

AUGUST

2025

# Blue Cap News



Detachment  
Conference Call at  
7 P.M. on Tuesday  
9/9/2025



azsal.org

## Growing Our Ranks: Membership Drive Ideas for the Sons of the American Legion

Membership is the lifeblood of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL). Each new member brings fresh energy, new ideas, and stronger support for our Veterans, our community, and our youth programs. A strong membership ensures that the legacy of service, patriotism, and community involvement continues for future generations.

### Why Membership Matters

- 🏆 **Supports Our Veterans:** Membership dues and participation fuel programs that directly benefit Veterans and their families.
- 🏠 **Builds Community:** A larger membership base means more helping hands for service projects, youth programs, and events.
- 📢 **Strengthens Our Voice:** The more members we have, the stronger our presence and impact at the Squadron, District, Detachment, and National levels.

### 💡 Ideas & Activities to Boost Membership

1. 🎉 **Host Community Events**  
Open houses, BBQs, music nights, youth-friendly events like drone flying, fishing derbies, or car shows.
2. 👤 **“Bring a Buddy” Campaign**  
Encourage each member to invite one friend, family member, or eligible relative to a meeting or event.
3. 🏛️ **Membership Table at Local Events**  
Parades, fairs, and farmers markets are perfect opportunities to share what the SAL does.
4. 📱 **Highlight Our Impact on Social Media**  
Share photos, videos, and stories that show how we support Veterans, schools, and youth.
5. 👨‍👩‍👧 **Offer Family-Oriented Programs**  
Family BBQs, service days, or youth nights encourage multi-generational involvement.
6. 🏆 **Recognize & Reward Members**  
Member of the Month spotlights or small awards for recruitment efforts go a long way.
7. 📖 **Back-to-School & Holiday Drives**  
School supply drives, toy collections, or care packages create visibility and attract service-minded families.
8. 👤 **Leverage Veteran Connections**  
Encourage Legionnaires to invite eligible sons, grandsons, or nephews.

### 🌟 Closing Thought

The Sons of the American Legion is more than just an organization—it’s a brotherhood of service and pride in our nation. By working together and sharing our story, we can welcome more people into our ranks and ensure the SAL continues to thrive for the next 100 years.

# **September Reflections: Service, Remembrance, and Renewal**

September is a month that reminds us of both our duty and our strength as Sons of the American Legion. With the return of fall, our Squadrons are refocusing on programs that serve veterans, youth, and our communities. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the values of service and patriotism that unite our Legion Family.

This month also holds a special place in our nation's history. On September 11, we pause to remember the lives lost in the terrorist attacks of 2001 and to honor the heroism of first responders and everyday Americans who stood united in the face of tragedy. As Sons, we have a responsibility to ensure that the memory of that day—and the lessons of courage, sacrifice, and unity—are never forgotten. Many Squadrons will take part in ceremonies, flag displays, or moments of silence to honor this solemn anniversary.

Beyond remembrance, September is also a time of renewal. With summer behind us, it is the perfect opportunity for members to re-engage with Squadron activities, recruit new members, and support programs like the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) fundraising efforts. Whether it's hosting a service project, planning a fundraiser, or simply reaching out to a fellow member, every action helps strengthen the impact of the Sons of the American Legion.

As we move through September, let us carry forward the spirit of remembrance and the energy of renewal, working together to build stronger Squadrons and stronger communities.



## **Call to Action for September**



**Honor 9/11** – Organize or participate in a remembrance ceremony, flag display, or moment of silence.



**Support COTA** – Plan a fundraiser or donate to help Arizona set new records for contributions this year.



**Engage Members** – Reach out to fellow members, invite a friend to join, or attend your Squadron's next meeting.



**Serve Locally** – Look for opportunities to support schools, youth, and veterans in your community.

Together, let's make this September one of service, remembrance, and renewal.



## Adjutant



I had the privilege of attending the National Sons of the American Legion Conference in Tampa Bay, Florida, where I gained valuable updates and resources to help strengthen our programs. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow members and share ideas that support the mission of the Sons of the American Legion.

I am now looking forward to the upcoming Fall Conference in Tucson, Arizona, and continuing the work of building growth, collaboration, and service.

**Dennis Pittman**  
**Adjutant**  
**Detachment of Arizona**



## AREA "A"



August has been an exciting month for The Sons of the American Legion!! We have surpassed 400,000 members for the 1st time. We have elected a new National Commander!

Congratulations Bill Clancy of The Detachment of New York!

At The National Convention if Tampa, Florida, we attended a COTA function at Post 138. It was An fun and informational meeting. It is was a great experience and I would encourage you to try to attend the next National Convention in Louisville in 2026.

In September I will begin visiting Squadrons to share the news from The National Convention. I look forward to hearing from every one the great work you are doing. Please reach out if I can help your Squadron in any way or help promote an event you are holding.

