



Round-Up

A Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion



#SALSTRONG

Volume 3 – Issue 111 – December 12, 2021

Call to action



Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

It's disheartening to know there are still World War II veterans who do not have access to VA benefits. The American Legion is fighting to correct this lapse with legislation pending in Congress. [Here's how you can contact your representative.](#)

JOIN OUR ACTION CAMPAIGN: WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE NOW

Our World War II veterans halted the spread of tyranny, securing our democracy for generations to come. As of last month, fewer than 240,330 WWII veterans remain and hundreds pass away every day.

Of those still living, not all of them receive the VA health-care services they earned through their service. As a grateful nation, we must fulfill our promises to the Greatest Generation to ensure they receive all the benefits they deserve.

To rectify this issue, Rep. Josh Harder, D-Calif., introduced H.R. 5562, the WWII

means test bill. The legislation would exempt WWII veterans from the means test needed to receive VA health-care services. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., has supported these efforts by introducing S.1040, the Senate companion to this bill.

The Senate bill has 10 bipartisan cosponsors while the House version has three. But little progress has been made in the past few months.

Time is literally running out for these veterans. It is critically important that one of these bills is enacted into law as soon as possible. The American Legion vociferously supports this legislation.

Congress has been down this road before. In 1996, the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act exempted all veterans who served during the Mexican Border Period and World War I from the means test required to enter the VA health-care system.

Let's do the same for our World War II veterans before it is too late.

For God and Country,

*Paul E. Dillard, National Commander
The American Legion*



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A Publication of Sons of The American Legion

National Commander

Michael Fox (CA)

National Vice-Commander Central

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH)

National Vice-Commander East

Richard "Dickie" Huntley (ME)

National Vice-Commander Midwest

Juan Torres (TX)

National Vice-Commander South

Jason Roberts (GA)

National Vice-Commander West

Jim Stewart (NV)

NVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

Round-Up is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES: All submissions are to be made electronically to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. If you need assistance, please send an email to same.

All articles must be submitted by noon Friday weekly.



SAL membership reports are available [here](#)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TARGET DATE



December 8, 2021

We are going to extend the target date by one week due to some issues that have been brought to our attention. The target date will now be next Wednesday, December 15. We will run the report on December 16.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility.

Matthew Herndon, Director
Internal Affairs & Membership



by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

REGIONAL UPDATES



by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

JEFF VRABEL, SR. NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER CENTRAL REGION 2021-2022

JOIN

DONATE

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/vies/teamvrabel/home>

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Third Thursday of each month

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (425) 436-6280

Access Code 464549*

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/jeffvrabelsr>

↑ PREFERRED LOG ON METHOD video option available ↑

Last weekend, I had the honor of attending the Detachment of Illinois Executive Committee meeting at Department Headquarters in Bloomington.

Upon my arrival at the hotel, I was met by ANEC Paul Hayse and NEC Butch Ray. The duo escorted me to my room, and made sure everything was just right. I was then given a Christmas stocking filled with goodies and some water. What a great way to start a great weekend!

After getting settled in to the room, we met in the lobby to talk with other members of the Detachment. It was great to just sit around and talk about our great organization, tell jokes and stories, and just relax.

Soon it was morning and after breakfast at the hotel, Butch and I headed to Department headquarters, where we were given a tour of the facility. He was proud to show the wall of national leadership, current Illinois leadership, the Chapel, and some offices.

We then went downstairs to the print center where PNC JR Stillwell took over. The print shop is a very impressive operation, with numerous publications, flyers, forms, and other items being created here. I was very interested in the Department's machine that presses poppies for assembly by area veterans. JR said that many Departments order poppies from Illinois.

It was new getting close to 11:00 a.m. and we headed to the meeting room to get prepared. At the door was 13-year-old Tim Friedman, the Historian for Squadron 24 in Champaign. He was busy collecting \$5.00 from everyone who entered for the 50/50 raffle. He did a great job.



The meeting was called to order by Commander Jeff Trout, and after traditional opening ceremonies, the meeting soon reached the membership report and activities.

During this report, leaders in membership standings received a pin with a large 1 and the SAL emblem on it signifying the position in first place. These pins were presented to the Division and Districts in the lead as of the most recent membership report. I assisted Commander Trout in presenting these pins. Truly an awesome idea to recognize the hard work being done for the membership program.

It was time for other reports, and the information provided by chairmen was outstanding. Getting the messages out is key, and these men did a great job.

We heard that there is a big push to eliminate remaining Zero Squadrons by having them get membership transmitted, and that new charters have been submitted. American Legion Auxiliary Department President address the group and promoted the Arts Festival for Veterans.

It appears that the SAL Barber Shop will be opening a location in Illinois, as hair was placed on the line in exchange for donations for the Child Welfare Foundation. In closing his report, Chairman Ray said, "You are never as tall as when you stoop to help a child." What words of wisdom!

The Detachment is planning more involvement from its members this year for both the Summer and Winter games of Special Olympics.



