flags, they are taken to American Legion locations for events.

"One thing they tell you, if you have any extra, use them in the community," Vrabel said.

After the governor asked Ohio residents to fly their flags, Vrabel began his mission.

The 20-year-old comes from a patriotic family.

Grandfather Joe was 9th district and department of Ohio commander of the American Legion. His father, Jeff Sr., was detachment of Ohio commander of Sons of the American Legion. Young Vrabel is now vying for that post.

"I was born into this," Vrabel said.

Supporting the United States, he wanted to join the Army, but was unable to because of a peanut allergy.



Still, he's hopeful he can one day serve his country, perhaps in the National Guard.

His work doesn't stop at yards. Vrabel also recog-

nizes veterans at his employment.

Vrabel, who works at the Inn at Poland Way, fashioned a wall dedicated to service members that live at the home, complete with service photos and a flag on a wall.

One man, he said, makes it a point to tell everyone his photo is on the wall.

“They love it,” he said of the residents.

Reprinted from
The Vindicator

<https://www.vindy.com/news/local-news/2020/03/poland-resident-places-flags-around-community/>

Memorial Day 2020

Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 sponsors the annual Memorial Day Processional Parade and Ceremonies each year in Poland, Ohio. Due to COVID-19, this year’s processional parade was cancelled, and a small ceremony was held at the War Memorial Building Post 15 Home, which was streamed live on Facebook.



Photo courtesy Dan Duran, Sr. seminary sports+



Photo courtesy Dan Duran, Sr. seminary sports+

Squadron 15 First Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr., and Fr. Martin Celuch of Christ Our Savior Parish



Photo courtesy Dan Duran, Sr. seminary sports+

Detachment of Ohio Chaplain Dave Dilts brought greetings from the Detachment of Ohio



Photo courtesy Dan Duran, Sr. seminary sports+

Mahoning County Commissioner Anthony Traficanti served as Keynote Speaker. Traficanti is a member of Mahoning Valley Squadron 15



Photo courtesy Dan Duran, Sr. seminary sports+

Squadron 15 Chaplain John Medina leads prayer during a ceremony to honor The Four Chaplains



Photo courtesy Dan Duran, Sr. seminary sports+

Squadron 15 member Steve Bannon reads the 24 names of the Poland men killed in action in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War



District 10



At its June meeting held at Benjamin Firestone Squadron 290 in Columbiana, District 10 Advisor Ed “Blue” Long (P34) installed the newly elected D10 S.A.L. 2020-21 Officers Commander Matthew Baxter (S357), First Vice-Commander Dan Bekar (S290), Adjutant Bill Towns (S357), Sgt-at-Arms Phillip Baxter (S357), and Chaplain Wayne Kinard (S290).



D10 Commander presents award of appreciation to retiring District 10 Finance Officer JD Ash (S557) for his long-time commitment and support to the District.



PDC Bill Towns, Adjutant Squadron 357, Mike Lee, Commander Post 357 at Minerva's Flag Disposal June 14, 2020.



A new US Flag stands watch as unserviceable flags are Properly Retired at Minerva's Veteran's Park June 14, 2020.

with only a gate remaining, making it impossible to see from the road. We would like to install a fence on the outer perimeter of the cemetery. Other improvements can be considered if the initial goal of \$2000 is met.

We want to restore a proud appearance for this historic Ohio cemetery where pioneer families rest.



District 12

Don Gentile Squadron 532 in Columbus has adopted and plans to maintain Historic Clime Cemetery.

Clime Road Cemetery is an historic location, dating back to at least 1833. The individuals laid to rest here were pioneers of the area, with names like Alkire, and Clime; names that the community knows well from the streets named after them. It is also the final resting place of Civil War Veteran William Huddleston of the 176th OVI.



If you would like to help with the restoration of Historic Clime Cemetery, please visit our GoFundMe page at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/historic-cemetery-renovation>

Any amount will bring us closer to restoring this important historic landmark. Thank you so much!



At the Minerva Flag Disposal on June 14, 2020 is VFW 4120 Past Auxiliary President Pat Alexander, Sons of The American Legion Sq. 357 Member Dan Toalston, Retsuho Lee, and American Legion Post 357 Commander Mike Lee Ready with Flags.

Sadly, the cemetery has fallen to disrepair over the past several years. Headstones of the ancestors of our local families are crowded by overgrown weeds and downed tree limbs.

Our plans include the removal of weeds, trees, tree limbs, and debris. Two dead Ash trees, one of which has limbs hanging over the utility lines and sidewalk, must be professionally removed.

