



Round-Up

A Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion



Volume 3 – Issue 121– February 20, 2022

SAL meets membership target



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

TO: NATIONAL OFFICERS, DETACHMENT COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS
FROM: ANTHONY W. WRIGHT (PA), NATIONAL ADJUTANT
SUBJECT: 75% - MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE

“ **CONGRATULATIONS** ”

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS SO FAR THIS MEMBERSHIP YEAR. OUR STANDINGS AS OF OUR **75%** MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE (2-16-2022) ARE POSTED BELOW:

2022 MEMBERSHIP GOAL:	356,725
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP:	279,799
PERCENTAGE OF GOAL:	78.44%
RENEWAL PERCENTAGE:	70.71%
DETACHMENTS MAKING GOAL:	36

ALABAMA	FLORIDA	MAINE	MISSOURI	OHIO	SOUTH CAROLINA
ALASKA	GEORGIA	MARYLAND	NEBRASKA	OKLAHOMA	SOUTH DAKOTA
CALIFORNIA	HAWAII	MASSACHUSETTS	NEW HAMPSHIRE	OREGON	TENNESSEE
CONNECTICUT	ILLINOIS	MEXICO	NEW YORK	PENNSYLVANIA	VERMONT
DELAWARE	IOWA	MICHIGAN	NORTH CAROLINA	PUERTO RICO	WISCONSIN
DIST OF COL	LOUISIANA	MINNESOTA	NORTH DAKOTA	RHODE ISLAND	WYOMING

GREAT JOB!!

THE REMAINING DETACHMENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE THIS MEMBERSHIP GOAL SOON!

NEXT SCHEDULED RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED: APRIL 22, 2022 (3RD OF 3)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: MARCH 9, 2022 (80%)

RENEWAL IS THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS

MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



Round-Up

A Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion



AMERICAN LEGION

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 each Friday.



SAL membership reports are available [here](#)



New era of education calls for GI Bill changes

FEB 16, 2022

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

The promise of a meaningful, free, or low-cost education after military service is among the top reasons young men and women choose the U.S. Armed Forces. In that way, the GI Bill is both an incentive to join and an expression of gratitude to those who voluntarily devote a portion of their lives to defend our nation.

Education, however, has changed substantially in the last five years. In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, it continues to evolve at a rapid rate. More than 4 million students – and climbing – are enrolled in virtual off-campus classes, and their completion and success rates generally exceed those of students in traditional classroom settings.

This evolution has been extremely important to veterans and currently serving military personnel seeking college degrees or credentials in skilled trades. Virtual learning allows them the flexibility to work, serve, train, travel and raise families while pursuing higher educations. Studies have also shown that online classes improved student retention rates and reduced the amount of time required to finish a degree.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TARGET DATE



March 9, 2022

The GI Bill, however, has not kept up with changes in this landscape. VA regulations and definitions of “distance learning” and “independent study” do not match the world in which we now live, nor even the Department of Education’s own definitions of the same terms.

[The American Legion recently completed a study examining the new era of virtual education](#), specifically as it applies to veterans using their GI Bill benefits. In some instances, confusion over definitions – many of which are outdated in GI Bill regulations – can prevent veterans from applying their education benefits.

In order for the GI Bill to continue successfully attracting young men and women to serve, and in order for it to truly express gratitude to veterans for the time they have devoted to our defense, VA rules must be brought up to speed with the rest of modern education and stay on top of new developments. No one looks for this pattern of increased virtual education to ever end or reverse course, so it’s vital to veterans that discrepancies in the rules are regularly addressed.

We all remember the reason the Post-9/11 GI Bill was passed in 2008. The benefits package for veterans had simply fallen out of step with modern education. Simple changes, and regular review in a fast-changing world, can prevent that from happening again.

For God and Country,

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

Sign up for American Legion Flag Alerts

The American Legion
AUG 13, 2019



Interested American Legion Family members, patriots, supporters, and others are now able to subscribe to the organization’s text alerts when the flag has been ordered to fly at half-staff.

To receive text messages for the flag alerts, follow the simple two-step process. First, to subscribe to the Flag Alerts, send the text "Flag" to 534466. You will be asked to verify with "Y". Once that is complete, you will receive the text alerts.

