



# Round-Up



The Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion Central Region

Volume 2 – Issue 62 – January 10, 2021

## Let's roll up our sleeves

Gentlemen,

### LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES.

You may have read my January 1 message about rolling up our sleeves in the race toward quota. Although the Central Region is at 56.92% as of the January 7, 2021 membership report, we can certainly do much better.

Congratulations to the Detachment of Wisconsin with 78.93% for already reaching the February 10 goal of 75%. The Detachment of Iowa is right behind with 74.20%. The Detachment of Ohio hit the January 21 target coming in with 61.07%

For Sons of The American Legion, our next National Target Date is January 21, 2021 where every Squadron should have paid membership of at least 60%. In contract, The American Legion has an 80% goal on the same date. With far fewer members, there is absolutely no reason that the Sons can't be much farther ahead. Let's all challenge ourselves to meet our target dates, as well as the target dates of The American Legion.

The Central Region is the home of The American Legion National Headquarters. We are the second-largest region in the organization, and we are in third place in the membership standings. Can we do better? You bet!

When you look at the membership report, you will see that we have 207,300 paid members. Our quota is 378,550 members. This means that we have 171,250 members with expired membership cards. How can we continue to let this happen? We all know that serving our Veterans is our priority, but with unpaid members, it makes the job much more difficult.

I know the struggles that Squadrons are facing in this "new normal" way of our lives. My own Squadron is less than quota, and we work hard every day to get to 100%. It's not easy, and for many, times are tough, but we all need to keep working our membership as hard as we possibly can. **Who's next?**

We also need to remind our members that membership is everyone's responsibility. If all of our members "speak the same language" about membership, we will all get the same message out. We will all hear the same, or similar, thing, and we will definitely see our membership grow. Help us spread the word that we need to begin paying our dues as soon as our cards arrive. There is no reason that many Squadrons throughout the organization shouldn't be quota at or before the annual National Convention each year.

Do you have a 2021 membership card? If not, why? Stop reading and contact your Squadron Membership Chairman or Adjutant and take care of it today.

It hasn't been mentioned too much this year, but I want to remind each of you that we have a naval theme adopted by National Commander Clint Bolt. What have you done to help the USS Central steam ahead to the front of the pack? Have you done any Buddy Checks to see how our members are doing and to ask them to take care of their renewals right away?

You have all heard the saying "It's like preaching to the choir." You are the choir, and it's time to sing. Get the message out and help us change the culture of how we do membership.

The fastest and easiest way to handle renewals is with [MySAL](#). This tool is a perfect way to help change our membership culture. MySAL info can be found by clicking [here](#). **Who's next?** I would

like to thank our Squadrons that have tried it and encourage more Squadrons to jump aboard and sail toward quota.

Keep up your hard work as we continue ***Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead.***

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,



#SALSTRONG

**Jeff Vrabel, Sr.**  
Central Region Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion  
National Membership Committee  
[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

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



Gentlemen,



Congratulations to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Ohio for surpassing the January goal of 60%. Nationally we are almost 10,000 cards behind last year, and the Central Region is almost 4,000 cards behind this report last year.

We really need to work on all the o Squadrons. There is no excuse for any Squadron to be on o in January.

The way things are going now with the COVID-19 having to close so many Posts and Departments, getting started on [MySAL](#) is more important than ever. You never have to rely on anyone else to process your membership, no more not having the correct amount of money for per-capita or trying to find someone to write a check for you.

*Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer,  
National Vice-Commander Central*

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



**PROUD POSSESSORS  
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

## ***Central Region Conference Call***

Third Thursday of each month  
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time  
Call In # (774) 220-4000  
Access Code 04423

**2021  
National Target Date  
January 21, 2021**

**60%**



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



***DOES YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
CARD SHOW 2020?***

If so, your 2020 membership card is EXPIRED and no longer valid. Please pay your Sons of The American Legion dues today to support your Squadron and The American Legion Family

If your membership card doesn't look like this ↑ then you need to RENEW TODAY!!!



# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED FULL STEAM AHEAD

## National Commander Clint Bolt's 2020-2021 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 Phoenix, AZ
- 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



# VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford unequivocally condemned Wednesday's (01/06/21) attacks on the U.S. Capitol and called for law and order to be quickly restored in Washington.

"The Capitol is the people's house. An attack on the Capitol is an attack on all of us," Oxford said. "Just as The American Legion has condemned prior attacks and riots in other cities, we condemn it here. Regardless of whether the violence is inflicted by right-leaning groups, left-leaning groups, or unaffiliated civilians, it is never acceptable. This is not how we do things in America.

