

## NLIC offers learning opportunity

National Leadership and Information Conferences are sponsored through a cooperative effort of The American Legion National Headquarters, the National Auxiliary, the Sons and Legion Departments. Each is interested in prompting patriotism, service, fraternity & family and these conferences provide participants with knowledge, tools and skills needed to move our organizations forward. The conferences are just as valuable to new or long-time members. Covered topics include: image awareness, goal setting, vision, partnerships, programs, training, membership, outreach, public relations, communications and more. Instructors are from the professional staff of our organizations as well as volunteer leaders. It only costs \$10 to register and attend two days' worth of workshops.

**September 19-21, 2003**

**Region 4 - Dallas, TX**  
DoubleTree Hotel at Lincoln Center  
5410 LBJ Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75240  
(972) 934-8400

**September 19-21, 2003**

**Region 8 - Boise, ID**  
Red Lion Hotel Boise Downtown  
1800 Fairview  
Boise, ID 83702  
(208) 344-7691

**Mar 19-20, 2004**

**Region 3 - Macon, GA**  
Holiday Inn  
3590 Riverside Dr  
Macon, GA 31210  
(478) 474-2610

*NLIC's are open to members of the Sons of The American Legion. Sons are welcome to attend Legion workshops. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend S.A.L. workshops, as well. Be sure to ask for The American Legion Group Rate at all hotels.*

## The Sons of The American Legion

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206



### 2003-2004 Membership Target Dates

October	25%
November	35%
December	45%
January	60%
February	75%
March	80%
April	90%
May	100%
July	105%

If you have story ideas or photos for the next issue of **National Update** they must reach us by **October 1, 2003**

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# NATIONAL UPDATE

Official Publication of The Sons of The American Legion

August 2003



## Getaway to the Gateway New records set for CWF

by Joe Monti  
*Nat'l Convention Chair*

For several hundred years, the city of St. Louis, MO served as the gateway to this country's westward expansion.

This summer, Sons of The American Legion will gather beneath the city's famed Arch along the Mississippi Riverbank and fulfill the manifest destiny of our own organization. The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will be held in St. Louis on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Sessions will be held in the America's Center (Hall 2 - ground level), the city's large convention facility located in the heart of downtown St. Louis. S.A.L. National Commander Steve Laws will gavel the convention to order at 6pm Friday evening.

Detachments are required to pre-register their delegates this year. The

cost for each delegate, alternate and guest is \$15. Official badges will be printed based on the lists of those pre-registered. Badges will be required for entry onto the Sons' and The Legion's convention floors as well as into the National Emblem Sales exhibit hall (Exhibit Hall 3).

The National Convention is the governing body of the S.A.L. Elections will be held for the National Commander, five National Vice Commanders and the National Chaplain. Resolutions can be brought to the floor for consideration. Many special guests will address delegates during the three day convention and a multitude of awards will be handed out.

The S.A.L. Convention Office and registration desk will be located in the

*Continued on Page 3*

May 31<sup>st</sup> is the end of the reporting year for the Child Welfare Foundation. When the books were closed on this year, the S.A.L. stood proud with a new all-time high and several new records. Contributions by Sons totaled more than \$274,000 this year, an increase over any previous year by several thousand dollars.

"Your untiring efforts and fundraising is superb," said CWF National Chairman Harold Trombley of Vermont. "You have brought special meaning to the words 'devotion to mutual helpfulness' and it's through your efforts we will once again provide for grants through The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation."

The S.A.L. is once again the nation's single largest contributor to the CWF. This year's contributions have boosted our organization's all-time giving above the \$2 million mark.

The Detachment of Pennsylvania was the S.A.L.'s largest contributor to CWF this year, providing more than

*Continued on Page 7*

## Help welcome them home

Operation Tribute to Freedom is a Department of Defense program of nationwide celebrations and activities to demonstrate public appreciation for American men and women in uniform and reinforce the bond between the citizenry and the military. The program's mission is to help Americans express their support for the troops who are returning from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and who continue to fight in the ongoing effort toward victory in the Global War On Terrorism.

Government and military leaders want to ensure that members of the U.S. armed forces, whether serving at home or abroad, are recognized by the American people for their accomplishments and sacrifices. This operation is also intended to facilitate Americans' expressions of support and appreciation for U.S. men and women in uniform and strengthen the bond between American citizens and the U.S. military.

