

BLUE CAP NEWS



SONS of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona - Vol 12, Issue 3 Jun/Jul 2021



Detachment of Arizona
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WWW.AZSAL.ORG
WWW.SAL.Legion.ORG
BlueCapNews@AOL.com

Detachment Conference Call

New Date



2nd Tuesday Each Month



7 PM

508-924-3315 (No Code Needed)

COMMANDER

CHUCK TREAT

Greetings.

Department Convention is just around the corner starting Thursday, June 24th and ending Sunday July 27th. *The Detachment's meetings are on Saturday, June 26th at the Delta by Marriott in Mesa starting at 8:30am.*

Detachment Convention will conclude my term as Detachment Commander, after which I go "back to Blue," and join the efforts supporting the new Detachment Commander from the Squadron level.

One year went by fast enough, two years went by just as fast. The Squadrons (*all 68 active*) have been working hard and doing many incredible events and day-to-day routines in spite of the barrier of CoViD. Your accomplishments do not go unnoticed, they are a testament to the passion you have put into your Squadron in support of the Four Pillars, your home Post and Auxiliary.

The last two years have afforded me the opportunity to discuss problems you faced and the search to move past the problems and keep everything on track. Arizona's Squadrons are formidable. You have run the endurance test and fulfilled the mission on all levels. Listening to the solutions you developed is humbling...no one Squadron faced exactly the same set of circumstances, each unique and looming large. You adapted and overcame — the simplicity and ingenuity-creativity is humbling.

If you think I sound like a cheerleader, perhaps I am. You faced the problems and addressed them as they came at you.

Under the circumstances, there is no perfect solution, only the energy and determination to make the best of what you could



Thank you for sharing those problems and your solutions with me.

What we face now is the return to "normal," and I do not know what normal is after the last 18 months. I suppose normal will be getting back to regular meetings, volunteer efforts, fund raising and Veteran and Americanism events throughout the year.

Oh, AND Membership — Retaining, reinstatement and recruiting! I suppose the National HQ will have the computer system back on track and we can resume direct entry of membership, drawing reports and more as the features we were accustomed to return. I look forward the added features beyond what we had available in MySAL... I ask for your patience while they de-bug the system in anticipation of the new benefits the new software and its features will provide.

ALLECA will start the Academy entry of Cadets on June 12th with graduation ceremonies at 10:00am on June 19th at Emmanuel Pines Youth Camp. ALLECA is the only Legion Family Program to move forward in it's entirety this year and they still need your support. *The added costs of mitigating the CoViD conditions has doubled their housing expenses. They could use your help NOW, after State Convention will be too late, its over by then.* Please consider an additional donation to the first Legion program to return in full force for the 2021 year.

National Convention is in August and it is hosted by Arizona in Phoenix. The take-a-way on National Convention this year: For starters, The Legion Family needs volunteers from Legion, Auxiliary, and the Sons. We have had some Sons step forward to volunteer, but we need more.

As a volunteer, you need to have Credentials to participate or attend National Convention. This means you need to decide early in July (*or at Detachment Convention*) and contact the Detachment Adjutant so your name may be added to the Delegation list.

The Delegation list and payment must be sent by the Detachment Adjutant to National in mid-July. Earlier is better than later.

We want you there to see and meet your counterparts from the other 51 Detachments!

I close with a simple *thank you*.

Thank You!

Thank you for an incredible year, and yes, even though it was two years...it went by so fast.

Until Detachment Convention...

For God and Country,
Chuck Treat
Detachment Commander 2019-2020+2021
480-239-2844 email chucktreat@aol.com

In this issue:

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- Pg 3 Chaplain, Membership, Judge Advocate, Finance, GI Josh
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Pre-print Inserts this issue:

Detachment Forms, Event Flyers, Raffles, Detachment Convention Information & Reports, Contact Info

AREA A - V.CMDR MARK LAMBERTON

Well, we have left 2020 behind and no doubt everyone is looking forward to a better 2021.

We still have some Posts that are closed, some that are open, but their kitchens are closed and some that are open with reduced hours. All these factors affect Squadrons across the Nation and have challenged us to become more creative and/or innovative.

One Squadron Commander determined to meet membership goals did a mailout to his Squadron with a return envelope (quite successful). We are all getting used to zoom calls, conference calls etc. (not necessarily liking them) and are looking forward to meeting in person again hopefully soon.



Our programs and organizations that we support continue to operate (*in many cases with increased need*). Reach out to your contacts and see if there is anything specific your Squadron can help them with.

These are challenging times; they will appreciate it. "Let your unique awesomeness and positive energy inspire confidence in others".