During my speech, I talked about various items including recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Veterans and Childrens Foundation, increased participation by Detachment Chairman on National Commission and Committee monthly conference calls/videoconferences, the importance of timely submission of Consolidated Squadron Reports, Officer Certification Reports, and Squadron Data Forms, and Flying Flags For Heroes. We also raised \$262.22 for VCF with our collection box.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton attended the meeting and gave a great and inspirational speech.

Department leadership arrived near the end of the meeting, and we heard from Commander Fischer, Sr. Vice-Commander Payton, NEC Erickson, and PNC Conatser.

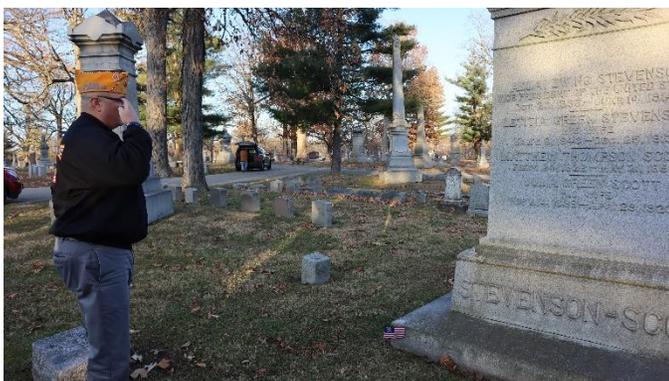
As the meeting was wrapping up, Commander Trout presented me and candidate Carleton with the Illinois American Legion Family pin, a beautiful item that I will cherish for years to come. He then reminded everyone about the Flying Flags For Heroes ceremony that would happen at 3:00 p.m. at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington.

At the cemetery, Sons and Legionnaires, along with Unit members and guests gathered for opening ceremonies, including an Opening Prayer Detachment Chaplain John Nemanich, a Color Guard, and two SAL members playing trumpet. Commander Trout gave a great speech, we sang, and were surprised as the Color Guard set-up a fly over that included three planes.

We then went into the cemetery, where everyone placed at least two flags on the graves of veterans. After we placed the second flag, Echo Taps was played as everyone rendered the proper salute.

After the ceremony, we toured the cemetery, and saw some unique things. Three trees were carved into memorials, honoring pilots, a baseball player, and a little girl. Truly amazing work.

I also had the great honor and privilege to place flags at the graves of Vice-President Adlai Stevenson and Illinois Governor and UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, II.



After the tour, we stopped at Cadillac Jacks for refreshments and fellowship, then it was on to Baxter's for a great dinner.

On Sunday it was breakfast at the hotel and off to Ohio following a tremendous trip. I cannot thank Commander Trout and the Detachment of Illinois enough for the hospitality shown to me. I can't wait to go back.

I also want to thank NEC Ray and ANEC Hayse for being there for whatever I needed, and to PDC/Historian Phil Stander and PNC Stillwell their assistance as well.

Finally, I want to thank PNC Cisna for his mentoring, for sharing his stories, and for helping me be prepared for the remainder of my term as National Vice-Commander. His wisdom and insight will not be forgotten. Thank you, Tommie!

Click [HERE](#) to see the photo gallery from the trip.

Today I had the opportunity to attend the American Legion Riders Chapter 535 & American Legion Auxiliary Unit 535 Breakfast with Santa at Post 535 in Columbus, Ohio. It was a great time with nearly sixty children receiving breakfast, a stocking, and a door prize, just in time for Christmas.

I also had the opportunity to give Santa a present, as he usually only leaves them and rarely receives them. Santa was surprised by his Certificate of Meritorious Service certificate and gift.



Santa said he can't wait to put his new American flag on his flagpole at the North Pole.

December 31 I just nineteen days away. In twenty days, thousands of our members will lose their privileges, benefits, good standing as a Son if we don't all act now. My Squadron is guilty of not being a Quota Squadron, but I can guarantee that we will be quota before December 31.



Are there any Squadrons out there who want to join me in being a member of a Quota Squadron? If so, get out and work hard to renew all of your members before the end of the year. For some Squadrons, there aren't that many more members to get to renew to reach the goal. For other Squadrons, it may be a little tougher. Either way, it is not an impossible task, and we all need to do whatever we can to accomplish that task. **Who's next?**

This week's membership shows us that the Central Region has five Detachments over 45%. Everyone should be proud of our accomplishments so far, but there is a lot more work to be done. Come up with a plan over the next few hours and put it in place over the next two weeks. We need to improve our numbers right away, especially with any Zero Squadrons that may be out there.

When you look at the report, you will see that the Central Region no longer can brag about having the most members paid, with the Eastern Region taking over that spot. Do you want it back? If you answered yes, then get out there and get those renewals taken care of immediately. The Southern Region continues to hold down first place percentage-wise, a position it has held for over a year. Let's go out and work hard to take the lead in this area as well.

The report next Friday will show how much work you have done for the week. Let's make sure that there is a significant increase in our membership numbers, as well as in our renewal numbers. **Who's next?**

As always, if there is anything you need, please send me an email and I will do whatever I can to help.