The area is not currently enclosed,



Child Welfare Foundation

Legion Family raises \$503,000 for the well-being of children

The American Legion
JUN 09, 2020



Over \$503,223 was donated to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) during the program year (June 1, 2019-May 31, 2020). Of those donations, more than \$407,000 came from the American Legion Family.

And the Sons of The American Legion remain the single largest contributor to CWF, donating more than \$8.5 million since 1988.

The Child Welfare Foundation is a nonprofit that has two primary purposes: to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth; and to establish more effective uses of knowledge possessed by well-established organizations. To attain these goals, CWF raises donations and awards grants to organizations that help children – 100 percent of all money raised for the foundation is used exclusively for grants.

These grants – totaling more than \$13 million since 1955 – have ensured that blind children have an opportunity to read the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence through the creation of braille books; provided life-saving organ transplants to children in need through support of the Children's Organ Transplant Association; helped the National Autism Association save the lives of young people with autism by creating the Big Red Safety Box initiative; and so much more.

[CWF grant applications for 2021](#) are currently being accepted. Applications must be received at American Legion National Headquarters no later than July 15.

Visit the [American Legion Child Welfare Foundation website](#) to learn more about the program and how to donate.

Checks can be made payable to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

American Legion Donation Processing
PO Box 1954
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Children's Miracle Network



Adam J. Budner, Chairman
blechabum@yahoo.com
(216) 798-9254

As I sit down to write this, so much has changed since my last article, and it is quite apparent as I look for information for this one. Usually my information is about dance marathons, fundraisers at restaurants, activities at the hospitals. But this time most of the information is about how these same events and fundraisers helped CMN Hospitals and frontline workers during the pandemic.

COVID-19 has emerged as a deadly threat in 2020. As medical workers work tirelessly to keep people alive and essential workers keep society functioning, researchers across the world scramble to find more effective ways of detecting, treating, and curing the infection. Researchers at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are leading the charge to make sure kids are getting the most effective lifesaving treatments possible, and they're receiving funding through our [Children's Hospitals COVID-19 Impact Fund](#). To meet these urgent demands, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is committed to ensuring 170 children's hospitals across North America have the resources they need to care for the most vulnerable kids. The reality is: Kids Can't Wait for a cure, for the curve to flatten, or for an economic boost. They need children's hospitals now more than ever. Loss of funding to children's hospitals is significant (up to 50% revenue in some areas). Without donations, many hospitals face significant impacts in the short and long term. Donations to the Impact Fund can help with telehealth services, PPE, COVID-19 testing supplies, charitable care due to job

loss, and lack of insurance, child life resources and specialists – to help manage stress and anxiety and spending time with patients whose families can't be with them in the hospital, development of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines and so much more.

CMN partners Panda Express and Dairy Queen both donated meals and DQ Blizzards to the frontline workers during the COVID-19 crisis. Panda Express continues its commitment to ensure that the healthcare needs of their local communities are met now and into the future through its Panda Cares program; funds raised by Panda guests and associates every day. As a long-time corporate partner of CMN Hospitals, Panda has raised and donated over \$85 million to support Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. And Dairy Queen is a valuable and trusted partner through Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

I know that many of you aren't going to get out there and cut a rug for 8-24 hours. I know I'm not doing it! But in one weekend high schools and college campuses raise millions of dollars for their local CMN hospitals. There were still several dance marathons held throughout the state prior to the COVID-19 crisis. Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland raised over \$57,000, Youngstown State University \$60,000, University of Dayton raised \$62,000 and THE Ohio State University raised \$1.6 million for CMN. Some were held virtually – Miami University raised \$9,300, University of Toledo \$65,000, Kent State University \$46,000. There are still 3 to be held (not cancelled or postponed at this time) in the fall – Wright State University, University of Findlay, and University of Cincinnati. Registration and donations are still being accepted at the CMN Dance Marathon website. Squadrons can also reach out to the Universities to see if there are other ways they could help – volunteer your time, donate snacks/food items.

For God and Country,

Adam Budner, Chairman

Legislative Update



PDC Craig Smith, Chairman
craigsmith1958@gmail.com

Prior authorization is provided for any emergency care sought by veterans at non-VA hospitals, including ambulance services. It also provides the enrollment of veterans with financial hardship, but no service-connected disability, into the VA health care system and exemption of hospital and medical copayments.

National Guard members deployed for more than 14 days in support of the pandemic may receive mental health care at VA centers.

The American Legion Washington Conference is Feb 28-March 3, 2021.

