



"I Have a Dream"

Monday marks the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Below is a transcript of his celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered on Aug. 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. NPR's *Talk of the Nation* aired the speech in 2010 — listen to that broadcast [HERE](#).



Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., where he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963, as part of the March on Washington.

AFP via Getty Images

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself in exile in his own land. And so, we've come here today to dramatize

a shameful condition. In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check.

When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men — yes, Black men as well as white men — would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds.

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt.

We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

see DREAM page 3



ROUND-UP

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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

January 19, 2023



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."



I WANT YOU TO RENEW!!!



REGIONAL UPDATES



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
(945) 218-0044 | 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

DREAM continued from page 1

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. 1963 is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence.

Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny.

And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.

There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, when will you be satisfied? We can never be satisfied as

long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities.



Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders gather before a rally at the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963, in Washington.

National Archives/Hulton Archive via Getty Images

We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating: for whites only.

We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.

No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our Northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right down in Alabama little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the

heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that, let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.

BE THE ONE



Department of Wisconsin American Legion Family members participate in a Be the One suicide awareness walk in Green Bay, Wis., on Jan. 12, 2023.

Photo by Nick George

Leaving no stone unturned to support Be the One

[Henry Howard](#) | January 13, 2022

Army veteran Ken Kasprzak, who has run 40 marathons, fully understands the importance of fitness in overcoming life stresses.

"Everyone knows there are 22 veterans who commit suicide every day — that's shocking," said Kasprzak, an 80-year-old Vietnam-era veteran who is commander of Post 355 in Grafton, Wis. "Anything we can do to come out and try to

lessen that number and help people is what it's all about. It's also another way for me to get exercise. It keeps me young."

For Kasprzak, the benefits of exercise are not just physical but also for mental wellness. It has helped him cope with stresses throughout his life such as family members passing away and the suffering he witnessed as a medical professional for 40 years.

Six years ago, Kasprzak lost his wife who endured a lengthy battle with liver disease.

"After my wife died, I didn't even want to live. How did I get through it? Exercise," he said. "It's been my lifeblood for many, many years. Exercise has gotten me through so much. It's been a lot of what has kept me mentally healthy." Kasprzak was among 30 American Legion Family members who participated in a 2.2-mile hike in Green Bay, Wis., on Jan. 12. The walk's purpose was to raise awareness about the Legion's [Be the One initiative](#) at the start of the Department of Wisconsin mid-winter conference.

Jim Johnson, a member of Post 82 in Port Washington and 2nd district commander, developed the concept for and oversaw the hike. Each walker carried a one-pound stone, representing a veteran who has been lost to suicide.

"We are here to honor the 22 who lose their struggle every day and support Be the One," he said. "We're trying to bring awareness to the Be the One campaign so other veterans know we are there for them. It's important to The American Legion to be there for all veterans so they have a resource for someone to talk to."

American Legion Past National Commander Denise Rohan also participated in the walk.

"When the Legion Family gets together, we get together for a purpose," said Rohan, a member of Post 385 in Verona. "And that purpose today was to bring awareness to Be the One. We are going to have people asking, 'What does that mean?' It's about being the one to listen and to take care of one another when we hear key words."

She cited a famous quote from Bishop Desmond Tutu, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." That's how to best approach reducing the rate of veteran suicide, Rohan said.

"One person at a time. It's each one of us taking the time to do that. That's what Be the One is all about to me. Just make a difference for that one person and you make a

difference for their whole family and their community. It's not just one person. We're helping everybody."

Activities like the hike are also vital to build and reinforce camaraderie among the participants. They walked together, strengthening their fitness, bonds, and resolve.

"During our walk, each of you were being the one for each other," Johnson said. "The No. 1 issue facing our community is veteran suicide. Know that we are not alone in our struggles, whatever they may be."

After the walk, Legion Family members returned the stones to a Be the One display and held a brief but solemn ceremony.

"It was a great time during the walk, but we also want to remember them. Please join me in honoring those who lost their internal battle," Johnson said, asking for 22 seconds of silence in tribute to those who died of suicide.

The Be the One initiative aims to reduce the rate of veteran suicide by raising awareness of the issue, lessening the stigma around mental health treatment, and empowering everyone to take appropriate action when a veteran is in crisis.

Kasprzak is committed not only to his daily exercise but being a resource for veterans, whether they know they need help or not.

"How did I get through all my struggles, especially with my wife dying? It's with help from other people. And, if I can do the same for another veteran, I'll jump on it."

What you can do

- Review how you can "Be the One" to help a veteran in crisis, [Betheone.org](https://www.betheone.org).
- Download and use promotional materials to spread awareness of the initiative, legion.org/betheone/resources.
- Share how you and/or your post are supporting Be the One at the [Legiontown website](https://www.legiontown.com).



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



FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES
www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

As of January 12, 2023, **8,333** flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans since **September 1, 2022**

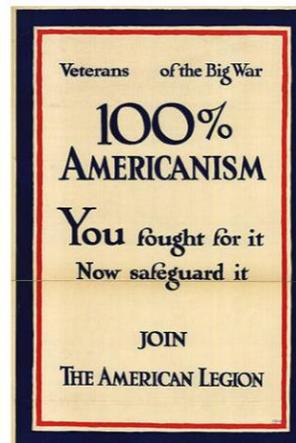


NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION

ACTION ALERT

JANUARY 2023

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONSAMERICANISM](https://www.facebook.com/sonsamericanism)



TOP NEWS

- FLAG PLACEMENTS FALL BEHIND PACE SET IN 2021-2022. THE CURRENT GOAL IS TO PLACE 1.5 MILLION FLAGS TO HONOR OUR VETERANS BY THE 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION.
- SAL FLAG APPRECIATION CERTIFICATE NOW AVAILABLE AS A FILLABLE PDF BY CLICKING THE PUBLICATIONS & FORMS TAB AT WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS
- WORK BEGINS TO INCREASE BOYS STATE PARTICIPATION. MAKE CONTACT WITH YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS NOW TO SCHEDULE A RECRUITMENT EVENT!

FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

THIS IS AN ONGOING PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION. PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR FLAG PLACEMENTS AND UPLOAD PICTURES AT WWW.FLYINGFLAGSFORHEROES.COM



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE NATIONAL ORATORICAL FINALS AND THE JR. SHOOTING SPORTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. CONTACT CHAIRMAN CASEY FOR MORE INFORMATION AT APROUDPATRIOT1776@GMAIL.COM



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:

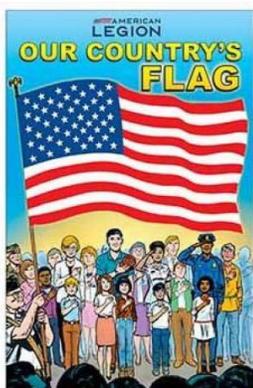
<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/coolcameo>

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 | 3fkNJ5

A flag etiquette tool:
'Our Country's Flag' comic book

The American Legion | January 10, 2023



The American Legion's "Our Country's Flag" comic book educates youth about the history of the flag of the United States and how to show respect for it. The comic book has gone through a recent overhaul to update apparel worn by the characters, diversity, representation of Legion posts and more.

The story is about the U.S. flag and how it inspired four friends who grew up to lead different lives – a teacher, congresswoman, police officer and Army nurse. The comic book also walks youth in ways they can show what freedom means to them such as paying respect to the flag by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, respecting, and obeying the law and volunteering for public service. And it gives examples of how to treat the flag with respect, including to bring an unserviceable flag to a local American Legion post for proper disposal.

"Our Country's Flag" is available for [purchase through Emblem Sales, Item No. 755.300](#). The cost is 85 cents apiece or 100 for 69 cents apiece. This comic book is an educational tool Legion Family members can give to elementary students to help them understand the importance of our flag,

how to show respect for the flag, and how to protect our country's freedom.

The update to "Our Country's Flag" is part of the "Rally Around the Flag" campaign by The American Legion. Another comic book that has been recently updated is "[Our Country's Veterans](#)" that is available for purchase. "[I Pledge Allegiance](#)" has been updated but the new version is not yet available for purchase.

Finance Commission

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

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
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 991 2070 0860 | 092 260
877 853 5257 US Toll-free
888 475 4499 US Toll-free

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

Comrades,

Once again, we have made tremendous strides in membership. 44 Detachments are now over the 60% target goal with 43 members separating the West Region from having all five Regions hitting the mark.

Congratulations to the Southern Region for their continued dominance, rapidly approaching the 75% February goal. Our current membership of 250,387 puts us 29,000 ahead of schedule and more than 30,000 ahead of last year's pace.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, thank you all for the hard work and dedication put forth thus far.

