



**Doug Hancock, Commander**  
**Sons of The American Legion**  
**Detachment of Ohio**  
**2021 - 2022**

Hello fellow Sons,

I want to thank you for your trust and encouragement the last number of years in electing me as your Detachment Commander. I'll do my best to live up to that trust.

I would like to commend now PDC Bernie for his leadership during his unprecedented two-year term.

I've talked to a number of our comrades about the feeling of separation that many of us felt not meeting in person, virtual meetings and not

being able to travel as we usually do. And yet, the work got done. You found the way to make it happen. You know who you are, and I applaud you!

Now, with the COVID-19 vaccine being distributed we can get back to the fundraising functions we had to cancel or put off and be visible in our communities.

My travels began Buckeye Boys State in June, Belleville's Independence Day Parade on July 3, and July 9 for greetings at The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary Conventions in Independence.

I look forward to traveling with the newly elected Legion Commander and Auxiliary President. Contact Scott with your District conferences and Conventions for invitations throughout the year, there are districts I

haven't visited in the past years.

I also want to thank you for your donations to HOOVES in the past and ask for your continued support. This is my sixth year as a board member and the positive changes I've witnessed in our Veterans suffering with PTSD is amazing. HOOVES saves lives!

For God and Country,

*Doug Hancock, Commander  
Detachment of Ohio*



# HIO



US Postage

**The Ohio SALute**  
PO Box 8007 • 60 Big Run Road  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

An Official Publication of the Ohio Sons of The American Legion

# The Ohio SALute

Is an Official Publication of?  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Ohio  
60 Big Run Road | Post Office Box 8007  
Delaware, Ohio 43015  
Phone (740) 362-7478  
Fax (740) 362-1429

[membership@ohiolegion.com](mailto:membership@ohiolegion.com)  
[www.ohiolegion.com](http://www.ohiolegion.com)

Commander

**Doug Hancock**

First Vice-Commander

**Dennis Albright**

Second Vice-Commander

**Dave Dilts**

Chaplain

**Tim Conway**

Adjutant

**Scott Thornton**

National Executive Committeeman

**Bill "Buster" Sutterlin**

Alt. National Executive Committeeman

**Steve Honigfort**

Immediate Past Commander

**Bernie Kessler**

PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor



The Ohio SALute is published 4 times per year.

**ADVERTISING:** Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. Advertising published on behalf of any individual or organization does not necessarily constitute endorsement nor reflect the policy of *The Ohio SALute*. Advertising requests may be submitted to [saladjutant@ohiolegion.com](mailto:saladjutant@ohiolegion.com).

**SUBMITTING ARTICLES:** All submissions are to be made electronically to [sal-news@ohiolegion.com](mailto:sal-news@ohiolegion.com). If you need assistance, please send an email to same. All articles must be submitted in accordance with the following schedule:

**SUMMER EDITION** for July, August, September due no later than June 14

**FALL EDITION** for October, November, December due no later than September 11

**WINTER EDITION** for January, February, March due no later than December 7

**SPRING EDITION** for April, May, June due no later than March 17



The Ohio SALute

## 2021 – 2022 Detachment Officers Installed



Photo submitted by Bill Sutterlin

Taking the oath of office are (l to r) Scott Thornton, Adjutant; Tim Conway, Chaplain; Dave Dilts, Second Vice-Commander; Dennis Albright, First Vice-Commander; Bernie Kessler, Immediate Past Commander; Doug Hancock, Detachment Commander.

### First-Vice Commander



**Dennis Albright,**  
First Vice-Commander  
[SAL1stvice@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SAL1stvice@ohiolegion.com)  
[qubert71@yahoo.com](mailto:qubert71@yahoo.com)  
1778 Liberty Hill Road  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Good day to you my fellow Legion Family Member,

Congrats Commander Bernie on a successful term amid a world pandemic; and to all members for helping us make these past couple years successful.

Commander Doug may this be successful as well and let's hope we do not have the cancelations like we did in the past.

To all the Districts, please let us know when you would like us to visit. Please send all invitations to John Robinson and copy Scott Thornton so that you have a backup in case one of the e-mails would not go through. We look forward to attending your functions.

Please make sure to look at the Lap Prizes and Detachment Target Dates. These are important to the success of our membership program this year.

District Officers, if you have not sent a reply to Scott Thornton, Bill Towns, or me about the monthly

Virtual Membership Meeting, please give us more input or will just with the 3 I have received at this time which would mean the meetings would be 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

See you all at the next DEC and then National Convention.

### Second-Vice Commander



**Dave Dilts,**  
Second Vice-Commander  
[SAL2ndvice@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SAL2ndvice@ohiolegion.com)  
[davidleedilts@hotmail.com](mailto:davidleedilts@hotmail.com)  
(740) 319-1255

I would like to thank all of you for your support in electing me as Detachment Second Vice-Commander. I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day. I have a couple raffles planned for this membership year. Details will be available at the Detachment Executive Committee meeting on July 17.

If anyone is having any functions or fundraisers, please let me or any Detachment Officer know, and we will try to attend.



I would also like to honor our Past Detachment Historian Verge Dilts on all his hard work and dedication through the years.

---

## From the Chaplain



**Tim Conway, Chaplain**  
[SALChaplain@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALChaplain@ohiolegion.com)  
[truckertim622001@yahoo.com](mailto:truckertim622001@yahoo.com)  
(419) 276-6422

On Monday May 31 I had the honor of participating in the Memorial Day Parade in Ashland, Ohio. The turnout by the community was amazing. It was nice to see so many people lining the streets to honor our Fallen Soldiers.

The speaker at the Cemetery who is not a veteran had a very good speech. You could tell from his speech that he respects all those that gave their lives for our freedoms.

---

## Adjutant's Update



**Scott Thornton, Adjutant**  
2133 Sunset Creek Drive  
Toledo, Ohio 43615  
[SALAdjutant@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALAdjutant@ohiolegion.com)

**New Detachment Officers Elected.** We were able to hold a proper convention in May this year, and I would like to offer congratulations to Ohio's officers for 2021-2022: Doug Hancock, Commander; Dennis Albright, First Vice Commander; Dave Dilts, Second Vice Commander; Tim Conway, Chaplain; Bill "Buster" Sutterlin, NEC; and Steve Honigfort, ANEC.

**Per Capita Membership Dues Increase – June 1, 2020.** Remember: National per capita dues increased from \$2 to \$5 effective as of June 1, 2020, for all dues transmittals since that date. You must be sending \$10.00 to state headquarters instead of the old \$7.00 amount. Anyone using myLegion for direct submissions to National should have this adjusted automatically on their batches.

**New Officer Certifications & Old Membership Cards.** As I write this, we have received 2022 Officers Certification Forms from 155 of our 317 squadrons, for

48.90%. Our Detachment Constitution sets the reporting deadline as May 1<sup>st</sup>, so if yours isn't one of the 155 then you're late and we need you to submit your report immediately – this is half of the requirement to receive your new 2022 membership cards. Department cannot update our contact lists without the new officer details – even if you have no changes to report.

The reporting form is available in multiple formats from the SAL section of the Forms page on <https://ohiolegion.com>.

DO NOT RETURN YOUR OLD 2021 CARDS TO HQ – they don't want them back!

**About D.E.C. Members' Certification Specifically...** Recently there was a question raised about the validity of actions taken by the D.E.C. and the detachment convention related to the members being paid-up and certified. In general, the concern regarding the validity of D.E.C. actions come down to whether those voting are certified or not at the time of a meeting.

For the elected detachment officers that means confirming they are currently paid-up at the time of their election, and for the new membership year once we reach January 1.

For the district commanders and first vice commanders, besides confirming their paid status we must also have a certification of their position by their district.

This is not a new policy or requirement, but we have perhaps been lax in verifying the paid status of members prior to detachment convention. I have been trying to make a point of getting the district certifications in hand before the opening of the convention and not recognizing any uncertified districts at the post-convention D.E.C. meeting's roll call.

I am going to start maintaining a specific report of the D.E.C. members' standing to track who may not be eligible to participate in D.E.C. business and share it with Judge Advocate Towns to allow ruling on questions by members.

**2021 Consolidated Squadron Reports.** Your 2020-2021 Consolidated Squadron (and District) Reports are also due to Department Headquarters by May 1<sup>st</sup>, and we have received 137 so far for 43.22%, but can and need to do better. We are asking that they be filed by July 1<sup>st</sup> in order to receive your 2022 cards in the first batch of deliveries – assuming your officers are certified! Please get yours in so we don't have to hound you about it.