For God and Country
Mark Lamberton

AREA B - V.CMDR DAN ASHLEY

What a three year ride Area B. It has been an honor and a privilege being your Area B rep for the past three years. I got to meet so many new people and be a part of so many special events, I can't thank you enough.

Unfortunately with our system down, we don't have any updated numbers at this time. Hopefully everything will be fixed by our June convention. I still want to give a shout out to all squadrons regarding membership.

It's been a rough couple of years with the CoViD pandemic, but you all have stepped up and came up with some new ways to get membership in. So awesome.

I want to thank squadron 58 for the golf tournament on 4/18/21. I got to play with Legion Leading Candidate Ben Headen, Department Commander Ken Queen and Past Department Commander Billie Ellis. Best part I got my first hole in one and it was on a par 4. New Happy Gilmore over here lol. Thank you squadron 29 to the invite for both of your BBQ's you had.

Sold out in back to back weekends and I got to attend the SON's presentation for American Legion College and it was great. Well done Mike and Brad and thank you for the invite.

Shout out to post 91 who had a beer pong tournament raising money for a fallen officer in Chandler. It was a huge success and it was awesome and to see Elks, VFW and American Legion coming together for a great cause and over 20 of them came from Winslow to show support. Best ever!!!

Thank you squadron 39 for the invite on mother's day to count your votes and for the free breakfast you offered to everyone. It was very delicious and filling.

Thanks again Area B it's been a great time.

For God and County,
Dan Ashley



AREA C - V.CMDR MIKE BRYANT

Hello Area C,

Fellow Blue Cappers, State Convention is right around the corner, June 24 – 27 2021 I'm looking forward to seeing Area C Squadrons being well represented by your participation.

This is the final Blue Cap News for the 2020 – 2021 Calendar year, we have had a successful year in Area C Membership numbers. The Squadrons of Area C, have demonstrated through their hard work and unwavering allegiance to the Life Blood of The American Legion (*MEMBERSHIP*) that even during trying times, we can excel. Great Job everyone!!

We now have a couple of final items that require your attention: Please take the time to fill out the CSR (*Consolidated Squadron Report*): This report is vital and justifies our existence. The CSR is due this year July 16, 2021.

The SDR (*Squadron Data Report*): This is a new form SAL Squadrons will be required to complete each year. It is due NOW. The SDR will enable your SAL members to renew online

through
Mylegion.org.

There are detailed instructions for both forms – please read them prior to filling them out.

Both forms are available on multiple websites, www.azsal.org, www.legion.org/publications (*under Internal Affairs tab*), www.legion.org/sons/adjutants. If you have any questions, please contact me.

In closing I thank each and every Squadron of Area C for your help and patience. You have made my first year as Detachment Vice Commander, Area C an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

I look forward, if elected to serving Area C Squadrons, to the 2021 – 2022 Calendar Year.

Thank You one and all — it has truly been an Honor.

Mike Bryant
602-463-1828 / email: bryantmikesal86@gmail.com



NEC MATT GRIFFIS

Greetings SONS!

Our year is coming to a end, but our job is not completed.

America's veterans need us. Our community needs us. Our great organization needs us. As we start to approach the state convention in June and National Convention in August, we should all remember that every member of our organization is here because we want to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, honoring our family veterans service and supporting the greater good of society.

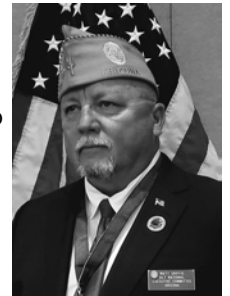
Our membership is the bloodline to our great organization and every member is just as valuable, from the squadron member setting up the meeting rooms, to the squadron member creating and organizing a fundraiser event to the squadron Chaplin that brings peace and calm to our meetings with spoken scripture, from

the members that visit and help at veterans homes and children hospitals, to

the dedicated members that teach our programs and mentor our future leaders, all the way up through the different opportunities of detachment and national positions and finally reaching the top of the organization as National Commander.

So remember, every membership card is a valuable asset, no matter what or where they live. Thank you to ALL of you for every dime, every minute and every ounce of passion that you have given to make our organization the worlds largest and greatest veteran support organization.

Matt Griffis AZ NEC
520-289-5113



Chaplain

Tim Abrahamson

Very recently it was the 95th birthday of my grandfather who fought for this country in World War II. While he is no longer alive, I am sure he is turning in his grave in utter disgust with the direction this once great country is headed.

Have you heard of socialism? Of course you have, that's what China is – an oppressive socialist state. The current administration, heralded by the 'first 100 days', has shoved this down our throats with a slight sugar coating... MONEY.

Attacking our First and Second Amendment Rights should be a huge warning sign to us all. Loss of free speech, disarming the population, attacking religious freedoms and the redistribution of wealth is --- systemic socialism! Hollywood and the liberal media tell a different story but we are almost there already.

