



**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

OCTOBER 20, 2022

**TO: NATIONAL OFFICERS, DETACHMENT COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS**  
**FROM: ANTHONY W. WRIGHT (PA), NATIONAL ADJUTANT**  
**SUBJECT: 25% - MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE**

**“CONGRATULATIONS”**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS SO FAR THIS MEMBERSHIP YEAR. OUR STANDINGS AS OF OUR 25% MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE (10-19-2022) ARE POSTED BELOW:

2023 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: **367,798**  
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: **84,951**  
PERCENTAGE OF GOAL: **23.10%**  
DETACHMENTS MAKING GOAL: **32**

ALABAMA	IDAHO	MISSISSIPPI	NORTH DAKOTA	UTAH
COLORADO	ILLINOIS	MISSOURI	OKLAHOMA	VERMONT
DELAWARE	IOWA	MONTANA	OREGON	WISCONSIN
FLORIDA	KANSAS	NEBRASKA	PUERTO RICO	WYOMING
FRANCE	LOUISIANA	NEVADA	SOUTH DAKOTA	
GEORGIA	MARYLAND	NEW JERSEY	TENNESSEE	
HAWAII	MEXICO	NORTH CAROLINA	TEXAS	

**GREAT JOB!!**

**MANY DETACHMENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE THIS MEMBERSHIP GOAL SOON!**

NEXT SCHEDULED RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED: **FEBRUARY 24, 2023** (2<sup>ND</sup> OF 3)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: **NOVEMBER 9, 2022** (35%)

***RENEWAL IS THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS***  
***MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY***



# ROUND-UP

## National Commander

Chris Carlton (IN)

## National Vice-Commander Central Region

David Mennel (MI)

## National Vice-Commander Eastern Region

Ernie LaBerge (MA)

## National Vice-Commander Midwestern Region

Michael Kirschner (CO)

## National Vice-Commander Southern Region

Ron Roberts (MS)

## National Vice-Commander Western Region

Jack Youngs (ID)

## Immediate Past National Commander

Michael Fox (CA)

## Leading Candidate

Don "J.R." Hall (MD)

## Trailing Candidate

Joseph Navarrete (NM)

Round-Up is a publication designed to disseminate information related to Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family. It is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

**SUBMITTING ARTICLES:** All submissions are to be made electronically to [jef-fvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jef-fvrabelsr@gmail.com). If you need assistance, please send an email to same.

PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday



The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at

[www.legion.org/membership/standings](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings)

# BE THE ONE



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TARGET DATE

November 9, 2022



## CHRIS CARLTON NATIONAL COMMANDER 2022 – 2023



### Let's set our goals high this year

October 21, 2022

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

It has already been a busy and productive time since my election as your SAL National Commander at the 50th SAL National Convention in Milwaukee. I look forward to seeing you during my travels.

I want to take a moment to share with you some of my goals for this year.

Membership. Membership is, of course, a priority every year. We would like to reach 103 percent membership by the end of the year. A key to reaching that goal is by focusing on our renewals. I believe that many of our members want to be involved and active; they just don't know how. We need to find out what those inactive members are interested in, what they are good at and give them a job to do. By helping them feel productive and included in the great work we do, we can help ensure that they will renew their

membership and spread the word to other potential members.

“Be the One.” I am proud to support the “Be the One” campaign. We all know that suicide and mental health are key issues our veterans must face daily. We want to destigmatize asking for mental health support and create opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need. Our veterans shouldn’t fear the consequences of asking for help.

To “Be the One” means to ask a veteran and their family how they are doing. To “Be the One” means to listen when a veteran or their family needs to talk. To “Be the One” means to reach out when a veteran or their family are struggling. We all need to “Be the One.”

Veterans & Children Foundation. American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola has set a goal to raise \$2 million for the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF) this year. I want the Sons of The American Legion to be the biggest contributor to his goal. We can reiterate to The American Legion that, when we put our minds together and work together, we can accomplish great things.

Be the One!

With passion and purpose.

Christopher Carlton, National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion



**DAVID MENNEL**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**CENTRAL REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Third Thursday of Each Month  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
(720) 527-5854 | 202 4742#



**ERNIE LABERGE**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**EASTERN REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month  
7:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
(605) 313-4388 | 346 8542#



**MICHAEL KIRSCHNER**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**MIDWEST REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**

First Tuesday of Each Month  
7:00 p.m. Mountain Time  
(605) 313-5379 | 830 520



**RON ROBERTS**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**SOUTHERN REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Second Tuesday of Each Month  
7:00 p.m. Central  
(701) 802-5001 | 472 0682



**JACK YOUNGS**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**WESTERN REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Fourth Wednesday of Each Month  
7:00 p.m. Mountain Time  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
847 2013 6661 | 697 464

Below is a link to amazing photos of the Fall NEC taken by Jeff Thorne of Maryland

[www.jeffthornephotography.com/Fall-2022-NEC/n-Fxf3hx](http://www.jeffthornephotography.com/Fall-2022-NEC/n-Fxf3hx)

Feel free to download and pass them along on your social media pages.

**SONS OF THE**  
**AMERICAN**  
**LEGION**



# REGIONAL UPDATES

## \$1,500 donated by Post 105 Family

Rusty Myers, Adjutant | NJ Squadron 105

BELLEVILLE, NJ – The Belleville Post 105 American Legion Family, consisting of American Legion Post 105 and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105, donated \$1,500 to The Gail's Angels Foundation in October from a fundraiser held at the September 17th Post 105 Annual Picnic.

The Gail's Angels Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to providing support to families that have a mom with breast cancer, and also care for their autistic or special needs child. Their sole concern is the welfare of these families as the fight continues to be waged on breast cancer. Gail's Angels was founded in 2007 to honor the memory of Gail E. Babai who died of breast cancer in 2006. With the slogan "We offer the Wings of Hope to insure you're Never Alone," the organization is Belleville-based, with the owner, James Babai, also being the owner of Essex Cigar Lounge on Washington Ave.

Through a chance meeting over the summer with a few members, the Post 105 Family embraced the opportunity to raise a few bucks for this worthwhile charity.

SAL member Vinnie Ferriole, a cancer survivor himself, is the chairman of the Cancer Fundraising Committee within the Sons. "It was an honor to be able to help somebody with cancer ... I'm glad everyone donated," he stated.

For the second year in a row, at the Post's Annual Picnic in September, the SAL held a fundraiser in the parking lot asking for donations for a cancer charity. Chairman Vinnie and his wife Lisa solicited donations by holding a raffle, which this year netted about \$500. Last year, the donation was made to the American Cancer Society; in an attempt to do something a little more community-based, the SAL unanimously voted in July to adopt Gail's Angels as the recipient this year. "It's something we picked up last year, and are proud to continue this year, and every year" commented SAL Commander Steve Sangemino.

At the picnic, following the raffle, with Gail Angels President James Babai at the microphone, SAL Adjutant Rusty Myers was pleased to announce that \$500 was raised for the

organization, which would be matched by both the Post and the SAL, producing a \$1,500 donation. Post Commander Joe Cobiانchi spoke at the picnic about the fundraiser, praising the work the SAL Fundraising Committee did, saying "...our Post is very fortunate to donate."