Note that the content of the reporting categories was changed as of 2019-2020 – DO NOT USE OLD FORMS or we'll just kick it back. The current form is also available from the Department website.

The American Legion uses the data provided on the reports to help demonstrate to the U.S. Congress just how much we do in support of our nation's veterans and children when the national commander appears before it. Please submit the CSR form as soon as you can, even if you only update your membership data at the top, and make sure to use your paid membership counts for this year and last – not "2021" and "2020" – and DON'T LEAVE THEM BLANK, EITHER.

**Summer D.E.C. Meeting – July 17, 2021.** The Detachment Executive Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Department Headquarters, 60 Big Run Rd., Delaware, Ohio 43015. All elected and appointed Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairmen, District Commanders, and District First Vice Commanders are required to attend. Among other business we will approve the final slate of delegates, alternates, and guests for the National Convention.

I would ask everyone who will be giving a report at the D.E.C. meeting to file a copy with me (electronically, if possible) to facilitate the preparation of the minutes in a timely fashion. This really makes things much easier.

**2021 National Convention – August 27-29.** The 49<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. All members listed and approved as delegates at the Detachment Convention should have received housing reservation forms by now. It is also available on the [OhioLegion.com](http://OhioLegion.com) website. Please make note of the registration deadline: July 9<sup>th</sup>. **This is not a postmark date.** Any registrations not received at Department Headquarters by that date will not be delegates. **You must make your reservation through Department Headquarters.**

When making your travel plans, please keep in mind that the opening session of the convention is at 1:00 pm on Friday, and the parade is on Sunday afternoon. All delegates are required to attend all three convention sessions unless specifically excused by the delegation chairman, Bernie Kessler. (The Sunday parade is canceled this year.) Any absences will be reflected in a reduced stipend after the convention.

Note that all attendees this year must be paid members of one of the three Legion Family organizations (Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons), even guests, and they must also sign a liability waiver from the City of Phoenix. Non-member spouses and children may travel to Phoenix and stay in the hotels, but they must be members with a waiver on file to be admitted to the convention center. This is a requirement of the PCC as part of their COVID-19 policy.

If you have any questions about the Phoenix convention, please contact me or Department S.A.L. Liaison John Robinson and we will get them answered for you.

---

## Judge Advocate



**PNChap Bill Towns,**  
**Judge Advocate**  
[docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:docbill@neo.rr.com)  
[SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com)

---

## National Executive Committeeman



**PDC Bill Sutterlin,**  
**National Executive Committeeman**  
[SALNEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALNEC@ohiolegion.org)  
[brs257@zoominternet.net](mailto:brs257@zoominternet.net)

Hi to Everyone,

It was great to see those of you who attended the 2021 Detachment Convention in Perrysburg. The First District members did a great job hosting the convention with enjoyable social opportunities. Thank you for a job well done.

I enjoyed National Commander Bolt's visit to Ohio for our convention. He enjoyed talking and spending time with many of the convention attendees. Congratulations to those who won awards and recognitions.

The 2022 Detachment Convention will be hosted by Squadron 23 and District 7 in Portsmouth and the 2023 convention will be held in Marietta and hosted by Squadron 389 and District 11.

I want to congratulate the new 2021-2022 Officers: Commander Doug Hancock, First Vice-Commander Dennis Albright, Second Vice-Commander Dave Dilts, and Chaplain Tim Conway. I wish for all of you the best as you provide the leadership and set the example for the SAL.

Thank you to the 2019-2021 Officers for all that you did to support and provide leadership for those two years. It was a long two years but worth celebrating the successes achieved. Best wishes to Bernie and Nancy as they pursue new endeavors.

A new year has started, and I hope each SAL member will continue to support the programs and serve our veterans.

For many of us, Memorial Day and Flag Day are over. We have been busy in our communities remembering those who gave their lives for our freedoms and honoring the American flag that they fought for. Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at the DEC meeting in July and look forward to representing you at the National convention in Phoenix in August.

---

## Alternate National Executive Committeeman



**PDC Steve Honigfort,**  
**Alternate National Executive Committeeman**  
[SALANEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALANEC@ohiolegion.org)  
[shonigfort@yahoo.com](mailto:shonigfort@yahoo.com)

Fellow SAL Members,

With the Detachment Convention completed, I would like to congratulate our new Detachment Commander Doug Hancock and all the officers newly elected to their positions. Let's all back our new officers for the next year and make it a good one for the Detachment of Ohio.

Our Detachment is capable of accomplishing many things if we work together as a group. We have stagnated on our membership for too long as other Detachments pass us by. It is time for the long-standing membership to grab the bull by the horns and take the time to once again push for more new members and to invite back our old ones.

Numbers do not tell lies as attendance is dropping at many events. Whether there are reasons or problems that are causing this or losing members to Squadron Everlasting who were the driving force for our group. We miss many, but someone else needs to step up and help us move ahead and keep the memories of good times past live on. We are not getting any younger,

and if we hope to grow the SAL, something needs to go to the positive side of things while we can.

As I have said before we do many great things in our state to help and assist our communities. Come on guys, toot your horns, and get the word out to the general public via newspapers, TV, radio, and the SALute newsletter.

There are many who still do not know the good we do. Excuses are a dime a dozen, and everyone has one, but excuses do not or would not support a program.

COVID-19 has made many want to stay home and take a back seat. It is up to us all to encourage people back to the fold. There can be many new ideas brought forth if we listen to all members and use these ideas to springboard to a brighter future for the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Ohio.

Thank You!

# Around OHIO



Photo submitted by Bill Sutterlin  
National Commander Clint Bolt during the 2021 Detachment Convention in Perrysburg.

## District 1

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 454 Ridgeville Corners has awarded \$500 scholarships to each of five local seniors.



Pictured are, front row Jordan Behnfeldt, Napoleon, Karlee Bostelman, Napoleon, Madison Bostelman, Napoleon, Sydney Bostelman, Liberty Center. Rear row, SAL Commander Roger Lulfs, and Dylan Hines, Antwerp.

## District 2

Greetings from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District!

I hope everyone had a nice Memorial Day. I know many of us were part or parts of many different services.

I would also like to remind everyone to wear red on Fridays.

Many things will take place before we all get together again. Please remember why we exist. Do everything you can for our veterans.

Thanks for all you do and keep working on all Squadrons that not been cleared. Its better, but now where we need it to be. Keep working to get them cleared!

Randy Matthews, Commander



## District 3



The Third District held it's convention with elections on Sunday April 25. Detachment Commander Bernie Kessler installed the new officers. The officers in the picture are (L-R) Commander Troy Davis (707), 1VC Dan Ferryman (668), Chaplain Robin Peck (598), Finance Officer Chris Emmons (707), and 2VC David Jones (668) sitting. Not pictured are Adjutant Dan Sargraves (200) and Sgt.-At-Arms Warren Gibbs (215).

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as the official date for Flag Day, and in 1949 the U.S. Congress permanently established the date as National Flag Day.

We take some time each June 14 to honor our country's flag, and, in many locations, proper retirement ceremonies are also done.

One such ceremony has become a tradition in New Carlisle, Ohio. American Legion Post #286 conducts the service with the assistance of other posts and veteran's organizations. They collect flags all year. They are known for retiring thousands of flags each year on Flag Day.

This year I was told there were between 13,000 and 15,000 flags in the collection. This was due to last year's ceremony being canceled.



The photo shows the magnitude of the fire need to consume all of the flags. If you ever have the opportunity, come to Post 286 on Flag Day and witness this ceremony.

District Commander Troy Davis and Finance Officer Chris Emmons participated with the Post 707 honor guard. PDC Dan Sagraves was one of the recognized guests. Squadron 286 members are responsible for the fire.

### District 5



Photo submitted by Bill Sutterlin Squadron 257 replaces the service flags in Central Park, Loudonville each year. Pictured here is Tim Conway, Gary Boden, Chaz James, Brad Swires (Sq. 192), Buster Sutterlin.



Photo submitted by Bill Sutterlin Service flags at Central Park in Loudonville. Buster Sutterlin and Chaz James are with Brad Swires (Sq. 192) who is tying off the rope for the final flag to be replaced.

### District 4

Like many of our members across this great nation of ours, we in the Fourth District also participated in remembering the sacrifices that members of our parent organization made for us and others.