If you no longer want to receive these notifications, text STOP to 534466 to cancel the service.

For more information, text HELP to 534466.

Please note that data rates may apply. Depending on your text plan, you may be charged by your carrier.

You may also subscribe to flag alert notifications via email. To subscribe to the Flag Alert and any of our other e-newsletters [visit this page](#).



MEETINGS AND REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

The National Call Schedule will continue to 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*

Fourth Thursday of each month
7:30 p.m. Eastern | 6:30 p.m. Central
5:30 p.m. Mountain | 4:30 p.m. Pacific
Call in # (508) 924 3315
Access Code: NONE

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/x19ct26>

Conference Call Schedule:

February 24, 2022
March 24, 2022 | April 28, 2022
May 27, 2022 | June 23, 2022
July 28, 2022 | August 25, 2022

Community Service Scrapbook and History Book Contest

*Joseph Navarrete, Chairman
National Americanism Commission*

Continue your year off right and keep collecting information for your Community Service Scrapbook or History book. Squadrons, Districts, and even Detachments can enter the Americanism Commission’s Community Service Scrapbook and/or Histo-

ry book Contest. Please see pages 29-36 in the SAL Administrative Manual for complete criteria, rules, judging, points, and deadline information. The manual is available online at <http://www.legion.org/sal>.

Books must be properly bound so there are no loose pages, they must be typed or neatly written, spelling and grammar must be correct, and the information presented must be in chronological order. All submissions must have dates and descriptions and only articles taking place this year may be submitted for judging. Points will be awarded according to this, and other criteria listed in the manual.

The usual deadline is just prior to the Pre-Convention NEC Meeting, likely to be due on August 26, 2022. You mail your completed scrap or history book to National Headquarters, Sons of The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 with a return receipt requested.

Scrap and history books are judged from the criteria in the SAL Manual by the Americanism Commission members present at the Pre-NEC Convention Meeting. Winners are recognized at the convention.

The Americanism Commission would love to see many Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments enter. Start by collecting those photos, news articles, and information on your events early so you can compile your scrap and/or history book as the year progresses and you'll be ready by the August deadline.

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: 808 417

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=dERwNDJNcWwzNG9UYUJlMmpEMm53QT09>

Meeting ID: 826 1257 1196

Passcode: bJDV9V

Watch the National Children & Youth Academy promo video [HERE](#)

Committee on Committees

Ron Roberts, (MS), Chairman

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman



FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

Tim Aboudara, Sr.,

National Service Project Coordinator

**As of Saturday, 184,362 flags
have been placed and reported
to honor our veterans**

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman

Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman

First Thursday of each month

7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call in # (267) 807-9601

Access Code 988 284 103#



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#

MT&D has been busy since the close of the Fall NEC in Indianapolis. The following list is what has been accomplished from your committee this year:

1. National Vice Commander Class reviewed and updated.
2. NMI 1-3 updated.
3. NEC class being developed.
4. Commanders Class held, and now being moved to National Convention, and a Commanders Class Pin was developed for all future Graduates.
5. NMI lists have been received and reviewed and invitations will be sent out within 1 month.

The Committee is also in the beginning stages of developing a new training that will align our training with The American Legion. We are in the process of writing a Resolution to develop SAL University, which will replace NMI, will be held in Indianapolis, and will look like American Legion College, but a shorter version. Instead of a 3-year commitment, we are going to ask for a 3-day commitment.

NMI-1 this year will be able to finish the NMI program before the change. There is more training in the works, but some things are still in discussion.

Your MT&D Committee is actively working to train the organization, so if you see a need for a class, reach out to MT&D Chairman Mike Monserud at mikemonserud@gmail.com and communicate the need.

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



Another target date met and exceeded!! Once again, your dedication has paid off, as 36 Detachments and 4 Regions have met and exceeded the February target date. We are 12k+ members ahead of schedule with no signs of slowing down.

As always, keep the faith, keep up the hard work and KEEP THAT MEMBERSHIP ROLLING IN!!

A quick reminder that our next target is 80% on March 9.