We are Sons of The American Legion.

We are #SALSTRONG!!!



2022 Central Region Renewal Report

The numbers below are taken from the membership and ranked in order by percentage. Once the full Renewal Report is published, additional information will be provided.

		12/09/21
	Detachment	Renewal %
1	Wisconsin	57.89%
2	Iowa	55.18%
3	Illinois	52.00%
4	Missouri	44.07%
5	Ohio	42.73%
6	Minnesota	41.80%
7	Indiana	34.91%
8	Michigan	30.89%



2022 Central Region Membership Report

2022 MEMBERSHIP					12/09/21	
	Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1	Southern 3, 4	42,593	21,072	21,521	49.47%	670
2	Midwest 3, 4	28,508	13,343	15,165	46.80%	269
3	Central	124,977	54,939	70,038	43.96%	2,273
4	Western	24,414	10,277	14,137	42.09%	554
5	Eastern	136,233	56,713	79,520	41.63%	3,636
TOTALS		356,725	156,344	200,381	43.83%	7,402

Membership ahead/behind prior year target date N/A

	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1	Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,914	2,386	1,528	60.96%	71
2	Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4	4,571	2,651	1,920	58.00%	50
3	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 4	13,602	7,466	6,136	54.89%	25
4	Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4	3,211	1,576	1,635	49.08%	85
5	Ohio 1, 4	29,946	13,801	16,145	46.09%	799
6	Minnesota 1, 3	11,091	4,985	6,106	44.95%	48
7	Indiana 1	36,657	13,813	22,844	37.68%	794
8	Michigan 1	21,985	8,261	13,724	37.58%	401

TOTALS	124,977	54,939	70,038	43.96%	2,273
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Q = Quota

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Met 09/22/21 goal of 10% | 6 Met 02/09/22 goal of 75% |
| 2 Met 10/14/21 goal of 25% | 7 Met 03/09/22 goal of 80% |
| 3 Met 11/10/21 goal of 35% | 8 Met 04/13/22 goal of 90% |
| 4 Met 12/08/21 goal of 45% | 9 Met 05/11/22 goal of 100% |
| 5 Met 01/21/22 goal of 60% | 10 Met 07/28/22 goal of 105% |

Red Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Wisconsin	3,914	2,386	1,528	60.96%	4.34%
Iowa	4,571	2,651	1,920	58.00%	4.83%
Missouri	3,211	1,576	1,635	49.08%	2.87%
TOTALS	11,696	6,613	5,083	56.54%	12.04%

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Illinois	13,602	7,466	6,136	54.89%	13.59%
Minnesota	11,091	4,985	6,106	44.95%	9.07%
TOTALS	24,693	12,451	12,242	50.42%	22.66%

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Ohio	29,946	13,801	16,145	46.09%	25.12%
Indiana	36,657	13,813	22,844	37.68%	25.14%
Michigan	21,985	8,261	13,724	37.58%	15.04%
TOTALS	88,588	35,875	52,713	40.50%	65.30%



**LEADERSHIP THROUGH ACTION
NOT THROUGH POSITION**

COMMANDER'S Homecoming Detachment Commander JEFF TROUT



INVITES THE LEGION FAMILY TO JOIN HIM FOR DINNER.

Saturday, March 26, 2022

At American Legion Post 147
11720 Longstreet Rd., Marion, IL 62959

Social Hour: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
Music & Karaoke to follow at 8:00
Business Casual Attire

Housing: Country Inn & Suites, 1306 Halfway Rd. Marion, IL 62959
Rooms must be reserved by February 24, 2022 to get the group rate.

For reservations, call: (618)997-2444 Group code is: Sons of The American Legion

Dinner Menu: Entrée selection of BBQ Chicken or Pork Steak, served with Baked Potato, Green Beans, Salad and Dessert. *SUBMIT ENTRÉE SELECTION WITH RESERVATION/PAYMENT*

- * Dinner: \$25 per person. Make check payable to: Terri Trout
- * Dinner reservations should be sent to:
Terri Trout, 1016 US Highway 45, Enfield, IL 62835
- * Dinner reservation deadline: March 1, 2022
- * Questions? Call (618)384-7684



Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone # _____
Division # _____ District # _____ SAL _____ REGION _____ AUX _____

I have to say I am very excited about this membership report. The East is coming alive and showing the rest of the country we are not going to wait until the end this year to make our move.

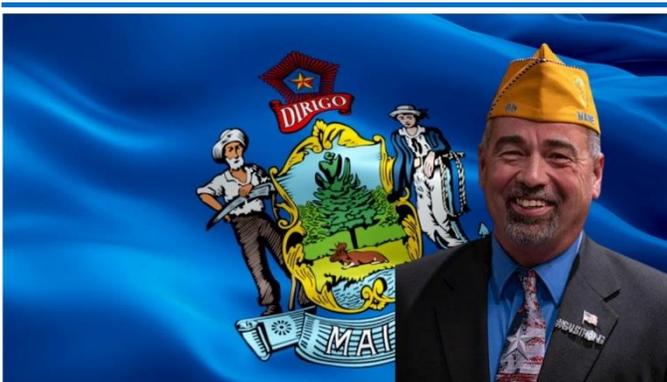
I noticed the last report but waited till this one came out and yes YOU are still on top in total paid membership now and that's where it begins gentlemen.

