

October

2025

Blue Cap News



Detachment
Conference Call at
7 P.M. on Tuesday,
November 11, 2025



For the latest
information about
Sons State Fall
Conference 2025 in
Tucson, Arizona.

azsal.org



Sons of the American Legion – November Update



November is a month of reflection and gratitude. As members of the Sons of the American Legion, this season reminds us why we serve: to honor the legacy of our veterans, support our Legion Family, and strengthen our communities.

This month, two important observances stand at the heart of our mission: **Veterans Day** and **Thanksgiving**. On Veterans Day, November 11, we pause as a nation to honor the service and sacrifice of every veteran who wore the uniform. For us in the SAL, it's not just about recognition—it's about action. Whether it's attending a Post ceremony, placing flags at a cemetery, or simply shaking a veteran's hand and saying "thank you," we carry forward the respect and gratitude our forefathers instilled in us.

Thanksgiving later in the month reminds us that service is also about community. Many Squadrons are organizing food drives, preparing holiday meals, and lending a hand to families in need. These small acts of kindness add up, and they reflect the very best of the Sons of the American Legion.



Make a **buddy check** call to a fellow member

As we close out the year, let's also remember our commitment to **membership**. Reach out to a fellow member who hasn't been around in a while, invite a friend to join, and remind them that the SAL isn't just an organization—it's a family.

This November, let's do what we do best: honor, serve, and give thanks. Together, we ensure that the sacrifices of our veterans are never forgotten and that their legacy continues to inspire future generations.

★ Building Tomorrow's Leaders – SAL in

One of the greatest strengths of the Sons of the American Legion is our ability to inspire and guide the next generation. While November is filled with remembrance and gratitude, it's also a time to look forward—to the young people who will carry on our traditions of service and patriotism.

👤👤 Youth Programs & Mentorship

Across Squadrons, SAL members are stepping up to support youth programs:

- 🎯 Sponsoring **scholarships** and essay contests
- 🇺🇸 Helping with **flag education programs** in schools
- 🛩️ Leading hands-on activities like aviation, drones, or scouting projects

When we invest in young people, we strengthen both our community and our heritage.

💛 Community Connections

This month, let's focus on outreach. Veterans Day ceremonies often draw families, schools, and civic leaders together. It's the perfect chance to:

- 🌐 Share who the Sons of the American Legion are
- 🏛️ Invite families to connect with your Post and Squadron
- 📅 Promote upcoming events that strengthen our Legion Family

🔥 Why It Matters

Every new member, every youth inspired, and every community partner we engage ensures the SAL remains strong for decades to come. We are not just keeping traditions alive—we are building new ones.

As we move deeper into the season of giving, let's remember:

Our service today shapes tomorrow's leaders.



Adjutant



We look forward to seeing everyone at Fall Conference at the Doubletree by Hilton Ried Park in Tucson on Saturday 11-8-2025. The Executive Committee meeting will begin at 8:00AM, and the General Membership meeting will start at 9:00AM. If you plan on announcing your candidacy for a 2026-2027 Detachment Officers elected position, please have your forms turned into the Adjutant beforehand. The Detachment Conference Call scheduled for 11-11-2025 has been canceled by the Commander due to the holiday and proximity to Fall Conference. Next Detachment conference call will be on 12-9-2025. Please remember the Commander's charity for 2025-2026 is COTA. If you plan on bringing donations to the Fall Conference for COTA, make checks or M.O.s out directly to COTA.

Dennis Pittman
Adjutant
Detachment of Arizona

Sons State Fall Conference 2025 in Tucson Arizona

**Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 9 am- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Tucson - Reid Park, Tucson, AZ.**

<https://azlegion.org/26-conference-registration/>



Americanism – A word on Americanism



There are a few things that we all know very well in November, such as Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. As members of The American Legion Family, there are a few more we should be aware of, namely American Education Week and National Family Week.

American Education Week, Nov. 17-23, the week before Thanksgiving week. This week is a time when all who work in public schools – teachers, administrative staff, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, substitute teachers and many others – are recognized for providing quality education and support to today's youth. Each day for American Education Week has a theme and the National Education Association website has ideas on ways American Legion Family members can celebrate each day.

American Legion Committee on Youth Education Chairman Michael Westergren said, "American Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every student receives a quality education. This week is a time to celebrate the American education system, and we should use it to look at different ways Legionnaires can be promoting our values within the classroom."

Those ideas include:

- Provide an outdoor class on flag education.
- Allow students to interview you as a veteran.
- Promote the American Legion School Award program to recognize students who demonstrate strong qualities of character and good citizenship.

National Family Week, Nov. 24-30. For more than 45 years, the week of Thanksgiving has been proclaimed National Family Week. A guiding principle of The American Legion's Children & Youth programs is maintaining the integrity of the family. During National Family Week, the American Legion Family is encouraged to promote and celebrate healthy families and communities.