PDC Craig Smith, Chairman

Special Olympics



PDC Adam Jones, Chairman
glimmer_man72@yahoo.com

I am honored to serve as Special Olympics Chairman for the Detachment of Ohio once again. I thank Commander Bernie Kessler for appointment and look forward to serving in what I understand to be the final year.

I look forward to bringing awareness to and raising money for Special Olympics Ohio.

PDC Adam Jones, Chairman



National Membership Committee

Gentlemen,

As we start the 2021 year, we need to change our mindset, and it needs to start today. **My challenge to the Detachment of Ohio: 100% MEMBERSHIP BY AUGUST 28.** This gives us eight weeks to roll up our sleeves and show everyone how easy it will be. We need to get this message out now, so we are prepared to reach the challenge.

The key to meeting this challenge is to get as many Squadrons to use **MySAL** as possible. By using this tool, we will be able to have a much faster turnaround time, will save money in postage, and will have more accurate numbers. Will you help? Are you up to the challenge? **Who's next?**

While working on this challenge, we MUST continue to collect any outstanding 2019-2020 cards by reaching out to our members who have not renewed yet. Everyone understands that we will never have 100% renewals, but we can be as close to 100% as possible.

If a member is still unrenewed, pick up the phone and ask what you can do to get him renewed. Remind him why he joined, our programs, how we help our Veterans, our children, our Community, State, and Nation. Remind him that he is a **Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage.** Ask him how you can help. We all need each other,

and The American Legion Family needs us, the proud members of the Sons of The American Legion.

To make these things happen, we need to have active participation and communication from the Membership Chairman at all levels, Squadron, District, and Detachment. We can all read this message, but if we don't share it and try to make it happen, it won't. We need to change the culture of paying dues, and we need to change it now. **Who's next?**

If you have any special plans or ideas on how you will conduct your membership programs for the 2020 – 2021, please share with us. By sharing, we all improve our program.

Proud Possessor
of a Priceless Heritage,

*Jeff Vrabel, Sr.,
Central Region Chairman
National Membership Committee*



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

HERE IS YOUR 2021 MEMBERSHIP CARD
Sign the card on the line provided and carry it with you. It is evidence of your membership in a patriotic service organization. Thank you for your continued support.

Membership Card
2021
Sons of The American Legion

DETACHMENT SQDN # MEMBER ID # CONT. YRS

THE ABOVE MEMBER HAS PAID DUES IN THE SQUADRON INDICATED
100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

NOT VALID UNLESS COUNTERSIGNED BY MEMBER AUTHORIZED SQUADRON OFFICER

Thanks for still serving America.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE OUT

We want 100% by August 28, 2020.

Are you up to the challenge?



June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020

Please check one box indicating the reporting entity:

Detachment

District

Squadron

1 _____ Detachment (State)

2 _____ District

3 _____ Squadron Number

4 _____ Squadron Name

5 _____ Paid-to-Date Membership Count, Current Year

6 _____ Paid-Up Final Membership Count, Prior Year

7 _____ City/Town

8 _____ Zip Code

If the reporting entity is a District (or Detachment) the entity agrees that their report of dollars and hours ONLY INCLUDES those approved and expended by Officers and Members of that entity, and ARE NOT cumulative of the Squadrons (or Squadrons and Districts) that they represent.

Please type or print all information clearly. For the program details below only mark lines for which you are reporting data (leave '0' values blank).

AMERICANISM

1 _____ Donations, Boys State / Girls State

2 _____ No. of Hours, Boys State / Girls State

3 _____ Donations, 5-Star / 10-Ideals Education

4 _____ No. of Hours, 5-Star / 10-Ideals Education

5 _____ Donations, Flags Presented (All Sizes/Events)

6 _____ No. of Hours, Flags Presented (All Sizes/Events)

7 _____ N/A N/A

8 _____ No. of Flags Presented (All Sizes/Events)