RECRUIT-RENEW-REINSTATE

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 60% TARGET 1/19/2023	2023 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-36	82	106.49%	94.74
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-434	1,251	91.85%	75.04
3	FRANCE	158	-40	135	85.44%	82.05
4	LOUISIANA	1,790	-417	1,491	83.30%	75.59
5	PUERTO RICO	123	-26	100	81.30%	47.54
6	WISCONSIN	4,187	-756	3,268	78.05%	69.79
7	MEXICO	31	-5	24	77.42%	35.48
8	FLORIDA	21,519	-3,449	16,360	76.03%	63.66
9	MARYLAND	16,058	-2,496	12,131	75.54%	69.01
10	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-209	1,018	75.52%	61.37
11	ALABAMA	2,066	-319	1,559	75.46%	65.79
12	OREGON	1,414	-209	1,057	74.75%	59.44
13	IOWA	4,857	-705	3,619	74.51%	67.27
14	MONTANA	1,108	-160	825	74.46%	70.13
15	DELAWARE	2,430	-346	1,804	74.24%	64.72
16	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-378	2,014	73.85%	61.18
17	VERMONT	3,818	-522	2,813	73.68%	67.75
18	RHODE ISLAND	336	-45	247	73.51%	63.64
19	MISSISSIPPI	722	-90	523	72.44%	62.53
20	MISSOURI	3,219	-388	2,319	72.04%	64.31
21	GEORGIA	4,490	-501	3,195	71.16%	61.17
22	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	-163	1,047	71.08%	61.06
23	NEBRASKA	7,015	-720	4,929	70.26%	67.07
24	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	-105	739	69.98%	61.41
25	OHIO	30,636	-3,038	21,420	69.92%	64.90
26	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	-5,573	42,055	69.17%	64.15
27	MICHIGAN	24,271	-2,202	16,765	69.07%	61.35
28	INDIANA	36,387	-3,250	25,082	68.93%	63.56
29	COLORADO	2,729	-230	1,867	68.41%	59.39
30	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	-451	3,857	67.94%	61.20
31	VIRGINIA	4,109	-323	2,788	67.85%	58.75
32	MAINE	2,617	-171	1,741	66.53%	57.76
33	CONNECTICUT	1,867	-121	1,241	66.47%	59.64
34	ILLINOIS	13,398	-833	8,872	66.22%	60.45
35	KANSAS	5,919	-345	3,896	65.82%	59.68
36	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	-122	1,539	65.16%	54.69
37	NEW YORK	29,864	-1,471	19,389	64.92%	59.77
38	NEVADA	357	-17	231	64.71%	54.72
39	TENNESSEE	1,718	-50	1,081	62.92%	51.48
40	IDAHO	644	-12	398	61.80%	51.94
41	UTAH	449	-3	272	60.58%	52.80
42	NEW JERSEY	9,386	-48	5,680	60.52%	54.26
43	WYOMING	1,298	-6	785	60.48%	53.34
44	CALIFORNIA	10,714	-12	6,440	60.11%	50.15
45	TEXAS	5,569	8	3,333	59.85%	50.24
46	ARIZONA	8,004	15	4,787	59.81%	48.15
47	MINNESOTA	11,378	114	6,713	59.00%	55.30
48	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	68	3,197	58.75%	52.62
49	WASHINGTON	2,485	170	1,321	53.16%	40.58
50	ALASKA	1,608	120	845	52.55%	42.73
51	ARKANSAS	447	43	225	50.34%	43.31
52	NEW MEXICO	1,483	144	746	50.30%	40.73
53	DIST OF COL	114	11	57	50.00%	38.05
54	KENTUCKY	2,609	368	1,197	45.88%	38.89
55	PHILIPPINES	70	25	17	24.29%	23.53
Grand Totals:		367,798	-29,708	250,387	68.08%	61.15

2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
HAWAII	77	82	106.49%	
OREGON	1,414	1,057	74.75%	
NEVADA	357	231	64.71%	
IDAHO	644	398	61.80%	
UTAH	449	272	60.58%	
CALIFORNIA	10,714	6,440	60.11%	
ARIZONA	8,004	4,787	59.81%	
WASHINGTON	2,485	1,321	53.16%	
ALASKA	1,608	845	52.55%	
PHILIPPINES	70	17	24.29%	
Totals:	25,822	15,450	59.83%	

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,251	91.85%	
MEXICO	31	24	77.42%	
OKLAHOMA	1,348	1,018	75.52%	
MONTANA	1,108	825	74.46%	
NEBRASKA	7,015	4,929	70.26%	
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	739	69.98%	
COLORADO	2,729	1,867	68.41%	
KANSAS	5,919	3,896	65.82%	
WYOMING	1,298	785	60.48%	
TEXAS	5,569	3,333	59.85%	
NEW MEXICO	1,483	746	50.30%	
Totals:	28,918	19,413	67.13%	

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
WISCONSIN	4,187	3,268	78.05%	
IOWA	4,857	3,619	74.51%	
MISSOURI	3,219	2,319	72.04%	
OHIO	30,636	21,420	69.92%	
MICHIGAN	24,271	16,765	69.07%	
INDIANA	36,387	25,082	68.93%	
ILLINOIS	13,398	8,872	66.22%	
MINNESOTA	11,378	6,713	59.00%	
Totals:	128,333	88,058	68.62%	

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
FRANCE	158	135	85.44%	
MARYLAND	16,058	12,131	75.54%	
DELAWARE	2,430	1,804	74.24%	
VERMONT	3,818	2,813	73.68%	
RHODE ISLAND	336	247	73.51%	
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	42,055	69.17%	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	3,857	67.94%	
MAINE	2,617	1,741	66.53%	
CONNECTICUT	1,867	1,241	66.47%	
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	1,539	65.16%	
NEW YORK	29,864	19,389	64.92%	
NEW JERSEY	9,386	5,680	60.52%	
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	3,197	58.75%	
DIST OF COL	114	57	50.00%	
Totals:	140,932	95,886	68.04%	

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,491	83.30%	
PUERTO RICO	123	100	81.30%	
FLORIDA	21,519	16,360	76.03%	
ALABAMA	2,066	1,559	75.46%	
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	2,014	73.85%	
MISSISSIPPI	722	523	72.44%	
GEORGIA	4,490	3,195	71.16%	
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	1,047	71.08%	
VIRGINIA	4,109	2,788	67.85%	
TENNESSEE	1,718	1,081	62.92%	
ARKANSAS	447	225	50.34%	
KENTUCKY	2,609	1,197	45.88%	
Totals:	43,793	31,580	72.11%	



by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

National Executive Committee

Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman

National Vice-Commander Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Co-Chairman

David Stephens (IN), Co-Chairman

Public and Media Communications Commission

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

075079 | 963 1528 2340

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 Coates (NY), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (508) 924-3315

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



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

1950s Sock Hop to Benefit IRC Special Olympics at American Legion Post 189

[Tina Hodges](#) | January 8, 2023



American Legion Post 189 in Sebastian, Florida

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 189 is hosting a 1950s Sock Hop on Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at 807 Louisiana Ave to benefit the IRC Special Olympics. A \$5 per person entry donation is required.

There will be music by local performer Peter 'The Pooz' Puzzo, lots of dancing, raffles & door prizes, and a King and Queen will be crowned. Attendees are encouraged to dress in 50's attire. In addition, there will be hamburgers and hot

dogs available for a small donation from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tickets. Tickets are available at the Post, located at 807 Louisiana Ave, in Sebastian, or from a Sons of The American Legion member. The American Legion is open Monday through Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

50's Sock Hop Attire. In the 50s, girls typically wore tight-fitting pencil skirts in solid colors or plaid or form-fitting capri pants in bright shades. Additionally, they wore knit sweaters matching or complementing colors to their bottoms for tops.

To complete the ensemble, they often wore a matching scarf tied around the neck and enclosed-toe heels or pumps. In addition, ladies wore lots of bright makeup, including red lipstick, and teased their hair.

The bad boys of this generation often wore white T-shirts rolled up the sleeves and cuffed their jeans to just below their calves. In addition, they had black high-top sneakers with white socks and often slicked back their hair.

For more details, contact the American Legion at (772) 589-8710.

Special Olympics of Indian River County. The [Special Olympics](#) of IRC provides year-round sports training and competition to adults and children with intellectual disabilities. Their mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for these individuals.

Local firefighter, veteran, SAL Commander celebrates retirement

[Carson Hughes](#) | [The St. Peter Herald](#)
January 10, 2023

Ron Neary has served in many capacities — mechanic, assistant chief of the St. Peter Fire Department, Army National Guard first sergeant, Sons of the American Legion commander, and Legion gambling manager.

After decades of work in the community, Neary hung those hats up Friday to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. The 56-year-old was surrounded by friends and colleagues from the Fire Department, American Legion and National Guard, congratulating him and giving thanks at the American Legion Post 37 retirement party.

