



Central Region

Round-Up

The Membership Newsletter of
Sons of The American Legion
Central Region

Volume 1 – Issue 26 – April 26, 2020

National Target Date
May 13, 2020
90%

RECRUIT!
RETAIN!
REINSTATE!

CENTRAL REGION CHALLENGE DATE
May 1, 2020
100%

Central Renewals at 81.27%



Gents,

We stayed in 3rd place and only need 1,462 more cards to reach the May 13 target of 90%, that date is also the cutoff date for pre-printed cards. Keep up the hard work you are doing, stay safe, and don't forget to do your

buddy checks.

Richard Doc Pfeiffer, NVC Central

"Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead"

Gentlemen,

The April 23, 2020 National Membership Report shows that nationally, we are 1,211 members **BEHIND** last year. Although times are tough right now, and we are restricted on what we can and cannot do, we need to continue to work on

our renewals. WE will see our membership numbers jump as we renew more of our members.

Continue your SAL Buddy Checks and make a special effort to contact your non-renewals early and often. Help where needed and where possible and remind all your members how important they are to your Squadron and to our organization. Work hard and continue **Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead!**

We also need to continue to encourage everyone to start using MySAL. The ease of use is amazing. The speed in processing membership will make you wonder what took you so long to start using it. The reports you can run are like none we've had before. Please take a look at the tool we asked for and take advantage of it. I promise you will love it. And when you start using it, let other Squadrons know you use it and encourage them to try it as well.

MySAL is not the wave of the future, it is the wave of the present.

<p>Membership 117,964 Third Place 88.897% as of April 23, 2020</p>
<p>Renewals 106,741 Second Place 81.27% as of the April 20, 2020</p>

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



MySAL

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

100%

The Central Region Challenge Date of 100% membership on May 1 is will be here next week. Is there any magic out there that will get a few more Detachments to that mark? **Who's next?**

As always, please do not hesitate to contact Doc Pfeiffer or me if you need help with anything.

Thanks for your support of this publication!

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,



#SALSTRONG

Jeff Vrabel, Sr.
Sons of The American Legion
National Membership Committee
Central Region Chairman
jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

**"Serving Those Who Served...
Full Steam Ahead"**



**Detachment Membership Standings
as of April 23, 2020**

DET	GOAL	ACTUAL	%
IA Q1 *^	4,375	4,416	100.937%
WI Q2 *^	3,744	3,793	100.309%
MI *	24,083	21,757	90.342%
OH	31,133	27,952	89.783%
MN	11,748	10,465	89.079%
IL	14,546	12,939	88.952%
IN	39,364	33,933	86.203%
MO	3,705	2,709	73.117%
TOTALS	132,698	117,964	88.897%

Q = QUOTA - CONGRATULATIONS!!!

* = Met May 13 National Target of 90%

^ = Met May 1 Central Region Challenge of 100%

**National Membership Standings
as of April 23, 2020**

REGION	GOAL	ACTUAL	%
Southern	42,763	39,102	91.439%
Western	26,395	23,782	90.100%
Central	132,698	117,964	88.897%
Midwest	30,366	26,784	88.204%
Eastern	146,273	128,855	88.092%
TOTALS	378,495	336,487	88.092%

-1,211 ahead of last year

**Detachment Renewal Rates
as of April 20, 2020**

DET	2019	RENEWED	%
IA	4,452	3,939	88.48%
OH	30,456	25,891	85.01%
WI	3,945	3,317	84.08%
MN	11,565	9,418	81.44%
IL	14,431	11,726	81.26%
MI	24,126	19,229	79.70%
IN	38,876	30,749	79.10%
MO	3,485	2,472	70.93%
TOTALS	131,336	106,741	81.27%

**National Renewal Rates
as of April 20, 2020**

DET	2019	RENEWED	%
Eastern	144,840	118,196	81.59%
Central	131,317	106,741	81.27%
Midwest	29,920	23,529	78.62%
Southern	42,858	33,329	77.73%
Western	26,524	19,793	74.60%
TOTALS	375,540	301,588	80.31%

NATIONAL TARGET DATE

May 13, 2020

90%

REVISED



National Commander Bolt's 2019-2020 Goals

Please remember as you travel and promote the Sons of The American Legion and National Commander Clint Bolt's goals for Membership and all Legion Charities.