Foundation President James Babai wrote online that "the support Gail's Angels has received inspires me. The families we've served reassures me that our mission is necessary. Together, we can ensure these families achieve and experience the same desires we all have."

The following week, a few members of the Post 105 family and the fundraising committee took a walk down the street to present the 'big check' to Gail's Angels. Babai was also presented a poster board that donors at the picnic signed their names on, with notes of support to Gail's Angels and those it helps.



Post 15 Family members include (l to r) Allen Garth, Post 105, Vinnie Ferriole, SAL 105 Cancer Fundraising Chairman, Lisa Bocchino, James Babai, President, Gail's Angels Foundation, Rusty Myers, SAL 105 Adjutant, Joe Cobiانchi, Post 105 Commander, James Elsmore, SAL 105 First Vice Commander.

Rusty Myers is a Special Contributor to Round-Up and can be contacted at [rusty.myers@gmail.com](mailto:rusty.myers@gmail.com).

## Ashland Sons of American Legion give local cannon some TLC

Tom Stankard | [tstankard@ashlanddailynews.net](mailto:tstankard@ashlanddailynews.net)  
October 17, 2022

The Howitzer at Memorial Park in Ashland is missing its wheels.

No, they have not been stolen. The two large wooden-spoke wheels are being touched up as part an ongoing restoration project taken on by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 90.

This sort of project isn't cheap these days, and the local organizations are actively raising \$2,000 to help offset the costs.



American Legion Post 90 member Keith Tveit, left, and Walt Gurske, Vice Commander of the Sons of American Legion Squadron 90 are helping raising funds to restore the Howitzer in Ashland located at Memorial Park.

Tom Stankard/Staff photo

"It really needs to be worked on. It shouldn't be allowed to just fall apart," said American Legion Post 90 member Keith Tveit.

Restoring the wheels is just one phase of their ambitious project, Sons of American Legion Squadron 90 Vice Commander Walter Gurske said. Moving forward, the organizations want to take the body of the cannon, have it sandblasted, fixed up and repainted to bring it back to its former glory.

"Once that's complete, we can reassemble the unit and then it's going to go into storage, which will give us time to work on some other goals," Tveit said.

Those other goals include asking the city for permission to build a structure over the cannon so people can be protected from the weather when viewing it and a glass barrier surrounding the cannon to protect the relic from the elements.

"Right now, it picks up road salt, dust and debris," Tveit said. "That will preserve it for the long-term future."

Next to the glass barrier, they want to put a plaque of sorts with a description of the cannon. But what would be on it is unclear because the history of the canon is somewhat unknown.

"That's actually still somewhat of a mystery. I've been in contact with the U.S. Army Artillery Museum at Fort Still (in Oklahoma). "We're still trying to figure out what there is on it," Gurske said. "Not many of them were made."

It was possibly used in WWI, but Gurske said he is leaning more towards the Mexican Intervention in 1916. During this time, the U.S. sent troops into Mexico twice to occupy Veracruz in 1914 and to northern Mexico in 1916 in a failed attempt to capture Pancho Villa.

Gurske believes it is more likely to have been used during the Mexican Intervention because the U.S. didn't bring any artillery overseas for the Great War, instead relying on French and British weapons because it was cheaper than shipping them.

This project is one of many ways the local Sons of American Legion squadron has been active in the community, Gurske said.

Earlier this summer, members volunteered their time to clean the gravesites of local veterans, to pay respects that has been taking place for several years.

"Having some younger people with enthusiasm drive and desire in our community is very significant," Tveit said, smiling.

Reprinted from [www.ashlanddailypress.net](http://www.ashlanddailypress.net)



## **NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

### **Advisory Committee**

Joe Mayne (MN), Chairman

### **Americanism Commission**

Chris Casey (NE), Chairman  
Fourth Thursday of Each Month  
7:30 p.m. Eastern  
(508) 924 3315

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## Century Committee (CENTCOM)

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman

[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

Report to the National Executive Committee

Sunday, October 9, 2022

The Sons of The American Legion Century Committee (CENTCOM) met Friday, October 7, and Saturday, October 8, 2022 in the Panorama A Room at the Sheridan Indianapolis City Center Hotel, 31 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 with the following members in attendance:

	Present	Absent	Excused
Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PNC Gene Sacco (CA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PNC Joe Mayne (CA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PNC Tommie Cisna	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VACANT, West	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VACANT, Midwest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Vrabel, Jr. (OH), Central	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tyler Vanice (VA), South	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Malcolm Mahoney (MA), East	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PNC Joe Paviglianti (NY), Consultant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Seaton (CA), Oversight Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim Stewart (NV), NEC Liaison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests included:

Nicole Halper, Consultant, Innovative

Trailing Candidate for National Commander

Joseph Navarrete

Jay Cooke (OK)

Chris Cook (OK)

Dennis Albright (OH)

Completed items since the inception of CENTCOM are as follows:

1. Following the contracting with Innovative as the CENTCOM consultant, passive research was conducted, including reviewing website items and additional items provided in previously conducted early surveys. These surveys were conducted across Sons of The American Legion, and did not have a targeted audience.

2. Six focus groups met with Innovative, and were focused on Sons who attend National Executive Committee meetings.
3. A two-day retreat was held in early August, with the following tasks undertaken:
  - a. A SWOT analysis identifying strengths, weaknesses, obstacles, and threats was completed, with data nearly complete.
  - b. Goals to test against were identified.
  - c. Target audiences were identified to test against, with demographics, assumptions, and solutions to potential road blocks to membership, signing-up as a member, and renewal discussed.

Items that are in progress include:

1. Interviews with stakeholders, which will be concluded by the end of October.
2. Focus groups, which will be concluded by the end of November.
3. Question development for local and non-leadership member virtual focus groups.
4. Question development for audience target surveys for each target audience and some general audiences, including former SAL members, younger veteran parents, non-engaged members, and a variety of member age groups, with parental permission for minors involved in any discussions.
5. Discussing a non-member focus group incentive program.
6. Continued CENTCOM Roundtable discussions, including how to grow and modernize, as well as member eligibility.

CENTCOM will continue working to complete the following items:

1. Conducting focus groups in each region of the organization to include discussions with SAL Advisors as well as squadron members who are only interested in participating at the squadron level, and/or who have no desire to move into leadership positions.
2. Develop surveys utilizing an internal distribution and survey market audience builder tools, depending on the audience.

3. Roundtable discussions will continue, both virtually and in person, to review results from surveys and focus groups, as well as develop portions of the first draft of the strategic plan.
4. Planning, scheduling, and execution of the regional focus groups.

Over the weekend, CENTCOM developed five key outcomes, or pillars of the committee, with Be The One as the focal point. Those pillars include:

1. Membership, with focus on eligibility requirements, online membership portal, Paid-Up-For-Life members, and for a new classification of members to be considered “sustaining” or “virtual” members, with the goal of reaching one-million members by 2032.
2. Developing a youth program, or Young Sons, do focus on members 17 years old and younger, to include new initiatives and programs to attract younger members.
3. Operations as the organization grows and expands, addressing staffing needs both locally and at the national level.
4. Brand awareness and community service, as we continue to get the American Legion Family to become a household phrase, recognized my more non-members.
5. Americanism, with a focus on the family and programs to enhance families doing more together, while at the same time enforcing the principals of what The American Legion was founded upon.

