



Targeted financial scams on the rise



Jim Miller/via Crescendo | November 21, 2022

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What are the most common scams today? My parent has fallen victim to some over the years and could use some help on how to avoid fraudulent schemes.

While many scams today are universal, some types of fraud specifically target older adults or affect them disproportionately. Unfortunately, these targeted scams are on the rise.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in 2021 there were over 92,000 victims of fraud over 60, resulting in approximately \$1.7 billion in losses. This was a 74% increase in losses compared to 2020.

Below are some of the most common scams that were reported last year.

Government imposters: These scams often start with a call, email, or text message from someone claiming to be from the Social Security Administration, the IRS, Medicare, or a fake agency. Scammers will falsely claim that money is owed, or that Social Security or Medicare benefits are in danger of being cut off. They will threaten to fine, arrest, or

deport the individual if immediate payment is not made or if personal information is not provided. Many times, scammers "spoof" their caller ID to give the appearance that the call is coming from a government phone number. Government agencies, however, never call, email or text to ask for money or personal information.

Sweepstakes and lottery scams: Scammers may contact their intended victims by phone, mail or email saying a sweepstakes or other prize has been won. Then they ask for a fee or taxes to be paid to distribute the prize. They may say the odds of winning increase if money is sent. Scammers will request this fee in the form of a prepaid debit card, wire transfer, money order or cash. Scammers will try to mislead by pretending to be from well-known companies that run real sweepstakes or from official-sounding fake agencies.

Robocalls: One of the top consumer complaints are unwanted calls from auto-dialing software, referred to as robocalls. Unwanted robocalls annoy consumers and can be a vehicle for fraud against trusting individuals. Some robocalls claim that a vehicle warranty is expiring, and payment is needed to renew it. Robocalls may also claim your identity was stolen or that irregular activity was flagged on your bank account. Another common robocall is the "Hello, can you hear me?" call. When the person answering says "yes," the scammer records their voice and hangs up. The criminal then stores the voice recording and uses it to authorize fraudulent activities. As mentioned above, your caller ID may be "spoofed" to make the call look authentic.

Computer tech support scams: Tech support scammers may give the appearance that there is a serious problem with your computer or phone.

see SCAMS page 3



ROUND-UP

National Commander

Chris Carlton (IN)

National Vice-Commander Central Region

David Mennel (MI)

National Vice-Commander Eastern Region

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National Vice-Commander Midwestern Region

Michael Kirschner (CO)

National Vice-Commander Southern Region

Ron Roberts (MS)

National Vice-Commander Western Region

Jack Youngs (ID)

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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. 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

BE THE ONE



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TARGET DATE

December 14, 2022



CHRIS CARLTON

NATIONAL COMMANDER

2022 – 2023



Chris Carlton, National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

"Purpose is why we journey;
passion is the flame that lights the way."



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

A pop-up message or blank screen will appear on a computer or phone, notifying you that the device is compromised and requires fixing. When the support number is called for help, the scammer may either request remote access to your computer or request a fee to have it repaired. These pop-ups are not authentic and there may be nothing that needs to be fixed on the device.

Grandparent fraud scheme: This scam takes advantage of a grandparent who has a hard time saying no to their grandchildren. Scammers will data-mine, often on social media, to learn names of grandchildren. The scammer will then call and impersonate a grandchild to tell the grandparent something is wrong and ask for money to solve some urgent financial problem (legal trouble, a car accident, overdue rent, etc.). The fake grandchild will tell the grandparent not to call any other relatives to avoid embarrassment. Once the money is sent, through prepaid cards or money orders, the scammers are gone, and the money cannot be traced.

Other scams: Other common scams are online romance scams, COVID-19 miracle cures and phony investment schemes. Scammers will impersonate Medicare representatives or health insurers to obtain personal information and submit bogus insurance claims. There are also internet and email scams, including phishing emails or texts, that appear to be from a bank or online stores. For more information on the different types of scams, along with tips to deter scammers, visit the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Advice website at consumer.ftc.gov. The Federal Communications Commission also publishes [consumer guides](#), including "Call Blocking Tools and Resources" and "Stop Unwanted Robocalls and Texts," to help prevent consumers from becoming victims of fraud.

"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. Learn more about the process, and the variety of charitable programs you can benefit, at legion.org/plannedgiving. Clicking on "Learn more" will bring up an "E-newsletter" button, where you can sign up for regular information from Planned Giving.



REGIONAL UPDATES

Plano Sons of the American Legion makes \$500 donation to Plano Rockin' Christmas

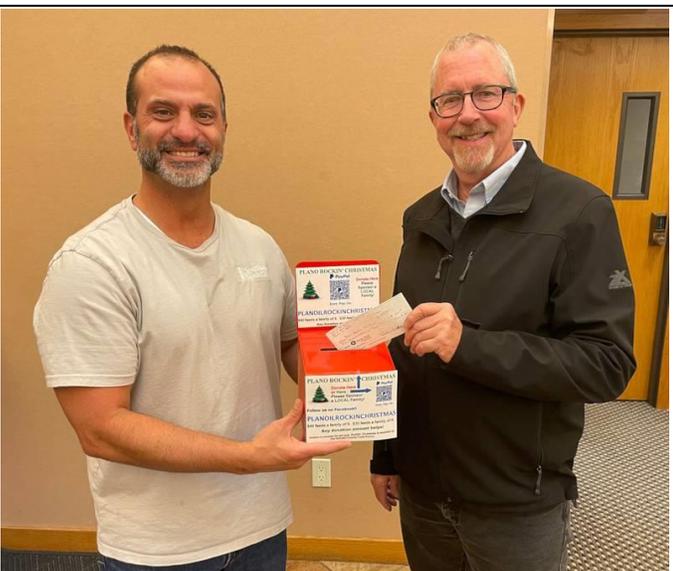
Shaw Local News Network | November 20, 2022

The Plano, IL Sons of the American Legion recently donated \$500 to support Plano Rockin' Christmas.

Plano Rockin' Christmas raises funds for local families in need during the holiday season. Last year, 300 families received gift cards to help provide for their holiday meal.

Plano Rockin' Christmas events will be held Friday, Dec. 2. A lighted vehicle parade will travel throughout the community. There will be activities at Plano's depot including the lighting of Main Street decorations, holiday music performances by student musicians, announcement of the window-decorating contest winner and the presentation of the annual Ross Greiter Spirit Award to the community member who best represents the spirit of Christmas year-round.

Donation boxes for the event are located at many Plano businesses. For information on how to help, visit the Plano Rockin' Christmas Facebook page.



SAL Commander Mike Rennels, right, presents a check to Plano Rockin' Christmas board chairman Joel Recchia.

photo provided by Plano Sons of the American Legion

Flag retirement in Belleville, NJ

[Rusty Myers](#), Adjutant, SAL Squadron 105 | November 20, 2022

"Let these faded Flags of our Country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new Flags of the same size and kind," read American Legion Post 105 Commander Joseph J. Cobianchi as part of the Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags, held on Sunday 20 November in the parking lot of Post 105 at 621 Washington Avenue in Belleville.

