



SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

BE THE ONE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 \* WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS \* P: 317-630-1205

**Stand for the Four Pillars, stand for the Legion Family**

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We are off and working to make 2023-24 a great year! What an honor to be elected as your national commander and be able to represent my grandfather's service in the Army during World War II. "Representing More Than Me" is my slogan for the year because I truly believe that is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper it is a commitment to pay respect to our family member's service in our military. Let's make sure that our commitment is worth the sacrifices they made.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization, and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security and they are still the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, all you need to do is raise one dollar per member each for Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), the Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) and your department's Boys State program (Americanism) and hold a blood drive (National Security). You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is not that hard to do, if we plan and work to get it done.

I believe that the Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in the work we do to help our veterans, children, and community. Aaron Tippin sang a song that said, "You've got to stand for something or you will fall for anything." Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth all of us being the best Son we can be. "Be The One" in more ways than one.

Sincerely,

Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.  
National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion

***"Representing More Than Me"***



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 \* [WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS) \* P: 317-630-1205

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE
NATIONAL FOUR PILLAR SQUADRON CRITERIA & VALIDATION FORM

Children and Youth

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Please list check # and submission date:

Two empty rectangular boxes for data entry.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors. Please list check # and submission date:

Two empty rectangular boxes for data entry.

Americanism

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to your home Department's American Legion Boys State Program. Please list check # and submission date:

Two empty rectangular boxes for data entry.

National Security

Host a blood drive or donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 payable to the hosting organization of the blood drive. Please list date blood drive held, quantity of blood donated & recipient organization and/or list check # and submission date:

Two empty rectangular boxes for data entry.

Squadron Name: [ ] Squadron No: [ ]

Squadron Address: [ ]

Submitted By: [ ] Title: [ ]

Return Application to:

Thomas Deal, 1434 Clayton Street, Perryville, MD 21903
(email) tom.deal@verizon.net

***JR's Journey  
Homecoming***

***National Commander  
Don "JR" Hall***



***Friday April 12, 2024  
Through  
Saturday April 13, 2024  
In  
Linthicum, MD***

# ***Homecoming For Don "JR" Hall National Commander***

## **Greetings**

Maryland wants to welcome you to our Detachment and to our home to share in the Homecoming for Don JR" Hall. National Commander 2023-2024. We have put together a number of activities and festivities that we are sure you will enjoy. The Homecoming activities start Friday April 12, 2024 and concluding on Saturday night April 13, 2024. Accommodations have been reserved at the Westin Baltimore Washington Airport BWI located at 1110 Old Elkridge Landing Road Linthicum Heights, MD 21090.

## **Activities**

For those earlier arrivals. There are many sites just an Uber away including the Home of Our National Anthem Fort McHenry, for those gamblers, the Horse Shoe Casino located in Baltimore and many more interesting destinations can be found simply by Googling.

## **Glen Burnie Post 40 Dinner**

Starting on Friday evening, JR's Post home will be hosting a dinner at Glen Burnie Post 40 starting at 6 PM. The cost will be \$40.00 and includes a Crab Cake and Chicken Dinner, cash bar and transportation to and from the event. The shuttles will be leaving at 5:45 PM from the hotel and the final return will be at 11 PM.

## **Naval Academy Trip**

Saturday morning will be the start of a great trip and tour of our Nation's Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The cost will be \$60.00 and will include your transportation, tour and lunch. Buses will be departing at 9 AM for the Academy. We will be doing a guided tour by foot. For any special needs, please reach out to Tom Deal at 443-206-0402. We will also be having lunch at the Officer's Club as part of your package. We will be arriving back at the hotel by 3 PM.

## **Homecoming**

We will be holding the Homecoming Banquet to honor our National Commander Don "JR Hall at the Westin Hotel starting at 6:00 PM. There will be a Meet and Greet Cocktail Hour from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, followed by the Homecoming Banquet Dinner and Program.

