

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## Children & Youth Commission

Chairman Randy Eicher

### APRIL IS AMERICAN LEGION CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

The month of April is Children & Youth Month and the Sons of the American Legion as part of the 4.2 million Legion Family members take a very active part in support of the Children & Youth Programs. Did you know that the SAL since 1988 has donated over \$6 million to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, that's more than any other part of the Legion Family and Florida was the \$6 Million Detachment. Last year 2014 alone, the SAL contributed \$346,099.00 and 54,809 hours of service to the CWF on behalf of the American Legion. Special Olympics another C&Y Program the SAL donated \$197,715.00 and 19,346 hours of service. Your SAL Nationally also contributed \$491,012.00 and 83,599 hours of service to other various National C&Y Programs. Our 2014 National Sons of the American Legion Grand Total for Children & Youth Programs to the American Legion was \$1,174,933.00 and 166,825 hours of service.

Submitted by Commission Vice Chairman Bill Kelly FL

### Operation Military Kids

OMK is a collective effort between American communities and the U.S. Army. However, due to budget cuts, the program will be cancelled as of March 31st, 2015.

Through a network of National, State and Local Partners, Operation: Military Kids provides access to youth programs and support services where military children live. OMK Partners organize special events, provide transportation to military kids to sporting events or other extracurricular activities, and participate in the Hero Pack initiative. These programs are offered through Army Garrisons, National Guard Family State Offices and Reserve Regional Commands.

Last year alone, over 100,000 youths were involved in multiple events sponsored by OMK in 49 states and the District of Columbia. The goal of OMK is to assist children and families deal with the stress incurred before, during and after the deployment of a loved one.

For continued support, please be advised: For Army National Guard Families: Get your youth involved with the State Child & Youth Program! Contact a Child & Youth Program Coordinator (or the State Family Program Director) near you to check out the program offerings and activities they can participate in; visit:

<https://www.jointservicesupport.org/FP/Default.aspx> and click on "Contact your local State Family Program Director, Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager, Family Readiness Support Assistant, Family Assistance Specialist or Child & Youth Program' Coordinator" at the bottom of the page, then choose your state, for assistance in connecting with your Child & Youth Program Coordinator.

For Army Reserve Families: Get your youth involved with a Command Child, Youth, School Service Program! Contact a Command CYSS specialist near you to check out the program offerings and activities they can participate in go to <http://www.arfp.org/cyss.php> or Fort Family Support & Outreach Center at 1-866-345-8248 for assistance in connecting with CYSS specialist.

You may also visit the 4-H Military Partnership website at: <http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org>

Submitted by Commission Member Thom Skelley TX

### American Legion National Endowment Fund

In 1925, World War I veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a regular life.

The members of The American Legion, being of the responsibilities entrusted to them, by those who had served, knew the time had come to take action.

More than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and other American citizens joined the campaign, raising nearly \$5 million and establishing The American Legion Endowment Fund. Since those early days, tens of millions of dollars have been distributed to disabled veterans and children of those who served this great nation.

Your gifts and donations are added to a trust that is administered by The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation. The corporation, whose members are selected by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, takes great care to ensure that these gifts are wisely invested. Income from fund investments is then passed on to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Children & Youth programs of The American Legion National Organization to support National, State and local programs for veterans and children.

The National Children & Youth Commission would like to hear from your Detachment, with updates of what you have been doing.. Please send your information my e-mail address ([pdcn19@aol.com](mailto:pdcn19@aol.com)) or Commission Vice Chairman Bill Kelly at ([clubmanger@post137.com](mailto:clubmanger@post137.com)).

In Closing: Squadrons and Counties, can make out their donation checks to The American Legion Endowment Fund and place the letters of "SAL" in the memo part of the check or go on line and make the donations the same way.

[Submitted by Commission Member Jim Noble NJ](#)