Organized by Post 105 Legionnaires and members of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105, between 3,000 and 4,000 flags were retired in the scripted ceremony. This year, scouts from Cub Scout Pack 141 and Girl Scouts from Troops 20122 and 20462 were invited to participate as well.

The Cub Scouts attended the ceremony to complete their "Wolf Adventure" learning about Americanism, called the "Council Fire (Duty to Country) Badge." "It was very emotional to share this experience with some of the young Pack members and to help them understand the importance of the ceremony," stated Pack 141 Den Leader Meghan Myers. "At first they didn't understand why we burn the flags, so it was very important to help them understand why we must retire old flags or how to do so in a proper respectful manner."

"It was our privilege to observe this in a dignified, proud way" also noted attendee Tricia Durr.

As stated in the United States Flag Code (Title 4, Section 8k) - "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." The American Legion is one of the patriotic organizations which is allowed to perform this ceremony. "It really makes you appreciate all we have in this country," remarked Jackie Elsmore, who recently joined as an American Legion Auxiliary member at-large.

Some of the flags which were retired were shredded and tattered, coming from homes, public buildings, and businesses from around the area. Post 105 has a mailbox outside the building where people can drop their old flags to be destroyed. Over 7,000 flags each year are dropped off at the Post from cemeteries around Belleville to be retired as well, which have been placed on the graves of our veterans for Memorial Day.

Other patriotic items are also always found in the flag drop-off box. This year, we found a VFW uniform cap from a World

War II veteran who served in the Pacific and participated in the liberation of the Philippines in 1945, as well as a flag dedicated to the fireman who were lost at the World Trade Center on 9/11, specifically mentioning the 343 who died responding that day. Handwritten on that flag in black ink is the fireman's prayer ... "Wherever flames may rage, give me the strength to save some life." Both the cap and the flag will be saved and preserved, to be put up somewhere in the Post hall.

Noted SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers, "The flag retirement ceremony is very solemn, to be sure. But finding that hat, and reading the prayer on that flag really drives home the meaning of what the American Flag stands for. At the moment Ed Hall found that flag, everyone stopped – because that made the event that much more human. We all got very emotional when we read the prayer, and saw the hat – as both speak to the incredible sacrifice those who have served make."

Before they left for the day, the cub scouts all joined together to shout, "God Bless America!"

"I was very happy that we had all of the Cub, Girl, and Boy scouts today," noted Commander Cobiانchi " ... it is an honor to do this, and is something that is very close to my heart, to retire these flags which have been over our veteran's graves."

The ceremony took five hours, with Legionnaires and SAL's standing guard over the fire until it was completely out, as per the American Legion retirement ceremony. Legionnaire Ed Hall, who is also an SAL honoring his father's service, also spoke about why the ceremony really touched him: "...because so many people have fought so hard to give us the freedom we have. These flags represent all of that."



NOTE: Rusty Myers is a Special Contributor to Round-Up



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

[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 956 9846 2868 | Passcode: 840830
(877) 853-5257 US Toll-free | (888) 475-4499 US Toll-free



As of November 25, 2022, **7,578** flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans since September 1, 2022

Century Committee (CENTCOM)

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman
jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

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>

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF) - DONATIONS REPORT PAGE 1 OF 2