Legion posts can host a family-friendly festival that includes fun children-specific activities such as face painting, bounce houses and games; conduct a community family project; invite families to a meal at the post to initiate strong communication; or host a military appreciation event. Download The American Legion's National Family Week brochure for more ideas.

Jim Borgman
Americanism Chairman



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Plans been derailed by life?



Though life often derails our carefully made plans, true hope and peace come from trusting that God's plan—rooted in His perfect timing and love—is ultimately better and always for our good.

We plan and we plan, and we plan. But sometimes, life derails our plans. We spend our days and our lives plotting plans and dreaming up dreams that we pray will come to pass. And some do, but so often, our greatest disappointments stem from our greatest dreamed-up desires. Our plans become crushed.

As for the times that life doesn't don't go as planned—because we can guarantee this will be the case repeatedly the rest of our days—we need to remember 1 Peter 5:6.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." Remember, you and I are under God's mighty hand and perfect timing. Everything we do, everything we plan, everything that happens to us. All of it under his control. But he has good control. His unconditional care and love. Because just like the next verse says—after it tells us to cast all our anxiety over to him—he cares for us.

Regardless of where life takes us, let's hold onto hope. Let's live our days with joyful anticipation of the good that God will continue to pour into our lives. Let's trust that God's mighty, caring hand is working on his master, good plan. Even right now, through what isn't going as you planned. Know that he will lift you up in due time. Know that what may seem derailment is just a detour... to something better—a better plan than you can imagine.

Let's Pray:

Sovereign God, You are the good master of my life. You are always working, and you have such good plans for me. I know I relentlessly plan the details of my days, meticulously plan for my future, and become disappointed and discouraged when life derails my plans. But help me not to see my plans ruined or become disheartened with what doesn't go my way. Instead, remind me that your way is better. Help me humble myself to your plans. Help me cast my cares on you. Help me stay hopeful in the good you have in store, the truth that you care deeply for me, and that will lift me in due time. May this be my hope. May you be my highest hope. And may I find my joy in you alone. In your mighty name, Jesus, amen.

Source – Daily devotional by Keri Eichberger as posted on Christianity.com

Jim Borgman,
Detachment Chaplain



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

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10/11/2025

A Milestone Moment for Our Arizona COTA Family

As Detachment Commander, it is with profound gratitude and hope that I share a milestone moment for our Arizona COTA initiative. Our very first COTA Kid, 15-year-old Desi, received a life-saving kidney transplant today. After a 5½-hour surgical procedure, Desi is now on the path to recovery—a journey made possible by the unwavering support of our Legion family and the compassion that fuels our mission. This marks the first time our Arizona team has been able to directly help a child in need since we began raising funds last year, and it's a testament to what unity, purpose, and persistence can achieve.

Many of you may remember the dinner last year where PDC Michael F Bryant and I were able to introduce Desi's family to Rick Lofgren from COTA. In under a year, Rick and his team were able to enroll Desi into the program and help locate a matching kidney donor. Today's successful surgery is not just a medical victory—it's a moment of legacy for every single member who has supported our cause whether it be monetary or by sharing our fundraising efforts with people they know. Now, more than ever, we must keep the momentum going. Our current Side x Side raffle is a critical part of that effort. I urge each of you to share the QR code far and wide—friends, family, coworkers, social media—every scan brings us closer to raising more LIFE SAVING funds for children right here in Arizona. Let's make sure Desi is just the first of many.

"From my heart to yours, I want to thank every member across this great state your belief in our mission, your generosity, and your grit are what make moments like Desi's possible. I'm honored to stand with you, and I'm proud to serve alongside each and everyone one of you."

Respectfully,

Gary J. Manwell



Gary J. Manwell, Commander, Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona



Editor's Desk



From the Editor's Desk – Blue Cap News

This month's issue of *Blue Cap News* is packed with updates from across the Detachment, including highlights from our Commander's Corner, upcoming events, and the latest on the *Be the One* initiative.

But we want to hear from **you!**  We are looking for Squadron news and stories from all across our great state of Arizona. Whether it's membership drives, youth programs, community service projects, or special recognitions, your Squadron's work deserves to be shared.

 Please send in your news, photos, and event recaps so we can spotlight the outstanding efforts happening throughout Arizona. Together, we tell the story of who we are and what we do as Sons of the American Legion.

Together, we keep the spirit of the Sons of the American Legion strong.

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:

 bluecap@azlegion.org

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

RIDING SIDE BY SIDE WITH COTA



Children's Organ
Transplant Association



**2025 POLARIS
RZR 1000
WITH TRAILER**



**Join the Son's of the American
Legion Arizona in supporting COTA
to help remove the financial
barriers to life-saving transplants
for children in Arizona**

**APRIL 12, 2026
DRAWING**

**\$30 TICKET OR
4/\$100**

PURCHASE HERE