## **For More Information**

Joe Lohman	Bill Matoska	Joe Gladden
Homecoming Chairman	Chief of Staff	Campaign Chairman
301-275-4887	443-710-9664	443-742-0842
squadron60@verizon.net	matoskaw@yahoo.com	joeglad123@aol.com

***Homecoming  
For Don "JR" Hall  
National Commander***

***Activities***

**Friday April 12, 2024**

Check-In: **Homecoming Events Check-In**  
Noon-5 PM Executive Board Room at the Westin Hotel

Dinner: **Glen Burnie American Legion Post 40**  
5:45 PM Two shuttles will be on a loop from the Westin Hotel to Glen Burnie Post 40 and back again  
Cost \$40.00 includes:  
Crab Cake and Chicken Dinner.  
Cash bar available  
Shuttles to and from the hotel to the Post  
11:00 PM The final shuttle will be leaving Post 40.

**Saturday April 13, 2024**

Day Trip: **Naval Academy**  
9:00 AM: The bus will leave the Westin Hotel  
Baltimore Washington Airport BWI for the Naval Academy  
We will be touring the Academy and having lunch at the Naval Academy Officer's Club  
1:45 PM: The bus will leave the Naval Academy  
  
**Homecoming:**  
6:00 PM: Meet and Greet Cocktail Hour  
7:00 PM: Dinner  
Program Following Dinner  
10:00 PM Social Time Following Program

***Homecoming  
For Don "JR" Hall  
National Commander***

**Homecoming Dinner**

**Appetizers**

Cheese Display  
Fruit Display

**Dinner: (Buffet Style)**

- Maryland Crab Soup
  - Artisanal Rolls with Sweet Butter
- Arugula, Spinach, Cranberry, and Walnut Salad
  - Old Bay Roasted Shrimp over Rice
    - Grilled BBQ Chicken
  - Miniature Crab Cakes (3 per person)
- Corn and Tomato Sauteed with Fresh Basil
  - Seasonal Grilled Vegetable Display
- Seared Flat Iron Steak with Roasted Balsamic Mushrooms, Orange Caramelized Onions, & Red Wine Demi
  - Pan-seared Mahi
- Chef's Selection of Seasonal Vegetables

**Dessert:**

- Chef's Choice Dessert Selection-Carrot Cake, Cheesecake and Yellow Cake

**Mixed Drinks, Domestic and Imported Beers  
Will Be Available**

***Homecoming  
For Don "JR" Hall  
National Commander***

**Homecoming Ad Program Book**

Detachment: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron Name & #: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Whole Page Ad: \$75.00

Half Page Ad: \$40.00

Quarter Page Ad: \$25.00

Program booklet page size 11" x 8.5"

Please provide art work, if possible. Will accept hand created ads.

***\*\*\*Ads must be received by March 1, 2024\*\*\****

**Make Checks payable to: National Support Fund**

Please forward all ads to:

Bill Matoska

3115 Orchard Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21234

If you are unable to attend, a copy of the Program Book can be sent to you. Please mail to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Homecoming  
For Don "JR" Hall  
National Commander**

**Registration:**

Detachment: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_ email address

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ cell phone

How  
Many?

Total  
Amount

_____	Friday Night Dinner Post 40 @ (dress is casual)	\$40.00	_____
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_____	Saturday trip Naval Academy @ (dress is casual)	\$60.00	_____
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_____	Homecoming Banquet @ (dress is formal-coat & tie)	\$60.00	_____
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_____	Homecoming Program Ad @	\$_____	_____
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<b>Make checks payable to:</b>	Total	_____
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**National Support Fund**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Send all info to:**  
Bill Matoska  
3115 Orchard Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21234



***Homecoming  
For Don "JR" Hall  
National Commander***

**Hotel Accommodations:**

**Westin Baltimore Washington Airport BWI**

1110 Old Elkridge Landing Road  
Linthicum, Heights, MD 21090  
443-577-2300

Special Rate Per night: \$163.85 (includes 13% tax)  
Overnight Parking \$8.00

To make reservations by phone call: 888-236-2427  
Use group code "ALH" to book your room.