DETACHMENT	2022 DONATIONS (FINAL)	2022 MEMBERSHIP (CURRENT)	2023 CWF GOAL	2023 DONATIONS (TO-DATE)	% OF GOAL	DONATIONS PER CAPITA
AL - ALABAMA	\$ 2,786.00	2,048	\$ 2,048.00	\$ 55.00	2.7%	\$ 0.03
AK - ALASKA	\$ 3,200.00	1,618	\$ 1,618.00	\$ 1,603.00	99.1%	\$ 0.99
AZ - ARIZONA	\$ 12,170.00	8,051	\$ 8,051.00	\$ 7,395.00	91.9%	\$ 0.92
AR - ARKANSAS	\$ 440.00	440	\$ 440.00	\$ 200.00	45.5%	\$ 0.45
CA - CALIFORNIA	\$ 6,842.48	10,892	\$ 10,892.00	\$ 1,108.56	10.4%	\$ 0.10
CO - COLORADO	\$ 23,235.00	2,764	\$ 2,764.00	\$ 3,630.00	131.3%	\$ 1.31
CT - CONNECTICUT	\$ 1,580.82	1,853	\$ 1,853.00	\$ 50.00	2.7%	\$ 0.59
DE - DELAWARE	\$ 1,950.00	2,427	\$ 2,427.00	\$ 50.00	2.1%	\$ 0.02
DC - DIST OF COL	\$ 113.00	113	\$ 113.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
FL - FLORIDA	\$ 23,230.00	21,407	\$ 21,407.00	\$ 18,130.00	84.7%	\$ 0.85
FR - FRANCE	\$ 153.00	153	\$ 153.00	\$ 100.00	65.4%	\$ 0.65
GA - GEORGIA	\$ 11,789.00	4,440	\$ 4,440.00	\$ 1,220.00	27.5%	\$ 0.27
HI - HAWAII	\$ 1,016.00	75	\$ 75.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
ID - IDAHO	\$ 1,001.00	639	\$ 639.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
IL - ILLINOIS	\$ 11,697.83	13,204	\$ 13,204.00	\$ 2,271.78	17.2%	\$ 0.17
IN - INDIANA	\$ 32,645.05	35,741	\$ 35,741.00	\$ 25.00	0.1%	\$ 0.00
IA - IOWA	\$ 2,300.00	4,832	\$ 4,832.00	\$ 154.00	3.2%	\$ 0.03
KY - KANSAS	\$ 5,800.00	5,823	\$ 5,823.00	\$ 365.00	6.3%	\$ 0.06
KS - KENTUCKY	\$ 2,563.00	2,563	\$ 2,563.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
LA - LOUISIANA	\$ 4,692.20	1,757	\$ 1,757.00	\$ 1,410.00	80.3%	\$ 0.80
ME - MAINE	\$ 2,610.00	2,592	\$ 2,592.00	\$ 100.00	3.9%	\$ 0.04
MD - MARYLAND	\$ 3,100.00	16,016	\$ 16,016.00	\$ 580.00	3.6%	\$ 0.04
MA - MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 4,011.00	5,473	\$ 5,473.00	\$ 121.00	2.2%	\$ 0.02
MX - MEXICO	\$ 31.00	31	\$ 31.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
MI - MICHIGAN	\$ 8,688.33	24,266	\$ 24,266.00	\$ 5,085.00	21.0%	\$ 0.21
MN - MINNESOTA	\$ 17,625.09	11,223	\$ 11,223.00	\$ 6,827.75	60.8%	\$ 0.61
MS - MISSISSIPPI	\$ 6,476.00	721	\$ 721.00	\$ 137.00	19.0%	\$ 0.19
MO - MISSOURI	\$ 2,332.00	3,192	\$ 3,192.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
MT - MONTANA	\$ 1,550.00	1,083	\$ 1,083.00	\$ 100.00	9.2%	\$ 0.09
NE - NEBRASKA	\$ 7,638.00	6,895	\$ 6,895.00	\$ 4,745.00	68.8%	\$ 0.69
NV - NEVADA	\$ 4,326.00	360	\$ 360.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
NH - NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$ 6,634.00	5,766	\$ 5,766.00	\$ 2,488.78	43.2%	\$ 0.43
NJ - NEW JERSEY	\$ 13,902.00	9,315	\$ 9,315.00	\$ 270.00	2.9%	\$ 0.03
NM - NEW MEXICO	\$ 200.00	1,485	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 4,800.00	323.2%	\$ 3.23
NY - NEW YORK	\$ 4,620.00	29,774	\$ 29,774.00	\$ 9,806.00	32.3%	\$ 0.32
NC - NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 5,921.00	2,695	\$ 2,695.00	\$ 443.00	16.4%	\$ 0.16
ND - NORTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,049.00	1,049	\$ 1,049.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
OH - OHIO	\$ 6,646.25	30,078	\$ 30,078.00	\$ 6,803.80	22.6%	\$ 0.23
OK - OKLAHOMA	\$ 1,317.00	1,317	\$ 1,317.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
OR - OREGON	\$ 8,214.33	1,425	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 212.00	14.9%	\$ 0.15
PA - PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 38,798.86	60,342	\$ 60,342.00	\$ 4,585.98	7.6%	\$ 0.08
PI - PHILIPPINES	\$ 350.00	68	\$ 68.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
PR - PUERTO RICO	\$ 263.00	121	\$ 121.00	\$ 10.00	8.3%	\$ 0.08
RI - RHODE ISLAND	\$ 350.00	330	\$ 330.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
SC - SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 4,106.00	1,481	\$ 1,481.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
SD - SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,447.81	1,357	\$ 1,357.00	\$ 1,451.85	107.0%	\$ 1.07
TN - TENNESSEE	\$ 2,985.00	1,680	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 911.61	54.3%	\$ 0.54
TX - TEXAS	\$ 17,953.97	5,555	\$ 5,555.00	\$ 9,384.00	168.9%	\$ 1.69
UT - UTAH	\$ 185.00	442	\$ 442.00	\$ 400.00	90.5%	\$ 0.90
VT - VERMONT	\$ 8,875.23	3,815	\$ 3,815.00	\$ 1,950.00	51.1%	\$ 0.51
VA - VIRGINIA	\$ 6,532.00	4,073	\$ 4,073.00	\$ 11,100.00	272.5%	\$ 2.73
WA - WASHINGTON	\$ 1,480.00	2,502	\$ 2,502.00	\$ 600.00	24.0%	\$ 0.24
WV - WEST VIRGINIA	\$ 4,900.00	2,394	\$ 2,394.00	\$ 2,727.25	113.9%	\$ 1.14
WI - WISCONSIN	\$ 707.00	4,163	\$ 4,163.00	\$ 605.00	14.5%	\$ 0.15
WY - WYOMING	\$ 6,250.00	1,290	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 0.00	0.0%	\$ -
NATIONAL HQ	\$ 4,176.00			\$ 3,699.91		
GRAND TOTALS:	\$ 349,789.25	365,009	\$ 365,009.00	\$ 118,562.27	32.5%	\$ 0.32

DETACHMENT	2022 DONATIONS (FINAL)	2022 MEMBERSHIP (CURRENT)	2023 CWF GOAL	2023 DONATIONS (TO-DATE)	% OF GOAL	DONATIONS PER CAPITA
EASTERN REGION						
CONNECTICUT	\$ 1,580.82	1,853	\$ 1,853.00	\$ 1,100.00	59.4%	\$ 0.59
DELAWARE	\$ 1,950.00	2,427	\$ 2,427.00	\$ 50.00	2.1%	\$ 0.02
DIST OF COL	\$ -	113	\$ 113.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
FRANCE	\$ -	153	\$ 153.00	\$ 100.00	65.4%	\$ 0.65
MAINE	\$ 2,610.00	2,592	\$ 2,592.00	\$ 100.00	3.9%	\$ 0.04
MARYLAND	\$ 3,100.00	16,016	\$ 16,016.00	\$ 580.00	3.6%	\$ 0.04
MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 4,011.00	5,473	\$ 5,473.00	\$ 121.00	2.2%	\$ 0.02
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$ 6,634.00	5,766	\$ 5,766.00	\$ 2,488.78	43.2%	\$ 0.43
NEW JERSEY	\$ 13,902.00	9,315	\$ 9,315.00	\$ 270.00	2.9%	\$ 0.03
NEW YORK	\$ 4,620.00	29,774	\$ 29,774.00	\$ 9,806.00	32.3%	\$ 0.32
PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 38,798.86	60,342	\$ 60,342.00	\$ 4,585.98	7.6%	\$ 0.08
RHODE ISLAND	\$ 350.00	330	\$ 330.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
VERMONT	\$ 8,875.23	3,815	\$ 3,815.00	\$ 1,950.00	51.1%	\$ 0.51
WEST VIRGINIA	\$ 4,900.00	2,394	\$ 2,394.00	\$ 2,727.25	113.9%	\$ 1.14
Total:	\$ 91,331.91	140,363	\$ 140,363.00	\$ 23,679.01	16.9%	\$ 0.17

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CENTRAL REGION						
ILLINOIS	\$ 11,697.83	13,204	\$ 13,204.00	\$ 2,271.78	17.2%	\$ 0.17
INDIANA	\$ 32,645.05	35,741	\$ 35,741.00	\$ 25.00	0.1%	\$ 0.00
IOWA	\$ 2,300.00	4,832	\$ 4,832.00	\$ 154.00	3.2%	\$ 0.03
MICHIGAN	\$ 8,688.33	24,266	\$ 24,266.00	\$ 5,085.00	21.0%	\$ 0.21
MINNESOTA	\$ 17,625.09	11,223	\$ 11,223.00	\$ 6,827.75	60.8%	\$ 0.61
MISSOURI	\$ 2,332.00	3,192	\$ 3,192.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
OHIO	\$ 6,646.25	30,078	\$ 30,078.00	\$ 6,803.80	22.6%	\$ 0.23
WISCONSIN	\$ 707.00	4,163	\$ 4,163.00	\$ 605.00	14.5%	\$ 0.15
Total:	\$ 82,641.55	126,699	\$ 126,699.00	\$ 21,772.33	17.2%	\$ 0.17

