

New Charter presented



Detachment of Minnesota Chaplain Stu Sonnee and Detachment Commander John Weiss present a new Sons of the American Legion Squadron charter to 3M Post 599 Commander Carl Renallas and new 3M Squadron 599 Commander Carroll "Bird" Partage.

Lou Michaels, Staff Contributor

SONS OF THE

AMERICAN LEGION

Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1. Hawaii	85.83%
2. France	84.52%
3. South Dakota	84.36%
4. Wisconsin	77.40%
5. Louisiana	77.38%
6. Iowa	71.08%
7. Mississippi	69.84%
8. Alabama	69.29%
9. South Carolina	69.04%
10. Georgia	68.47%

as of December 18, 2023



THE MILLENNIUM

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS. Our goal is to promptly correct errors. Please email the Editor to report a mistake, error, to request a clarification. Please reference the edition, page number, and title of the article in question.

All information must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon the twentieth of each month and must be made electronically by [emailing the editor](#).

Sons of The American Legion
Post Office Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1200

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Anthony W. Wright

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS

Robert Bristo

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[Jeff Vrabel, Sr.](#), Editor

[Rusty Myers](#), Assistant Editor

[Lou Michaels](#), Staff Contributor

[Butch Ray](#), Staff Contributor

[Randy Timms](#), Staff Contributor

FOLLOW US:



Randy Timms, Staff Contributor

Sons attend Youth Camp

On July 15, 2023, several Sons of The American Legion members from Wisconsin attended the Badger Youth Camp at Camp Lakota, near Wautoma, Wisconsin. We were invited by the Wisconsin Army National Guard via their Child & Youth Program Coordinator. The Guard holds this camp every year for the children of active-duty servicemembers.

In part, the purpose is to gather children who share the common reality of having a parent(s) deployed and away from home for a period of time. It provides them a way to share and realize they are not alone.

The SAL was blessed to have two 90-minute sessions that brought our program to about 150 children. We put on a small play, demonstrated the proper method for folding the Flag and had a wonderful Q&A session with them. This included several veterans who answered questions about being in the military.



Campers during a presentation at Badger Youth Camp.

Jo Timms

Some years ago, Joyce Bouhl, past Auxiliary President in Wisconsin, wrote a

script based on the Johnny Cash song "That Old Ragged Flag." Joyce honored me by allowing me to have it and use it as I saw fit. After some minor modifications, it was ready for the children! Together with Chris Dannemann, Detachment Vice Commander, Chris Sherman, Detachment Assistant Adjutant and NECMan, David Fuller, Detachment Commander, Yia Yia Wishke, Department Vice Commander for Children & Youth, her Grandson Alex, and myself, we dazzled 'em!



Chris Sherman assisting a camper in the proper way to fold the American flag.

Jo Timms

Truthfully, not knowing how our program would be received, we were thrilled beyond words to find out our program was one of the hits during their camp week. Not only that, but the Guard has invited us back for their next camp. Needless to say, we're already putting more polish on the program.

If any squadron would like the script to That Old Ragged Flag, I have Joyce's permission to share it. Just send me an email with your contact information and thoughts as to how you'll use it, and I will send it to you promptly.





The Newshound

A special section for Young Sons of The American Legion

AMERICAN LEGION ON YOUTH

CHANGING LIVES – SAVING LIVES

American Legion youth programs instill values, develop responsible citizens and inspire future U.S. leaders.

Youth mentorship is one prominent way former members of the U.S. Armed Forces in The American Legion live up to the motto, "Veterans Strengthening America." Around the

world, they passionately provide structure, guidance, education and opportunity for young people to better understand their nation, contribute to it and achieve their dreams.

Today, more than ever, donation-funded American Legion youth programs brighten the future by showing young men and women what

it means to live, compete, serve and lead in a free nation.

Your charitable gift will help The American Legion continue its mission, one community at a time, through youth programs that have made life-changing differences for nearly a century. No other organization has the same kind of impact for so many young Americans.



Boys State and Boys Nation

Each year, more than 16,000 young men learn firsthand how state and federal government function in a democracy.

"The first step in studying and understanding the Constitution is that it is meant to empower as well as protect us. We are responsible for it. I urge you to learn everything you can about it, which I know you do, because I went to Boys State."

- Hillsdale College President Larry P. Ann, 2021



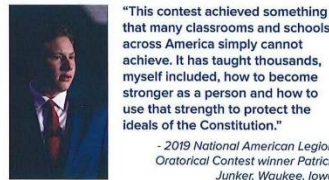
Oratorical Contests

Nearly 2,500 teens a year learn the U.S. Constitution and how to speak fluently about it, with the opportunity to win hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships at the local, state and national levels.