One of our members that stands out is Mt. Carmel Squadron 72 member, and Fourth District Adjutant, Ron Wissman. For over 35

years he has given his time to recognize our Veterans. Again, along with other members of Squadron 72, they placed flags to honor the men and women this year on Memorial Day. Pictured in the photo is Ron standing alongside a WW II Monument for Union Township Veterans that served during the war.

Charles W. Castle, Commander

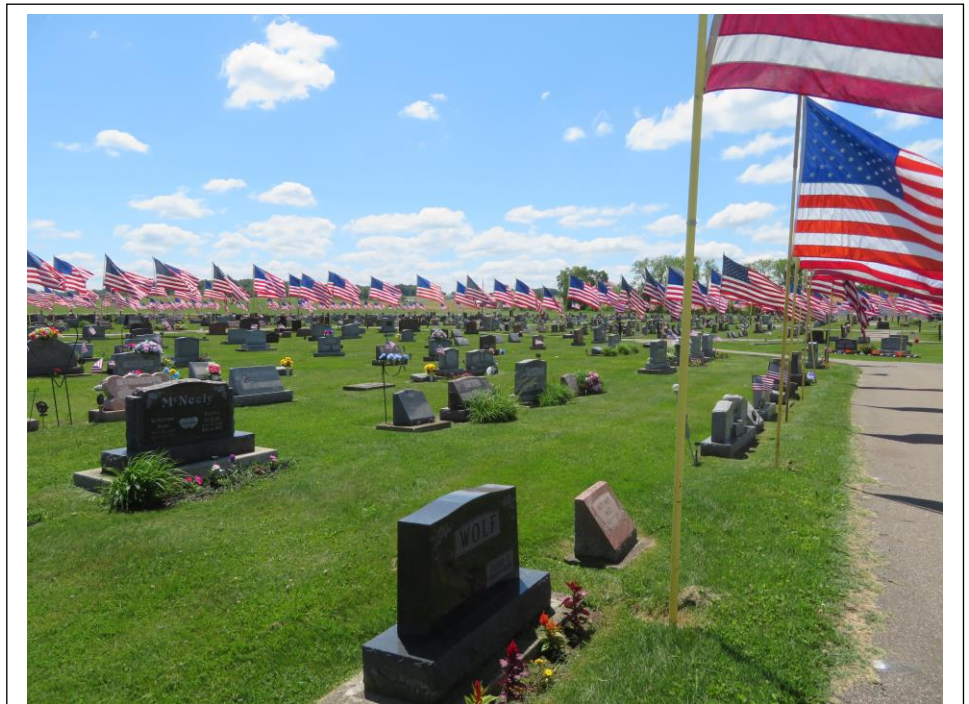


Photo submitted by Bill Sutterlin Over 300 flags fly over the Greenlawn Cemetery in Perrysville. Each flag was donated in memory of a veteran. Memorial Day services were held here with Squadron 257 members PDC Buster Sutterlin, Ralph Adams, Rick Eggerton, and PDC Dave Brown participating.



The American Legion Family





Photo submitted by Bill Sutterlin Standing at Loudonville Cemetery for Memorial Day Service were Squadron 257 members Dave Brown, Chaz James, Doug Smith with Buster Sutterlin, Ralph Adams, and Rick Egerton participating in the Color Guard.



As we visited the cemetery that morning for our traditional stop, a person walking through made the comment of how great it was to see people together smiling and laughing, because that's what we always did when we were with Spanky. We always smiled, laughed, and told stories (most of them true).



Once again, thanks to all who attended along with the hard work of Squadron 535 and Little Apple Golf Course for a great day.

PDC Rob Brewer

**Remembering a friend.**



On June 12, the annual Ed "Spanky" Van Houten Memorial Golf Outing was held in Bellville. It was a beautiful day and all the groups within The American Legion Family were represented.



We had current and past Detachment and District officers in attendance. I'd like to thank all who came, either by participating, or just being there to support the cause because that's what we do as a family. It's special to see so many people come together to honor the man who had had such a positive impact on our lives.



Photo submitted by Bill Sutterlin NEC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin, 5th District Commander Cary "Dewey" Kuhl, Detachment Chaplain Tim Conway and 5th District Historian Colton Conway. At the 6/6/21 5th District American Legion Summer Convention Colton Conway was presented his District Historian Cap.



Photo submitted by Buster Sutterlin At the Fifth District American Legion Summer Convention, American Legion and SAL member Dorian "Doug" Taylor (Post & Sq. 118) was named Legion Man of the Year. He also served as SAL Advisor #118 Amherst. Doug died unexpectedly January 11, 2021, so the award was presented to his wife, Jeanie, by Fifth District Commander Ken Estep.

**District 7**



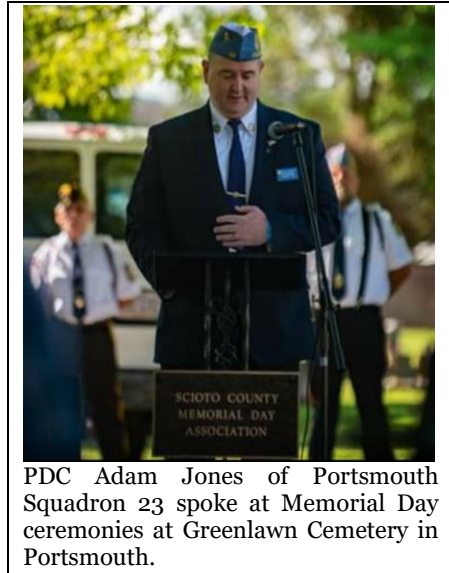
Photo submitted by Bill Sutterlin Pictured are L-R Fifth District SAL Commander Cary "Dewey" Kuhl, Detachment Chaplain Tim Conway, and Fifth District AL Commander Ken Estep. Seated is AL Second Vice-Commander Darrell Bishop. Tim attended the Fifth District conference June 6, 2021, to thank the Legion members for their support and to announce his election as 2021-2022 Detachment Chaplain.



On Sunday, May 24, 2021, Sons of The American Legion 7th District held its conference at American Legion Post 471 in Portsmouth. Pictured are (L to R) PDC 2008-2009, Child Welfare Chairman & Candidate for Alternate NEC 2022-



2024 Adam Jones, Department First Vice-Commander Jean Wilson, 7th District SAL Commander John Conley.



PDC Adam Jones of Portsmouth Squadron 23 spoke at Memorial Day ceremonies at Greenlawn Cemetery in Portsmouth.

When inquiring about what James Dickey American Legion Post 23 in Portsmouth was going to do to honor Memorial Day, PDC Adam Honess found out nothing was planned.

He took it upon himself and asked Auxiliary member Donna Lewis and quickly formed a plan. He asked the Post 23 Honor Guard, that he a member of, to help.

Soon, members of local Eagles Aerie supplied sound system and the staff of Portsmouth's Greenlawn Cemetery had the cemetery looking very good. A respectful and honorable ceremony was conducted with plans already in place for Memorial Day 2022.

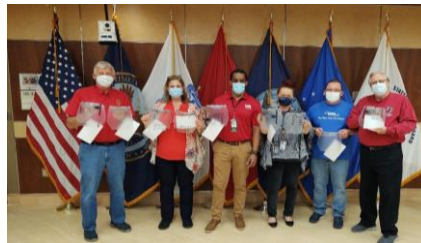


### District 8



Photo by Ernest Jones, Commander Chaplain John Adkins, Adjutant Jack Farley, and Finance Officer Dave Jones and other of Squadron 476 placed flags on Veterans' graves in Wilkesville Township for Memorial Day.

### District 9



Windston Bailey, Ray Batykefer, and PDC Rex Buchs traveled to veterans hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Sons of The American Legion Squadron #336 in Painesville took 20 models up for the veterans to put together. Response was great.

Squadron 336 also provided free lunch for safety services staff in the area. Four fire departments and six police departments attended.



On Monday, May 31, 2021, Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 in Poland, Ohio held its annual Memorial Day ceremonies. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Processional Parade was postponed until 2022.

Serving as Chaplain for the ceremonies was the Most Reverend David J. Bonnar, Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown. Bonnar was appointed the sixth Bishop of Youngstown on November 17, 2020, by His Holiness Pope Francis.

Keynote Speaker was Kristen Fox, the Special Programs Coordinator and Assistant Principal for the Campbell City Schools since August 2017.