DETACHMENT	2022 DONATIONS (FINAL)	2022 MEMBERSHIP (CURRENT)	2023 CWF GOAL	2023 DONATIONS (TO-DATE)	% OF GOAL	DONATIONS PER CAPITA
WESTERN REGION						
ALASKA	\$ 3,200.00	1,618	\$ 1,618.00	\$ 1,603.00	99.1%	\$ 0.99
ARIZONA	\$ 12,170.00	8,051	\$ 8,051.00	\$ 7,395.00	91.9%	\$ 0.92
CALIFORNIA	\$ 6,842.48	10,892	\$ 10,892.00	\$ 1,108.56	10.4%	\$ 0.10
HAWAII	\$ 1,016.00	75	\$ 75.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
IDAHO	\$ 1,001.00	639	\$ 639.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
NEVADA	\$ 4,326.00	360	\$ 360.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
OREGON	\$ 8,214.33	1,425	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 212.00	14.9%	\$ 0.15
PHILIPPINES	\$ 350.00	68	\$ 68.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
UTAH	\$ 185.00	442	\$ 442.00	\$ 400.00	90.5%	\$ 0.90
WASHINGTON	\$ 1,480.00	2,502	\$ 2,502.00	\$ 600.00	24.0%	\$ 0.24
Total:	\$ 38,784.81	25,872	\$ 25,872.00	\$ 11,318.56	43.7%	\$ 0.44

DETACHMENT	2022 DONATIONS (FINAL)	2022 MEMBERSHIP (CURRENT)	2023 CWF GOAL	2023 DONATIONS (TO-DATE)	% OF GOAL	DONATIONS PER CAPITA
SOUTHERN REGION						
ALABAMA	\$ 2,786.00	2,048	\$ 2,048.00	\$ 55.00	2.7%	\$ 0.03
ARKANSAS	\$ 440.00	440	\$ 440.00	\$ 200.00	45.5%	\$ 0.45
FLORIDA	\$ 23,230.00	21,407	\$ 21,407.00	\$ 18,130.00	84.7%	\$ 0.85
GEORGIA	\$ 11,789.00	4,440	\$ 4,440.00	\$ 1,220.00	27.5%	\$ 0.27
KENTUCKY	\$ -	2,563	\$ 2,563.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
LOUISIANA	\$ 4,692.20	1,757	\$ 1,757.00	\$ 1,410.00	80.3%	\$ 0.80
MISSISSIPPI	\$ 6,476.00	721	\$ 721.00	\$ 137.00	19.0%	\$ 0.19
NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 5,921.00	2,695	\$ 2,695.00	\$ 443.00	16.4%	\$ 0.16
PUERTO RICO	\$ 263.00	121	\$ 121.00	\$ 10.00	8.3%	\$ 0.08
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 4,106.00	1,481	\$ 1,481.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
TENNESSEE	\$ 2,985.00	1,680	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 911.61	54.3%	\$ 0.54
VIRGINIA	\$ 6,532.00	4,073	\$ 4,073.00	\$ 11,100.00	272.5%	\$ 2.73
Total:	\$ 68,780.20	43,426	\$ 43,426.00	\$ 33,616.61	77.4%	\$ 0.77

DETACHMENT	2022 DONATIONS (FINAL)	2022 MEMBERSHIP (CURRENT)	2023 CWF GOAL	2023 DONATIONS (TO-DATE)	% OF GOAL	DONATIONS PER CAPITA
MIDWEST REGION						
COLORADO	\$ 23,235.00	2,764	\$ 2,764.00	\$ 3,630.00	131.3%	\$ 1.31
KANSAS	\$ 5,800.00	5,823	\$ 5,823.00	\$ 365.00	6.3%	\$ 0.06
MEXICO	\$ -	31	\$ 31.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
MONTANA	\$ 1,550.00	1,083	\$ 1,083.00	\$ 100.00	9.2%	\$ 0.09
NEBRASKA	\$ 7,638.00	6,895	\$ 6,895.00	\$ 4,745.00	68.8%	\$ 0.69
NEW MEXICO	\$ 200.00	1,485	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 4,800.00	323.2%	\$ 3.23
NORTH DAKOTA	\$ -	1,049	\$ 1,049.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
OKLAHOMA	\$ -	1,317	\$ 1,317.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,447.81	1,357	\$ 1,357.00	\$ 1,451.85	107.0%	\$ 1.07
TEXAS	\$ 17,953.97	5,555	\$ 5,555.00	\$ 9,384.00	168.9%	\$ 1.69
WYOMING	\$ 6,250.00	1,290	\$ 1,290.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Total:	\$ 64,074.78	28,649	\$ 28,649.00	\$ 24,475.85	85.4%	\$ 0.85

NATIONAL HQ:	\$ 4,176.00		\$ -	\$ 3,699.91		
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GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 349,789.25	365,009	\$ 365,009.00	\$ 118,562.27	32.5%	\$ 0.32
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SAL DONATIONS AS OF: NOVEMBER 18, 2022

2022 SAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF: NOVEMBER 18, 2022

Children & Youth Committee

James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman
 Second Wednesday of Each Month
 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 748 3803 9406 | 3fkNJS

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

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#

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

additional membership information appears later in this edition

CONGRATULATION TO THE 21 DETACHMENTS THAT HAVE ALREADY HIT THE 45% TARGET !!

The South continues to lead all regions with 46.41%, but the Midwest has closed the gap to half a percentage point at 45.91%. All of our regions have seen tremendous growth so far this month, don't take your foot off of the gas now. Keep up the buddy checks, keep up the hard work, and KEEP MEMBERSHIP ROLLING IN.