These five pillars will be the basis of all future planning of the committee.

### Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman  
 Third Wednesday of Each Month  
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
 (605) 472-5332 | 808 417  
 Online Meeting ID:

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



### Children & Youth Committee

James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman  
 Second Wednesday of Each Month  
 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
 Meeting ID: 860 519 6979851 8948 4607 | 2yDCKZ

### Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman  
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
[Join Zoom meeting](#)  
 Meeting ID: 931 8495 9980 | 171 635

December 8 | February 9 | April 13  
 May 6 (NEC) | July 13



## FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

[www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)

as of October 23, 2022

**146**

Flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans

since September 1, 2022

### Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman  
 Fourth Thursday of Each Month  
 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
 (605) 313-6050 | 344 590

### Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman  
 Third Thursday of ODD Months  
 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time  
 (267) 807-9601 | 988 284 103#



★ ★ ★ ADVOCACY ALERT ★ ★ ★

Let's honor the greatest generation like we never have before: by ensuring they have unfettered access to VA

healthcare. It takes just a few moments to make your voice heard.

### [Take Action Now](#)

Those who made the Greatest Generation truly great are nearly gone. According to VA's 2022 statistics, less than two hundred thousand remain of the 16 million U.S. veterans who served during World War II. Most of these veterans are already using VA services – The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics notes that in 2016 VA's benefits utilization rate for male World War II veterans was 73.6% and 67.3% for female veterans.

You can recognize these remaining heroes with actions far more meaningful than words. The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 exempted all veterans who served during the Spanish-American War and World War I from the means test required to enter the VA health care system. It is time to do the same for our World War II veterans.

Section 5132 of the House NDAA and Senate NDAA amendment 5963 would exempt WWI veterans from the means test needed to receive VA healthcare services. It would afford WWI veterans accessibility to the same VA healthcare services received by Spanish-American War and WWI veterans.

Time is running out; it is vital that this amendment is added to the Senate NDAA as quickly as possible. Please urge your members of Congress to take up this language [by visiting this link](#).

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



## American Legion opens applications for the National Legislative Council

The American Legion's National Legislative Council is a 535-member group of Legionnaires designated to serve as direct liaisons to *every member of the Senate and House of Representatives*— and applications are open to join the Council for the 118th Congress!

Before every new session of Congress, The American Legion rebuilds its National Veterans Council. Interested candidates may submit their applications [at this webpage](#) for their departments' consideration. Members of the Legislative Council work to:

- Develop and maintain strong working relationships with elected lawmakers and staff
- Promote an interest in and a furtherance of The American Legion's legislative goals
- Serve as a liaison for disseminating information to elected lawmakers and staff

Members of the Legislative Council are relied on to reinforce The American Legion's overall legislative efforts, particularly at times when immediate and personal contact with lawmakers is necessary – typically referred to as “grassroots contact.”

They routinely email, write, and/or call lawmakers and their staff regarding veterans legislation. Members should strive to visit the lawmaker's local office at least once per month to discuss issues that will directly impact The American Legion's legislative goals.

Position requirements include:

- Current Legionnaire willing to work in concert with The American Legion to achieve its legislative goals.
- Experience working with public relations and/or elected officials is a plus.
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills are necessary.
- Comfortable speaking and making presentations to larger groups.
- Ability to use social media.
- Ability to represent The American Legion and veterans to various groups and organizations.
- Personal relationship with the member of Congress to whom they are assigned, senior staffers in their office, or willingness and ability to establish relationships with them.

Legionnaires who are already politically active within their communities, districts and states are best fit to serve in these roles. The relationship between the Council member and their elected representative is one of established trust, where the judgment and advice of the Legionnaire is respected by the elected official. Candidates are encouraged to submit their applications before the Nov. 8 election.

[Apply Now](#)

## Member Training and Development Committee

Mike Monserud (IA), Chairman  
 First Monday of Each Month  
 8:00 p.m. Eastern  
 (605) 468-8772 | 625 2764#

## Membership Committee

Thom Skelley (TX), Chairman  
 Third Tuesday of Each Month  
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
 (605) 472-5756 | 771 7294#

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at [www.legion.org/membership/standings](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings)

additional membership information appears later in this edition  
 Gentlemen,

We may be slightly behind the percentage mark for this year, but we are almost dead even based on total membership from last year at this time. Weekly reports are showing a steady increase in membership, and we will continue to grow.

The 25% target date has been extended to October 19, so you still have time to make goal.

Congratulations to the Southern Region for an outstanding start, and to the Detachment of Hawaii for being the first to reach 100%.

**Are you part of The Family?**



**Ask me how to join**  
[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 25% TARGET 10/19/2022	2023 ACTUAL MBSP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-61	80	103.90%	93.42
2	LOUISIANA	1,790	-626	1,073	59.94%	55.40
3	PUERTO RICO	123	-34	65	52.85%	26.23
4	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-287	624	46.29%	38.71
5	GEORGIA	4,490	-889	2,011	44.79%	39.95
6	FRANCE	158	-30	69	43.67%	43.79
7	WISCONSIN	4,187	-667	1,714	40.94%	37.32
8	ALABAMA	2,066	-299	815	39.45%	33.69
9	ILLINOIS	13,398	-1,808	5,157	38.49%	36.56
10	MISSISSIPPI	722	-85	265	36.70%	33.10
11	MISSOURI	3,219	-283	1,088	33.80%	29.23
12	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-107	447	32.82%	25.94
13	MEXICO	31	-2	10	32.26%	16.13
14	IOWA	4,857	-347	1,561	32.14%	28.65
15	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-190	872	31.98%	25.93
16	IDAHO	644	-43	204	31.68%	26.29
17	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	-63	327	30.97%	25.74
18	NEVADA	357	-19	108	30.25%	26.74
19	MARYLAND	16,058	-729	4,743	29.54%	26.32
20	FLORIDA	21,519	-754	6,134	28.51%	22.31
21	VERMONT	3,818	-122	1,076	28.18%	25.61
22	TENNESSEE	1,718	-55	484	28.17%	21.71
23	COLORADO	2,729	-78	760	27.85%	25.14
24	DELAWARE	2,430	-68	675	27.78%	22.21
25	UTAH	449	-11	123	27.39%	19.41
26	OREGON	1,414	-33	386	27.30%	20.67
27	NEBRASKA	7,015	-119	1,873	26.70%	25.57
28	NEW JERSEY	9,386	-147	2,493	26.56%	23.84
29	MONTANA	1,108	-16	293	26.44%	24.42
30	KANSAS	5,919	-73	1,553	26.24%	23.23
31	WYOMING	1,298	-14	338	26.04%	22.69
32	TEXAS	5,569	-20	1,412	25.35%	20.53
33	INDIANA	36,387	406	8,691	23.88%	21.39
34	RHODE ISLAND	336	5	79	23.51%	20.97
35	VIRGINIA	4,109	79	948	23.07%	19.21
36	ARKANSAS	447	9	103	23.04%	18.45
37	OHIO	30,636	890	6,769	22.09%	19.69
38	CALIFORNIA	10,714	322	2,357	22.00%	17.93
39	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	44	324	22.00%	17.65
40	MICHIGAN	24,271	893	5,175	21.32%	17.62
41	ALASKA	1,608	67	335	20.83%	17.05
42	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	253	1,166	20.54%	18.74
43	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	268	1,093	20.08%	18.13
44	MINNESOTA	11,378	590	2,255	19.82%	18.77
45	NEW YORK	29,864	1,651	5,815	19.47%	17.28
46	CONNECTICUT	1,867	126	341	18.26%	15.89
47	NEW MEXICO	1,483	115	256	17.26%	14.36
48	MAINE	2,617	205	449	17.16%	13.54
49	ARIZONA	8,004	682	1,319	16.48%	11.38
50	WASHINGTON	2,485	246	375	15.09%	10.47
51	DIST OF COL	114	12	17	14.91%	11.50
52	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	256	335	14.18%	11.63
53	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	7,578	7,623	12.54%	10.53
54	KENTUCKY	2,609	361	291	11.15%	9.37
55	PHILIPPINES	70	16	2	2.86%	1.47
<b>Grand Totals:</b>		<b>367,798</b>	<b>6,999</b>	<b>84,951</b>	<b>23.10%</b>	<b>20.03</b>