For Neary, community service runs in the family. His father, Ron Neary Sr. spent nearly 42 years in the St. Peter Fire Department and 29 years in the Minnesota National Guard.



Ron Neary proudly holds up an honorary quilt he received from Deep Valley Quilters at his retirement party at the St. Peter American Legion.
Carson Hughes

It was no accident that Neary would end up following in his father's footsteps. Keith Keogh, a long-time St. Peter Legion member and family friend, recalled that Neary Sr. gave his sons fire trucks to play with so they would grow up wanting to be firefighters themselves.

Neary Sr.'s love of firefighting rubbed off on the boys and both Neary and his brother Jim joined the fire department as soon as they could. For decades, the Nearys worked together as a family responding to emergencies like the 1998 tornado. That night, Neary recalled staying out until 5:30 in the morning putting fires out.

Some of Neary's other memorable experiences included responding to a [Kasota house fire near Chankaska Winery](#) in 2013 and the 2014 [Hansen Sanitation fire](#) in subzero temperatures. In such a cold climate, firefighters need to leave the hose running so the water doesn't freeze.

"We had our outriggers in the ground and the water was coming around and before we were done the outriggers were frozen into the ground, so we had a guy who had to take a hammer and pound out the ice," said Neary. "But you can't forget to leave the hose running, because if you do shut it down the whole hose freezes up, so that makes it very difficult to fight fires."

In his 34 years with the Fire Department, Neary spent 10 as Assistant Chief before retiring at the end of last year.

"That [retirement] is probably the hardest of all because I think I probably rode in a fire truck before I was born," said Neary.

Like his father, Neary went on to pursue a military career of his own, spending over 32 years in the Army National Guard. He held in leadership roles in three deployments overseas, serving in Italy between 2003-2004, Iraq from 2005-2007 and Kuwait from 2011-2012.

"He was definitely that small town, all-American guy," said Steve Peterson, a National Guardsman who was deployed with Neary to Iraq. "Just look at what he's done. He's committed to his friends, to the community, to his country. I've always known him to be great guy."



The American Legion Post 37 Color Guard saluted Ron Neary for his years of service as SAL Commander and Gambling Manager.

Carson Hughes

In 2013, Neary was promoted to the highest NCO rank below Sergeant Major, Sergeant First Class. The National Guardsman has taken his military experience and applied to other areas of his life, most notably the fire department, where he stresses the importance of safety.

"Number one thing you do as a leader is safety," said Neary. "You ensure people go home at night the way they showed up."

Neary was also quick to involve himself in the American Legion. He's been a member of the Sons of the American Legion for 20 years and the American Legion for 15 years. At Post 37, he's served as SAL Commander for 10 years and gambling manager for over a year.

"Ron was the SAL commander when I was the commander here. The SAL and the Post work well together because of Ron's leadership," said Dave Arpin.

"He's been a foundation here like his dad was before him," Arpin added. "He followed in his footsteps, and you could almost say Ron grew up at the Legion and at the Fire Department."

What everyone seemed to agree on is that whether it was the Fire Department, the National Guard, the American Legion, Neary was always committed to using his position to serve the community.

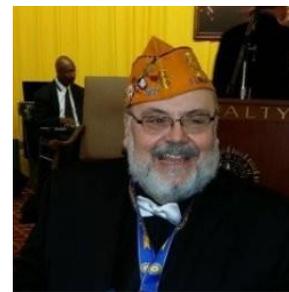
"You'll always find one or two people who spend a lot of hours and volunteer their time. It's worth \$1 million to the community and they don't get rewarded for it, but their faces are familiar," said SAL member "Knute" Knutson. "Tonight's a nice thing for Ron."

Neary received a hearty thanks for his years of service on Friday. Candy Fraley of Deep Valley Quilters in Mankato presented Neary with a specialty quilt in honor of his military and community service. The Post 37 Color Guard then lined up to give Neary a salute.

In his retirement, Neary will still have plenty to keep himself occupied. He's an avid motorcyclist in the Post 37 Legion Riders and continues to play on the St. Peter Bullheads in the Over 50 baseball league. He's also looking forward to traveling the world with his sweetheart, Megan Smith.

Reach Reporter Carson Hughes at 507-931-8575.

Fr. Gary Gummershiemer to be honored



Fr. Gary was a member of The American Legion California Boys State Program, concurrent with his involvement with Illinois Boys State and Boys Nation. One of Gary's "jobs" was the selection of the topic for our Oratorical Contest and the administration of it. He did that

for nearly 20 years.

The California American Legion Family has decided to memorialize him by naming the American Legion California Boys & Girls State Oratorical Program in his memory. The American Legion California Boys & Girls State Foundation will fund an award/scholarship to the winner of The Fr. Gary Gummershiemer American Legion California Boys & Girls State Oratorical Contest.

Given that one of Gary's other passions was his role as a Judge for The American Legion Oratorical Contest National Finals, we felt that naming our Oratorical Contest in his memory was most appropriate.



If you know of anyone who would like to make a donation in Gary's name can do so by making it to the American Legion California Boys & Girls State Foundation. Any donations in his name will help the

Foundation fund this award so that the award can carry it on in future years.

Donations can be sent to:

American Legion California Boys & Girls State Foundation
c/o Mr. William Denson
963 San Francisco Way
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

For additional information, please contact:

Tim Aboudara, Sr., Chief Counselor
The American Legion California Boys & Girls State
taboudarasr@gmail.com

Benefit scheduled for man battling cancer

[Megan Lee](#) | January 13, 2023



POLAND, Ohio (WKBN) – The Sons of the American Legion in Poland are coming together to help one of their own.

One of the members, Ricky Morrison, is battling cancer.

The group is hosting a fundraiser at Steel Valley Brew Works on Tuesday at 5 p.m. There will be baskets and a 50/50 raffle.

The Sons are hoping to raise money to help Morrison and his family. He was forced to sell his business and undergo surgery.

According to the chairperson, every penny from the event is going to the family.

"It's a brotherhood. We come together when one of our own is hurting. It's part of being in the organization. That's why we're so great. One is affected, we are all affected," said Jeff Vrabel, Jr., a spokesperson for the Sons of the American Legion.

Vrabel, Jr. is accepting monetary donations, baskets, and sponsorships for the event. You can reach him at jeffvrabeljr@gmail.com.

MAHONING VALLEY SQUADRON 15
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
POLAND, OHIO

**TEAM RICKY
STICK IT
TO CANCER
FUNDRAISER**

Tuesday, January 17 | 5:00 p.m.

**STEEL VALLEY
BREW WORKS**

7401 Market Street | Boardman, OH 44512
located inside the Southern Park Mall

One of our members, Ricky Morrison, has gone through some tough medical issues, and Squadron 15 is hosting a fundraiser for him and his family.

Ricky is married and has two daughters, was forced to sell his business, and underwent one surgery so far. After that, he will undergo treatment.

We want to raise as much money as we can for Ricky and his family, and are asking for your help.

50/50 Raffle

Basket Raffle

Food and Drinks available from the restaurant

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

To make a monetary, basket, or other donation, or to become a sponsor, please contact

Jeff Vrabel, Jr., Event Chairman
(330) 531-2986 | jeffvrabeljr@gmail.com



“ We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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



Vickie Koutz, National President
The American Legion Auxiliary



National Headquarters announces new executive director

January 11, 2023

ALA National Headquarters has named Sara Riegel as its executive director. Riegel had been serving in the role of interim executive director for the past several months.

Riegel has been with National Headquarters since 2011 and has served in several positions, including ALA national treasurer, compliance officer, and managerial roles within the Finance Division. Riegel previously held financial and compliance roles with for-profit and non-profit organizations and owned her own business. She attended Marian University in Indianapolis.

The executive director's responsibilities include management of National Headquarters staff and operations, fiscal management of assets, working with the governing board and its chair (national president), and building external relationships.

Riegel is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Indiana Unit 438 in Indianapolis. Her eligibility is through her grandfather Russell R. Byer, a captain in the U.S. Army serving during World War I and II.





Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Spend Martin Luther King Jr. Day in service to others

January 11, 2023

The Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service is Jan. 16 – a great opportunity for ALA members to serve their communities. Service on this day focuses on empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and creating solutions to social problems.

While making a difference on this day, make sure you're wearing ALA branded clothing and tag us on social media @ALAFORVETERANS. Tell us more! *Auxiliary* magazine would love to hear how your unit served.

Email us at ALAMagazine@ALAFORVETERANS.org. Be sure to include pictures!



ALA Mission Trainings & National Junior Meetings

It's not too late to take advantage of this valuable training

January 11, 2023

You can still sign up for ALA Mission Training 101 and national Junior meetings in Nashville (Jan. 28) and Las Vegas (Feb. 4).