9 _____ Donations, Flag Education Programs

10 _____ No. of Hours, Flag Education Programs

11 _____ Donations, Scholarships Awarded

12 _____ No. of Hours, Other Educational Programs

13 _____ Donations, Oratorical Contest

14 _____ No. of Hours, Oratorical Contest

15 _____ Donations, Color Guard

16 _____ No. of Hours, Color Guard

17 _____ Donations, Other Organizations

18 _____ No. of Hours, Community Service

19 _____ Donations, Scouting

20 _____ No. of Hours, Scouting

21 _____ Donations, Junior Shooting Sports

22 _____ No. of Hours, Junior Shooting Sports

23 _____ Donations, American Legion Baseball

24 _____ No. of Hours, American Legion Baseball

25 _____ Donations, Other Teams Sponsored

26 _____ No. of Hours, Other Teams Sponsored

27 _____ Donations, Blood Drives

28 _____ No. of Hours, Blood Drives

29 _____ Donations, National Emergency Fund

30 _____ No. of Hours, National Emergency Fund

31 _____ Donations, Legacy Scholarship Fund

32 _____ No. of Hours, Legacy Scholarship Fund

33 _____ Donations, Other Americanism Projects

34 _____ No. of Hours, Other Americanism Projects

CHILDREN & YOUTH

1 _____ Donations, Child Welfare Foundation

2 _____ No. of Hours, Child Welfare Foundation

3 _____ Donations, Special Olympics

4 _____ No. of Hours, Special Olympics

5 _____ Donations, Children's Miracle Network

6 _____ No. of Hours, Children's Miracle Network

7 _____ Donations, Ronald McDonald House

8 _____ No. of Hours, Ronald McDonald House

9 _____ Donations, Children's Organ Trans. Assn.

10 _____ No. of Hours, Children's Organ Trans. Assn.

11 _____ Donations, T.A.L. Vets. and Child. Found.

12 _____ No. of Hours, T.A.L. Vets. and Child. Found.

13 _____ Donations, Other C&Y Projects

14 _____ No. of Hours, Other C&Y Projects

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

1 _____ Donations, V.A. Medical Ctrs. & Facilities

2 _____ No. of Hours, V.A. Medical Ctrs. & Facilities

3 _____ Donations, State Veterans Facilities

4 _____ No. of Hours, State Veterans Facilities

5 _____ Donations, Nat'l Veterans Assist. Day

6 _____ No. of Hours, Nat'l Veterans Assist. Day

7 _____ Donations, Operation Comfort Warriors

8 _____ No. of Hours, Operation Comfort Warriors

9 _____ Donations, Fisher House

10 _____ No. of Hours, Fisher House

11 _____ Donations, Other VA&R Projects

12 _____ No. of Hours, Other VA&R Projects

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

1 _____ Donations, VE&E Projects

2 _____ No. of Hours, VE&E Projects

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1 _____ Other Donations, Not Covered Above

2 _____ Other Hours, Not Covered Above

Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____
Contact Phone Number: _____ Contact Email Address: _____

Revised: October, 2019

The American Legion myLegion Request Form - Squadron



Sign up for mySAL! The American Legion National Headquarters has designed a secure internet site to assist Squadron Adjutant's in their day-to-day membership processing duties. This site serves as a direct portal from the local squadron to National Headquarters' membership system. You must have internet access to use this tool.

Features include:

- View and edit member information.
- Membership Processing: Renew, Add and Transfer Paying Members
- Generate membership reports
- Submit Consolidated Squadron Report electronically
- View Squadron Information

Prior to creating a site, a Request Form must be on file at National Headquarters signed by **both** the Post Adjutant and the Squadron Adjutant. No other signatures will be accepted.

**** Note:** Membership Processing is not available to all squadrons, based on Detachment approval.

Submit Form

Email: mylegion@legion.org

Fax: 317-860-3131

Mail To: The American Legion
IT, Product Support Specialist
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216

Already have an account?

If your squadron already has an account, you do not need to complete a new form.

Call the myLegion Support Team at 833-253-9995 to assist with log in instructions.

Post/Squadron # _____ State: _____



Squadron Adjutant (Printed): _____

Signature *Required*, must be Squadron Adjutant _____ Member ID# _____



Post Adjutant (Printed): _____

Signature *Required*, must be Post Adjutant _____ Member ID# _____

Contact Information:

Does not have to be Squadron Adjutant. The information below provides us where to send correspondence and registration instructions to register a mySAL log in. Please note: Once the site is registered, only the Squadron Adjutant can request a username or password re-set.

Contact Name (if not Squadron Adjutant): _____

Daytime Phone #: _____

E-mail (required) _____

Updated 3/4/2020



2019 - 2020 Individual Recruitment Award

The National Membership Committee offers a recruitment pin award for those members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. You must meet the requirements and directions listed below:

- Recruit five (5) new members to S.A.L. **Must be new members only**, no renewals.
- All information must be legible. **Un-readable forms will not be accepted.**
- The new members membership record must be available on the national database.
- This form must be sent prior to midnight July 31, 2020.
- American Legion Family members are also eligible for this award.
- Only one (1) award pin per member regardless of the total new members recruited

Recruiter Information

Name _____ Member ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Full Squadron Name/Number _____ Detachment _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Unless specified different, the pin will be sent to the above address

