



Round-Up



A Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

Volume 3 – Issue 125 & 126 – March 27, 2022

Commander Fox honored



Last weekend, National Commander Michael Fox was honored during his Homecoming Gala weekend, and a great time was had by all.

The weekend started out on Thursday with a St. Patrick's Day party that included karaoke. On Friday, it was off to a Flying

Flags for Heroes event, followed by Casino Night.

Saturday was a busy day, with guests attending the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, with a great lunch under Air Force 1. Later that evening, Commander Fox was honored with a homecoming banquet.

The weekend was definitely one for the ages, and will be remembered for many years. The planning and execution of the events was unbelievable, and those who attended were impressed with the activities, events, and participation. According to Commander Fox, sixteen Detachments were represented. It was truly a great time. Over the next several weeks, photos will be included from the homecoming weekend.



Crystal and Commander Michael at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.



Commander Michael at a Flying Flags For Heroes event during Homecoming Weekend.



Gifts from the National Vice-Commanders





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](#)



Renew members now through engagement

MAR 16, 2022

Dear American Legion Family members
and friends,

Membership renewal is important to uphold our commitment to No Veteran Left Behind, and to remain at the forefront of veteran advocacy efforts. There is strength in numbers. When I testified before Congress earlier this month, the representatives understand that I speak for our 1.8 million members, a figure unmatched by any other veterans service organizations.

This is why membership renewal is a priority of mine. As such, I have challenged all American Legion departments to reach a 90% renewal goal. Many departments are poised to hit that very achievable and critical mark, as well as reach or exceed their traditional membership goal.

The key to membership renewal is engagement. This can be achieved through Buddy Checks or monthly training sessions on subjects related to membership and our programs. I am asking for each member of your department leadership team, your districts, counties, and posts to get those renewals. Hold events, ask members to help, get them engaged, and they will stay.

A [membership renewal postcard](#) is available that can be customized to fit the message of your de-

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TARGET DATE



April 13, 2022

partment, district or post. It is another tool to deliver to delinquent members' 2022 renewal notices.

We simply cannot let the challenges of COVID make us complacent. Our veterans, youth and communities need us. How would our members maintain shelter or posts recover from severe damage caused by a natural disaster if we didn't have programs and assistance like the National Emergency Fund or the Temporary Financial Assistance program? When wildfires ravaged the west and tornadoes struck the south, we were there providing vital assistance to our members and our communities. And the only way we were able to do this is through a strong and committed membership.

If you have renewal cards that need to be processed through MyLegion.org, step-by-step instructions are available. [Follow them here.](#)

We must ensure there is No Veteran Left Behind and that means growing our numbers in every department. Our country needs a Legion of forces to serve our veterans and communities.

So, let's renew our commitment, renew our efforts, and renew our members to make 2022 a very prosperous year.

For God and Country,

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



INDYCAR names American Legion an official charitable partner

By Bruce Martin
MAR 17, 2022

The American Legion and INDYCAR have entered into a partnership that makes The American Legion an Official Charity Partner of INDYCAR and the NTT INDYCAR SERIES.

The multi-year agreement gives The American Legion a chance to use additional marketing assets during an INDYCAR weekend including a new activation area for fans. The Legion will also be able to broaden its footprint in the paddock by using additional INDYCAR drivers to help spread the message of support for the organization that benefits members who have served in the United States military.

“The American Legion performs an incredibly vital role for our veterans, for whose service and sacrifice we're eternally grateful,” said Mark Miles, president and CEO of Penske Entertainment Corp., which owns INDYCAR and the NTT INDYCAR SERIES. “This partnership will help to accelerate the Legion's goals through various promotions, and we hope Legionnaires everywhere will join our team and follow our exciting series with its bold, hyper-competitive drivers and precise teamwork.”

This partnership increases The American Legion's involvement with the series that started in 2021 with Chip Ganassi Racing.

“Partnering with INDYCAR is a no-brainer for The American Legion,” said American Legion Chief Marketing Officer Dean Kessel. “For 103 years, Indianapolis has been the host city of our national headquarters. It is also the home of ‘The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.’”

“Pairing these two legendary institutions makes sense on so many levels. This partnership enables us to tell the story of how American Legion posts strengthen communities across the country. Race fans are patriotic. Like Legionnaires, they believe in supporting veterans and their families. The bottom line is that this partnership makes both The American Legion and INDYCAR even stronger.”

The American Legion is a major associate sponsor on the No. 48 Carvana/American Legion Honda driven by legend Jimmie Johnson in the full 2022 NTT INDYCAR SERIES season and will be the primary sponsor of fan favorite Tony Kanaan's Honda in the 106th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Sunday, May 29. The Legion also will rotate sponsorship with some of the other drivers on the championship winning Ganassi team.

“Ganassi drivers – particularly Jimmie, Tony, and Alex (Palou) – will continue to be the centerpiece of our activation efforts at track and in media,” Kessel said. “However, I think it's incredibly valuable to have different voices involved and speaks to our desire to be part of the fabric of INDYCAR. This

gives us access to drivers and teams across the entire paddock.”

INDYCAR and The American Legion will collaborate to promote a variety of Legion programs, including raising awareness of the growing problem of veteran suicide. Programs at the track will include patriotic displays, flag raising and lowering ceremonies, giveaways, and public address announcements, while both groups will cross-promote on social media and through constituent communications and advertising.

“Last year, we successfully increased awareness of our mission among race fans nationally,” Kessel said. “Now we have to go a level deeper. We have to build relationships with race fans locally and ask for their support of our efforts to help veterans.

“Our local members will have access to assets in every race market. We might bring a driver to a post one night and that will enable them to do a fundraiser or even a membership drive. Another example – at each race, we will be rewarding a lucky member or donor with a trip to Victory Lane, which is an experience you can’t really get anywhere else. It is fun for the race fan, but it also helps us increase membership and donations. These are just a couple of ways you will see this partnership come to life. There will be much more, especially in the month of May and at the Indianapolis 500.”