Exciting news for the Las Vegas training – register by Jan. 16 for a **\$10** discount when you use code **ALA10** at registration.

Every member is invited to attend these fun, interactive trainings. They are beneficial for members at every level in our organization! You will have a great time interacting with other ALA members while learning new ways to work the ALA's mission and programs. Some of the highlights include learning about the importance of National Security, the 2022-2023 focus on POW/MIA awareness, informative details on the new ALA landmarks and how to use them, and much more!

Register now: <https://cvent.me/q3lb5V?RefId=Enews>

And don't forget your Juniors! The [national Junior meetings](#) will be held at the same time and location. These events are a great way for Juniors to spend a Saturday having fun bonding with their peers. Members will learn leadership development skills while also gaining knowledge of the POW/MIA ceremony. Juniors who attend will receive a free ALA branded T-shirt, as well as the book *America's White Table* about the POW/MIA ceremony.

Register now: <https://cvent.me/q3lb5V?RefId=Enews>

*Junior members who have celebrated their 8th birthday or older may attend.



The Friday before Memorial Day is National Poppy Day

January 11, 2023

It's never too early to start planning! ALA National Headquarters is already making preparations! We'd love to hear from you and make your unit/post home a part of our ALA media coverage. Send us an [email](#) and tell us about any of the following:

- What are your plans for National Poppy Day?
- How have you used poppy funds to help veterans, military, and their families?
- Share a success story about how poppy funds helped someone in your community.



Save the date for this event honoring women
January 11, 2023

On March 8, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will *Celebrate Women in Service* in honor of International Women’s Day. Be sure to mark your calendar and make a gift to the ALA Foundation in honor of an ALA member who inspires you. This 24-hour nationwide fundraising appeal will bring together our incredible community of volunteers and veterans to sustain the ALA’s mission of service. Every gift received on March 8 will go to the ALA Foundation’s Mission Endowment Fund. Examples of what will benefit include ALA Girls Nation, National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and the ALA Foundation’s Mission in Action grants.

APPLY TODAY!

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors is looking for you! Are you interested in using your leadership and fundraising experience to serve veterans, military, and their families? Apply to serve on the ALA Foundation Board of Directors today! Completed applications are due by March 31.

Board Member

- Committed to the mission of the ALA
- Fundraising focused
- Provide resources and expertise
- Collaborative attitude

Seeking ALA Foundation Board of Directors nominations
January 11, 2023

The ALA Foundation Board of Directors is looking for you! Are you interested in using your leadership and fundraising experience to serve veterans, military, and their families?

The ALA Foundation is looking for talented and passionate individuals to serve for a three-year term on its board of directors. This group builds, promotes, and sustains the

ALA Foundation by connecting with supporters and volunteers, all while raising funds to support the programs and services of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Apply [here](#) by March 31!

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• Enter referral code **HZETXG** when creating your account.
(Available on Google play and the App Store)

Questions? Call 866-664-4621 or email customercare@benefitHub.com

Good to know
January 11, 2023

Are you going back to school, pursuing a trade, or did you take a gap year? We know not everyone strives for a degree or attends a trade school right after their high school graduation. Some of you may have worked to save up money or started a family. If you are a member of The American Legion Family, you may qualify for a \$2,000 Non-Traditional Student Scholarship available from the American Legion Auxiliary. This scholarship is open to all ages for those pursuing training in a certified, trade, professional, or technical program, or a two-year or four-year degree program. [Applications](#) are due to your local ALA unit March 1. Apply today!

A new course is coming soon in the ALA Academy. *ALA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* was created to: help our members recognize biased language and performance bias and implement strategies to overcome them; identify and properly use interrupters to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all; and demonstrate the ability to coach others on the importance of inclusion and equity within ALA. Watch [our social media](#) for updates on when the course is ready.

Has your membership expired? You can still renew for 2023 and continue serving veterans, military, and their families. You can renew your membership in three easy ways: by phone, online, or mail. Go to www.ALAForVeterans.org, call (317) 569-4570, or mail in your renewal notice.

Need American Legion Family membership applications? We have two versions available – color and black-and-

white available for [download](#). We created the black-and-white version to be printer friendly from your home office. The traditional brochures are still available from your department.

Help us increase our following on [Instagram](#). You may be familiar with our social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter, but did you know we are on Instagram too? Join us for fun, unique content you won't see anywhere else! Just search for [@ALAFORVeterans](#).

Request to join the official ALA program and committee groups on Facebook

Discover what your fellow ALA members are saying in the committee Facebook groups! These easy-to-access forums provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness. [Find the list of groups here.](#)

On the ALA Blog

ALA Quote of the Month

"I've seen firsthand how something so simple as a card or coloring page can put a smile on a veteran's face — the smallest things really make a difference. Anything you can do; they will appreciate it. Just let them know we remember them, and they haven't been forgotten."

— Lisa Garrett, Indiana

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SPORTS

American Legion raising funds for youth baseball program

Special to [The Herald](#) | January 11, 2023

The character of a community can be easily measured by how that particular community provides for its youth. Creating new opportunities and resources for young people is a fundamental part of that communal provision.

For nearly a century The American Legion has focused on creating such opportunities through their nonprofit work with veterans and their families in an effort to promote education, leadership, and community involvement. Offering youth sports programs has long been a part of that outreach.

Now, Elk Grove Post 233 of The American Legion is looking to offer such a service to the young men of the Elk Grove, Galt, and South Sacramento area through a summer and early fall baseball program. Boys ages 13 to 19 will compete on and against other American Legion teams in California with the goal of reaching the American Legion World Series, which was televised by ESPN this past August.

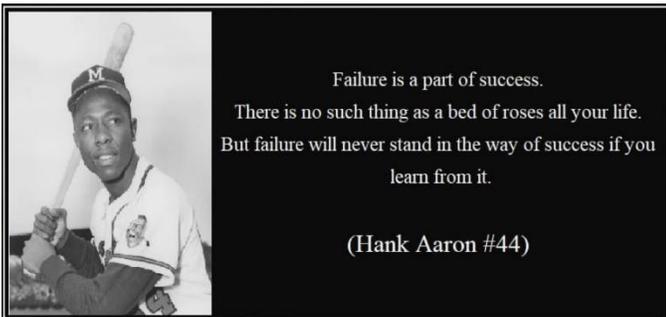
"Baseball is life," Dennis Barksdale, a member of the Sons of the American Legion, said. "Hard work, respect for authority, accountability for your actions, dedication to preparation, and learning to make sacrifices for others. Those are the values baseball teaches us."

The program will offer an exciting offseason option for young players looking to further develop their skills and stay sharp between regular season play.

The American Legion is a chartered 501(c) (19) nonprofit veterans' organization, and all donations are 100 percent tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations can be made directly via debit card or PayPal at <https://post233.americanlegionelkgrove.com/donate>.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed directly to:

American Legion Post 233
8230 Civic Center Dr. Suite 120
Elk Grove, CA 95757
Attention: Mike Retzlaff



SQUADRON EVERLASTING

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

Richard Douglas MacDonald



Richard Douglas "Rick" MacDonald, 72, of Cassadaga died unexpectedly on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at Buffalo General Hospital.

Rick was born on March 8, 1950 in Buffalo, son of the late Angus and Elena MacDonald. He was raised in the City of Tonawanda and graduated

from Tonawanda High School in 1969.

Following his high school graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy, serving from 1969-1974. Rick was especially proud of his Navy service, where he was a member of the Navy SEALs.

He worked as a meteorologist for General Motors American Axle Plant in the Town of Tonawanda, from where he retired. Rick was a longtime resident of the Town of Tonawanda.

Following his retirement from General Motors and upon moving to Cassadaga in 2000, Rick began a second career as a school bus driver for the Cassadaga Valley School system. Rick's outgoing and caring personality was a perfect fit for this job, which he truly enjoyed.

Besides the love of his family, he loved hunting, fishing, feeding the birds and living in the country with his wife, Sandy, and his dogs.

A dedicated Vietnam Veteran, he enjoyed talking to fellow veterans, especially those from past wars. He was active in numerous veterans organizations, including Fredonia Memorial American Legion Post #59, where he was a dual

member, as he was a member of the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion, where he would sit in on their meetings as an advisor. He was Past Commander of the Cassadaga American Legion Post #1280; also a member of the Ellery VFW, Sugar Grove AMVets, the Conservation Club, the First Ward Falcons Club, Fourth Ward Falcons Club, and the Moniuszko Club.

