



# Round-Up

The Membership Newsletter of  
Sons of The American Legion  
Central Region

Volume 1 – Issue 10 – January 12, 2020

**CENTRAL REGION CHALLENGE DATE**  
**February 1, 2020**  
**85%**

# Who's next?

**National Target Date**  
**January 15, 2020**  
**60%**

# 79,000+

Gentlemen,

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

**AS OF January 6, 2020, THE CENTRAL REGION HAS SURPASSED 79,000 MEMBERS TO LEAD THE NATION IN PAID MEMBERS! 79,395 to be exact. Don't settle for it.**



**IT'S CRUNCH TIME!!!** We need to take an aggressive approach to renewing our members who have not submitted their dues yet. This is also true of our ZERO Squadrons. We are too far into the year to have unpaid members and ZERO Squadrons. I know that some people like to pay later in the year, and we all need to work to change that old way of thinking.

The American Legion has "Buddy Check" to check on members to see how they are doing, if they need anything, etc. What do we do as Sons for our members? Do we check on them, call them, email them?

Keeping EVERYONE involved in very important to our organization and the entire American Legion Family. Have you checked on a member lately?

By now everyone should have seen my Central Region Membership Challenge. It may seem aggressive to some. Some Detachments already have similar goals. Let's see who can reach this, and future goals the fastest. Bragging rights are on the line. A little competition never hurt anyone! Let's see how many Detachments can hit the **Central Region Challenge of 85% on February 1, 2020. Who's next?** You will see that this number is different from last week. I made a typo and was incorrect. We are shooting for 85%. My apologies.

Congratulations the Detachments of Wisconsin (81.437%), Iowa (72.640%), and Illinois (67.586%) for surpassing the January 15 Target Date of 60%. AWESOME!

### Who's next?

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,

Jeff Vrabel, Sr.  
Sons of The American Legion  
National Membership Committee  
Central Region Chairman  
[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

**Detachment Membership Standings**  
as of January 9, 2020

DET	GOAL	ACTUAL	%
WI	3,744	3,049	81.437%
IA	4,375	3,178	72.640%
IL	14,546	9,831	67.586%
OH	31,133	18,644	59.885%
IN	39,364	23,539	59.798%
MN	11,748	6,998	59.568%
MO	3,705	1,934	52.200%
MI	24,083	12,222	50.749%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132,698</b>	<b>79,395</b>	<b>59.831</b>

**Detachment Renewal Rates**  
as of January 6, 2020

DET	2019	RENEWED	%
WI	3,945	2,566	65.04%
IA	4,452	2,750	61.77%
IL	14,431	8,350	57.86%
MN	11,565	6,447	55.75%
OH	30,456	16,533	54.28%
IN	38,876	18,597	47.84%
MO	3,485	1,553	44.56%
MI	24,126	9,772	40.50%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>131,336</b>	<b>66,568</b>	<b>50.69%</b>

**National Membership Standings**  
as of January 9, 2020

REGION	GOAL	ACTUAL	%
Southern	42,763	27,105	63.684%
Midwest	30,366	19,043	62.712%
Central	132,698	79,395	59.831%
Western	26,395	15,436	58.481%
Eastern	146,273	74,064	50.634%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>378,495</b>	<b>215,043</b>	<b>56.815%</b>

**National Renewal Rates**  
as of January 6, 2020

DET	2019	RENEWED	%
Midwest	29,920	14,631	48.60%
Central	131,317	63,026	48.00%
Southern	42,858	20,321	47.41%
Western	26,524	11,572	43.63%
Eastern	144,840	54,904	37.91%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>375,459</b>	<b>164,454</b>	<b>43.80%</b>

16,930 ahead of last year

**NATIONAL TARGET DATE**  
**January 15, 2020**  
**60%**

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**



**MySAL**

**MEMBERSHIP DATABASE**



**I WANT**  
**YOU**  
**TO RENEW!!!**

**RECRUIT!**  
**RETAIN!**  
**REINSTATE!**

**#SALSTRONG**



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



## DOES YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD SAY 2019?

Your 2019 membership card is EXPIRED and no longer valid. Please pay your Sons of The American Legion dues and support your Squadron and The American Legion Family

If your membership card doesn't look like this ↑ then you need to RENEW TODAY!!!