- 🏆 **RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND REINSTATE** to reach **400,000** members
- 🏆 Renewal rate above 95%
- 🏆 Obtain 105% in membership by National Convention in Louisville, KY
- 🏆 Recognize our achievements
- 🏆 Child Welfare Foundation \$500,000
- 🏆 National Emergency Fund \$100,000
- 🏆 Soldiers Wish \$100,000
- 🏆 Legacy Scholarship \$100,000
- 🏆 Veterans & Children's Fund \$100,000
- 🏆 Operation Comfort Warriors \$100,000

Americanism Report



Good Afternoon to All,

As we are all dealing with things that we have never dealt with before I hope to find all are doing as best, they can and being safe. I know many meetings, fundraisers, and event have been cancelled all over and it is hurting income for our Squadrons and post that make donations to our legion and community programs. This year has been like no other and we need to do what we can do. Let me share some stories from my home Detachment of Maryland that show ways we can work during these times. Squadron 82 Harry White Wilmer, Squadron 60 Laurel and more have work with the Legion and ask permission from the local and state government to open for a blood drive. Permission was granted each time and the Red Cross was happy that the American Legion helped them in a time when blood is getting low. Great work being done to help many during the lock downs in Maryland. In Glen Burnie American Legion Post 40 has taken to Facebook and had raffles to raise money for their post. They sell 60 numbers using PayPal and then YouTube for live drawings. They have raffled off 3 iPads, a power washer, gift cards and more and have raised over \$2,000.00. In these times we need to help all of our programs we have, and we cannot forget to help take care of our home post too. Take the down time to plan what we can do once we are allowed to get back to normal and get creative with things we can

do to help. As Sons of The American Legion we have always been known for finding ways to make money for the programs and also to work the programs, let's not just accept that we have lost our fundraisers and opportunities to work the program. Let's find new ways to carry on the programs and get more people involved. We can do it; we just need to put our minds together. Even if it's on a conference call because we can't meet right now, let's challenge ourselves to step up to the challenge and continue on.

We cannot change what has been taken from us because of the virus and how it has cancelled so many things. We can come back strong if we are prepared to and are ready to. We are the Sons of The American Legion, it is our jobs to assist and carry on!! Let's get working on what's next. Share what you are doing with others and help everyone come back strong. I hope to see all of you soon and hear more of the great works we are doing.

Serving Those That Served,
Full Steam Ahead,

Don "JR" Hall, Americanism Chairman
Sons of The American Legion

Just a reminder for the upcoming SAL VA & R Commission's Monthly Conference Call, to be held on Monday April 27th, 7:00 PM CST (Prevailing Time)

**THE CALL IN NUMBER IS 1-480-297-0773
PASSCODE # 8781497**

Detachment Features

Wisconsin	January 26 edition	😊 Thanks
Illinois	February 2 edition	😊 Thanks
Missouri	February 9 edition	😞
Iowa	February 16 edition	😞
Michigan	February 23 edition	😊 Thanks
Indiana	March 1 edition	😞
Ohio	March 8 edition	😞
Minnesota	March 15 edition	😞

There's still time if you didn't have your Detachment feature published yet!!!

Membership Committee Call

6:00 PM MST

Call in # (515) 604-9644 Access Code: 889133

Online Meeting

<http://join.freeconferencecall.com/jrnavarr>

The National Membership Committee holds its monthly Conference Calls on the third Tuesday of each month. It is important that we get the message out to as many Membership Chairmen as possible. Please share this with your District and Squadron leadership and ask them to join us.

2019 – 2020 Central Region Membership Challenge from Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

DECEMBER 31	60%	✓
FEBRUARY 1	85%	✓
MARCH 1	90%	✓
APRIL 1	95%	✓
MAY 1	100%	
JUNE 30	110%	

Who's next?