We believe in civil discourse to resolve our differences. The entire American Legion Family proudly stands with the law enforcement officers and National Guard members who are risking their lives to restore safety."



## 2021 scholarship application for children of the fallen, disabled now open

The American Legion  
JAN 01, 2021



Children whose parents lost their lives while honorably serving on active duty on or after 9/11, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher, are eligible to apply for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Since the Legacy Scholarship's first grant in 2004, 401 military children of the fallen and disabled have received over \$3.6 million in aid. The Legacy Scholarship provides financial aid for graduate or post-graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans and other supplies needed to achieve a higher education. It is a needs-based scholarship – the grant amount each scholarship recipient will receive will be based on his or her financial need after all federal and state aid is exhausted.

Recipients will have a year to use the grant and may reapply to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship up to six times.

The number of scholarships awarded, and the amount of financial aid granted to each awardee (this includes returning applicants) will be determined on donations to the scholarship fund and one's financial needs.

Legacy Scholarship awards are made possible from donations to [The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund](#).

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship application for 2021 is now online at [legion.org/scholarships/legacy](http://legion.org/scholarships/legacy) for eligible applicants to apply. The application deadline is April 15. For additional information about the scholarship and eligibility requirements, please [learn more here](#).

The 2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship recipients will be selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Spring Meetings in May. All applicants, whether recipients of the Legacy Scholarship or not, will be notified immediately thereafter.

## American Legion Baseball registration for 2021 now open

The American Legion  
JAN 01, 2021

Registration for the 2021 American Legion Baseball season opened Jan. 1.

Register online at [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org). The early deadline for registration is May 15. Teams registered after May 15 will be subject to a \$200 late fee through the final deadline of June 1. Please note that each American Legion department may set an earlier deadline for registration.

Registration fees for senior teams are \$50 for national registration, \$35 for administrative fees and either \$130 for season personal accident insurance or \$200 for year-round insurance coverage. General liability insurance costs are \$120.



Fees for junior teams are \$25 for national registration, \$35 for administrative fees and either \$110 for season personal accident insurance or \$160 for year-round insurance coverage. General liability insurance costs are \$82.

State fees, if applicable, will vary by state.

To learn more about your specific department's state fees and deadlines, [contact your department chairmen](#).

Insurance purchases will be available Feb. 15. As part of the education and training requirements of Public Law 115-126, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, all coaches, managers, and volunteer staff members must complete the Abuse Awareness course either through Protect Youth Sports or USA Baseball. All coaches, managers and volunteer staff members must also have a completed and passed background check. Click [here](#) to download the American Legion Baseball Risk Management Guidebook.

## Veterans exposed at K2 push for federal action

By [Ken Olsen](#)  
JAN 06, 2021



*A sign by the running track at K2. Mark Jackson used the sign as a marker for his laps when he ran every morning. Photo by Ed Dejesus*

The federal government is taking its first steps toward formally acknowledging U.S. troops were stationed at a secret base in Uzbekistan where veterans say they were exposed to toxic hazards that have caused deadly diseases and illnesses.

President Donald Trump signed legislation Jan. 5 requires VA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to conduct a 10-year study of cancers and other diseases among Karshi-Khanabad (K2) veterans. The Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 also opens VA's burn pit registry to servicemembers who served at the former Soviet base in southern Uzbekistan.

Trump also is considering an executive order allowing former servicemembers who served at K2 to apply for the same VA care and benefits as veterans who were exposed to burn pits or depleted uranium in Afghanistan. In addition, a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act directs DoD to conduct an epidemiological study of toxic exposure among K2 veterans.

None of these measures provide presumptive service connection that would require VA to cover health-care costs for K2 veterans who are dealing with rare cancers and other illnesses they believe were caused by toxic exposures at the base. How-

ever, the executive order and NDAA directive are steps toward the federal government's acknowledgement of the base's hazardous legacy, K2 veterans say.

The United States leased part of the base from the Uzbek government soon after the 9/11 attacks and established Camp Stronghold Freedom about 100 miles from the Afghan border. An estimated 15,000 U.S. servicemembers were deployed there between 2001 and 2005. They were exposed to toxic chemicals, high levels of radiation, jet fuel and other hazardous waste that permeated the area where they worked and lived, according to K2 veterans and declassified government documents. But they haven't qualified for VA care and benefits for K2-related health issues because, until late December, military service in Uzbekistan wasn't recognized in federal law or regulation, says Mark Jackson, a K2 veteran and legislative director of the Stronghold Freedom Foundation.