\$6.42 million

Amount in scholarships presented to 2,962 competitors in The American Legion National Oratorical Contest since its inception.



"This contest achieved something that many classrooms and schools across America simply cannot achieve. It has taught thousands, myself included, how to become stronger as a person and how to use that strength to protect the ideals of the Constitution."

- 2019 National American Legion Oratorical Contest winner Patrick Junker, Waukeo, Iowa



16,067

American Legion Boys State participants sponsored by local posts in 2023.



Junior Shooting Sports

More than 2,300 American Legion clubs worldwide impart the values of discipline, gun safety and sportsmanship each year to nearly 12,000 competitors, who strive to be the very best and earn college scholarships.



11,811

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports competitors in 2022-23.



7,583

Participants in American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement programs in 2022-23.



18,547

American Legion School Award medals presented in 2022-23 to students graduating from elementary school, junior high, high school or college who exemplify six qualities of character: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.



Baseball

American Legion Baseball is much more than a game. It is an oath to work hard, dedicate oneself to fitness, good sportsmanship, community service and responsible citizenship. Nearly 50,000 athletes play on approximately 3,000 American Legion Baseball teams each year.



\$622,500

Amount in American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year scholarships awarded since 1983.

\$2,014,236

Amount American Legion posts donated to local Scouting units in 2022-23.



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY

BE THE ONE

Coming To A Post Near You

April 27, 2024

Picture in Memory of Mayfield Post 276

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 3 - National Convention, 2022
 Title: American Legion Family Day

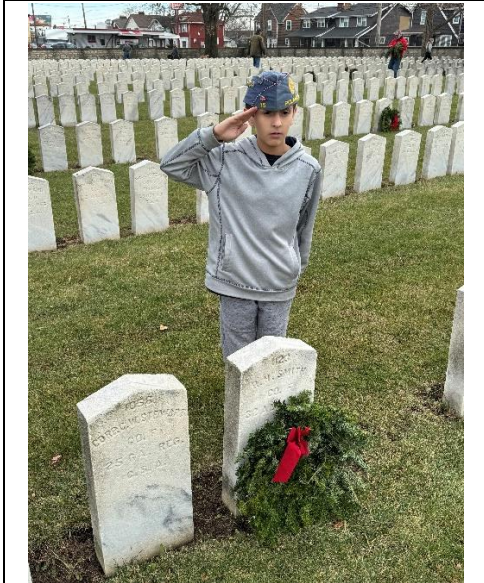
WHEREAS, the American Legion Family is an integral component supporting those in need within their local communities and does so in an unselfish manner without want of notice, personal gain, or recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 26-28, 2022, that a special day to be known as "American Legion Family Day" be established and observed annually on the last Saturday of April, when all American Legion Posts throughout the nation open their doors to their members and the members of their local communities with the intent of celebrating all great deeds and works of the American Legion Family with the intent to educate, recruit, recognize, and to give back to those members that continually support the gift of giving; and, be it further

REPRESENTING

More

THAN ME



Phillip Vrabel of Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 in Poland, Ohio participated in Wreaths Across America on December 16, 2023, at Camp Chase Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio.

Jeff Vrabel Sr.



Santa getting an earful from NJ Detachment Adjutant Rusty Myers during the Post 105 Family Toy and Coat Drive. The annual event in Belleville, NJ was a success, helping 119 families in need.

Squadron 105

Business meetings schedule

Sons of The American Legion is announcing its 2023 – 2024 Zoom Business Meeting schedule. To attend on the appropriate date, please click the link on the meeting you would like to attend. If you will be calling in, the number for all meetings is (877) 853-5257.

These meetings are open to all members to listen in and find out more about the organization, learn about how national programs are going, and get ideas that may work at home.

Central Region

Second Wednesday Quarterly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429
11/10/23 | 12/12/23 | 03/13/24 | 04/09/24 | 06/11/24 | 08/13/24

Midwest Region

Fourth Wednesday Quarterly | 7:00 p.m. Mtn Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685
09/27/23 | 12/27/23 | 03/27/24 | 06/26/23

Northeast Region

Third Wednesday Quarterly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 980 7046 7820 | Passcode: 469 153
09/20/23 | 12/20/23 | 03/20/24 | 06/19/23

Southeast Region

First Wednesday Quarterly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543
06/06/23 | 12/06/23 | 03/26/23 | 06/05/23

Western Region

Third Wednesday Quarterly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 964 2285 1563 | Passcode: 433 552
09/20/23 | 12/20/23 | 03/20/24 | 06/19/24