Rick had a large extended family, many friends, and an engaging personality with a big heart to match. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Rick is survived by his wife, Sandra "Sandy" (Carmello) MacDonald; three children, Laurie (Kelly) MacDonald, Paul (Jill) MacDonald and Lisa (Tristin) Turner; four stepchildren, Bryan (Karle) Bennett, Dylan (Danielle) Bennett, Loryn (Christian) Bennett and Rachyl (Eric) Krupa; seven grandchildren, Hailey (Jason) Cutler, Charlotte and Victoria MacDonald, Logan and Nathan Turner, Mathieson and Dean Krupa; a great-grandson, Henley Cutler; six siblings, Kathy Minter, Mike (Nance) MacDonald, Dan (Nancy) MacDonald, Jeff MacDonald, Pat (Jackie) MacDonald and Neil MacDonald; sister-in-law, Peggy Guichard; two brothers-in-law, Steve Carmelo (Colleen Quinn) and Allan (Missy) Carmelo; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 11 from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Larson-Timko Funeral Home, 20 Central Avenue in Fredonia. A celebration of Rick's life will be held on Thursday, January 12 at 4:00 PM at the Fredonia Memorial American Legion Post #59, 156 East Main Street in Fredonia. Flowers gratefully declined. Memorial contributions in Rick's memory may be made to the VA WNY Medical Center, 3495 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215.

Arrangements by David J. Dengler. Online condolences may be made at www.larsontimkofuneralhome.com.



It is with profound sadness and a heavy heart to regretfully inform you of the passing of National Vice-Commander Mike Kirschner's wife, Yvonne. Her service will be private for family only, and a celebration of life will be held in the next few weeks.

Upon receiving additional information on the celebration, I will pass it along.

Cards may be sent to Mike at:
3725 Hollybrook Lane
Pueblo, CO 81005

Anthony Wright, National Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion

Barry Warren Schaley



Barry Warren Schaley Barry Warren Schaley, 79, formerly of Morrison, IL, was called to rest Monday January 9th, 2023 and has gone to finally reunite with his much-loved late wife after a battle with prostate cancer.

He was born on October 6, 1943, to Charles "Chick" and Dorothy (Hogabaum) Schaley and was raised by his stepfather, Maynard Wills and Dorothy Schaley in Camanche, IA.

Barry graduated from Camanche High School in 1962 and was a member of the Iowa National Guard for over 30 years, retiring as Master Sergeant. He was a member and former Commander of the Sons of the American Legion in Thomson, IL.

He married the love of his life, Julie Thielen on June 19, 1962 in Morrison, IL, and they had 4 children, Brenda, Barry, Nick & Dorothy. They made their home in Clinton/Camanche, IA area for many years. He treasured his family and especially his wife. Julie passed away June 28, 2020.

He was an avid gun enthusiast, and taught gun safety courses. As a child/young adult he was an Eagle Scout & became a Scout Master. He loved to fish and go to Hayward on annual fishing trips with the family. Barry also liked to hunt. When the kids were younger, Barry & Julie loved to camp and be outdoors. Barry enjoyed stock car racing. If

he didn't have a race car, he loved to cheer on his great nephew when he raced. His love for his family was unwavering.

Barry is survived by his children, Brenda (Joe) Lashelle, Barry (Angie) Schaley, Nick (Karen Frank) Schaley & Dorothy (Dave) Benters; a step-brother, Leo "Butch" (Irma) Wills of Clinton, IA; 13 grandchildren, Brooke (Brandon) Gordon, Erica (Cody) Foley, Riley (Dylan Preston) Lashelle, Brandon Lashelle, Jon (Rachael Hill) Hess, Blaise (Jeremy) Thurm, Ashton Schaley, Caprice Schaley, Emily Schaley, Damien (Emily) Fahlbeck, Jake Benters, Nickie Benters & Taylor Benters; 16 great-grandchildren, Addison, Ainsley, Bristol, Callan, Easton, Jace, Laken, Lauren, Lexi, Madisyn, Oliver, Olivia, Owen, Reegan, River & Sheylene along with several nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, a brother and 3 sisters.

To send flowers to the family of Barry W Schaley, please visit [Tribute Store](#).

Reprinted from the [Clinton Herald](#)

Dennis Bond



Dennis D. Bond, 75, of Wadena, Iowa, passed away Thursday morning, January 5, 2023, at Maple Crest Manor, Fayette.

Funeral Service: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 14, 2023, at the Jamison-Schmitz Funeral Home, Arlington with Chaplain Pat Malanaphy officiating.

Visitation: 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday and from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday at the funeral home in Arlington. Sons of the American Legion Service: 6:30 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home.

Interment: Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, Iowa. Memorials may be directed to the Wadena Community Church, Wadena Fire Department or the Wadena Legion and Auxiliary. Online obituary at www.jamionschmitzfuneralhome.com.

Dennis Dean Bond was born August 10, 1947, in Oelwein, Iowa, the son of Merl Hyrnm & Mildred Marie (Jacobsen) Bond. He graduated from Valley High School in Elgin with the class of 1965. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Upper Iowa University in Fayette in May of

1969. Dennis was very proud of his degree and being a "Peacock Alumni." He especially enjoyed going to football games with his brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Sally, and participating in the Upper Iowa homecoming activities. He enjoyed taking rides with them to go out to eat, even if it was the buffet at the casino. Dennis wouldn't gamble and told his brother, Jim, he shouldn't, but Dennis would go for the outing.

Dennis worked many jobs over his lifetime and had a good work ethic he learned at a young age from his father by helping mow and dig graves at the Wadena Cemetery. Mowing in those days was NOT a riding mower. His illness challenged him, but he always had a positive and spiritual outlook on life. Dennis liked visiting with people and going to Wadena to reminisce about "old times." He enjoyed the library and donating books to do his part.

Prior to moving to Maple Crest in April of 2021, he lived in his own apartment in West Union. He became quite active in the community by being a member of the Lions Club, coin club, Sons of American Legion and Bethel Presbyterian Church. Dennis enjoyed helping with the bookfair at the school as he enjoyed reading and felt it was very important. He was very generous and kind and would help anyone in need. He also helped support candidates in political elections by going door to door and making calls. He commented several times during the fourteen years he lived in West Union that they were the happiest years of his life.

Dennis is survived by his 4 Siblings: G. W. "Barney" Bond of Wadena, Jim (Sally) Bond of Oelwein, Rae Ann (Fred) Davidson of Oelwein & Lynn Savoy of Garner. Dennis has numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Dennis was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, sister-in-law: Jan Bond and a great-nephew: Allan Bergom.

Dennis' family would like to thank St. Croix Hospice, the excellent employees of Maple Crest and all the friends that provided rides, food, and assistance to Dennis over the years.

Reprinted from [Fayette County Newspapers](#)



FROM THE EDITOR

The work you are all doing on our membership program is remarkable. We are looking at numbers that we have not seen for quite some time. We are ahead of goals in many detachments, and we are on the verge of having all five of our regions hit the January target date goal of 60%.

Within the next few weeks, we could also see another detachment or two reach quota, a region hit the 80% mark, and hit 260,000 paid members. With many detachments holding Midwinter Conferences, we will surely see numbers increase, and maybe just a little higher than we normally do.

Keep up the awesome work!

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

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

click a button for more information

JOIN THE SAL

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Central Region Extravaganza

Spots are filling up fast for the 2023CREI, to be held in Columbus, OH April 21 - 23, 2023. Additional topics were added and presenters confirmed. This will be a conference you won't want to miss.

**PASSION
PURPOSE**

Attendance is limited to 50, so register now!

To register for the conference, you must email jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. Hotel reservations are to be made directly with Embassy Suites, using the number and code on the flyer.



LIMITED TO 50 PARTICIPANTS – PLEASE REGISTER EARLY

EMBASSY SUITES by Hilton®

Embassy Suites by Hilton Columbus Airport
Reservations (614) 536-0500
Reservation Code: LDO
Suite Rate: \$129.00 per night

Friday evening Social Gathering & Networking
Saturday Training, Presentations, and Guest Speakers
Saturday evening visit local American Legion Posts (tentative)

Topics include:

- CENTCOM update | Obtaining Discharge Documents
- Keeping Members Involved | Building an Effective Youth Program
- Honoring Veterans in Health Care Facilities
- Public Speaking | Being a Military Child | Working with the Media
- Be The One – Suicide: Knowing the Signs, Prevention, & Support

Additional topics to be added

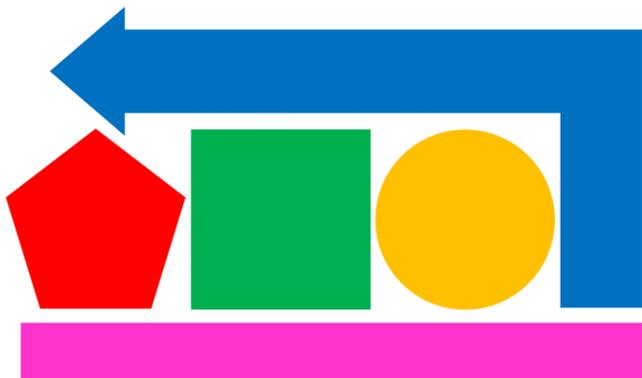
Meeting of the Jeffs

For more information and to reserve your spot at the conference, please contact Jeff Vrabel Sr. | jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com
hotel reservations own your own

Local Attractions



Meeting of the Jeffs



There will be a Meeting of the Jeffs on Saturday, April 22, 2023 during the Central Region Extravaganza.