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway opened in 1909. The American Legion was founded in 1919, just after the conclusion of World War I. The American Legion National Headquarters is based in Indianapolis, just a few miles away from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The Indianapolis 500 began in 1911 as a Memorial Day or Memorial Day Weekend sporting spectacle that has become a grand tradition. It may have taken over 100 years for the two to get together, but it seems natural that The American Legion and the Indianapolis 500 have joined forces.

The 2022 NTT INDYCAR SERIES season continues Sunday, March 20, for the XPEL 375 at Texas Motor Speedway. Coverage begins at 12:30 p.m. (ET) on NBC and simulstreamed on Peacock Premium. Coverage is also available from the INDYCAR Radio Network with audio available via the INDYCAR App powered by NTT DATA.

The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members and more than 12,000 posts across the nation and regions overseas. The American Legion, established by an act of Congress in 1919, was instrumental in getting the original GI Bill through Congress and the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Today, the organization supports military personnel and veterans and their families in local communities, and supports youth through programs such as American Legion Baseball, Boys State, Oratorical, Junior Shooting Sports and other activities, and continues to push for the adoption of government policies supporting the needs of veterans. For more information, visit [legion.org](https://www.legion.org).

INDYCAR is the Indianapolis-based governing body for North America's premier open-wheel auto racing series, the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, and its developmental series, Indy Lights Presented by Cooper Tires. The NTT INDYCAR SERIES features an international field of the world's most versatile drivers including reigning series champion Alex Palou, six-time series champion Scott Dixon, two-time series champion Josef Newgarden, and four-time and defending Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves, who compete on superspeedways, short ovals, street circuits and permanent road courses. The 2022 season consists of 17 races in the United States and Canada and is highlighted by the historic Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. The NTT INDYCAR SERIES, Indy Lights Presented by Cooper Tires, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and IMS Productions are owned by Penske Corporation, a global transportation, automotive and motorsports leader.

For more information on INDYCAR and the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, please visit www.indycar.com.



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 *Joe Mayne (MN), 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:

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

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/85189484607?pwd=MkVTo9XYkdvZ1MoeW5RTHg4dW94QT09>

Meeting ID: 851 8948 4607
Passcode: xZztq6

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

Greetings SAL Members,

The National Children and Youth Committee had a Zoom meeting on March 14th 2022; the updated information below is to be shared with all our Blue Cap members.

Your National C & Y Committee has been working “SAL Strong” together, to accomplish the following items (with more to come).

The former Youth Room that was held during our Sons of The American Legion National Convention for the past few years is now known as the “National Children and Youth Academy.” One of our younger members, who had attended last years “Youth Room,” asked that it be changed, as the former title made it sound like a detention to our younger members. The C&Y Committee felt very strongly that this needed to be changed with a stronger purpose in mind.

Our committee will be conducting the “Ten Ideals Program,” during our National Convention this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We will be holding this program at the U.S. Air Force, 128th refueling wing, locating in Milwaukee, along with a tour of the Air Base.

We are also gathering pictures and short videos to be presented at our National Convention, during the Children and Youth Report. It is requested that any SAL Children and Youth pictures be sent to our National Historian Bill Towns, as he will be putting together the video presentation.

Once the video and report have been completed, it is asked that our younger that have attended the Academy be presented with the Ten Ideals Medals and a Certificate of completion of the course. This Certificate will have the SAL 50th National Convention Logo on them, as this will be a “Once in a lifetime” for all that have attended the course.

This is the Sons of The American Legion’s 50th National Convention and we will be using the generated 50th Anniversary Logo, for two sets of a popular Corn Hole Games. One set will be presented to The Detachment of Wisconsin and the other set will be raffled off.

We have asked for input and received many ideas and suggestions. The entire committee is using these suggestions received from our members.

The Committee is also hoping to have our younger members in attendance at the convention so they can be part of this very memorable event.

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, 189,436 flags
have been placed and reported
to honor our veterans**

Please join us for this important "make up" meeting.

One of the key topics is understanding what those of you who have plans for Memorial Day Weekend have in mind. We have some "surprises" planned so please be ready to share.



We also will be talking about other open issues so that we can continue marching towards the goal of 1 million by the time we convene in Milwaukee:

- Answer and clarify questions about reporting flag placements and upcoming events at www.flyingflagsforheroes.com
- Respond to suggestions made at our February 3 Meeting and provide "solutions" to gain traction
- Update everyone on our progress
- Set expectations for the next several weeks as we approach the Spring NEC

We had 17 of 55 Detachments in attendance at our meeting 4 weeks ago. We need all 55 Detachments represented next week. If you were at our February 3 Meeting, we want to implement one of your key suggestions...please be there!

Please be sure that your Detachment is represented and prepared. The Zoom info is below:

Tim Aboudara Sr. is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86431822025?pwd=elhpcTM3UmZWdoVBNmNFTXpqS1JmQTQo>

Meeting ID: 864 318 2025

Passcode: 790761

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman

Fourth Thursday of each month

6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call in # (605) 313-6050

Access Code: 344590

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#

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**DUES RECEIPT
(please print)**

Date: _____ Birth date: _____

Detachment of: _____ Squadron No. _____ Recruited by: _____ Initial _____ Last _____

Name: _____ First _____ Last _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ Street _____ Department of _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established: _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____

(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: _____ Transmittal \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed by applicant (or legal guardian if under 18): _____ Eligibility verified 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.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to the 19 Detachments that have already made the April 13 target of 90%. Our renewal rate is steadily increasing overall, but certainly could use more attention. The Beast from the East continue to lead the way in percentage and have the most Detachments at or over the 90% mark. Well done everyone...keep the faith, keep up the hard work and as always...KEEP THAT MEMBERSHIP ROLLING IN!!!