Americanism Commission

Third Monday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918 | Passcode: 571 659
10/16/23 | 12/18/23 | 02/19/24 | 04/15/24
06/17/24 | 08/19/24

Finance Commission

Third Thursday as scheduled | 8:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702
09/21/23 | 02/15/24 | 04/18/24 | 07/18/24

Internal Affairs Zoom Business Meeting

Fourth Thursday Bi-Monthly | 6:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 932 2650 4089 | Passcode: 725 519
10/26/23 | 12/28/23 | 02/22/24 | 04/15/24
06/27/24 | 08/22/24

Legislative Commission

Second Thursday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912
10/12/23 | 12/14/23 | 02/08/24 | 04/11/24
06/13/24 | 08/08/24

Public Media & Communications Commission

Fourth Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 914 4414 8114 | Passcode: 977 759
10/24/23 | 12/26/23 | 02/27/23 | 04/23/24
06/25/23 | 08/27/23

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Second Monday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 971 3717 7471 | Passcode: 712 824
11/29/23 | 12/11/23 | 02/12/24 | 04/08/24
06/10/24 | 08/12/24

Veterans Education & Employment Commission

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 989 2627 5747 | Passcode: 26060
11/19/23 | 12/21/23 | 02/15/24 | 04/18/24
06/20/24 | 08/15/24

Century Committee (CENTCOM)

Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429
10/10/23 | 12/12/23 | 03/13/24 | 04/09/24
06/11/24 | 08/13/24

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786 | Passcode: 780 858
09/21/23 | 11/16/23 | 01/18/24 | 03/21/24
05/16/24 | 07/18/24

Children & Youth Committee

Second Monday Bi-Monthly | 7:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587 | Passcode: 799 095
09/11/23 | 11/13/23 | 01/08/24 | 03/11/24
05/13/24 | 07/08/24

Member Training & Development Committee

First Monday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 957 9605 2218 | Passcode: 528 704
09/04/23 | 11/06/23 | 01/01/24 | 03/04/24
05/06/24 | 07/01/24

Membership Committee

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 8:00 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 989 3388 3350 | Passcode: 546 900
09/19/23 | 11/21/23 | 01/16/24 | 03/19/24 | 05/21/24 | 07/16/24

National Convention Committee

Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly | 7:30 p.m. Eastern Meeting ID: 953 4866 3402 | Passcode: 670 002
09/12/23 | 11/14/23 | 01/09/24 | 03/12/23
05/14/23 | 07/19/24



RENEW!



Rusty Myers, Staff Contributor

Local Business Recognized

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 of Belleville, NJ took a trip to North Plainfield the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to drop off a plaque to HK Truck Center, to thank them for their continued support of the squadron's programs.

Each year, Squadron 105 sets up shop outside the ShopRite on Washington Avenue in Belleville, to do a 'can shake' and hand out small American Flags. This year being the fifth year of the fundraiser, members from the Legion Family were down there for two shifts a day, for a week from Friday 3 November to Friday 10 November.

The thousands of dollars raised each year go directly back to SAL programs which benefit veterans and children in the local community, throughout New Jersey, and for national initiatives of the American Legion. This year, the squadron again received corporate donations, one of which being from HK Truck Center.

HK Truck Center, a certified Hino and Fuso dealership serving the tri-state area, sells and services commercial vehicles

with their qualified technicians, expert salesman, and parts specialists. The company has two locations – Boonton and in North Plainfield, NJ.

Ed Hall, a dual member – meaning a veteran member, and a member of the Sons honoring his father's service – is also a Business Development Manager with HK. For a number of years, he has asked the company to support the American Legion's programs with a substantive donation. At Hall's behest, he wanted to do something to thank the company for their donations.

This year, members from the SAL Squadron took the 45-minute trip to hand off a plaque made for HK Truck Center, to thank them in person. The plaque reads "in sincere appreciation of your continuing contributions to the advancement of our programs dedicated to God and Country."

The plaque was presented to Henry Knabe III, sales account manager, and Vanessa Ciervo, business manager.



Steven Cox is the Detachment of Pennsylvania Commander



Robert Bristo, National Vice-Commander

Central Region Update

National Vice-Commander Robert L Bristo has been a member of Sons of The American Legion for 27 years. Robert's eligibility is through his father, Joe Bristo, who served in the United States Army during WWII.