New Member Information

#1 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

#2 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

#3 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

#4 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

#5 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

VERIFYING SIGNATURES

SQUADRON / POST COMMANDER _____ DATE _____

SQUADRON / POST ADJUTANT _____ DATE _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)

East - Richard Huntley, Jr. (ME) dickie_huntley@hotmail.com 38 Whale Cove Rd., Machiasport, ME 04655

South - Jason Roberts (GA) robertsjason215@gmail.com 215 Oak Hollow Ct., White, GA 30184

Central - Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr. (OH) jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com 2222 Birch Bark Tri., Grove City, OH 43123

Midwest - Juan Torres (TX) juantorres10@hotmail.com 10828 Sycamore Dr. S, La Porte, TX 77571

West - Leslie "Jim" Stewart (NV) controller@bordertowncasinonv.com 664 Sheffield Ct., Sparks, NV 89431

PINS WILL BE MAILED UPON VERIFICATION AND APPROVAL



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth)

Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP)

(Phone) _____ (Email) Male Female _____ (Gender) _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

- Global War on Terror
- Gulf War
- Panama
- Lebanon/Grenada
- Vietnam
- Korea
- WWII
- Other Conflicts
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Merchant Marines (WWII only)

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department/state address, go to www.legion.org.

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____

Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last)

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone)

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and

Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No. _____

Department of _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____

_____/_____/_____
Date of Birth (Required) Birth - 17 18 and over

Have you been a member previously? Yes No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State: _____ ALA ID#: _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.

Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.
Membership pending approval of application.

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____

If Living: _____
American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____

Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

Veteran Served:

WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

- Global War on Terror
- Lebanon/Grenada
- WWII
- Gulf War
- Vietnam
- Other Conflicts
- Panama
- Korea

Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:

- Male Spouse
- Female Spouse
- Mother
- Grandmother
- Sister
- Self
- Daughter
- Granddaughter

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____

ALA 09/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____

Ken's Corner

**APPROVED FOR
WIDE DISTRIBUTION TO
ALL INVOLVED IN
MEMBERSHIP!!!**

All SAL Leadership,



This email is being sent on behalf of the Membership Chairman Joseph Navarrete.

As you can see, our membership is in decline, mainly due to COVID-19 restrictions, Posts/Squadrons not being able to meet, among other things. However, this also means there are members who have not renewed their membership for 2019 and further.

Another factor that impacts our goals is not processing membership transmittals on a regular basis. Recently, it was brought to my attention there are some Squadrons that have been sitting on months' worth membership transmittals. Holding membership transmittals is not a good practice under any circumstances. For the past 34 years, nationally, the SAL has met its membership goals, until April 2020. May's membership goal of 100% fell short. However, it is never too late to correct the course of the ship.

If there are any Squadrons or Detachments that have membership transmittals waiting to be sent in, regardless if it is 1 member or 100 members, don't wait, send them in! If you have members who have not renewed call them, visit them, do a "Buddy Check," ask them to renew and come back.

This is a call to action, the Membership Chairman and I are asking everyone receiving this email to reach out to your Squadrons, make every effort to achieve 100%, and continue SAL growth. Of course, please don't stop there; we still have the 105% membership goal to meet by July 29. We can do it.

Lastly, I want to encourage everyone that has access; to use mysal.org for your membership transmittals and CSR reporting. Why do you ask? Because "snail mail" is just too slow.

Regards,

Ken A. George

Member Engagement Coordinator
National SAL & ALR Liaison
NALC Alumni – Class of 2016
Phone 317.630.1376
Fax 317.655.1509
www.legion.org

Veterans Strengthening America



American Legion Basic Training Course Available



In my division here at National HQ we are trying to get the word out encouraging all Legion family members to take The American Legion Basic Training course at www.legion.org/basictraining which is 100% free of charge for current/active members. I have heard some Posts & Departments require Legionnaires to complete this course before consideration of an elected position, and I do know it's a requirement for all Legion members to attend National American Legion College. I'm not sure if there any Squadrons that do the same or not!

Also, after completion of the course they can print their certificate of completion in color or black & white (signed by the National Commander & National Adjutant) and if they choose can purchase a **basic training cap pin** from Emblem Sales for \$4.95 by clicking this link: <https://emblem.legion.org/American-Legion-Education-Institute-Tack-BASIC-TRAINING-GRADUATE/productinfo/715.953/> or by calling (888) 453-4466.

I just thought I would ask if you & your committee members send out

emails regularly to contact lists etc. You could maybe mention this information about this course and that it's free of charge!

Thank You,

*Brian Compton, Internal Affairs
SAL, Membership, Charters Clerk
The American Legion
National Headquarters
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055
317.630.1205 (office/fax)*