ALHALHC for Double-Queens

ALHALHE for Standard Kings

If problems the event name is Sons of The American Legion

The generated link for the group is:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1688143655253&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

**Reservations must be made by March 25, 2024**

***Homecoming  
For Don "JR" Hall  
National Commander***

**Area Posts:**

**Glen Burnie American Legion Post 40**  
**Home of National Commander Don "JR" Hall**  
500 5th Avenue  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
410-761-9869  
[www.glenburniepost40.org](http://www.glenburniepost40.org)  
Approx. 6.4 miles from hotel

**Patrick Henry American Legion Post 34**  
5526 Belle Grove Road  
Baltimore, MD 21225  
410-789-9682  
Approx. 5.1 miles from hotel

**Howard L. Turner American Legion Post 276**  
8068 Quarterfield Road  
Severn, MD 21144  
410-969-8028  
[www.americanlegionpost276.org](http://www.americanlegionpost276.org)  
Approx. 10.1 miles from hotel



THE AMERICAN LEGION, Department of Texas

Dear Chase:

8/1/2023

It is with pleasure that I inform you that you have been selected as the recipient on The American Legion, Detachment of Texas Most Outstanding Player Scholarship for the 2023 State Baseball Tournament. You have been awarded a \$500.00 scholarship to the college or university of your choice from The Department of Texas.

This scholarship has been placed in a trust with the Texas American Legion Development Fund. **You have twelve (12) months from the time of your graduation from high school, to present this letter to the registrar of the college or university where you enroll and ask them to notify the Texas American Legion Development Foundation (Box 140527, Austin TX 78714) of your enrollment and how they desire the scholarship to be paid.** It is paid directly to the registrar and credited to your account. The check cannot be made payable directly to you. When you enroll, present this letter to the administration office, and they will send us paperwork requesting payment.

**Please treat this letter like cash. Put it in a safe place.**

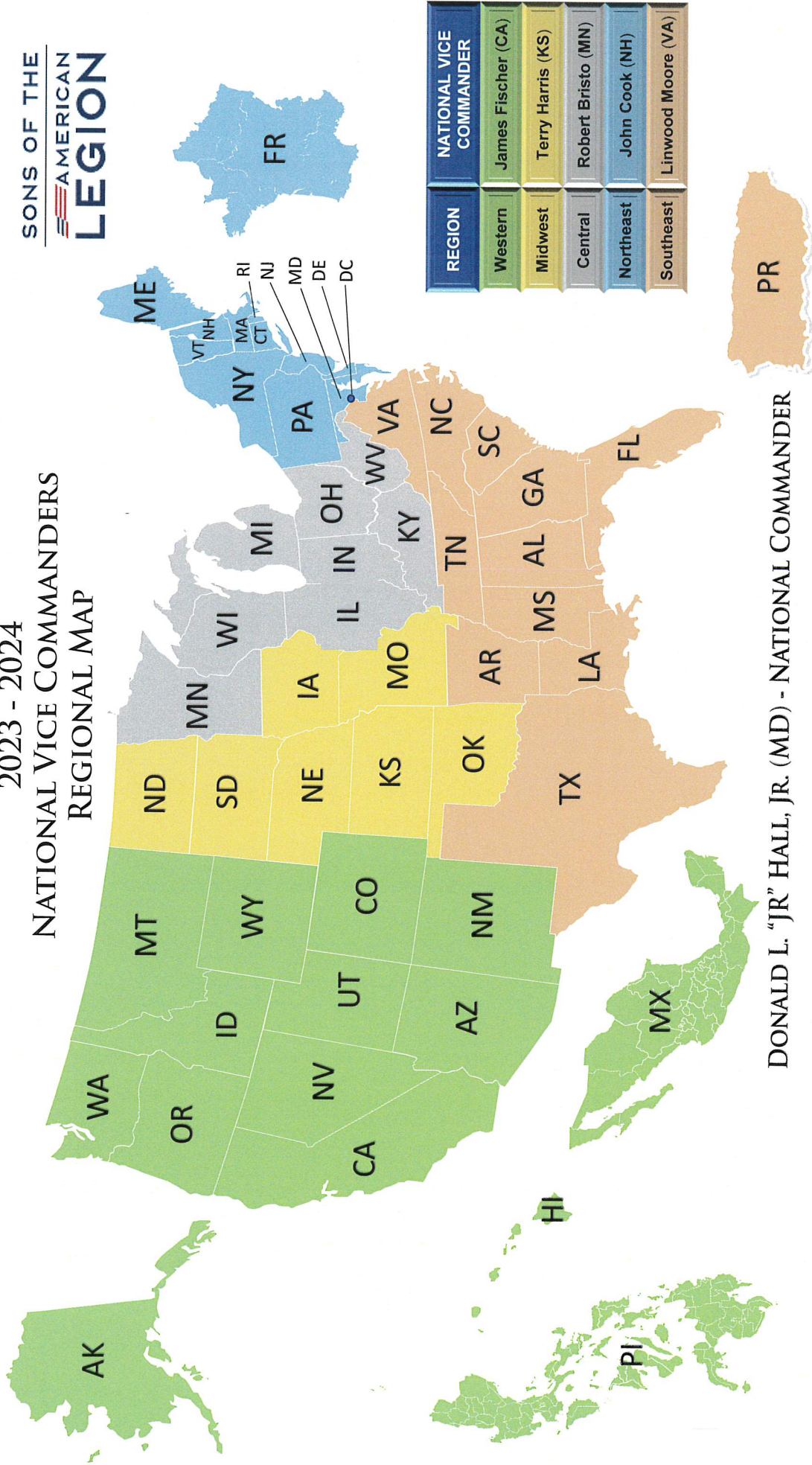
Again, congratulations, and we wish you every success in the future.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Simon