2022 SAL Membership Report as of: March 24, 2022

#	Detachment	2022 Det. Year End Goal	Needed to Meet 90% Target 4/13/2022	2022 Actual Mbsp.	% of Year End Goal	2022 Renewal %
1	PUERTO RICO	88	-35	114	129.55%	104.65
2	HAWAII	49	-12	56	114.29%	100.00
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	-224	1,171	111.31%	84.94
4	NORTH DAKOTA	916	-139	963	105.13%	96.50
5	DIST OF COL	92	-12	95	103.26%	80.90
6	RHODE ISLAND	316	-39	323	102.22%	79.68
7	MEXICO	26	-2	25	96.15%	80.00
8	DELAWARE	2,229	-113	2,119	95.07%	83.08
9	MICHIGAN	21,985	-1,079	20,865	94.91%	81.30
10	VERMONT	3,576	-119	3,337	93.32%	82.10
11	MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	-126	4,693	92.49%	81.10
12	WASHINGTON	2,086	-44	1,921	92.09%	72.79
13	OREGON	1,317	-26	1,211	91.95%	76.30
14	MARYLAND	15,533	-299	14,279	91.93%	83.90
15	MAINE	2,482	-39	2,273	91.58%	82.51
16	WISCONSIN	3,914	-53	3,576	91.36%	83.38
17	IOWA	4,571	-54	4,168	91.18%	84.26
18	PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	-442	53,454	90.75%	83.47
19	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	-10	1,254	90.74%	78.31
20	NEBRASKA	6,959	21	6,242	89.70%	85.65
21	FLORIDA	20,745	133	18,538	89.36%	75.35
22	TENNESSEE	1,681	11	1,502	89.35%	70.05
23	NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	29	2,328	88.89%	72.20
24	IDAHO	606	7	538	88.78%	74.67
25	OHIO	29,946	449	26,502	88.50%	81.65
26	VIRGINIA	4,023	80	3,541	88.02%	75.88
27	GEORGIA	4,316	110	3,774	87.44%	74.87
28	NEW MEXICO	1,261	34	1,101	87.31%	66.82
29	ALABAMA	2,020	61	1,757	86.98%	71.22
30	CONNECTICUT	1,820	55	1,583	86.98%	76.58
31	NEW YORK	29,246	905	25,416	86.90%	78.49
32	MINNESOTA	11,091	366	9,616	86.70%	79.35
33	WYOMING	1,273	43	1,103	86.65%	69.27
34	ILLINOIS	13,602	541	11,701	86.02%	79.79
35	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	224	4,578	85.79%	74.61
36	INDIANA	36,657	2,114	30,877	84.23%	78.25
37	CALIFORNIA	10,338	598	8,706	84.21%	72.87
38	ARIZONA	7,566	474	6,335	83.73%	68.77
39	LOUISIANA	1,808	132	1,495	82.69%	75.42
40	MISSOURI	3,211	237	2,653	82.62%	72.53
41	ALASKA	1,560	121	1,283	82.24%	64.57
42	OKLAHOMA	1,380	111	1,131	81.96%	70.67
43	ARKANSAS	468	39	382	81.62%	68.91
44	WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	187	1,778	81.45%	68.07
45	NEW JERSEY	9,211	837	7,453	80.91%	72.93
46	TEXAS	5,425	541	4,342	80.04%	67.02
47	MONTANA	1,160	120	924	79.66%	75.24
48	KANSAS	6,424	840	4,942	76.93%	71.17
49	NEVADA	334	47	254	76.05%	65.70
50	COLORADO	2,632	370	1,999	75.95%	65.04
51	MISSISSIPPI	795	118	598	75.22%	54.87
52	UTAH	492	74	369	75.00%	64.69
53	PHILIPPINES	66	11	48	72.73%	70.77
54	KENTUCKY	2,648	613	1,770	66.84%	56.49
55	FRANCE	233	62	148	63.52%	63.56
Grand Totals:		356,725	7,849	313,204	87.80%	78.50

National Convention Committee

Allen J. Watry (WI), Chairman

awatry@mindspring.com

Meetings held as necessary

Call in # (857) 2320159

Access Code: 962347

Here are some key notes from the Natl Convention Committee Meeting which was held on March 24 via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Savings Time:

Attendance

- Convention Committee:
 - Allen Watry (Chair) – Present
 - Brandon Curry – Excused (currently deployed)
 - Chuck Treat – Present
 - Christopher Byrd – Present
 - Tommy Vasser – Present
- Other in attendance
 - Natl Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel
 - Natl Vice-Commander Jim Stewart
 - Internal Affairs Commission Chair Bill Clancy
 - N.E.C. Liaison Terry Pressley

Notes:

- 2022 Natl Convention – Milwaukee (Watry)
 - Pin
 - proof has been received and was shared. It is tied to the 50th Commemoration Coin Design
 - Detachment of Wisconsin has approved the purchase of 1500
 - Selling price will be confirmed at WI Spring D.E.C. meeting, Watry recommending \$5.00 (aligns with Phoenix and recommendation in Strategic Plan)
 - Will need to work through how will be sold at Convention.
 - Friday Night Social
 - Leaning towards a Hospitality Suite at the Hotel which the Wisconsin Delegation will be at
 - Likely to include some fundraising for Legion/Sons of The American Legion Programs.
 - Again, will know more after Spring D.E.C.

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>

April 20, 2022 | May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022 | July 17, 2022

August 25, 2022

The National SAL VE&E Commission held our March Conference Call March 16 at 8:00 p.m. I would like to share that we hold our conference calls on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. and have a new one number call in which is (508) 924-3315 and there is no access code required.

I am asking our VE&E contacts to please send us information and examples of activities in your Detachments that you think are related to VE&E, such as Stand Downs, Job Fairs, and other organizations in your Detachments that you may partner with on VE&E related activities so that we may share this information with others.

Don't forget about the VE&E Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Contributor Award. We all have people that stand out in our Detachments as outstanding contributors. Please send in nominations for them as it relates to VE&E now, as time is running short to have submissions in for the Spring NEC. Award Criteria and Nomination Form are attached.

Also attached are the current listings of Job Fairs from www.legion.org/careers along with VA Stand Downs across the country from www.va.gov/homeless (scroll down to the bottom of the web page and click on operation Reveille and Stand Down Events).