I don't know when the last time I saw a membership report and all five regions were all in the same ten percentile. The work is not over so don't lay down and think that it will go on its own because this happens because you are promoting the lifeblood of the organization.

Let's have fun with this and what seems like work will be enjoyable and we can start poking our counterparts into bringing the whole organization forward.

Please don't forget our renewal's or our buddy checks; this is the time of year everybody needs you.

Thank you for all you are doing.



RICHARD HUNTLEY
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
EASTERN REGION 2021-2022

dickie_huntley@hotmail.com

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Fourth Tuesday of each month
7:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Call In # (605) 313-4388
Access Code 346542

Eastern Region - Richard "Dickie" L. Huntley, Jr. (ME)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
RHODE ISLAND	316	202	63.92%
DIST OF COL	92	50	54.35%
MARYLAND	15,533	8,382	53.96%
CONNECTICUT	1,820	916	50.33%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	2,527	49.80%
FRANCE	233	115	49.36%
DELAWARE	2,229	1,099	49.30%
VERMONT	3,576	1,731	48.41%
NEW JERSEY	9,211	4,064	44.12%
NEW YORK	29,246	12,629	43.18%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	2,162	40.52%
MAINE	2,482	984	39.65%
PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	21,134	35.88%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	718	32.89%
Totals:	136,233	56,713	41.63%

as of December 9, 2021





JUAN TORRES
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
MIDWEST REGION 2021-2022

juanrtorres10@hotmail.com



JASON ROBERTS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
SOUTHERN REGION 2021-2022

roberts.jason215@gmail.com

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

First Tuesday of Each Month
 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time/8:00 p.m. Central
 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 Call in # (605) 313-5379
 Access Code 830520

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Second Tuesday of Each Month
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 Call In # (701) 802-5001
 Access Code 4720682

Midwest Region - Juan R. Torres (TX)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	687	65.30%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	809	58.62%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	518	56.55%
MONTANA	1,160	648	55.86%
NEBRASKA	6,959	3,523	50.63%
WYOMING	1,273	609	47.84%
KANSAS	6,424	2,951	45.94%
TEXAS	5,425	2,307	42.53%
MEXICO	26	11	42.31%
COLORADO	2,632	973	36.97%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	307	24.35%
Totals:	28,508	13,343	46.80%

as of December 9, 2021

Southern Region - Jason S. Roberts (GA)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
PUERTO RICO	88	70	79.55%
LOUISIANA	1,808	1,177	65.10%
GEORGIA	4,316	2,736	63.39%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	733	53.04%
TENNESSEE	1,681	874	51.99%
ALABAMA	2,020	1,021	50.54%
FLORIDA	20,745	10,484	50.54%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	1,141	43.57%
MISSISSIPPI	795	304	38.24%
ARKANSAS	468	177	37.82%
VIRGINIA	4,023	1,453	36.12%
KENTUCKY	2,648	902	34.06%
Totals:	42,593	21,072	49.47%

as of December 9, 2021



#SALSTRONG



JIM STEWART
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
WEST REGION 2021-2022

controller@bordertowncasinorv.com

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Fourth Wednesday of Each Month

6:00 p.m. Pacific Time/9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJp](https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09)

[NjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09](https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09)

Meeting ID: 965 6230 3887

Passcode: 795541

Find your local number:

[https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJp](https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09)

Western Region - Leslie "Jim" Stewart (NV)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
HAWAII	49	55	112.24%
IDAHO	606	336	55.45%
OREGON	1,317	676	51.33%
UTAH	492	248	50.41%
NEVADA	334	163	48.80%
CALIFORNIA	10,338	4,595	44.45%
WASHINGTON	2,086	868	41.61%
ALASKA	1,560	648	41.54%
ARIZONA	7,566	2,666	35.24%
PHILIPPINES	66	22	33.33%
Totals:	24,414	10,277	42.09%

as of December 9, 2021

WESTERN Rendezvous
Number Eight!

Tuscany Suites & Casino
 Reservations 1-877-887-2261
 Room Rates to be Determined
 SAL Rendezvous Reservation Code: 0122sons

Social Gathering On Friday, January 28th, 2022
Leadership Training On Saturday, January 29th, 2022
Lunch Is Served During Lunch Break On Saturday
- Let's have some fun in the sun -

Contact: Jim Stewart: (775) 848-6072 | controller@bordertowncasinorv.com
 Willy Williams: (541) 740-7145 | duliedriver1@aol.com



FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

As of Saturday, 173,792 flags have been placed to honor our veterans

Last week we gave all Detachments until the close of business on Wednesday (12/1) to get us their Flying Flags for Heroes information. I chose to wait until last night to see where we are. The information by state is below.

