

**Sons of
The
American
Legion**



DETACHMENT OF ILLINOIS
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Detachment Commander

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October SAL Article

The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Illinois welcomes you as we enter into the cool crisp days of Autumn! I want to take just a few moments to outline some of the goals we have set for the 2016 – 2017 membership year and what was accomplished at the recent National Convention for your SONS!.

I have decided to focus our energy this year towards one of the supporting pillars of The American Legion Family; Children & Youth.

The Sons of the American Legion came through again for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. They were at the top of the list again nationally with over \$360,000 raised this past year.

Since first contributing to the Child Welfare Foundation almost 30 years ago, the S.A.L. has donated just under \$7 million to the effort. At the end of the reporting year, your Sons were only \$75,000 short of that lucky milestone and everyone assumed we would have to wait until the fall or spring N.E.C. meetings to top the mark.

Then the unexpected happened. Just before recessing the National convention on Saturday afternoon August 27th, Commander Collier asked if anyone had donations. The usual line formed, but the amounts were unusually high. The Detachment of Arizona handed over one check for \$35,000 and challenged neighboring Nevada to match an additional \$35,000 pledge. The estate of the late Jerry "Doc" Leopold, former S.A.L. National Finance Commission Chairman, donated \$10,000. Check after check, earmarked for CWF, flowed in and totaled a whopping \$110,000, shattering the \$7 million ceiling.

These funds will go a long way in support of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation provides more than \$500,000 in grants each year to nonprofit organizations that work to improve the lives of young people.

Our Illinois goal for this membership year is to raise 10% more than the \$8,670.00 that was raised last year. With the help of each of our 200 plus squadrons, I know we can reach this goal!

Together we SONS elected a new National Commander for the coming year!

Shortly before closing their 45th National Convention on Sunday, Sons elected and installed Jeff Frain of Apache Junction, Arizona, Sq 27 as their new National Commander.

"This year, said Frain, I want to help The American Legion grow. I want to see the Sons each sign up three brand new Legion members to help increase the size of our parent organization."

His theme this year will be "Knowledge is power." Frain wants to emphasize the importance of training S.A.L. members from the squadron level all the way up through the national level. "Together we'll be making some great strides in helping veterans and their families."

By assisting National Commander Frain in signing up three new Legion members, we can potentially gain not only new SAL members but also members for The American Legion Auxiliary!

"Shooting For Membership! We all win! Yours in Service, Phil Shipley

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