



## DETACHMENT OF ARIZONA

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Hello fellow Detachment members!!!

This has been a busy past couple of weeks traveling with work and hitting the skies to travel to the 51<sup>st</sup> Sons of the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Thursday was a travel day that I spent with State Commander Steve Sperl, PDC Mike Simon, Judge advocate Jaclyn Kulfan and Alternate National Executive Committee member Dan Ashley.

Friday started off with Training and Committees, we had 22 Delegates and two guests in attendance, so we were able to get to a lot of different meetings are accomplished and gathered very useful information to bring back to the Detachment for further growth. After lunch we attended the opening ceremony for the general session of convention and PDC Noah McMullen excepted the 1<sup>st</sup> Place finish for the Detachment of Arizona for the most money raised for CWF, great job to all that contributed to this cause. I have made this my major project this year with a goal of \$110,048.91. So, let's keep this award in Arizona for years to come.

Saturday, we continued with the general session and gathered some additional awards and certificates. Arizona received the red ribbon for an all time high of membership and the blue 100% membership for the 22-23 year. That is a direct result of all the hard work that the Squadron's of Arizona put in last year and we were recognized for it. We will be expected to hit our numbers again this year as well so let's keep doing what we do, and it will be achieved. I was called on stage for the completion of Commander's Training to receive a certificate of completion.

During the Saturday sessions we had a great surprise of having four members make the blue brigade which is an award for recruiting 30 plus members. So, congratulations to Dan Ashley Squadron 91, James Matlock Squadron 27, Andre Koster Squadron 109, and Mike Bryant Squadron 86. Dan Ashley was also honored with high award of National Recruiter of the Year. Congratulations Dan job well done!!!!

The National Western Region was honored with a trophy representing the best region in the nation. All Detachments in the West including Arizona hit the 100% mark for Membership. Congratulations to Vice Commander Jack Youngs for a great year at the helm.

Sunday was the closing ceremonies with National Commander Chris Carlton at the helm to lead us through a great convention that was very informative and motivating. In the afternoon was the installation of the new National Commander Donald "JR" Hall. He is very motivated and ready to start his year of service. He is going to pushing for a four pillars squadron award that I believe many if not all squadrons in Arizona can make happen. The basic run down is, each squadron with need to donate at a minimum of \$1.00 to each CWF, OCW and Boys State then hold a blood drive at their post. We will get more information, but Squadrons will be encouraged to start putting this program in motion and to see how many squadrons we can get to complete all 4 goals.

The last full day in Charlotte with me doing a visit to the NASCAR Hall of Fame with the Legion family and then heading to American Legion Independence Post 262 here is Charlotte for the Four Corners Party to end the Sons of the American Legion Convention and to begin the Convention for the Legionnaires. I will fill you in next Monday these events so stay tuned.

The first target date for Membership is September 13, 2023, we need to be at 10%.

For God and Country,

Chris Balsley

S.A.L. Detachment of Arizona