2022 SAL 75% Target Date Report as of: February 16, 2022

#	Detachment	2022 Det. Year End Goal	Needed to Meet 75% Target 2/16/2022	2022 Actual Mbsp.	% of Year End Goal	2022 Renewal %
1	HAWAII	49	-19	56	114.29%	100.00
2	PUERTO RICO	88	-27	93	105.68%	104.65
3	DIST OF COL	92	-23	92	100.00%	77.53
4	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	-233	1,022	97.15%	74.36
5	NORTH DAKOTA	916	-171	858	93.67%	90.84
6	MEXICO	26	-4	23	88.46%	56.00
7	RHODE ISLAND	316	-40	277	87.66%	69.68
8	VERMONT	3,576	-338	3,020	84.45%	74.79
9	NEBRASKA	6,959	-612	5,831	83.79%	80.60
10	ALABAMA	2,020	-174	1,689	83.61%	69.57
11	DELAWARE	2,229	-191	1,863	83.58%	74.12
12	IOWA	4,571	-368	3,796	83.05%	77.35
13	MICHIGAN	21,985	-1,738	18,227	82.91%	71.21
14	WISCONSIN	3,914	-290	3,225	82.40%	75.99
15	MARYLAND	15,533	-1,094	12,744	82.04%	75.48
16	MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	-347	4,152	81.83%	72.37
17	PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	-3,734	47,910	81.34%	75.42
18	CONNECTICUT	1,820	-103	1,468	80.66%	71.72
19	MAINE	2,482	-135	1,996	80.42%	72.74
20	FLORIDA	20,745	-1,016	16,575	79.90%	68.17
21	OHIO	29,946	-1,438	23,897	79.80%	73.95
22	MINNESOTA	11,091	-512	8,830	79.61%	73.16
23	ILLINOIS	13,602	-617	10,818	79.53%	74.30
24	GEORGIA	4,316	-173	3,410	79.01%	68.09
25	LOUISIANA	1,808	-69	1,425	78.82%	72.13
26	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	-47	1,083	78.36%	68.37
27	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	-179	4,181	78.35%	70.25
28	NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	-74	2,038	77.82%	64.40
29	WYOMING	1,273	-28	983	77.22%	61.82
30	TENNESSEE	1,681	-28	1,289	76.68%	59.18
31	NEW YORK	29,246	-488	22,422	76.67%	69.68
32	OREGON	1,317	-20	1,008	76.54%	64.60
33	MISSOURI	3,211	-49	2,457	76.52%	68.38
34	ALASKA	1,560	-18	1,188	76.15%	60.24
35	OKLAHOMA	1,380	-15	1,050	76.09%	65.83
36	CALIFORNIA	10,338	-31	7,784	75.30%	65.38
37	WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	5	1,632	74.76%	62.90
38	INDIANA	36,657	353	27,140	74.04%	69.26
39	ARKANSAS	468	5	346	73.93%	62.75
40	VIRGINIA	4,023	60	2,957	73.50%	63.87
41	NEVADA	334	6	245	73.35%	63.08
42	ARIZONA	7,566	137	5,538	73.20%	60.64
43	NEW JERSEY	9,211	209	6,699	72.73%	66.07
44	COLORADO	2,632	63	1,911	72.61%	62.63
45	IDAHO	606	22	433	71.45%	61.73
46	KANSAS	6,424	243	4,575	71.22%	66.12
47	MONTANA	1,160	47	823	70.95%	67.58
48	WASHINGTON	2,086	86	1,479	70.90%	58.72
49	UTAH	492	31	338	68.70%	58.78
50	TEXAS	5,425	348	3,721	68.59%	58.18
51	MISSISSIPPI	795	81	515	64.78%	50.97
52	KENTUCKY	2,648	281	1,705	64.39%	54.75
53	NEW MEXICO	1,261	154	792	62.81%	48.29
54	FRANCE	233	42	133	57.08%	56.89
55	PHILIPPINES	66	13	37	56.06%	53.85
Grand Totals:		356,725	-12,255	279,799	78.44%	70.71

