

July
2025

Blue Cap News



Detachment
Conference Call at
7 P.M. on Tuesday
8/12/25



azsal.org

Back to School, Back to Service

As August arrives and backpacks fill with pencils and notebooks, it's a great time for the Sons of the American Legion to reflect on how we can support the youth of our communities as they return to school. Our motto of "Serving Those Who Served" extends beyond veterans — it includes the next generation of Americans who will carry on our nation's legacy.

Flag-Raising Ceremonies

Start the school year with pride by organizing or participating in flag-raising ceremonies at local elementary, middle, or high schools. This simple but powerful gesture teaches students about respect, patriotism, and the importance of civic tradition. Offer to supply flags or donate flagpoles to schools in need.

School Supply Drives

Many students return to class without the essential tools they need. Partner with local schools to hold a school supply drive. Encourage members and the broader community to donate backpacks, notebooks, crayons, and more. Even small contributions can make a big difference in a student's success.

Mentoring and Presence

SAL members have a wealth of life experience to share. Consider launching or supporting a youth mentoring program. Whether it's reading with elementary students, assisting with history lessons, or simply showing up at school events, your presence matters. Being visible as a positive role model strengthens the bond between the Legion Family and our youth.

Partnering with Educators

Connect with school administrators and teachers to find out how your squadron can support specific needs, whether it's helping with campus clean-up, sponsoring essay contests, or providing guest speakers on civic topics.

As kids head back to school, let's go back to service — showing our commitment to community, country, and the future. It's another meaningful way the Sons of the American Legion fulfill our mission year-round.

Membership Renewals Begin Soon: Keep the Legacy Alive in Arizona

As we celebrate our nation's freedom this July, it's also time to renew one of our most important commitments — our membership in the **Sons of the American Legion**.

Whether you're a longtime member or just joined last year, your renewal keeps our mission strong across Arizona: **honoring our veterans, serving our communities, and mentoring the next generation.**

Why Renew?

Your membership directly supports local initiatives — from youth programs and patriotic events to community outreach and veteran support. Across Arizona, squadrons are making a difference, and your dues help keep that momentum going.

Renewing also means continuing the proud tradition of honoring your family's military service. Each member carries forward a legacy of dedication, patriotism, and service.

Membership Drive Ideas for Arizona Squadrons

Here are some impactful ways squadrons across the state can boost renewals and bring in new members:

- **"Renew for Freedom" Campaign:** Tie renewal to patriotic pride — offer flag pins, decals, or hold a "Freedom Breakfast" for early renewals.
- **Legacy Wall:** Feature members and their veteran relatives at your Post or online. Showcase the generational impact of military service in Arizona families.
- **Digital Outreach Blitz:** Use Facebook, email, and texts to share renewal reminders, upcoming events, and the impact of your squadron's work.
- **Renew-and-Win Raffle:** Reward renewals with entry into a local prize drawing — SAL merchandise, gift cards, or event tickets.
- **Open House Events:** Host a "Why I Serve" night and invite local sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons of veterans to learn more and join on the spot.
- **Free SAL Hat or Patch for New Members:** A small thank-you item helps new recruits feel proud and connected.
- **Squadron Spirit Week:** Host themed days like "Wear SAL Gear," "Drone Demo Day," or "Bring a Buddy Night," ending with a community cookout.
- **POW/MIA Remembrance Drive (Sept 20):** Host a meaningful renewal event in honor of our nation's missing service members.

Let's Grow SAL Across Arizona

Every renewal strengthens our collective voice and impact. Every new member brings new energy and ideas. Together, Arizona squadrons are preserving patriotism, building leaders, and serving those who served.

Renew today. Bring a friend. Be part of something bigger.



Adjutant

Sons,



Congratulations to Commander Manwell getting elected for the 2025-2026 year. The Detachment will make great strides under his leadership. Your Area Vice Commanders are Lance Bymers, Charlie Sullivan and Don Whalen, who will work hard all year in their Areas to make sure the Squadrons have everything they need to operate successfully. Thank you to the members of the Detachment of Arizona that came to the State Convention this year. It was a fun Convention. We now look forward to the new year and what Arizona will do to lead the way!

Dennis Pittman
Adjutant
Detachment of Arizona



AREA "A"



What a great 2025 Convention at the San Marcos last month. I want to start by congratulating our New Detachment Commander Gary Manwell. I look forward to an amazing year! To the Area A squadrons please reach out if I can do anything to help your Squadron be successful. I look forward to visiting each of your Squadron's this year. If you have any major events, please let me know so I can report on the event.

I look forward to working with you all. See you at the National Convention in August 2025.

For God and Country,
Lance Bymers
Detachment of Arizona



Americanism – Scrapbook Contest



I ran across an article written by, then, National Americanism Commission Chairman Greg "Doc" Gibbs. I thought I would share this with you.