**For God and Country,**

**Lance Bymers**  
**Detachment of Arizona**



## Americanism – Community Service



Community service is at the very heart of the American Legion's core beliefs and an integral part of the Preamble to the Constitution of both the Legion and of the Sons and the Auxiliary as well; "...to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation..." The American Legion recognizes that the community is an important part of our American way of life and in many communities the American Legion Post takes a leadership role in community betterment.

Most of the many Legion programs of Americanism start at the community level engaging the youth of the communities in such programs as American Legion Baseball, Scouting, air rifle Shooting Programs, and Flag Education. Other examples of local programs may include teen center and park district activities such as hiking, concerts, street dances and local festivals, fishing tournaments, ice skating, sledding, craft projects and bicycle safety programs.

Other Legion programs flourish at the community level with community betterment programs such as the Service to God and Country Program which has a threefold goal: encouragement of regular attendance at church or synagogue; daily family prayer and devotion; and religious training of children. Another widely active Legion program for community betterment is the Get Out the Vote Program. Other examples of community betterment could be installing and maintaining playground equipment, building and maintaining memorials, putting on holiday programs for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day and let's not forget a program started by the Sons, National Veterans Assistance Day in May; all of these are programs are carried out in our communities for the betterment of the community and its neighbors.

There is probable no greater way for any Post, Unit, Squadron or Chapter to ensure its success and sustain its longevity than being in service to the community. Many programs to assist the residents of a community have a high success rate when properly planed and the local American Legion Post is actively involved; if your Post is not an active force in your community, it only takes one person to spark the movement and I encourage all members of the Legion Family to gather information, ask questions, and get involved. More information on community involvement programs can be found in a Legion publication, its Americanism Manual; I'd like to encourage you to pick a copy up, read it, and take the initiative to get involved!

**Jim Borgman**  
**Americanism Chairman**





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Gracious greetings all,

I enjoy starting every day with a couple of brief devotionals, some scripture, and that is also my primary prayer time. I read a devotional by Laura Bailey of Christianity.com and thought I would share a few aspects of it with you, this message is focused on **serving**, isn't that what we as Sons and followers of our creator are supposed to avail ourselves to?

- "I've served my time, it's someone else's turn."
- "I need a break. I am tired. I'll sign up next time around."
- "I don't know how to cook for a big group of people. I'll let those who are more gifted in this area serve."

I am not suggesting the Lord requires or Scripture encourages us to sign up for every opportunity to minister to others. We are limited in our time and abilities, so we must lean into the Holy Spirit's prompting in our individual lives. While our purpose is all the same: to know God and make Him known, our way is unique. However, I knew I was directly opposed to our key verse in [Proverbs 3:37](#), "***Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to act.***"

I had no physical limitation prohibiting me from standing for two hours to serve meals. There were no other obligations or expectations of my time for the days in question. And at the heart of it all, there's no Christian service magic quota. The "I've served my time" or "someone else's turn" type of thinking has no place in the believer's life.

There will be times when we sincerely cannot serve, but if we are able, let us remember the words of Jesus himself, "***The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'***" ([Matthew 25:40](#)). When opportunities arise, and it is in our purview to help, let us be people who look at serving others as a privilege and not a penalty for following Christ.

This was most obviously written about what was in her heart as "serving" at her church, but isn't this the same concept we face as "serving" or "volunteering" as Sons? Let's continue to cheerfully step up as concerned Sons and grasp opportunities to **serve** as they come our way!

**Jim Borgman,**  
**Detachment Chaplain**





## COMMANDER'S CORNER



As your Arizona Detachment Commander, I had the honor of attending the National Sons of the American Legion Convention in Tampa Bay, Florida. It was a privilege to connect with leaders from across the nation as we worked together to strengthen our programs and commitment to service.

Looking ahead, one of my key goals this year is for the Detachment of Arizona to help break records in our support for the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). This vital cause reflects the heart of our mission—supporting children and families in need—and I know that with the dedication of our members, we can rise to the challenge. I am also looking forward to the upcoming Fall Conference in Tucson, where we will continue this important work together.

**Gary Manwell**  
**Detachment Commander**





## Editor's Desk



Hello Fellow Sons!

As Editor of *The Blue Cap News*, I am excited to bring you the August edition filled with updates, highlights, and opportunities to stay engaged with the Sons of the American Legion. September is a month of transition—kids are back in school, communities are preparing for fall events, and our Squadrons are planning ways to close out the year strong.

This month, I'll be sharing stories from recent activities, recognizing the dedication of our members, and highlighting upcoming events you won't want to miss. It's always inspiring to see the impact our Legion Family has across Arizona, and I encourage each of you to stay connected, get involved, and continue serving with pride.

**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:**

✉ [squadron97sal@gmail.com](mailto: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*



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

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