



Round-Up



The Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion Central Region

Volume 2 – Issue 71 – March 7, 2021

80% Target is Wednesday

This afternoon, I had the opportunity to attend the Ohio 12th District Conference. It's always great to get out and talk to members and get their feedback on membership and other issues facing the American Legion Family. We heard great reports, and there was mention of use of [MySAL](#).

Congratulations to Rocky Searles for being reelected as Commander of the District. I wish you nothing but success in the coming year.

We only have three days to the National Target Date of March 10, 2021 where we have a goal of 80%. Let's get as many cards transmitted as fast as you can. Please do whatever you can do to help.

Who's next?

Congratulations to the Detachments of Wisconsin (87.50%), Iowa (86.75%) and Ohio (80.32%) for reaching the goal!

How many other Detachments and Squadrons will reach the goal? It is vital that any dues that have been paid be transmitted right away. We need to make sure that we don't hold cards for any reason. Let's make sure to submit/transmit our dues so our numbers will reflect a more accurate picture of our membership. These numbers are very important to The American Legion, and we need to make sure that they are current and up to date. Please help and get all your cards turned in right away.

Remember what Doc Pfeiffer says, "Every card counts!" **Who's next?**



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

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If so, your 2020 membership card is EXPIRED and no longer valid.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 you need help with anything, do not hesitate to email Doc Pfeiffer or me. Have a great week!

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,



#SALSTRONG

Jeff Vrabel, Sr.
Central Region Chairman
Sons of The American Legion
National Membership Committee
jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com
<https://sites.google.com/vies/teamvrabel/home>

Serving Those Who Served... Full Steam Ahead

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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To all,

Congratulations to Iowa, Wisconsin, and Ohio for surpassing the 80% target. Hopefully as things start to open back up, we can get a lot of the members that we have lost due to this pandemic to come back and renew.

Our 80% target date is this coming Wednesday. We need to make sure all the cards you have turned in to your Departments get transmitted to National in time to be counted. This is another reason to be doing your membership on [MySAL](#). There are no hold ups; as soon as you transmit your cards they are counted at National.

Keep up your hard work and remember EVERY CARD COUNTS.

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

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

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

March 10, 2021

80%



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

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

2021 Membership Report

2021 Renewal Report

2020 - 2021 MEMBERSHIP					03/04/21
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Southern	42,775	34,497	8,278	80.65%	345
2 Central	132,706	99,904	32,802	75.28%	1,734
3 Eastern	146,287	105,659	40,628	72.23%	1,978
4 Midwest	30,377	21,895	8,482	72.08%	364
5 Western	26,405	18,194	8,211	68.90%	469
TOTALS	378,550	280,149	98,401	74.01%	4,890

Membership ahead/behind prior year date (32,932)

Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Wisconsin * ^ ~ ? ! # %	3,745	3,277	468	87.50%	46
2 Iowa * ^ ~ ? ! # %	4,376	3,796	580	86.75%	22
3 Ohio ~ ? ! # %	31,134	25,006	6,128	80.32%	371
4 Minnesota ^ ~ ? !	11,749	8,874	2,875	75.53%	125
5 Indiana * ^ ~ ?	39,365	29,317	10,048	74.47%	558
6 Illinois * ^ ~ ? !	14,547	10,658	3,889	73.27%	190
7 Michigan	24,084	16,897	7,187	70.16%	422
8 Missouri	3,706	2,079	1,627	56.10%	-
TOTALS	132,706	99,904	32,802	75.28%	1,734

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	Percent of Region
Wisconsin	3,745	3,277	468	87.50%	3.28%
Iowa	4,376	3,796	580	86.75%	3.80%
Missouri	3,706	2,079	1,627	56.10%	2.08%
TOTALS	8,082	5,875	2,207		5.88%

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Minnesota	11,749	8,874	2,875	75.53%	8.88%
Illinois	14,547	10,658	3,889	73.27%	10.67%
TOTALS	26,296	19,532	6,764		19.55%

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Ohio	31,134	25,006	6,128	80.32%	25.03%
Indiana	39,365	29,317	10,048	74.47%	29.35%
Michigan	24,084	16,897	7,187	70.16%	16.91%
TOTALS	63,449	46,214	17,235		46.26%

SAL membership reports are available [here](#)



