



## DETACHMENT OF ARIZONA

Chris Balsley, Commander 23-24

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Hello fellow Detachment members!!!

Great job to all the Squadron members that handle the membership. We as a Detachment have achieved our first goal of 10% a few weeks early this year. Historically speaking this is an anomaly and we all should be proud of the hard work. We are currently 11.57% working off last year's Detachment high of 8,279 members. Keep up the good work, October 18<sup>th</sup> is the 25% goal, and we can hit this mark by getting our membership to renew their 2024 membership. Awesome job gentlemen!!!

We finished up the National Convention with a visit to the NASCAR Hall of Fame and the Four Corners party that was held at, American Legion Independence Post 262 in Charlotte, NC. It was an amazing event that Arizona participates in every year with the Departments of Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado. This year the event was held on a Monday and the turn out was impressive. The New National Commander JR Hall and the new Western Vice Commander Jimmy Fisher were both able to attend and it was great to be able to spend time with each of them.

There was a great story that came out of the National Convention that involved our very own Vice Commander Chas Bird out of Area A. While he was riding in an elevator, he struck up a conversation with a veteran out of the department of Illinois about the Sons of the American Legion and membership. The conversation continued for over an hour and a half which at the end, national gained another member through the detachment of Illinois. Always remember that every interaction we have with current veteran membership or possible new members, we can always create a positive result. Huge recognition to our friend Chas for really spotlighting the Sons of the American Legion organization, we are bigger because of you.

Tuesday was our travel day home for most of the Sons Delegation that attended the Convention and although there were some delays everyone made the trip home safely and that is what really counts.

I was able to meet up with State Commander Steve Sperl and Department Adjutant Angel Juarez on Friday as they travel back from the closing of their 104<sup>th</sup> National Convention. We had some dinner at American Legion Luke Greenway Post 1, then Commander Sperl and I went over to American Legion Tony F. Soza-Ray Martinez Thunderbird Post 41 for a stamp on our maps and listen to some good music. After Leaving Post 41 we headed over to American Legion William Bloys Post 2 for the Quarterly Bike night event. We were able to see many familiar faces that we had been missing since we were out of town.

Labor Day weekend was a great weekend to relax and reenergize, the next few weeks that will take me down to the Annual Golf Tournament for American Legion John P. Burns Squadron 36 in Tucson, Az. I will also be attending the Western Romp the following weekend at American Legion Roy Fourr, in Tombstone, Az, so if you are in the area and would like to say hi, please stop in and support these events.

Please contact the Adjutant for scheduling to any function that you would like the Detachment of Arizona to support. Here is a link to make things as easy as possible. It is a first come, first serve and availability of your Officers to attend. We would like to make all events successful and that only works if we are aware. With this form you can make it a custom invitation to each event.

[Request A Commander \(Event or Meeting\) \(cognitofrms.com\)](https://cognitofrms.com)

For God and Country,

Chris Balsley

S.A.L. Detachment of Arizona

