

Round-Up

MEMORIAL DAY

“Memorial Day is an opportunity to pause and **reflect** on the **sacrifices** of the more than one million Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen who have made the ultimate sacrifice to **secure** our **freedoms**.”

-General Norton Schwartz





Central Region

Round-Up

The Membership Newsletter of
Sons of The American Legion
Central Region

Volume 1 – Issue 30 – May 24, 2020

National Target Date
June 17, 2020
100%

RECRUIT!
RETAIN!
REINSTATE!

CENTRAL REGION CHALLENGE DATE
June 30, 2020
110%

Serving Those Who Served

Bolt: SAL continues to support Veterans, communities

By SAL National Commander Clint D. Bolt
APR 30, 2020



One of the primary principles of the Sons of The American Legion is, of course, to support The American Legion, its programs, and our work in the community. I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of those efforts going on nationwide during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Betterton, Md., members of the Legion Family at C. Henry Price II Post 246 [organized a parade](#) in front of the home of Legionnaire Jake Williams to honor him on his 90th birthday. SAL Squadron 246 Adjutant Jason Miller noted that Williams was instrumental in keeping the squadron going.

And members of the squadron at Hair and Matthews Post 32 in Hope Mills, N.C., [have been distributing donated food](#), especially to health-care workers on the front lines of the pandemic.

Likewise, members of Squadron 586 in Adams, N.Y., delivered a free meal to hundreds of residents.

I have no doubt that there are many more SAL members supporting veterans and communities nationwide during this time of uncertainty. I would encourage you to share your stories by submitting them online at Legiontown.org.

And as the SAL continues to grow, I would encourage you to renew your membership and seek out new members so that we can continue to support our veterans and our communities.

“Serving Those Who Served ... Full Steam Ahead”

Clint Bolt,
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion





Dear American Legion Family Members
and Friends,

Memorial Day, for most of us, will be different this year. The meaning, however, does not change.

I'm calling on The American Legion Family to encourage communities far and wide to pay tribute to our nation's fallen heroes at dusk May 25, Memorial Day, by lighting candles of honor and placing them on front porches. Such a display will remind everyone that our resolve to honor those who served before us will continue even as social-distancing measures limit our ability to perform traditional Memorial Day remembrances.

We must adapt and overcome the pandemic in order to pay our respects to the true meaning of Memorial Day.

The manner and placement of the candles of honor are up to each individual. If possible, I recommend using a front porch as a visible reminder of the price that was paid for freedom.

Color options for consideration could include:

- A red candle to remember the bloodshed in battle for the protection of our freedoms.
- A white candle to keep our POWs/MIAs ever in our thoughts and prayers as we await their return home
- A blue candle to salute the memories of those who made it home but are no longer with us.

However you choose, whether it's one candle or three, I ask that photos of those candles be shared on social media, tagging The American Legion National Headquarters, and using the hashtag **#candlesofhonor** so our message will reach families everywhere. An additional option is to show your gratitude by having each member of a family or group hold up a sign spelling out a message for Memorial Day. WE SHALL NEVER FORGET would be a good choice.

Also, this year, remember our Virtual Memorial Day page on legion.org/legiontown. Please share with our national audiences the story of someone who served in the Armed Forces who holds special meaning to you. Share who you will be remembering this Memorial Day on social media using hashtag **#VirtualMemorialDay**.

And let's not forget that Friday is National Poppy Day. While our poppy distribution plans may be different this year, it's also [an opportunity to innovate](#). The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters is planning a Facebook watch party May 22 at noon EDT. American Legion Family members across the country are also planning other low-contact ways to remember the fallen and keep faith with the disabled through the symbol of our official flower, the red poppy.

No matter how we remember this year, the most important message we need to send is that we will never forget.

For God and country,

James W. "Bill" Oxford
National Commander



Gents,



As you can see, we continue to make gains in membership during these trying times. Our next target of 100% is only 3 weeks away. I know you will do all you can to achieve this goal.

Please remember to light a candle in remembrance of all the fallen heroes this Memorial Day. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable weekend.

God bless our American Legion Family and God bless this Great United States of America.

Richard Doc Pfeiffer, NVC Central

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

Gentlemen,

As we prepare for Memorial Day, we must remember what the day is; it is a day of remembrance. Too often, people look at Memorial Day as just another day off from school, or a day to have a sale, or a day to play baseball. Many say it is the "unofficial" start to summer.