THANK YOU
for all you do



Marvin P. Nay
Veterans Employment and Education
Outstanding Contributor Award
Criteria

- The nominee shall be a member in good standing in the Sons of The American Legion
- The nominee shall be engaged in the fundraising, distribution of funds or goods, and/or volunteering at an event deemed beneficial to veterans' employment and/or education (to include homelessness)
- At least one picture of the nominee at the event must be submitted with the nomination form
- The nominee must be wearing identifiable SAL clothing (cover, cap, shirt, jacket or combination)
- The nomination form must be signed by the nominator and "attested to" by a Post/Squadron officer, to include title

Mail completed nomination form to: (include pictures)

The American Legion National Headquarters

c/o Sons of The American Legion

P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

RE: Marvin P. Nay VE&E Award Nomination

OR

Scan & email to: sal@legion.org (write in subject line: "Marvin P. Nay VE&E Award Nomination")

- All nominations must be received prior to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission meeting during the Spring NEC meetings for consideration (the award recipient will be voted on at that time to ensure proper time for presentation at the National Convention)
- A Detachment may submit more than one (1) nominee
- A Sons of The American Legion member may nominate himself



Marvin P. Nay
Veterans Employment and Education
Outstanding Contributor Award
Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone/email: _____

Squadron name/number: _____ Detachment: _____

Membership I.D. # _____

Contribution Details

How many events: _____

Total volunteer hours: _____

Total money raised/donated: _____

Description details (who, where, when, what) include picture(s):

Submitted by: _____ Title: _____

Attested by: _____ Title: _____



REGIONAL UPDATES



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*

You may have noticed that there was not an edition of *Round-Up* last week. I originally stated that the publication would be sent out late, but with so many changes, especially with our membership report, I felt it was better to combine last week's and this week's editions. I didn't want to put out stale information, and hope that you understand.

With that being said, a lot has happened since the last newsletter came out. We celebrated The Amer-

ican Legion's birthday, attended National Commander Michael Fox's homecoming gala weekend in California, and saw big changes in our membership numbers. As you can see, it was a very busy two weeks.

The membership race is heating up. As of the March 24, 2020 national membership report, only 5.22% separates the first-place East Region and the fifth-place Midwest Region. Currently in the Central Region, we only need 15,019 members to reach quota. This number can easily be attained by Memorial Day if every Squadron, District, and Detachment Officer puts in a little "extra" effort to get the job done and to reach quota. I'm here to help, so please don't be shy to ask. I will do what I can to help.

PLEASE DON'T HOLD CARDS. This is not how we operate. Maybe it was done in the past, but not in today's Sons of The American Legion. Remember, Squadrons cannot hold money for more than thirty days. When members pay, they expect their dues to be sent to National Headquarters so that they are officially renewed.

If cards are held and there is an issue, the member may lose benefits like support from the National Emergency Fund, as well as the other great benefits that are offered to us for being members of Sons of The American Legion.

Squadrons with cards on hand are asked to make a transmittal today, preferably by using myl-egion.org, but through the mail still works, but it takes much longer to get them on the books.

Will you make a transmittal this week and help increase our membership totals? **Who's next?**

On the Child Welfare Foundation fundraising front, the Central Region is in last place based on per capita, but has raised the third-most money so far across the organization.

As a reminder, all donations to the Child Welfare Foundation must be submitted no later than May 1. Sons of The American Legion is less than \$40,000 from reaching the \$9 million mark. Let's see which Central Region Detachment can push up past that goal.

If your Squadron has donated at least \$1.00 per member, please make sure to submit the form to receive a 100% banner ribbon.



American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

100% Per Capita Banner Program

Request Form

2021 – 2022

Each American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, or Eight and Forty salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year (1 June - 31 May) may receive a beautiful banner/streamer.

To qualify for the 2021-2022 year a post, unit, squadron, or salon must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total from their national organization as of June 1, 2021. The post, unit, squadron, or salon has from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 to submit this form, **along with the donation**, to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Post, unit, squadron, or salon name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Post, unit, squadron, or salon membership total as of June 1, 2021: _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Banner Request Form
Send completed form to:
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

ALL REQUEST FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 31, 2022

CWF donation canisters are available from Stacey Cope at National Headquarters. Please contact her and order a few today!

**Child Welfare Foundation
donations as of March 18, 2022**

Region	Donations	Per Capita
East	\$ 42,974.59	\$ 0.32
South	\$ 30,601.20	\$ 0.73
Central	\$ 22,735.67	\$ 0.18
Midwest	\$ 22,555.76	\$ 0.80
West	\$ 20,076.81	\$ 0.82
National	\$ 2,370.00	
Totals	\$ 141,314.03	\$ 0.40

Region	Donations	Per Capita
West	\$ 20,076.81	\$ 0.82
Midwest	\$ 22,555.76	\$ 0.80
South	\$ 30,601.20	\$ 0.73
East	\$ 42,974.59	\$ 0.32
Central	\$ 22,735.67	\$ 0.18

Central Region	2021 Donations (final)	2021 Membership (final)	2022 CWF Goal	2022 Donations	% of Goal	Donations Per Capita
MINNESOTA	\$ 4,220.00	11,017	\$ 11,017.00	\$ 5,471.09	49.7%	\$ 0.50
MISSOURI	\$ 2,013.00	3,246	\$ 3,246.00	\$ 1,082.00	33.3%	\$ 0.33
MICHIGAN	\$ 5,992.00	22,623	\$ 22,623.00	\$ 7,511.33	33.2%	\$ 0.33
IOWA	\$ 2,145.00	4,488	\$ 4,488.00	\$ 1,350.00	30.1%	\$ 0.30
WISCONSIN	\$ 170.00	3,902	\$ 3,902.00	\$ 560.00	14.4%	\$ 0.14
ILLINOIS	\$ 33,953.53	13,541	\$ 13,541.00	\$ 1,630.00	12.0%	\$ 0.12
OHIO	\$ 21,618.74	29,552	\$ 29,552.00	\$ 3,076.25	10.4%	\$ 0.10
INDIANA	\$ 27,291.00	35,862	\$ 35,862.00	\$ 2,055.00	5.7%	\$ 0.06
Total:	\$ 97,403.27	124,231	\$ 124,231.00	\$ 22,735.67	18.3%	\$ 0.18

The Spring meeting of the National Executive Committee and the National Commissions and Committees is just around the corner. During these meetings, valuable information will be provided, and the NEC will take action as needed on items that comes before it.