Start your upcoming year off right and begin collecting information for your Community Service Scrapbook. Squadrons, Districts, and even Detachments can enter the Americanism Commission's Community Service Scrapbook Contest. Please see pages 30-31 in the SAL Manual for complete criteria, rules, judging, points, and deadline information. The manual is available online at www.legion.org/sal.

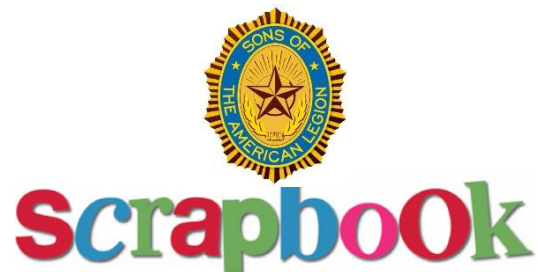
Scrapbooks must be properly bound so there are no loose pages, they must be typed or neatly written, spelling and grammar must be correct, and the information presented must be in chronological order. All submissions must have dates and descriptions and only articles taking place this year may be submitted for judging. Points will be awarded according to this and other criteria listed in the manual. The scrapbook with the highest point total is eligible for an award.

The usual deadline is just prior to the Pre-Convention NEC Meeting, likely to be due on July 15, 2016. You mail your completed scrapbook to National Headquarters, Sons of The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 with a return receipt requested.

Scrapbooks are judged from the criteria in the SAL Manual by the Americanism Commission members present at the Pre-NEC Convention Meeting. Winners are recognized at the Convention.

The Americanism Commission would love to see many Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments enter. Start by collecting those photos, news articles, and information on your events early so you can compile your scrapbook as the year progresses, and you'll be ready by the July deadline."

Jim Borgman
Americanism Chairman





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Restless in the middle of the night



On the hour, almost every hour throughout the night, I woke up. A million little pestering thoughts like pinballs were released in my mind, invading my sacred sleep time. They demanded attention, as if the wheels of rumination must keep turning so everything could be handled... as if anything could be fixed at midnight.

Have you ever experienced this?

Have you ever felt the pressing problems of the world hit you at unforeseen hours of the night?

When we wake in the night, I've learned, after nearly one-hundred sleepless nights, it is not a call to worry, but a call to prayer. Of course, the last thing we may feel like doing is speaking aloud or interrupting our hazy, incoherent mind with the alertness of spoken words, but if we do, it can be powerful.

Apart from Jesus, we can do nothing.

I've learned that apart from Jesus, I can hardly get back to sleep, no more than I can fix all my problems at midnight. Only He can. Only He will. Only He is able.

If you are restless in the depths of night, let out the cry of your soul! When that cry goes out, I assure you, God hears. When everyone else is sleeping, God is paying attention! When you only have a whisper, God has a listening ear.

Maybe God doesn't wake us up to put on us the weight of the world but to call us to deep and intimate prayer. Meet Him there. Meet Him with the weight of your world, meet Him with the problems of your day, meet Him with the guilt you feel, meet Him with the dreams of your heart, meet Him with cries for your family. Meet Him, and He will meet you.

Abide with Him, even at midnight.

-Christianity.com

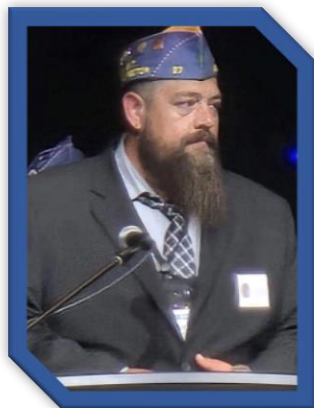
**Jim Borgman,
Detachment Chaplain**



COMMANDER'S CORNER



Arizona Detachment Update – July 2025



Greetings, Sons. I hope everyone had a meaningful and spirited Fourth of July. Our sights are now set on Tampa for the National Convention this August 21st—I look forward to connecting with many of you there!

On July 19th, I was honored to attend the Devil Pups Graduation at Camp Pendleton, where a powerful new tribute was unveiled: the James Matlock Leadership Award, named in honor of Squadron 27's late commander, whose unwavering dedication left a lasting impact on Arizona's youth. Witnessing these young adults achieve their goals was a truly humbling experience. Thank you to Squadron 27 Commander Tom Roth, California Detachment Sr. Vice Commander Bill Hernandez, and Past Detachment Commander Jeff Flynt for joining me in supporting this remarkable program.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for August 3rd at Post 27 in Apache Junction, where we'll kick off our COTA charity campaign with a smoked chicken and sausage lunch from 11–3. The event will feature the Cardinals cheerleaders and a special guest family whose journey with COTA reminds us why we serve. Bring the whole family—this is a celebration of hope, unity, and the power of our mission.