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP LEAGUE STANDINGS

Region	Points
Central Capitals	50
South Force	50
Midwest Monsters	40
National Gold	40
East Beasts	30
West Commanders	15

as of 02/20/22

National Convention Committee

Allen J. Watry (WI), Chairman

awatry@mindspring.com

Meetings held as necessary

Call in # (857) 2320159

Access Code: 962347

Public and Media Communications Commission

Matthew F. Parsons (CA), Chairman

matt.f.parsons@gmail.com

Fourth Monday of Each Month

5:00 p.m. Pacific Time/9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9831747351?pwd=b3VFMmNEVkhNT2lqTE5EbFQ5YUxQQTo9>

[FMmNEVkhNT2lqTE5EbFQ5YUxQQTo9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9831747351?pwd=b3VFMmNEVkhNT2lqTE5EbFQ5YUxQQTo9)

Meeting ID: 983 174 7351

Passcode: SAL

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 (AZ), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

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

Call In # (508) 924-3315

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/x19ct26>

March 16, 2022

April 20, 2022 | May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022 | July 17, 2022

August 25, 2022

From the National Historian

Plans for the 50th National Convention Celebration have always included giving you, the member, the most information, and interaction possible by invit-

ing all members to participate in donating thoughts, pictures, and memorabilia. Whereas the Fifty National Conventions Book will include activities at National Conventions only, the Fifty Conventions Memorial Wall will include activities throughout the years.

One section on the wall which pictures are still needed is from Detachment Commanders and their year. Please take and submit pictures of any National or Detachment Commanders' pins, mugs, cups, or campaign handouts, to fill a small section of the Memorial Wall. Any individual can submit photos of past activities. It does not have to be an on-stage event.

Pictures of delegates enjoying (non-alcohol) activities are encouraged. Submissions should include as much information as possible (Who, What, When, Where).

Another item needed is a list of National Convention Award Recipients from each year. Let me know if you have this list or if there is one.

As deadline times are nearing, we must ask that those waiting for the last minute, please take the opportunity now to send your information in. Past National Commanders which have not yet submitted your questionnaire, please do so. PNC's, you will each have a convention page, it might as well be in your words.

Send all questions and digital submissions to docbill@neo.rr.com. Those wanting to donate historical Sons of The American Legion documents, pictures, or memorabilia, that you are no longer able to keep, or your heirs will not take please ship them to Bill Towns, 16362 Freed St. SE. Minerva, Ohio 44657.

If we don't tell them, how will they know?



BUDDY CHECK

LET THEM KNOW WE CARE!



REGIONAL UPDATES

within one percentage point of 75%. Three of our Detachments, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin have passed the 80% mark. Great things are happening, and you should all be proud of your hard work on our membership program. Keep up the efforts, they are being recognized nationally.

Let's keep our momentum going and take over first place again!

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!!!



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

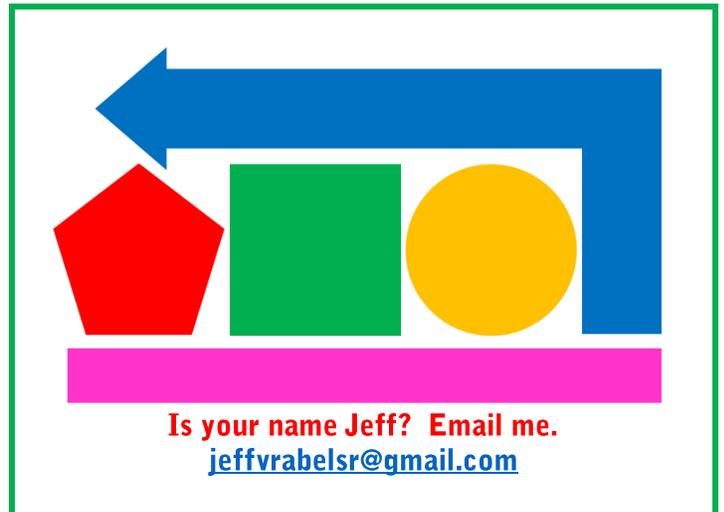
Third Thursday of each month

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

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

Call In # (425) 436-6280

Access Code 464549*



The race is on! There is a big battle going on in the Central Region right now between Iowa and Wisconsin, each battling for quota, and both with less than 775 members needed to reach the mark. The next few weeks will be very interesting.