Basically, DoD is looking for communities to welcome these young troops home by extending a welcome to them. It can be done in several different ways — welcoming ceremonies, award ceremonies, department/district conventions, picnics, parades, dinners, ballgames, etc. They're looking for organizations like The Legion Family to take the lead and get events organized in the local community. More information is available at [www.legion.org/support/welcome.htm](http://www.legion.org/support/welcome.htm)



### Sons by the Numbers (as of July)

<b>Membership Goal</b>	..... 275,000
<b>Current Status</b>	..... 272,609 (102%)
<b>Leading Detachment</b>	..... Montana (140%)
<b>Renewal Rate</b>	..... 84%
<b>CWF Contributions</b>	..... \$274,077 (99.6%)

# Wishing to slow the hands of time

by Steve Laws  
National Commander

I sit here writing my last article for the *National Update* and it seems like only yesterday that I was elected to serve as your National Commander in Charlotte, North Carolina. The year has flown by faster than most, and I guess it only seems that way because I've been traveling all across this great country of ours seeing so many of our great programs at work. It has truly been a year of great accomplishments on your part. During the past two months we have gone over the 100% mark in membership and have set another all-time high in donations for the Child Welfare Foundation.

Most of you have now conducted your Detachment conventions and will have elected new officers for the coming year. I hope that those of you who have been elected will now begin to make your Squadron, or District, or Detachment better in the coming year. I would encourage you to set goals and then work hard to reach those goals. Let us all strive to make this country a better place for all of our children and our veterans.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Committee and Commission chairmen and their members for doing outstanding jobs. Our programs would not happen without their efforts. The same credit goes to all Squadron and Detachment chairmen who make it happen. We now have to make sure that reports are filled out and sent in so that our National Children and Youth Chairman won't lose his hair at the National Convention! (see story below)

The Detachment of Missouri has a great National Convention planned for us this month. I'd love to see every Detachment fully represented at the convention. There will be a lot of information available there to take back home and put to good use.

It has certainly been a very high honor to serve as your National Commander. It will be a year I can never forget, the most enjoyable of my life, and words cannot express my appreciation to all of you for the nice things that you have done for me and for the many gifts that I have received.

May God bless each of you as we continue to work for the betterment of The American Legion Family.

Yours in TEAMWORK!

# Uncle Joe Wants You!

by Joe Gladden  
National Children & Youth Chairman

During World War II it was Uncle Sam, now it's Uncle Joe. During World War II it was the M-1 carbine that Uncle Sam wanted men to use, and now Uncle Joe wants you to use the pen. That's right the pen!

You may have heard that I'm committed to receiving 1,000 Children & Youth Report forms this year. Last year we had around 350 reports turned in from Squadrons and Detachments around the country. If I miss this year's goal, National Commander Steve Laws gets to buzz my hair off at the National Convention in St. Louis, MO. This is not an adventure I wish to experience and that's just one very good



reason why I want you to use the pen. Fill out those report forms.

But there are other good reasons....

I know what a lot of you are thinking; what's a Children & Youth report form? Each year we ask Squadrons, Districts and Detachments to complete a simple four part report that categorizes the things you did in the areas of Child Welfare Foundation, Special Olympics, Children's Miracle Network and "Other" section (for things such as the Josh Dolls, Spinoza Bear, etc). "But we didn't do any of these things," you claim.

Well, did any of your members coach a youth sports team in your community? Did any volunteer with the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts? Did anyone promote Halloween safety in your community? Did anyone in your Squadron collect or make any donations to CWF, Special Olympics or CMN? If the answer is yes to any of

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# Memorial dedication events being planned

by David Stephens  
Nat'l CMN/WWII Memorial Chair

A candlelight walk that will benefit the Children's Miracle Network and a prayer breakfast will be held in conjunction with the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC next May. You should begin making plans now to be a part of this long overdue and highly deserved memorial that is to be dedicated on Memorial Day Weekend 2004. It's your chance to take part in a living history.

This has been a great year for the Children's Miracle Network. Thanks to the efforts of Sons, more kids will have the best health care available. Because of funds that you have provided CMN this past year, new technology is being developed that will help kids.

Although this year's fundraisers and walk-a-thons may be over for many,

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# Where can I buy good quality S.A.L. stuff?