Printing trillions of dollars of unbacked and worthless dollars has deepened our recession and is in throwing



our economy into more turmoil. The values the made America the world's greatest superpower and the envy of all nations are almost gone!

The political powers have destroyed the family and church as the centers of our culture. Distracting us with reality TV, fake news and things that don't really matter. Most recently is an attack on our First Amendment Right of Free Assembly under the guise of Covid restrictions.

Our founding fathers put a bold statement on our currency that says it all; "In God We Trust". I leave you with a quote, "We will not go quietly into the night...we will not vanish without a fight!"

For God and Country
Tim Abrahamson, Chaplain

MEMBERSHIP REPORT JOE ROBERTS

Hello again my fellow blue cappers,

Well folks, barring some unforeseen setback, we will soon be gathering in Mesa for our annual Detachment Convention! I can't wait to see all of your smiling faces again as we gather to elect new officers and plan for the coming year. And although the new administrative year is on the horizon, we still have months to go before the current year ends. So let's stay focused on this year until we reach our goals.

As we discussed on our "Campout" conference call, this year has been incredibly challenging for membership. Kudos and congratulations to our three wonderful Vice Commanders for staying on top of the membership needs of our squadrons. Another challenge we are facing is the new online tool from National, MyLegion.org. The old system, and the former Mysal.org are no more. I would strongly recommend each of you watch the videos on how to use the new system. The videos can be found on the National website. This isn't just a program for those who process membership. It is a fully comprehensive package

that every member uses. Everyone needs to login and create a profile. The videos also explain all of the features, both current and future. And please be patient. As with any new software, there are bugs that staff is working are very hard to overcome.

In the end, I think it will be a wonderful addition to what we do and how we operate.

Finally, I want to say a word about our Detachment officers. When they were elected, they were expecting to serve the Detachment for one year. Then came CoViD halfway through. They all stepped up and served a second term. I want to personally thank each and every one of them for their dedication and flexibility to make it through two years. You have all served us well and I greatly appreciate what you do. Until next time...

Joe Roberts
Detachment Membership
Director, Arizona



Judge Advocate

Bradley Heck

Great News; Our Constitution and Bylaws Committee headed by Matt Griffis is putting final touches to the "Updated" Constitution, Bylaws, and newly created Standing Rules.

Some of our needed changes were discovered due to "The Year From Hell", so the Committee has been working hard on making those needed changes and also make updates to clarify some of the problems from the past.

Matt's Committee of Ed Cleary, Greg Mekula, Mike Bryant, and Bradley Heck have been working hard on this project.

Bradley Heck
c) 602-679-2723



Finance Officer

Thomas W. Lucas II

We have sent a finance Budget to Mr. Brad Heck to be looked over. We hope it will satisfy everyone.

G.I. Josh Chairman:

We have not sent out any Josh kits since last month, when we sent out 50 Kits to the AZ National Guard in Tucson for their Deployment to help out with the boarder patrol. We hope they will be safe from all of the people trying to cross over our boarder.

We would like to send out a personal thank you to all of you that came out to Post 29 in support of our two events that the Squadron put on. We managed to raise \$1,800 for Children and Youth.

Thomas W. Lucas II
tttbucket@msn.com



The Nickname: "Permanent Membership Plan" or "PMP"

The Official Name is: "S.A.L. Permanent Member Plan"

This Pamphlet is designed to give you an overview of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona's Permanent Membership Plan. This plan is similar in nature to the American Legion's Paid Up For Life (PUFL) program, with a few differences.

The PMP program is not run or administered by the Sons of The American Legion National Organization. It is run solely by the Detachment of Arizona.

Also, the amount due is not determined by your age, but rather by a set calculation involving your Squadron dues.

Please read through all of the information to understand how the program is administered and how it works.

SAL Permanent Member Plan Details

One

Permanent Membership shall be issued by the Detachment of Arizona only and supervised by a Permanent Membership Committee.

The Committee shall consist of at least (5) voting members. The Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Finance Officer and Detachment Membership Chairman are automatic appointments. Detachment Liaisons to the Sons of The American shall be ex-officio members of the committee without a vote. The Detachment Commander shall appoint the two remaining members of the Committee. The Committee shall elect amongst themselves a Committee Chairman.

Two

Permanent Membership shall only be sold through permanently chartered Squadrons of the Detachment of Arizona. No memberships will be sold directly to individuals. Each PMP application will have a separate check issued by the Squadron payable to ***"S.A.L. Permanent Member Plan."***

Three

To qualify for Permanent Membership, a member must be in good standing with his Squadron, paid current Detachment and National Dues and possess a Sons of The American Legion membership number at the time his enrollment is issued.