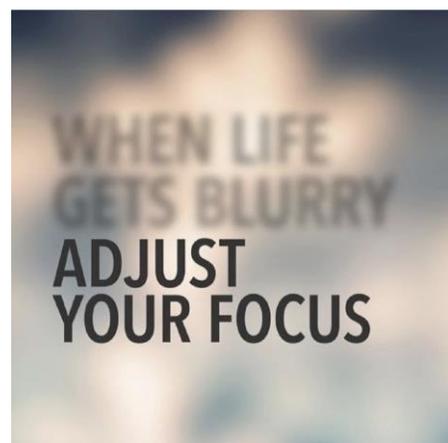
The American Legion, long a leading advocate for veterans exposed to Agent Orange, radiation, chemicals, Gulf War related hazards, burn pits, and other contaminants, says K2 veterans should get immediate help. This includes VA providing medical exams and treatment for former servicemembers who are dealing with illnesses tied to toxic exposures at K2 as well as assessing the risks the exposures pose for their children, says Ralph Bozella, chairman of The American Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. "In the meantime, we need go to Congress and fight for service-connected disabilities related to their service at K2 and the resulting diseases," Bozella says. "And for full funding of research and new treatments for these diseases."

Since 2016, The American Legion also has called for DoD to disclose all hazardous environmental exposures at any facilities used by U.S. troops so they can seek appropriate medical treatment, Bozella says. In addition, The American Legion is advocating for VA to establish a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of servicemembers who were exposed to toxic substances. "The government has to be cognizant of any environmental hazards and needs to protect these veterans and their offspring," Bozella says.

Over the past year, representatives of the Stronghold Freedom Foundation contacted every member of Congress in an effort to secure federal legislation making K2 veterans eligible for VA service connec-

tion status that would open the door to care and disability compensation. Their efforts led to congressional hearings that ultimately forced DoD to declassify some of the environmental surveys it conducted at the base, as well as the executive order President Trump is considering, and the provision for a K2 study in the NDAA.

No matter what happens with these measures, K2 veterans will be back fighting for presumptive VA service connection in the new session of Congress this year – not only for the sake of the veterans, but for the families who are left behind. "You've got fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and friends dying," says Kim Brooks, Family Care Team and Surviving Spouse director for the Stronghold Freedom Foundation. Her 36-year-old husband, Tim, died of a rare brain cancer in 2004 – two years after returning from K2. "As it becomes clearer and clearer that more and more K2 veterans have developed and are developing cancers, pulmonary disorders and other toxicogenic conditions, Congress must act."



## 2021 Membership Report

2020 - 2021 MEMBERSHIP				01/07/21
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent
Southern	42,775	27,677	15,098	64.70%
Midwest	30,377	17,426	12,951	57.37%
Central	132,706	75,533	57,173	56.92%
Western	26,405	13,878	12,527	52.56%
Eastern	146,287	72,786	73,501	49.76%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>378,550</b>	<b>207,300</b>	<b>171,250</b>	<b>54.76%</b>

Membership ahead/behind prior year date (9,690)

Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent
1 Wisconsin * ^ ~ ? ! #	3,745	2,956	789	78.93%
2 Iowa * ^ ~ ? !	4,376	3,247	1,129	74.20%
3 Ohio ~ ? !	31,134	19,015	12,119	61.07%
6 Illinois * ^ ~ ?	14,547	8,600	5,947	59.12%
5 Minnesota ^ ~ ?	11,749	6,857	4,892	58.36%
4 Indiana * ^ ~ ?	39,365	22,035	17,330	55.98%
7 Michigan	24,084	11,220	12,864	46.59%
8 Missouri	3,706	1,603	2,103	43.25%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132,706</b>	<b>75,533</b>	<b>57,173</b>	<b>56.92%</b>

Q = Quota

\* Met 09/10/20 goal of 10%

# Met 02/10/21 goal of 75%

^ Met 10/15/20 goal of 25%

% Met 03/10/21 goal of 80%

~ Met 11/12/20 goal of 35%

\$ Met 04/14/21 goal of 90%

? Met 12/09/20 goal of 45%

( Met 05/12/21 goal of 100%

! Met 01/21/21 goal of 60%

) Met 07/28/21 goal of 105%

Red Division				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent of Region
Iowa	4,376	3,247	1,129	4.30%
Wisconsin	3,745	2,956	789	3.91%
Missouri	3,706	1,603	2,103	2.12%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>7,806</b>	<b>4,021</b>	<b>10.33%</b>

White Division				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent of Region
Illinois	14,547	8,600	5,947	11.39%
Minnesota	11,749	6,857	4,892	9.08%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26,296</b>	<b>15,457</b>	<b>10,839</b>	<b>20.46%</b>

