



## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

**Doug Hancock, Commander**  
**Sons of The American Legion**  
**Detachment of Ohio**  
**2021 - 2022**

Hello fellow Sons,

Rita and I had a great time in Phoenix for the National Convention. A two-year culmination of what the American Legion Family stands for. Awards, reports, elections, and an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and acquaintances from around the country. Unfortunately, National Commander Clint Bolt was not able to attend as he was recovering from COVID-19. His final report was recorded, and the convention was live streamed so he could be there remotely. In spite of the heat, a good time for the Ohio Delegation.

Michael Fox was elected as our new National Commander. His video nomination left no doubt of his qualifications. Congratulations Michael!

Our own PDC and *Ohio SALute* editor Jeff Vrabel, Sr. was elected National Vice-Commander of the Central Region. Congratulations Jeff!

We also note that Blair Miles had a great two-year term as National Vice-Commander of the Southern Region.

My travels after a busy June and July took me to Cadiz Post 34 and the 10<sup>th</sup> District at the request of Commander Matthew Baxter. Bringing greetings from the Detachment and assisting Commander Baxter in handing out Squadron awards was the order of the day. I want to thank Commander Baxter for his heartfelt introduction and hospitality.

I attended American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio President Colleen Phillip's homecoming in Findley, as well as American Legion Department of Ohio Commander Jean

Wilson's homecoming in Harrison.

My homecoming is scheduled for November 13 in Swanton. Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio will hold a Detachment Executive Committee meeting earlier that day at Post 479.

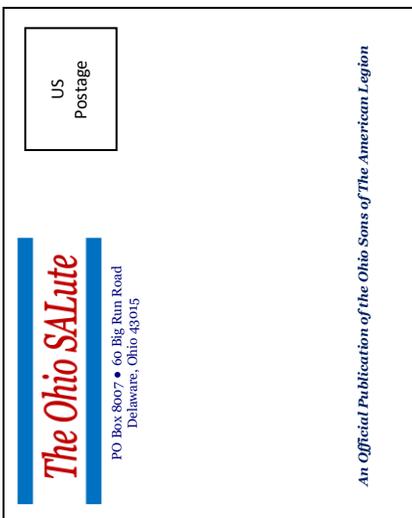
HOOVES is growing. We are now working to include First Responder Retreats as well as Veterans. We all know what these brave men and women go through in their jobs. We also are including trail riding. I thank you for your continued support.

As a reminder, all donation checks must be made out to HOOVES, not the Detachment. The Detachment will record them, and you can write them in the VA&R column on your Consolidated Squadron Report.

Thank you again for your confidence in me. Have a blessed year!

For God and Country,

*Doug Hancock, Commander*  
*Detachment of Ohio*



# The Ohio SALute

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**Dennis Albright**  
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**Dave Dilts**  
Chaplain  
**Tim Conway**  
Adjutant  
**Scott Thornton**  
National Executive Committeeman  
**Bill "Buster" Sutterlin**  
Alt. National Executive Committeeman  
**Steve Honigfort**  
Immediate Past Commander  
**Bernie Kessler**

NVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor



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**SUBMITTING ARTICLES:** All submissions are to be made electronically to [salnews@ohiolegion.com](mailto: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



Delegates and guests from the Detachment of Ohio with new National Commander Michael Fox and National Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr. at the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona

**Michael Fox of California**  
**Elected 2021-2022**  
**National Commander**  
Special to *The Ohio SALute*



On Sunday, August 29, 2021, delegates to the 49<sup>th</sup> Sons of The American Legion National Convention elected Michael Fox from the Detachment of California to the high office of National Convention for the 2021-2022 administrative year.

Five new National Vice Commanders were elected to represent the different regions of the organization, including Ohio's own: Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Central; Richard "Dickey" Huntley, Eastern; Jason Roberts, Southern; Jim Stewart, Western; and Juan Torres, Midwest.

Congratulations also go out to new national appointments Jeff Vrabel Jr., Century Committee and Bill Towns, National Historian.



**LEADERSHIP THROUGH ACTION**  
**NOT THROUGH POSITION**

**First-Vice Commander**



**Dennis Albright,**  
**First Vice-Commander**  
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Good day to you my fellow S.A.L. and American Legion Family Members.

Let us start off by congratulating PDC Jeff Vrabel Sr. for being elected as National Vice-Commander for the Central Region and wish him great success during his term. Also, congratulations to PDC Bill Towns on being appointed National Historian, Alt NEC Steve Honigfort on being appointed to the National Finance Committee, Jon Coakley on being appointed to the Child Welfare Foundation Committee, Jeff Vrabel Jr. for being appointed to the National Century Committee, and any others I may have missed good luck and great success with your appointments.

Looking at Adjutant Scott Thornton's report from September 16, 2021, there are currently **55 Squadrons** that have not submitted their 2021-2022 Officers Certification Form. **60 Squadrons** have not submitted their 2020-2021 Consolidated Squadron Reports. These numbers are not acceptable! District Officers, please contact check with your Squadrons remind them of the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline every year. They are late and will not receive their 2022 membership cards until this is taken care of.

On this report, it currently shows we have 184 zeros, but from some emails I have seen, databases have had software updated and may not be current with our membership numbers. Let us get the ball rolling and get that triple digit figure down to single digit ASAP please and thank you.

The next Virtual Membership meeting will be on Saturday November 6, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., and then on December 4, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

If you have questions, my feel free to contact me.

### Second-Vice Commander



**Dave Dilts,**  
**Second Vice-Commander**  
[SAL2ndvice@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SAL2ndvice@ohiolegion.com)  
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 (740) 319-1255

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and as always, we are out there to assist our veterans in any way possible.

We have just returned from National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona where our newly elected Commander from the Detachment of California, Michael Fox was sworn in. I'd like to congratulate Jeff Vrabel, Sr. as our National Vice-Commander of the Central Region and to Bill Towns who was appointed our National Historian.

By now you have heard about our Detachment is raffling off a toolbox with an assortment of tools. The proceeds are going to the Gifts for Yanks program. It will be raffled off at the 2022 Mid-Winter Conference. Tickets were passed out to a district representative at the last DEC meeting in July.

### Sons of American legion Detachment of Ohio

Go Pro 8 drawer tool chest  
 On wheels

Tickets  
**\$5.00 each**



To be raffled off at  
 Midwinter Conference  
 2022

Extra items  
 will be added for a  
 bonus prize

Make all checks out to  
 David L. Dilts  
 In the memo line put  
 gifts for yanks donation

**100% of the proceeds are going  
 towards Gifts for Yanks  
 program**

If you are interested in any tickets, please see your District Commander, or contact me and I will get the tickets to you.

If you are having any kind of function with your District or Squadron, please let us know and one of our Detachment Officers will try to attend.