This is a great way to see what happens at the national level, to get involved, and to prepare our organization for the future. Please plan to attend and see what it's all about. I think you will find it very interesting, educational, and worthwhile. For me, it re-energizes me and keeps me focused on our goals and what we do for our Veterans and children. If you have never been to Indianapolis for these meetings, please consider attending.

This week we will flip the calendar to April and the start American Legion Children & Youth Month.

Information on what you can do to help can be found [HERE](#). Please take some time and look at the information. It will help you with a successful month of celebrating our children and youth.

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

SAL members place 1,000 U.S. flags in classrooms

The American Legion
MAR 16, 2022

		03/24/22
	Detachment	Renewal %
1	Iowa	84.26%
2	Wisconsin	83.38%
3	Ohio	81.65%
4	Michigan	80.61%
5	Illinois	79.79%
6	Minnesota	79.35%
7	Indiana	78.25%
8	Missouri	72.53%
NATIONAL		78.50%

Members of the 18th District Sons of The American Legion in Michigan have dedicated themselves to a patriotic cause since 2004 – placing an American flag in every school classroom in Oakland County. To date, they have placed over 1,000 U.S. flags.

“We committed ourselves at the very beginning to make sure that every classroom in Oakland County had a flag in it, so the kids have that symbol to say the Pledge of Allegiance to in the morning,” said Randy Jackson, District 18 Sons of The American Legion U.S. Flags for Classrooms chairman and a past state detachment commander. “It instills patriotism, Americanism, and all of the things that The American Legion stands for and all that Americans should stand for. It’s just been a mission of ours.”

2022 Central Region Membership Report

2022 MEMBERSHIP						03/24/22
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	
1	Eastern 6, 7	136,233	121,529	14,704	89.21%	1,449
2	Central 4, 6	124,977	109,958	15,019	87.98%	706
3	Southern 3, 4, 5, 6	42,593	37,053	5,540	86.99%	354
4	Western 4	24,414	20,721	3,693	84.87%	310
5	Midwest 3, 4	28,508	23,943	4,565	83.99%	140
TOTALS		356,725	313,204	43,521	87.80%	2,959

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	Michigan 1, 5, 6, 7, 8	21,985	20,865	1,120	94.91%	186	9
2	Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3,914	3,576	338	91.36%	45	16
3	Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,571	4,168	403	91.18%	6	17
4	Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	29,946	26,502	3,444	88.50%	204	25
5	Minnesota 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	11,091	9,616	1,475	86.70%	15	32
6	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	13,602	11,701	1,901	86.02%	53	34
7	Indiana 1	36,657	30,877	5,780	84.23%	191	36
8	Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3,211	2,653	558	82.62%	6	40
TOTALS		99,078	85,517	15,019	86.31%	706	

- 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
Wisconsin	3,914	3,576	338	91.36%	4.18%
Iowa	4,571	4,168	403	91.18%	4.87%
Missouri	3,211	2,653	2,405	82.62%	3.10%
TOTALS	7,722	6,821	2,808	87.65%	7.98%

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Minnesota	11,091	9,616	1,475	86.70%	11.24%
Illinois	13,602	11,701	1,901	86.02%	13.68%
TOTALS	24,693	21,317	3,376	86.33%	24.93%

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Michigan	21,985	20,865	1,120	94.91%	24.40%
Ohio	29,946	26,502	3,444	88.50%	30.99%
Indiana	36,657	30,877	5,780	84.23%	36.11%
TOTALS	88,588	78,244	10,344	88.32%	91.50%



The 18th District Sons of The American Legion made a flag presentation to the Avondale School District Board of Education. Front row (from left): Daniel Tyack, 3rd Sons Zone commander; Mike Fitzgerald, American Legion Sons liaison; Terry Lang, Board Trustee; Randy Jackson, 18th District Sons of The American Legion U.S. Flags for Classrooms chairman. Back row (from left): Carvin Chapman, Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman; James Schwarz, Avondale superintendent; Rita Davis, Board Trustee; Chip Tischer, Board President; Lucille Washington, Board Vice President; Kelly Brault, Board Secretary; David Down, Board Treasurer; and Saravana Anbarasu, Avondale student representative. Photo by Alice Jackson

The 18th District Sons recently presented eight outdoor U.S. flags to the Avondale School District Board of Education to replace old ones. Jackson said when they offer and provide the new flags, school leaders “are just elated that someone thought enough of them to be able to do this for the kids.”

The classroom flag initiative for the district, which is made up of 15 squadrons, started when the daughter of the late David Kays came home from school and said there was not an American flag in her fourth-grade classroom to say the Pledge of Allegiance to. Kays spoke with the school principal for permission to put one up in the classroom. After receiving it, he then asked how many more classrooms needed an American flag. There was a need for 16.

Kays went to his fellow Sons of The American Legion members, who took up a collection and purchased the needed flags. "That was all that we needed to get this ball rolling," Jackson said. "We decided to take this on as a county-wide project and we weren't going to stop until every classroom in Oakland County had an American flag in it."

Through fundraisers and personal and corporate donations, the 18th District has been able to purchase the flags and keep a supply on hand. All donations go to the David Kays Memorial Flags for Classrooms Fund.

Jackson's wife, Alice, put together a letter informing the Oakland County School District about the availability of U.S. flags for any school in the district that needs them. "The request just started to trickle in," Jackson said. "We have donated as many as 160 to a school district."

The schools are also made aware that any worn flag can be dropped off at a local American Legion post for proper retirement.