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 45% TARGET 12/14/2022	2023 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-47	82	106.49%	94.74
2	LOUISIANA	1,790	-465	1,270	70.95%	65.38
3	FRANCE	158	-37	108	68.35%	67.32
4	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-314	927	68.06%	54.05
5	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-238	845	62.69%	52.21
6	GEORGIA	4,490	-471	2,491	55.48%	48.55
7	PUERTO RICO	123	-13	68	55.28%	26.23
8	WISCONSIN	4,187	-378	2,262	54.02%	49.02
9	IOWA	4,857	-430	2,616	53.86%	48.75
10	MONTANA	1,108	-86	585	52.80%	49.49
11	ALABAMA	2,066	-152	1,082	52.37%	45.21
12	MISSISSIPPI	722	-42	367	50.83%	45.98
13	MARYLAND	16,058	-732	7,958	49.56%	45.22
14	MEXICO	31	-1	15	48.39%	16.13
15	OREGON	1,414	-47	683	48.30%	39.34
16	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-55	1,282	47.01%	39.32
17	NEBRASKA	7,015	-119	3,276	46.70%	45.04
18	VERMONT	3,818	-50	1,768	46.31%	42.48
19	KANSAS	5,919	-65	2,729	46.11%	42.39
20	DELAWARE	2,430	-26	1,119	46.05%	39.50
21	FLORIDA	21,519	-210	9,894	45.98%	37.73
22	ILLINOIS	13,398	5	6,024	44.96%	42.26
23	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	2	661	44.87%	38.39
24	WYOMING	1,298	10	574	44.22%	38.78
25	NEVADA	357	5	156	43.70%	38.89
26	IDAHO	644	11	279	43.32%	38.46
27	COLORADO	2,729	56	1,172	42.95%	38.37
28	OHIO	30,636	636	13,150	42.92%	39.47
29	MISSOURI	3,219	85	1,364	42.37%	36.50
30	VIRGINIA	4,109	118	1,731	42.13%	36.14
31	TEXAS	5,569	166	2,340	42.02%	35.24
32	MICHIGAN	24,271	1,155	9,767	40.24%	35.00
33	CONNECTICUT	1,867	91	749	40.12%	35.94
34	INDIANA	36,387	1,830	14,544	39.97%	36.41
35	TENNESSEE	1,718	96	677	39.41%	31.41
36	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	60	415	39.30%	32.67
37	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	377	2,178	38.37%	34.68
38	ALASKA	1,608	116	608	37.81%	31.66
39	UTAH	449	33	169	37.64%	29.80
40	CALIFORNIA	10,714	807	4,014	37.46%	31.35
41	NEW YORK	29,864	2,312	11,127	37.26%	33.69
42	NEW JERSEY	9,386	727	3,497	37.26%	33.57
43	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	434	2,015	37.03%	33.37
44	RHODE ISLAND	336	29	122	36.31%	29.09
45	ARKANSAS	447	44	157	35.12%	30.30
46	MAINE	2,617	300	878	33.55%	28.38
47	ARIZONA	8,004	1,061	2,541	31.75%	24.53
48	WASHINGTON	2,485	331	787	31.67%	23.46
49	MINNESOTA	11,378	1,813	3,307	29.06%	27.47
50	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	395	668	28.28%	24.26
51	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	10,449	16,912	27.81%	24.78
52	NEW MEXICO	1,483	269	398	26.84%	21.44
53	KENTUCKY	2,609	530	644	24.68%	21.47
54	DIST OF COL	114	34	17	14.91%	11.50
55	PHILIPPINES	70	30	2	2.86%	1.47
Grand Totals:		367,798	20,438	145,071	39.44%	35.02

2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	82	106.49%
OREGON	1,414	683	48.30%
NEVADA	357	156	43.70%
IDAHO	644	279	43.32%
ALASKA	1,608	608	37.81%
UTAH	449	169	37.64%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	4,014	37.46%
ARIZONA	8,004	2,541	31.75%
WASHINGTON	2,485	787	31.67%
PHILIPPINES	70	2	2.86%
Totals:	25,822	9,321	36.10%

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	927	68.06%
OKLAHOMA	1,348	845	62.69%
MONTANA	1,108	585	52.80%
MEXICO	31	15	48.39%
NEBRASKA	7,015	3,276	46.70%
KANSAS	5,919	2,729	46.11%
WYOMING	1,298	574	44.22%
COLORADO	2,729	1,172	42.95%
TEXAS	5,569	2,340	42.02%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	415	39.30%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	398	26.84%
Totals:	28,918	13,276	45.91%

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,187	2,262	54.02%
IOWA	4,857	2,616	53.86%
ILLINOIS	13,398	6,024	44.96%
OHIO	30,636	13,150	42.92%
MISSOURI	3,219	1,364	42.37%
MICHIGAN	24,271	9,767	40.24%
INDIANA	36,387	14,544	39.97%
MINNESOTA	11,378	3,307	29.06%
Totals:	128,333	53,034	41.33%

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	158	108	68.35%
MARYLAND	16,058	7,958	49.56%
VERMONT	3,818	1,768	46.31%
DELAWARE	2,430	1,119	46.05%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	749	40.12%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	2,178	38.37%
NEW YORK	29,864	11,127	37.26%
NEW JERSEY	9,386	3,497	37.26%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	2,015	37.03%
RHODE ISLAND	336	122	36.31%
MAINE	2,617	878	33.55%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	668	28.28%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	16,912	27.81%
DIST OF COL	114	17	14.91%
Totals:	140,932	49,116	34.85%

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,270	70.95%
GEORGIA	4,490	2,491	55.48%
PUERTO RICO	123	68	55.28%
ALABAMA	2,066	1,082	52.37%
MISSISSIPPI	722	367	50.83%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	1,282	47.01%
FLORIDA	21,519	9,894	45.98%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	661	44.87%
VIRGINIA	4,109	1,731	42.13%
TENNESSEE	1,718	677	39.41%
ARKANSAS	447	157	35.12%
KENTUCKY	2,609	644	24.68%
Totals:	43,793	20,324	46.41%



HONOR THE VETERAN WHO MADE YOU ELIGIBLE

November is **NATIONAL RENEWAL MONTH**

RENEW TODAY!

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

SONS OF THE

AMERICAN LEGION



Child's courage against cancer inspires Riders

The American Legion | November 22, 2022

American Legion Riders of Pennsylvania's Region 7 rallied in 2019 and 2022 to help the family of a young girl fighting a rare form of eye cancer, and a children's book published

this month seeks to spread her message of courage for others getting treatment.

“The Tale of Princess Warrior Ariella and the Dreaded Cancerous Dragon” was written by Sons of The American Legion member and Legion Rider Kevin Murray of Annville, Pa., illustrated by Nina Mkhoiani and edited by Ariane Laurent-Smith of Rogue Graphic Design. Yvonne Koons, president of Rogue Graphic Design in Mechanicsburg, Pa., told Murray when he showed her his notes that “If you don’t make this a kids’ story, there’s something wrong with you.” Rogue would later donate illustration and design for the book, which Murray says would not have happened without her support.



Pennsylvania Legion Riders greet Ariella Coyne during a fundraising effort to help with costs of her treatment. Photo courtesy of Kevin L. Murray

Four American Legion Family organizations and a Veterans of Foreign Wars post provided grants to get the book printed and delivered so that nearly all proceeds from sales can be split between Penn State Health Children’s Hospital and Children’s Hospital at Philadelphia where the real-life main character of the book – Ariella Coyne – has received treatment since she was a toddler. Supporting the printing and delivery efforts were Annville American Legion Post 559; Conner-Streicher American Legion Family (SAL and Auxiliary) attached to Post 559; Hershey American Legion Riders of Post 386; Quigley Baum Post 72’s Sons of The American Legion in Palmyra; and Kimberly Ann Fahnestock-Voelz Memorial VFW Post 7530 in Mechanicsburg.

