



# National Children & Youth Quarterly E Newsletter

## “Knowledge is Power” 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

***“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](mailto:waitejohn@comcast.net) (802-384-0088)

Ronnie Grist- [radarg@att.net](mailto:radarg@att.net) Children & Youth Month, resolutions

Thomas Marsden- [saltom@usa.net](mailto:saltom@usa.net) Child Safety

Jim Gaddis- [jerimiah\\_579@yahoo.com](mailto:jerimiah_579@yahoo.com) The American Legion

John Lawrence- [1964m20e@gmail.com](mailto:1964m20e@gmail.com) Family Emphasis

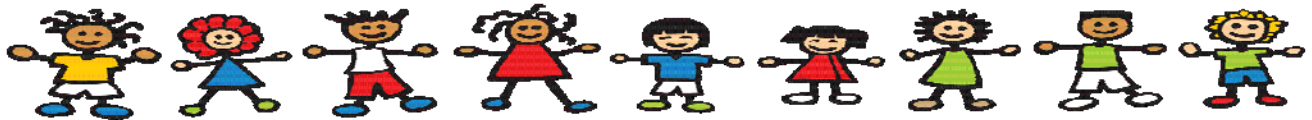
I hope everyone is having a great summer, with plenty of activities aimed around our youth. As we are now into August and just a few weeks away from our National Convention in Reno, Nevada, where did the year go. It has been my honor to serve our organization as the Children & Youth chairman and I thank all of you for your hard work toward the "Betterment of Our Children". We have had an outstanding year and I am anxious to see the year end totals. It will truly be an honor to present those hard working Squadrons, Districts and Detachments with well-deserved awards. Please remember Knowledge is only Power when we share it!! Hope to see you all in Reno. Remember the Children & Youth Committee meets Friday August 17 @8:30 am Room C2.

Knowledge to share with your squadrons and communities:

- August is National Children's Eye Health & Safety Month
- September is [Leukemia Awareness](#), [Childhood Cancer Awareness](#), and National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month
- October is National [Breast Cancer](#) Awareness Month, [Down Syndrome Awareness](#) Month, and National Campaign for Healthier Babies Month
- For more information please visit this link [awarenesscalendar](#)

Please remember **The American Legion National Children & Youth Conference is September 15-17 in Indianapolis, Indiana.** This weekend is filled with a ton of information to help the entire American Legion Family in your State so please make an effort to attend.

<http://www.legion.org/cyconference>



For the Betterment of Our Children

John Waite

National C&Y CHM

## **Family Emphasis**

Fellow Sons and Legion Family members this is the last C&Y newsletter for this year and it has been an eventful year. A number of detachments have provided reports and information on the C&Y activities they have conducted throughout the year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the C&Y committee it has been an honor and do not forget the Legion Family is here to support you.

With my focus on Family Emphasis there is The Family Support Network to help families of our deployed servicemen and women. Also there is the Temporary Financial Assistance to help with the basic needs of the children of veterans. Both of these programs can be accessed by

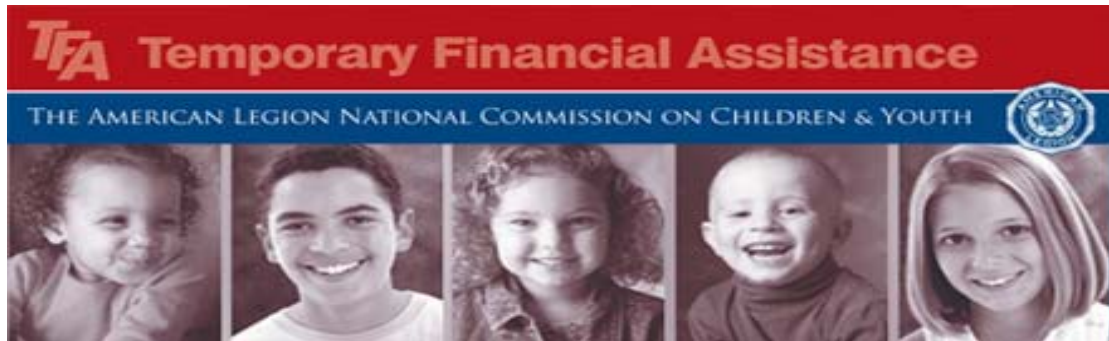
Family Support Network

1-800-504-4098

<https://www.legion.org/familysupport>

Online application for assistance:

<https://www.legion.org/familysupport/assistance>



**Temporary Financial Assistance is a program of:**

The American Legion  
National Commission on Children & Youth  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

For God and Country

John C. Lawrence

National Children and Youth Committeeman, Team 1

**Child Safety**

Point of fact: For children 12 and younger, only motor vehicle crash fatality stats are higher than drowning. Anyone who saw Jaws knows how dangerous open waters can be. Right? No...Wrong! Sharks, stingrays, jellyfish, rip tides, shore breaks, and bacteria are only responsible for about 10% of the fatalities. The rest happen in fresh water often at home.