Last but not least, always remember our veterans who are serving and who have served this great country.

### From the Chaplain



**Tim Conway, Chaplain**  
[SALChaplain@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALChaplain@ohiolegion.com)  
[truckertim622001@yahoo.com](mailto:truckertim622001@yahoo.com)  
 (419) 276-6422

If anyone needs a get well card or a condolence card sent out, please contact me at [truckertim622001@yahoo.com](mailto:truckertim622001@yahoo.com) or call me at (419) 276-6422.

### Adjutant's Update



**Scott Thornton, Adjutant**  
 2133 Sunset Creek Drive  
 Toledo, Ohio 43615  
[SALAdjutant@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALAdjutant@ohiolegion.com)

**Squadron Paperwork – Not Cleared Status.** The first target date for the 2021 membership drive was August 5. All squadrons should have filed their 2022 Officer Certification form and their 2021 Consolidated Report form. Most achieved this goal, but several have not.

Here are the current details of the squadrons with a little work left to do in this area.

Dist.	No 2022 OCF	No 2021 CSR
1	99 110 253 279 305 539	99 110 253 279 305 316 373 539 553
2	<b>CLEAR</b>	<b>CLEAR</b>
3	120 238 245 435 588 619 675 762	120 238 245 435 619 675 762
4	149	149
5	46 169 404 434 514 523 676	46 169 404 434 514 523 676
6	97 417 518 605 804	97 417 518 605
7	134 363 433 568	25 134 363 433 568 633
8	58 261 420	27 58 261 420
9	76 177 472 719	177 214 472 719
10	31 70 423 442 573	31 70 274 423 442 525 551 573 736
11	24 38 71 159 168 378 399 578 632 726	38 71 159 168 378 399 578 632 726
12	486 490	486
13	339	304 339
14	19 272	19 272

Congratulations to District 2 for being the first to be clear, and in time to qualify for the Lap #1 Target Prize (first time for any district)! For everyone else, please do your best to get these items handled soon. I know we're all still



**PROUD POSSESSORS  
 OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

dealing with social distancing requirements imposed due to the COVID-19 response, but a few phone calls could get the simple answers of, "We're keeping the same officers in place," and, "We have no activity to report for last year." If you as a District Officer can get those responses from the Squadrons that are listed, please email that to me and I'll pass it along to Department Headquarters to get them cleared.

**New Officer Certifications & Old Membership Cards.** As I write this, we have received 2022 Officers Certification Forms from 253 of our 314 squadrons, for 80.57%. Our Detachment Constitution sets the reporting deadline as May 1, and we have not relaxed that date despite the conditions we are all facing. That is actually down about 3% from last year.

We need every other Squadron to submit their report immediately – this is half of the requirement to receive your new 2022 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 2021 CARDS TO HQ – they don't want them back!

**2021 Consolidated Squadron Reports.** Your 2020-2021 Consolidated Squadron (and District) Reports are also due to Department Headquarters by May 1, and we have received 243 so far for 77.39%, but we need to finish this. This is a drop of 14 reports from last year.

Note that the content of the reporting categories was changed for last year – DO NOT USE ANY 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 "2021" and "2020."

**New Annual Squadron Data Report for National.** One of the features of the new national membership management system, [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org), will finally allow individual S.A.L. members to renew their membership dues online. In order to facilitate this function, every Squadron is now required to submit a Squadron Data Report every year. This form provides all of the Squadron's key contact details and its dues rates for regular, dual, and junior members for the coming admin year. Without the dues amounts the website cannot collect a payment because it won't have the amounts to charge. So far 155 squadrons have submitted the new form – that's 49.36% to date. However, this must get to 100% and be handled every year in the Spring going forward.

The form is also available from the SAL section of the Forms page on the department website. Please make sure to submit a copy to both national and department.

**2022 Membership Dues Deadline.** Did you know...? Membership dues for the Sons of The American Legion are payable by October 20 for the upcoming calendar year.

A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1 shall be classified as delinquent.

If his dues are paid on or before February 1, he shall be automatically reinstated.

If he is still delinquent after February 1, he shall be suspended from all privileges.

If he is still under such suspension on June 30 of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited.

A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs.

It's difficult for your members to comply with this payment requirement if you haven't cleared your paperwork and received your 2022 membership cards from Department Headquarters.

Oh, and don't sit on membership dues in your Squadron. A member is not technically paid-up until his National per capita is recorded in Indianapolis. NOTE: Transmitting your renewals and new members via mySAL.org means National gets paid right away. Get signed-up if you don't have an account!

**Fall D.E.C. Meeting – November 13, 2021.** The Detachment Executive Committee will meet at 1:00 pm at Murbach-Siefert Post No. 479, 200 S. Hallett Ave., Swanton, Ohio 43558. *Cmdr. Doug Hancock will be having his Homecoming dinner there later that day, so we are combining the two events.*

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.

**Leadership for Next Year...**In closing, it's not too early to be thinking about running for an of-

fice next year or submitting your name for consideration as a commission or committee member on the state and / or national levels. Contact National Executive Committeeman Buster Sutterlin for more information.

**Checks written to the Detachment of Ohio.** With the recent change to a new bank handling the Detachment of Ohio's finances there is a strict requirement for addressing checks written to the organization.

Effective immediately, **all checks written to the Sons of The American Legion – Detachment of Ohio MUST BE ADDRESSED WITH THE PAYEE AS FOLLOWS** (without the quote marks):

- **“The American Legion Department of Ohio, Inc.”** You may abbreviate “Department” as “Dept.” but **the new bank will only accept checks for the SAL made out in full to the Department, not the Detachment.**

This is a significant change from our old bank; however, they have informed us they have no choice but to enforce this requirement on us. Our Department Staff has already experienced issues trying to deposit some membership checks that do not meet the new requirement. Should you receive one back from Becky Corbin, please re-issue it as directed above. Department will not issue your new cards until your check is addressed properly.

- Please advise anyone writing checks to the Ohio Sons that they **must use the full name of the Department** on all payments with the specific SAL-related purpose written in the MEMO field to ensure proper handling from this time forward.

We apologize for this inconvenience and appreciate your cooperation in sharing this information

with as many people as possible to reduce delays in processing payments to the Detachment.

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### **Judge Advocate**



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

### **Unacceptable Patterns of Squadrons Submitting the Annual Paperwork**

After another year of some Squadrons being delinquent in reporting, I have noticed a pattern across the Detachment.

While sometimes things can get overlooked, it is a blatant dereliction of duties for the same Squadrons year after year to be delinquent in reporting the required squadron forms.

While many Squadrons missed the May 1st deadline again this year, four months late is unacceptable. Some Squadrons are abusing the system and consistently getting their district penalized and holding their district back from getting the much-needed membership lap prizes. Also hurting their own squadron members by not being able to pay up or get their membership cards in a timely fashion. The continued lack of reporting should be as much of an embarrassment to these Post and Squadron members and their Officers as it is to the District, Detachment, and National Officers which are members of the District.