SPECIAL SECTION

COVID-19

EDITOR'S NOTE: This section is for sharing information from government and health officials related to COVID-19. It is not intended to be a directive from The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion, unless otherwise noted by National Headquarters. Please follow the instructions from officials in your area.

The American Legion has created an information center for updates related to COVID-19.

Please click the link regularly for updates.

<https://www.legion.org/headlines/coronavirus>

The federal government has made COVID-19 resources available by visiting

www.coronavirus.gov



Wikimedia Commons

The reckoning

By Alan W. Dowd

APR 21, 2020

As the public-health crisis spawned by COVID-19 begins to ease and the world begins to grapple with the economic wreckage wrought by efforts to contain the disease, there are intensifying calls for China to be held to account for its appalling response to the initial outbreak. Like a gathering storm, a reckoning is coming for Beijing.

FIXING BLAME

We can't blame Beijing for COVID-19, but we can blame Beijing for its handling of COVID-19. What was a manageable public-health problem mushroomed into a global pandemic – erasing tens of thousands of lives and trillions of dollars in treasure – because Xi Jinping regime's failed to act and then tried to cover up its failures.

The record reads like an indictment. It took six weeks for Chinese officials to quarantine Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak. During that time, thousands of people left Wuhan for destinations around the world, Chinese authorities jailed and muzzled a physician for warning his colleagues about the virus, Beijing refused the CDC's offer to help, Chinese officials told the World Health Organization (WHO) they "found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission, and Xi's henchmen ordered scientists not to share findings about coronavirus-genome [sequencing](#).

The University of Southampton [concludes](#) that had Beijing taken appropriate action three weeks earlier, 95 percent of cases would have been prevented across China; a week earlier would have prevented 66 percent of cases. That, in turn, would have prevented COVID-19 from becoming a global pandemic – but that would have required China behaving like a responsible power. Instead, Beijing [lied](#) about the outbreak's origin date, transmission rate and [death toll](#).

The COVID-19 crisis proves what many of us have argued for decades: China's internal political system is an international problem. Like other communist governments, the PRC is an ends-justify-the-means regime that has contempt for the individual at home and disdain for norms of behavior abroad. In the aftermath of COVID-19, much of the world is finally waking up to this reality. This awakening and consequent reckoning could have a dramatic impact on China.

BREAKING THE SUPPLY CHAINS

Rattled by COVID-19, firms are shifting supply chains [away](#) from China. As *Forbes* reports, even [before](#) the COVID-19 crisis, "the threat of disrupted China imports" prompted companies to begin diversifying supply chains. COVID-19 has accelerated this trend, forcing firms to develop supply-chain "resilience." Emerging-markets expert Kenneth Rapoza concludes, "China's days as the go-to manufacturing hub for the Western world are over."

Supply-chain diversification is prudent and long-overdue for the world, and it could be bad for Xi's regime. That would be good for the cause of freedom. A weakening Chinese economy could encourage the sort of discontent necessary for political reform in China. Even before COVID-19, economic growth had significantly slowed in China. The annual [change](#) in China's GDP plunged from 14.2 percent in 2006-2007 to 6.1 percent in 2018-2019. The COVID-19 crisis has deceler-

ated China's economy even further. China's post-COVID-19 economy has "sharply contracted," according to a NASDAQ [analysis](#), "for the first time since at least 1992," with projected year-end GDP growth falling to 2 percent – the lowest in 40 years.

China's economy needs to grow at a rapid clip to keep China's masses content. If Xi fails to deliver the economic goods, his subjects may conclude that the tradeoff they have made with their government – political docility in exchange for rising living standards – is not worth the cost.

FIXING THE PROBLEM

The costs for China may not be limited to a shrinking GDP and disappearing exports. There are growing calls for Beijing to face diplomatic and financial penalties for its actions.