In March 2020, Kristin was diagnosed with Influenza A which led

to several other complications including Sepsis. As a result, Kristin became a quadruple amputee, losing both her arms below her elbows along with her legs below her knees. Although this has been a life altering experience, Kristin is determined to not let this define her and to continue her work in the educational field as well as to inspire others to overcome all obstacles.

Squadron 15 member and Ohio State Representative Al Cutrona lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mahoning County Commissioner and Squadron 15 member Anthony Traficanti assisted in the reading of the names of Poland residents who were killed in action since World War I.

Squadron 15 invited the family of Rowan Sweeney, a four-year-old boy who was gunned-down in his home on September 21, 2020. Since Rowan's untimely death, Squadron 15 has been raising funds to help build a playground in memory of Rowan. During the ceremonies, Squadron 15 First Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr. present Rowan's father, David, with a check for \$1500.00 on behalf of the Ohio American Legion Family.



Photo by Dan Duran, Sr. Jeff Vrabel, Jr. hugs David Sweeney following the presentation of \$1500 to help build a playground in memory of Rowan Sweeney.



Photo by Dan Duran, Sr. Fr. Martin Celuch and Bishop Bonnar place a wreath at Post 15's Four Chaplains Memorial. The pair are accompanied by Anthony Traficanti, Al Cutrona, Squadron 15 Chaplain John Medina, and Jeff Vrabel, Jr.



Photo by Dan Duran, Sr. The Most Reverend Bishop David J. Bonnar delivering remarks following the Invocation.



Photo by Dan Duran, Sr. Bishop Bonnar, Kristen Fox, Al Cutrona, and Anthony Traficanti during the Keynote Speech by Mrs. Fox.



Photo by Dan Duran, Sr. PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr. welcomes Poland Township Trustee Eric Ungaro to the podium for remarks.

## District 10



D10 SAL Commander Matthew Baxter, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Brad Teis, D10 AL Commander Larry Glasgow, and D10 AL 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Robert Rhode (seated) at Alliance P166 D10 on 5/8/2021 Presentation of the new Brewster S160 Squadron Charter.



D10 Brewster S160 Commander Greg Milstead, D10 P160 Commander Rick Lutz, D10 SAL Commander Matthew Baxter, Dept Vice Commander Brad Teis, D10 Legion Commander Larry Glasgow, D10 AL 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Richard Balluh, and D10 AL 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Robert Rhode (both seated) at Alliance P166 D10 on 05/08/2021 Presentation of the new Brewster S160 Squadron Charter.



Ohio Sons of the American Legion District 10 Commander Matthew Baxter of Squadron 357 receiving his charge from District 10 Advisor Ed (Blue) Long Post 44. Benjamin Firestone Post 290 Commander Ken Alcorn and Past District 10 Commander Dan Bar- kar are looking on.



Detachment Judge Advocate Bill Towns addressed and assisted Minerva Scout Troop 150 during Flag Disposal at Minerva Veterans Memorial Park.



### District 12



This past Memorial Day weekend, 300 flags were placed in two sections at St. Joseph Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio. Those participating were, (l to r) veteran Joe Poeschel, Det. 1VC Dennis Albright, 12D Commander Rocky Searles, PDC Dan Finnell, Kevin Carpenter from Sq. 164, and veteran Ted DiSanto.

### District 13



This year, Memorial Day was made that much more special due to the attendance of our own SQ 343 member (now dual member) 2nd Lieutenant Colin M. Reichman. Pictured from Left to Right are: SQ 343 PC Wayne McCartney, SQ 343 Schuyler M. Cook, 2nd Lieutenant Colin M. Reichman, SQ 34 Commander John T. Lusoski, Sr., and SQ 343 2nd Vice-Commander Rick Ammon.



# HIO

Reports of  
Committees & Commissions

## AMERICANISM COMMISSION



**Luther Liggett, Jr.,  
Chairman**  
[LLiggett@RR.Columbus.com](mailto:LLiggett@RR.Columbus.com)

## Buckeye Boys State



**John Vrzal, Chairman**  
[VrzalJD@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:VrzalJD@MiamiOH.edu)

## Legislative Update



**PDC Craig Smith,  
Chairman**  
[craigsmith1958@gmail.com](mailto:craigsmith1958@gmail.com)

The George B. Evans Advocate of the year award is still going to happen every year. We need nominees and they have to be in 30-days before the national convention. There are a lot of guys doing a lot of work behind the scenes. The burn pits are still on the top of the list of the legislative committee. Vice Chairman Mike Monserud spoke as he saw this when he served. He said the smoke and fumes from it was so thick that they think this is the cause some of the medical issues with our veterans. So, he thinks we need to do more studies, so we need the American Legion and the VA to get behind this and make a big push for it.

This letter was sent from the Congress of the United States to President Biden.” We respectfully request for your administration to take immediate action to eliminate the records request backlog at The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). As of March 8, 2021, the NPRC had an approximate backlog of 480,000 record request from

veterans and their families. Without these records, veterans cannot access the essential services they have earned while defending our country. Records at the NPRC are required for veterans to receive COVID-19 vaccinations from the VA, GI Bill education benefits, VA loans, medical benefits, burial benefits, disability compensation, life insurance, and other services. We ask that your administration use every resource to ensure our nation's veterans retain access to these vital services while waiting for their records.

Hospitals around the country have continuously operated throughout the pandemic they provide essential services. The NPRC is equally important. Without these records it provides, veterans are deprived of Veterans Health Administration services, from routine preventative care to cancer treatment or mental health services. The administration must confront the reality that NPRC's operation is essential and must ensure that it reopens immediately and operates at its maximum capacity—just as hospitals, drug manufacturers, and grocery stores have done throughout the pandemic.”

We need to get behind our Congress and help them push this for all of our VETERANS who deserve and need this.

---

### Oratorical



**Rocky Searles,  
Chairman**  
[Rocky.Searles@CenturyLink.com](mailto:Rocky.Searles@CenturyLink.com)

---

### POW★MIA



**PDC Evan Mahlman,  
Chairman**  
[E.Mahlman216@Gmail.com](mailto:E.Mahlman216@Gmail.com)




---

## CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION



**Bruce Forshey,  
Chairman**  
[Bruce.Forshey@Gmail.com](mailto:Bruce.Forshey@Gmail.com)

---

### Children's Miracle Network



**Adam J. Budner,  
Chairman**  
[blechabum@yahoo.com](mailto:blechabum@yahoo.com)  
(216) 798-9254

It's a sobering fact. More kids need the specialized care only children's hospitals can provide than can afford it.

About [half of everyone](#) covered by a public health insurance plan are children and youth. The reality is that children's hospitals [are not reimbursed](#) for the full cost of caring for patients on public health insurance programs. Donations help make up the difference.

Children's Miracle Network hospitals provide about \$3.4 billion annually in charitable care for low-income patients that otherwise would not be able to afford it. In fact, in 2020, nearly \$63 million helped fund charitable care at our member hospitals.

Clearly, there is funding gap between what hospitals have and what they need. You can help by donating to your children's hospital today. Your donation helps ensure kids can lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

From now until August 13, 2021, CRUNCH, Butterfinger, and Baby Ruth will be donating a percentage of the retail purchase price of participating products, up to \$350,000, to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Together, our collective impact isn't just to protect the health of future generations – but also to manifest moments of happiness, as chocolate can help bring a smile to a kid's face.

You can help us reach this \$350,000 milestone to benefit kids' health! Contribute to the cause when you buy participating Ferrero products (limited-edition and regularly packaged singles, share packs and fun-size bags) over the next few months.

Thank you to those Squadrons that made donations at the state convention.

---

### Child Welfare Foundation



**PDC Adam Jones,  
Chairman**  
[glimmer\\_man72@yahoo.com](mailto:glimmer_man72@yahoo.com)

Greetings,



What is The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation? In 1952, Dr. Garland D. Murphy, Jr. gave to The American Legion a large contribution that would benefit children. The Legion and Murphy entered into a trust agreement that established the Child Welfare Foundation, approved by the National Executive Committee on October 15, 1953.

I want to thank Commander Doug Hancock for the appointment to the Child Welfare Foundation Committee.

I look forward to working with everyone in the Detachment of Ohio. We will be working together in every District to raise money through donations and fundraising to benefit children and youth.

Will also be reporting on Special Olympics throughout the coming Legion year as well.