CC:	Gene Toohey	Department Commander
	Roy Fowler	Detachment Commander
	William West	Department Adjutant
	Kevin Winkleman	Detachment Adjutant
	Gary Sanders	Department Treasurer
	Millie Flanary	Department Bookkeeper

2023 - 2024  
 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS  
 REGIONAL MAP



REGION	NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
Western	James Fischer (CA)
Midwest	Terry Harris (KS)
Central	Robert Bristo (MN)
Northeast	John Cook (NH)
Southeast	Linwood Moore (VA)

DONALD L. "JR" HALL, JR. (MD) - NATIONAL COMMANDER  
 ANTHONY W. WRIGHT (PA) - NATIONAL ADJUTANT

The S.A.L. Detachment of Texas Finance Committee met in the Amphitheatre of the Austin South Park Hotel at 10:15 a.m. on September 23, 2023. The committee members consisted of George Alva; Chairman, Jon Kingston; PDC, Stephen Slaughter; Finance Officer, Henry Creech; Legion Advisor, Kevin Winkelmann; Detachment Adjutant, and David Blair.

The proposed 2023-2024 budget had been previously approved by the committee. It was presented to The American Legion Americanism Committee and The American Legion Finance Committee by Henry Creech. Both groups approved the budget as well.

Throughout the fiscal year, the S.A.L. had enough money to complete necessary projects. After some minor expenses we had an income surplus of \$23,231. 25% (\$5,800.) was donated to the Thom Skelley campaign fund. \$1,000.00 was donated to the Central Texas Food Bank; an American Legion Auxiliary and YMCA program.

Baseball was discussed and Henry Creech moved to make a one-time donation of \$500.00 to the baseball program. A second was given and after brief discussion the motion passed unanimously. It was agreed to pay Detachment Adjutant Kevin Winkelmann \$200.00 for the work he does for the Detachment. He will be classified as a 1099 contractor rather than as an employee.

It was agreed by the committee members that the Detachment Convention registration fee for squadron commanders will be waived at the next Detachment Convention.

Overall, the Detachment S.A.L. is in a very good financial position with the account being well in the black.

The committee meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. and was presented, after the lunch break, by the committee chairman to all the S.A.L. members in attendance.

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Respectfully submitted via email (with 2023-2024 budget attached) to Detachment Adjutant Kevin Winkelmann on September 24, 2023.