Please review the summary information ahead of the "by state" information. Further, we are going ahead with a meeting for all Detachment representatives on Monday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific. It will be a Zoom Meeting. Invites will go out tomorrow of Monday to all Detachment Contacts with a copy to all Detachment Commanders. Our expectation is that all Detachments will be represented.

Our need from you is that you please call each Detachment in your Area from whom we have no or incomplete information.

I will be having dinner with Commander Fox tomorrow evening and will be providing him with a full update.

Thanks in advance for your prompt turnaround on this.

- Number of Detachments with full information submitted: 26
- Number of Detachments with partial information submitted: 9
- Number of Detachments with NO information submitted: 17
- Current Cumulative Goal for Flag Placement: 701,163

*Tim Aboudara, Sr.,
National Service Project Director
Flying Flags for Heroes*

50th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion

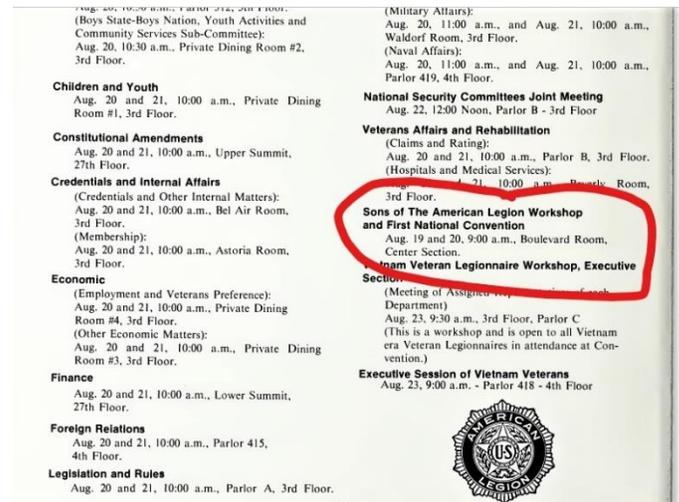
As the 2021-2022 National Historian for the Sons of The American Legion. Along with my duties of presenting a yearbook for National Commander Mike Fox, I have the great opportunity to of putting together a 50th National Convention Book for the Convention that will be held in Milwaukee in 2022. The book will include a page for each of the 50 national conventions and the commander's year of The Sons of The American Legion. This book will then be presented at no cost to every member attending the 50th Sons of The American Legion Convention Celebration Dinner.

For this to be a success, I need to collect, file, and preserve Sons of The American Legion historical information. Convention Pins, Newsletters, Certificates, Convention Ribbons, Convention Books, Officer Rosters, Scrapbooks, SAL Drum Corps, and Color Guard items, and/or Pictures of such activities are needed. As a past national convention attendee and so much more, do you have any National Convention Commander photos or activity photos from any National Convention you could share? If you cannot donate an item, just take a picture of it, and email it to me docbill@neo.rr.com or for more information.

I particularly need items for pre 1995 National Officers and National Conventions.

Thank you for this and all you have done,

Bill Towns, National Historian 2021-2022
330-571-1214 | docbill@neo.rr.com





MEETINGS AND REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

The National Call Schedule will be updated
as information becomes available.

50th Convention Commemoration Committee

Joseph Gladden (MD), Chairman

Advisory Committee

Robert McBride (OH), Chairman

Americanism Commission

Joseph Navarrete (NM), Chairman

Century Committee (CENTCOM)

Joe Paviglianti (NY), Chairman

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman

Third Wednesday of each month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call in # (605) 472-5332

Access Code: 808417

Online Meeting ID:

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/coolcameo>

Children & Youth Committee

James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman

Second Monday of each month

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82612571196?pwd=dERwNDJNcWwzNGgUYUJlMmpEMm53QT09>

Meeting ID: 826 1257 1196

Passcode: bJDV9V

Committee on Committees

Ron Roberts, (MS), Chairman

Convention Committee

Allen J. Watry (WI), Chairman

Meetings held as necessary

Call in # (857) 2320159

Access Code: 962347

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman

Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman

Member Training and Development Committee

Michael Monserud (IA), Chairman

First Monday of each month

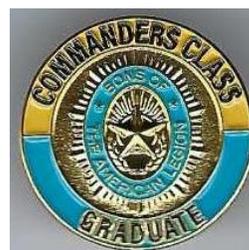
8:00 p.m. Eastern

Call in # (605) 468-8772

Access Code: 625764#

An update on what is going on with the Committee. NMI 1, and 3 are rewritten, and ready to go. NMI 2 is 85% complete. The National Vice Commander Class is receiving 2 corrections and then will be done. The new NEC class slide presentation is done, and we are waiting on the Legion version to compare it to for cross reference. Commanders Class is going to be held Friday morning at the National Convention. We are working on Instructors for all of the classes. NEC Class will have NEC Bob Brown (GA) and NEC Ron Roberts (MS) as the instructors. There will be a lot of interaction in the class as we are going to have you write and discuss and vote on a mock Resolution, along with teaching what it takes to be an NEC. We are going to ask for an additional call in Day as we want to hold the class Friday Morning at the Fall NEC.