As of this date over 60 squadrons still remain delinquent, and there are many more which have not submitted any membership including the Officers. Attempted contacts to the Squadron leadership have gone unanswered, and as a program of The American Legion Post this is a direct reflection on the leadership of both the Squadron and Post leaders. I am reaching out to you for any assistance in changing this pattern of neglect and offering my assistance to assist

in getting the forms and filing them if needed.

To get the required forms, go to the Ohio American Legion Forms page <https://www.ohiolegion.com/forms/> then scroll down to SAL and look on the right side for Other SAL Forms. The three required forms; the Officers Certification Form, the Squadron Consolidated Report and the new National Squadron Data Form are there. The OCF and the SCR forms are required to get your membership cards each year. The new National Squadron Data Form is used by National for online processing and is required for the Squadrons which use this feature.

After completion Be sure to save a copy to your files, send a copy to Detachment Adjutant Scott Thornton [scottj.thornton@gmail.com](mailto:scottj.thornton@gmail.com) and a copy to your District Sons Adjutant.

Most importantly save copy just in case down the road it is not recorded, so you don't have to worry about it again. The membership cards are ready to be mailed out now.

Please forward this message to any squadron or post member you know at any of these posts or squadrons, which are still delinquent.

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### **National Executive Committeeman**



**Bill Sutterlin,  
National Executive Committeeman**  
[SALNEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALNEC@ohiolegion.org)  
[brs257@zoominternet.net](mailto:brs257@zoominternet.net)

Hello Everyone!

I hope all of you had a great summer. It seems to have flown by so quickly. Fall is just around the corner. I hope this greeting finds you in good health.

The National Convention is over and that completes 2020-2021. Congratulations to Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

for being installed as National Vice-Commander for the Central Region. Ohio was recognized for three awards at the convention. Don Gentile Squadron #532 Columbus was recognized in Children and Youth for the Best Squadron in the Central Division. Joseph Freeman Squadron 476 in Wilkesville received the Community Service Best Scrapbook Contest Award. Loudon Squadron #257 received 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Snapshot in Service Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

I would like to recognize Bill Towns as National Historian. Jon Coakley was appointed to National Child Welfare Foundation Committee and Jeff Vrabel, Jr. appointed to the Century Committee. The Century Committee was created to plan events for the SAL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2032. Five people under the age of 30 were appointed to this committee. Congratulations to everyone for a job well done.

It was great to see members from other states that we haven't seen for a while. It was very hot in Phoenix, glad to be back in Ohio and cooler weather!

By the time this is published, 9/11 will have passed as well as POW-MIA Recognition Day. I hope all of you participated in events in memory of 9/11. Several of us went to Troy, Ohio for 9/11 because they had the 9/11 Never Forget Travel Exhibit and there was a service at the Troy Courthouse.

Thank you to Bob Steggeman for his participation and information. And continue to remember our POW-MIAs. We have Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day coming up.

The DEC meeting will be held November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Swanton Post at 1:00 P.M. and Commander Doug Hancock's homecoming that evening. Hope to see many of you there.

## ***Alternate National Executive Committeeman***



***Steve Honigfort,  
Alternate National  
Executive  
Committeeman***  
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[shonigfort@yahoo.com](mailto:shonigfort@yahoo.com)

Greetings,

With the completion of the National Convention for 2021 a new energy has arisen. Our new National Commander has many new ideas that will try to bring younger members into our organization. It is also up to us to do the same as we need the youth for survival and growth. Active members are decreasing and as a result so are events. We need to nudge existing SAL friends and families to do more.

The COVID-19 scare has kept many at home and it is up to us to keep the wheels turning. Phone calls to say how are you doing and wishing them well would open communication and possibly make them think, "I've got to get back involved." It is also important to retain existing members as many of them started the Squadrons from the beginning and are still valuable assets to keep.

Our new Detachment Commander Doug Hancock could also use everyone's support to have a successful year and we are just getting started.

Membership is starting slow and that is unacceptable as stagnation will hurt us in the long run. Getting it done immediately is the best option as it eliminates a rat race at years end when all is due. 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 the person next to you. Numbers speak volumes and more is possible at many levels to keep our group alive and 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 American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion.

We have to 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.

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# **#SALSTRONG**

## ***National Vice-Commander's Update***

*Jeff Vrabel, Sr.  
National Vice-Commander  
Central Region*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support over the past two years on the national membership committee, as well as for your confidence in electing me your National Vice-Commander for the 2022 administrative year.

There are a lot of expectations that have been set for this year, and I with your help, we will reach our goals. It is imperative that Ohio step up and do whatever is necessary to lead the Central Region in membership. We have the people in place, the program to succeed, and the knowledge to teach other Ohio Sons how to get this done. All we have to do now is go out and do it.

Please do not be satisfied with the National and Detachment membership target dates. Those are for reference and tell us where we should be at certain points throughout the year.

Go out and exceed those dates and leave them behind as we force forward into unchartered territory for Ohio. We say we are leaders, let's prove it. Who can be at 50% or higher by Veterans' Day? Anyone care to be quota instead? For some Squadrons it is a very attainable goal, we just need to get the message out about changing the way we do things. It will be a change in the membership culture, but if anyone can step up it is the Detachment of Ohio.

Another area where we will need everyone's help is with National Commander Michael Fox's national program, "[Flying Flags for Heroes](#)."

The program is fairly simple. We aim to place 1-million flags on the graves of Veterans.

Visit your local cemetery to place an American Flag at the graves of our Veterans. WE challenge every member to place a minimum of two flags next year; place one for a veteran you know and another for a veteran you wish to honor.

**Not sure how to help?** Visit [www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](#) where we have a step-by-step guide to help you. There we will direct you to all you need in setting up an event.

- Choose a local cemetery.
- Find a group or friends that want to help get involved.
- Re-visit [www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](#) to register your event.
- Request the SAL National Commander and/or National spokesman to attend.
- Upload and share your pictures of your flag placement event.

Visit [www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](#) to answer all your questions. For questions and additional information, please contact us at [flyingflagsforheroes@yahoo.com](mailto:flyingflagsforheroes@yahoo.com).



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

We are Sons of The American Legion.

**We are all #SALSTRONG!**



#### **District 1**

*Duffer Rosenbauer,  
Commander*

#### **District 2**

*Randy Matthews, Commander*

I hope everyone had a great time in Phoenix. Congratulations to our new Central Region National Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr. and to new National Historian Bill Towns.

Here in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, we are starting our new membership drives. Everyone has different things they do. Squadron 178 and Post 178 has a hamburger fry every year. I know that we have sent in at least 52 members.