George Alva  
Finance Committee Chairman 2023-2024

# Sons of the American Legion

## Budget 2023-2024

<i>Account</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Prev Year</i>	<i>New Year Budget</i>
<b>Income Accounts</b>			
40009XSA	Sal Dues Income	81,973.00	85,500.00
43100XSA	Registration Detachment Conv.	2,165.00	1,500.00
42110XSA	Merchandise Sales	1,547.00	1,500.00
45900XSA	Misc. & Other Income-Boys State	0.00	0.00
44130XSA	Interest Income	3,807.00	0.00
69010PSA	SAL National Dues Expense	-17,379.00	-28,500.00
99999TBA	Sqdn Member Online Dues Ref.	-669.00	0.00
	<b>Net Receipts:</b>	<b>71,444.00</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>
<b>Expense Accounts</b>			
70500PSA	Awards--Trophies	1,340.79	1,600.00
70510PSA	Awards--Membership	3,050.00	3,500.00
70520PSA	Awards--PUFLs 5@450	932.00	2,250.00
81008PSA	Officers Shirts and Covers	272.70	1,000.00
71400ASA	Bank Charges	22.00	0.00
71600PSA	Boys State Program	0.00	300.00
72500DSA	Detachment Commander Expense	4,010.06	4,500.00
74350PSA	Detachment Adjutant Expense-SA	4,888.04	3,500.00
74350SAL	Detachment Adjutant Salary	0.00	2,400.00
72504DSA	Detachment Chaplain Expense	0.00	100.00
72506DSA	Detachment Historian Expense	0.00	150.00
72508DSA	Detachment Finance Officer Expense	189.39	150.00
72510DSA	Detachment Sergeant- at- Arms Exp.	0.00	0.00
72550PSA	Commander's Assistance SAL	211.00	500.00
73600ASA	CWF Donation	689.57	500.00
73601XSA	Nat'l Emergency Fund	500.00	500.00
73602XSA	SAL Nat'l Campain Fund	6,807.75	1,000.00
73603XSA	Scholarship for Baseball MVP	0.00	500.00
74320PSA	Nat'l Representatives Expense	1,750.02	2,000.00
74500PSA	Detachment Convention Expense	10,878.19	11,000.00
76000TSA	Fall DEC Meeting	6,551.00	7,000.00
79400PSA	Mid-Winter Meeting	6,951.00	7,000.00
80000PSA	Nat'l Convention Expense	3,296.20	4,500.00
81001PSA	SAL Blue Books	1,222.00	1,000.00
81006PSA	Merchandise Expense	1,040.00	1,750.00
84900PSA	Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
88500PSA	Division Commander--1st	117.25	750.00
88502PSA	Division Commander--2nd	308.50	750.00
88504PSA	Division Commander--3rd	0.00	750.00
88506PSA	Division Commander--4th	711.26	750.00
84500DSA	Administrative Contingency Fund	0.00	150.00
95130003	Website Maintenance	275.33	150.00
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>56,014.05</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>



# S.A.L. Detachment of Texas

Thursday, September 21, 2023

## Budget Draft With Notes 2023-2024

9:39 PM

<i>Account</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>
<b>Income</b>			
40009XSA	Sal Dues Income	85,500	5700 Members @ \$15.00
43100XSA	Registration Detachment Conv.	1,500	Lowered due to waving fee of Sqdn Commanders beginning 2024
42110XSA	Merchandise Sales	1,500	
45900XSA	Misc. & Other Income-Boys State	0	
44130XSA	Interest Income	0	
69010PSA	SAL National Dues Expense	-28,500	5700 Members @ \$5.00
99999TBA	Sqdn Member Online Dues Ref.	0	
	<b>Net Receipts:</b>	<b>60,000</b>	
<b>Expense</b>			
70500PSA	Awards--Trophies	1,600	
70510PSA	Awards--Membership	3,500	Allow for additional Membership Awards & 2023 By Birthday Award
70520PSA	Awards--PUFLs 5@450	2,250	
81008PSA	Officers Shirts and Covers	1,000	
71400ASA	Bank Charges	0	
71600PSA	Boys State Program	300	
72500DSA	Detachment Commander Expense	4,500	
74350PSA	Detachment Adjutant Expense-SA	3,500	
74350SAL	Detachment Adjutant Salary	2,400	
72504DSA	Detachment Chaplain Expense	100	
72506DSA	Detachment Historian Expense	150	
72508DSA	Detachment Finance Officer Expense	150	
72510DSA	Detachment Sergeant- at- Arms Exp.	0	
72550PSA	Commander's Assistance SAL	500	
73600ASA	CWF Donation	500	
73601XSA	Nat'l Emergency Fund	500	
73602XSA	SAL Nat'l Campain Fund	1,000	
73603XSA	Scholarship for Baseball MVP	500	