Four

Squadrons will remit to the Detachment the entire amount for permanent membership, payable to the "S.A.L. Permanent Member Plan," according to the following formula:

$(\text{Squadron dues} \times 18.5) + \$400.00 = \text{Total Amount Due}$

For calculation purposes, the amount of Squadron Dues shall be the amount a senior or highest annual dues paid to the Squadron, with no discount given for "junior" or "dual" members. A receipt for the application and payment shall be mailed to both the member and the Squadron.

Five

All Applications are to be made in triplicate. Upon completion and signing, the original is filed at Detachment Headquarters, the duplicate is returned to the Squadron and the triplicate is mailed to the enrolled Permanent Member.

Six

Detachment Headquarters will issue the regulation membership card at the beginning of each year, or on a date established by the Committee.

Seven

Annual Squadron Dues exceeding the Detachment and National per Capita shall be credited to the Squadron at the beginning of the membership year or on a schedule that is reduced by 5% each year. Therefore, at the end of 20 years, the Squadron will no longer receive a credit of excess dues.

Eight

Refunds are not made for any reason, even upon death of the member and even if the death occurs one day after the purchase of the ***"S.A.L. Permanent Member Plan."***

Nine

Because the Permanent Membership Plan is a contract between the member and the Detachment of Arizona, it is not transferrable outside of the Detachment of Arizona and such transfer of membership outside of the Detachment of Arizona will render the Permanent Membership Plan null and void with zero residual value.

However, transfers within the Detachment of Arizona are permitted.

Permanent Member transfer requests to another Squadron within Arizona shall be made in writing directly to the Detachment Adjutant (a letter, separate of the member data form normally used for transfers), to the Permanent Membership Committee.

Transfer of membership from your current Squadron to a new Squadron of record and PMP transfers are two separate processes that occur simultaneously; both must be completed to fully complete the transfer of:

A Your membership of record with national, and

B Payment of dues by Detachment via the Permanent Member Plan.

A signed Member Data Form by the member and the gaining Squadron shall serve as written notice when accompanied with a short & simple cover letter to the PMP Committee.

- All transfer requests shall include a nonrefundable fee of \$5.00 payable to the S.A.L. Permanent Member Plan.

- Upon approval of transfer, only the amount of the excess dues shall be paid to the gaining Squadron. The gaining Squadron will not be entitled to any reimbursement until the transferring member is reported on the National Membership Roster and the next membership year processing of cards is completed.

- A signed Member Data Form by the gaining Squadron will serve as acceptance of the Permanent Member. Gaining Squadrons will attach to the Member Data Form a letter of notice from the member authorizing the change of Squadron in the PMP records.

The Detachment Adjutant will attach a copy of the letter to the losing Squadron's copy of the Member Data Form as official notice the transfer is in process for a Permanent Member Plan enrollee.

Ten

A Squadron can vote to bestow an "Honorary" Permanent Membership by either following the same procedure as regular Permanent Member Plan (PMP Plan) or use the traditional method where the Squadron follows the National Legion procedures (must adhere to both Legion and SAL National and Department processes) where the Squadron chooses to pay the Detachment and National per capita amounts for the life of the member through a regular Squadron and subsequently a Post binding motion.

An "honorary" membership issued by a Squadron through the PMP plan is transferable to other accepting Squadrons. The Honoree is not obligated to repay any amounts to the losing Squadron for transfer.

PMP Sample Chart of Dues & Fees

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Squadron Dues | \$10.00 | \$15.00 | \$20.00 | \$25.00 | \$30.00 |
| PMP Calculation Base (18.5) | 185.00 | 227.50 | 370.00 | 462.50 | 555.00 |
| Detachment Admin. Fee | + 40.00 | + 40.00 | + 40.00 | + 40.00 | + 40.00 |
| Total PMP | \$225.00 | \$317.50 | \$410.00 | \$502.50 | \$595.00 |



Detachment of Arizona S.A.L. Permanent Member Plan Application

All Information in this Section should be identical to the information on your membership card.
Please Print Legibly – **Incomplete forms will not be processed and delay enrollment.**

Member ID# Squadron #

Name

Mailing Address

City ST Zip

Phone () -

E-Mail Address Squadron Full Dues \$.

| Squadron Full Dues | Set Rate | PMP Extended Base Fee | Enrollment Fee | Total PMP Enrollment Fees |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| \$ <input type="text"/> . | x 18.5 = \$ <input type="text"/> . | + \$40.00 = \$ <input type="text"/> . | | |

By signing below and paying the necessary dues and fees, I agree to the terms of the Detachment of Arizona Permanent Member Plan listed below:

1. There will be no refund, at any time, for any reason.
2. You may transfer your membership to any permanently chartered Squadron within the Detachment of Arizona. A signed Member Data Form with cover letter must be submitted, along with a non-refundable \$5.00 fee.
3. If you choose to transfer to a Squadron outside of the Detachment of Arizona, this agreement becomes null and void and there will be NO refund. You will then be responsible for paying your dues annually to the Squadron and Detachment gaining your membership.
4. Should you transfer your membership back to the Detachment of Arizona, you will again be responsible for paying your annual dues, unless you choose to pay the full price again for Permanent Membership.