2020 - 2021 RENEWALS				03/01/21
Region	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Renewal Percentage	Increase
1 Central	127,080	89,993	70.82%	2,027
2 Southern	43,179	29,590	68.53%	512
3 Midwest	28,764	19,323	67.18%	413
4 Eastern	138,433	94,783	68.47%	2,823
5 Western	25,857	15,506	59.97%	334
TOTALS	363,313	249,195	68.59%	4,082

Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Renewal Percentage	Increase
1 Ohio	29,817	22,736	76.25%	978
2 Wisconsin	3,974	3,017	75.92%	39
3 Iowa	4,646	3,474	74.77%	71
4 Minnesota	11,094	8,187	73.80%	116
5 Indiana	36,522	26,188	71.70%	446
6 Illinois	14,548	9,869	67.84%	81
7 Michigan	23,304	14,588	62.60%	779
8 Missouri	3,175	1,934	60.91%	0
TOTALS	127,080	89,993	70.82%	2,510

Red Division				
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percentage	Percent of Region
Wisconsin	3,974	3,017	75.92%	3.35%
Iowa	4,646	3,474	74.77%	3.86%
Missouri	3,175	1,934	60.91%	2.15%
TOTALS	7,821	5,408		6.01%

White Division				
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percentage	Percent of Region
Minnesota	11,094	8,187	73.80%	9.10%
Illinois	14,548	9,869	67.84%	10.97%
TOTALS	25,642	18,056		20.06%

Blue Division				
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percentage	Percent of Region
Ohio	29,817	22,736	76.25%	25.26%
Indiana	36,522	26,188	71.70%	29.10%
Michigan	23,304	14,588	62.60%	16.21%
TOTALS	89,643	63,512		70.57%



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**



NOTE: Some of these dates may not match the National Call Calendar as some meetings have been changed.

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

Child Welfare Foundation Committee Call

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

We have officially entered the final quarter of the CWF fundraising year. Work has been done during the most unusual time for all with this pandemic. Let's recognize the work that has been done.

Top Detachment Donations

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1) Colorado | \$14,475 |
| 2) Florida | \$9,050 |
| 3) Arizona | \$8,150 |
| 4) Pennsylvania | \$6,745 |
| 5) Indiana | \$5,320 |

Highest Donation by Region

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| 1) Mid-West | \$25,166 |
| 2) Southern | \$23,673 |
| 3) Eastern | \$17,499 |

Highest Per Capita by Region
Mid-West - .87/member

All Detachments in the Central Region have made donations. All Detachments but one in the South-

ern Region has made donations. Great job by both Regions!

Let's reach out to our Detachments and encourage to donate before May 31. Have line-item budget for CWF? Have the funds sent in. Have excess funds in your budget? Consider re-budgeting and donating to CWF. Looking to donate individually? As of today, the Sons of the American Legion webpage now has a "Donate" button where that can be done. When donating select "In Honor of" or "In Memoriam of" and insert Detachment and Squadron information. It can be done one-time or monthly. It's that easy. Special thanks go out to National Adjutant Tony Wright and National Liaison Ken George.

Continue to purchase SAL CWF aprons as the inventory continues to shrink. Get them while they are available! Donation is \$20.

Let's finish strong as we have always done and try and reach our goal of \$500,000. If we reach our goal, we will look fine when we reach 9!! \$9 million in total donations!!

Keep up the great work!



"Sons for Kids" CWF Aprons

Sons of The American Legion "Sons for Kids" CWF aprons are available for individual or bulk purchase. The suggested donation is \$20 each. 100% of donations support grants provided by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

CWF awards grants to non-profit organizations that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children.

NOTE: The donation fee does not include shipping costs provided by The American Legion. Additional donations are accepted, and appreciated, for shipping.

'Sons for Kids' CWF aprons can be ordered by mail:



THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 1055
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-1055



In the memo section of the check be sure to write the number of aprons you are requesting and include the address where to ship the aprons.
If no address is provided, the aprons will be shipped to the address listed on the check.

'Sons for Kids' CWF aprons can be ordered online at www.cwf-inc.org.
Click the donate tab and list the number of aprons requested in the tribute section

All donations for the 'Sons of Kids' CWF Aprons will count toward CWF awards at the end of the program year in May 2021.