### 2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	80	103.90%
IDAHO	644	204	31.68%
NEVADA	357	108	30.25%
UTAH	449	123	27.39%
OREGON	1,414	386	27.30%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	2,357	22.00%
ALASKA	1,608	335	20.83%
ARIZONA	8,004	1,319	16.48%
WASHINGTON	2,485	375	15.09%
PHILIPPINES	70	2	2.86%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>5,289</b>	<b>20.48%</b>

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
OKLAHOMA	1,348	624	46.29%
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	447	32.82%
MEXICO	31	10	32.26%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	327	30.97%
COLORADO	2,729	760	27.85%
NEBRASKA	7,015	1,873	26.70%
MONTANA	1,108	293	26.44%
KANSAS	5,919	1,553	26.24%
WYOMING	1,298	338	26.04%
TEXAS	5,569	1,412	25.35%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	256	17.26%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>7,893</b>	<b>27.29%</b>

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,187	1,714	40.94%
ILLINOIS	13,398	5,157	38.49%
MISSOURI	3,219	1,088	33.80%
IOWA	4,857	1,561	32.14%
INDIANA	36,387	8,691	23.88%
OHIO	30,636	6,769	22.09%
MICHIGAN	24,271	5,175	21.32%
MINNESOTA	11,378	2,255	19.82%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>32,410</b>	<b>25.25%</b>

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	158	69	43.67%
MARYLAND	16,058	4,743	29.54%
VERMONT	3,818	1,076	28.18%
DELAWARE	2,430	675	27.78%
NEW JERSEY	9,386	2,493	26.56%
RHODE ISLAND	336	79	23.51%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	1,166	20.54%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	1,093	20.08%
NEW YORK	29,864	5,815	19.47%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	341	18.26%
MAINE	2,617	449	17.16%
DIST OF COL	114	17	14.91%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	335	14.18%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	7,623	12.54%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>140,932</b>	<b>28,974</b>	<b>18.43%</b>

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,073	59.94%
PUERTO RICO	123	65	52.85%
GEORGIA	4,490	2,011	44.79%
ALABAMA	2,066	815	39.45%
MISSISSIPPI	722	265	36.70%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	872	31.98%
FLORIDA	21,519	6,134	28.51%
TENNESSEE	1,718	484	28.17%
VIRGINIA	4,109	948	23.07%
ARKANSAS	447	103	23.04%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	324	22.00%
KENTUCKY	2,609	291	11.15%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>43,793</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>30.56%</b>



### National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

### National Executive Committee

#### Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman

### National Vice-Commander

#### Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Chairman

### Public and Media

#### Communications Commission

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman  
Fourth Tuesday of Each Month  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

### Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

### Subcommittee on National Appointments

Donald Allisot, Jr. (ME), Chairman

### Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman  
Fourth Monday of Each Month  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 845 1668 0686

Passcode: 243945

### Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coats (NY), Chairman  
Third Wednesday of Each Month  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Pro Deo Et Partia – For God and Country  
Minister Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr.  
National Chaplain  
Sons of The American Legion



## BUDDY CHECK



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# SPORTS

## Bids being sought for 2024, '25 Legion Baseball regional sites

The American Legion | October 18, 2022



The national Americanism Commission is seeking bids to host the American Legion Baseball regional tournaments in 2024 and 2025.

The bids may be for one year or both years.

The tournament dates are Aug. 7-11, 2024, and Aug. 6-10, 2025.

Bid packets are due to American Legion National Headquarters by Feb. 1, 2023. Selections will be made at the Spring NEC Meetings in Indianapolis in May 2023.

Bid details are available on the [American Legion Baseball Resources](#) page.

## SQUADRON EVERLASTING

to have a member's information listed here,  
please send to [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

### William 'Bill' S. Hill



MUSCATINE, IA – William 'Bill' S. Hill, 73, of Fruitland, passed away at Genesis Medical Center in Davenport on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

A visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on Monday, October 17, 2022, at the Ralph J. Wittich-Riley Friers Funeral Home. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.wittichfuneralhome.com](http://www.wittichfuneralhome.com). Memorials may be made in his honor to the Muscatine Humane Shelter, or It Takes a Village Animal Rescue.

*Winter Coat drive*

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Mary is a member of Mahoning Valley Unit 15 in Poland, Ohio

William was born on July 11, 1949, in Muscatine, the son of Edward and Jeanne Cook Hill. He married Sandy Dahnke on July 16, 1970 in Salinas, California.

He worked as production control manager at Bandag for 47 years, retiring in 2019. William was active as a member of the Sons of the American Legion. He excelled as a swimmer, being captain of his high school swim team. He loved gardening with Sandy, and making his pepper mix, which he often shared with family and friends, and always made time for visits with those he loved.

Will be deeply missed by his wife, Sandy; his son Adam and his wife, Kristi, of Des Moines; his granddaughter Morgan; sisters Colleen Betz and her husband, Lanny, of Florida, Valerie and her husband, Doug, of Golden, Colorado; mother-in-law JoAnn Dahnke of Muscatine; sisters- and brothers-in-law Linda Marks of Muscatine, Tina Vastine and her husband, Joe, of Waukon, Sam Dahnke and his wife, Sheri, of Muscatine, Jeff Dahnke and his wife, Brenda, of Muscatine; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

William was preceded in death by his parents; sister Dana Hill; father-in-law Lyle Dahnke; sister-in-law Sharon Fuller, and brother-in-law Tim Brase.

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## Joel Stuart Schleifer



1974.

Joel Stuart Schleifer, 66, of Northville, Michigan, passed away peacefully at the hospital on October 10, 2022, in the presence of his loving children. Joel was born on January 13, 1956, in Detroit, Michigan, to his late parents Alexander and Barbara (Weiss) Schleifer. He attended Oak Park High School and graduated in

After graduation, Joel completed some college before completely entering the workforce as an auto mechanic. Over the span of his career, he worked at various auto shops, car dealerships, Ford Motor Company, and at a vehicle test lab. An injury on the job led him to change career paths and he began to work as a truck driver up until his passing. In August of 1988, Joel married his then wife, Suzanne White, whom he was married to for five years until their separation. Together they had and raised their two children together.