[More information about the book, which sells for \\$15 each plus shipping, is available at www.warriorariella.com.](http://www.warriorariella.com)

Funds raised through a Sept. 28, 2019, Legion Riders “Core 4 Ride for Ariella” generated \$3,600 for the family of young Ariella, then undergoing chemotherapy and stem-cell procedures to vanquish retinoblastoma and to get her first prosthetic eye. That ride involved Legion Riders chapters from Annville, Hershey, Campbelltown and Hummelstown.

As part of the ride, participants received white poker chips from little Ariella.

In late 2021, cancer returned, and the treatment program grew even more difficult and expensive for her parents. At a planning meeting for some 50 chapters in Region 7 last winter, Murray suggested the Riders raise funds to continue helping the family. Many at the planning meeting still carried the chip from the first ride.

They launched a “Mile for Hope” fundraiser – with a special new chip of its own – that produced another \$5,850 last May for the family to help them cover their expenses and make up for lost work hours.

The newly published book tells how Princess Ariella received help from the “Knights of Leather and Steel” – motorcycle-riding soldiers in black vests – to beat the dragon twice. In the final pages, Ariella, who was 2 ½ years old at the time Murray learned of her plight, is shown in her own black vest (she was given one of her own last spring by the Riders) after her most recent victory.

In addition to online sales to support the facilities, Murray says the books will be placed at the treatment centers themselves, to be read to children receiving care, giving them hope and understanding that they are not alone.

“Reading a book like that gets (kids) to understand there are others out there who are like them,” says Ariella’s mother, Terina Coyne, who adds that support from the Legion Riders and the community have been “a godsend. It just gives us so much more comfort. With so much going on, it’s nice to know people are there when you need them.”

The story of Ariella and the Legion Riders of Pennsylvania who became her knights is featured in the December issue of *The American Legion Magazine*.

The book is dedicated to Murray’s father, a National Guard veteran of the Korean War. In the dedication, the author quotes a lesson from him: “Success is not measured by what you do for yourself. Success is measured by what you do for others.”





A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION



GIVING TUESDAY

Mark your calendars because you're invited to the biggest celebration of generosity on Nov. 29! Join us on GivingTuesday and support the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation by making your philanthropic commitment.

How does it work? It's simple! Make your tax-deductible gift to the ALA Foundation online or mail a check to ALA National Headquarters. The ALA Foundation Board of Directors will match the first \$10,000 donated on GivingTuesday.

In addition to the \$10,000 match, the first 50 donors to give \$50 or more on Nov. 29 will receive an exclusive pack of six historical ALA cards. We hope this small token of our gratitude reminds you of the commitment to *Service Not Self* by past ALA members and the work you continue to do every day.

Your friends in service,

The ALA Foundation

[DONATE TODAY](#)



**#GIVINGTUESDAY
NOVEMBER 29TH**

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YOUR DONATION WILL BE
MATCHED UP TO
\$10,000

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988 SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE



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SPORTS



3 Legion Baseball alumni on baseball writers' ballot for Hall of Fame

The American Legion | November 21, 2022

Three former American Legion Baseball players are back on the ballot for the Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2023. Voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America will take place through Dec. 31, with results announced on Jan. 24, 2023.

Jeff Kent, Scott Rolen and Gary Sheffield are among the 28 players on the BBWAA ballot. Kent is in his 10th and final

year on the BBWAA ballot; it's the ninth year for Sheffield and sixth for Rolen.

Kent played American Legion Baseball in Bellflower, Calif., before playing 17 seasons with the Blue Jays, Mets, Indians, Giants, Astros, and Dodgers. The 2000 National League MVP had eight seasons with at least 20 home runs and 100 RBI, the most all-time by a second baseman. Kent was also a five-time All-Star and four-time Silver Slugger Award winner.

An alumnus of the American Legion Baseball program in Jasper, Ind., Rolen played 17 seasons with the Phillies, Cardinals, Blue Jays and Reds. The 1997 National League Rookie of the Year, Rolen was a seven-time All-Star, eight-time Gold Glove Award winner, and one-time Silver Slugger Award winner at third base.

After playing American Legion Baseball for Post 248 in Tampa, Fla., Sheffield went on to play 22 seasons for the Brewers, Padres, Marlins, Dodgers, Braves, Yankees, Tigers, and Mets. Sheffield was a nine-time All-Star and five-time Silver Slugger Award winner, and finished in the Top 10 of MVP voting six times.

Candidates must be selected on 75 percent of the ballots to earn induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. The Class of 2023 will be inducted into the Hall in Cooperstown, N.Y., on July 23 next year.

Five other Legion Baseball alumni [are under consideration](#) on the Contemporary Baseball Era player ballot after failing to be inducted via the BBWAA ballot in their first 10 years of Hall eligibility. Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Don Mattingly, Fred McGriff, and Dale Murphy are on the Contemporary Era ballot along with Albert Belle, Rafael Palmeiro, and Curt Schilling. Voting on that ballot will take place Dec. 4 at the Baseball Winter Meetings.



SQUADRON EVERLASTING

to have a member's information listed here,
please send to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

Jerrald Edward "Jerry" Hoefner

Jerrald "Jerry" Edward Hoefner, 67, of Knightstown, IN passed away Thursday, November 17, 2022 at Hancock Regional Hospital. He was born December 9, 1954 in Enid, OK the son of John D. Hoefner and Sara (Main) Miller. Jerry was a 1972 graduate of Madison Heights High School and then went to work at Borg Warner and retired in 2007 after 33 years of service. He enjoyed watching Cubs Baseball, IU Basketball, going to car shows and listening to Rock N Roll. Jerry was a member of the Sons of the American Legion and also served as Legion Commander. He had also worked at the Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home in Knightstown. He loved all of his eleven grandchildren and cherished being with them.

He is survived by his wife of 10 years, Irene Hoefner; daughter, Amanda Jo (Mike Bell) Hoefner; step children, Traci (Adam) Kinder, Daniel (Amanda) Tumilty, Michael (Irma) Tumilty; siblings, Loretta (Ron) Manley, John Hoefner, Mark (Ronda) Brinkley, William Brinkley, Tamra (Irv) Ramsey, Doris (Rob) Hankosky, Henry (Kay) Case and Ralph (Brenda) Case; grandchildren, Jacob, Blake, Mikayla, Evan, Eli, Will, Madison, Savannah, Cora, Josiah and Mikey; and mother-in-law, Geraldine Case.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by step father, William F. Brinkley; father-in-law, Ralph H. Case; sisters-in-law, Lorna Hoefner, and Judy Hampton. At Jerry's request there will be no public services. Arrangements have been entrusted to Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, Knightstown Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Sons of American Legion, Chesterfield Post, 5100 Mounds Rd, Anderson, IN 46017. Condolences and memories of Jerry may be shared at www.hinsey-brown.com.

Published by Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service on Nov. 20, 2022.



FROM THE EDITOR

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving filled with family, friends, food, football, and fun. It is important to make memories and Thanksgiving is a great day to do that.