### National Commander Bolt's 2019-2020 Goals

Please remember as you travel and promote the Sons of The American Legion and National Commander Clint Bolt's goals for Membership and all Legion Charities.

- **RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND REINSTATE** to reach **400,000** members
- Renewal rate above 95%
- Obtain 105% in membership by National Convention in Louisville, KY
- Recognize our achievements
- Child Welfare Foundation \$500,000
- National Emergency Fund \$100,000
- Soldiers Wish \$100,000
- Legacy Scholarship \$100,000
- Veterans & Children's Fund \$100,000
- Operation Comfort Warriors \$100,000

### 2019 – 2020 Central Region Membership Challenge from Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

DECEMBER 31	60%
FEBRUARY 1	85%
MARCH 1	90%
APRIL 1	95%
MAY 1	100%
JUNE 30	110%

### Who's next?

# Who's next?





### Important Links

[National Membership Report](#)

[National Membership Target Dates](#)

[2019-2020 Individual Recruitment Award form](#)

[Blue Brigade Award](#)

[Blue Brigade Fifth Consecutive Year Award](#)

[MySAL](#)

[Snapshots of Service Photo Contest Form](#)

[Vice-Commander Pfeiffer](#)

[5 Star Program of Service](#)

[The Ten Ideals](#)

[The American Legion Basic Training Course](#)

[2019-2020 CWF Per Capita Banner form](#)

within that state. In general, male and female programs are held separately, but several states host Boys and Girls State on the same campus on the same week.

The Sons of The American Legion have always played an important role in this program. In addition to Detachments sponsoring delegates, Sons members are encouraged to assist in whatever capacity they are able too such as volunteering as councilors. Here are some thoughts of one such individual who as a youth attended Boys State.



William "Bill" Murphy III attended Massachusetts Boys State in 1988, the event that is most memorable to him was shaking hands with the President of The United States which that year was Ronald Reagan. Bill has been a counselor for the

past 9 years; he was inspired several years after he himself was a delegate. What keeps him going is seeing and hearing the hopes and visions for our country's future. He sees and hears the urgency and importance of our youth's voices being heard. Bill also has the privilege of being part of the staff for American Legion Boys Nation. The Boys and Girls State and Nation programs make for a prominent presentation. It gives new meaning to the slogan for the Boys State program "A week that shapes a lifetime". Please note: Bill Murphy is the current Alternate National Committeeman for the Detachment of Massachusetts Sons of The American Legion.

For more information on how you can be involved in Boys State please write to:

The American Legion  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206 or go to  
[boysstate-nation@legion.org](mailto:boysstate-nation@legion.org)

*Ernie Laberge*  
*National Americanism Commission 2019-2021*

Past Detachment Commander 2017-2019  
The Detachment of Massachusetts

*"Serving those that served, full steam ahead!"*



## Americanism Update

### **American Legion Boys State Boys State and Girls State**

These summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. Boys and Girls State programs both began in 1937 and are held in each state usually on a college campus,

## Flag Etiquette and Education



My name is James Eubanks and I am a proud member of the Sons of the American Legion, I am also one of the newest members of the National Americanism Commission for the Sons. I have

been assigned with Education and Flag Etiquette and I am excited about taking on this role and shall endeavor to fulfill my obligation to the utmost of my ability.

I am the third in line of four generations of Navy, the son of a retired Master Chief and during my tour I was privileged enough to have been stationed in Washington D.C. as a member of the United States Navy Presidential Ceremonial Honor Guard. I was assigned to the Firing Squad detail and was a part of many soldiers' burials in Arlington National Cemetery.

I saw firsthand the cost of Freedom and I know what this flag of ours represents. Before I continue, I believe it is important to understand what Americanism is by definition.

**Americanism Defined.** Americanism is love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is a vital, active, living force. Americanism means peace, strength, the will and the courage to live as free men in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking. It is not a word; it is a cause, a way of life – the best way of life ever known – a challenge and a hope in this world.

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country.

It is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for our nation and for our posterity.