Joel, also known as "Rabbi" (Teacher), "Kid," "Grandpa" and "Grillmaster," was a father who not only loved his children

but who also cherished the time that he got to spend with his grandson. When they were younger, he loved taking his kids to monster truck rally's, fishing expos at Silver Dome, and impulsive trips to K-Mart and Target for snacks. He loved the WWE, muscle cars, NASCAR, and had a special appreciation for Harley Davidsons. While he didn't have one of his own, he always jumped at any opportunity to ride his friends. He was an avid collector of the Harley Davidson poker chips and accumulated dozens from various locations across the country. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion and took part in the Honor Guard activities whenever possible.

Joel was a social butterfly who loved to be in the middle of every conversation, and he adamantly made sure that he always got the last word. His projecting voice and dramatic expression could not go ignored, and his inability to sit still made him quite entertaining. He hugged and kissed everyone that he met for the first time, was always laughing, and although he was not the best with his words at times, he made sure you knew how he felt by some act of physical affection which always went a long way. He was a photo keeper of all his loved ones and would keep a stockpile of random photos that he accumulated from surfing online. Among the many things that will be missed about him, his children will miss most his middle-of-the-week random calls and his unpredictable drop-ins where he would stop over, unannounced, at any time of the day. He was a good grandfather and the time he spent having bonfires and roasting marshmallows with his grandson will always be remembered. He will be dearly missed.

Joel is survived by his son, Seth Schleifer; daughter, Savannah Schleifer; ex-wife, Suzanne White; grandson, Xavier Schleifer; sister, Cindy (Robert) Proudfoot; and his two nieces, many cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Funeral services are being handled privately by the family. To send condolences directly to the family, please visit Joel's Tribute Wall at [walkerfuneralhomes.com](http://walkerfuneralhomes.com). In lieu of flowers, please consider making a monetary donation to the Tribute Fund to help support the family with their funeral expenses in Joel's honor.

To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Joel, please [visit our floral store](#).

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Joel Stuart Schleifer, please visit the [Tribute Fund](#).

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# FROM THE EDITOR

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to attend the Homecoming Celebration for Detachment of Ohio Commander Dennis Albright. Hosted at Joseph W. Hoffman Post 757 in Chillicothe, Ohio, friends and family gathered to honor Commander Dennis for his year, and to help raise funds for the Child Welfare Foundation.

It was a great time with great food, an awesome auction, karaoke, and Commander Dennis dancing with his date, Ginger.

Congratulations Commander Dennis, and keep up the awesome work you are doing.

Congratulations to the detachments that made the 25% goal. Keep working hard to recruit, renew, and reinstate members, as we continue to grow our membership.

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

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

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# AMERICAN LEGION



## Resolved: Fighting for the lives of veterans

October 19, 2022

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

The success of American Legion programs is directly related to those who orchestrate them on the grassroots level. Programs such as American Legion Baseball, American Legion Riders and many others were conceived at the local level, grew in popularity, and have generated significant impact on the lives of veterans, their families, children and youth, and others throughout our great nation.

The American Legion's [Be the One campaign](#) has the potential to not only change lives, but save lives. And the initiative will be successful through efforts from local posts, districts or counties, and departments with support from national.

Already, we are seeing successes at the post level. Events are being planned. Conversations are being started. Lives are being saved.

But there is so much more we can do. Thanks to the National Executive Committee, several resolutions approved during last week's Fall Meetings in Indianapolis create opportunities for doing more. These resolutions call for support for Be the One activities and research into veteran suicide prevention. Among them:

- Resolution No. 7: American Legion Family Day. This resolution creates a special day for all posts to honor community members who performed good deeds. On



Ohio Sons is committed to Be The One. Pictured are ASAS Stix Metro, PDC Bill Towns, SAA John Conley, Chaplain Jeff Vrabel, Jr., 2VC Tim Conway, Commander Dennis Albright, 1VC Dave Dilts, NEC Gary Lang, PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

photo by Nikki Finnell

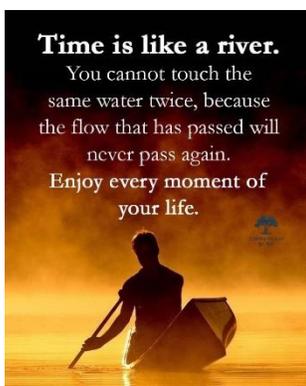


the last day in April each year, this event will be a wonderful opportunity to honor those who demonstrated how to “Be the One.”

- Resolution No. 14: Access to Care. It calls on VA to improve the timeliness of primary care and mental health appointments for veterans. Some veterans wait months for appointments, which increases the risk of suicide, according to the U.S. Surgeon General and National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.
- Resolution No. 16: Furthering Research Pertaining to PTSD, TBI and CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy). The resolution encourages veterans to continue their legacy of service to others and consider becoming a brain and/or body donor. Researchers would then be able to better study the effects of head trauma so doctors, combat medics, surgeons and others can better manage patients with PTSD and TBI, and therefore reduce the number of veteran suicides. (A recent episode of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast highlighted the work being done by the Concussion Legacy Foundation. [Listen to the episode here.](#))
- Resolution No. 18: Mental Health Programs for Justice-Involved Veterans. The American Legion is calling on Congress to pass legislation for establishing and funding evidence-supported programs and initiatives directed at providing mental health services to justice-involved veterans. Over half of justice-involved veterans have a confirmed mental health diagnosis such as PTSD, all of which require regular mental health support and treatment.

The Be the One initiative is in its infancy. Its success will depend on our combined efforts as the nation’s largest and most influential veterans service organization. It’s an honor to be part of this mission, and I thank you for your support and contributions toward saving the lives of our brothers and sisters in uniform.

Vincent “Jim” Troiola, National Commander  
The American Legion



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## National Commander’s Pin Incentive Program



American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola will award his national commander “Be The One” membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2023 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2022 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

[Download the "Be the One" membership incentive form](#)

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## National Commander’s V.E.T.S. Pin Incentive Program



To qualify for National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola’s V.E.T.S. (veterans, education, teamwork, and sponsor) expired membership incentive pin, American Legion members will need to reinstate five expired members into The American Legion for the 2023 membership year who were not a member during the 2022 membership year.

Please make sure that members have been processed before submission of this award. Pins will not be mailed until they are verified on the national database.

Forward the names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

[Download the expired membership incentive pin form](#)

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## Share your 'Be the One' story

The American Legion | October 14, 2022



Photo by Hilary Ott/The American Legion

American Legion posts and members are demonstrating they are fully engaged with [the new initiative, "Be the One."](#) The American Legion's effort aims to eliminate the stigma associated with mental health wellness and, in turn, reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

Take, for example, Casey Nash, the 1st district commander in the Department of Georgia. [Nash shared her story](#) of how she turned survival into helping others. To share your story, [visit the Legiontown](#) web page and choose the "Be the One" category.

Last summer, Post 171 in Crystal Lake, Ill., [held its second annual Vets 4 Veterans event](#). More than 100 veterans and family members were on hand for the day-long Be the One-oriented program that included over 40 vendors that shared information about their local resources for veterans.

Other posts are planning similar events like American Legion Post 373 in Baldwinville, MA. In early November, the post is leading a Be the One event focused on suicide risk awareness and prevention for veterans, servicemembers, first responders and their families. Local agencies will be available to share information about resources, programs and more.