I am thankful for all the support that I have gotten through the publication of *Round-Up*. It's a labor of love, and I truly enjoy doing it. With that being said, I will be reevaluating how we publish this newsletter. Although there is no cost to put it together, there is cost in the email service. We have over 2,500 subscribers, and the cost has risen. And as more subscribers are added, the cost will increase.

There is still the option to advertise, with proceeds benefiting the email subscription. I may also be offering some apparel as a fundraiser for this publication. With that fundraising, a portion of the proceeds will go to the Child Welfare Foundation and the Veterans and Children Foundation. I want this newsletter to continue, but I can no longer do it alone.

If you would like to help, please email me and we can discuss options.

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

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

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**First Annual
Central
Region**

EXTRAVAGANZA

April 21 - 23, 2023

**AMERICAN
LEGION**



Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander
The American Legion

West Virginia post looking at 'family as a whole' as it reaches out to community

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | November 17, 2022

In the small city of Charles Town, W.Va., Jackson-Perks American Legion Post 71 is one of the most prominent buildings along the main drag in the downtown area.

But members of Post 71's American Legion Family aren't just interested in being noticeable as a physical structure. Its recent focus has been on being a community entity, offering something for veterans and their families, as well as other local residents. And that has resulted in membership growth across the board in the post's Legion Family.

The effort includes the installation of a virtual reality (VR) arcade and game room in the post's second level, opening the area up on Fridays and Saturdays as a way for parents to come to the post and have their children there with them. The arcade is free to Legion Family members, while non-members pay a cover charge and then a fee for VR games. Post 71 Second Vice Commander Joe Malcolm, 48, served in the U.S. Air Force from 1998-2003 and joined the post a little less than two years ago. He noticed the post's older demographics and knew something had to be done to bring in younger veterans.

"When looking at recruiting younger members, it's paramount to look at the family as a whole," Malcolm said. "A lot of our younger vets don't go anywhere without their (spouse) and kids. You can't get the (spouse) and family involved in an organization like ours without a program that includes the kids. As we looked at events that try to involve children ... that was the missing element: the family element. In order to get that, we had to have a place where the kids can go.

"And as you look at youth as it is today, as a man with a young family, sports are good for families. But there is no child on this planet that doesn't play video games. There is no child on this planet that doesn't watch other people play video games. So, it was a great implement to bring the family element together. And a lot of kids are sitting at home playing video games by themselves. (The arcade) provides a social element to those children as well. Now they're gaming with other people. Not just communicating through technology but communicating face to face with other peers."

The arcade was made possible by Post 71 Children & Youth Chairman Richard Scherzinger, the owner of Flynn Gaming and a U.S. Navy veteran. The 48-year-old Scherzinger has a tech background that includes both computer repair and building, as well as web design, video editing and production.

Scherzinger got into VR in 2016 and began obtaining equipment to share the experience with others. He had been providing VR for a Virginia American Legion post when he was contacted by Malcolm and Post 71 Canteen Manager Rick Adamsson about doing something similar in the post's large upstairs room.

"What we're trying to do here at Post 71 is make the post more family-friendly, especially on Friday nights when we have live music and dinner specials downstairs," Scherzinger said. "We provide this completely free for Legion Family members and their families. It's a safe space for the

kids to come and hang out while their parents are downstairs. And sometimes the parents come up here and hang out with their kids. It's an affordable way for parents to come and spend time with their kids in a nice, safe, clean space."

The arcade consists of four gaming stations: three Nintendo Switches and one PlayStation 4, and a free-roam virtual reality setup for up to four people at one time. But there's also air hockey, foosball, pickleball, cornhole, darts and board games.

The upstairs bar has been made kid-friendly, selling snacks, pop, water, and energy drinks, along with a television. Pizza can also be purchased from the post's kitchen. And the arcade workers are youth and members of the post's Legion Family.

"Once I got (to Post 71) I had some much room. We could do so much more than virtual reality. It's gaming of all sorts here," Scherzinger said. "We have adults that come up and play virtual reality. It's really great to see people who have never experienced virtual reality before get into it for the first time. That's an experience I love to give people because it blows their mind."

Scherzinger said providing that kind of experience for both the parents and their children, "feels really good, honestly. My dad was a member of the VFW, and that was not a kid-friendly place at all, as far as going there and hanging out with my folks and other members of the community. It feels great to have a place where kids can go and where they want to go ... and other kids in the same age group with the same interests will be here as well."

The arcade is just one of the ways the post has shown it's a family facility. For the second year in a row, [Post 71 operated a haunted house](#) for the community's youth. [Its Veterans Day ceremony](#) included local JROTC students and Kiwanis K-Kids elementary students. Future events include a children's Christmas party and a family-friendly New Year's Eve party. A local Girl Scout troop is going to start meeting at the post.

And on Thanksgiving, the post is opening its doors to provide a meal to veterans and their families, as well as anyone "with no place to go."

"The goal is to create multiple facets and multiple programs," Malcolm said. "As I look at New Year's and the other major events throughout the year, how do you bring a veteran into the organization without the family? During our Friday night dinner special, we thank the veteran. But as a

veteran, the bigger group we have to thank is the families. Without the support of the families that were waiting at home for us to come back, we couldn't have done what we did.

"So, involving the family is paramount to who and what we are as veterans. Every event we do we look at the family element."

The effort has made a difference in Post 71's growth. Membership in the post was at 79 percent of its 2023 goal on Veterans Day after finishing 2022 at 20 percent above its goal. Sons of The American Legion Squadron 71 finished 2022 at 110 percent of its goal and already has hit 120 percent for 2023.

"(Membership) has increased across the family," Malcolm said. "And if you look at the demographics of the membership that's joining, it stretches from 19 (years-old) to 80. It's not a demographic of 50 and older."

What Post 71 is doing is breaking down what West Virginia District 10 Commander and Past Post 71 Commander Tom Hansen said are preconceptions of what The American Legion is. "It's not a bar," he said. "It's a community organization. The kids are upstairs on a Friday night. They're having a good time on the VR. And (the parents) are coming down and seeing what the veterans are doing (at the post).

"Isn't that our dogma, that The American Legion is not only there for the veterans, but there for the community as a whole? We go out of our way to make sure that if there is a need in the community and we can fulfil it, we will."

For Malcolm, trying to grow Post 71 through benefiting its community goes back to lessons learned long ago. "I was raised that you leave the world a better place than you found it," he said. "That principle was instilled furthermore in the United States Air Force. It's all about community. It's all about a sense of belonging.

"When I first came into the Legion and I looked at what we stood for and what we meant, what we believed in, it's a worthy cause. It's a great cause, because it's about the veteran. But it's not just about the veteran. It's about the community. And as I look at the youth of the world, they are our future."

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Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

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

Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last)

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.

