

My Fellow SONS!

Welcome to Fall 2024! Welcome to Pumpkin Spice Everything, Football, Apple Cider Donuts, Carving Jack-O-Lanterns, Hay-Rack Rides, Oktoberfests, Bonfires and Fellowship!

Speaking of Pumpkin Spice; nothing other than politics, and whether you have your toilet paper installed over or under the roll has divided this nation more than defining our membership year!

July 1st we began our 2024-2025 membership year, but our new cards show only the 2025 date! However, if your dues are not paid by Halloween, you can no longer vote in Squadron, District, or Detachment business. (By most constitutions & By-Laws) If your dues are not paid by New Year's Eve, you are no longer eligible for any American Legion Family Benefits such as Temporary Financial Assistance.

This is why we push membership dues renewal so hard at the beginning of the membership year! I urge each of you to reach out to not only the past 2024 members but to our current 2025 members and get them to pay their dues right away!

Remember the words of Phil Jackson... *"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team!"*.

Individual commitment to a group effort is what makes a team work! **We, the SAL, as a team have been making our mission to help veterans and children our effort for over 90 years!** Remember we are not a team because we work together, we are a team because we respect, trust and care for each other!

Together we can do this once again. A single leaf working alone provides no shade! Let's spread our branches and cover all of our renewals for not only 2024 but also the current 2025 membership year!

F. Scott Fitzgerald once said... *"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall!"*

Let us celebrate this change of seasons by renewing our commitment and desire to once again set records that only the Sons of The American Legion can accomplish!

Keep up the good work my friends!

For GOD and Country!

Butch Ray, Sal National Vice Commander

"I'm the ONE, You're the ONE, BE the ONE!"

P.S. Anyone interested in purchasing a NVC Challenge Coin for SAL National Commander Joseph Navarette's special project, please let me know. At \$20 per coin they would make good awards and recognition of your membership's accomplishments this year! I will have them with me at the Fall NEC and can make arrangements to get them to you!

Attached please find copies of The American Legion Weekly reports.

[Government Affairs Weekly Report](#)

[Americanism Division Weekly Report](#)

Harl "Butch" Ray (IL)

National Vice Commander

Central Region