If you have questions, please contact
Stacy Cope, Youth Welfare Program Manager
Americanism Division, National Headquarters
317.630.1202 or Scope@legion.org

DETACHMENT	2020 Donations	2020 Membership (final)	2021 CWF Goal (final)	2021 Donations	% of Goal	Donations Per Capita
AL - ALABAMA	\$ 3,133.00	2,223	\$ 2,223.00	\$ 3,158.00	142.1%	\$ 1.42
AK - ALASKA	\$ 1,500.00	1,410	\$ 1,410.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
AZ - ARIZONA	\$ 14,325.00	7,514	\$ 7,514.00	\$ 8,150.00	108.5%	\$ 1.08
AR - ARKANSAS	\$ 1,690.00	506	\$ 506.00	\$ 273.00	54.0%	\$ 0.54
CA - CALIFORNIA	\$ 1,700.00	11,319	\$ 11,319.00	\$ 556.00	4.9%	\$ 0.05
CO - COLORADO	\$ 14,001.00	2,891	\$ 2,891.00	\$ 15,475.00	535.3%	\$ 5.35
CT - CONNECTICUT	\$ 1,000.00	1,719	\$ 1,719.00	\$ 2,000.00	116.3%	\$ 1.16
DE - DELAWARE	\$ 2,100.00	2,158	\$ 2,158.00	\$ 150.00	7.0%	\$ 0.07
DC - DIST OF COL		123	\$ 123.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
FL - FLORIDA	\$ 22,620.00	19,861	\$ 19,861.00	\$ 9,050.00	45.6%	\$ 0.46
FR - FRANCE	\$ 260.00	260	\$ 260.00	\$ 300.00	115.4%	\$ 1.15
GA - GEORGIA	\$ 5,615.00	4,748	\$ 4,748.00	\$ 1,861.50	39.2%	\$ 0.39
HI - HAWAII	\$ 330.00	50	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
ID - IDAHO	\$ 614.00	675	\$ 675.00	\$ 61.00	9.0%	\$ 0.09
IL - ILLINOIS	\$ 5,693.78	14,548	\$ 14,548.00	\$ 1,355.00	9.3%	\$ 0.09
IN - INDIANA	\$ 16,635.27	36,522	\$ 36,522.00	\$ 5,320.00	14.6%	\$ 0.15
IA - IOWA	\$ 4,421.00	4,646	\$ 4,646.00	\$ 445.00	9.6%	\$ 0.10
KS - KANSAS	\$ 653.52	6,388	\$ 6,388.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
KY - KENTUCKY		2,774	\$ 2,774.00	\$ 520.00	18.7%	\$ 0.19
LA - LOUISIANA	\$ 3,270.00	2,076	\$ 2,076.00	\$ 800.00	38.5%	\$ 0.39
ME - MAINE		2,400	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
MD - MARYLAND	\$ 3,000.00	15,875	\$ 15,875.00	\$ 100.00	0.6%	\$ 0.01
MA - MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 5,307.50	5,308	\$ 5,308.00	\$ 90.00	1.7%	\$ 0.02
MX - MEXICO	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
MI - MICHIGAN	\$ 8,761.00	23,304	\$ 23,304.00	\$ 3,400.00	14.6%	\$ 0.15
MN - MINNESOTA	\$ 5,634.49	11,094	\$ 11,094.00	\$ 2,410.00	21.7%	\$ 0.22
MS - MISSISSIPPI	\$ 1,500.00	925	\$ 925.00	\$ 1,950.00	210.8%	\$ 2.11
MO - MISSOURI	\$ 1,740.00	3,175	\$ 3,175.00	\$ 550.00	17.3%	\$ 0.17
MT - MONTANA	\$ 1,500.00	1,192	\$ 1,192.00	\$ 1,500.00	125.8%	\$ 1.26
NE - NEBRASKA	\$ 9,099.16	6,799	\$ 6,799.00	\$ 3,593.00	52.8%	\$ 0.53
NV - NEVADA		413	\$ 413.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
NH - NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$ 340.00	5,747	\$ 5,747.00	\$ 1,483.00	25.8%	\$ 0.26
NJ - NEW JERSEY	\$ 9,944.00	9,323	\$ 9,323.00	\$ 3,217.00	34.5%	\$ 0.35
NM - NEW MEXICO	\$ 770.40	1,457	\$ 1,457.00	\$ 100.00	6.9%	\$ 0.07
NY - NEW YORK	\$ 8,703.93	29,024	\$ 29,024.00	\$ 400.00	1.4%	\$ 0.01
NC - NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 5,369.00	2,502	\$ 2,502.00	\$ 2,350.00	93.9%	\$ 0.94
ND - NORTH DAKOTA	\$ -	769	\$ 769.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
OH - OHIO	\$ 14,676.00	29,817	\$ 29,817.00	\$ 2,436.00	8.2%	\$ 0.08
OK - OKLAHOMA		1,384	\$ 1,384.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
OR - OREGON	\$ 3,250.00	1,462	\$ 1,462.00	\$ 500.00	34.2%	\$ 0.34
PA - PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 31,959.96	60,197	\$ 60,197.00	\$ 6,744.50	11.2%	\$ 0.11
PI - PHILIPPINES	\$ 400.00	83	\$ 83.00	\$ 100.00	120.5%	\$ 1.20
PR - PUERTO RICO		116	\$ 116.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
RI - RHODE ISLAND		246	\$ 246.00	\$ 350.00	142.3%	\$ 1.42
SC - SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 2,100.00	1,346	\$ 1,346.00	\$ 2,360.00	175.3%	\$ 1.75
SD - SOUTH DAKOTA		878	\$ 878.00	\$ 1,001.00	114.0%	\$ 1.14
TN - TENNESSEE	\$ 638.00	1,648	\$ 1,648.00	\$ 150.00	9.1%	\$ 0.09
TX - TEXAS	\$ 4,908.00	5,836	\$ 5,836.00	\$ 3,496.83	59.9%	\$ 0.60
UT - UTAH	\$ 501.00	505	\$ 505.00	\$ 275.00	54.5%	\$ 0.54
VT - VERMONT	\$ 10,289.00	3,791	\$ 3,791.00	\$ 1,500.00	39.6%	\$ 0.40
VA - VIRGINIA	\$ 14,431.64	4,454	\$ 4,454.00	\$ 1,200.00	26.9%	\$ 0.27
WA - WASHINGTON	\$ 1,188.00	2,426	\$ 2,426.00	\$ 50.00	2.1%	\$ 0.02
WV - WEST VIRGINIA	\$ 3,159.81	2,262	\$ 2,262.00	\$ 1,164.00	51.5%	\$ 0.51
WI - WISCONSIN	\$ 440.00	3,974	\$ 3,974.00	\$ 170.00	4.3%	\$ 0.04
WY - WYOMING	\$ 3,000.00	1,170	\$ 1,170.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
NATIONAL HQ	\$ 1,032.34	-	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
Grand Total(s):	\$ 262,944.80	363,313	\$ 363,313.00	\$ 92,114.83	25.4%	\$ 0.25

