



National Children & Youth Quarterly E Newsletter

“Knowledge is Power”

“The mission of the Sons of The American Legion Committee on Children & Youth is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs, and activities of The American Legion. The Committee’s responsibility is to promote the care and protection of the children of veterans; improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home; prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth; maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs; and such other purposes as maybe assigned to it by The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; and to assist The American Legion Children and Youth Program in carrying on for God and Country.”

The Children & Youth Committee will be sending this E newsletter out quarterly so as to keep everyone current on an important Pillar of The American Legion. We encourage any Detachment or Squadron to send information to us of events on involving children & youth in your area.

Our committee consists of 5 members as follows in case you would like to contact any of us for further information or to share information as well

John Waite- waitejohn@comcast.net (802-384-0088)

Ronnie Grist- radarg@att.net Children & Youth Month, resolutions

Thomas Marsden- saltom@usa.net Child Safety

Jim Gaddis- jerimiah_579@yahoo.com The American Legion

John Lawrence- 1964m20e@gmail.com Family Emphasis

National Commander Jeff Frain's projects are The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and American Legion Baseball. We ask that squadrons and even detachments do an extra fund raiser with the proceeds going to CWF, who knows if you do well maybe it will turn into an annual event.

We do not want to lose sight of any of our programs. So please continue what you do and maybe just that little extra. **Family emphasis** is always important, we are coming into the Holiday Season and I know that Family is of the utmost importance. So please remember our service men, women & their children as they continue to protect us and our Freedom. Our Military Kids(ourmilitarykids.org), a CWF grant recipient. They empower children with sports, arts and enrichment, while a parent or parents are deployed. Also under Family Emphasis, The American Legion has the TFA (temporary financial assistance) fund. Which was founded in 1925 for direct aid to a Veterans' children.

Child safety is another important part of our organization. Suicide in our children has risen in the past few years, with several different factors contributing. Drugs, depression, bullying, etc. we have access to all of The American Legions publications for all the different programs, we ask you to use them many times bringing awareness of warning signs to people close will help, possibly save a life.

The **American Legion Endowment Fund** in 1925 American Legion members, Auxiliary & American citizens joined the campaign to take care of World War I veterans, widows and children who struggled to return to regular life. Raising nearly \$5 million and established The American Legion Endowment Fund. Out of this the TFA was founded and the endowment fund continues to help veterans by funding training for service officers, so that they are up to date on the latest veteran claim regulations, procedures and laws within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Court of Appeals. Donating Works, your donation to the American Legion Endowment Fund goes directly toward helping children & military veterans.

Importance of Consolidated Reports by Ronnie Grist-

Reporting on the Consolidated Report (CR) is actually very easy, even if you do not think about it.

Almost everything that you do has a place to be recorded, either under Children and Youth or under Americanism.

ANYTHING that is done for a child counts, including but not exclusive to your child or grandchild. Sponsoring a child to participate in any sports activity, including band and even cheerleading, has a place under Americanism as other sporting teams, this does include summer camps for the activity, and activities during the school year.

Child Welfare Foundation is an ACUTAL organization that we work very hard for. Raising money to give grants for research and educational programs, and it is sponsored and controlled by The American Legion. You DO NOT report the aid you give to a child directly as Child Welfare. The hours reported are the hours that you are discussing and fund raising for the CWF organization. Child Welfare projects that you help a child directly would be reported under OTHER not CWF. Donations to the CWF and the time

that you used to collect the money, can be reported under CWF, as well as for Children's Miracle Network (CMN). Special Olympics is a little different in that your time volunteering at the events, also count as hours, as well as the time collecting donations.

Anytime that we help anyone, we can report it on the CR. When you wake up, crawl out of bed, and assist anyone, since you are a SAL member 24/7, your activities can be reported.

We do what we do because we want to and out the Respect and Honor of our parents and grandparents service in the military and not for the recognition. But we do need the numbers for our organization's leaders to go and address Congress. Congress and the White House has proven time after time that they do not care about our veterans and it is our job to let them know this. When the Commander of The American Legion testifies to Congress about what the Veterans need and why The American Legion Family has had to volunteer Millions of Hours to the VA Hospital System, along with millions in donations, where our Veterans can get their treatments; they should listen. Congress hears, "I represent 3.2 million members who are registered voters and this is what we have had to do because you are not financing the VA appropriately..", they listen because the members of The American Legion Family VOTE. BTW, the Get Out to Vote hours, are also reported under Americanism.

Let our voices be heard by getting out the Vote, but also by reporting what we do, so the Commander can let Congress know load and clear what they need to fix. Remember, pennies add to dollars and minutes add up to hours. EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE COUNTS.

For the Betterment of All Children

National C&Y Committee

Please look at following page as we have included some pictures that The American Legion Family Post #28 of Millsboro, DE sent of their annual Trunk or Treat event they hold at the Post home. Where they surround their pavilion with vehicles backed up with their trunks decorated and full of surprise, for the community children to enjoy a safe experience and have a lot of fun along the way. Thank you American Legion Family Post 28 for your part in "Halloween Safety".