Memorial Day can include these things, but it **MUST** include the remembrances of the Veterans of the United States military who are no longer with us. Some of these brave men and women left home to defend our country and never returned. Others served, were discharged, and returned to their families to live long and happy lives. No matter how or when or why they are no longer with us, we must remember them.

Memorial Day should be a time of fun and good times, but we must remember why we are able to celebrate Memorial Day. We can celebrate because of the sacrifices of America's sons and daughters who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.

So before you go to the half-off sale or the picnic or the baseball game, take some time to go to the ceremonies of your community and honor our military heroes who are no longer with us and have reported to a higher authority. And don't forget to pause for the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance was established by the United States Congress and asks Americans, no matter where they are at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day to pause for one minute in an act of National Unity. The *moment* is not meant to replace Memorial Day, but is a way for all Americans, whether with family and friends or alone, to honor those who died for our freedom. This small act will help reclaim Memorial Day as the sacred and noble holiday it was meant to be.

As Americans, we can all share in honoring those who deserve it on Memorial Day, and on every day.

REMEMBER THEM!



What are your plans for Memorial Day? My Squadron in Poland, Ohio is holding its Memorial Day Ceremonies and will be streaming live on Facebook. Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 has sponsored the event for years, but this is the first time it will have a virtual presence. The ceremony can be seen at www.facebook.com/SALSquadron15. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Processional Parade, but plan to have one in the near future.

In the theme of remembering, Squadron 15 is asking that at 11:05 a.m. on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2020, all Poland residents go outside and sing the National Anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*. At 11:45 a.m. musicians, especially those who play trumpet, are asked to go outside, and play *Taps* to honor and remember those lost in defense of our great country. It's the least we can do.

Please plan on sharing your Memorial Day with us for the next edition of *Round-Up*. Let's blow our horn as we continue **"Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead."**



As of the May 22, 2020 National Membership Report, the Central Region is in third place. We have held this position for almost the entire year, having spent a week or two in second place. While everyone understands we are the second-largest region in the organization, we must find new ways to get our numbers. It is a daunting task under the current circumstances facing our nation, but we can do it. The key is our **renewals**.

The May 18, 2020 National Renewal Report puts the Central Region in First Place with 109,699 renewed for 83.53%. While we know it is almost impossible to reach 100% renewals, why are we so far away? I would think that in late May we would have a percentage of renewals in the high 90's by now.

One of the best ways is to start your renewals early and get your members to understand that they should not wait to pay their dues. Let's get a new message out. Paying dues early helps the Squadron in that Officers do not have to "chase" people down all year to collect dues. It helps the Squadron because it puts money into the bank account.

Almost everyone will renew with a little work. Let's start a new habit of doing the renewal work immediately when the new cards arrive, and not wait. It may take a while for members to get on board and to understand why we want dues paid early, but it will catch on, and it will prove beneficial.

110%

We also need to place our focus for the rest of this membership year on our outstanding renewals. The next National Target Date is June 17, 2020 with a 100% target. The next Central Region Challenge Date is June 30 with a 110% target. We can do this! **Who's next?**

The Central Region also leads the way in Individual Recruitment Awards. To date, 30 members of the Central Region are proudly displaying their pin.

Do you have one?

They're rather simple to receive. Recruit five (5) new members, complete the form, and mail it to me. I send it to National Headquarters for verification and once approved, send you your pin. Can we hit 50 in the Region? I believe we can. **Who's next?**



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

As a reminder, for the next few weeks I will have limited time to dedicate to *Round-Up* due to work requirements. I will continue to publish the newsletter as time permits.

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"**



NATIONAL TARGET DATE

June 17, 2020

100%

REVISED

**Central Region
SAL
Membership
120,776
Third Place
91.016%
as of May 21, 2020**

**Central Region
SAL
Renewals
109,699
First Place
83.53%
as of the May 18, 2020**

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



MySAL

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Detachment Membership Standings as of May 21, 2020

DET	GOAL	ACTUAL	%
IA Q1 *	4,375	4,488	102.583
WI Q2 *	3,744	3,821	102.057
OH	31,133	28,745	92.330
IL	14,546	13,408	92.177
MI	24,083	22,143	91.945
MN	11,748	10,618	90.381
IN	39,364	34,844	88.517
MO	3,705	2,709	73.117
TOTALS*	132,698	120,776	91.016

Q = QUOTA – CONGRATULATIONS!!!