Applicant Signature _____ Signature Date _____

Detachment Adjutant Signature (approved and filed) _____ Signature Date _____

Permanent Membership Plan



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Arizona
4701 North 19 Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85015-3799

**Adjutant
Jeff Frain**

Squadron Commanders, Adjutant, Officers, and members;

The State convention is June 24-27, 2021 do you have all the forms filled out to attend? Have you filled out and submitted your Squadron Officer Report Form (SORF), The new National form, Squadron Data Report Form (SDR), Consolidated Squadron Report Form (CRS) if not, all the forms can be found on the SAL web site along with other important information go to www.Azsal.org and follow the links to all the forms.

Please fill out and send in your registration by June 11, 2021, pre-registration is \$10.00 at the convention is \$20.00 per member, also include your per capita check and sent to detachment so the squadron will be able to vote at the election.

Have any of your members or family attended a National Convention? The National Convention is here in Arizona August 26 – September 2, 2021, have you or your members ever wanted to know how the National officers get elected, appointments to certain programs, or just see the National organization at work helping our members, Squadrons, Detachments succeed?

Well, here is your chance but you have to preregister, no walk in per CDC covid restriction at this time, if interested please contact Headquarters for more information. Eloy Manquero 602-264-7706 #105 email. emanquero@azlegion.org, Jeff Frain 480-881-7497 (call after 4:00 pm) email. Az_sal_adjutant@aol.com

I want to Thank all of the squadron Commanders, officers and members who have continued making sure the squadrons stayed active and continued serving our Veterans and their Families.

Adjutant Jeff Frain
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Arizona

**CAMPOUT
CHAIRMAN
Chris Balsley**

After a long hiatus caused by the Corona Virus, we will be starting up our Annual Campout once again.

I know many of you were looking forward to the 2020 campout in Roper Lake since we sold out the campsite in record time, we have as a group decided to give it a go for real this time. Once again American Legion Swift Murphy Post 32 will be the host post for this year's festivities.

Mark your calendars for April 8th thru 10th 2022. We will be Camping at Arizona State Park Roper Lake with some exciting new events, and great opportunities to earn your Squadron some donation credits.

There will be Electrical/and Non-Electrical spots available on a first come first serve basis, so get your registrations forms in early this year. You will be receiving your Campout Registration forms and T-shirt order forms inside this Blue cap news.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me @602-524-5939. Hope to see you all there.

Chris Balsley
Arizona Executive Committee Member
Campout Chairman
balslech@yahoo.com





Camp Out 2022

Roper Lake State Park, Safford, Arizona
34th Annual Detachment of Arizona Camp Out
Detachment Camp Site Registration Form to be completed and returned to Detachment Headquarters with payment by March 11th, 2022.
Camp Out 2022 dates are Friday through Sunday, April 9th to 11th, 2022.

- ◆ All members of the American Legion Family are invited to attend. You must register in advance.
- ◆ Reservations are "First come basis WITH payment". Verbal reservations will be honored until someone else is asking and has payment to lock the reservation down. Please note: Sooner is better than later.
- ◆ Name listed for each reservation (Responsible Person): *Is directly responsible for any and all changes to the reservation; Must make sure payment is Paid in Full at Detachment by March 11th; Is responsible for all actions and activities at that assigned camp site.*
- ◆ Sites are available on Thursday. The normal camp fee (varies) is payable at the park upon arrival. You must call the park for reservations at (928) 428-6760. *early arrivals (Thursday arrival) campers must coordinate with Camp Out 2022 Chairman prior to making reservation. Camp Out Chairman's assigned campsites over-ride all other considerations. Please coordinate before you reserve and set camp on Thursday.*
- ◆ Pets are allowed. Pets must be registered with the park and require a refundable deposit. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times.
- ◆ Please limit the number of additional charges are collected for additional trailers, and motorized vehicles at park entry. Saturday Arrivals for meeting alone: Detachment will be responsible for parking. Please car pool if possible. **To receive a parking pass, this form MUST be turned in by all DAY GUESTS.**
- ◆ No fireworks, No glass bottles and containers, No open flames, No smoking. Park rules are enforceable by Park Rangers and or Local Police. Responsible Person listed for the reservation should read, understand and self-enforce the rules for their respective Camp site attendees.