All Jeffs planning to attend the meeting must email jefvrabelsr@gmail.com.

Jeffs do not need to attend the conference to attend this very important meeting.

AMERICAN LEGION



Time to resolve the Afghanistan allies issue

January 11, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

After a historic, contentious delay, the U.S. House of Representatives now has a speaker in place and can begin to work on behalf of its constituents. That, of course, means acting upon important pro-veteran legislation that had been stuck.

The new Congress has an opportunity to resolve another quagmire that was left unfinished by the previous session. At the end of 2022, the 117th Congress extended the Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) program for our Afghanistan allies. They had been ensnared in a complicated immigration system through no fault of their own and faced the expiration of a two-year temporary "humanitarian parole" this summer. Now, with the deadline extended, tens of thousands of Afghans will not have to potentially return to their Taliban-controlled homeland this year.

However, no permanent solution is in place.

The Afghan Adjustment Act, which is a slightly separate issue from extension of SIV program, was not approved. The act streamlines the SIV process, establishes an interagency task force and provides Afghan refugees a pathway to long-term permanent residence status.

The American Legion is calling on the 118th Congress to pass legislation that would provide a pathway to permanent residency for the estimated 80,000 Afghan allies and their family members who fled the country as the United States withdrew in August 2021. Additionally, let's remember and work toward the up to 160,000 SIV-eligible Afghan allies who still remain trapped in Afghanistan, living under the threat of the Taliban.

We must do better for our Afghan allies who stood with us against the Taliban. We must create a pathway to permanent residency in the United States. We must pass legislation to secure their freedom in return for their assistance in helping our troops.

Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander
The American Legion



US, Japan deepen military ties to counter threats from China, North Korea

Doug G. Ware/Stars and Stripes | January 12, 2023

Japan will take a more proactive role in its own defense as part of an agreement Wednesday between the United States and Japan to deepen their military and security cooperation and bring more stability to the Indo-Pacific region.

"Today, we welcomed a historic alliance decision to optimize U.S. force posture in Japan," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said at a joint news conference as part of the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee meeting at the State Department.

Enhancing bilateral cooperation to counter potential threats from China and North Korea was at the center of the talks, which included Austin, Japanese defense minister Yasukazu Hamada, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Japanese foreign minister Yoshimasa Hayashi.

The leaders said the driving force for the new arrangements boils down to making it easier for Washington and

Tokyo to uphold rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific, a region that has taken on increased importance in recent years due to tension over the sovereignty of Taiwan and provocative Chinese actions in the South China Sea.

An adjustment of U.S. troops in Okinawa and Japanese plans to build new runways on an island used for military exercises are part of the new agreement. Tokyo has also agreed to develop counter-strike capabilities and double defense spending by 2027, pledges that signal a major shift in traditional Japanese military policy.

"I'm grateful that we're meeting at such a consequential time as Japan strengthens its own defense and further contributes to regional peace and stability," Austin said.

Another part of the new pact includes creating the [12th Marine Littoral Regiment](#) — an improved quick-strike force — on Okinawa by 2025. Austin said the unit will be quicker, more lethal, more capable and will operate with more intelligence, surveillance, and transportation capabilities.

Austin said the enhanced agreements reflect the "ironclad commitment" by the United States to defend Japan with all its capabilities, including nuclear weapons, and counter China's "destabilizing actions" in the region.

Colin Kahl, the undersecretary of defense for policy, called the growing U.S.-Japanese alliance an "enduring cornerstone of a free and open Indo-Pacific."

In recent weeks, the Pentagon has repeatedly identified China as the top U.S. military and economic competitor and has labeled North Korea as a prominent "pacing challenge." "We agree that [China] is the greatest shared strategic challenge," Blinken said. "Our alliance has never been more crucial to realizing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific."

The deepening ties between Washington and Tokyo also will include new cooperation in space, the officials said Wednesday. However, specifics on this won't be shared until later this week.

"We agreed that attacks to, from or within space present a clear challenge," Blinken said. "That is significant."

Wednesday's talks were a prelude to a meeting at the White House on Friday between Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Earlier this week, Kishida struck a new defense pact with Britain that is also aimed at reining in China. Hamada will meet with Austin again at the Pentagon on Thursday.

Tensions have been rising for years between the U.S. and China over several issues — from trade to the coronavirus and Taiwan’s status as a sovereign territory. Other tensions have centered on various Chinese military actions in the South China Sea. Most recently, the Pentagon said a Chinese fighter jet in late December unsafely “buzzed” an Air Force reconnaissance plane there — at one point coming within about 20 feet of the U.S. aircraft’s nose, forcing the pilot to take quick action to avoid a crash.

Beijing claims China owns parts of the South China Sea and all of Taiwan.

Some experts contend Wednesday’s agreement with Japan is not enough if the United States wants to effectively manage the problems that China presents now and in the future. “We may have some tests [with China] that may come upon us in the next five to seven to 10 years,” Michele Flournoy, the undersecretary of defense for policy under former President Barack Obama, said Tuesday during a discussion at the Rand Corp. in Washington. “I don’t think we understand the Chinese calculus.”

Like Blinken, Flournoy helped co-found WestExec Advisors, a Washington consulting firm in 2017. She also worked in the Pentagon during former President Bill Clinton’s administration and she was said to be a serious candidate for defense secretary under Biden until Austin got the job.

“I don’t think we understand [our adversaries] well,” Flournoy said.



The American Legion Band of the Tonawandas (Tonawanda, N.Y.), sponsored by Post 264, competes in the Band Contest at the 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee in 2022.

Photo by Hilary Ott /The American Legion

Get the band (or color guard) back together

The American Legion | January 11, 2023

American Legion bands and color guards can now apply to compete during the 104th National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

The National Color Guard Contest will open the convention on Friday, Aug. 25. The contest will start at 4 p.m. in Exhibit Hall A, Exhibit Level of the Charlotte Convention Center, with Newport Harbor Post 291 of Newport Beach, Calif., defending its title as champion. There are four classes of competition: Advancing/Retiring Colors, Military, Military-Open and Open.

To be considered for the National Commander’s Color Guard, units must compete in either Military or Military-Open and Advancing/Retiring Colors. Units can represent any part of the Legion Family or have a combination of members in the unit. Applications are due to National Headquarters by Friday, July 21.

On Saturday, Aug. 26, the American Legion National Concert Band Contest will kick off at 1 p.m., also in Exhibit Hall A. The event includes Concert Band and Exhibition Band classes. Applications are due to National Headquarters by Friday, April 28.

For contest applications and rules, go to legion.org/convention/contests.

REMEMBERING THE GREATEST GENERATION

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please send information to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com



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2022 - 2023 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD



Date
(select date from drop-down menu by clicking inside the box)

Recruiter Name Member ID#

Email Address

Phone Number Detachment Squadron #

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

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 & LAST NAME</u>	<u>MEMBER ID#</u>
1.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
2.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
3.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
4.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
5.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

SAVE & EMAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--|
| EASTERN REGION: | JOHN COOK (NH) | (EMAIL) COOKI46@ROADRUNNER.COM |
| SOUTHERN REGION: | LINWOOD MOORE (VA) | (EMAIL) WOODMAN989@AOL.COM |
| CENTRAL REGION: | ROBERT BRISTO (MN) | (EMAIL) BLATZMAN4@Q.COM |
| MIDWEST REGION: | TERRY HARRIS (KS) | (EMAIL) DET.ADJ.KS@GMAIL.COM |
| WESTERN REGION: | JAMES FISCHER (CA) | (EMAIL) JAMESRFISCHERSR@GMAIL.COM |

01/12/23		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS				
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1 Southern 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	43,793	31,580	(12,213)	72.11%	953	
2 Central 1, 3, 4, 5	128,333	88,058	(40,275)	68.62%	2,546	
3 Midwestern 1, 3, 4, 5	28,918	19,413	(9,505)	67.13%	670	
4 Eastern 4, 5	140,932	95,886	(45,046)	68.04%	4,941	
5 Western 1, 4	25,822	15,450	(10,372)	59.83%	842	
TOTALS 1, 4, 5	367,798	250,387	(117,411)	68.08%	9,952	