If your post is hosting, planning or participating in a similar event, let us know by [sharing it on Legiontown](#) and/or emailing the details to [magazine@legion.org](mailto:magazine@legion.org).

In addition to the Crystal Lake and Baldwinville posts, there are other American Legion posts already conducting or planning suicide awareness events or other programs related to the vision of Be the One. Such programs can be

easily transformed into "Be the One" events. In fact, National Headquarters has created promotional materials to assist posts and departments that are hosting or participating in suicide awareness events and other community activities related to "Be the One."

The web page will continue to be updated with a variety of resources. To learn more about the currently available resources including special brochures, videos and a QR code [read this primer](#) and visit [betheone.org](http://betheone.org).

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### Check-in services for individuals living alone

Jim Miller/via Crescendo | October 14, 2022

#### [LEARN HOW YOUR PLANNED GIFT CAN HELP THE AMERICAN LEGION](#)

*Can you recommend any services that check in on individuals who live alone? I live about 200 miles from my 82-year-old parent and worry about them falling or getting ill and not being able to call for help.*

There are several different types of check-in services, along with some simple technological devices that can help keep your parent safe at home while providing you some peace of mind. Here are some options to look into.

*Check-in app:* If your parent uses a smartphone, a great solution to help ensure their safety would be to download a free app from your favorite app store that creates a daily check-in to confirm the user's well-being. These apps are used by thousands of individuals who live alone and want to ensure that if something happens to them, their loved ones will be notified quickly so they can receive immediate help.

Most of the apps require selection of what time(s) throughout the day the user would like for the app to check in. The app will send a push notification at those times asking the user to check in. If the user does not check in within a

certain time frame or respond after multiple pings, the app will notify the designated emergency contacts and share the last known location so that the user can receive fast help.

Some apps also offer additional services for a fee. These services can include in-person wellness check-ins who can visit your parent as well as provide assistance if needed.

*Check-in calls:* If your parent does not use a smartphone, another option to help ensure their safety is a daily check-in call service program. These are telephone reassurance programs usually run by police or sheriff's departments in hundreds of counties across the country and are generally free of charge.

Here is how they work: A computer automated phone system would call your parent at a designated time each day to check in. If the call is answered, the system will assume everything is fine. But if the call goes to voice mail after repeated tries, the designated emergency contact would get a notification call. If the first emergency contact is not reachable, calls are then made to backup individuals who have also agreed to check on the individual if necessary. The fallback is that if no one can be reached, the police or other emergency services personnel will be dispatched to the home.

To find out if this service is available in your parent's community, call their local police department's non-emergency number. If, however, the community does not have a call check-in program, there are third-party businesses that offer similar services for relatively low prices. You can find the businesses in your area by using your favorite online search engine.

*Technological devices:* You may also want to invest in some simple technological aids to keep your parent safe. One of the most commonly used devices for this is a medical alert system that costs about \$1 per day. These systems come with a wearable "help button" that would allow the wearer to call for help 24/7.

Another option that is becoming increasingly popular is virtual-assistant smart devices. These devices are typically smart speakers but may also include video capabilities and would allow your parent to call multiple emergency contacts with a simple verbal command. Wi-Fi is typically required to use these devices.

*"Savvy Living" is written by Jim Miller, a regular contributor to NBC's "Today Show." The column, and others like it, is available to read via The American Legion's Planned Giving*

*program, a way of establishing your legacy of support for the organization while providing for your current financial needs.*



## Samsung Legion scholarship awards \$232,500 to Boys State, Girls State participants

The American Legion | October 14, 2022



The 2022 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients have been selected. The 86 scholarship recipients – who attended either the 2022 American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State session – were selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship awarded 10 national scholars with \$10,000, 10 runners-up with \$5,000, and 66 state finalists each will receive \$1,250 for undergraduate study.

The recipients earned the award based on several criteria, including participation in American Legion



Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State and being a direct descendant of a wartime veteran eligible for American Legion membership.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of Boys State or Girls State and are direct descendants (or legally adopted children) of wartime veterans eligible for American Legion membership. The Samsung scholarship supports undergraduate studies (e.g., room and board, tuition, and books), and each applicant is selected according

to his or her involvement in school and community activities, academic record, and financial need.

For more information about the scholarship, visit [legion.org/scholarships/samsung](https://legion.org/scholarships/samsung).



## Legion Magazine still 'best-read' in America

The American Legion | October 18, 2022

*The American Legion Magazine* is still “best read” among more than 150 titles in the United States, according to an independent auditor.

“It is inspiring to know how highly our members regard our magazine,” said David Wallace, chairman of the American Legion Media & Communications Commission, which oversees the magazine and other media products of the nation’s largest veterans service organization. “They care deeply about our organization, our commitment to community service and how we improve the lives of veterans daily. The results show no matter how busy our members are, they regularly find time to engage with the magazine. We are grateful for their readership and loyalty.”

GfK MRI conducts research annually to determine how frequently subscribers read each issue. *The American Legion*, which is the nation’s 19th-largest magazine by circulation, had the highest percentage in both categories measured. One category calculates how many subscribers have read three out of the past four issues, while the other determines how many read each of the past four issues.

Subscribers of *The American Legion Magazine* reported reading at least three of the previous four issues 74.4 percent of the time. No other magazine was higher than 72 percent.

And 66 percent of *American Legion Magazine* subscribers say they read all four of the previous four issues.

In the past 10 years, *American Legion Magazine* swept both categories seven times; in one year, it rated first in one category and second in the other. It was never ranked lower than third.

Wallace credits the recent magazine redesign as a way to keep readers engaged.

“Over the course of the past couple of years, the magazine has undergone a strategic renaissance,” he said. “We’ve modernized the design and content, making the entire magazine more accessible for time-pressed readers. This new survey is clear validation that readers approved of the updates.”



U.S. Air Force photo

## Pentagon 'cautiously encouraged' by 15% drop in military suicides last year

Corey Dickstein/Stars and Stripes | October 21, 2022

Suicides among active-duty troops in 2021 dropped about 15% compared with the record high recorded the previous year, but defense officials warned the annual Pentagon report released Thursday also showed the military’s suicide rate remained on an upward trend during the last decade.

The Pentagon reported an active-duty suicide rate of about 24 suicide deaths per 100,000 service members last year, down from about 29 self-inflicted deaths per 100,000 troops in 2020. Defense officials said they were cautiously optimistic the slowing annual suicide rate was an indication efforts to address the issue were finally working.

“While we are cautiously encouraged by the drop in these numbers, one year is not enough time to assess real change,” Beth Foster, the executive director of the Pentagon’s Force Resiliency Office, told reporters Thursday. “The year-to-year trend provides helpful preliminary insight, but there is still a gradual increasing trend for suicide

in the military over a 10-year period, and we need to see a sustained long-term reduction in suicide rates to know if we're really making progress.”

The Defense Department’s fourth annual “Suicide in the Military” report showed 519 service members died by suicide in 2021, down from 582 in 2020. While the active-duty rate dropped, rates for the Reserves and National Guard remained about the same last year as in 2020, according to the report.

Suicide rates dropped from 2020 to 2021 in all the military services except for the Army, which remained at the same rate — about 36 deaths per 100,000 soldiers, the report showed. Foster said the Air Force dropped in suicides last year from almost 25 deaths per 100,000 airmen to about 15 suicides per 100,000 airmen. The Marine Corps’ rate dropped from almost 35 suicides per 100,000 troops to about 24 deaths per 100,000 troops. The Navy’s dropped 19 to about 17 suicides per 100,000 sailors.