(Central Region)

ILLINOIS	\$ 5,693.78	14,548	\$ 14,548.00	\$ 1,355.00	9.3%	\$ 0.09
INDIANA	\$ 16,635.27	36,522	\$ 36,522.00	\$ 5,320.00	14.6%	\$ 0.15
IOWA	\$ 4,421.00	4,646	\$ 4,646.00	\$ 445.00	9.6%	\$ 0.10
MICHIGAN	\$ 8,761.00	23,304	\$ 23,304.00	\$ 3,400.00	14.6%	\$ 0.15
MINNESOTA	\$ 5,634.49	11,094	\$ 11,094.00	\$ 2,410.00	21.7%	\$ 0.22
MISSOURI	\$ 1,740.00	3,175	\$ 3,175.00	\$ 550.00	17.3%	\$ 0.17
OHIO	\$ 14,676.00	29,817	\$ 29,817.00	\$ 2,436.00	8.2%	\$ 0.08
WISCONSIN	\$ 440.00	3,974	\$ 3,974.00	\$ 170.00	4.3%	\$ 0.04
Totals:	\$ 58,001.54	127,080	\$ 127,080.00	\$ 16,086.00	12.7%	\$ 0.13

Child & Youth Committee Call

Third Wednesday of each month

8:00 p.m.

Call in # (605) 472-5332

Access Code: 808417

Legislative Commission Call

First Thursday bi-monthly
 February, April, June, 7 August
 7:00 p.m.

Call in # (712) 775-7031

Access Code: 988284103

The SAL National Legislative Commission will have an NEC Conference call on March 15, 2021.

