

National Insights Story

A First National Convention, A Broader Perspective

Representative: Alan D. Young

National Assignment: Department of Arizona Delegate; Area A Vice Commander

National Convention: August 28–September 3, 2026 | Louisville, Kentucky

Editor's Note: This story is based on the representative's submitted report and has been edited for clarity, organization, and factual completeness while preserving the author's voice and observations.

Why Arizona Was There

Arizona delegates participated in the 107th American Legion National Convention, contributing to committee deliberations, legislative discussions, caucuses, and the organization's national proceedings. For Area A Vice Commander Alan Young, it was his first National Convention.

From the Representative

I was honored to attend my first National Convention in Louisville. My week began with a Team Arizona caucus preparation meeting and campaign assignments supporting Matthew Shuman. As an Arizona delegate on the convention resolutions committee, I saw firsthand how departments work through proposed changes. The committee combined Arizona's Resolution 8 with Maryland's Resolution 27, concerning American Legion Auxiliary membership eligibility, and advanced Resolution 27 with Maryland as the lead. I also attended the Legislative Convention Committee, where National Commander Dan Wiley addressed the Taking Care of America's Veterans Act and congressional staff discussed VA care, future challenges, and veterans' advocacy through VoterVoice.

Beyond committee meetings, I visited several department caucuses in support of Matthew Shuman, joined the Western Caucus, and attended the convention's general sessions. Events supporting women veterans and the Sons of The American Legion also reminded me of the breadth of our Legion Family.

Convention Snapshot

- Participated in Team Arizona preparations and National Convention general sessions.
- Served on the resolutions committee reviewing proposals involving Auxiliary membership requirements.
- Attended legislative discussions on the Taking Care of America's Veterans Act, VA care, and VoterVoice.
- Joined multiple department caucuses and supported Legion Family events, including a fundraiser benefiting the Children's Organ Transplant Association.

Looking Ahead

After my "first rodeo," I returned with a greater appreciation for The American Legion and its members. I reconnected with old friends, made new ones, and felt part of something larger. I look forward to serving Arizona as a delegate at future conventions.