In the next week or so I am going to send the Rules of the NEC, and I'm also going to send it to the Alt. NEC. This way you both can print it out and have a copy to look over at your convenience. I am also going to send out a list of the Candidates that we have for NMI-1. I want you to let me know if there are changes to that Candidate, and if there is none, we will be sending them an official invitation to attend NMI-1 at the Spring NEC.



We also developed a Commanders Class Pin. These will be awarded to Commanders Graduates starting at the National Convention. If you want to put forth a Candidate for NMI-1, I need to know by the end of the

month, so I can get them on the list, because we currently have 7 open spots, and I will fill them with alternates if there are not enough primary applicants. All of these classes that we are developing, and reworking will be sent to your Detachment Adjutant for use in training at your Detachment and Squadrons.

2022 SAL Membership Report as of: December 9, 2021

#	DETACHMENTS	2022 Mbsp. Goal	2022 Membership Needed for 45% Target	Total	% of Goal	2022 Renewal %
1	HAWAII	49	-33	55	112.24%	97.87
2	PUERTO RICO	88	-30	70	79.55%	80.00
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	-214	687	65.30%	56.62
4	LOUISIANA	1,808	-363	1,177	65.10%	60.28
5	RHODE ISLAND	316	-60	202	63.92%	49.35
6	GEORGIA	4,316	-794	2,736	63.39%	55.29
7	WISCONSIN	3,914	-625	2,386	60.96%	57.89
8	OKLAHOMA	1,380	-188	809	58.62%	52.49
9	IOWA	4,571	-594	2,651	58.00%	55.18
10	NORTH DAKOTA	916	-106	518	56.55%	53.25
11	MONTANA	1,160	-126	648	55.86%	52.79
12	IDAHO	606	-63	336	55.45%	48.06
13	ILLINOIS	13,602	-1,345	7,466	54.89%	52.00
14	DIST OF COL	92	-9	50	54.35%	44.94
15	MARYLAND	15,533	-1,392	8,382	53.96%	49.55
16	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	-111	733	53.04%	46.67
17	TENNESSEE	1,681	-118	874	51.99%	38.72
18	OREGON	1,317	-83	676	51.33%	42.68
19	NEBRASKA	6,959	-391	3,523	50.63%	48.74
20	ALABAMA	2,020	-112	1,021	50.54%	42.51
21	FLORIDA	20,745	-1,149	10,484	50.54%	43.27
22	UTAH	492	-27	248	50.41%	42.54
23	CONNECTICUT	1,820	-97	916	50.33%	44.92
24	MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	-244	2,527	49.80%	43.88
25	FRANCE	233	-10	115	49.36%	48.89
26	DELAWARE	2,229	-96	1,099	49.30%	42.74
27	MISSOURI	3,211	-131	1,576	49.08%	44.07
28	NEVADA	334	-13	163	48.80%	42.27
29	VERMONT	3,576	-122	1,731	48.41%	43.20
30	WYOMING	1,273	-36	609	47.84%	37.81
31	OHIO	29,946	-325	13,801	46.09%	42.73
32	KANSAS	6,424	-60	2,951	45.94%	42.90
33	MINNESOTA	11,091	6	4,985	44.95%	41.80
34	CALIFORNIA	10,338	57	4,595	44.45%	38.58
35	NEW JERSEY	9,211	81	4,064	44.12%	40.20
36	NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	38	1,141	43.57%	36.77
37	NEW YORK	29,246	532	12,629	43.18%	39.41
38	TEXAS	5,425	134	2,307	42.53%	35.66
39	MEXICO	26	1	11	42.31%	40.00
40	WASHINGTON	2,086	71	868	41.61%	33.67
41	ALASKA	1,560	54	648	41.54%	33.20
42	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	239	2,162	40.52%	37.12
43	MAINE	2,482	133	984	39.65%	35.00
44	MISSISSIPPI	795	54	304	38.24%	31.10
45	ARKANSAS	468	34	177	37.82%	32.75
46	INDIANA	36,657	2,683	13,813	37.68%	34.91
47	MICHIGAN	21,985	1,632	8,261	37.58%	30.89
48	COLORADO	2,632	211	973	36.97%	31.34
49	VIRGINIA	4,023	357	1,453	36.12%	31.35
50	PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	5,372	21,134	35.88%	32.77
51	ARIZONA	7,566	739	2,666	35.24%	28.71
52	KENTUCKY	2,648	290	902	34.06%	29.63
53	PHILIPPINES	66	8	22	33.33%	30.77
54	WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	264	718	32.89%	27.78
55	NEW MEXICO	1,261	260	307	24.35%	18.67
Grand Totals:		356,725	4,182	156,344	43.83%	39.38

Membership Committee
Thom Skelley (TX), Chairman
 Third Tuesday of each month
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 Call In # (605) 472-5756
 Access Code 7717294



The latest Membership Report shows another four Detachments at the 45% goal, bringing the total to 32, with three others within 1%!!! GREAT JOB!!! We are only 4192 members away from reaching our National goal, and with a few days left, I am confident we can reach the mark.