I want to congratulate the entire Central Region, as we collectively met the February 16 national target date, and currently stand at 78.73%. Seven of our eight Detachments are at 76.52% or higher, and one



PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE

2022 Central Region Membership Report

2022 MEMBERSHIP					02/16/22
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Eastern 6	136,233	108,589	27,644	79.71%	2,189
2 Central 4, 6	124,977	98,390	26,587	78.73%	1,935
3 Southern 3, 4, 5, 6	42,593	33,125	9,468	77.77%	560
4 Midwest 3, 4	28,508	21,589	6,919	75.73%	466
5 Western 4	24,414	18,106	6,308	74.16%	520
TOTALS	356,725	279,799	76,926	78.44%	5,670

Membership ahead/behind prior year target date N/A

Central Region - Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH)						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank
1 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,571	3,796	775	83.05%	63	12
2 Michigan 1, 5, 6, 7	21,985	18,227	3,758	82.91%	367	13
3 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,914	3,225	689	82.40%	51	14
7 Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6	29,946	23,897	6,049	79.80%	649	21
4 Minnesota 1, 4, 5, 6	11,091	8,830	2,261	79.61%	46	22
Illinois 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	13,602	10,818	2,784	79.53%	354	23
6 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3,211	2,457	754	76.52%	20	33
8 Indiana 1	36,657	27,140	9,517	74.04%	385	38
TOTALS	124,977	98,390	22,054	78.73%	1,505	

Q = Quota

- 1 Met 09/22/21 goal of 10%
- 2 Met 10/14/21 goal of 25%
- 3 Met 11/10/21 goal of 35%
- 4 Met 12/08/21 goal of 45%
- 5 Met 01/21/22 goal of 60%
- 6 Met 02/09/22 goal of 75% - DATE REVISED TO 02/16/22
- 7 Met 03/09/22 goal of 80%
- 8 Met 04/13/22 goal of 90%
- 9 Met 05/11/22 goal of 100%
- 10 Met 07/28/22 goal of 105%

Red Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Iowa	4,571	3,796	775	83.05%	3.86%
Wisconsin	3,914	3,225	689	82.40%	3.28%
Missouri	3,211	2,457	2,405	76.52%	2.50%
TOTALS	7,125	5,682	3,094	79.75%	5.77%

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Minnesota	11,091	8,830	2,261	79.61%	8.97%
Illinois	13,602	10,818	2,784	79.53%	11.00%
TOTALS	13,602	10,818	2,784	79.53%	11.00%

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Michigan	21,985	18,227	3,758	82.91%	18.53%
Ohio	29,946	23,897	6,049	79.80%	24.29%
Indiana	36,657	27,140	9,517	74.04%	27.58%
TOTALS	66,603	51,037	15,566	76.63%	51.87%



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.

		02/16/22
Detachment		Renewal %
1 Iowa		77.35%
2 Wisconsin		75.99%
3 Illinois		74.30%
4 Ohio		73.95%
5 Minnesota		73.16%
6 Michigan		71.21%
7 Indiana		69.26%
8 Missouri		68.38%
NATIONAL		70.71%

Congratulations for reaching our 75% goal; our numbers are great, but our renewals are down. We need to pass down to our Squadrons to contact their members who have not paid their dues and find out if they need help or did they forget.

With all the numbers in recruitment, there should be more IRA's sent in to me so they may receive an award pin for their accomplishments. Don't forget about the Blue Brigade recruiter award.