The squadron had a tent during our Post 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. We sold hot dogs, chili dogs, shredded chicken, and sloppy joes. We were quite busy, and a good time was had by young and old.

We also helped at the Van Wert County Fair at The American Legion Chicken Shack. We were glad to see that they were bringing it back to life.

#### **District 3**

*Troy Davis, Commander*

#### **District 4**

*Charles W. Castle, Commander*

On behalf of all the members of the 4<sup>th</sup> District S.A.L., I would like to congratulate Jeff Vrabel, Sr. on his recent election to serve as our National Vice-Commander for the Central Region. I know that he will do an excellent job.

The following are some past and upcoming events that some of our squads in the 4<sup>th</sup> District are planning.

Squadrons in the 4<sup>th</sup> District like others in the Detachment have been busy either planning or have just finished with an event to help not only our current young men and woman that are serving our great nation or helping our veterans or members of our communities. Yeager-Benson Squadron 199, under the leadership of Squadron Commander Jeff Harper, sponsor a monthly Trivia Night after their monthly meeting. The event is well attended by members of the 199 Legion Family. Great job Jeff.

Williamsburg Squadron 288 and Archie Lee Boyce Squadron 406 recently participated in their Post's annual car shows. Both Squadrons operate the food booths at their show to raise money not only for their Posts but also their community. Dave, Joe, and Pat; excellent work by you and your members.

Hugh Watson Squadron 530 is planning their upcoming annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Squadron Commander Randy is hoping for another great turnout. Waynesville Veterans Squadron 615 members have been busy putting the final plans together for the Waynesville Annual Sauerkraut Festival. For 30 plus years Squadron 615 members have been raising money for their veterans and their community. Outstanding work by Commander Bob McKenzie, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Victor Maxwell, and all Squadron 615 members. And yes, the "German Sunday" is the best.

Also, kudos to our 4<sup>th</sup> District 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander Shawn Allen, for organizing our fall raffle to support Legion Commander Jean Wilson's Save-A-Warrior project.

The 4<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference will be held on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. hosted by Loveland Squadron 256.

**District 5**

*Dewey Kuhl, Commander*



Squadron 535 Bellville marching in the 4th of July parade L to R Alec Kuhn, John Garber, Dennis Meadows (behind the SAL flag), and Rod Smith, Commander.

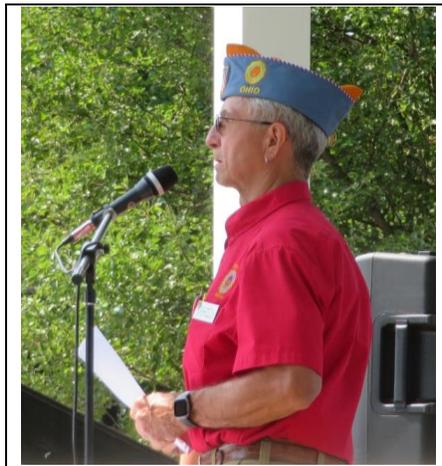


Detachment Commander Doug Hancock, NEC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin, and Detachment Chaplain Tim Conway walking in the Bellville 4th of July parade.

Bob Steggemann from American Legion Post 586 is a retired/active fireman, Veterans Service Officer and SAL Advisor. He volunteered many hours in helping to bring the 9/11 Traveling Mobile Display to Troy, Ohio September 9-12.



Pictured in front of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation 9/11 Traveling Mobile Display are Richard "Legs" Zickefoose, Bob Steggemann, NEC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin, and Detachment Chaplain Tim Conway.



During the Bellville 4th of July Program, Detachment Commander Doug Hancock addresses a crowd that gathered to watch the parade and listen to the program.



NEC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin and Richard "Legs" Zickefoose from Squadron 257 Loudonville viewing the 9/11 Traveling Mobile Display September 10, 2021.

Fifth District information submitted by Bill "Buster" Sutterlin, NEC Squadron 257 Loudonville

**District 6**

*Ted Kohler, Jr., Commander*



**The American Legion Family**



**District 7**  
*John Conley, Commander*



PDC Adam Jones, as part of the James Dickey American Legion Post 23's Honor Guard. Taking part in the 9/11 ceremony in Portsmouth, Ohio. Pictured are Post 23 Commander Jill Dawson, PDC Adam Jones, Past Post 23 Commander Beecher Wright.

**District 8**

*Phil Lightfoot, Commander*

**District 9**

*Tom Foss, Commander*



Sons of The American Legion Brakeman-King Squadron 336 hosted Big Boys sandwiches for our Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Painesville Police Department for the outstanding duties as they do for our community.

## District 10

Matthew Baxter, Commander



Squadron 357 shared information on the American Legion Family and distributed bags filled with school supplies and goodies to children of families attending the Minera Family Fun Day August 7, 2021.

## District 11

Chet Crooks, Commander

## District 12

Rocky Searles, Commander

## District 13

Adam Budner, Commander

## District 14

PNC Fred Hartline, Sr.,  
Commander

The District is off to a slow start this year, but things are looking up.

Our meetings for the year are as follows: October 31 at Windham Post 874, January 30 at Stow Post 175, and April 23 at Akron Post 272. All meetings begin at 2:00 p.m.

On October 1, 2 and 3 we were at the Norton Cider Fest promoting the American Legion Programs. Plans are in the works to be at the Medina Ice festival next February.

In July Squadron 566 held a Past Commanders & Past Presidents Dinner. All those in attendance received a certificate of appreciation. We were honored to have 2 Past Department Presidents attend in Karen Peel and Marylyn Warned. The Squadron Second Vice-Commander was also there, Ron Hartline, who was Commander in 1963.

Three past Squadron Commanders in attendance totaled 164 years in Membership.



# HIO

Reports of  
Committees & Commissions

## AMERICANISM COMMISSION



Randy Matthews,  
Chairman  
[load529@yahoo.com](mailto:load529@yahoo.com)

I hope everyone had a great time in Phoenix. Congratulations to Jeff and Bill. Ohio wishes you well!

Americanism will be blunt this time. We all see what is happening in our country. Now is the time that the American Legion Family must become one. We need everyone to speak to their representatives on the local, county, state, and federal levels. Write, call, or email them. Tell them how you feel about what is happening to us. Tell them how you want them to vote on bills and other things you are worried about. This is our country, and we need to stand up and make our voices heard.

Please keep all our veterans and their families in your prayers. Also, go up and thank anyone in a military uniform and let them know we care.

## Buckeye Boys State



John Vrzal, Chairman  
[VrzalJD@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:VrzalJD@MiamiOH.edu)

## Legislative Update



Craig Smith,  
Chairman  
[craigsmith1958@gmail.com](mailto:craigsmith1958@gmail.com)

Buddy Checks. We all need to do this in our Posts and towns.