Roper Lake State Park, 1915 Roper Lake Road, Safford, AZ 85546, Phone: (928) 428-6760 ★★ ★

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Responsible Party _____ | Cell Phone Number _____ | E-Mail Contact _____ | Sqd ## _____ |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Resv. Note _____ | List Name _____ at \$10.00 each | Names of Youths at age 17 or under – No Charge |
| | 1 _____ | 1 _____ |
| | 2 _____ | 2 _____ |
| | 3 _____ | 3 _____ |
| | 4 _____ | 4 _____ |
| | 5 _____ | 5 _____ |
| | 6 _____ | 6 _____ |

Check one:

☐ Day Guest

☐ Tent

☐ RV

***** Do Not Write in Area Below Line *****

Registration Rec'd: ____/____/2022

Check Deposited: ____/____/2022

Check # _____

Check Amount: \$ _____

Campsite Notification

Sent: ____/____/____

Assigned By: _____

Please send registration form with check

Payable to: "Detachment of Arizona Camp Out"

by March 11th to:

Sons Of The American Legion

Detachment Camp Out 2022

4701 N. 19th Avenue, Suite 200,

Phoenix, AZ 85015-3799

☐ **PAID**

VAVS & VA& R Reporting

Joe Miller

In this issue of the BCN I like to talk briefly about Veteran Benefits.

There are several benefits available but sometimes they can be hard to track down and even harder to obtain. As a Veteran you may best be served by getting ahold of your local American Legion Service Officer. Not Every Post has one but if you Call your Post or your Local VA they can often hook you up with yours. Service Officers have the latest information and can often put you in touch with the right people you need to see at the VA or advise you on what you need to fulfill your needs. These dedicated folks must go through a lot of training and are apprised of the latest info.

A great resource for our computer savvy Veterans is the VA/ U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs at (<https://www.va.gov>). On this site you will find Resources like the following:

Service member benefits

Find out what benefits you may be eligible for during service and which time-sensitive benefits to consider when separating or retiring.

Family member benefits

Learn about the benefits you may qualify for as a spouse, dependent, or survivor. And find out what you're eligible for as a family member caring for a Veteran with disabilities.

Burials and memorials

Get help planning a burial in a VA national cemetery, order a headstone or other memorial item to honor a Veteran's service, and apply for survivor and dependent benefits.

Careers and employment

Apply for vocational rehabilitation services, get support for your Veteran-owned small business, and access other career resources.

Housing assistance

Find out if you're eligible for a VA-backed home loan. If you have a service-connected disability, see if you qualify for a housing grant to help you live more independently.

Pension

Apply for monthly payments for wartime Veterans and survivors with limited or no income who meet certain age and disability requirements.

Life insurance

Explore VA life insurance options for Veterans, service members,

and families. Manage your policy online, file claims for benefits, and access helpful resources.

Education and training

Apply for and manage your GI Bill and other education benefits to help pay for college and training programs.

Records

Apply for a printed Veteran ID card, get your VA benefit letters and medical records, and learn how to apply for a discharge upgrade.

Health care

Apply for VA health care, find out how to access services, and manage your health and benefits online.

Disability

The direct mailing address for the Veterans Benefits

Administration and FAX Number is:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/maillingaddresses.asp>

When there is a Claimant, wanting to speak with a VA Accredited American Legion Representative, please refer them to phone number 602-535-1215

File a claim for disability compensation for conditions related to your military service and manage your benefits over time. I hope you have found this months article helpful!