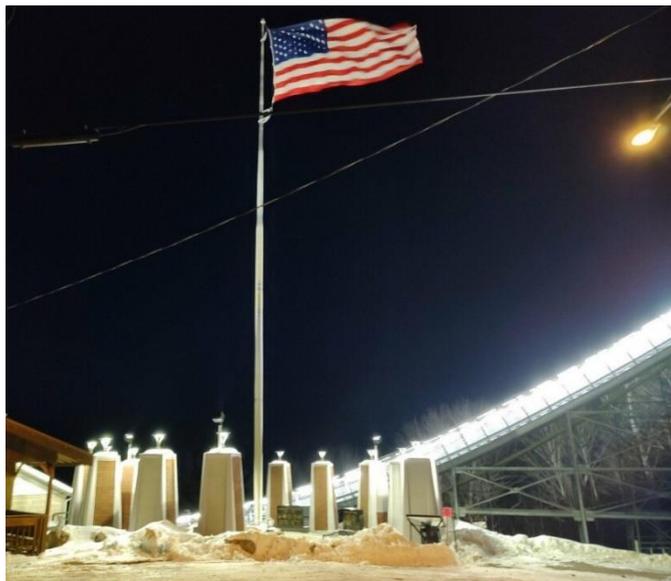
The race between the Regions is close, the Central Region is in second place but were all within a couple of percentage points from each other. Keep up the good work.

For God and Country,

David Mennel, Membership Chairman
Central Region



Upper Peninsula War Memorial Update The new lights are shining bright at the U. P. War Memorial



The Upper Peninsula Veterans War Memorial is shining more brightly these days after a major upgrade in lighting for the park atop Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain Michigan.

Contributions from roughly a dozen sponsors and the public allowed the U.P. Veterans War Memorial and Park Committee to invest about \$8,000 for lights atop all 12 obelisks in the display, with another three illuminating the American flag and one added at the POW/MIA monument this past fall.

“We’re very fortunate that we live in the Upper Peninsula, because people are very generous,” memorial co-founder and Past State Sons of the American Legion Commander Dennis Larson said. “Even after nightfall, visitors now should be able to read the roughly 2,000 veterans’ names etched on brick pavers set in the obelisks, Larson said. The flag now is completely visible through the night.” “It’s beautiful. It’s the same kind of lights as on the ski jump,” Larson said. G. Brooks Electric of Iron Mountain did the installation, including wiring and mounting the lights, in October.

With the lighting project done, Larson now hopes to enlist an Eagle Scout or other volunteers to develop an alphabetical listing of where each veteran’s paver is located — down to the side and row on the obelisks — so visitors don’t have to search the memorial.

All of the pavers now have been mounted on the obelisks after a delay due to the COVID pandemic, Larson added. The committee also could use groups or individuals willing to purchase new American flags for the memorial, as they cost about \$550 and on average need to be replaced twice a year, he said. Those who want to help contact Larson at 906-221-9373 or Mail a Check C/O U.P. Veterans Memorial, 609 Kennedy Road, Iron Mountain, Michigan. 49801.

A sleepout in the elements – and for a good cause

The American Legion
FEB 16, 2022



Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin Facebook photo

A few years ago, members of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 294 in Hartland, Wis., discussed the idea of staging an event to raise awareness about veteran homelessness. Discussions were tabled until 2020, when Squadron 294 Commander Mark Pape said, “We took the bull by the horns and said, ‘We’re going to do it this year. We’re going to make it happen.’”

The first event took place that year, with members of Post 294’s American Legion Family sleeping outside of the post in tents and cardboard boxes in frigid February temperatures. Another “Sleepout for Veterans” took place in 2021, as did one Feb. 11-13, when around 30 people slept outside for two nights in temperatures that ranged from the high 20s to single digits.

Pape said choosing to sleep outside during the Wisconsin winter made a bigger impact. “Anybody can sleep out in May or June,” he said. “So, the idea came up that we’d sleep out in February in cardboard boxes, small tents and small shelters to simulate what the homeless go through. What they have to deal with every day – especially in the winter-time.”

Squadron 294 uses the event as a fundraiser to benefit two Wisconsin agencies that provide support to homeless veterans, splitting the money evenly between the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI) and Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin (VOW). The MHVI offers six programs to assist veterans, including providing food, furniture and household necessities, a women veteran initiative and case management.

VOW's program in Racine provides a village of tiny homes for veterans, along with a food market and trauma-informed programming.

During the initial "Sleepout for Veterans" in 2020, Modern Woodmen – a fraternal financial services organization with an office in Hartland – offered to match the first \$2,500 raised by Squadron 294. "So that was our goal: \$5,000. If we make a little more, so be it," Pape said. "Our first year we raised \$20,000 on the two-night sleepout. We were just getting our feet wet, kind of sticking our toes in the water and not knowing what to expect. And the community just came out and supported us. We did clothing drives and food drives, and besides the \$20,000 we raised ... we filled box vans full of food and clothing that we sent to each of these organizations."

