



## National Children & Youth Quarterly E Newsletter

### “Following Their FootSteps... Making History”

***“The mission of the Sons of The American Legion Committee on Children & Youth is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs, and activities of The American Legion. The Committee’s responsibility is to promote the care and protection of the children of veterans; improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home; prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth; maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs; and such other purposes as maybe assigned to it by The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; and to assist The American Legion Children and Youth Program in carrying on for God and Country.”***

The Children & Youth Committee will be sending this E newsletter out quarterly so as to keep everyone current on an important Pillar of The American Legion. We encourage any Detachment or Squadron to send information to us of events on involving children & youth in your area.

Our committee consists of 5 members as follows in case you would like to contact any of us for further information or to share information as well

John Waite- [waitejohn@comcast.net](mailto:waitejohn@comcast.net) (802-384-0088)

John Mejia (CA)- [rinatso.mejia@yahoo.com](mailto:rinatso.mejia@yahoo.com)

Joe Korba- [joemargate@aol.com](mailto:joemargate@aol.com)

Gregory Price- [grinnerman@msn.com](mailto:grinnerman@msn.com)

John Lawrence- [1964m20e@gmail.com](mailto:1964m20e@gmail.com)

National Commander Danny Smith’s and our Goals are The American Legion Endowment Fund (.50 per member), National Emergency Fund (.50 per member) and The American Legion

Child Welfare Foundation (\$1.00 per member). In light of the Hurricanes, Wild Fires, the Las Vegas tragedies we ask all to try and go above and beyond, surely American Legion Families have been directly involved.

And as always we want to remain a leader in donations to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Last year we did outstanding and I have no doubt we can do it again, just by doing that little bit of extra work.

In September we were once again a presenter at The American Legion Children & Youth Conference. For those that attended I have no doubt it was an educational weekend to say the least. If you did not attend we ask you to please consider in 2018 on September 14-16<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis. Below are the links that will take you to each presentation of that weekend.

## 2017 C&Y Conference Presentations

- [Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth Presentation \(Randy Goodman\)](#)
- [American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth Programs \(Kathy Daudistel\)](#)
- [Bethany Christian Services](#)
- [Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance](#)
- [Troop and Family Support \(Bruce Drake\)](#)
- [Sons of The American Legion Children & Youth Programs \(John Waite\)](#)
- [Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth \(Randy Goodman\)](#)
- [Temporary Financial Assistance Presentation \(Meagen Sweet\)](#)
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If you have any questions on the conference please let me know at [waitejohn@comcast.net](mailto:waitejohn@comcast.net)

We never want to lose sight of what are 4<sup>th</sup> pillar of our organization Children & Youth was founded on:

- Strengthening the Family Unit
- Support quality organizations that provide services for Children & Youth
- Provide our communities with well rounded programs that meet the physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of our Children

## The American Legion Endowment Fund- Main Focus of Committee (see attached)

In 1925 American Legion members, Auxiliary & American citizens joined the campaign to take care of World War I veterans, widows and children who struggled to return to regular life. Raising nearly \$5 million and established The American Legion Endowment Fund. Out of this the TFA was founded and the endowment fund continues to help veterans by funding training for service officers, so that they are up to date on the latest veteran claim regulations, procedures and laws within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Court of Appeals.

Donating Works, your donation to The American Legion Endowment Fund goes directly toward helping children & military veterans.

<https://www.members.legion.org/tal/donatenow>

Please remember your Children & Youth Committee is here to serve you and help Detachments and Squadrons. We are here for The Betterment of Our Children as they are our Future.

John Waite

National C&Y Chm.



The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program was established in 1925 and has awarded cash grants to minor children of veteran who are eligible for American Legion Membership. These grants help families in need with the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health care expenses. At our National Convention in Reno this past August the National Executive Committee members of the Sons of The American Legion voted to move \$300,000 from the organizations reserves to the American Legion's National Endowment Fund to be used by the Temporary Financial Assistance Program. This is subject to the approval of the American Legion's NEC. This is a tremendous shot in the arm for the Children and Youth of our nation. To be eligible for this program the recipients parent doesn't have to be an American Legion Member, but had to be eligible for membership. While this \$300,000 donation is substantial funds are always needed to keep this program alive. If you want to help our Children and Youth by donating to this program please send your donations to The American Legion Endowment Fund, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Note on your donation: TFA. Our Children and Youth count on us for support please help out with a donation.