Jackson said he "appreciates all of the work and effort that goes into this and all the people who help," including donors, spouses, and school board members.

it is **not only** for
what we do that
we are held
responsible, but
also for what
we do not do.
 Moliere

Birmingham-Troy SAL Squadron #14 Raffle

Drawing April 15, 2022 – 8:00 PM

Tickets - \$5.00 each

License # - R63116



1st Prize – Blackstone 36” Grill

2nd Prize - \$100.00 Meat Gift Certificate

3rd – Prize - \$50.00 Meat Gift Certificate

1340 W. Maple Rd., Troy, MI

**For tickets please bartender at club
 or Sandy Lipman**

**2022 SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION
 GOLF OUTING
 TO SUPPORT LOCAL VETERANS
 AND POST 11 AMERICAN LEGION**



**PUMPKIN VINE
 GOLF COURSE
 SATURDAY JUNE 25TH
 8AM SHOTGUN
 START**

CAPTAIN'S NAME: _____
 PHONE: _____
 PLAYER 2: _____
 PLAYER 3: _____
 PLAYER 4: _____

**4 PERSON BEST BALL FORMAT
 CASH PROXIMITY PRIZES**

- \$70 PER PLAYER INCLUDES GOLF, LUNCH ON THE COURSE AND DINNER AFTER THE ROUND AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 11.
 - CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO S.A.L. -
 DROP OFF OR MAIL TO AMERICAN LEGION, 279 CANAL ST, LANCASTER, OH 43130
 - HOLE SPONSORS AVAILABLE FOR \$50.
 INCLUDES CUSTOM SIGN ON COURSE WITH COMPANY INFO OR LOGO.

YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED TO
THE 'LOST YEARS' TESTIMONIAL
DINNER PARTY

Who; Please join us as we hold a Testimonial Dinner to honor;
Past Department Commander Barry Wood
Past Department President Georgia Downs
Past Detachment Commander Michael Holley
Past Jr. President Ms. Leah Daniels

What; A delicious Spaghetti Dinner with garlic bread
and a fresh salad will be served at \$10.00 per plate.

Where; Charlotte American Legion Post,
1000 W. Lawrence Hwy, Charlotte, Michigan

When; 3:00pm, Sunday, May 15th, 2022

Why; The COVID-19 pandemic
and social distancing robbed our
Commanders and President of
their turn for a testimonial dinner
during their term in office.

Therefore, we hereby cordially
invite you to join us for an evening
of fun and to honor our 2019-2021
Legion leadership.

Contact Mike Holley
for further details.

Call or text to 517-528-5283 or
e-mail mdiver20@yahoo.com

Please respond by **May 1st**
so we can get a count.



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 3468542#



Sons of the American Legion
Stitt Post 232
Pork Chops and Brats Dinner

SATURDAY - APRIL 30TH



1:00 PM UNTIL SOLD OUT



BRATS - \$8.00
CHOPS - \$12.00



INCLUDES SIDES AND DESSERTS



Carl E. Stitt Post No. 232 - 23850 Military - Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Eastern Region - Richard "Dickie" L. Huntley, Jr. (ME)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
DIST OF COL	92	95	103.26%
RHODE ISLAND	316	323	102.22%
DELAWARE	2,229	2,119	95.07%
VERMONT	3,576	3,337	93.32%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	4,693	92.49%
MARYLAND	15,533	14,279	91.93%
MAINE	2,482	2,273	91.58%
PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	53,454	90.75%
CONNECTICUT	1,820	1,583	86.98%
NEW YORK	29,246	25,416	86.90%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	4,578	85.79%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	1,778	81.45%
NEW JERSEY	9,211	7,453	80.91%
FRANCE	233	148	63.52%
Totals:	136,233	121,529	89.21%

as of March 24, 2022



I WANT YOU TO RENEW!!!



JUAN TORRES
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
MIDWEST REGION 2021-2022

juanrtorres10@hotmail.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



The American Legion
Sam Houston Post 95
Sons and Riders
Bike Night



All Bikers and Motorcycle Rides Welcome
MC Colors and Patches - Neutral Ground

Date: Saturday, April 2, 2022
Time: 12 PM - Close
Location: The American Legion
 Sam Houston Post 95

1919 American Legion Dr
 Huntsville, Tx 77320

<http://www.samhoustontpost95.org>

Poker Run sign up 9AM
Porker Run at 10 AM

Poker Run	Live Band
Bike show	Food For Sale
Giveaway	Bike Games
50/50 Drawing	Tomahawk &
Vendors	Knife Throwing

Information: Call Tina @ 936-581-4836;
 Vendors call Venus @ 936-662-3816.
 See our website for more flyers. Click on " Bike Night" in the "Scheduled Events" section.

The American Legion Sam Houston Post 95 & all volunteers will not be held responsible for any damages due to accident, theft or injury.

Midwest Region - Juan R. Torres (TX)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	1,171	111.31%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	963	105.13%
MEXICO	26	25	96.15%
NEBRASKA	6,959	6,242	89.70%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	1,101	87.31%
WYOMING	1,273	1,103	86.65%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	1,131	81.96%
TEXAS	5,425	4,342	80.04%
MONTANA	1,160	924	79.66%
KANSAS	6,424	4,942	76.93%
COLORADO	2,632	1,999	75.95%
Totals:	28,508	23,943	83.99%

as of March 24, 2022

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



BUDDY CHECK

LET THEM KNOW WE CARE!



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=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)

Southern Region - Jason S. Roberts (GA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
PUERTO RICO	88	114	129.55%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	1,254	90.74%
FLORIDA	20,745	18,538	89.36%
TENNESSEE	1,681	1,502	89.35%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	2,328	88.89%
VIRGINIA	4,023	3,541	88.02%
GEORGIA	4,316	3,774	87.44%
ALABAMA	2,020	1,757	86.98%
LOUISIANA	1,808	1,495	82.69%
ARKANSAS	468	382	81.62%
MISSISSIPPI	795	598	75.22%
KENTUCKY	2,648	1,770	66.84%
Totals:	42,593	37,053	86.99%

as of March 24, 2022

Western Region - L. Jim Stewart (NV)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
HAWAII	49	56	114.29%
WASHINGTON	2,086	1,921	92.09%
OREGON	1,317	1,211	91.95%
IDAHO	606	538	88.78%
CALIFORNIA	10,338	8,706	84.21%
ARIZONA	7,566	6,335	83.73%
ALASKA	1,560	1,283	82.24%
NEVADA	334	254	76.05%
UTAH	492	369	75.00%
PHILIPPINES	66	48	72.73%
Totals:	24,414	20,721	84.87%

as of March 24, 2022

assistance to our disabled veterans and families of servicemembers who are struggling.”