<i>Account</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>
74320PSA	Nat'l Representatives Expense	2,000	Lowered from 3350. Haven't been using all
74500PSA	Detachment Convention Expense	11,000	
76000TSA	Fall DEC Meeting	7,000	
79400PSA	Mid-Winter Meeting	7,000	
80000PSA	Nat'l Convention Expense	4,500	
81001PSA	SAL Blue Books	1,000	
81006PSA	Merchandise Expense	1,750	
84900PSA	Emergency Fund	0	
88500PSA	Division Commander--1st	750	
88502PSA	Division Commander--2nd	750	
88504PSA	Division Commander--3rd	750	
88506PSA	Division Commander--4th	750	
84500DSA	Administrative Contingency Fund	150	
95130003	Website Maintenance	150	
	<b><i>Total Expenses:</i></b>	<b>60,000</b>	



VA&R REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

VA&R COMMITTEE MET SEP, 23, 2023 10:00AM - 10:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT.

BRET KLEESPIES  
EDDY SEEGER  
HERB FISH  
KEN PETTERS

TALKED ABOUT POST 208 KERRVILLE VENISON FOR VETERANS PROGRAM. WHERE WE HAVE HUNTERS IN OUR AREA DONATE DEER TO GET PROCESSED SO WE CAN GIVE MEAT TO OUR LOCAL VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF VETERANS IN NEED.

WE ALSO BUY PIGS FROM OUR LOCAL STOCK SHOW KIDS AND GET THE PIGS PROCESSED TO GIVE OUT TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. WE PAY THE KIDS FOR THE PIGS THAT DO NOT MAKE WEIGHT FOR THE SHOW \$500.00 TO OFF SET FEED TO RAISE THE PIGS. THIS IS A GOOD THING FOR POST TO DO IN THEIR AREA.

EDDY SEEGER TALKED ABOUT CHANGES IN THE RIGSBY AWARD QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS AWARD.

POST 50 IN CLEBURN TEXAS THE SAL AND LEGION RIDERS BUILT A RAMP AND SOME REMODELING ON A VETERANS HOUSE IN THEIR AREA. THEY ALSO MAINTAIN THE POST AND MOW THE GRASS AROUND THE BUILDING.

POST 208 SAL MEMBERS BUILT A RAMP ON A VETERANS HOUSE. TRACY WOOD FLEW TO WEST VERGINIA TO PAINT A VETERANS HOUSE. WE STARTED BACK ON OUR VENISON FOR VETERANS PROGRAM NOW THAT DEER SEASON IS STARTING.

VA&R CHAIRMAN  
BRET KLEESPIES  
POST 208

# BOYS STATE 2023 REPORT

- Tuition is to stay the same at \$330.
- dates are June 9-14, 2024, still at UT Austin.

## 2023 basics

- 815 statesmen checked in.
- 397 Texas schools sent statesmen.
- 192 legion posts involved (42%).

## Comments in the meeting.

- Boys state and girls state combining.
- There is a plan in place for when a female is admitted to the program.
- The 2023 boys state award is going to Zachary Jennings who was nominated by Commander Roy Fowler.

## Public Relations Report

Fall DEC / 2023

The committee met today and exchanged contact information.

Working on how to get SAL activities publicized and recognized to the general public by getting it out through the local media, internet, and social media.

Today we will be attending the Texas American Legion Press Association meeting. The TEXALPA is already working on getting the information out to the public. We feel that our committee can only benefit from the building blocks that are already in place.

  
Jerry Ventura

Public Relation Chairman

**Awards Committee Meeting**

**Fall D.E.C. 9/23/2023**

**10:00 am**

**Members present; Chairman-Ed Parnell, PDC-Rolf Austin, District Commander-David Blair**

**We discussed the Awards criteria and where the forms are to be found, [SALTexas.org](http://SALTexas.org), Detachment Info, Awards.**

**These are to be downloaded and either filled in on your computer, or by hand. Just remember, ALL information must be readable, or the whole form will be disqualified. So, my suggestion is to use your computer to fill in all of the data necessary for these awards.**

**Lastly, all of these award nomination forms must be turned in before the first rap of the gavel on the first day the State Convention. Absolutely no nominations will be accepted after this time, PERIOD! I know that in the past there have been nominations turned after the turn in time, but this will no longer be accepted. Do not ask any members of this committee if there have been any nominations turned in for any specific award, because they will tell you that it doesn't matter, as it is too late or that they don't know.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ed Parnell, Committee Chairman**