<https://www.members.legion.org/tal/donatenow>

Joseph Korba

National C&Y Committee Member



# CHILD SAFETY

## TRICK OR TREATS



On one of the most memorable nights of the year our children will be vulnerable to many **TREATS** and it is important that all parents check their child's candy bag to make sure they have not been exposed to any **TRICK'S** .

Rules must be followed to avoid any mishaps on this fun night.

Parents should make sure that their child is wearing reflective outerwear, carry flashlights, glow sticks and reflective candy bags.

They must be instructed to **STOP** and **LOOK** both ways before crossing any street, whether it be this day or any day. Children must **LISTEN** to their parent's instructions as this could well be a factor in providing a fun evening.

It is highly recommended that they travel in groups to guarantee their **SAFETY**.

**STOP LOOK and LISTEN equals SAFETY**

**Click on Halloween Brochure above to Download**

John Mejia

National C&Y Committee Member



### **Know the Warning Signs of Youth Suicide**

Recently I was looking over various Children & Youth programs of the American Legion and I noticed that the American Legion is concerned about the welfare of our nation's youth, and the **warning signs of suicide** that may threaten them.

**Suicide!!** I believe I have only heard of three (3) teen suicides in my lifetime, one of which was a friend of my youngest son.

However, information shows that among young people ages **15 to 24**, this problem continues to be the third leading cause of death and the fourth leading cause of death for **10 to 14** year olds.

Evidence shows that over **4,600** young Americans take their own lives annually, and according to the **Jason Foundation**, more teenagers and young adults die each year of **suicide** than from cancer, heart disease and birth combined.

**Suicide** is often a “cry for help” that ends in tragedy. Some people who are contemplating suicide go back and forth, considering life and death, and most exhibit warning signs prior to a suicide attempt.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could familiarize ourselves with those warning signs, such as **abrupt changes in eating habits, decline in schoolwork, or mood swings and personality changes?**

It may be as simple as listening carefully to someone who may need a chance to express his or her feelings, and letting them know that you are concerned and want to help, perhaps you could call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (273-8255).

**Click on Warning signs Brochure above to download**

Every life is sacred and must be preserved,

Greg Price

National C&Y Committee Member

Fellow Sons and Legion Family members have again been selected to be on the C&Y committee for this coming year. I will be communicating with the detachments of the Southern Region plus Oklahoma and Texas. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the C&Y committee it is an honor.

Unfortunately as we all know the United States has suffered land fall of three hurricanes causing significant damage in those areas. Our southern region Detachment of Puerto Rico has sustained extensive damage and they are still struggling just to get the lights, water and communication systems up and running on the island. There is an effort among several detachments and departments to donate money to pay the dues for all of the Puerto Rico Sons members and Legionnaires. Please host fund raisers and encourage your members to make personal donations to this worthy cause as well as to the National Emergency Fund.

For God and Country

John C. Lawrence

National Children and Youth Committeeman

With the Holidays coming before we know it and knowing the importance of Family please consider the below information for your community

The American Legion has long recognized the family as the foundation of this nation. A guiding principle of The American Legion's Children & Youth programs continues to be maintaining the integrity of the family. To demonstrate our resolute belief in the importance of strong families, The American Legion's Committee on Children & Youth, by mandate, advocates the passage of federal legislation that would establish the Thanksgiving holiday week as National Family Week. All members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to initiate and engage in local activities during National Family Week that promote, encourage and celebrate healthy families and communities.



Remember if You, your Squadron or Detachment have Information, pictures, a story to include we look forward to it. Please send any and all Information to:

John Waite

[waitejohn@comcast.net](mailto:waitejohn@comcast.net)



National Children & Youth Committee

Is

Challenging You for a Personal Donation for \$50.00

And receive a “Commander Challenge Coin”



Remember it's For The Betterment of Our Veterans  
and their Children

Please contact your committee at

[waitejohn@comcast.net](mailto:waitejohn@comcast.net) or text to 802-384-0088