VA Access for WWII Veterans. On June 23 it was the subject of a SVAC Full Committee Hearing where it received V A support. It is now awaiting scheduling for a vote on the Senate Floor. The House Veterans Committee marked up the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021 and the bill was reported out to the full house.

This legislation will put toxic-exposed veterans into Priority Group 6 for obtaining V A health care services. It will also streamline the V A's review process for establishing toxic exposure presumptions. The government will concede veterans were exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits based on locations and dates of service, rather than the veteran to prove physical exposure.

## Oratorical



Rocky Searles,  
Chairman  
[Rocky.Searles@CenturyLink.com](mailto:Rocky.Searles@CenturyLink.com)

## POW ★ MIA



Evan Mahlman,  
Chairman  
[E.Mahlman216@gmail.com](mailto:E.Mahlman216@gmail.com)

## CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION



Bruce Forshey,  
Chairman  
[Bruce.Forshey@gmail.com](mailto:Bruce.Forshey@gmail.com)

## Children's Miracle Network



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

Sixty-two children enter a CMN Hospital for treatment every minute. Whether they suffer from common childhood afflictions like asthma and broken bones, or fight bigger challenges like birth defects or cancer, CMN Hospitals provide

comfort, treatment, and hope to millions of sick kids. In fact, CMN Hospitals treat one in 10 children in North American each year. To provide the best care for kids, children's hospitals rely on donations and community support, as Medicaid and insurance programs do not fully cover the cost of care.

Children's hospitals are on the frontlines of the pandemic. Nationwide, the number of COVID-19 cases reported in children continues to rise. Financial donations to children's hospitals transform how they meet the urgent needs brought on by the pandemic, while also maintaining an exceptional standard of care and preventing and preparing for health challenges to come. Now, more than ever, kids can't wait. Your support of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is invaluable throughout this COVID-19 surge in creating the healthiest future possible for kids.

As CMN Hospitals see increased and more severe cases of COVID-19 among children, their resources are being significantly stretched. The ripple effects of COVID-19 will affect every aspect of treatment and services offered by children's hospitals. When we fund children's hospitals, we transform how we meet the most urgent needs, saving more lives and protecting our collective future. The reality is: Kids Can't Wait. They need children's hospitals now more than ever.

### **Child Welfare Foundation**



**Adam Jones,  
Chairman**  
3675 Bear Creek Rarden Rd.  
Otway, Ohio 45657  
(740) 821-0191  
[glimmer\\_man72@yahoo.com](mailto:glimmer_man72@yahoo.com)

I hope that this submission finds everyone doing well. I hope to see everyone at Detachment Commander Hancock's Homecoming and the Fall DEC in Swanton.

After speaking with Mark Nave, National Child Welfare Foundation Committee Chairman, he told me

the following awards were given at National.

Udie S. Grant Legacy Award went to Detachment of Florida.

Garland Murphy Award went to the Detachment of Florida.

Meritorious Achievement Award went to the Detachment of Colorado.

Excellence Award went to the Detachment of Colorado.

Here's how the Detachment of Ohio finished and what lies ahead:

- 2020 donations \$14,676.00
- Membership 29,817
- Goal \$29,817.00
- 2021 donations \$21,618.74
- % of goal 72.5%
- Donation per capita \$0.73

The Fall National meeting is scheduled for Indianapolis October 6-7.

I have Child Welfare Foundation "piggy banks" available for you. Please contact me so I can mail you some to put in your Posts.



A new American Legion Child Welfare Foundation shirt has been released. Please consider getting one.

### **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION**



**Dan Sagraves,  
Chairman**  
[dansagraves@twc.com](mailto:dansagraves@twc.com)

First of all, let's get the obvious out of the way. As of today (9/10/21) we are still very limited in what we can do at our VA medical facilities. The same goes for the Fisher Houses. We continue to hope and pray that this pandemic will pass, and we can return to the life that

we want to. There are still ways you can help veterans. The first and foremost is to help your neighbor or the veteran at your local Post.

Secondly, we can all make donations of cash and material. You can still deliver items to the facilities. You can also make donations to finance activities at the facilities. They are being conducted by staff and some volunteers.

One of our primary American Legion charities is the Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program. While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

The American Legion contacts officials at military hospitals, warrior transition units and surrounding communities, and obtains lists to determine which items are needed by wounded, injured or ill service-members. Once a need is identified, the items are ordered by The American Legion and delivered in an expeditious manner. ***It's as simple as that. No red tape.*** So, find out what you are able to do and do it. As always, remember to document it on your Consolidated Squadron Report.

Here are some statistics from the national American Legion website concerning service to veterans. American Legion Family fund raising donated nearly 1.5 million dollars this year. There were 4,512,886 volunteer hours. Over \$680,000 given to family support programs. While it might seem small, there were 2,426 veterans placed in jobs.

Look at these numbers and be proud that you are part of it. Remember, we proud possessors of a priceless heritage. Keep up the work for our nation's veterans.

**Veterans Affairs  
& Rehabilitation  
Committee**



**Robert Showalter,  
North Chairman**  
[roshow2850@yahoo.com](mailto:roshow2850@yahoo.com)

The Sandusky OVH is still only letting in family for visits.

Recently, the Flag City Honor Flight board made the difficult decision to postpone the 2021 season due to increasing COVID-19 cases. This includes our flights and bus trips that had been scheduled September through November.



**Gerry Palmer,  
South Chairman**  
[gerpalm6@gmail.com](mailto:gerpalm6@gmail.com)



Chillicothe VA Medical Center Voluntary Service would like to thank, Linda Lyon, American Legion Auxiliary a Department of Ohio Representative, and John Tepper American Legion a Department of Ohio Representative dedicated VA Medical Center Volunteer spending their morning assisting VA staff in delivering Gift for Yank for a Christmas in July also they funded a special meal from Elegant Eats. The American Legion Gifts for Yank's program provides Christmas gifts to all in-patient Veterans. If you are interested in donating, please call 740-773-1141 extension 17420.



**Jamie Russell,  
Voluntary Service Specialist,  
VA Center for Development  
& Civic Engagement (CDCE)  
(formerly VA Voluntary Service)**  
Building 9 room 216  
740-773-1141, ext. 17422  
17273 State route 104  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601  
[www.chillicothe.va.gov/giving](http://www.chillicothe.va.gov/giving)



*Celebrating 75 Years of  
VA Voluntary Service*

**Veterans Employment  
and Education  
Committee**



**Bob Carson, Chairman**  
[CarsonRobert1957@Gmail.com](mailto:CarsonRobert1957@Gmail.com)



**BUDDY  
CHECK**

**LET THEM KNOW WE CARE!  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION**



**NOVEMBER IS  
NATIONAL RENEWAL  
MONTH**

**HONOR THE VETERAN WHO  
MADE YOU ELIGIBLE  
Renew today!**



**Steve Honigfort,  
Chairman**  
[SALANEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALANEC@ohiolegion.org)  
[shonigfort@yahoo.com](mailto:shonigfort@yahoo.com)

# The Ohio SALute

## From the Editor



Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor,  
The Ohio SALute

[jeffvrabel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffvrabel@sbcglobal.net)  
[SALNews@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALNews@ohiolegion.com)

MEDIA ALLIANCE

Thanks to everyone who submitted information for this edition of *The Ohio SALute*. We need to make sure that we get as much information in our newsletter as we can so we can get our message out to everyone. For some, this is the only way they find out what is happening across the state.