*The Price of Liberty  
is Eternal Vigilance*

My final report for the Child Welfare Foundation Committee begins with a big Thank You to our Ohio Sons. You stepped up big time at our Detachment Convention with

your donations. Mirroring a trend across the nation where more than half of all donations came in during the last 2 weeks of May, Ohio jumped over \$10,000 in those last 2 weeks.

Ohio finished with \$21,619 dollars donated which was good for 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Our 73 cents per capita finished 31.

Nationally, over \$435,000 was donated, which came up just short of our goal of \$500,000. However, The Sons donated over \$317,000 of that amount so we definitely pulled our weight this year! You may have heard we were also trying to get lifetime donations by The Sons to CWF over the 9-million-dollar mark. That effort fell short by about \$200,000 but will easily fall this year.

The CWF fundraiser, "Sons for Kids" aprons, are still available through National, though supplies are dwindling. There is a donation price of \$20 per apron and hopefully you'll include a little extra to help with shipping and handling. It's possible there may be no new resupply of these because, I'm told, there will be a new item coming out at National Convention. I believe it is a CWF notebook/portfolio. If interested contact Stacy Cope, Youth Welfare Program Manager in the Americanism Division of National Headquarters at (317) 630-1323.

The Pat Shea Award is given by the Detachment, each year, to the Squadron/Squadrons with the highest donations to CWF from June 1 to May 1. For 2020, there was a tie for the highest donation with Squadrons 532 Columbus, 615 Waynesville, and 733 Bettsville each submitting \$1,000.00. For 2021 the award was given to my own Squadron 8 Wellington for a donation of \$3,000.00.

As mentioned, this will be my last report for CWF, as I'll be wearing a different cap next year. I'd like to take a moment to thank Past Detachment Commander Brown for giving me my start and all the

PDCs down through two tours with Commander Kessler for the opportunity to serve. I'd like to thank you for putting up with my reports. I've tried to make them informative and a little fun. Thank you for all the donations.

*Cary Kuhl, Past Chairman  
(retired?)  
Child Welfare Foundation  
Committee*

---

### **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION**



**PNVC Dan Sgraves,  
Chairman**  
[dansagraves@twc.com](mailto:dansagraves@twc.com)

While it seems, we are getting back to normal with our daily lives, activity at our VA medical facilities is still curtailed. While visitation rules are being slowly changed the ability to do volunteer activities is still not quite ready to start up.

With that in mind I want everyone to be ready to get back to business. If you are in range of a VA facility (20-30 miles) why not go, there and register to be a volunteer. They will always be able to find a job for you to match up with your abilities.

We need more regular dedicated volunteers at our medical centers. A regular registered volunteer will be expected to work one to two days a week. Remember, it is one of our primary responsibilities to server our veterans. Also remember that if you don't go to a VA facility you should always remember your local veterans where and when you can

Be sure to document all you do for inclusion on your annual consolidated squadron report. If you're out there doing the work, keep it up.

---

### **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee**



**Robert Showalter,  
North Chairman**  
[roshow2850@yahoo.com](mailto:roshow2850@yahoo.com)

**OVH Sandusky.** The Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky is not allowing outside visitors as far as I know. Hope they will be opening up soon for visitors. I have not received a newsletter in a long time. They have not returned my calls. Not sure if they are taking new residents yet. I did not have their Memorial Day parade. There was nothing on their event calendar about it., but on Saturday May 29 at 11:00 a.m. The Elmore American Legion Riders did have an Honor Ride (PARADE).

**Flag City Honor Flight (Findlay Ohio).** The Honor Flight Board of Directors announced that as of August 16, 2021, Honor Flight may resume trips contingent upon required protocols. The Flag City Honor Flight Board of Directors has been working and planning throughout the pandemic to be ready for this announcement and now looks forward to our fall 2021 Honor Flight season, as noted below.

The first mission will be Flight date on September 14.

The second Flight will be on November 3.

The third and fourth missions will be Bus Trips for Vietnam Era Veterans September 24-27 and October 15-18.

They look forward to another successful Flight season.

- 50% when the Veteran begins the program
- 25% when the Veteran completes the program
- 25% when the Veteran finds employment in the field of study

To donate, please make check payable to **Greater Cleveland Fisher House** and mail to:

Greater Cleveland Fisher House  
PO Box 1852  
Cleveland, OH 44106

For questions about donations, call [\(440\) 377-0067](tel:440-377-0067)

All donations stay right in Cleveland to support our Fisher House families.

They are building a new, user-friendly web site for our veterans and those who support their cause.



Mike Scherger, Burgoon Little League Director, and Robert Showalter, Bettsville 733 Squadron Commander donating a check for \$2,000 for equipment and field repairs to the Burgoon Little League.



A few of the Burgoon Little League players that came to Squadron 733 for their donation



**Gerry Palmer,**  
South Chairman  
[gerpalm60@gmail.com](mailto:gerpalm60@gmail.com)

Our Flag Disposal Ceremony at Post 62 on Flag Day had good turnout. Greenfield ROTC served as the Color Guard. The Ross

County Honor Guard provided last rights on June 14.

The week before saw a parade in downtown Chillicothe, and we also dedicated to our memorial park with a speaker and Mary Miller, Becky Simpson, with Ray Pryor as Grand Marshall's. The event was dedicated to all veterans of Ross County.

As for VA, we are going to have a fundraiser for our veterans and asking people to donate food. We are going to distribute to veterans homes in Ross and Pickaway counties.



## Veterans Employment and Education Committee



**Bob Carson, Chairman**  
[CarsonRobert1957@Gmail.com](mailto:CarsonRobert1957@Gmail.com)

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION



**PDC, ANEC**  
**Steve Honigfort,**  
Chairman  
[SALANEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALANEC@ohiolegion.org)  
[shonigfort@yahoo.com](mailto:shonigfort@yahoo.com)

## The Ohio SALute

### From the Editor



**PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.**  
Editor,  
**The Ohio Salute**  
[jeffvrabel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffvrabel@sbcglobal.net)  
[SALNews@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALNews@ohiolegion.com)  
**"Serving Those Who Served...  
Full Steam Ahead"**  
MEDIA ALLIANCE

I want to congratulate Past Commander Bernie Kessler for a great two-years, for serving during our most trying time to date in the Detachment of Ohio.

I also want to thank Commander Doug Hancock for allowing me to service once again as the Editor of *This Ohio SALute*. I am honored to continue in this position.

Throughout our membership year, it is important to submit articles, photographs, and upcoming events for publication in *The Ohio SALute*. We have one of the most recognized publications in the organization, and we need to make sure we blow our own horns and show the world what Ohio Sons are doing!

You don't need to be a professional photographer or journalist to make submissions. Just remember to tell us the important stuff, and remember to list the Who, What, Where, and When. Make sure everyone in your photos is identified, and please provide a brief story behind the picture. Editing will be done as needed, so don't sweat it, it's easy and won't take long to put together.

Please continue to support our award-winning Detachment newsletter, *The Ohio SALute*.

Thanks for your hard work and keep **servicing those who served...full steam ahead!**

**In Search of History.** During the spring virtual meeting of The Sons of The American Legion, a Resolution to establish a 50th National Convention Celebration Committee was passed. National Commander Clint Bolt announced his appointments to this committee and Ohio Past Detachment Commander Bill Towns, was honored to be a part of this committee. As part of this committee Bill is reaching out to the Ohio Membership asking for your help. You need to search your basements, backrooms, and files. Look around your Post Homes, check display cabinets, and pictures both stored and, on the wall, and become a part of this historic event.

Bill's part of this project is to collect, file, and preserve Sons of The American Legion historical information. Pins, Newsletters, Certificates, Convention Ribbons, Convention Books, Officer Rosters, Scrapbooks, SAL Drum Corps, and Color Guard items, and/or pictures of such activities and then help compile a Sons of The American Legion 50th National Convention Book, which will be given out to all Sons Delegates at the 50th National Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August of 2022. If you cannot donate the item, just take a couple of pictures of it, or scan the document then email them to [Docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:Docbill@neo.rr.com) with all the information you can (Who, What, When, Where).

This can only be a success with your help.