While the Army’s 2021 rate did not fall, the service reported an about 30% drop in suicides during the first six months of 2022, according to preliminary data published last month. The 2021 report comes as the military has spent years grappling with an increasing rate of suicide deaths among its troops amid outcry from members of Congress and others. The Defense Department has spent millions of dollars in recent years on multiple efforts to attempt to understand what causes service members to harm or kill themselves. The department has taken some steps to increase troops’ access to mental health professionals, combat the longstanding stigma that seeking help was a sign of weakness and better train its troops on firearms safety, Foster said.

Among the efforts, the Pentagon was mandated by Congress to create an independent review committee to study the issue. The committee began work in May and is expected to produce a comprehensive report on military suicide by February.

In a statement Thursday, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin promised to pour as many resources as necessary into suicide prevention efforts.

“Every death by suicide is a tragedy that impacts our people, our military units and our [combat] readiness,” Austin said. “That’s why we remain committed to a comprehensive and integrated approach to suicide prevention. Going forward, we are standing up a dedicated prevention workforce to strengthen our efforts to address suicide and other

challenging areas. The scale of this workforce is unprecedented and reflects our commitment to make lasting change.”

That workforce includes the anticipated hiring of some 2,000 new mental health care workers across the Defense Department by next year. Foster said the department hoped to have its “initial cohort” of some 400 of those workers on the job “in the next couple months.”

As in previous years, the 2021 report identifies young, enlisted men as the most vulnerable to suicide. About 89% of active-duty suicides were among enlisted troops, 74% of suicides were among those younger than 30 years old and 94% were among male troops. About 73% of suicides were among white service members in 2021, according to the report.

Firearms were the most common method of suicide, the report concluded. About 67% of suicides among active-duty troops were with a gun. Personally owned guns were used in more than 90% of those firearms deaths as opposed to service-issued firearms, said Liz Clark, the Pentagon’s director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. Hanging or asphyxiation was the second most common method of suicide, accounting for about 26% of active-duty deaths in 2021, according to the report.

The 2021 suicide report also included data about military family suicides for 2020. The military family suicide rate remained the same in 2020 as in 2019 at about 7.7 suicides per 100,000 family members.

Most of the suicide among family members in 2020 were by spouses — about 13 suicides per 100,000, according to the report. About four dependent children per 100,000 died of suicide in 2021, it said.

Clark and Foster said the Pentagon would continue its work to decrease suicides going forward — especially efforts to better understand what causes troops to attempt suicide and shun mental health care.

“It’s difficult to isolate it to one particular factor, but we are seeing the rates decrease this year, and I think part of that — and again, we don’t want to get too far ahead because we need to keep seeing a trend to know if we’re truly making progress — is that it’s incredibly powerful that [Defense Department] leaders ... have made this a priority,” Foster said. “Mental health is health, and so we must continue to work to break down barriers to help, to address stigma, and build healthy climates and a culture of connection where all our service members can thrive.”

Troops and veterans who want to contact the [Veterans/Military Crisis Line](#) can dial 988 then press 1, or text the crisis line at 838255. An option to chat online is available at [veteranscrisisline.net](#).

A Mass of Christian Burial and full military rites performed by the New Castle Area Color Guard have already taken place. Pallbearers were, Richard W., Richard L., Steven and Patrick McCarthy, Harold Ritter, and Jeff Vrabel, Jr.

Donations in Mr. McCarthy's name can be made to Sisters of St. Joseph, 1020 State Street, Baden, PA, 15005; or Sons of the American Legion, 44 Centennial Drive, Poland, OH, 44514; or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Reprinted from [www.mcgoniglefuneralhomeandcrematory.com](http://www.mcgoniglefuneralhomeandcrematory.com)

# REMEMBERING THE GREATEST GENERATION

To honor a World War II Veteran,  
please send information to [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

## Richard S. McCarthy



Richard S. McCarthy 97, of Youngstown, Ohio, died September 27, 2022, at the Inn at Poland Way, Poland, Ohio.

Dick was born November 5, 1924, in New Castle, PA, a son of the late John J. and Lou A. (Peterson) McCarthy.

He was a 1942 graduate of New Castle High School. One of the last of the "Greatest Generation," Dick was a proud Navy veteran having served on the USS Blackfish submarine during WWI.

On December 20, 1945, he married his high school sweetheart, Marguerite E. (Ward). Together they had four children, Katherine McCarthy, Dorothy Kala, Richard W. (Lauren) McCarthy and Daniel (Sheila) McCarthy.

Mr. McCarthy was a founder and former owner of Youngstown Hard Chrome Plating and Grinding in Youngstown, Ohio.

He enjoyed hunting and trout fishing, was an avid runner and worked out at the gym until his early 90's.

He was a long-time member of St. Christine Parish in Youngstown.

He is survived by his four children; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one brother, Charles.

In addition to his parents; Dick was preceded in death by his wife; two brothers; two sisters; as well as his son-in-law; and one grandson.



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# 2022 - 2023 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD



Date  ( select date from drop-down menu )

Recruiter Name  Member ID#

Email Address

Phone Number

MAIL TO RECRUITER       MAIL TO SQUADRON

Street Address or P.O. Box

City  State  Zip

TO QUALIFY RECRUIT FIVE (5) NEW MEMBERS INTO SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

(A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE SONS MEMBER JOINING FOR THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR.)      TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS

PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS AND/OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR POST OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. CONTACT YOUR STATE HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION [WWW.LEGION.ORG/DEPARTMENTS](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/DEPARTMENTS)

PINS WILL NOT BE MAILED UNTIL THEY ARE VERIFIED ON THE NATIONAL DATABASE

**NOTE:**      The SAL 9-digit membership ID# must be listed for new members recruited

**THE DEADLINE TO QUALIFY FOR THIS INCENTIVE IS JUNE 30TH**

<u>FIRST &amp; LAST NAME</u>	<u>MEMBER ID#</u>
1. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**SAVE & EMAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

EASTERN REGION:	JOHN COOK (NH)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:COOKI46@ROADRUNNER.COM">COOKI46@ROADRUNNER.COM</a>
SOUTHERN REGION:	LINWOOD MOORE (VA)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:WOODMAN989@AOL.COM">WOODMAN989@AOL.COM</a>
CENTRAL REGION:	ROBERT BRISTO (MN)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:BLATZMAN4@Q.COM">BLATZMAN4@Q.COM</a>
MIDWEST REGION:	TERRY HARRIS (KS)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:DET.ADJ.KS@GMAIL.COM">DET.ADJ.KS@GMAIL.COM</a>
WESTERN REGION:	JAMES FISHER (CA)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:JAMESFISCHERSR@GMAIL.COM">JAMESFISCHERSR@GMAIL.COM</a>

10/19/22		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS					
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	
1 Southern 1, 2	43,793	13,385	(30,408)	30.56%	256		
2 Midwestern 1	28,918	7,893	(21,025)	27.29%	3,325		
3 Central 1	128,333	32,410	(95,923)	25.25%	1,859		
4 Western 1	25,822	5,289	(20,533)	20.48%	459		
5 Eastern	140,932	25,974	(114,958)	18.43%	2,208		
<b>TOTALS 1</b>	<b>367,798</b>	<b>84,951</b>	<b>(282,847)</b>	<b>23.10%</b>	<b>8,107</b>		