Proceeds of the 100 Miles for Hope campaign go directly to the V&CF. Those funds cover training, education, and resources to support 3,000 accredited American Legion service officers, and provide aid to military families with minor children at home who are facing financial struggles through no fault of their own.

To register for 100 Miles for Hope, [please visit this Emblem Sales page](#). Please note: We are not using the Kilter app this year but have created an easier way to track your miles. [Here are all the details](#).

“I was impressed last year with how many Riders and chapters supported 100 Miles for Hope,” Clark said. “But I know we can do even better this year. My chapter members and I will be doing a lot of riding in the next five months. I’d encourage other chapters to plan a ride — or rides — to support 100 Miles for Hope.”

For their fundraising efforts, Legion Riders can receive incentives. Here is a breakdown:

Individual participants, including individual Legion Riders

Tier 1: \$100 in donations

Incentive: downloadable certificate from National Commander

Tier 2: \$250 in donations

Incentive: coin from National Commander

Tier 3: \$500 in donations

Incentive: plaque from national commander
American Legion Riders chapters can also earn rewards throughout the challenge for their fundraising accomplishments. Here are the details:

Riders chapters

Tier 1: \$500 in donations

Incentive: downloadable certificate from National Commander and Chairman

Tier 2: \$1,000 in donations

Incentive: plaque from Chairman

Tier 3: \$1,500 in donations

Incentive: plaque from National Commander

For more information, please go to legion.org/100miles.



MICHAEL FOX
NATIONAL COMMANDER
2021-2022



Squadron Everlasting

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

When the kickstands go up, hope will follow

By [Henry Howard](#)
MAR 25, 2022



American Legion Riders have the opportunity to earn incentives while contributing toward the Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF) as part of the third annual [American Legion 100 Miles for Hope](#).

Last year, a special Riders Challenge ran for one month. This year, individual Riders and chapters have until Sept. 5 to log their miles, raise funds for the V&CF and earn special incentives.

“We were honored to be part of 100 Miles for Hope last year,” Riders Chairman Mark Clark said. “We are always happy to contribute toward worthy causes. And the Veterans & Children Foundation is such a worthy cause. While the American Legion Legacy Scholarship will always be our priority, this year’s longer time frame allows us to also provide

Bright lights, big shade: More upgrades coming to home of American Legion World Series

By [Andy Proffet](#)
MAR 18, 2022

Fans attending the 95th American Legion World Series this August will have cooler seating options during the day and better views at night thanks to upgrades at Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium.



The grandstand canopies at Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C., are being extended along both base lines. Stadium improvements are scheduled to be complete before the 95th American Legion World Series, Aug. 11-16, 2022.

Photo by Andy Proffet

Canopies over the grandstand seats are being extended down both baselines to provide more shade at the annual ALWS in Shelby, N.C. And stadium lights at Keeter Stadium are being replaced by LED lights.

The extended canopies will include large ceiling fans like the existing canopies.

The LED lights will help brighten the field for players, fans in the stands and those watching at home on ESPNU and ESPN3.



American Legion World Series Chairman Eddie Holbrook said the lights are similar to those used in pro stadiums such as Bank of America Stadium, home of the NFL's Carolina Panthers, and Truist Field, home of the

Triple-A Charlotte Knights.

The \$2.2 million project is being funded through a grant from the state's Department of Commerce. Holbrook credited North Carolina Speaker of the House Tim Moore, a lifelong resident of nearby Kings Mountain, for helping get the project funded.

Holbrook added that the project is a testament to the ALWS' economic impact not only to Shelby and Cleveland County, but to the region and state. In 2018, when the ALWS was recognized by Sports Destination Management as a Champion of Economic Impact in Sports Tourism, the series had an economic impact over \$8.5 million locally and \$16 million regionally.

This year's stadium upgrades follow improvements made over the last two years, which include laser-grading of the field, new Bermuda sod for the field and bullpen, an improved irrigation and underground drainage system, a new outfield fence, and more.

The 95th American Legion World Series is scheduled for Aug. 11-16.



Legion Baseball flashback: Remembering Babe Ruth's Legion tour

By Richard Walker
FEB 23, 2022

The iconic Babe Ruth was known as much for his unpredictable playful nature as for the wondrous athletic talents that were so extraordinary some consider him the greatest baseball player of all time.

One year before his death in 1948 at 53 years old, American Legion Baseball players got to witness that engaging behavior even as he battled throat cancer.

It was part of a nationwide tour in 1947 when he was American Legion Baseball national director for the Ford Motor Company. Ford sponsored ALB tournaments and many Ford dealers supplied uniforms for their local teams.

Ruth had long enjoyed surprise visits, ranging from seeing sick youngsters in the hospital to visiting

with fans after games to even showing up unexpectedly at local colleges during baseball's preseason workouts.

One example came in 1929 in Belmont, N.C., when just hours before a 9-4 New York Yankees' exhibition victory over the Charlotte Hornets minor league team at Charlotte's old Wearn Field, Ruth and several of his teammates visited the Belmont Abbey College campus.

The Yankees were two-time defending World Series champions with a feared batting lineup called "Murderers' Row" after sweeping the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals in 1927 and 1928, respectively.

According to an April 13, 1929, report in The Gastonia, N.C., Gazette, Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Bob Meusel, Tony Lazzeri, Earl Combs, Mark Koenig, Mike Grabowski, and George Burns visited the Benedictine college's campus in a trip arranged by Thomas W. White.