Citing treaties China is party to, James Kraska of the Naval War College [argues](#) the PRC is obliged to "make full reparations for the injury caused by" its "wrongful acts." If Beijing refuses to make reparations, the United States and other injured states "may suspend existing legal obligations or deliberately violate other legal duties owed to China as a means to induce Beijing to fulfill its responsibilities and address the calamitous damages it has inflicted on the world."

Similarly, John Yoo (a Justice Department official under President George W. Bush) and Ivana Stradner (an expert in international law at the American Enterprise Institute) [conclude](#) that China is "legally liable under international law" and that Beijing should be "required to provide compensation for the harm it has inflicted."

However, they add that "ineffectiveness and corruption of international institutions" make it difficult to redress grievances through traditional means. As an alternative, they propose expelling PRC scholars from U.S. research centers and universities, imposing economic sanctions on China, blocking China from buying and selling advanced technologies, targeting PRC leaders with asset-freezes and visa-denials, and seizing PRC assets around the world.

In addition, there are 13 bills in Congress calling for punitive action against Beijing.

One [directs](#) the president and secretary of the Treasury "to develop and carry out a strategy to seek reimbursement from the People's Republic of Chi-

na.” [Another](#) demands that China “be held accountable for the impact of its decision to hide the emergence and spread of COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of the people of the United States and other nations,” envisions methods to “quantify the harm ... to the health and economic wellbeing of the people of the United States,” and advocates creation of “a mechanism for delivering compensation” from China “to all affected nations for the harm caused by its decision to hide the emergence and spread of COVID-19.”

DIALING UP THE DISTRUST

These bills reflect what the American people – devastated by COVID-19’s health and economic costs – feel about Xi’s China. *The Washington Post*, citing new polling, [reports](#) that the American people “largely agree that the Chinese government bears responsibility for the spread of the pandemic, that it can’t be trusted on this or any other issue, and that the U.S. government should maintain a tough position on China.”

The distrust and anger are not quarantined within America’s borders.

A policy-research firm in Britain has issued a [report](#) calling for Beijing to face \$6.5 trillion in damages, payable to G-7 nations.

British officials are fuming at indications that “China may have lied about the extent of their own outbreak,” according to one [report](#), which adds that there is “rising anger about the Chinese government’s conduct and increasing pressure for a wholesale review of relations with China.” A bloc of [MPs](#) from the majority Conservative Party has called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to “rethink our wider relationship with China” in order to protect “Britain’s long-term economic, technical and security needs.”

Likewise, Australian [lawmakers](#) are pushing for punitive action against China.

The Japanese [government](#) is investing more than \$2 billion in subsidies to assist its multinational corporations to move manufacturing operations out of China. Deft diplomacy by the United States can build this well-deserved mistrust of Beijing into a bulwark against Xi’s efforts to export business-suit authoritarianism.

MOVING FORWARD

The reckoning shouldn’t end there. Every avenue should be explored to penalize China for its actions and

inaction, highlight China’s willful misconduct, and protect the American people from China’s next bio-disaster. (H5N1, SARS and COVID-19 are responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths globally; each began in the PRC.)

The president could use an Oval Office address or special session of Congress to explain Beijing’s criminal malfeasance. A helpful roadmap is President Ronald Reagan’s speech following Moscow’s 1983 shutdown of a Korean airliner. The parallels between the callousness of the Soviet state and Xi’s regime are uncanny. Now, as then, the actions of a brutal communist regime have exposed its true nature.

Accusing Moscow of “savagery” and “a crime against humanity,” Reagan called the Soviet attack “an act of barbarism, born of a society which wantonly disregards individual rights and the value of human life and seeks constantly to expand and dominate other nations.” He noted how Soviet leaders “have spun a confused tale” and “refuse to tell the truth.” He called on Moscow “to join the rest of the world in working out a system to protect against this ever happening again.” And he urged the civilized world “to see that justice is done,” adding: “The real test of our resolve is whether we have the will to remain strong, steady and united.”