85% of all drownings are preventable. One second can mean catastrophe; one second can mean survival. Results are not always instantaneous. Just a teaspoon of water can suffocate a victim or leave him/her irreversibly brain-damaged.

Most drownings are sudden, rapid, quick, and silent. Oxygen deprivation causes permanent trauma to the human central nervous system. Baths, showers, pools, hot tubs, toilets, buckets, even puddles are DANGER to everyone but, especially, seniors and kids under five. Those who manage to survive face disability, neurological problems, and chronic health issues.

Set the example for others. Teach basic life saving techniques. Have adequate supervision and surveillance. Maintain barriers to prevent access to water. Make life preservers and jackets mandatory safety equipment. Insist everyone swim with a buddy. Drown-proof the young by teaching them how to swim. Practice water safety.

About ten people in the U. S. drown each day. Don't be a part of this statistic. Remember the No-No's and enforce them--NO swimming alone; NO diving; NO running; NO horseplay; NO alcohol.

Thomas Marsden  
National C&Y Committeeman

## **Children and Youth**

It has been a very busy year for the Children and Youth Committee this year with the re-structuring and establishing the new goals and 10 year plan.

I would like to Thank Chairman Waite for his leadership this year and look forward to continue working with him in the future.

Since the Children and Youth Conference was started at Indy, instead of the regional workshops, a few Legion Family members have not missed one, including myself. The content at the Conferences have been very enlightening and informative. As a person who is considered an "expert" on Children and Youth, I have yet to leave the conference without learning something. I truly enjoy the topics and presenters that Jason and staff have had for us each year. We have gotten attached to some of the children that The American Legion Family have helped and have become part of their extended families; their success have been ours and likewise their losses have been felt by all of us.

I have brought different members from Georgia from time to time and they have felt the same as I have. Currently Jamey Holloway is making his second conference and has done a lot of talking over the past year about his experience and what it has meant to him, so much his wife is also coming this year. Getting the under 30 members with families to attend the conference will help keep the Children and Youth in the forefront of our growing organization.

I would love to see every Detachment send their Children and Youth Chairman to this conference because it is the BEST Avenue of information and training that we have and it needs to be used.

This year the Conference is September 15-17, 2017 and all of the registration information is on the Legion.org website. I do not know what Jason and staff have planned for this year, but I am excited to find out. Hopefully I will see you there.

This is for the LEGION FAMILY, so why not come as a family for the Conference.

For God and Country,

Ronnie Grist

Children and Youth Committee Member

### **The American Legion Endowment Fund**

Let's not forget about this fund. These two awards **Largest donation** and **Highest per capita** will be given to the Sons of The American Legion in Reno. Who will be the recipients??

From CWF

What a Year! Stayed tuned for all the Awards in Reno.



Thank You Commander Frain for your  
Leadership

You're Children & Youth Committee

# The American Legion 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Children & Youth Conference

September 15-17, 2017 • Indianapolis, Indiana

## Tentative conference speakers and topics include:

- YOUTH SPEAKER
- BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
- BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES
- SAL – YOUTH PROGRAMS
- AUXILIARY – YOUTH PROGRAMS
- STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SUSTAINED MEMEBERSHIP GROWTH
- DEPRESSION AND BIPOLAR SUPPORT ALLIANCE
- TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: A DEPARTMENT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SESSION
- DEPARTMENT AND DETACHMENT BEST PRACTICES

“Youth” is a foundational pillar of The American Legion and the National Children & Youth Conference is an annual American Legion Family event. Departments and detachments are encouraged to send at least one member from each – The American Legion, American Legion Auxilliary, and Sons of The American Legion – to the conference. This “family participation” builds and strengthens the presence and impact of The American Legion’s Children & Youth program across the country. Department Adjutants and Children & Youth Chairmen will be notified once registration opens this summer.