---

## Convention Screening Committee



**PDC, NEC Bill "Buster" Sutterlin, Chairman**  
[SALNEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALNEC@ohiolegion.org)  
[brs257@zoominternet.net](mailto:brs257@zoominternet.net)

---

## Finance Committee



**PDC Rex Buchs, Chairman**  
[RexBuchs@AOL.com](mailto:RexBuchs@AOL.com)

---

## Member Training & Development Committee



**PNChap Bill Towns, Chairman**  
[docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:docbill@neo.rr.com)  
[SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com)

---

## Constitutional Review Committee



**PNChap Bill Towns, Chairman**  
[docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:docbill@neo.rr.com)  
[SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com](mailto:SALJudgeAdvocate@ohiolegion.com)

---

## Committee Appointments Committee



**PDC, NEC Bill Sutterlin, Chairman**  
[SALNEC@ohiolegion.org](mailto:SALNEC@ohiolegion.org)  
[brs257@zoominternet.net](mailto:brs257@zoominternet.net)

---

## Ohio Past Detachment Commanders Club



At the Recent Detachment Convention, I had the opportunity to talk to many Past Detachment Commanders and challenge them to donate to the Child Welfare Foundation.

I also asked them to introduce them self to the members attend-

ing the convention and the year they were Commander. The question is, where are the other Past Commanders?

I know we have lost a few to the Squadron everlasting, but why have we lost contact with the others. I know Past Commander McBride lives out of state but keeps in contact. But some of the rest just seems to have fallen of the face of the earth.

I am asking everyone to take a look at a list of Past Commanders and if you know them or have information on them let them know they are missed, and if you can let me know with updated information on them.

*PNC Fred Hartline*

On July 17 Squadron 566 will host a Past Commanders and Past Presidents dinner at Post 566.

Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. The program will start at 7:00 p.m.

For more information contact PNC Fred Hartline at [pncfhart8384@yahoo.com](mailto:pncfhart8384@yahoo.com).

*Past Commanders and Presidents Dinner* **\$15**

5pm - Hors d'oeuvres  
6pm - Dinner  
7pm - Program  
Coice of Entree

Roasted Pork Loin  
Oven roasted marinated Pork loin

Tilapia Hemmingway  
Pan Fried Panko-Bacon Crusted Tilapia

Chicken with Tomato Cream Sauce  
Sauteed Chicken Breast in a Cream and Crushed Tomatoe Sauce

All dinners include Spinach Starter Salad, Roasted Redskin Potatoes, Summer Squash Medley, Roll, and Dessert

**Saturday July 17th**  
Reservations are required  
Contact George @ 330-814-7961 or  
Email - blackhawk2982@hotmail.com

**National Membership Update**



Membership cards for the 2021 – 2022 program year are now out, and we need to do whatever it takes to reach quota faster than ever.

Have you ever wondered why we ask Squadrons to reach quota by May when we can do it so much earlier? We should all hit the mark no later than December 31. For many Squadrons, it is possible to hit the mark by the National Convention in August. We should all strive for this goal!

This goal can be accomplished if we change our mentality and the culture of membership. There is no reason for members to hold off on paying our dues, but in order for this to happen, we must embrace a new way of thinking and a new way of conducting our membership program.

When you receive membership cards at your Squadron, encourage every member to pay. At your first meeting after the cards arrive, let your membership know that they can come to the meeting, pay their dues, and receive their card. Remind them that paying early helps not only the Squadron, but the Detachment and National organizations as well.



If we concentrate on our membership program aggressively over the summer, we will have much more time to focus on our fundraising



**2021 - 2022  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES**

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <b>SEPTEMBER 9, 2021</b> | <b>10%</b>  |
| <b>OCTOBER 14, 2021</b>  | <b>25%</b>  |
| <b>NOVEMBER 10, 2021</b> | <b>35%</b>  |
| <b>DECEMBER 8, 2021</b>  | <b>45%</b>  |
| <b>JANUARY 20, 2022</b>  | <b>60%</b>  |
| <b>FEBRUARY 9, 2022</b>  | <b>75%</b>  |
| <b>MARCH 9, 2022</b>     | <b>80%</b>  |
| <b>APRIL 13, 2022</b>    | <b>90%</b>  |
| <b>MAY 11, 2022</b>      | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>*JULY 28, 2022</b>    | <b>105%</b> |

\*DELEGATE STRENGTH TARGET DATE

**2021-2022  
MEMBERSHIP  
YEAR**

activities and other things that happen at the Squadron level.

As you may have read, Detachment First Vice-Commander Dennis Albright will be holding monthly meetings to discuss membership. These virtual meetings will be very important to this year’s membership program and will keep everyone up to date on how things are going.

Meetings like this are held for the Commissions and Committees at the National level and starting them at the Detachment level will only see things improve. These meetings will also help improve our communication and we will see

an increase in our membership totals.

The Central Region is a leader in the organization, and Ohio is often look to for advice and ask how we are so successful. Let’s all work hard to embrace this meeting plan and work hard to put Ohio at the top of the membership standings in 2020.

***Serving those who served...  
full steam ahead!***

*Jeff Vrabel, Sr.,  
Central Region Chairman  
National Membership Committee*



**SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED  
FULL STEAM AHEAD**

**National Commander Clint Bolt's  
2020 – 2021 Goals**

Please remember as you travel and promote the Sons of The American Legion and National Commander Clint Bolt's goals for Membership and all Legion Charities.

- **RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND REIN-STATE** to reach **400,000** members
- Renewal rate above 95%
- Obtain 105% in membership by National Convention in Phoenix, AZ
- Recognize our achievements
- Child Welfare Foundation \$500,000
- National Emergency Fund \$100,000
- Soldiers Wish \$100,000
- Legacy Scholarship \$100,000
- Veterans & Children's Fund \$100,000
- Operation Comfort Warriors \$100,000

**2021 – 2022 Detachment Target Dates**

| LAP | DATE                         | TARGET GOAL                                    |
|-----|------------------------------|--|
| 1   | Thursday<br>August 5, 2021   | District Cleared                               |
| 2   | Thursday<br>October 7, 2021  | 40% of Membership Quota                        |
| 3   | Thursday<br>December 2, 2021 | 55% of Membership Quota                        |
| 4   | Thursday<br>January 6, 2022  | 75% of Membership Quota<br>"Blue Jugs" Awarded |
| 5   | Thursday<br>February 3, 2022 | 85% of Membership Quota                        |
| 6   | Thursday<br>March 3, 2023    | 100% of Membership Quota                       |
| 7   | Thursday<br>April 7, 2023    | 100% of Membership Quota                       |
| 8   | Thursday<br>May 5, 2022      | 100% of Membership Quota                       |

**PLEASE NOTE:** Handling membership cards by mail from the Squadron, through the Detachment, and on to National HQ can take three weeks.

**We recommend using the mailing dates to the right to ensure you meet the lap dates. Or send all the cards you have ready by the end of each month.**

*The membership report on the Ohio Legion website will not reflect your submissions until the cards have been processed and payments posted to the member's record in the National membership database.*

Detachment target date lap awards will be determined based on Department HQ's transmittal submission dates and may not be published for a couple of weeks after the target date has passed once National processes them.

| LAP | MAILING DATE  |
|-----|---------------|
| 2   | Sep. 28, 2021 |
| 3   | Nov. 23, 2021 |
| 4   | Dec. 28, 2021 |
| 5   | Jan. 25, 2022 |
| 6   | Feb. 23, 2021 |
| 7   | Mar. 29, 2022 |
| 8   | Apr. 26, 2022 |



Veteran residents of The Inn at Poland Way during Memorial Day ceremonies held Sunday, May 30, 2021. Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 conducts the event each year.



If you purchased one of the new Ohio Sons of The American Legion license plates, please send a picture to *SALute* editor Jeff Vrabel, Sr. and receive a sticker like the one above.

**Ohio**BMV





## ***Beware of illegal American Legion merchandise online***

The American Legion  
JUN 02, 2021

The American Legion emblem is the property of The American Legion National Headquarters, protected by federal statutes and trademark and copyright law. Online shoppers need to know that products they see displaying it and other American Legion Family brands on such e-commerce sites like Amazon.com and Wish.com are almost always illegally marketed.

These products are almost all counterfeits, often made in foreign countries, and they violate U.S. copyright and trademark laws. When people buy these unauthorized American Legion products, the resources needed for The American Legion to assist disabled veterans, operate youth-development programs and advocate for our nation's military personnel are lost.



The best, and often only legal, resource to purchase American Legion-branded merchandise properly displaying the emblems, or names, of American Le-

gion Family organizations – including the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders – is American Legion Emblem Sales at [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org).