01/12/23		2023 CENTRAL REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4,187	3,268	(919)	78.05%	28	69.79%	6	
2 Iowa 1, 3, 4, 5	4,857	3,619	(1,238)	74.51%	200	67.27%	13	
3 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,219	2,319	(900)	72.04%	62	64.31%	20	
4 Ohio 1, 4, 5	30,636	21,420	(9,216)	69.92%	198	64.90%	25	
5 Michigan 4, 5	24,271	16,765	(7,506)	69.07%	915	61.35%	27	
6 Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5	36,387	25,082	(11,305)	68.93%	944	63.56%	28	
7 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5	13,398	8,872	(4,526)	66.22%	148	60.45%	34	
8 Minnesota	11,378	6,713	(4,665)	59.00%	51	55.30%	47	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	128,333	88,058	(40,275)	68.62%	2,546			

01/12/23		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, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,414	1,057	(357)	74.75%	64	59.44%	12	
3 Nevada 4, 5	357	231	(126)	64.71%	-	54.72%	38	
4 Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	644	398	(246)	61.80%	1	51.94%	40	
5 Utah 5	449	272	(177)	60.58%	9	52.60%	41	
6 California 1, 5	10,714	6,440	(4,274)	60.11%	112	50.15%	44	
7 Arizona	8,004	4,787	(3,217)	59.81%	390	48.15%	46	
8 Washington	2,485	1,321	(1,164)	53.16%	215	40.58%	49	
9 Alaska 3	1,608	845	(763)	52.55%	51	42.73%	50	
10 Phillipines	70	17	(53)	24.29%	-	23.53%	55	
TOTALS 1, 4	25,822	15,450	(10,372)	59.83%	842			

01/09/23		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, 6, 7	1,790	1,491	(299)	83.30%	21	75.59%	4	
2 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	123	100	(23)	81.30%	1	47.54%	5	
3 Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	21,519	16,360	(5,159)	76.03%	512	63.66%	8	
4 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,066	1,559	(507)	75.46%	36	65.79%	11	
5 North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,727	2,014	(713)	73.85%	12	61.18%	16	
6 Mississippi 1, 3, 4, 5	722	523	(199)	72.44%	-	62.53%	19	
7 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,490	3,195	(1,295)	71.16%	61	61.17%	21	
8 South Carolina 4, 5	1,473	1,047	(426)	71.08%	39	61.06%	22	
9 Virginia 4, 5	4,109	2,788	(1,321)	67.85%	189	58.75%	31	
10 Tennessee 1, 3, 4, 5	1,718	1,081	(637)	62.92%	50	51.46%	39	
11 Arkansas 1	447	225	(222)	50.34%	13	43.31%	51	
12 Kentucky	2,609	1,197	(1,412)	45.88%	19	38.89%	54	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	43,793	31,580	(12,213)	72.11%	932			

01/12/23		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, 6, 7, 8	1,362	1,251	(111)	91.85%	7	75.04%	2	
2 Mexico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	31	24	(7)	77.42%	-	35.48%	7	
3 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,348	1,018	(330)	75.52%	27	61.37%	10	
4 Montana 1, 3, 4, 5	1,108	825	(283)	74.46%	13	70.13%	14	
5 Nebraska 1, 3, 4, 5	7,015	4,929	(2,086)	70.26%	204	67.07%	23	
6 North Dakota 1, 3, 4	1,056	739	(317)	69.98%	2	61.41%	24	
7 Colorado 1, 4	2,729	1,867	(862)	68.41%	17	59.39%	29	
8 Kansas 3, 4, 5	5,919	3,896	(2,023)	65.82%	109	59.68%	35	
9 Wyoming 1, 4, 5	1,298	785	(513)	60.48%	7	53.34%	43	
10 Texas 1, 3, 4	5,569	3,333	(2,236)	59.85%	105	50.24%	45	
11 New Mexico	1,483	746	(737)	50.30%	226	40.73%	52	
TOTALS 1, 3, 4, 5	28,918	19,413	(9,505)	67.13%	710			

01/12/23		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, 6, 7	158	135	(23)	85.44%	1	82.05%	3	
2 Maryland 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	16,058	12,131	(3,927)	75.54%	367	69.01%	9	
3 Delaware 1, 3, 4, 5	2,430	1,804	(626)	74.24%	40	64.72%	15	
4 Vermont 1, 3, 4, 5	3,818	2,813	(1,005)	73.68%	133	67.75%	17	
5 Rhode Island 4, 5	336	247	(89)	73.51%	57	63.64%	18	
6 Pennsylvania 4, 5	60,803	42,055	(18,748)	69.17%	3,152	64.15%	26	
7 New Hampshire 4, 5	5,677	3,857	(1,820)	67.94%	27	61.20%	30	
8 Maine 5	2,617	1,741	(876)	66.53%	102	57.76%	32	
9 Connecticut 4, 5	1,867	1,241	(626)	66.47%	75	59.64%	33	
10 West Virginia 4, 5	2,362	1,539	(823)	65.16%	72	54.69%	36	
11 New York 4, 5	29,864	19,389	(10,475)	64.92%	466	59.77%	37	
12 New Jersey 2, 3, 4, 5	9,386	5,680	(3,706)	60.52%	375	54.26%	42	
13 Massachusetts 4	5,442	3,197	(2,245)	58.75%	67	52.62%	48	
14 Dist. of Columbia	114	57	(57)	50.00%	7	38.05%	53	
TOTALS 4, 5	140,932	95,886	(45,046)	68.04%	4,941			

01/12/23		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	21,519	16,360	(5,159)	76.03%	512	76.03%	8	
2 Ohio 1, 4, 5	30,636	21,420	(9,216)	69.92%	198	64.90%	25	
3 Pennsylvania	60,803	42,055	(18,748)	69.17%	3,152	64.15%	26	
4 Michigan 4	24,271	16,765	(7,506)	69.07%	915	61.35%	27	
5 Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5	36,387	25,082	(11,305)	68.93%	944	63.56%	28	
6 New York 4, 5	29,864	19,389	(10,475)	64.92%	466	59.77%	37	
TOTALS	203,480	141,071	(62,409)	69.33%	6,187			

National Membership Totals 4, 5	367,798	250,387	(117,411)	68.08%	9,952	61.15%		
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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%



2022 SAL YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF: DECEMBER 31, 2022

#	DETACHMENT	2022 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 105% TARGET 12/31/2022	2022 ACTUAL MBSP.	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2022 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	49	-24	75	153.06%	97.92
2	PUERTO RICO	88	-29	121	137.50%	100.00
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	-255	1,360	129.28%	92.06
4	DIST OF COL	92	-16	113	122.83%	91.01
5	WASHINGTON	2,086	-314	2,504	120.04%	92.10
6	NEW MEXICO	1,261	-180	1,504	119.27%	88.15
7	MEXICO	26	-4	31	119.23%	68.00
8	NORTH DAKOTA	916	-89	1,051	114.74%	99.78
9	MICHIGAN	21,985	-1,227	24,311	110.58%	92.85
10	WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	-112	2,404	110.12%	90.83
11	DELAWARE	2,229	-93	2,433	109.15%	93.24
12	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	-208	5,811	108.90%	92.48
13	OREGON	1,317	-45	1,428	108.43%	87.16
14	MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	-172	5,500	108.40%	92.43
15	NEVADA	334	-9	360	107.78%	88.15
16	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	-34	1,485	107.45%	88.70
17	VERMONT	3,576	-75	3,830	107.10%	92.45
18	ARIZONA	7,566	-132	8,076	106.74%	85.56
19	WISCONSIN	3,914	-63	4,173	106.62%	94.23
20	IDAHO	606	-9	645	106.44%	87.40
21	IOWA	4,571	-36	4,836	105.80%	95.63
22	COLORADO	2,632	-20	2,784	105.78%	86.34
23	MAINE	2,482	10	2,596	104.59%	91.85
24	RHODE ISLAND	316	2	330	104.43%	81.03
25	ALASKA	1,560	11	1,627	104.29%	81.43
26	FLORIDA	20,745	214	21,568	103.97%	85.85
27	CALIFORNIA	10,338	127	10,728	103.77%	87.33
28	MARYLAND	15,533	259	16,051	103.33%	92.59
29	GEORGIA	4,316	80	4,452	103.15%	85.29
30	NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	52	2,698	103.02%	82.82
31	TEXAS	5,425	112	5,584	102.93%	84.18
32	PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	1,235	60,612	102.90%	92.52
33	NEW YORK	29,246	803	29,905	102.25%	91.40
34	CONNECTICUT	1,820	55	1,856	101.98%	86.88
35	MINNESOTA	11,091	357	11,289	101.79%	90.79
36	WYOMING	1,273	42	1,295	101.73%	80.87
37	NEW JERSEY	9,211	308	9,364	101.66%	89.39
38	ALABAMA	2,020	68	2,053	101.63%	82.92
39	PHILIPPINES	66	2	67	101.52%	96.92
40	VIRGINIA	4,023	145	4,079	101.39%	86.41
41	OHIO	29,946	1,299	30,144	100.66%	91.48
42	TENNESSEE	1,681	82	1,683	100.12%	78.25
43	MISSOURI	3,211	175	3,197	99.56%	86.48
44	NEBRASKA	6,959	394	6,913	99.34%	92.96
45	ILLINOIS	13,602	934	13,348	98.13%	89.81
46	LOUISIANA	1,808	125	1,773	98.06%	87.15
47	INDIANA	36,657	2,654	35,836	97.76%	89.02
48	KENTUCKY	2,648	194	2,586	97.66%	78.98
49	OKLAHOMA	1,380	106	1,343	97.32%	80.83
50	ARKANSAS	468	50	441	94.23%	76.79
51	MONTANA	1,160	142	1,076	92.76%	86.23
52	KANSAS	6,424	886	5,859	91.20%	83.21
53	MISSISSIPPI	795	110	725	91.19%	62.92
54	UTAH	492	75	442	89.84%	76.53
55	FRANCE	233	89	156	66.95%	65.93
Grand Totals:		356,725	8,050	366,511	102.74%	89.91