## What do you see when you look at our flag?

If what you see when you look at our flag is just a piece of cloth, then flag etiquette will mean very little to you. The need to understand why this flag, our flag means so much to so many has never been greater than now. Our flag represents 2 main aspects of our country: first is the 50 united states in our nation in the stars and the 13 original colonies in the stripes, secondly our flag is a symbol that is meant to represent all the values and beliefs held by those who not only fight to defend them, but those who are privileged enough to live under its protection. It represents the strife and sacrifices that have brought us to modern day; our flag is not political and does not wish to oppress anyone. Our flag represents the very freedom that our military defends and the opportunity for all people to live as a united people. My hope is that thru these articles you will see why the proper treatment of our nation's symbols is so very important.

I am proud when I look at my flag; I see Freedom, Justice and Democracy. Long may she wave!

*James A Eubanks,  
Americanism Commission*



**Sons of The  
American Legion  
National  
Americanism  
Commission**



# Around the Region

On January 7, 2020, The American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15 Family held its Christmas Party. Members of Post 15, Unit 15, and Squadron 15 enjoyed a great event, and welcomed guests Al and Dayna Beyer.



American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15 Family Christmas party. Post 15 is located in Poland, Ohio.



American Legion Department Historian Al Beyer and American Legion Auxiliary Department Historian Dayna Beyer.



Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 members 9D Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr., Ryan Johnson, Kevin Garayua, and 9D Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Soltis.



by Jeff Vrabel, Jr.

## Call to Action

I'm reaching out across the Country for the widest distribution we can get. Yesterday our Good Day Sacramento interviewed a WW II Veteran who is 104 years young. **Major Bill White** USMC was in the battle of Iwo Jima and wounded, where later he received the Purple Heart. This great veteran served 30 years proudly as a Marine, retiring in 1954. He has requested that he would like to receive Valentine's Day cards this year. My goal is for The American Legion Family send me cards addressed to **Maj. Bill White** at my home where on Valentine's Day our members in the Area of Northern California and beyond will deliver cards from across America. Our Department Adjutant is going to research and if **Maj. Bill White** is not an American Legion member, he will be presented a 2020 American Legion membership card. He lives in a rest home in Stockton and is sharper than a lot of younger folks. This outstanding Veteran can still wear his uniform today. Let's show **Maj. Bill White** that The American Legion Family cares.

Please pass the word and get those Valentine's Day Cards heading my way. They will be presented to **Maj. Bill White** USMC (RET) on Valentine's Day.

Please mail cards to:  
**Maj. Bill White USMC (RET)**  
 c/o 5634 Liggett Way  
 Carmichael, California 95608

Any questions please give me a call.

Ned Fox, National Vice-Commander West  
 (916) 531-1652

"Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead"

Detachment of Virginia Proudly Presents

“Homecoming for National Commander “

**Clint Bolt**



Norfolk Waterside Sheraton Hotel

777 Waterside Drive Norfolk Virginia 23510

Friday April 17, 2020 thru Sunday April 19, 2020

Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-325-3535

Mention Group “Sons of American Legion Homecoming”

Traditional King or Double Queen @ \$124.00 per night

Deadline for Reservations is March 20, 2020

Norfolk International Airport is only about 20 minutes from Hotel

Onsite parking is \$13.00 per day and Valet Parking is \$26.00 per day

Registration will be set up in Hotel lobby upon arrival

Hospitality Room will be open Friday and Saturday!

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020** Visit to American Legion Post 5 for Food and Games

**MOTOR COACH TRANSPORTATION - 5:30 PM – 10:30 PM**

Motor Coach transportation will be provided for guests traveling from hotel to local American Legion Post 5. One bus will shuttle between hotel and Post, beginning at 5:00 pm and ending at 10:30 pm. Cocktail Hour and Dinner with a fun night of Casino games and Raffles

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020**

**OPTION 1: MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM – 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

- Depart with your tour guide and visit one of Virginia Beach's most revered attractions, the **Military Aviation Museum**, home to one of the largest private collections of World War II and Korean War era fighters, bombers, trainers and seaplanes in the world. Many aircraft have been fully restored to their World War II condition and are used for flight demonstration, movie production or commercials. Enjoy a guided tour of the galleries and shopping in the gift shop which is stocked with all things flight related. A boxed lunch will be served while visiting the museum.