In February 2021 alone, The American Legion National Judge Advocate's office handled no less than 400 separate trademark violations from manufacturers and vendors that stole our name and/or copyright-protected emblem for profit. Violators – sometimes from countries that have taken up arms against our brave servicemembers – capitalize and profit from exploiting “loopholes” in U.S. law to sell illegally obtained materials on websites like Amazon.com and Wish.com. These illegal transactions have substantially harmed Emblem Sales revenue, which is used to offset such costs as free representation for disabled veterans in their battles to receive health-care benefits.

After more than a year of collaboration, it appears that Amazon has implemented internal standards that have now removed almost all infringing products. We will work with them closely to make sure that these infringing products do not reappear on the Amazon platform. Other similar companies like Zazzle.com, Redbubble.com and Spreadshirt.com have cooperated with us in implementing an internal platform policing program to make sure that our emblem and name do not appear on infringing products on their platforms.

Another company, Wish.com, has taken an entirely different approach. Wish.com appears to do little to verify that the intellectual property in on products it sells through its platform is either owned by the manufacturer/seller, or that the seller has any approval or right to use it. Wish.com, taking advantage of loopholes in U.S. intellectual property law, even puts the responsibility back on the owner of the infringed trademark or copyright to ensure that each Wish.com seller is properly using the name or brand. Organizations

like The American Legion have to use their own resources to police the website, protect its name and report any violations back to Wish.com, which may then take the product down. But for each sale of such illegal merchandise already conducted, Wish.com, and other companies like them, takes its own percentage of the transaction, creating a counterincentive for the company to remove illegally marketed merchandise.

Following notice in writing concerning the federal statutes and intellectual property laws that protect The American Legion name and emblem, Wish.com, through its expensive lawyers, has essentially told the American Legion that it will take no internal action to police its own marketplace, and that the American Legion must send a takedown notice for each of the hundreds of apparently infringing products that appear on the Wish.com platform. Think about that for a moment ... they know that the items bear the American Legion name and emblem, have been told that no one other than The American Legion has the right to sell such products, and they are leaving them up for sale unless The American Legion writes hundreds of individual takedown letters to Wish.com.

What makes this even more egregious is that the U.S. Congress, which granted sole ownership and usage rights of American Legion Family emblems and names to The American Legion National Headquarters, even went so far as to pass a federal criminal statute punishing the unauthorized manufacture, reproduction or sale of products bearing the name and emblems belonging to federally chartered veterans service organizations, such as The American Legion. Enforcement of that criminal statute when it comes to companies like Wish.com will be an interesting avenue we will explore.

Companies like Wish.com largely refuse to even provide contact information for the illegal sellers, making it impossible for The

American Legion to even recoup legal expenses through litigation. As an article in the National Law Review noted last year, “many sellers of counterfeit goods are located overseas, putting them outside the jurisdiction of U.S. criminal law or civil liability. In addition, simply requiring e-commerce sites to remove counterfeit items or ban counterfeit sellers hasn’t been particularly effective, as sellers simply shift these items to other accounts. Like the mythical Hydra, cut down one online counterfeit account, and two more rise to take its place.”

So, what can you do to help us defend this attack on the American Legion Family’s names and emblems? The main thing you can do is buy American Legion items only from Emblem Sales, not these other unauthorized e-commerce sites that allow illegal manufacturers to profit from our copyrighted marks. A look at the counterfeiters from the months of October and November 2020 revealed that nearly every violator of American Legion Family trademarks and copyrights was operating from China.

Instead of sending your hard-earned money overseas, or to companies like Wish.com, which profit on counterfeit transactions, make purchases directly through The American Legion and Emblem Sales, so we can continue to provide all the programs we have worked for over a century to offer to our nation’s veterans, children, military personnel, and communities worldwide. Only a few carefully vetted and authorized licensees are allowed to sell American Legion Family-branded products.

Secondly, contact your congressional delegations and tell them to put a stop to counterfeiting and intellectual property theft like this. In the last Congress, a bill was introduced to combat this menace. The “Stopping Harmful Offers on Platforms by Screening Against Fakes in E-Commerce (SHOP SAFE) Act” would have required online sales platforms like Wish.com to verify the identities of

the sellers and screen for trademark infringements. The measure has not yet been introduced in the 117th Congress, so urge your lawmakers to introduce, sponsor or cosponsor similar legislation.

Lastly, if you come across goods online that display American Legion Family names or logos, and you are not sure if they are legitimate, review this list of authorized licensees to make sure the seller is authorized to sell such merchandise before you make any purchases, [www.emblem.legion.org/approved\\_licensees.asp](http://www.emblem.legion.org/approved_licensees.asp).

The American Legion emblem – and all trademarked brands of the American Legion Family – are sacred to the organization. Their designs have meaning to those of us who swore with our lives to defend this nation and to families who believe and trust in our good names. But, when it comes to an e-commerce company like Wish.com, or the many heads of the Hydra that grow back after one is cut off, we are outnumbered in this battle and can only defend ourselves with help from you, in your buying decisions.



## National Convention Update

Members of our entire American Legion Family,



As Chairman of the Convention Commission and after receiving information, some correct, some not correct and some partially correct, I thought it was time to “clear the air”, and as

Paul Harvey used to say, I am going to give you “the rest of the story”.

As you are aware we (Convention & Meetings Team, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Baca, me, and several others) have been working very diligently for our American Legion Family to have our much-needed National Conventions this coming August in Phoenix. We communicate constantly with each other, the Department of Arizona, the Arizona Convention Corporation, the City of Phoenix, the Hotels, and the Phoenix Convention Center. Everyone in the Phoenix community realize how important this convention is to them. We will be the first largest Citywide convention they have had since being shut down due to Covid. Due to our outstanding relationship with Phoenix, we were able to get a new, less binding waiver for our attendees to sign, as I know this was a major concern to many. We will continue to adhere to all the Phoenix requirements, which they may be starting to loosen up some. If so, we will communicate accordingly. The waiver change was a good start. As I mentioned before and continue to say, you will be advised as soon as we receive updates. I also wish to remind everyone as I have said for months now, we all have to have: FLEXIBILITY; ADAPTATION; COOPERATION and PATIENCE for this and coming National Conventions.

Many may not realize this, but our Team in Indy, Director Robinson and Deputy Director Watson are CERTIFIED MEETING PROFESSIONALS, and with Director Robinson she is also Certified in Meeting Management. Both are Compliance

Pandemic Advisors as well. These titles don't come easy and these two ladies both worked very hard and were tested extensively to obtain these credentials. The reason I mention this is that all of us in our American Legion Family, no matter what position or title you hold needs to rely on their expertise, as I do as Chairman. The American Legion is also considered, nationwide, throughout the hospitality industry, as one of the most reliable groups to have in a city for a National Convention(s). We did not earn this easy. We are honest, we keep our word, we communicate honestly, and we work hard to keep this good relationship not only with the cities and the hotels, but also other VSO's and Associations. These cities, hotels, VSO's, and Associations all communicate with each other constantly, whether it be one of their combined Association meetings, emails, or whatever, rest assured they know what is going on with all organizations holding National Conventions. This brings me to my next point. PLEASE, PLEASE, if you have information or if you hear something or you would like our Indy Team to check out some other Associations, Groups, VSO or whatever in the name of The American Legion, then contact them and I guarantee you they will follow up. DO NOT, PLEASE DO NOT, contact them using our American Legion name. Anyone doing this outside of the Convention & Meetings Office or the Convention Commission, without my or Director Robinson's permission, could jeopardize the hard work we have developed with the city. The reason I point this out is our credibility throughout the Hospitality Industry and the Asso-

ciations which I previously mentioned. Plus, quite honestly it is not anyone else's place to do this, as this is why we have the professional team in Indy. We received information that the ADHA, a medical association was contacted by a person from The American Legion and that they were not being required to sign waivers. We were also advised that a member of our American Legion Family called the convention center and they advised that they were told you do not have to wear a mask. Additionally, we were advised a member of our American Legion Family stated some events were cancelled when they are not. If the Convention & Meetings Office had been contacted to check on these, the following is what they would have reported, which is FACT and which we received from Mr. Mattingly, former Director of Operations, at the Phoenix Convention Center and currently Interim Deputy Human Services Director for the City:

"The mask requirement is still in effect. I don't know anyone at PCC who would say differently. If things change, we will let you know.