The main reason I joined Sons of The American Legion was because I was asked back in 1983 by a Legion member at Champlin Legion Post 600. I moved from Champlin, never to be contacted by the Squadron again. I never renewed my membership until 1998, when asked by another Legion member from Gopher Post 440, who was a friend. I renewed and my journey began with the American Legion Family. This has become a journey of love for a patriotic organization so devoted to its veterans and the sacrifices they have endured while we, as Americans, enjoy the freedoms we so graciously have.

Our American Legion Family members understandably are getting older, and we are seeing more and more going to the Post Everlasting. We must continue to work and focus attention on our children and youth by getting them involved, somehow, in our programs. I can't say that enough!

We seem to be the best kept secret about who we are and how a person might just be able to join The American Legion. WE MUST ASK if the individual could become a member of our great American Legion family.

National Commander Donald Lee "JR" Hall, Jr could not have stated it better when talking about his grandfather Ed Hall; "REPRESENTING MORE THAN ME." I am asking the members of the Central Region, and all of the other regions members, to make 2023-2024 the goal to reach 400,000 SAL members for our National Commander.

WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA

WILD WILLY'S WESTERN Rendezvous Number 10

Tuscany Suites & Casino
Reservations 1-877-887-2261
Room Rates to be Determined
SAL Rendezvous Reservation Code: 0124Sons

Social Gathering @ Pub 365, Your Cost On Friday Night, January 26th, 2024
Leadership Training On Saturday, January 27th, 2024
Lunch Is Served During Lunch Break On Saturday
Saturday Night Dinner Planned at a Local Restaurant, Your Cost

Pre-Registration Fee for event will be \$20.00 until August 31st, 2023
Registration Fee starting September 1st, 2023 will be \$40.00 until December 31st, 2023
There will be an additional \$5.00 Late Fee from January 1st, 2024 until the event

Contact Jim Stewart to Register for the event
- Let's have some fun in the sun -

Contact: Jim Stewart: (775) 848-6072 | controller@bordertowncasinorv.com

"Believe and Succeed," and all things are possible. Just look at where we are today, everyone pitching in, and great accomplishments will bring forth astronomical results. Our Buddy Checks are working. Continue "TO BE THE ONE" to help in preventing Veteran Suicides!

BE THE ONE



Kyle Brady of Squadron 105 In Belleville, NJ participated in Wreaths Across America on December 16, 2023. Here, Brady is placing a wreath at World War II Army veteran Guiliano Frangonese's final resting place.

Squadron 105



2023

2024

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD FORM (IRA)

Date

Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy (select date by clicking inside the box)

Recruiter Name

Member ID#

Email Address

Phone Number

Detachment

Squadron #

MAIL TO RECRUITER

MAIL TO SQUADRON

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

TO QUALIFY: RECRUIT FIVE (5) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

** INCLUDE FIRST & LAST NAME AND MEMBER ID# FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS BELOW (LEGIBLY)

** A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE SONS MEMBER JOINING FOR THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS

INFO: PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW AMERICAN LEGION AND/OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR POST OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.

NOTE: ONLY ONE (1) AWARD PIN WILL BE PROVIDED TO RECRUITER PER YEARLY INCENTIVE

** SUBMIT AWARD FORMS BY **JUNE 30** TO QUALIFY FOR THIS INCENTIVE **

FIRST & LAST NAME

MEMBER ID#

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

INSTRUCTIONS:

SAVE THE COMPLETED FORM, THEN EMAIL TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN APPLICABLE

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN:

NORTHEAST REGION:

ROBERT MANZO (MD)

(EMAIL) BMANZO1085@YAHOO.COM

SOUTHEAST REGION:

THOM SKELLEY (TX)

(EMAIL) THOMSKELLEY@TWC.COM

CENTRAL REGION:

HARL "BUTCH" RAY (IL)

(EMAIL) BUTCH.ILSAL@GMAIL.COM

MIDWEST REGION:

MIKE MONSERUD (IA)

(EMAIL) MIKEMONSERUD@GMAIL.COM

WESTERN REGION:

DAN ASHLEY (CA)

(EMAIL) POTATO480@LIVE.COM

VISIT WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS/PUBLICATIONS FOR OTHER AWARDS AVAILABLE

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
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An Official Publication of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206



Sons of The American Legion donate to Wheelchair Ramps organization

[The Schulenberger Sticker](#) | December 12, 2023



Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 143 of Schulenburg, TX donated \$1,500 to Wheelchair Ramps of Texas. On hand for the presentation were (L-R) Dallas Canada and Herb Fish, representing Sons of the American Legion; Frank Smith, representing Wheelchair Ramps of Texas; and Floyd Arndt, Warren Delvecchio, Donnie Klesel, and Stan Ulcak, representing Sons of The American Legion.