White worked for the old Sinclair Oil Company and also was president of New York City's Belmont Abbey Alumni Association where he was a close friend of Yankees' management.

Ruth and his Yankees teammates visited with Abbey staffers and even watched part of a Crusaders' baseball practice. A photo of Ruth with one of the Belmont Abbey staff members is on display at the school's Wheeler Center Athletic complex.

"Well, boys, it's mighty nice of you having me out here," Ruth told the baseball team of head coach Fred Shipp. "I've heard many wonderful reports about your athletic clubs, and I want you to continue your successes."

After the visit, White invited the entire Belmont Abbey student body — approximately 300 at the time — to the exhibition contest.

In that game, witnessed by an estimated 5,000 according to The Charlotte, N.C., Observer, the Yankees scored four runs in the top of the first inning and cruised to victory. Lazzeri and Leo Durocher had three hits apiece, with Koenig, Ruth and Gehrig getting two hits each as the Yankees banged out 15 hits as a team against the Class B South Atlantic League Hornets.

In 1947, Ruth made seven trips to watch American Legion Baseball that created countless once-in-a-lifetime moments and memorabilia.

After visiting Syracuse, N.Y., Detroit and Houston, a crowd of 10,000 greeted Ruth on July 28 at Philadelphia's old Shibe Park. Ruth visited with Philadelphia A's manager Connie Mack and attended the 4th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania American Legion All-Star game.

Eventual Philadelphia Inquirer sports reporter Don McDonough was among those in attendance. McDonough, an Army veteran who also worked as a public relations executive, told his story in a 2005 Legion.org story titled "[One boy's unforgettable moment.](#)"

"We arrived by trolley car to a scene that was overwhelming," McDonough remembered. "Thousands were already there."

A Philadelphia Inquirer report of the time said, "Some 10,000 youngsters went wild when an open car drove onto the field and the Babe stepped out. He was greeted at home plate by (Hall of Fame Philadelphia Athletics manager) Connie Mack and addressed the group over the microphone, his voice being surprisingly vibrant and his delight at the rousing reception very apparent. Bundled in his traditional camel's hair coat, he replied to the gracious speeches and the prayer offered by Cardinal Spellman with a husky, heartbreaking, almost incoherently audible speech about the value of baseball for boys."

Ruth later proceeded to his third-base box seats while being accompanied by an entourage of VIPs that included his wife Claire Merritt Hodgson Ruth. McDonough then recalls his decision to come away with a life-long memory — and some valuable memorabilia.

"I started to slowly make my way to his box," McDonough said. "I reached the first row and an unattended metal gate that opened to the field. I made my move. I darted just a few feet onto the field, turned and was face to face with the Babe. He was laughing with friends and was a bit startled at my approach.

"I thrust a piece of scrap paper and a school pencil toward him. He smiled and in a raspy voice said, 'Sure, kid.' He penciled 'Babe Ruth' on the paper. I decided to push my luck. In a weak voice, I asked, 'Could you sign it, 'To Don'?"

"'Sure, Don,' he answered. 'Here it is.' I scrambled back to my seat, clutching my new treasure, fully

realizing that I had hit something of a home run myself: a personal autograph from Babe Ruth.

“Now, ... years later — after a newspaper career that placed me in the company of VIPs, presidents, rock stars and other celebrities, long after Shibe Park was razed to become a parking lot — no other event means so much. I still have that scrap of paper. And to this day, when conversation turns to Legion Baseball, my mind drifts to that moment when I was 12 and heard an American legend speak those words: ‘Sure, Don ... here it is.’”

A month later, in Indianapolis on Aug. 5, 1947, Ruth was a special guest at another Legion All-Star game that preceded a Class AAA American Association Indianapolis Indians game.

According to a 2015 Indianapolis Star story on the visit, Ruth “still thrilled the crowd when he was introduced during the intermission between the Legion game and the Indianapolis Indians’ game with Milwaukee.”

The newspaper wrote that, “Ruth sat through the Legion game and several innings of the Indians game, but his ill health began to take its toll and he had to leave. Ruth managed to meet with young ballplayers, sign a few autographs and pass out words of wisdom, ‘the secret to hitting home runs is the snap of the wrist and timing.’”

Earlier in the day Ruth had conducted an hour-long press conference on a pair of radio broadcasts and attended a luncheon in his honor. He also three days earlier had undergone a blood transfusion.

Despite those health struggles, Ruth attended two more American Legion events in August.

He went to a three-team sectional in Billings, Mont., where he was the featured speaker for an Aug. 19 banquet the night before action began. Among the players he met were future major leaguer Vern Law, then a pitcher for Boise, Idaho.

A week later at the ALWS in Los Angeles, Ruth saw Cincinnati go unbeaten in a four-team tournament that included a 3-2 victory over Little Rock, Ark., for the championship; San Diego and Manchester, N.H., were the other World Series participants.

After the Aug. 31 championship game, Ruth presented the championship trophy to Cincinnati Post 50 officials and presented each player with a Spalding baseball with his autograph on it.

Among the players on Cincinnati’s team were future major leaguer and longtime manager and coach Don Zimmer, future Chicago Cubs manager and executive Jim Frey and 1947 Louisville Slugger Award winner George Moeller.

Just 11 years earlier — and only one year after his retirement from the major leagues — Ruth was elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., as one of its “first five” inaugural members. Though he began his career as a star pitcher for the Boston Red Sox — Ruth pitched that franchise to 1915, 1916 and 1918 World Series titles — he’s most remembered for his time with the New York Yankees.

Ruth, who held career records in home runs (714), RBIs (2,213), walks drawn (2,062) and slugging percentage (.690) at the time of his retirement, earned the nicknames “Bambino” and “Sultan of Swat” while leading the Yankees to their first four World Series titles (1923, 1927, 1928, 1932).

He finished his career with the Boston Braves in 1935. He died of throat cancer on Aug. 16, 1948, and in 1949 received a posthumous Distinguished Service Medal from The American Legion for his work with the baseball program.



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