The waiver requirement was imposed after ADHA was approved, so they do not have it in their approval. They went to committee quite a while before American Legion when the committee wasn't requiring a waiver. The process for approval for ADHA and AL were the same. All of your require-

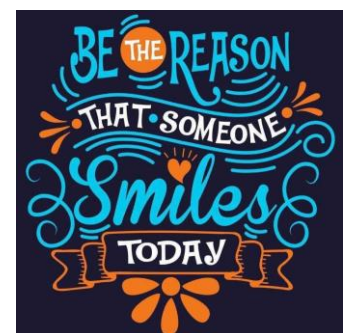
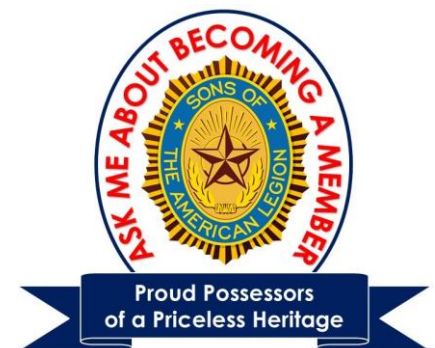
ments of the committee remain in force."

Another point on the ADHA Medical Group per Miguel Munguia, CMP, former Event Operations Manager, and Interim Director of Operations of the PCC: ADHA presented Phoenix with a 30-page Risk Mitigation Plan and inside of that plan they (ADHA) were already requiring their attendees to SIGN A WAIVER!!! Again, if the Convention & Meetings Office had been contacted to check this out, this is what would have been reported.

I know this is a quite long email, but I believe it is extremely important that I get my point across. Let us do our job. Contact us with questions, suggestions, ideas and etc. We don't need any rumors flying around. If you want the facts on Phoenix, contact my outstanding Team in Indy or me.

Thank you,

Michael Walton, Chairman  
Convention Commission



## June 23 Convention Update



All,

See the message below about the latest updates to the convention.

Also, view the release form and have your delegates sign ahead of time before attending the convention. It is the detachment adjutant's responsibility to produce a copy of the waiver for their delegates upon demand. This can be hard copies or electronically. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

*Ken A. George,*  
*Member Engagement*  
*Coordinator*  
*National SAL & ALR Liaison*  
NALC Alumni – Class of 2016  
Phone 317.630.1376  
Fax 317.630.1413  
[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)  
[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)  
[www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders)



Great news to share regarding some relaxed measures in Phoenix and the Phoenix Convention Center for our National Convention. These are the updates regarding the relaxed COVID-19 measures:

1. Our convention is open now to all, not a private event. Invite your neighbor, your family, etc. Everyone can attend now. Just like in the past. When you complete your DAG (Delegate, Alter-

nate, Guest) Form, if an attendee is a Guest, that is perfectly fine. Same procedure as past conventions when completing the DAG form (will be sent by Wednesday morning).

2. Waiver is still needed for anyone to attend. An attendee will return said waiver to you (Dept Adj). If the attendee is a Guest, on the Waiver where it asks for Membership Number, simply mark N/A now.
3. Everyone still must Pre-Register with their Department.
4. There will not be on-site walk-in registration. This really is only applicable to the Host Department each year.
5. While there is now no Physical Distancing required in leased spaces, we still have to be cognizant and observe Physical Distancing in all common areas of the Phoenix Convention Center: hallways, foyers, food court, etc., that is not leased space to The American Legion.
6. No capacity limits in meeting rooms or larger general session rooms or in exhibit hall. The current assigned space and size of these rooms will remain in order for all to be comfortable and at ease to allow one to physical distance if they so desire.

However, for the National Commander's Banquet, at this time, we want to be ensured by the Center that the workforce/labor will be in full operation to service an increase in attendance.

There is a labor shortage across the country, especially in the hospitality industry currently. PCC's workforce

is not at 100% yet. We will make a determination whether to increase the size of the banquet by the end of July. This will provide us and the PCC ample time on whether they can serve twice as many people in an allotted timeframe. While relaxed Physical Distancing measures may allow for increased attendance to the banquet, it is our duty to ensure the PCC can facilitate a memorable experience while serving all expeditiously and still uphold the quality of standard.

We, and the PCC, do not want to over promise and under delivery.

7. Face Covering/Mask: For all FULLY vaccinated people- do not have to wear a face covering/mask. Will be on the honor system, just like currently is with some retail stores, hotels, etc. (Airlines still require face covering/mask as well as other transportation sources)
8. There will be no on-site temperature checks or health screenings now at the PCC. It is still the responsibility of the attendee to adhere to the waiver agreement and protocols.

E.g., If you have a fever, stay home; if you contract COVID-19 two weeks prior to your convention departure, stay home, etc.



**2021 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
COVID-19 STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING and AGREEMENT**

The American Legion focuses on creating a safe national convention experience for all who travel to Phoenix, Arizona for the 102<sup>nd</sup> American Legion National Convention (“Convention”). As part of that effort, the following is agreed and understood:

1. I have not knowingly been exposed, nor tested positive, to COVID-19 within the past 14 days. To my knowledge I have not experienced the onset of any primary COVID-19 symptoms within the past 14 days, including: a fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher, a new persistent cough, a shortness of breath or any new breathing difficulties.
2. For everyone’s safety, I will wear a face covering/mask at all times inside any Convention venue unless actively eating or drinking. My face covering/mask will be clean, free from stains, dampness, or being soiled.
3. For everyone’s safety, I understand that physical distancing of six feet will be observed at all times in all Convention venues and that no handshaking, touching or hugging is permitted; however, alternatives I can do, but are not limited to, include saluting, hat tipping, elbow bumping and/ waving.
4. If I contract COVID-19, and/or experience any COVID-19 symptoms and/or becomes ill while attending the Convention in Phoenix, Arizona during the Convention dates, I release from liability and indemnify the City of Phoenix, the Phoenix Convention Center, The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Membership Number:

Signature:

Date Signed:



# THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of Birth) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email)  Male  Female \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

**Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:**

- Global War on Terror
- Gulf War
- Panama
- Lebanon/Grenada
- Vietnam
- Korea
- WWII
- Other Conflicts
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Merchant Marines (WWII only)

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department/state address, go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).**

ALA 08/2019

## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received From \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ Department of \_\_\_\_\_

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Transmit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ annual membership dues

Signed By Applicant (or Parent) \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).**

ALA 12/2013

## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received From \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues

Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_

Department of \_\_\_\_\_



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # and Location (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  Birth - 17  18 and over

Date of Birth (Required)

Have you been a member previously?  Yes  No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ ALA ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) \_\_\_\_\_

If Living: American Legion Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

**Veteran Served:**

WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

- Global War on Terror
- Gulf War
- Panama
- Lebanon/Grenada
- Vietnam
- Korea
- WWII
- Other Conflicts

**Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:**

- Male Spouse
- Grandmother
- Daughter
- Female Spouse
- Sister
- Granddaughter
- Mother
- Self

### To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ALA 08/2019

## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received From \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

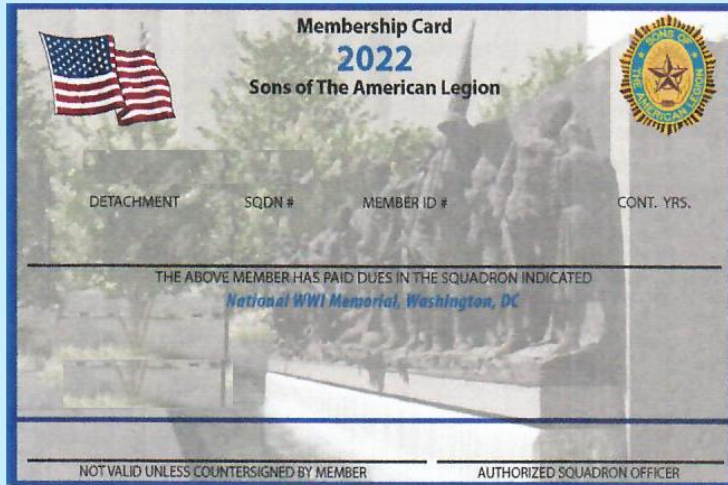
Recruiter's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.**  
Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.  
**Membership pending approval of application.**



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.



# 2022 IS NOW! Renew Today

If your membership card doesn't look like this ↑  
then you need to RENEW TODAY!!!