SAL Legislative Commission NEC Conference Call

Monday March 15, 2021 7:00 p.m. EDT

Call In # 712-775-7031

Access 988 284 103#

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>

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Conference Call

Fourth Monday of each month

7:00 p.m. Central Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6354565336?pwd=STBkdUlJQlRoOQRndnJPN1hsVktHQTo9>

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



Detachment Commanders & Adjutants,

We need to ask for your cooperation in assisting us to audit and rectify the records of who our Sons of The American Legion VAVS Representatives, Deputies, and Associates are in every VA across the Country.

While we recently sent out a request for information to “who we believe” are our Reps., Deps., and Associates, we have gotten mixed results. It is imperative that we establish a new baseline of information as to who these individuals are. Equally important, we need to ensure that information is consistent between Sons of The American Legion, American Legion, and VA records.

Here is what we need from you:

- A list of every member in your Detachment that you believe, or have on record, as having applied and/or been certified in a VAVS position.
- The appointment assignment name they are on record as having: VAVS Representative, VAVS Deputy, VAVS Associate.
- Their full name and email address or Home address.
- A copy of their Application and/or letter of Certification from The American Legion.

We ask that you provide us with this information at your earliest convenience. It is imperative to our Organization that we clarify these records and repair any errors that are currently in the system.

Thank you for your support in this matter, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

*Gabe Cinquegrana, National VAVS Representative
Sons of The American Legion*

(585) 474-3427

gcinqueg@rochester.rr.com



Oxford: Pandemic highlights Legion's continued mission, amplifies congressional goals

By [Steven B. Brooks](#)

MAR 04, 2021

During a Washington Conference conducted almost exclusively virtually, American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford was able to testify in person in front of members of Congress on March 4.

But much of that testimony focused on the very reason the hundreds of American Legion Family members normally in the nation’s capital for the conference were forced to participate via their PCs, laptops, phones, and other mobile devices: a year-long global pandemic that changed the way day-to-day life is conducted.

And Oxford, now in his second year as national commander because of the cancellation of the 2020 American Legion National Convention, was able to share with members of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs how members of the American Legion Family responded to the pandemic.

“American Legion posts would be forced to close their buildings in the days and months ahead,” Oxford said, referencing the start of the pandemic, which coincided with The American Legion’s 2020 Washington Conference. “Many of our wartime veteran members lost their jobs. Some lost businesses or their homes.

“Many of us lost loved ones, colleagues and friends to COVID-19 or its effects – both physical and psychological.

“But the American Legion Family did not lose focus on the mission at hand, nor did we lose faith in our ability to strengthen America at a time of great uncertainty and stress.”



Oxford shared the success of The American Legion's [Buddy Check program](#), which he said reached out and found 10s of thousands of isolated veterans in need of food, medication, transportation, voting assistance, mental health checks and "most important, a compassionate voice during a tough and confusing time."

Oxford said American Legion Family members provided the American Red Cross with a record number of blood donations during the pandemic. And "when face masks and other protective gear were in short supply, the American Legion Family found them, made them, raised money to buy them for others, and distributed them wherever they were needed – in the hundreds of thousands," he said. "Our members fed the hungry when grocery shelves were empty, and restaurants were closed. We protected homeless veterans who were especially vulnerable to infection."

Oxford noted how The American Legion went virtual for its national meetings, as did American Legion departments and posts. "And we worked with VA and Philips to launch Project ATLAS that uses American Legion posts to offer veterans safe, private places to have virtual, online appointments with their health-care professionals, no matter how far away they are, or how difficult it might be to reach them in person," he said.

But, Oxford said, those efforts didn't replace The American Legion's priorities for Congress, the White House, or the Pentagon. Rather, he said, they "amplified them," before going on to share organization's focus during the current session of Congress.

"Among our top priorities for the 117th Congress, you will find the term 'peer support,'" he said. "Success of The American Legion Buddy Check program since it was introduced in 2019, and grew in importance during the pandemic, can and should be made a cornerstone of VA outreach.

"We call on Congress to reintroduce the Buddy Check Week Bill of 2020 to designate one week a year for VA as a time for laser-focused peer-wellness outreach. After 2020, we in The American Legion know just how important Buddy Checks are for a veteran's mental health, emotional stability and dignity."

The American Legion also is asking for reintroduction of the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act, which would attach trained peer-support

specialists to local American Legion posts. "There is no better place or way to find veterans in need – and people willing and wanting to help them," Oxford said. "Both of these measures stand to save veteran lives now being lost at too high a rate – to suicide.

