

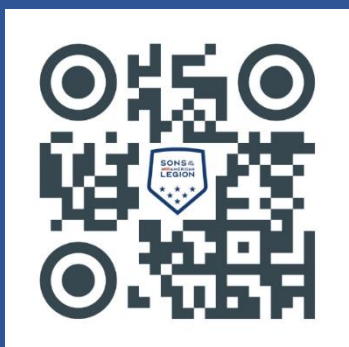
SEPTEMBER

2025

Blue Cap News



Detachment
Conference Call at
7 P.M. on Tuesday,
Oct 14, 2025



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

azsal.org

Patriotism & Traditions: Honoring the Flag This Fall

As the leaves change this October 🍂, it's a perfect time to reflect on one of our most enduring traditions: respect for the American flag 🇺🇸. Proper flag etiquette is more than a formality—it is a symbol of our nation's values and a way to honor the sacrifices of those who have served 🏆. By teaching and practicing these traditions, we instill civic pride and a deeper sense of responsibility in our communities.

This fall, Squadrons are encouraged to host:

- 🎉 **Flag ceremonies**
- 📖 **Educational workshops**
- 🔥 **Retirement ceremonies** for worn or damaged flags

Even a small ceremony at a local school 🏫, veteran's organization 🏠, or community center can make a lasting impression. Demonstrating proper flag handling, folding, and display shows younger generations the meaning behind the stars and stripes ★ and reinforces the ideals of service, respect, and unity.

Another way to promote patriotism is through **community engagement projects** 💛. Consider pairing flag ceremonies with **youth mentorship programs**, such as showing students how the flag is used in veterans' events, parades 🎪, or public service initiatives. These hands-on experiences provide a tangible connection to our nation's history and the role of civic duty in everyday life.

Honoring our traditions does more than preserve history—it strengthens the fabric of our communities 🏡. By participating in flag-related activities, members of the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion lead by example, demonstrating the importance of **service, respect, and active citizenship**. This October, let us proudly raise our flags, teach others the meaning behind them, and celebrate the freedoms and values that unite us all ✨.



Recruit with Ease: The Legion Plus App

Recruiting new members into your Squadron has never been easier thanks to the **Legion Plus app!** With most people carrying their smartphones  everywhere they go, the app allows you to connect with potential members quickly and efficiently—no lengthy forms  or stacks of paperwork required.

Using **QR Codes** , you can share your Squadron's membership page instantly. Whether you're at a community event , a veterans' ceremony , or just meeting someone interested in joining , a simple scan from a phone gives them direct access to your Squadron information and an easy path to join.

Why it works:

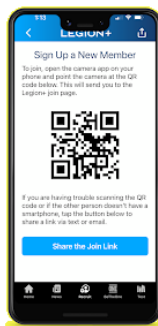
-  **Fast & Convenient:** Potential members can learn about your Squadron and start the enrollment process in seconds.
-  **Versatile:** Share your QR Code on flyers , posters , business cards , or social media .
-  **Trackable:** Monitor interest and engagement directly through the app.

Squadrons that embrace the Legion Plus app often see **higher engagement** and **faster recruitment**, making it a perfect tool for modern outreach. Take advantage of this simple technology and help grow your membership while keeping the process smooth and professional.

 **Tip:** Always keep a printed QR Code handy at events—it's a great conversation starter  and lets interested veterans sign up right on the spot!

The American Legion has launched a mobile membership app – **Legion+**. Download the app through [Apple iTunes](#) and the [Google Play](#) store.

Legion+ provides a direct route for members to access their digital membership card, manage membership information, recruit a new member, help a suicidal veteran and get the latest news on legion.org.





Adjutant



Sons,

As we head into Fall Conference, we look forward to seeing representatives from all of the Squadrons at Conference. At the current time we have scheduled a question-and-answer seminar immediately following the General Membership meeting with your Vice-Commanders, the Adjutant, the Membership Director, and the Commander to answer questions you may have and to explain the process going forward for the Squadrons to be able to fulfill their Constitutional requirements before State Convention so they may receive their 2027

membership cards. If you have questions on processing membership they also will be handled at this time. If you are looking to Charter a new Squadron or receive a Charter back to a Squadron, we will also use this time to explain the process. The seminar is scheduled for 1 hour at the maximum. We look forward to seeing all Squadron Adjutants at this seminar, but it is open to all members.

The next Detachment Conference call is scheduled for 10/14/25 at 7pm. We would like to start seeing a greater response to the conference calls, they are open to all members. The link to join them is on AZSAL.org

Have a great Fall Conference,
Dennis Pittman
Adjutant
Detachment of Arizona

DETACHMENT

**CONFERENCE
CALL**

IS SCHEDULED FOR

**10/14/25
AT 7:00 PM**



Americanism – Junior Shooting Sports Program



Competitive shooting is a popular recreational activity and, for some, a pathway to the U.S. Olympic Team. Since 1991, and with its partners, The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program has provided rifle safety, marksmanship training and shoulder-to-shoulder competitions for young people through local post-affiliated clubs using .177 caliber air rifles.