Gary Manwell
Detachment Commander



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION





Editor's Desk



Hello Fellow Sons!

Got an event or something to promote? Submit an advertisement for the Blue Cap News with just a \$5 (per month) donation to the Commander's charity — COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association).

Send donations (made payable to SAL COTA FUND) to:

Detachment Adjutant
4701 North 19th Avenue, Suite #200
Phoenix, Arizona 85015
(make sure you put your Squadron on the memo)

Submit your stories or ad info to:

✉ squadron97sal@gmail.com

Let's keep the SAL spirit strong and share your stories with the whole Detachment!

**Stay blue-capped and proud,
John "Radar" Meyer**

— The Editor

The Blue Cap News



2025 - 2026 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025	10%
OCTOBER 15, 2025	25%
NOVEMBER 13, 2025	35%
DECEMBER 10, 2025	45%
JANUARY 14, 2026	60%
FEBRUARY 11, 2026	75%
MARCH 11, 2026	80%
APRIL 8, 2026	90%
MAY 13, 2026	100%
** JULY 29, 2026	105%

**** DELEGATE STRENGTH TARGET DATE - 30
DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION**



2025 - 2026 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SCHEDULE

<u>CUT-OFF DATE</u>	<u>RENEWAL MAIL DATE</u>
<u>1st NOTICE:</u> SEPTEMBER 10, 2025	SEPT 27 - OCT 3, 2025
<u>2nd NOTICE:</u> FEBRUARY 11, 2026	FEB 21 - 28, 2026
<u>3rd NOTICE:</u> APRIL 8, 2026	APRIL 25 - 30, 2026



CHARITY KICK OFF EVENT

Sunday, August 3rd from 11 am-3 pm



**RIDING SIDE BY SIDE
WITH COTA**



 Children's Organ
Transplant Association

2025 POLARIS RZR 1000 & TRAILER RAFFLE
\$30 PER TICKET OR 4 FOR \$100 / DRAWING ON APRIL 12, 2026

Meet COTA Families / Staff
Music By Special Guests
50 / 50 Raffle
Be The One Special Football Event

**PURCHASE RAFFLE
TICKETS HERE**



\$15.00 BBQ Platter
11 am-gone
Smoked 1/2 Chicken or Sausage,
Potato Salad, Coleslaw & Beans



AMERICAN LEGION DAY



VS



SUNDAY, SEPT. 14 | 1:05 PM | STATE FARM STADIUM

Sunday September 14th | 1:05 PM | State Farm Stadium
\$10 of each ticket sold goes towards the "Be The One" campaign!
To purchase tickets, scan the QR code



 AMERICAN
LEGION



53rd National Convention Agenda Flyer Tampa Convention Center and JW Marriott Tampa, Florida | August 22 - 24, 2025

SAL National Convention Registration for Delegates, Alternate Delegates, and Guests

Location: Tampa Convention Center | National Staff Offices (Rooms 114-117, First Floor)

- **Wednesday, August 20 - Friday, August 22** 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- **Saturday, August 23** 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM (hours subject to change)

SAL Information Services - Tampa Convention Center, Room 101 (First Floor)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

**** All meetings and events listed below will be held at the JW Marriott.**

SAL Staff Office

- **Pinellas** (Fourth Floor) | Wednesday, August 20 - Monday, August 25 | 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

SAL Detachment Commander's Training

- **Hillsborough** (Fourth Floor) | August 22, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SAL National Convention Committee Meetings | Friday, August 22

- **Manatee** (Fourth Floor)
 - 8:00 AM Internal Affairs
 - 9:30 AM Membership and Squadron Activities (M&SA)
 - 11:00 AM Finance
- **Edison** (Third Floor)
 - 8:00 AM Children and Youth (C&Y)
 - 9:30 AM Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R)
 - 11:00 AM Constitutional Amendments
- **Franklin** (Third Floor)
 - 8:00 AM Americanism
 - 9:30 AM Scrapbook / History Book Contest
 - 11:00 AM Legislation & Rules
- **Tampa Bay Ballroom** (Fourth Floor)
 - 11:00 AM Credentials



SAL National Executive Committee and General Sessions | Tampa Bay Ballroom (Fourth Floor)

- Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting | August 22 10:00 AM
- Sons of The American Legion National Convention General Sessions
 - August 22 1:00 PM (Opening)
 - August 23 9:00 AM
 - August 24 8:00 AM
- Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting | August 24 2:00 PM

SAL National Children and Youth Academy

- **Edison** (Third Floor) August 23 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

SAL Transition Meeting (National Officers & Chairmen Only)

- **Fowler** (Third Floor) August 25 8:00 AM

As of: 7/01/2025

**** National Convention Agenda Subject To Change Without Notice**