Squadron 294 set a goal in 2021 of topping its 2020 effort. But when all the totaling was finished, their event had raised double that amount, hitting \$40,000 – again splitting the money evenly between VOW and MHVI.

So far, this year's event has raised \$46,000, with what Pape said is at least another \$5,000 yet to be collected. That doesn't include the clothing and food again that was donated during the three days. Pape said he believes the fundraiser has been so successful for multiple reasons. One, Squadron 294 has turned it into event that includes live music on Friday and Saturday nights for those who attend and wish to go inside the post.

But he also believes that taking the event outside – and being able to promote it in both traditional and social media – has made a difference. So has having a strong support team in place, one that starts planning for the sleepover in October.

"It's an awful lot of coordination to get everything done," Pape said. "I have great people I work with. It's not me or any one person in our organization. It is an 'us' mentality.

"We were just looking to bring real awareness to the homeless veteran project, not only in Southeastern Wisconsin, but across the country. We wanted to start with our post first, our squadron."

Veterans Recognized at the Inn at Poland Way



In conjunction with National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 First Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr. held an event at The Inn at Poland Way for twenty-four veterans who are residents where he works. The event took place Friday, February 18, 2022 in Poland, Ohio. Squadron 15 members Ohio State Senator Michael Rulli and Ohio State Representative Al Cutrona were also on hand to address the veterans, and to thank them for their service to our great country.

Veterans enjoyed music and also celebrated the 100th birthday of a resident.

To see the full story from WFMJ, please click the video button below.



THE INN AT
Poland Way
BRIARFIELD ASSISTED LIVING



Squadron 15 members Ohio State Representative Al Cutrona and Ohio State Senator Michael Rulli.

Also, the Detachment has Chartered 4 new Squadrons this year, and another has just been sent into National. That would make 5 needed for the Triple Nickel. Iowa leads the Nation in winning that award.

Stand back and take notice, Iowa is proving why we are force in the Region, and we are not done yet.



Iowa holds Midwinter Conference

The Detachment of Iowa just finished its Midwinter Conference Valentine's Weekend in Des Moines, Iowa. The Detachment was visited by National Americanism Chairman Joe Navarrete, who provided great training on Americanism programs such as Junior Shooting Sports, Scouting, and National Commander Fox's national service project, Flying Flags for Hero's. Iowa stated when the snow melts and we can return to outdoor activities, we will be placing flags on the graves of our heroes.

Detachment Commander Mike Monserud spoke at Opening Ceremonies on Friday night in front of the American Legion Family, and advocated on behalf of the Iowa Veteran's Home. The Commandant has asked for help in buying 2 pieces of exercise equipment for the home that would be used for disabled veterans. At the Fall DEC, the Detachment bought one piece for \$4,500, and during the Sons meeting at Midwinter, the other piece for \$6,500 was bought by the Detachment.

Commander Mike stood on stage and pledged \$500 to the Veteran's Home. A second pledge then came from National Chairman Navarrete for \$500, and the Iowa Legion Family was off and running. Within 24 hours, over \$10,300 in donations was handed to Commander Mike for the Veterans Home from Posts, Squadrons, and members of the whole Legion Family. All he could say at Closing Ceremonies is that this is why we are Iowa Strong, and if anyone ever wonders if we can raise money, just give us a mission and step back and watch.

The Triple Nickel

To win The Triple Nickel Detachments must complete the following by July 1

- Have 105% Quota
- Charter 5 new Squadrons
- Have an 85% Renewal Rate

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage

MOTIVATE INSPIRE TEAMWORK

HONOR THE
VETERAN
WHO MADE
YOU ELIGIBLE

RENEW TODAY!