The Americanism Legion Americanism Division annually presents its Junior Three Position Air Rifle Tournament. This world class competition provides American Legion Affiliated youth competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors throughout the nation.

The competition begins on November 1, 2019 with a Postal Match; a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets that have been marked for identification. The fired targets are then returned to the American Legion for scoring and ranking for awards. Annually more than 1,300 individuals and 200 teams participate.

The tournament is divided into three rounds of exciting competition.

The First-Round team tournament is a "paper" match and will be comprised of the top four athletes' individual tournament scores. A club with at least four individuals enters one team; at least eight individuals enter two teams; and so on.

The First Round and Second Round of the Individual Tournament are postal matches, whereas the Third Round is the Individual National Championship and a shoulder-to-shoulder completion.

The American Legion Individual Three Position Air Rifle National Championship is held in July at the USA Shooting range facility located at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The winners in both the Precision and Sporter category will each receive a \$5,000.00 college scholarship provide in part by The American Legion and The Sons of the American Legion. The two winners are also honored as part of the Youth Champions Delegation during the American Legion Convention.

Additionally, a \$1,000.00 college scholarship will be awarded to the second-place finishers in both the Sporter and the Precision categories. This scholarship is being generously provided by The American Legion Auxiliary.

If you're looking to join their Postal Competition please visit www.legion.org/shooting/postal_match for details. For information on Starting or Joining a Local or State level American Legion Shooting Sports Program, please visit our RESOURCES webpage at www.legion.org/shooting/resources.

To contact your American Legion Department State Headquarters directly for local Junior Shooting Sports Program information, please visit www.legion.org/departments.

Jim Borgman
Americanism Chairman



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Loss of Our Loved Ones



Loss of a loved one is something we have all experienced and will continue to. In the case of my father's departure from this life, he was retired and seemingly healthy one day and gone the next. With my mother, her last two years were not pleasant at all, and we prayed that the Lord would take her. In either case the loss and grief are still with me, but I can accept the loss knowing I'll see them again when I am called.

Death is bad, and we don't need to be quick to invalidate others' pain. To say, "They are with the Lord now," doesn't help at the present time. While I cannot speak for anyone, I can acknowledge that I'm selfish and I want them to be with me. Don't we all want our loved ones to stay with us forever? Sadly, the

fall of man is what brought death into the picture, but death is not the final ending.

The Apostle Paul tells us, "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of humanity, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). As Paul says in this passage, we don't need to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope because we know just as Jesus rose from the dead, so will our loved ones.

They are in Heaven right now, but we will see them again. Whether death for us comes first or the rapture happens, we will see our loved ones again. And this is the hope that keeps me going every day. Sure, my folks aren't with me right now; however, Jesus is with me, and He is with them. He is the Author of happy endings and will bring His final plan to pass.

**Jim Borgman,
Detachment Chaplain**



AREA "A"



What a fantastic September!! In September I attended Squadron 36 Commanders Golf Tournament. It was a great event and very successful! They had both National and State Dignitaries in attendance. Prior to the tournament I met Commander Manwell at Post 131 along with Past National Commander Navarrete and his brother Steven. Also joining us were both the NEC Joe Roberts and Alt NEC Chris Balsley, Riders Chairman Tracy Lindsey.

The following weekend I attended the Arizona Cardinals game with a large contingent of family members from all the entities. It was a wonderful event and I look forward

to it next year.

If you have an event you would like to have me attend you can invite me on the website at AZSAL.org. I have visited 10 Posts in September.

Our membership goal for Oct. 15th is 25%. Let's help each other get our squadrons to this goal. Commander Manwell has set a membership goal of 11,000 members, we can get there by retention and recruiting.

Let's have an amazing October heading into Fall Conference in Tucson November 7-9. Hope to see you then.

For God and Country,

**Lance Bymers
Detachment of Arizona**



COMMANDER'S CORNER



This month, I had the privilege of representing the Sons of the American Legion and the entire Legion Family at a truly historic event—the Arizona Cardinals' home opener against the Carolina Panthers. This was no ordinary game day. It was the first-ever collaboration between the NFL and our *Be the One* initiative here in Arizona.

Together with Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Riders, and fellow Sons, we carried the giant American flag across the field during the national anthem. Standing shoulder to shoulder in that moment of honor and reflection was something I will never forget. It was more than football—it was about unity, patriotism, and raising awareness for a cause that matters deeply: veteran suicide prevention.

The Cardinals went above and beyond in their support, even gifting two custom *Be the One* jerseys—one to Post 91 in Chandler and another to Post 27 in Apache Junction. These tokens symbolize not just a partnership, but a shared commitment to making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families.

I want to extend a heartfelt *thank you* to all my fellow Sons for their outstanding participation and spirit that day. Arizona led the way, and our presence showed the strength of the Legion Family when we come together for a common mission.

Looking ahead, I'm excited for our next opportunity to gather—the State Fall Conference 2025 in Tucson, Arizona. It will be another chance to share ideas, strengthen our programs, and continue building momentum for the year ahead.

Let's carry the spirit of *Be the One* into everything we do. Together, we make a difference.

Gary Manwell
Detachment Commander





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**

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