10/19/22		2023 CENTRAL REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4	4,187	1,714	(2,473)	40.94%	51	37.32%	7	
2 Illinois 1, 2, 3	13,398	5,157	(8,241)	38.49%	202	36.56%	9	
3 Missouri 1, 2	3,219	1,088	(2,131)	33.80%	15	29.23%	11	
4 Iowa 1	4,857	1,561	(3,296)	32.14%	1	28.65%	14	
5 Indiana 1	36,387	8,691	(27,696)	23.88%	797	21.39%	33	
6 Ohio 1	30,636	6,769	(23,867)	22.09%	95	19.69%	37	
7 Michigan	24,271	5,175	(19,096)	21.32%	215	17.62%	40	
8 Minnesota	11,378	2,255	(9,123)	19.82%	483	18.77%	44	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>32,410</b>	<b>(95,923)</b>	<b>25.25%</b>	<b>1,808</b>			

10/19/22		2023 WESTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	77	80	3	103.90%	-	93.42%	1	10/10/22
2 Idaho 1, 2	644	204	(440)	31.68%	2	25.98%	15	
3 Nevada	357	108	(249)	30.25%	-	26.29%	16	
4 Utah	449	123	(326)	27.39%	29	19.41%	25	
5 Oregon 1	1,414	386	(1,028)	27.30%	7	20.67%	26	
6 California 1	10,714	2,357	(8,357)	22.00%	156	17.93%	38	
7 Alaska	1,608	335	(1,273)	20.83%	22	17.05%	41	
8 Arizona	8,004	1,319	(6,685)	16.48%	235	11.38%	49	
9 Washington	2,485	375	(2,110)	15.09%	8	10.47%	50	
10 Phillipines	70	2	(68)	2.86%	-	1.47%	55	
<b>TOTALS 1</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>5,289</b>	<b>(20,533)</b>	<b>20.48%</b>	<b>459</b>			



**PROUD POSSESSORS  
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

10/19/22		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4	1,790	1,073	(717)	59.94%	9	55.05%	2	
2 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4	123	65	(58)	52.85%	-	26.23%	3	
3 Georgia 1, 2, 3	4,490	2,011	(2,479)	44.79%	77	39.95%	5	
4 Alabama 1, 2, 3	2,066	815	(1,251)	39.45%	8	33.69%	8	
5 Mississippi 1	722	265	(457)	36.70%	1	33.10%	11	
6 North Carolina 1, 2	2,727	872	(1,855)	31.98%	22	25.93%	15	
7 Florida 1	21,519	6,134	(15,385)	28.51%	88	22.31%	20	
8 Tennessee 1	1,718	484	(1,234)	28.17%	18	21.71%	22	
9 Virginia	4,109	948	(3,161)	23.07%	13	19.21%	35	
10 Arkansas 1	447	103	(344)	23.04%	-	18.45%	36	
11 South Carolina	1,473	324	(1,149)	22.00%	18	17.65%	39	
12 Kentucky	2,609	291	(2,318)	11.15%	2	9.37%	54	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2</b>	<b>43,793</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>(30,408)</b>	<b>30.56%</b>	<b>247</b>			

10/19/22		2023 MIDWESTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4	1,348	624	(724)	46.29%	14	38.71%	4	
2 South Dakota 1, 2	1,362	447	(915)	32.82%	16	25.94%	12	
3 Mexico 1, 2	31	10	(21)	32.26%	-	16.13%	13	
4 North Dakota 1	1,056	327	(729)	30.97%	-	25.74%	17	
5 Colorado 1	2,729	760	(1,969)	27.85%	133	25.14%	23	
6 Nebraska 1	7,015	1,873	(5,142)	26.70%	100	25.57%	27	
7 Montana 1	1,108	293	(815)	26.44%	51	24.42%	29	
8 Kansas	5,919	1,553	(4,366)	26.24%	3	23.23%	30	
9 Wyoming 1	1,298	338	(960)	26.04%	31	22.69%	31	
10 Texas 1	5,569	1,412	(4,157)	25.35%	62	20.53%	32	
11 New Mexico	1,483	256	(1,227)	17.26%	66	14.36%	47	
<b>TOTALS 1</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>7,893</b>	<b>(21,025)</b>	<b>27.29%</b>	<b>462</b>			



**YOUR**  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
**MATTERS**

10/19/22		2023 EASTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 France 1, 2, 3	158	69	(89)	43.67%	-	43.79%	5	
2 Maryland 1	16,058	4,743	(11,315)	29.54%	240	24.94%	20	
3 Vermont 1	3,818	1,076	(2,742)	28.18%	403	23.67%	25	
4 Delaware 1	2,430	675	(1,755)	27.78%	2	22.21%	21	
5 New Jersey	9,386	2,493	(6,893)	26.56%	463	19.50%	36	
6 Rhode Island	336	79	(257)	23.51%	4	19.76%	32	
7 New Hampshire	5,677	1,166	(4,511)	20.54%	20	18.44%	41	
8 Massachusetts	5,442	1,093	(4,349)	20.08%	4	18.10%	42	
9 New York	29,864	5,815	(24,049)	19.47%	565	15.51%	44	
10 Connecticut	1,867	341	(1,526)	18.26%	16	14.97%	45	
11 Maine	2,617	449	(2,168)	17.16%	1	13.50%	46	
12 Dist. of Columbia	114	17	(97)	14.91%	-	11.50%	48	
13 West Virginia	2,362	335	(2,027)	14.18%	49	9.70%	52	
14 Pennsylvania	60,803	7,623	(53,180)	12.54%	765	9.44%	53	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>140,932</b>	<b>25,974</b>	<b>(114,958)</b>	<b>18.43%</b>	<b>2,532</b>			

10/19/22		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1	21,519	6,134	(15,385)	28.51%	88	22.31%	20	
2 Indiana 1	36,387	8,691	(27,696)	23.88%	797	21.39%	33	
3 Ohio 1	30,636	6,769	(23,867)	22.09%	95	19.69%	37	
4 Michigan	24,271	5,175	(19,096)	21.32%	215	17.62%	40	
5 New York	29,864	5,815	(24,049)	19.47%	565	17.28%	45	
6 Pennsylvania	60,803	7,623	(53,180)	12.54%	765	10.53%	53	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>203,480</b>	<b>40,207</b>	<b>(163,273)</b>	<b>19.76%</b>	<b>2,525</b>			

<b>National Membership Totals</b>	<b>367,798</b>	<b>84,951</b>	<b>(282,847)</b>	<b>23.10%</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>20.03%</b>		
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Q Quota

- 1 Met 09/14/22 goal of 10%
- 2 Met 10/13/22 goal of 25%
- 3 Met 11/09/22 goal of 35%
- 4 Met 12/14/22 goal of 45%
- 5 Met 01/19/23 goal of 60%
- 6 Met 02/15/23 goal of 75%
- 7 Met 03/15/23 goal of 80%
- 8 Met 04/19/23 goal of 90%
- 9 Met 05/17/23 goal of 100%
- 10 Met 07/16/23 goal of 105%