Another tool for navigating the post-COVID-19 world is President John Kennedy’s diplomatic response to the Cuban Missile Crisis. A major element of that response was his decision to dispatch a respected statesman to the UN to make America’s case in the court of public opinion. In a similar manner, the president could enlist a handful of trusted statesmen to go to the United Nations, North Atlantic Council, European Union, OSCE, OAS, APEC and ASEAN to share the definitive timeline of Beijing’s COVID-19 response; quantify the costs of Beijing’s crimes of commission and omission; refute Beijing’s outrageous propaganda claims; and outline a plan to prepare for the next pandemic. Names that come to mind include Leon Panetta, Robert Gates, James Mattis, Erskine Bowles, Dan Coats, Max Baucus, Louis Freeh, Michael Chertoff, and Harry Harris.

Speaking of the next pandemic, Washington could call for the creation of an international partnership – open to any nation committed to openness in the cause of global health – to fund the manufacture and prepositioning of medical equipment and medicines outside the PRC. The purpose would not be to use medicines and medical equipment as weapons against China, but

quite the opposite: to make sure such equipment is available for the next pandemic and to prevent China from using such equipment to divide and conquer, as it seems to be doing today.

Finally, Washington could call for the creation of a global early-warning center for infectious diseases. Given that the WHO has been compromised by China, and given that Taiwan has been exemplary in its handling of COVID-19, this sentinel center could be based in Taiwan.

No country is so well positioned – functionally and geographically – to play such a role. In stark contrast to Beijing, Taipei shared medical information with the world, carried out nationwide mitigation efforts rapidly, combatted misinformation, and preserved public health without draconian lockdowns. The results speak for themselves. After four months in the eye of the COVID-19 storm, Taiwan (population 24 million) has sustained just 393 cases and six deaths from the virus. Recall that Taiwan did this in the shadow of the PRC, despite 148 cross-strait flights per day as late as mid-February, in the face of PRC disinformation, and despite being shut out of WHO initiatives by Beijing.

In short, the United States and the world can learn a lot from Taiwan. Toward that end, Washington could dispatch scientists from the private sector as well as personnel from the CDC, DHS, FEMA, National Center for Medical Intelligence, and Military Infectious Diseases Research Program to open temporary offices at the disease-sentinel center in Taipei. This approach would not only help America prevent, prepare for, and defend against future pandemics; it would also underscore the vast differences between Taiwan’s open, life-affirming culture of liberty and Beijing’s closed, state-centered culture of captivity and death.

reprinted from The American Legion
https://www.legion.org/landingzone/248826/reckoning?utm_source=delivra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=042320_ALOU&utm_id=39502386



CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION





2019 - 2020 Individual Recruitment Award

The National Membership Committee offers a recruitment pin award for those members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. You must meet the requirements and directions listed below:

- Recruit five (5) new members to S.A.L. **Must be new members only**, no renewals.
- All information must be legible. **Un-readable forms will not be accepted.**
- The new members membership record must be available on the national database.
- This form must be sent prior to midnight July 31, 2020.
- American Legion Family members are also eligible for this award.
- Only one (1) award pin per member regardless of the total new members recruited

Recruiter Information

Name _____ Member ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Full Squadron Name/Number _____ Detachment _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Unless specified different, the pin will be sent to the above address

New Member Information

#1 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

#2 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

#3 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

#4 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

#5 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

VERIFYING SIGNATURES

SQUADRON / POST COMMANDER _____ DATE _____

SQUADRON / POST ADJUTANT _____ DATE _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)

East - Richard Huntley, Jr. (ME) dickie_huntley@hotmail.com 38 Whale Cove Rd., Machiasport, ME 04655

South - Jason Roberts (GA) robertsjason215@gmail.com 215 Oak Hollow Ct., White, GA 30184

Central - Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr. (OH) jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com 2222 Birch Bark Tri., Grove City, OH 43123

Midwest - Juan Torres (TX) juantorres10@hotmail.com 10828 Sycamore Dr. S, La Porte, TX 77571

West - Leslie "Jim" Stewart (NV) controller@bordertowncasinonv.com 664 Sheffield Ct., Sparks, NV 89431

PINS WILL BE MAILED UPON VERIFICATION AND APPROVAL