The National Emblem Sales catalog has a section devoted exclusively to S.A.L. clothing and items. Many other items throughout the book can be ordered with S.A.L. insignia, as well.

Another good place to look for S.A.L. items is the Emblem Sales' Web site at [www.emblem.legion.org/AmericanLegn](http://www.emblem.legion.org/AmericanLegn). New items of interest to Sons are added almost every month. Simply click on the link beneath the Sons emblem and you'll be whisked away to a cyber shopping center packed with all of the newest items for the S.A.L. Nearly a dozen categories of S.A.L. items have been added since this year's catalog was printed.

Use your credit card to make on-line purchases. You can even create a password-coded account to speed up future on-line purchases.

# CWF / from Page 1

\$30,520. Similar large amounts came from the Detachments of Indiana (\$29,297), Ohio (\$26,273), New Jersey (\$14,795), Tennessee (\$11,556), Michigan (\$11,104) and Alabama (\$10,400).

The Detachment of Wyoming brought the most money in over goal at 685%. Other record-setters included Alabama (559%), North Carolina (498%) and Colorado (441%).

Detachments that raised the most money per member included Wyoming (\$7.08), Alabama (\$5.78), North Carolina (\$5.14) and Colorado (\$4.56).

# Sons in (cyber)space

It doesn't take a crystal ball to see the S.A.L. will one day conduct most of its business via the Internet.

"More and more forms are being handled electronically," says S.A.L./Legion Liaison John Kerestan. "We are still many years away from being paper-free, but there's no denying that some day we will begin processing virtually all S.A.L. forms electronically. If you don't have a computer yet, you need to think about getting one if you plan to keep up."

# Memorial / from Page 2

there is still one important task that needs to be completed; please complete your Children & Youth report Form. Just a few minutes of your time will help us tally how many hours Sons volunteered and how many dollars we have raised as an organization. No matter how large or small, it all adds up and it's vitally important that it be reported. Your report is important to us. Every Squadron, District, and Detachment that submits a report will receive National recognition during the National Convention in St. Louis, Mo. Report forms can be downloaded from the S.A.L. National Web page at [www.sal.legion.org](http://www.sal.legion.org).

Many new officers have now been elected by our Squadrons, Districts and Detachments, which makes this a great time to begin making plans for CMN-related events during your next administrative year. The National Committee is here to assist you in your efforts. If you have any questions or need a list of ideas, feel free to contact me at [dpssalpnc@earthlink.net](mailto:dpssalpnc@earthlink.net).

We've had many successful CMN fundraising events this past year and we can learn from those experiences to make each one even better in the future. Our fundraising has included our flag icon sales, walk-a-thons, car shows, car washes, dinners and even a Charlie Daniels concert. Please forward pictures from your own CMN events to me so we can display them at the S.A.L. and Legion National Conventions in St. Louis. I will need your photos by August 10<sup>th</sup>, so please mail them to: CMN/WWII Joint Venture Committee, 11560 Congressional Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46235.

**Do you need more  
CMN supplies?  
For walk-a-thon & flag  
kits, contact:**

The American Legion  
c/o Children & Youth  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1202

# Uncle Joe / from Page 2

these questions, you have important information that should be placed on a C & Y report form.

"What can I do to help?" you ask. Total everyone's contribution information; the hours they've volunteered and the dollars donated and record it on the C & Y report form. If you don't have a report form, go to our S.A.L. Web site at [www.sal.legion.org](http://www.sal.legion.org) and download the form. If you need more help, e-mail me at [joegladd123@aol.com](mailto:joegladd123@aol.com).

Remember, no number is too small to report. It takes all the pieces of a puzzle to make the picture complete. More importantly, help me save my hair!

# Computer users can access NPRC records faster

The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the online Web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these type of requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. Veterans and next of kin may access this application at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

[www.sal.legion.org](http://www.sal.legion.org)  
Your Home on the Web

# Ever heard of...

a "wuzzy?" Jack Helminski is one; a Past Commander of the **Detachment of Michigan**...twice. He was running things back before they had running water...well, sort of. They only had about 1,000 members and there was little or no travel done by Detachment officers. Jack's also a dual member, a Navy vet who joined the S.A.L. as soon as he came home from the sea. "I only see great things to come in the future because I lived the past," he says.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the students and faculty of Schweinfurt Middle School showed their patriotism by joining in a ceremony involving the unfurling of a flag that was flown over the Pentagon last fall in remembrance of the victims of 9-11. The flag has been passed around DoDDS schools in Europe. Once the flag was unfurled and hoisted, 13 year old Matthew Jackson read a letter from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Jackson serves this year as Chaplain of, both, the **Detachment of France** and **Omar Bradley Squadron 42** in Schweinfurt, Germany. (Right)