Don't forget, when making submissions they must be in Word format. Make sure to identify everyone in pictures and give a brief story of what is happening in the picture or what event the picture was taken at.

I was sent the following information by Sandy Lipman and the Detachment of Michigan, and stresses the importance of participation in *MILegionnaire*, the publication of the American Legion Family of Michigan.

I have made a few editorial changes, so it fits *The Ohio SALute*, but the message is the same. We must have participation to be successful.

**Importance to contributing to our SAL newsletter.** It's that time of year again to talk about why we need you to contribute to *The Ohio SALute*. For those of you who are new to this topic, here are the basics.

Four times per year we get the opportunity to tell the world a little more about ourselves through *The Ohio SALute*. The deadlines for those four editions are listed below.

So, you may be asking yourself, "What's the big deal?" or "Why would I need to submit an article

to a future newsletter?" Here are a few answers to consider:

- **To increase awareness.** Our articles tell people who we are and what we do. People should be compelled to find out more about Sons of The American Legion and the Detachment of Ohio.
- **To educate.** Our articles can give fellow members important information on upcoming events, important issues, our goals, and our mission.
- **To inspire.** Ohio SAL members do an incredible amount of work for our community, state, and nation. Let's get those stories of hard-working members and Squadrons into our newsletter. Let's inspire our fellow Sons.

We need your articles and your pictures. We love photos of SAL members in action, especially when they are wearing their SAL cap.

Spread the word to your fellow Blue Cappers! Articles and pictures go to Jeff Vrabel, Sr. at [jeffvrabel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffvrabel@sbcglobal.net) or [salnews@ohiolegion.com](mailto:salnews@ohiolegion.com). In turn, either Jeff or Public Relations Commission Chairman Steve Honigfort may take some of your photos, articles, and information and submit to National.

It's our turn to shine! We need your help! Let's get it done!



*The Ohio SALute* is published 4 times per year.

**ADVERTISING:** Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. Advertising published on behalf of any individual or organization does not necessarily constitute endorsement nor reflect the policy of *The Ohio SALute*. Advertising requests may be submitted to [\[news@ohiolegion.com\]\(mailto:news@ohiolegion.com\) or \[saladjutant@ohiolegion.com\]\(mailto:saladjutant@ohiolegion.com\).](mailto:sal-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**SUBMITTING ARTICLES:** All submissions are to be made electronically to [salnews@ohiolegion.com](mailto: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



## Convention Screening Committee



Bill "Buster" Sutterlin,  
Chairman

[SALNEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALNEC@ohiolegion.org)  
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## Finance Committee



Rex Buchs, Chairman  
[RexBuchs@AOL.com](mailto:RexBuchs@AOL.com)

## Member Training & Development Committee



Bill Towns, Chairman

[docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:docbill@neo.rr.com)  
[SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com)

## Constitutional Review Committee



**Bill Towns, Chairman**  
[docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:docbill@neo.rr.com)  
[SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com)

## Committee Appointments Committee

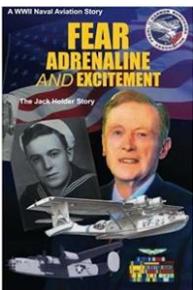


**Bill Sutterlin, Chairman**  
[SALNEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALNEC@ohiolegion.org)  
[brs257@zoominternet.net](mailto:brs257@zoominternet.net)

## Ohio Past Detachment Commanders Club



## Birthday wishes requested



At the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix, there was a booth set up for Pearl Harbor Survivor Jack Holder. At the booth, Jack was telling stories and selling his book, *Fear, Adrenaline, and Excitement*.

Billed as “a WWII Naval Aviation Adventure,” the book tells Jack’s story, beginning on December 7, 1941, and tells about his next four years of life.

Jack has the following distinctions:

- Pearl Harbor survivor
- US Navy Flight Engineer, WWII
- 2 Distinguished Flying Cross Medals
- Presidential Citation
- 9 Air Medals
- 7 Written Commendations

Now Jack Holder, Pearl Harbor Survivor, WWII Navy Flight Engineer, Battle of Midway, Guadalcanal, English Channel, and Battle of Biscay needs more, and this is where you will help him. On December 13, 2021, Jack Holder will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. One of his assistants, Darlene Tyron, told me about how they want to shower him with cards, so I told her that we would do what we could to help this hero celebrate.

The process is simple. Either purchase or make a birthday card, sign it, and send it in. Cards can be sent no later than November 13, 2021, to:

Jack Holder  
c/o Darlene Tryon  
4499 East Sundance Court  
Gilbert, Arizona 85297

Let’s get behind this project and make sure Jack gets hundreds of cards for his birthday and as a way to thank him for his service.

Thank you for your help!

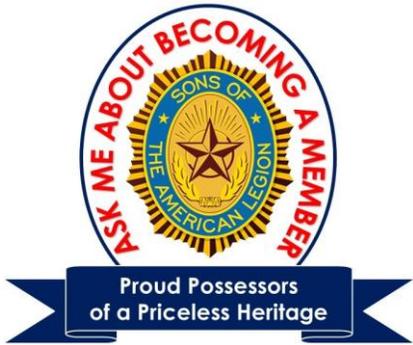
## Ohio Sons license plate update



## Tradition of Support and Promotion

With a tradition of support for the programs and principles of The Sons of The American Legion, Ohio Past Detachment Commander Bill Towns (Minerva Squadron 357) has updated his license plate

with the now available Sons of The American Legion Logo. As the newly appointed National Sons of The American Legion Historian, Bill wants to encourage all to promote our heritage and traditions as we continue to expand in new directions.



### Legion posts: COVID-19 assistance grants available

By Daniel S. Wheeler,  
National Adjutant  
SEP 14, 2021



The American Legion understands the financial impact felt at the post level during the COVID-19 pandemic as member and community outreach efforts were limited, resulting in a loss of revenue. To provide some relief during these challenging times, The American Legion wants to remind you that financial grants are available for eligible American Legion posts.

The American Legion's Mission Blue Post Assistance Program provides up to \$1,000 in grants to posts that are in good standing with their respective department and meet the qualifying criteria (see below). These funds must be used exclusively to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities, and insurance premiums.

