



DETACHMENT OF ARIZONA

Chris Balsley, Commander 23-24

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Hello fellow Detachment members!!!

Thursday was a travel day for NEC Joe Roberts, Alt NEC Dan Ashley, National Asst. Sgt. Arms Matt Griffis and me to get the National Executive Committee Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Once we arrived on the ground the hustle and bustle of the weekend began. We attended a happy hour and dinner with the National Commander JR Hall and many of the Past National Commanders at the AMVETS Post 99 here in Indy. Great night singing Karaoke and being around great leadership of the Sons of the American Legion.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are filled with breakout meetings and then large sessions of the NEC, Commanders, and PNC's. These were very productive meetings with a lot of new things coming down from National that will be exciting for the Detachments across the Country. Alt NEC Ashley and I were able to present a check for \$30K for CWF from Squadron 27 to the National Commander. The entire room erupted in applause and excitement as we took a big chunk of the remaining monies needed to hit the 10-million-dollar mark for the Sons of the American Legion. For the weekend the SAL donated \$34,522 to CWF. Start making plans to attend the National Convention next August in New Orleans, LA to celebrate this milestone we are approaching quickly. Congratulations to the gentlemen at Squadron 27 for such a generous donation. If you are making donation to CWF to reach your per capita make sure you are getting your 100% ribbon from national. If you need assistance with the process, please see any of your Vice Commanders or me for guidance.

With the previous knowledge of ASA Matt Griffis we took the short walk over to the American Legion National Headquarters for a tour of the National Museum and to see the NEC room where much of the business of the American Legion is handled. A long tradition of signing the Arizona NEC desk took place and we were able to leave a small of ourselves behind for the next group of leaders from Arizona to review. There are some very cool items in the museum of the history of the American Legion, it was humbling to within the walls of that history.

NEC Roberts and I with Commander Steve Sperl, Legion NEC Steve Aguirre and Adjutant Angel Juarez were able to attend the National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer homecoming at the Chip Ganassi Headquarters in Indy. Very cool to see the car that won the championship and the team that put Be the One out in front of millions of people. After the dinner we made our way over to American Legion Post 500. What an experience.

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The sign up for the Western Wild Willy's Rendezvous is approaching soon. The Adjutant and Webmaster have made making payments to the event even easier. If interested, visit azzal.org and make your payment online as you register to attend. Don't forget to book a room as well, by contacting the hotel directly.

For God and Country,

Commander Chris Balsley

S.A.L. Detachment of Arizona