More than 400 American children are buried in Kaiserslautern Cemetery near Kleber, Germany. They are the sons and daughter of

U.S. service personnel who have been stationed near there through the years. Each year in May, military and Legion Family members conduct a Kinder Graves Ceremony at the cemetery.

The **Detachment of Ohio Fifth District's** annual "Fool's Open" golf scramble has a unique format where golfers use baseball bats and putters to tee off, then pool cues, brooms and hockey sticks to putt. At least 120 players braved the 40 degree weather and stiff winds to play in early April and raise money for the Child Welfare Foundation. Some even travel by bus from quite a distance. The organizers are members of **Avon Lake Squadron 211**, **New Washington Squadron 405** and **Shiloh Squadron 503**. One group of Sheffield Lake V.F.W. members brought along an extra check for \$500 this year. Including entry fees, prize raffles and passing the hat, the

Fool's Open raised \$1,473. Meanwhile, another group from the "Fighting Fifth" wanted to do something to show



their support for our troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They decided to raffle a beverage cooler, provided and stocked by the District's own officers. Proceeds were earmarked for "Operation USO Care Package." \$175 was raised to show the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard that the Sons of the American Legion in the "Fighting Fifth" care about them and what they are doing for our country. (Above)

**Skaneateles Falls, NY Squadron 317** was organized in 1937, making it the oldest Sons charter in the Empire State. This year marks their seventh annual clambake with their cross-town comrades from Post 239. Fund raisers are held throughout the year to help the community. (Above)



**Sons in Sedalia, MO** found themselves written up in the local newspaper after they presented 50 U.S. flags and five boxes of support letters to the mother and stepfather of Air Force Capt. Tom Paxton. At Sedalia Middle



School, Evelyn Garber of Sedalia accepted the items on behalf of her son, who is a medic stationed at a location known only to the family. The items were to be shipped to Capt. Paxton, a 1976 graduate of Cole Camp High School. They were collected by the local S.A.L.

The **Detachment of California** is one of a growing number of Detachments who are publishing an on-line newsletter. Their newsletter, **The California Connection**, looks good, it's in color and it an inexpensive way S.A.L. leaders can get our message out to members as well as the public at-large. Take a look at: [www.calegion.org/connection.pdf](http://www.calegion.org/connection.pdf).

Legion Family members from **Susquehanna, PA Post 86** formed an honor guard to welcome home New Milford National Guard Troops returning home after almost a year in Bosnia. (Below Right)

The high school in Norfolk, NE has a wall on which pictures of its graduates KIA are hung. Now the school has a new POW/MIA flag to fly, courtesy of **Norfolk, NE Squadron 16**.

Squadron 16 Commander Harold Thompson, Jr. presented the flag to Jack Fischer, a Norfolk High School music instructor and dual Legion/S.A.L. member. (Left)



Here are a few things happening in the **Detachment of Texas**. When The Legion Family of **Dallas Post 453** held a flag disposal, they invited a local fire station to oversee it, they invited a Boy Scout Troop to

carry the flags and the color guard was provided by a local high school Naval JROTC unit. They play a lot of golf in Texas, too and **McAllen Squadron 37** has cashed in with an annual tournament that is a good fundraiser for youth and veterans' programs.

We published a picture in this newsletter last year showing the shape of a crucifix inside a flag when it was backlit by the rays of the sun. **S.A.L. members in Arizona** now know the feeling. Nobody expected to see this effect when they took a photo of this giant flag. They prefer to think this is a sign God is watching over us. (Right)

Members of **Lewiston, MT Squadron 16** have started up a \$500 college scholarship which is available to the sons and daughters of Legion Family members. The first-ever recipient is Jeremy Grove, a 4.0 freshman studying engineering at Carroll College in Helena. Jeremy was the runner-up in



Montana's 2001 National High School Oratorical Contest. He attended Boys State and still plays several sports.