The Mission Blue Post Assistance Program went into effect following the approval of Resolution No. 36 by the National Executive Committee in October 2020. Since then, more than \$450,000 in financial grants have been provided to posts that have been negatively impacted from COVID-19.

American Legion Post 118 in Rio Rancho, N.M., had to close its doors during the pandemic. Even with the closure, the post continued to pay monthly building ex-

penses without its more than 600 members able to use it. And when the insurance bill was due, it was a significant expense that had Post 118 Commander William Jennings worried about finding the means to pay. Financial relief came to Jennings with a grant from The American Legion's Mission Blue Post Assistance Program.

"The \$1,000 that the National American Legion sent us allowed us to make that payment to keep our insurance active. It will keep us going to May," Jennings said. "The grant came at a really good time. We really needed it."

**Apply for a grant.** Eligible American Legion posts can apply for a Mission Blue Assistance grant through July 1, 2022.

**Application is online here.**

All applications will first need to go through the respective department prior to being submitted to National Headquarters.

**Grant application qualification** To apply, posts must have:

1. A Consolidated Post Report on file at National Headquarters.
2. Filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
3. Filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.
4. Actively participated in one or more American Legion programs within the last 18 months.
5. A financial need.
6. A certificate of insurance for all liability coverage naming The American Legion doing business as (dba) The American Legion National Headquarters and the post's department as an additional insured. (Submit declaration page showing coverage.)
7. Documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

American Legion posts that receive a grant are required to submit a grant report within six months of

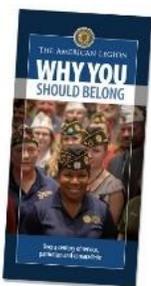
the grant/check issue date. There is a standardized grant report that is sent out with every inclusion letter to the department for the recipient posts. When completing the Mission Blue grant report, a recipient post needs to only report how the grant, which is capped at \$1,000, was utilized. For example, \$250 used for insurance and \$750 used for utilities. Reported figures should not exceed the amount that was awarded.

The American Legion National Headquarters is here to support posts in this time of need. If you have further questions, please email the Internal Affairs Division at [IA@legion.org](mailto:IA@legion.org).

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### **Commander Dillard's Membership engagement initiative**

The American Legion  
SEP 22, 2021



Membership engagement is a priority for American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard.

Whether it's current, expired, or potential members, it's important to engage with these individuals and show them the value of membership in The American Legion.

Dillard has announced a new membership engagement initiative with members who last paid in 2020 and did not renew their membership in 2021.

Legionnaires are encouraged to reach out to 2020 members and offer them the ability to continue their continuous years of membership – despite not renewing in 2021 – if they renew for the 2022 membership year. For example, if an expired 2020 member had five continuous years prior to letting their membership lapse, and they were to pay for the 2022 membership year, their continuous years would be six years.

If the veteran would like to pay for 2021 as well so it's on their membership record, they can. If they only want to pay for 2022, then the adjustment on the continuous years has to be made at the post by filling out a Member Data Form (MDF) to correct the years and processed at National Headquarters, or the department can correct it within the members record in Personify.

When transmitting dues, if the veteran is only paying for the 2022 membership year than select 2022 – do not select 2021 or payment will come out for that portion of the per capita and it will be deducted as part of the eCheck payment processing.

If the member wants both 2021 and 2022 membership years to be added to their continuous years, then accept payment from them for 2021 and 2022, then the department will process those two years through Personify.

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### **OCW changes lives at major regatta in Cleveland**

By [Henry Howard](#)  
SEP 21, 2021

Carolyn Chunyo started rowing four years ago even though she wasn't interested in the sport.

"I had transitioned. I wasn't feeling it. I was struggling," said Chunyo, who returned home to Cleveland after serving in the Army Reserves. "How do I fit? I grew up here, but I couldn't adjust. I realized that I see the world through a veteran's eyes. It's different than for my friends who lived here their whole lives. I felt isolated."

Thanks to encouragement from her sister, Chunyo participated in activities outside her home, including a learn-to-row program. Still, she was worried about injuries and surgeries that have compromised her balance and hearing.

"You're going to put me in a tippy boat?" Chunyo wondered at the time. "But I got in the boat, and I loved it. Transition and fitting into

a civilian world can be tough. Rowing is why I get out of bed. I have a team depending on me. It's back to how I felt in the military. Rowing is the reason I am still walking the face of the earth."

Now, Chunyo is the captain of the Cleveland Freedom Rows rowing team. On Sept. 18, The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program unveiled the team's new boat at one of the largest regattas in the country, the Head of the Cuyahoga Regatta in Cleveland. The Cleveland Rowing Foundation hosts the regatta every year. The foundation has been working with the Western Reserve Rowing Association to grow its veteran league rowing program.

The \$32,000 OCW sponsorship covers the eight-person shell, which is 62 feet long and weighs 400 pounds, the oars and rack. It also includes a trophy that will be presented each year indefinitely to the winning team in the eight-person veterans race.

In a riverside ceremony, American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard christened the U.S.-made boat, which will be used only by teams of veterans.

"Operation Comfort Warriors lets us bring The American Legion to the individual veterans and fulfill their needs," Dillard said. "At the same time, Operation Comfort Warriors lets us do the things we want to do to support veterans in need."

The daylong event, now in its 25th year, featured two veterans races among the approximately 60 that were held in the Cuyahoga River. One crew was made up entirely of blind athletes. Overall, there were 400 entries, thousands of athletes, and thousands more fans cheering them on.

"For veterans with disabilities, they might not be able to get out," Dillard said. "That's what this is about. We're getting them back into society. I'm from Texas and I'm used to rodeos, not rowing. But this is fabulous. It's a big step

for and commitment from The American Legion.”

**Chunyo appreciates the Legion’s support.** “Applying for the grant and learning about it have made my husband and I more aware of The American Legion,” said Chunyo, who along with her husband, Geoffrey, became members over the weekend. “These are people I belong with. That was something new for me. This is a good feeling.”

While a recent surgery sidelined Carolyn from rowing, her team gave The American Legion boat a successful debut, winning by less than two seconds. The long-lasting impact of the victory will not just be the team name etched on the trophy.

“The Legion’s support means that as an entity, Freedom Rows will have the ability to bring more people in quicker, we will have more people in the water being seen,” Chunyo said. “As vets, it means we have more people supporting us in what we are doing. It makes a big difference.

That’s what drove Past National Commander James Koutz to establish OCW as his fundraising program during his year in office. Originally established as a \$500,00 goal, more than \$1.1 million was donated for OCW under Koutz.

“Operation Comfort Warriors is a great program of The American Legion,” he said. “It’s amazing what they do here with all these boats. Operation Comfort Warriors is proud to be a part of it. It’s great talking with these guys and gals who are supportive of The American Legion, especially Operation Comfort Warriors. They are talking about starting an American Legion rowing post. That would be great and help make OCW even better.”