A reminder, our monthly conference call will be Tuesday December 21 at 8:00 p.m. EST. Looking forward to a great call and a fantastic end to 2021.

Special Message. The purpose of this message is two-fold. First, our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the devastating tornadoes that ripped through parts of the Midwest and South last week, especially to our members and members of The American Legion.

Secondly, please help spread the word that in order for a member to apply for financial assistance through the National Emergency Fund (NEF) they have to be a member in good standing (current membership is paid) at the time that the disaster occurred AND at the time when they apply for assistance. This past week's weather reminds us that no one knows when or where tragedy can strike. Let's make sure that our comrades are able to take advantage of this valuable benefit by ensuring that they are, and will remain members of the Sons of The American Legion.



**Public and Media
 Communications Commission**
Matthew F. Parsons (CA), Chairman

**Sub-Committee
 on Resolutions**
Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

**Veterans Affairs
 & Rehabilitation Commission**
Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman

Fourth Monday of each month
 7:00 p.m. Central Time/8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
 Meeting ID: 845 1668 0686
 Passcode: 243945

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Chuck Treat (AX), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

6:00 p.m. Mountain Time/8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (605) 468-8774

Access Code 5662904

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/natlsalvee>



MICHAEL FOX
NATIONAL COMMANDER
2021-2022

AMERICAN LEGION

New Legion brand mark

The American Legion
DEC 03, 2021

A new era of American Legion identity has begun.

The American Legion brand mark is now available for a variety of promotional uses – from social media channels to membership drives – and can be [downloaded here](#).

The logo does not replace the 1919-patented official emblem of the organization, which remains in use for official documents, memorial observances, uniforms, and post signage.

“The American Legion brand mark was created to modernize our image to appeal to a new generation of veterans,” American Legion Chief Marketing Officer Dean Kessel said. “We launched this vivid new design on the American Legion-sponsored 48 car during the 2021 NTT INDYCAR Racing Series, and millions of fans got to see it every race. It’s clear, sharp, and effective, even at 225 mph. The design has gotten rave reviews, and now we are ready to advance it to all levels of The American Legion.”

The American Legion Marketing Division has established guidance to help departments and posts choose when to use the brand mark and when the official emblem is more appropriate.

The brand mark is to be displayed in all marketing communications, such as:

- Advertising
- Lifestyle apparel (such as polo shirts and ball caps)
- Community service activities
- Fundraising
- Sponsorships
- Membership recruitment materials
- Digital media
- Social media
- Updated post signage
- Event announcements
- E-mail signature lines

The American Legion emblem is reserved for official organization communications, such as:

- Legal documents
- Policy statements
- Official reports
- Press releases
- Business cards
- Traditional post signage
- Financial documents
- Official letterhead

Kessel explained that brand marks are often successfully used to promote organizations and institutions that similarly have, and keep, time-honored seals, including all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The American Legion Marketing Division studied the effectiveness of those brand marks during a three-month design-development process that involved focus group input earlier in 2021.

“When it comes to communications for events, recruitment and other marketing functions, the brand marks of the military branches are most familiar and positively recognized by the public, the official seals less so,” Kessel said. “This is fast proving true for The American Legion brand mark, which now appears on the national American Legion website, social media, e-newsletters and a growing number of promotional materials.”

Like the emblem, the brand mark is legally protected property of The American Legion National Headquarters. Any use outside of the organization – such as merchandising, marketing by groups unaffiliated with The American Legion or at political events – is legally restricted and requires authorization from the national adjutant.

The same rules of permission to use the official emblem apply to the brand mark. Those rules, along with an online application form, can be found at www.legion.org/emblem/request on the national American Legion website.

“Just like the emblem, the new brand mark should never be used in political rallies for candidates or to promote organizations and events unassociated with The American Legion, without prior written authorization,” Kessel said.

In the months ahead, new apparel, flags, signs, and other materials adorned with the new brand mark will be available and promoted through Emblem Sales. The national portfolio of membership-recruitment media is also now being refreshed to display the new mark.

[Join Our Action Campaign: Write Your Representative Now](#)

Those who made the Greatest Generation truly great are nearly gone. According to VA’s 2021 statistics, less than three hundred thousand remain of the 16 million U.S. veterans who served during World War II. Most of these veterans are already using VA services – The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics notes that in 2016 VA’s benefits utilization rate for male World War II veterans was 73.6% and 67.3% for female veterans.

You can recognize these remaining heroes with actions far more meaningful than words. The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 exempted all veterans who served during the Mexican Border Period and World War I from the means test required to enter the VA health care system. It is

time to do the same for our World War II veterans.

H.R. 5562, the *WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility Act* would exempt WWII veterans from the means test needed to receive VA healthcare services. It would afford WWII veterans accessibility to the same VA healthcare services received by Spanish-American War and WWI veterans. Senator Menendez (D-NJ) has supported these efforts by introducing S.1040, the Senate companion to this bill.