For God and Country

Joe Miller

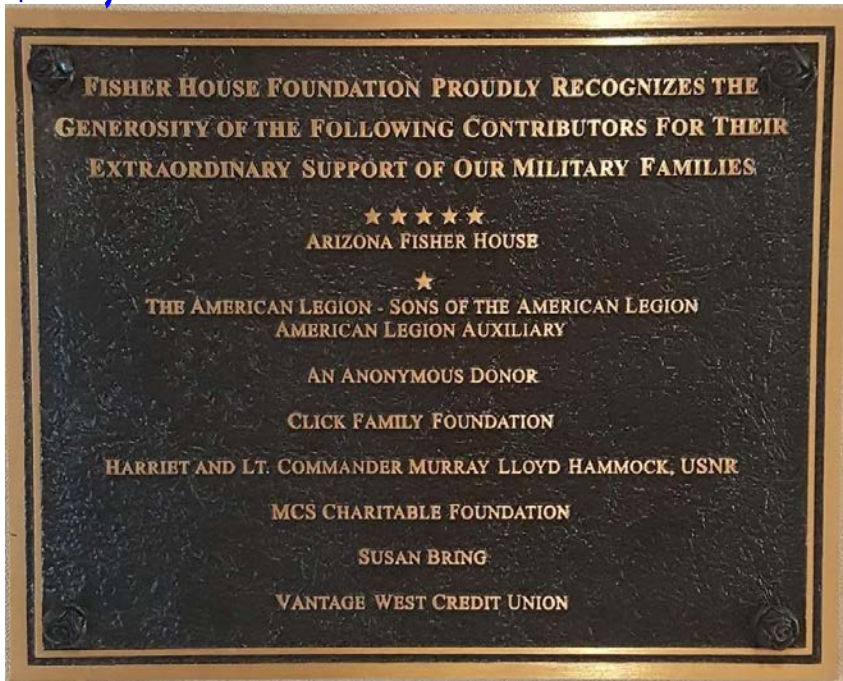
520-405-7352



C.H.A.M.P



\$140,075.42 Total Donations Raised to date!



SONS!

SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES THAT UTILIZE THE FISHER HOUSE TUCSON.

THE CHAMP FOUNDATION WAS CREATED BY THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF ARIZONA FOR THIS SOLE PURPOSE, EVERY DOLLAR DONATED TO CHAMP FOUNDATION GOES DIRECTLY TO THE FISHER HOUSE IN TUCSON AND STAYS IN TUCSON.

WANT TO SEE WHAT AND HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE DOING, CALL KELLY, HOUSE MANAGER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO GO VISIT THE FISHER HOUSE LOCATED ON THE PROPERTY OF THE VETERANS HOSPITAL IN TUCSON.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER THE CHAMP FOUNDATION 501c3 NON- PROFIT REGISTRATION WITH THE ARIZONA CORPORATE COMMISSION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CHAMPFOUNDATION.ORG



**Homecoming Dinner for
Auxiliary Department President Patricia Lugo
hosted by American Legion Post 41**

THE ROOM OF HONOR

Congratulations Madam President Lugo, Department of Arizona Auxiliary

Photos by Frank Romero Dept. of Arizona Deputy Historian

Dept. of Arizona Press Association / Public Relations

Christel Romero TALMA Photojournalist

Dept. of Arizona Press Association, ALR Rep.



A big thank you to Jeremy Vaughn for the many years of help and service to our annual Turkey Shoots. Without his help and the Greenlee County Sheriff's office, this shoot wouldn't probably be possible. Squadron 28 CMDR Kurt Gillis presenting the award.



ALLECA would like to give thanks to American Legion POST 39 in GILBERT AZ for their very generous donation received in support of our next 2021 ALLECA Class.



Great job Squadron 131 for your continued support of our programs. During this mornings Sq 131 Membership meeting they held a interview for 6 applicants that are applying for sponsorship into this years ALLECA 2021 CLASS. Sq CMDR John Cox presented a check for \$1800.00 to ALLECA Director Matt Griffis to pay for all 6 candidates.

On top of that Sq 131 presented another check for \$2000.00 for CHAMP Foundation.



Squadron 91 held a fundraising event for the family of fallen Chandler Police Officer Chris Farrar . Lots of folks from various organizations and groups participated, SAL Squadron 91 Chris Balsley reads the rules to the participants of the Beer Pong Contest. Lots of money was raised for the Farrar family. SONS doing what they do best, helping Veterans and the community. Photos by Frank Romero Dept. of Arizona Deputy Historian

ALLECA Class 2021
Matt Griffis, Director

UPDATE: May 15, 2021

Our class is FULL!

We have 57 cadets and 25 staff for this years class. The parents and kids are very excited to attend this years camp. JYNX PRODUCTIONS film company will be attending ALLECA to produce a short documentary about ALLECA.

Class starts June 12 and will be ending June 19. Graduation is at 10:00 AM on Saturday June 19 and we invite anyone that wishes to attend. Come up and see what awesome things your donations have done for our youths!



As always, this program would not be possible without your support, thank you!

Matt Griffis, Director,
 Allecadirector@gmail.com

520-289-5113, www.alleca-az.org

www.ALLECA-AZ.org

JUNE 12 TO JUNE 19, 2021



..motivation to move with a purpose!

- **WWW.ALLECA-AZ.ORG**
- **ONLINE APPLICATIONS**
- **DEADLINE MAY 1, 2021**
- **AGES 11 THRU 19 YEARS**
- **SIGN UP TODAY!**
- **PH# 520-289-5113**
- **EMMANUEL PINES CAMP PRESCOTT AZ**



ALLECA honors one of our own, OFC. Christopher Farrar

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Chandler Police Officer Christopher Farrar. Officer Farrar was struck and killed by a suspect driving a stolen vehicle on the evening of April 29, 2021. Chris was a 18-year veteran of the Chandler Police Department. Chris had served as a class counselor and mentor for ALLECA cadets. Chris touched so many young lives during his time at ALLECA. Chris will be missed by many. We stand beside our brothers and sisters as we mourn his loss. Rest In Peace. We shall take it from here. You will not be forgotten.