Throughout its history, OCW has provided a variety of items to help wounded warriors in their recovery. Items have ranged from loose-fitting sweatsuits for burn victims

to electronic devices to assist those with tinnitus to fitness equipment for others rehabbing injuries.

A full 100 percent of donations goes to cover items that OCW provides to veterans and servicemembers to help their recoveries. To learn more or to make a donation, [please visit this link](#).

“The reason we get to do things like this boat sponsorship is because of the donations that come in from across the country,” Koutz said.

Dillard noted that OCW grant recipients have included veterans who are dealing post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic injuries in addition to physical injuries.

“There’s no better way to donate money than to donate to individuals who have raised their hands and pledged to give everything, including their lives, in defense of our country,” he said. “There’s no better way to give back to a true American, a true hero, especially those who have had a difficult time going through things.”

American Legion Department of Ohio Commander Jean Wilson made her first trip to the regatta.

“It’s a great honor and privilege to be here,” said, Wilson, a member of Post 199 in Harrison. “It’s a wonderful way for us to get our name out there and for people to understand what our mission is. We’re putting veterans first and providing what they need and what they want to have. It’s a great op-

portunity for us to pay back our most precious jewel in the universe, our veterans.”

The department had a booth in a high visibility area where members interacted throughout the day with veterans and non-veterans. Among them was a father of a former American Legion Buckeye Boys State participant who stopped by to share his son’s experience, Wilson noted.

“People have been very impressed that The American Legion is here and that we sponsored a boat,” she said. “And they are also impressed with the range of things that The American Legion does, for our veterans and for our children and youth.”

### Operation Comfort Warriors



This program provides comfort items for wounded,

injured or ill military personnel. All donations to this fund go directly towards the purchase of these comfort items.



Ohio Detachment Adjutant Attends Legion National Convention

SALer Robert Allen McBride, detachment adjutant and fourth district commander of the Ohio Sons of The American Legion, enjoyed the excitement of the Legion's 49th National Convention held in Boston, Mass., the last of August.

Pictured with Bob is his father, Philip "Bob" McBride, the 1967-68 department commander of the Buckeye State.



*courtesy by Bill Towns*

reprinted from Vol 1 No 3 of SALUTATIONS, September 1967

# National Membership League season Underway



The 2022 Membership season is well underway, and National Membership Chairman and National Membership League Commissioner Thom Skelley has released the schedule. There will be six games, with each team vying for enough points to win the season. Each of the five regions will compete against each other, as well as the national average, in their quest to win the coveted National Membership Championship and the Chairman's Cup.

The regions for the Sons of The American Legion have been assigned a number based on membership size as follows:

- 1) EAST
- 2) CENTRAL
- 3) SOUTH
- 4) MIDWEST
- 5) WEST
- 6) NATIONAL Avg.

Here's how it works:

- 1) Each region will match-up against a different region for two consecutive target dates, culminating with the final delegate strength target date of 105%.
- 2) The winner will be the region with the highest percentage of membership to goal for that particular target date. Since we have five regions, the national total will be "team" 6.
- 3) In the event that both regions exceeded their goal, the winner will be the region with the highest overall percentage.

- 4) The percentages will be taken from the official national membership report run closest to, and prior to, the target date.
- 5) 10 points will be awarded to the winning region in each matchup, with a possible 5 bonus points awarded to any region that meets or exceeds its target date percentage.
- 6) All five regions will compete against each other for the 105% delegate strength goal 07/28/2022

## National Membership League 2022 Schedule

October 14, 2021 – 25%  
 November 10, 2021 – 35%  
**East Beasts vs. Central Capitals**

**South Force vs. National Gold**

**Midwest Monsters vs. West Commanders**

December 8, 2021 – 45%  
 January 20, 2022 – 60%  
**South Force vs. Midwest Monsters**

**East Beasts vs. National Gold**

**Central Capitals vs. West Commanders**

February 9, 2022 – 75%  
 March 9, 2022 – 80%  
**Midwest Monsters vs. National Gold**

**Central Capitals vs. South Force**

**East Beasts vs. West Commanders**

April 13, 2022 – 90%  
**East Beasts vs. Midwest Monsters**  
**West Commanders vs. South Force**

**Central Capitals vs. National Gold**

May 11, 2022 – 100%  
**West Commanders vs. National Gold**

**East Beasts vs. South Force**

**Central Capitals vs. Midwest Monsters**

July 28, 2020 – 105%  
 All five regions will compete against each other for the 105% delegate strength goal

About the teams

**East Beasts.** The East largest Region in the organization, often referred to as the "Beasts in the East."

**Central Capitals.** National Headquarters is in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is the capital of The American Legion.

**South Force.** For the past two years the South Region has shown their power as the leader in membership and a force to be reckoned with.

**National Gold.** This team is named after the color of the caps of our National Officers.

**Midwest Monsters.** Ready to attack membership and SAL programs, also known as "the Monsters of the Midwest,"

**West Commanders.** The home of 2022 National Commander Michael Fox is in California, the West will command attention this year.



Sons of The American Legion  
 Detachment of Ohio  
 Commander's Homecoming



Celebration for:

**Doug Hancock**

Saturday, November 13, 2021 5:00 – 11:00 pm

Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post No. 479  
 200 S. Hallett Ave., Swanton, OH 43558

5:00 pm – Snacks and Drinks 6:00 pm – Dinner

Choice of BBQ Chicken or Pork Loin, baked potato, salad, and desert;  
 2 drink tickets with dinner and cash bar; \$35.00 per person

Entertainment: Music / Karaoke OPDCC Bottle Raffle

*Dress: Legion Casual (polo shirt, slacks, uniform cover)*

Accommodations (discounted; 7 minutes away)

Baymont Inn & Suites by Wyndham Swanton/Toledo Airport  
 10753 Airport Hwy. (OH-2), Swanton, OH 43558 – (419) 491-3369  
 Block of 25 rooms – Rate code: “Doug Hancock Homecoming”

Additional Hotels (no discount; 17 minutes away)

Courtyard by Marriott, 1435 E. Mall Dr., Holland, OH 43528 – (419) 866-1001  
 Quality Inn, 1401 E. Mall Dr., Holland, OH 43528 – (419) 867-1144

**Deadline for Reservations: October 25, 2021**

For questions call (419) 350-4054

***PLEASE PRINT***

<i>Name</i> _____	<i>Post</i> _____	
<i>Number Attending</i> _____	<i>Amount Enclosed</i> _____	
<i>BBQ Chicken</i> _____	<i>Pork Loin</i> _____	<i>Phone #</i> _____

Make checks payable to “Doug Hancock” – 2001 McIntosh Dr., Holland, OH 43528