Blue Division				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent of Region
Indiana	39,365	22,035	17,330	29.17%
Ohio	31,134	19,015	12,119	25.17%
Michigan	24,084	11,220	12,864	14.85%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>94,583</b>	<b>52,270</b>	<b>42,313</b>	<b>69.20%</b>

COVER PHOTO:  
60%  
National Target Date  
January 21, 2021

## 2021 Renewal Report

2020-2021 RENEWALS			01/04/21
Region	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Renewal Percentage
Southern	43,179	23,072	53.43%
Midwest	28,764	14,729	51.21%
Central	127,080	65,961	51.91%
Western	25,857	11,863	45.88%
Eastern	138,433	62,966	45.48%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>363,313</b>	<b>178,591</b>	<b>49.16%</b>

Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Renewal Percentage
1 Wisconsin	3,974	2,595	65.30%
2 Iowa	4,646	2,780	59.84%
3 Minnesota	11,094	6,275	56.56%
4 Illinois	14,548	8,149	56.01%
5 Ohio	29,817	15,951	53.50%
6 Indiana	36,522	18,873	51.68%
7 Missouri	3,175	1,497	47.15%
8 Michigan	23,304	9,841	42.23%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>127,080</b>	<b>65,961</b>	<b>51.91%</b>

Red Division			
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percent of Region
Iowa	4,646	2,780	4.21%
Wisconsin	3,974	2,595	3.93%
Missouri	3,175	1,497	2.27%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,795</b>	<b>6,872</b>	<b>10.42%</b>

White Division			
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percent of Region
Illinois	14,548	8,149	12.35%
Minnesota	11,094	6,275	9.51%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25,642</b>	<b>14,424</b>	<b>21.87%</b>

Blue Division			
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percent of Region
Indiana	36,522	18,873	28.61%
Ohio	29,817	15,951	24.18%
Michigan	23,304	9,841	14.92%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>89,643</b>	<b>44,665</b>	<b>67.71%</b>



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## Americanism Commission Conference Call

First Thursday bi-monthly  
January, March, May, July  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
Call In # (515) 606-5134  
Access Code: 451074

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## Child Welfare Foundation Committee Call

Third Wednesday of each month  
8:00 p.m.  
Call in # (605) 472-5332  
Access Code: 808417

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## Legislative Commission Call

First Thursday bi-monthly  
February, April, June, 7 August  
7:00 p.m.  
Call in # (712) 775-7031  
Access Code: 988284103

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## Membership Committee Conference Call

Third Tuesday of each month  
6:00 p.m. Mountain time  
Call in # (515) 604-9644  
Access Code: 889133

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

*NOTE: Some of these dates may not match the National Call Calendar as some meetings have been changed. Work is in progress to have this page match the calendar.*

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## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Conference Call

Fourth Monday of each month  
7:00 p.m. Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/6354565336?pwd=aEJLdDB5RFFJSVZRY3pCYXg5Zm9zUT09>

Meeting ID: 635 456 5336  
Passcode: 596328

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## Veterans Employment & Education Commission Conference Call

Third Wednesday of each month  
8:00 p.m. Eastern time  
Call In # (605) 313-4111  
Access Code: 893821



# BUDDY CHECK

by Jeff Vrebal, Sr.

**LET THEM KNOW WE CARE!**

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**



# MySAL

**MEMBERSHIP DATABASE**



## 2021 Individual Recruitment Award

The National Membership Committee offers an 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 these minimum requirements to qualify:**

To qualify you need to Recruit (5) new members into Sons of The American Legion.

(A new member is defined as any eligible Son joining for the 2021 membership year who was not a member of the Sons of The American Legion during the 2020 membership year).

**Transfers or renewals do not count as new members.**

**Please make sure that the members have been processed before submission. Pins will not be mailed until they are verified in the national membership database.**

This award form must be received by July 31st.

### **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 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#3 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#4 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#5 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

### **RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)**

East - Richard Huntley, Jr. (ME) [dickie\\_huntley@hotmail.com](mailto:dickie_huntley@hotmail.com) 38 Whale Cove Rd., Machiasport, ME 04655

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

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

Midwest - Juan Torres (TX) [juanrtorres10@hotmail.com](mailto:juanrtorres10@hotmail.com) 10828 Sycamore Dr. S, La Porte, TX 77571

West - Leslie "Jim" Stewart (NV) [controller@bordertowncasino.com](mailto:controller@bordertowncasino.com) 664 Sheffield Ct., Sparks, NV 89431