* = Met June 17 National Target of 100%

^ = Met June 30 Central Region Challenge of 110%

National Membership Standings as of May 21, 2020

REGION	GOAL	ACTUAL	%
Southern	42,763	40,522	94.759
Western	26,395	24,346	92.237
Central	132,698	120,776	91.016
TOTALS	378,495	350,356	90.865
Midwest	30,366	27,292	89.877
Eastern	146,273	130,982	89.546

* = Met June 17 National Target of 100%

-8,438 ahead of last year



I WANT YOU TO RENEW!!!

Detachment Renewal Rates as of May 18, 2020

DET	2019	RENEWED	%
IA	4,452	4,004	89.94
OH	30,456	26,552	87.18
WI	3,945	3,384	85.78
MN	11,565	9,742	84.24
IL	14,431	12,120	83.99
MI	24,126	20,444	83.08
IN	38,876	31,363	80.67
MO	3,485	2,490	71.45
TOTALS	131,336	109,699	83.53

National Renewal Rates as of May 18, 2020

REGION	2019	RENEWED	%
Central	131,317	109,699	83.99
Eastern	144,840	120,065	82.88
Midwest	29,920	23,884	79.81
Southern	42,858	34,202	79.77
Western	26,524	20,239	76.28
TOTALS	375,540	308,089	82.04

**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?

National Commander Clint 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

Membership Committee Call

6:00 PM MST

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

<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.

A Prayer for Memorial Day



Almighty God,

We pray the truth of Scriptures above for our nation, our military, and their Families. We lift up all the family and friends of our fallen men and women in uniform. We pray your peace would keep them and give them

hope. Help them remember the sacrifices of loved ones with tears of pride and sorrow, knowing their loved ones didn't die in vain, but secured our liberties for another generation.

For each military member and their families, we pray protection and provision. Protection for soldiers in the service and here at home for their families. Also, provi-

sion for them all by your hand of grace and mercy because of the sacrifices they make on Memorial Day, and every day.

In your name, Amen.

Rodney Tolbert, National Chaplain
Sons of The American Legion

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." – John 15:13

My Fellow Sons!



Due to Monday being Memorial Day, the upcoming SAL VA & R Commission's Monthly Conference Call, to be held on Monday May 25th, **has been rescheduled for Wednesday May 27th at 7:00 PM CST (Prevailing Time)**.

PLEASE NOTE NEW PHONE NUMBER!
THE NEW CALL IN NUMBER IS:

1-480-297-0773

PASSCODE # 8781497
MAY 27, 2020 - 7:00 pm CST

Please forward and share this notice with any members that may be interested in VA & R news and activities!

Our Commission is looking forward to this call and we look forward to you joining us this Wednesday evening May 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM Central Standard Time.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this email and/or VA & R issues.

Talk to all of you soon and thank you for all you do!

For GOD and Country,

Butch Ray, Chairman
SAL Nat'l VA & R Commission

"Guided by Tradition"

Ken's Corner



On behalf of
Ken George,
Member Engagement
Coordinator
National SAL & ALR Liaison
NALC Alumni – Class of 2016
Phone 317.630.1376
Fax 317.655.1509

kgeorge@legion.org

www.legion.org

Veterans Strengthening America



THE AMERICAN LEGION
America's Veterans Service Organization



Please see the link for your reference the latest SAL E-Newsletter that was sent out to SAL members who have a valid email address on their member record.

You can access the e-newsletter by clicking this link

<https://editor.legionemail.com/vo/?FileID=84ebab20-53eb-46eb-aa01-3a3c4a4207b3&m=4c7a32e7-f9a2-40b6-9445-f44dbe61ef11&MailID=39621855&listid=84772&RecipientID=19294126250> . **(PLEASE SHARE)**

If you or others would like to subscribe to receive SAL e-newsletters visit <https://www.legion.org/newsletters>

Also, Sons of The American Legion members are encouraged to share their stories on The American Legion's story-sharing website, www.legiontown.org. Sons of The American Legion members can share their experiences and see what other detachments and squadrons are up to at www.legiontown.org/sons. Lastly, check out the National Sons of The American Legion website at www.legion.org/sons, and SAL Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionsons>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this email please contact National SAL Liaison, Ken George at kgeorge@legion.org.

On Memorial Day, Remember Them

Ronald Reagan

"...And if words cannot repay the debt, we owe these men, surely with our actions we must strive to keep faith with them and with the vision that led them to battle and to final sacrifice."

Claudia Pemberton

"America without her soldiers would be like God without His angels."

Douglas Macarthur

"Duty, Honor, Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be."

Joseph Campbell

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

John F. Kennedy

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them."

Cynthia Ozick

"We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude."

Bob Dylan

"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom."

James A. Garfield

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."