It should come as no suprise that Sons are paying homage to veterans of past conflicts. **Croghan, NY Squadron 1663**

used this year's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War as an excuse to bring together those from the area who fought in "the forgotten war" and present each with a Korean War Service Medal. Some of the medals were presented to surviving family members. The emcee for the event was S.A.L. member Mitch Fidler, who just happens to be a history teacher. And then there was the dinner for survivors of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, sponsored by members of the **Detachment of Indiana** last month. The story of that ship is one of the most horrible of World War II. The ship was headed home after delivering

parts of the atomic bomb to a Pacific island. A Japanese torpedo sent 900 men into the water. Only 300 survived.

If you have story ideas or pictures to contribute, send them to:

**National Update** newsletter  
c/o Mike Pipher, Editor  
612 S. State Road 446 #35-C  
Bloomington, IN 47401

or send to: [mpipher@indiana.edu](mailto:mpipher@indiana.edu)



# Meet me in The Loo, Louie



## S.A.L. News/ from Page 5

The ink isn't even dry yet on the new charter for **Gahanna, OH Squadron 797** and already there are three generations of one family on the rolls. There's Grandpa Verge, sons Bill and David and grandson Eddie. **(Below)**

Blue Star Banners are handed out to families in Chowan County, NC as a gift from **Edenton, NC Squadron 40**. Not only are Sons

there showing their support for members of the armed forces and their families, but they are carrying on a tradition which dates back to WWII.

**Seaside Heights, NJ Squadron 351** spent two days preparing food for a huge dinner/dance held by Legion Family members there. The event netted \$2,300 to be used to purchase items for troops overseas. S.A.L. members then asked community members to donate non-perishable items and they managed to fill a trailer with the outpouring of support.

Look who's been elected Peace Officer of the Year by the Department of Texas. It's **Mount Vernon, TX Squadron 243** Commander Jackie R. Alphin, Jr. Standing next to J.R. is Milton Chatham, Sr., Commander of the Detachment of Texas. **(Above)**

Members of **Martinez, GA Squadron 192** have helped collect and distribute more than 1,340 stuffed animals this year. The cuddly toys are given to police, fire and emergency services agency personnel to have on hand for cases involving youngsters. "Young children are often intimidated by tall officers in uniform. This helps put the kids at ease," says Leslie Himebaugh, a deputy in the

Columbia County Sheriff's Office. **(Right)** By the way, if it's NASCAR Sunday in Martinez, you can be sure Sons Adjutant Russell Fink will be cooking up a storm of food at the Post.

Speaking of kids, Sons up in **Fairbanks,**

**AK Squadron 57** bought a wagon full of toys and gave it away to one of the children attending the Post Christmas party.

For each of the past 16 years, **Creve Coeur, MO Squadron 397**

Sons have been hosting a G.I. Joe Breakfast. Many of the veterans who attended this year wore parts of their old uniforms, if even just a cap. Meals are served in old military aluminum trays. Profits help support the S.A.L.'s assistance with the local U.S.O., a veterans hospital, Boys and Girls State, CWF, NEF. **(Right)**

**Kingman, IN Squadron 263** Commander Dale Osborne wrote in to encourage the use of trophies at Sons' events. Dales says he's seen how younger members' eyes light up and

they get more involved if they have an opportunity to win a trophy somewhere along the line, such as at special events and campouts.

Apparently Tiger Woods isn't the only one making a killing on the golf course this year. **Dexter, MI Squadron 557** has raised more than \$58,000 through 12 years of golf outings. Their most recent netted \$15,000 which was split between the Child Welfare and Make-A-Wish Foundations.



Sometimes a Detachment will lend a helping hand across state lines. Such was the case this year when **Akron, OH Squadron 209** sent some of its left over small flags across the Ohio River into West Virginia. Past Ohio Detachment Commander Roy Turner now lives in West Virginia and knows there are many small cemeteries in that state located high up on hillsides and off the beaten path. Small deeds do get noticed and a



picture of Roy and his S.A.L. grandson appeared on the front page of a local newspaper as they marked the graves of veterans prior to Memorial Day.

Horsefeathers! Sons from **Sealy, TX Squadron 442** help make up a Legion Family mounted color guard. Their appearances around Austin County and elsewhere have helped spur interest in Legion programs. **(Below)**



## Things learned inside the Sons impact other parts of our lives

by Mike Pipher  
National Update Editor

Ronnie Grist is 43 years old, has been a member of the S.A.L. for 24 years and is a living example of how membership in the Sons can pay off in the business world.