2022 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	49	75	153.06%
WASHINGTON	2,086	2,504	120.04%
OREGON	1,317	1,428	108.43%
NEVADA	334	360	107.78%
ARIZONA	7,566	8,076	106.74%
IDAHO	606	645	106.44%
ALASKA	1,560	1,627	104.29%
CALIFORNIA	10,338	10,728	103.77%
PHILIPPINES	66	67	101.52%
UTAH	492	442	89.84%
Totals:	24,414	25,952	106.30%

MIDWEST REGION			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	1,360	129.28%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	1,504	119.27%
MEXICO	26	31	119.23%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	1,051	114.74%
COLORADO	2,632	2,784	105.78%
TEXAS	5,425	5,584	102.93%
WYOMING	1,273	1,295	101.73%
NEBRASKA	6,959	6,913	99.34%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	1,343	97.32%
MONTANA	1,160	1,076	92.76%
KANSAS	6,424	5,859	91.20%
Totals:	28,508	28,800	101.02%

CENTRAL REGION			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
MICHIGAN	21,985	24,311	110.58%
WISCONSIN	3,914	4,173	106.62%
IOWA	4,571	4,836	105.80%
MINNESOTA	11,091	11,289	101.79%
OHIO	29,946	30,144	100.66%
MISSOURI	3,211	3,197	99.56%
ILLINOIS	13,602	13,348	98.13%
INDIANA	36,657	35,836	97.76%
Totals:	124,977	127,134	101.73%

EASTERN REGION			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
DIST OF COL	92	113	122.83%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	2,404	110.12%
DELAWARE	2,229	2,433	109.15%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	5,811	108.90%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	5,500	108.40%
VERMONT	3,576	3,830	107.10%
MAINE	2,482	2,596	104.59%
RHODE ISLAND	316	330	104.43%
MARYLAND	15,533	16,051	103.33%
PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	60,612	102.90%
NEW YORK	29,246	29,905	102.25%
CONNECTICUT	1,820	1,856	101.98%
NEW JERSEY	9,211	9,364	101.66%
FRANCE	233	156	66.95%
Totals:	136,233	140,961	103.47%

SOUTHERN REGION			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	88	121	137.50%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	1,485	107.45%
FLORIDA	20,745	21,568	103.97%
GEORGIA	4,316	4,452	103.15%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	2,698	103.02%
ALABAMA	2,020	2,053	101.63%
VIRGINIA	4,023	4,079	101.39%
TENNESSEE	1,681	1,683	100.12%
LOUISIANA	1,808	1,773	98.06%
KENTUCKY	2,648	2,586	97.66%
ARKANSAS	468	441	94.23%
MISSISSIPPI	795	725	91.19%
Totals:	42,593	43,664	102.51%

2023



**The American Legion Washington Conference
Sons of The American Legion
Memorial Wreath Laying Schedule**



Meet at: Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20009

9:00 am - Receive tickets for lunch, bus seat and tram by Detachment

At 9:00 am SAL National Commander Chris Carlton will address attendees.

Pictures of Wreaths with SAL National Commander Chris Carlton can be taken between

9:15 and 9:30 am.

Board Busses and load Wreaths at 9:30 am

Depart: Bus will leave from lower level of hotel promptly at 9:30 am,
Sunday, February 26, 2023

Leave Washington Hilton at 9:30 am

1st Stop: **Arrive at Arlington National Cemetery at 9:50 am**

1. Tour of Tomb Guards Quarters if available
2. Group photograph of all participants
3. Prayer by National Chaplain
4. Wreath laying Ceremony at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier 11:15 am
5. Depart the Arlington National Cemetery at 12:30 pm

2nd Stop: **Arrive at Vietnam Wall Memorial at 12:45 pm**

1. Lunch
2. Group photograph of all participants
3. Wreath laying ceremony by National Commander at the Vietnam Wall Memorial with prayer by National Chaplain
1. Depart the Vietnam Wall Memorial at 2:00 pm

3rd Stop: **Arrive at the World War II Memorial at 2:30 pm**

1. Group photograph of all participants with Detachment wreath placement with National Commander
2. Wreath laying ceremony by National Commander at the WWII Memorial with prayer by National Chaplain
3. Depart the World War II Memorial at 3:30 pm

Return: Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20009 @4:00 pm

The National Organization will again this year rent two buses to transport individuals to and from the wreath laying ceremonies. In an effort to fully take advantage of this we will be taking **requests** for seats on the buses with the wreath order. It is very important, if you reserve a seat that you be in attendance and if you cannot, please contact Thomas Deal ASAP (Cell # 443-206-0402).

We will also again this year order box lunches for on the bus “it is highly recommended that individuals take advantage of this as it is a long period to go without eating.” The cost will be \$9.00 each - you will have a choice of turkey, ham or roast beef. Payment and choice will be needed along with the wreath order.

Everyone who wishes to attend MUST fill out a form and submit, National does not reserve for anyone.

If you need further information or have questions, I can be contacted by phone during the day at 443-206-0402 or by email tom.deal@verizon.net

WREATH & LUNCH ORDER FORM - WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WREATH LAYING

on SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Deadline for submissions to be received is February 4, 2023

DETACHMENT		CONTACT NAME	
ADDRESS			
CELL PHONE #		E-MAIL	

Wreath Request (\$150) – (Name of Detachment)		Total \$	
Box Lunch (\$9.00 each) Turkey #		Ham #	
		Roast Beef #	
		X \$9.00	Total \$

Arlington National Cemetery General Admission Group Rate

Total Arlington tickets		x \$13.95 each	Total \$	
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Total Paid for Wreath, Lunch and Arlington Tram: **Total enclosed \$** _____

Number of Seats Requested for Bus - # _____

Name of others attending and Cell # (Please fill out completely to allow for better communication) -

Name		Cell #	

PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED. ORDER WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT!!!

Make check payable to: Thomas Deal and mail to: Thomas Deal, 1434 Clayton St., Perryville, Md. 21903

Sons of The American Legion National Commander

Christopher Carlton



Homecoming



BE THE ONE

March 24 & 25, 2023

Friday Night Dinner at the Commanders home Post #495 with entertainment.

Number of guests X \$20.00 =

Saturday visit to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum Followed by lunch at Post #500 and trip to Indiana War Memorial.

Number of guests X \$45.00 =

Saturday night Homecoming Dinner at Post #64, buffet style Program and Entertainment to follow.

Number of guests X \$55.00 =

Total Amount =

Count me in!

Name: Guests:

**Hotel accommodations at Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport North, an IHG Hotel.
5601 Fortune Circle W, Indianapolis, IN 46241, 317-348-0033
Use Link below for booking**

https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=INDFC&checkInDate=24&checkInMonthYear=022023&checkOutDate=26&checkOutMonthYear=022023&_PMID=99801505&GPC=GRS&cn=no&viewfullsite=true

Hotel Reservations are available until **2/24/2023**

Hotel Airport Shuttle Available, 24/7 Call Hotel

Transportation to all events, entertainment and breakfast will be provided at hotel listed above.

Breakfast Buffet Available at Hotel listed above Saturday & Sunday with advance order check “X” for yes and list number of people below.

Saturday: Guests: Sunday: Guests:

You may pay by Check or Credit/Debit Card

Name on Card: _____ Card #: _____

EXP: _____ CVV: _____ Zip Code: _____

Or,

Make check payable to: “Carlton Homecoming”

Send Homecoming Reservations and check or CC Info to:

Raymond Giehl, Jr.

6767 W Brier Creek Dr., New Palestine, IN 46163

Preferred, Email to: rpgiehl@sbcglobal.net

Homecoming Reservations RSVP By **3/18/2023**