**PRICE: \$79.00 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE. INCLUDES BOXED LUNCH.**

**OPTION 2: NORFOLK'S MILITARY HISTORY - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

- Join your tour guide on the motor coach and learn about Norfolk's colorful history of over three centuries as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District, Nauticus, a maritime center, the Battleship Wisconsin, the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest. Downtown Norfolk has undergone a complete transformation in the last decade and features the beautifully renovated Town Point Park with the Armed Forces memorial, a beautiful \$34million cruise terminal, waterfront condos and state of the art shopping area.



- Next, tour the **Norfolk Naval Base**, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 59 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 18 aircraft squadrons and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 70,000 military personnel. A Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers.



- Lunch will be on your own at **MacArthur Center**, located in the heart of downtown Norfolk. Offering nearly 100 specialty shops, boutiques and restaurants, there are a range of eating options to choose from.
- Then, visit the **MacArthur Memorial** for a glimpse into our country's history. Here you will view the outstanding collection housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and achievements of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the short film which chronicles the General's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell story of General MacArthur and the millions of American and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.
- Enjoy a stop at **Doumar's**, home of the world's first ice cream cone machine. Abe Doumar created the first ice cream cone at the World's Fair of 1904 in St. Louis. It was so successful that he designed a four-iron waffle machine that he launched during the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. Today, the family business still bakes cones on the original cone machine. While at Doumar's, guests will be given an introduction and history and everyone will be treated to an ice cream and cone.



the men Forces

**PRICE: \$47.00 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE. INCLUDES ICE CREAM TREAT. LUNCH ON OWN.**

**Saturday Night Cocktail Hour and Dinner Banquet**

Mixed Greens Salad with Tomatoes, Cucumbers and Assorted Dressings  
Chicken Picatta Pan Seared Airline Chicken Breast with a Lemon Caper Sauce,

OR

Pan Seared Tilapia with a Lemon Beurre Blanc

OR

Roast Sliced Sirloin of Beef with a Peppercorn Cognac Cream Sauce

OR

Vegetarian Option Wild Mushroom Ravioli with a Boursin Cheese Sauce

All Entrée's Include Chef's Selection of Starch and Fresh Seasonal Vegetable, Warm Rolls and Butter and Chef's Selection of Dessert, Starbucks Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee and Tazo Teas

Cost \$30.00 per person

**Package Options**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Department/ Detachment \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_ No. of People \_\_\_\_\_

Head count for Friday Post 5 Dinner /Casino night. \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 for dinner , pay @ post Do not include with check payment.

Saturday Option #1 Military Aviation Museum @ \$79.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Option #2 Norfolk Military History Tour @ \$ 47.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night Dinner/Banquet @ \$30.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner Choice for Banquet: Must pick selection with quantity**

Chicken Picatta Pan Seared Airline Chicken Breast with a Lemon Caper Sauce, \_\_\_\_\_

Pan Seared Tilapia with a Lemon Beurre Blanc, \_\_\_\_\_

Roast Sliced Sirloin of Beef with a Peppercorn Cognac Cream Sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Option Wild Mushroom Ravioli with a Boursin Cheese Sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to American Legion Post 284 Insert Clint Bolt Homecoming in Memo

Mail to: **Steve Gower 4308 Bart Street, Portsmouth VA 23707**

Downtown Norfolk also has a lot of local attractions in walking distance from hotel. The Battleship Wisconsin is docked about 2 blocks away and is open for tours along with the Nauticus Maritime Museum. MacArthur Mall is also close by with a lot of shops and restaurants. Norfolk also has a lot of century old homes and churches built with that great old southern architecture. We will have information at registration desk for all local activates. Looking forward to seeing all for a great weekend and Celebrate to successes of the Sons of the American Legion! Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

*Steve Gower*

Sons of the American Legion

National Internal Affairs Commission

[Stevegower@cox.net](mailto:Stevegower@cox.net)

757-348-4642 *"Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead"*