

The Sons of The American Legion gathered in New Orleans for the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Convention which was conducted from August 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The Detachment of Texas was represented well by delegates from across our great state. Immediate Past Detachment Commander Roy Fowler was the delegation chairman. PDC Fowler accepted several awards on behalf of the Detachment and presented a check from the Detachment to National. When you see Roy, make sure to thank him for the commendable job he did while serving as our Detachment Commander.

The entire event was an indispensable learning experience, and it was just plain fun! Yours Truly attended the S.A.L. Detachment Commanders Training and got the opportunity to network with other Detachment Commanders from across the United States.

Joseph Navarrete from New Mexico was elected and installed as National Commander for the Sons of The American Legion. He was nominated by his father, a US Army veteran. His mother who is a Past National President of The American Legion Auxiliary offered the prayer. Joseph's children placed the cover on his head, and his wife placed the badge on his coat. I think most of New Mexico was there to cheer for him during the walk to the stage parade. History was made at the convention because National Commander Navarrete is the first S.A.L. member from New Mexico to serve as National Commander. Congratulations Commander Navarrete!

Our very own Thom Skelley (Kerrville Squadron 208) is officially the trailing candidate for the high office of S.A.L. National Commander! This means that next year he becomes the leading candidate for the office. Let's throw our enthusiastic support behind him and show the rest of the country that Texas is always ready to lead the way.

Nationally, the S.A.L. has donated over \$10,000,000 dollars to the Child Welfare Fund. This is what it's all about. We are members of this great organization so that we can honor the military service of our parents and grandparents, and what better way to that than to help those in need. The things we do, we do for others. Please don't ever forget that.

As Detachment of Texas Commander I extend a super big THANK YOU to the Detachment of Louisiana for their incredible hospitality and a great convention. The city of New Orleans was friendly and welcoming to all the delegates. I don't think there's a city in America that has a wider variety of delicious foods and more venues available to have fun than the Big Easy. Bourbon Street is an experience everyone should go through at least once. We had a great time at The Cat's Meow 2 thanks to the Louisiana Detachment. Others visited the World War II Museum and other sites around the city. The Ernest Morial Convention Center is a huge, modern two-story complex only a block from the Mighty Mississippi River, a great place to host a convention. It was truly an unforgettable weekend.

If you ever get the chance to attend a national convention, take it! Not only will you learn more than you already know, but you will meet many good people, and you will have so much fun. There is nothing that matches the camaraderie you will have with your fellow S.A.L., Legion, and Auxiliary members. It is an incredible experience that you will remember forever.

The next National Convention will be held in Tampa Bay, Florida in August of 2025. I hope to see many of you there representing our great state. I also hope to see most of you at the Fall DEC in Austin next month. Proud possessors of a priceless heritage.

George Alva  
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Texas Commander