VETERAN



RICHARD HUNTLEY
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
EASTERN REGION 2021-2022

dickie_huntley@hotmail.com



JUAN TORRES
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
MIDWEST REGION 2021-2022

juanrtorres10@hotmail.com

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Fourth Tuesday of each month
 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 Call In # (605) 313-4388
 Access Code 3468542#

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

Eastern Region - Richard "Dickie" L. Huntley, Jr. (ME)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
DIST OF COL	92	92	100.00%
RHODE ISLAND	316	277	87.66%
VERMONT	3,576	3,020	84.45%
DELAWARE	2,229	1,863	83.58%
MARYLAND	15,533	12,744	82.04%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	4,152	81.83%
PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	47,910	81.34%
CONNECTICUT	1,820	1,468	80.66%
MAINE	2,482	1,996	80.42%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	4,181	78.35%
NEW YORK	29,246	22,422	76.67%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	1,632	74.76%
NEW JERSEY	9,211	6,699	72.73%
FRANCE	233	133	57.08%
Totals:	136,233	108,589	79.71%

as of February 16, 2022

Midwest Region - Juan R. Torres (TX)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	1,022	97.15%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	858	93.67%
MEXICO	26	23	88.46%
NEBRASKA	6,959	5,831	83.79%
WYOMING	1,273	983	77.22%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	1,050	76.09%
COLORADO	2,632	1,911	72.61%
KANSAS	6,424	4,575	71.22%
MONTANA	1,160	823	70.95%
TEXAS	5,425	3,721	68.59%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	792	62.81%
Totals:	28,508	21,589	75.73%

as of February 16, 2022





JASON ROBERTS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
SOUTHERN REGION 2021-2022

roberts.jason215@gmail.com



JIM STEWART
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
WEST REGION 2021-2022

controller@bordertowncasinorv.com

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

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

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=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09>
 Meeting ID: 965 6230 3887
 Passcode: 795541
 Find your local number:
<https://zoom.us/u/acGFqzEYme>

Southern Region - Jason S. Roberts (GA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
PUERTO RICO	88	93	105.68%
ALABAMA	2,020	1,689	83.61%
FLORIDA	20,745	16,575	79.90%
GEORGIA	4,316	3,410	79.01%
LOUISIANA	1,808	1,425	78.82%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	1,083	78.36%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	2,038	77.82%
TENNESSEE	1,681	1,289	76.68%
ARKANSAS	468	346	73.93%
VIRGINIA	4,023	2,957	73.50%
MISSISSIPPI	795	515	64.78%
KENTUCKY	2,648	1,705	64.39%
Totals:	42,593	33,125	77.77%

as of February 16, 2022

Western Region - L. Jim Stewart (NV)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
HAWAII	49	56	114.29%
OREGON	1,317	1,008	76.54%
ALASKA	1,560	1,188	76.15%
CALIFORNIA	10,338	7,784	75.30%
NEVADA	334	245	73.35%
ARIZONA	7,566	5,538	73.20%
IDAHO	606	433	71.45%
WASHINGTON	2,086	1,479	70.90%
UTAH	492	338	68.70%
PHILIPPINES	66	37	56.06%
Totals:	24,414	18,106	74.16%

as of February 16, 2022

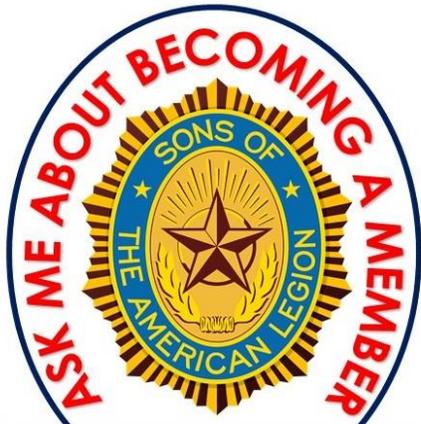


Squadron Everlasting

Please email information to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com to include a member.



MICHAEL FOX NATIONAL COMMANDER 2021-2022



Proud Possessors
of a Priceless Heritage





DUES RECEIPT
(please print)

Date _____
Received from _____
\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues
Squadron No. _____
Department of _____

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____ Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth date _____

Name _____ Recruited by _____
First _____ Initial _____ Last _____
Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____
(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____
OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____
(c) Relationship of applicant to veteran _____ Where? _____

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____
I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.
Email _____ Transmitt \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed by applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Eligibility certified by _____
Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

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