Children & Youth (Child Welfare Report) Dan Ashley

Hello to all the Squadron's in Arizona. I am very proud to say Arizona is still strong supporting the Child Welfare Foundation program. Currently we are second in the nation with \$11,451 donated so far. In first is Colorado with \$22,917.00. As a family we are second in the nation with a total of \$19,931.26. We are only \$3,501.00 from being number one in the nation as a family and I believe we can make it. I like to give a Huge thanks to squadron 39. They invited Commander Treat and myself to their meeting to tally the votes for their new officers. During the meeting they gave me two amazing gifts. A CWF apron that I will use all the time and a Son's of the American Legion cowboy hat that I been trying to get for the past 4 years. First time I been speechless in a meeting if you can believe that. They also gave checks to CWF over \$1,200 dollars. Word can't explain what that day meant to me. Don't forget the cutoff date to get credit for this year's donation is 5/31/21. I would like to thank each and every one of you in Arizona as your CWF chairman these past five years. Together we help a lot of people and set records that made us shine as a detachment. Thanks again and you all rock!!! With that, it is time for a new CWF chairman. If you are possibly interested in the position, please reach out to the commander or myself. You all are an amazing Detachment and keep up the great work.

For God and County, Dan Ashley



Squadron 39 presenting Area B Vice Commander Dan Ashley a check for \$547.00, Squadron 39 did a free Mother's Day Breakfast and asked for donations all donations going to Child Welfare Fund (CWF) Presenting the Check in Blue Shirt Finance Officer Pat McNulty, in Red Shirt Squadron Commander Mike Amick



Tucson Fisher House Manager's Update

The Fisher House is open and ready to serve the eligible families of our inpatient Veterans. Due to COVID we are operating at 50% capacity, 8 out of 10 rooms. This is very exciting news and we are so happy to see families back in the house again. Below are just a few of the comments from our guests:

"We really enjoyed our stay at the Fisher House. The accommodations were great and the staff made us feel comfortable."

"We appreciate being able to stay at the Fisher House. It is a relief to be so close to the hospital in case we are needed. It is a blessing to be in such a beautiful and comforting place. All staff and volunteers are exceptional and the best!!!!"

"This place was great. Staff very nice and helpful. Would definitely recommend to anyone. Made waiting to hear on my daughter's procedure more bearable. And for the wonderful gifts...thank you!!"

A special thanks to all of you, without your support the Fisher House couldn't provide such an amazing environment. Even though currently we aren't able to have group volunteers cooking meals in the house there are new and creative ways to volunteer. Currently we have a few groups that will drop off prepared meals individually packaged, baked desserts and snacks.

One of the biggest needs we have now is grocery shopping, if you are able to shop for the house please reach out directly by calling 520-838-3680. There are various options and we can provide a specific needs list prior to shopping. We can always use things such as bread, eggs, sandwich meats, fresh fruit, individual snack items, sodas and water.

Thank you to all of our donors, we appreciate all of your hard work, passion and commitment to the Fisher House. We make sure to let all of our guests (families) know that the items in the house are all based on donation, and let them know what a wonderful supportive community our house has.

Just recently the Fisher House Foundation visited the house and met with some of our volunteers/supporters to interview them. They will be sending us the video so that we can share with our community. A great time was had, the Foundation was incredibly impressed with the support the Tucson house receives.

I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our supporters. You are truly part of our family.

Sincerely, Kelly Laurich, Manager, Fisher House Tucson VA



Blue Cap News is published quarterly by the SONS of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona. Squadrons are encouraged to share their success stories with the Detachment by emailing stories, event notices and flyers to BlueCapNews@aol.com

If you have a event you would like to promote with a hard copy of the actual flyer as a insert into the issue, you will need to print a minimum of 140 copies of the actual flyer so that we can hand insert it into the edition for mailing out state wide. This would allow folks to post your flyer inside their POST for viewing.

Detachment of Arizona website: www.azsal.org

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/SALDetachmentOfAZ>

SONS of The American Legion National Website: www.legion.org/sons

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionsons>

Download the SONS of The American Legion MOBILE APP for your device through your Apple or Google Play Stores today, stay connected and get the latest information from National!

Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep everyone in the loop of information.

Matt Griffis

BCN Editor, 2021

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"Communication is the key to an organizations success.. It's best served hot!"