Signed _____ (By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by _____ (Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2013)



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Date _____
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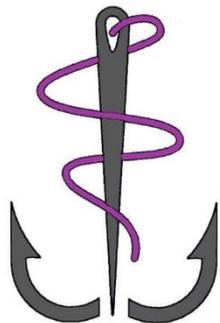


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11/21/22		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS				
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1 Southern 1, 2, 3, 4	43,793	20,324	(23,469)	46.41%	708	
2 Midwestern 1, 3, 4	28,918	13,276	(15,642)	45.91%	871	
3 Central 1, 3	128,333	53,034	(75,299)	41.33%	2,726	
4 Western 1	25,822	9,321	(16,501)	36.10%	426	
5 Eastern	140,932	49,116	(91,816)	34.85%	2,486	
TOTALS 1	367,798	145,071	(222,727)	39.44%	7,217	

11/21/22		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	2,262	(1,925)	54.02%	5	49.02%	8	
2 Iowa 1, 3, 4	4,857	2,616	(2,241)	53.86%	207	48.75%	9	
3 Illinois 1, 2, 3	13,398	6,024	(7,374)	44.96%	2	42.26%	22	
4 Ohio 1	30,636	13,150	(17,486)	42.92%	1,402	39.47%	28	
5 Missouri 1, 2, 3	3,219	1,364	(1,855)	42.37%	3	36.50%	29	
6 Michigan	24,271	9,767	(14,504)	40.24%	569	35.00%	32	
7 Indiana 1, 3	36,387	14,544	(21,843)	39.97%	366	36.41%	34	
8 Minnesota	11,378	3,307	(8,071)	29.06%	172	27.47%	49	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3	128,333	53,034	(75,299)	41.33%	2,721			

11/21/22		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, 10	77	82	5	106.49%	-	94.74%	1	10/10/22
2 Oregon 1, 3, 4	1,414	683	(731)	48.30%	13	39.34%	15	
3 Nevada	357	156	(201)	43.70%	-	38.89%	25	
4 Idaho 1, 2, 3	644	279	(365)	43.32%	2	36.46%	26	
5 Alaska 3	1,608	608	(1,000)	37.81%	16	31.66%	38	
6 Utah	449	169	(280)	37.64%	21	29.80%	39	
7 California 1	10,714	4,014	(6,700)	37.46%	223	31.35%	40	
8 Arizona	8,004	2,541	(5,463)	31.75%	140	24.53%	47	
9 Washington	2,485	787	(1,698)	31.67%	11	23.46%	48	
10 Phillipines	70	2	(68)	2.86%	-	1.47%	55	
TOTALS 1	25,822	9,321	(16,501)	36.10%	426			

11/21/22		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,790	1,270	(520)	70.95%	8	65.38%	2	
2 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4	4,490	2,491	(1,999)	55.48%	120	48.55%	6	
3 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4	123	68	(55)	55.28%	-	26.23%	7	
4 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4	2,066	1,082	(984)	52.37%	22	45.21%	11	
5 Mississippi 1, 3, 4	722	367	(355)	50.83%	10	45.98%	12	
6 North Carolina 1, 2, 3	2,727	1,282	(1,445)	47.01%	74	39.32%	16	
7 Florida 1, 3	21,519	9,894	(11,625)	45.98%	290	37.73%	21	
8 South Carolina	1,473	661	(812)	44.87%	56	38.39%	23	
9 Virginia	4,109	1,731	(2,378)	42.13%	83	31.14%	30	
10 Tennessee 1, 3	1,718	677	(1,041)	39.41%	13	31.41%	35	
11 Arkansas 1	447	157	(290)	35.12%	13	30.30%	45	
12 Kentucky	2,609	644	(1,965)	24.68%	19	21.47%	53	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4	43,793	20,324	(23,469)	46.41%	700			

11/21/22		2023 MIDWESTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,362	927	(435)	68.06%	40	54.05%	4	
2 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,348	845	(503)	62.69%	22	52.21%	5	
3 Montana 1, 3, 4	1,108	585	(523)	52.80%	24	49.49%	10	
4 Mexico 1, 2, 3, 4	31	15	(16)	48.39%	-	16.13%	14	
5 Nebraska 1, 3, 4	7,015	3,276	(3,739)	46.70%	381	45.04%	17	
6 Kansas 3, 4	5,919	2,729	(3,190)	46.11%	103	42.39%	19	
7 Wyoming 1	1,298	574	(724)	44.22%	24	38.78%	24	
8 Colorado 1	2,729	1,172	(1,557)	42.95%	100	38.37%	27	
9 Texas 1, 3	5,569	2,340	(3,229)	42.02%	103	35.24%	31	
10 North Dakota 1, 3	1,056	415	(641)	39.30%	-	32.67%	36	
11 New Mexico	1,483	398	(1,085)	26.84%	74	21.44%	52	
TOTALS 1, 3, 4	28,918	13,276	(15,642)	45.91%	831			

11/21/22		2023 EASTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	158	108	(50)	68.35%	1	67.32%	3	
2 Maryland 1, 3, 4	16,058	7,958	(8,100)	49.56%	279	45.22%	13	
3 Vermont 1, 3, 4	3,818	1,768	(2,050)	46.31%	25	42.48%	18	
4 Delaware 1, 3, 4	2,430	1,119	(1,311)	46.05%	13	39.50%	20	
5 Connecticut	1,867	749	(1,118)	40.12%	66	35.94%	33	
6 New Hampshire	5,677	2,178	(3,499)	38.37%	176	34.68%	37	
7 New York	29,864	11,127	(18,737)	37.26%	135	33.69%	41	
8 New Jersey	9,386	3,497	(5,889)	37.26%	31	33.57%	42	
9 Massachusetts	5,442	2,015	(3,427)	37.03%	64	33.37%	43	
10 Rhode Island	336	122	(214)	36.31%	-	29.09%	44	
11 Maine	2,617	878	(1,739)	33.55%	6	28.38%	46	
12 West Virginia	2,362	668	(1,694)	28.28%	3	24.26%	50	
13 Pennsylvania	60,803	16,912	(43,891)	27.81%	1,687	24.78%	51	
14 Dist. of Columbia	114	17	(97)	14.91%	-	11.50%	54	
TOTALS	140,932	49,116	(91,816)	34.85%	2,486			

11/21/22		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1, 3, 4	21,519	9,894	(11,625)	45.98%	290	37.73%	21	
2 Ohio 1	30,636	13,150	(17,486)	42.92%	1,402	39.47%	28	
3 Michigan	24,271	9,767	(14,504)	40.24%	569	35.00%	32	
4 Indiana 1, 3	36,387	14,544	(21,843)	39.97%	-	36.41%	34	
5 New York	29,864	11,127	(18,737)	37.26%	135	33.69%	41	
6 Pennsylvania	60,803	16,912	(43,891)	27.81%	1,687	24.78%	51	
TOTALS	203,480	75,394	(128,086)	37.05%	4,083			

National Membership Totals	367,798	145,071	(222,727)	39.44%	7,217	35.02%		
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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%