S.1040 has ten bipartisan cosponsors and H.R. 5562 has three cosponsors. In July, S.1040 was ordered out of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee favorably without amendment and is now awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor. Likewise, in October, H.R. 5562 was included for consideration in a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing. Time is running out; it is vital H.R. 5562 or S.1040 is signed into law as swiftly as possible. This is why The American Legion has always vociferously supported this legislation.

Please urge your elected officials to support this critical and time-sensitive legislation by cosponsoring H.R. 5562 or S.1040. It takes just a few moments [by visiting this link](#).

We appreciate your support of our nation’s veterans of the Greatest Generation.

Membership: Recruiting is a promise; retaining is delivering on that promise

By Jay Bowen, Membership & Post Activities chairman
DEC 03, 2021



American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard’s theme is “No Veteran Left Behind.” Those words have been at the very core of our existence as the premier veteran service organization since our inception in 1919.

Decade after decade, we have delivered on the promise of taking care of our veterans while continuing our honest and faithful service to this great nation.

Our strength in advocating for those few selfless Americans, who currently wear and have worn the uniform of our nation, has always been our unified voice. That voice is projected in the halls of Congress and in our local communities by our membership body.

We must maintain the quality of our ranks. But to preserve the legacy of our American Legion in veteran advocacy we must maintain the quantity in our ranks as well. Our time is now.

The American Legion has been the tip of the spear in every challenge our veteran population has faced since the horrors experienced in World War I. Every few decades a crisis in our military ranks occurs that we have addressed head on. We have delivered quality health care, education, and dignified treatment for our veterans. We have delivered so much more, but our work never ends and never will. For every generation of warfighter, there are new challenges that must be addressed.

Our mission is enduring.

Over 800,000 brave Americans have served in Afghanistan. Our veterans, many suffering from the visible and invisible scars of that war, may have or are having a crisis of identity. We recognize that a fellow veteran shaking their hand, telling them that their service mattered, and expressing a love that can only be shared among a warrior culture means the world to them.

We, The American Legion, are the destination for those veterans who may face that existential crisis of identity. We, The American Legion, are the family that must embrace our fellow servicemembers and help solve this generation's most profound crisis: veteran suicide.

Working membership is never ending. We are recruiting from an extraordinarily small pool of selfless Americans who served this nation during a critical time in their lives when many still must work to pay the bills and be available to tend to their children.

We are asked to offer those veterans a sense of community they may not even be aware they need yet.

Once we recruit them into our ranks, we must work diligently to give them cause to continue their membership.

We know there are challenges to recruiting and retention, but facing challenge is wired into our DNA. We, as veterans, are defined by our willingness and ability to overcome extraordinary challenges.

Our greatest recruiting and retention tool is honesty. Our mandate is to simply be the best version of a veteran service organization possible, guided by our principles and our four pillars.

It means we work tirelessly to improve our standing in the communities we serve. It means that we are there, at the point of friction, when the veteran needs us. We meet them where they need us, not where it's convenient for us. It means that we work to provide solutions to problems — past, present, and future. We take care of our own. We conduct Buddy Checks on all veterans, not just members! We show that we care so that all veterans can find home in our ranks.

To be the loudest voice, to make sure that no veteran is left behind, we must refresh our ranks regularly with future leaders of this organization. Membership and post activities is not only what we do, but who we are. We must continue to offer training to our departments and posts and give them the tools they need to grow their membership and become more active. It is only through consistent post activities that will sustain our membership.

National Commander Dillard has asked us to put our best foot forward and recruit 103 percent of last year's goal. He has asked us to retain 90 percent of our members so that we can develop those future leaders and continue our advocacy on Capitol Hill. You can read more about this membership effort at www.legion.org/dispatch in my November Dispatch message titled "Membership renewal challenge."

As a reminder, the 80 percent membership target date is Jan. 20, 2022. Let's meet that target!

I also want to see lots of Post Honor Ribbons awarded to posts whose membership for the current membership year (as of December 31) achieves an advance membership (for the year about to begin) equal to or greater than the final membership for the year ending.

As you may have heard before, recruiting veterans into The American Legion is about making a promise to take care of them. Retaining them in The American Legion is about delivering on that promise.

I humbly ask that you join me in the effort to grow our ranks, develop our future leaders, and to pledge another 100 years as the world's premier veteran service organization.

**Help new members
feel appreciated**

The American Legion
DEC 03, 2021

Welcoming a new member into your American Legion post is important to help create an active member and for renewal purposes. The American Legion has a New Member Kit for \$6.95 each through Emblem Sales, www.emblem.legion.org, Item No. 735.501.

The kit includes:

- A welcome letter from the national commander
- Certificate of Initiation
- Gold-plated membership lapel tack
- American flag window sticker
- Legion removable window decal
- Legion key ring

The American Legion Certificate of Initiation also can be purchased through Emblem Sales alone. The item No. is 733.122.

As a student, Frank Poirier shared during the 2020 National Legion College class last month that his Post 101 in Somers, Conn., provides a Certificate of Initiation for each new member. If the new member lives in town, then post members visit their home to present it.



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