Grist, a member of **East Point, GA Squadron 51**, has worked for the State of Georgia for 22 years. Two years ago he had reached a supervisory position in the state's computer center. He ran a main frame computer and oversaw eight other state workers. "We print all the red tape the state is known for," quips the smiling Grist.

Ronnie has held many offices in the Sons including six terms as Squadron Commander, two terms as Detachment Commander, National Chaplain, National Executive Committeeman and even National Vice Commander. While attending an NEC meeting in Indianapolis back in 1999, Ronnie

was invited to participate in the S.A.L.'s then-new National Management Institute, a series of one-day workshops held during spring meetings of the NEC. The purpose of the NMI is to train future leaders by providing them with personal, professional and organizational management skills. When Ronnie's NMI class graduated last year, he quickly put his new skills to work back home and found he was better able to organize his own time and schedules. He also began to recognize certain aspects of his job were not well organized. He could see vendor contracts in a new light and realized many of them were not satisfactory. Armed with improved public speaking skills, he spoke out about the problems and, at first, no one listened. Then Ronnie arranged to make a presentation to his bosses.

"I blew 'em away," he says with a wide smile. "Because of things I learned in those NMI classes, I was able to organize my thoughts and then give a more business-like presentation."

In fact, when he showed his employer how the computer center could save the state more than \$120,000 in a single year, a new position was created and Ronnie was promoted into it. Although he no longer oversees other workers, Ronnie is pleased about his new job and he knows he wouldn't have it had he not attended the NMI.

"I now have less supervision from above. I'm fully responsible for all inventory, procurement and all stock rooms. I'm going to be using even more of what I learned in the NMI and I'm excited because I like accounting more than computers," he says.

Some Detachments have begun offering members their own training sessions similar to the NMI.

"By helping our own members improve themselves, we make the entire S.A.L. organization stronger," says William Sparwasser of Maryland, who serves as Chairman of the Sons' National Member Training and Development Committee.

For more information about the Sons' National Management Institute, contact Sparwasser at [wlspar@aol.com](mailto:wlspar@aol.com).

## Convention/ from Page 1

America's Center room 111 (ground level). A special Web site that provides a more inclusive convention schedule and details about special events can be found at [www.sal.legion.org/convention/natconv2003.htm](http://www.sal.legion.org/convention/natconv2003.htm).

Shuttle buses will operate between most Department hotels and the convention center at 20 minute intervals throughout the weekend. This year, for the first time, shuttle buses will operate Friday evening until 9:30pm. Saturday buses run from 6:30am to 5pm and Sunday's buses run from 6:30am to 2:30pm.

In addition to official functions, there is always plenty of time for fun and a variety of special events is available to delegates and their families. A Friday morning golf scramble will generate funds for the Child Welfare Foundation. A Past Detachment Commanders' Club meeting and luncheon will be held at Post 300 at noon on Friday. The Legion and The American Red Cross are co-sponsoring a blood drive adjacent to the National Emblem Sales from 10am to 3pm on Friday and Monday.

Following Saturday's convention session, Sons and Auxiliary members are hosting a free trip to the world famous

St. Louis Zoo for boys and girls under the age of 18. Buses will leave from the Adams Mark Hotel at 3:30pm and return at 8pm.

A Saturday evening Welcome Back Dinner is being held for Sons at Post 397. A delicious prime rib/roast turkey meal will be followed by music from DJ and S.A.L. member Bob Mort. Price for the meal is \$25.

The St. Louis Cardinals play host to the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday afternoon. Special-price tickets can be ordered through The Legion. Other local attractions include such things as the St. Louis Science Center, the City Museum, Soldiers Memorial, The Anheuser-Busch Brewery, the Magic House, and many others. There is also adult entertainment in the casinos downtown, in St. Charles and across the river on the near east side.

Your **National Update** newsletter will again sponsor a Wall of Fame at this year's National Convention highlighting all Squadron, District, Division, and Detachment newsletters that are submitted in advance. To have your newsletter displayed, send it to: "S.A.L. Wall of Fame" 612 S. State Rd 446 Apt 35-C Bloomington, IN 47401 before August 17<sup>th</sup>.