"Peer-support programs can put faces, voices and real circumstances behind the people we seek to help veterans with (post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury), those who have been victims of military sexual assault, caregivers, and the rapidly growing number of women veterans who want nothing more than fair treatment and quality, gender-specific services from their VA health-care facilities."

Oxford said reports of high incidences of sexual harassment from male staff and patients at VA health-care facilities toward women veterans remains a concern of the organization. "As we testified last summer, we call on Congress to direct VA to tolerate NO sexual harassment and to 'foster a culture of safety, dignity, accessibility, and acceptance of all veterans,'" he said. "There can be no barriers to VA health care – especially during the time of COVID-19. Insufficient staffing, or staff behavior that repels use of VA, can be such barriers."

The need to recruit and retain VA health-care providers – including doctors, nurses, mental health counselors and practitioners who specialize in the needs of women – could not have been more acute during the COVID-19 pandemic, Oxford stressed.

"Resources were stretched dangerously thin as beds filled during the year. Over-burdened as they were, VA providers have stood strong," he said. "We all owe those doctors, nurses and specialists our deepest appreciation for their tireless and continuing devotion. I call them the 'infantry' in our war against the coronavirus."

While the pandemic has created a strain on VA resources, Oxford noted there were issues prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. "Unfortunately, that high-quality VA care is not accessible to enough veterans in the best of times," he said. "We all have work to do if we truly intend to efficiently connect veterans, especially those in areas where care is difficult to reach, with the VA services they earned and deserve.

"The initial steps taken last year in the area of telehealth need to become giant strides in the months and years ahead."

Oxford again referenced The American Legion's collaboration with Philipps and VA through Project ATLAS, where a tele-health station has been placed in Post 176 in Springfield, Va., that is open and ready for safe, convenient use for VA patients.

While VA has expanded its tele-health options, Oxford said that option is only available to veterans that have the "right computer and internet connection to take advantage of it. For many of our nation's older veterans, that's just not a reality. That's why Project ATLAS is so important. This month, we will be opening a new location at American Legion Post 12 in Wickenburg, Ariz.

"And due to a recent decommissioning of a VA outpatient clinic, a third Project ATLAS site will soon open at American Legion Post 5 in Emporia, Kan. Future sites in Ohio and West Virginia are also coming soon."

A continued priority for The American Legion, one that Oxford said has been the case for decades, is government accountability for toxic exposure during military service. "As COVID-19 proved especially dangerous for people with respiratory issues and cancers, The American Legion's call for accountability to veterans exposed to burn pits and now, those who were exposed at a contaminated base in Uzbekistan, known as K-2, is especially urgent," he said.

Oxford again called for Congress to eliminate the 90-10 loophole that allows for-profit colleges to take advantage of veterans using the GI Bill. "We appreciate the fact that it was recommended as part of the coronavirus relief package, because there certainly is a connection to the pandemic," he said. "But if closing the 90-10 loophole needs to stand alone as a separate measure, Congress has our support."

Other legislative priorities for The American Legion include:

- Re-opening the pathway to U.S. citizenship for immigrants who serve in our Armed Forces;
- Protecting members of the U.S. Coast Guard in the event of government shutdown;
- Insisting the federal government reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers, not just for the jobs that would create for veterans and other Americans, but as a matter of public health and national security; and
- The American Legion's renewed call for a constitutional amendment that would allow states

to pass and enforce laws to protect the U.S. flag from deliberate acts of desecration.

"The pandemic. Turmoil over racial injustice last summer. The storming of the U.S. Capitol in January. Veterans struggling, alone and isolated, at risk of self-harm. It all adds up to a profound need for unity," Oxford said. "And priorities that strive to make our nation stronger, safer and hopeful that the lessons we have learned over the last year will help us fulfill a pledge I have been sending to The American Legion throughout my tenure as national commander: to build a foundation for the future."



The American Legion Family



On Monday, March 15, 2021, the Jewish War Veterans will be celebrating the Jewish War Veterans 125 birthday. It is the oldest of the VSO founded in 1896 in New York City on March 15, 1896. If you would like more information on

the event you can go to jwv.org.

Thank you,

Lou Michaels, Detachment Historian of Minnesota Department Commander of the JWV of Minnesota National Historian of the JWV of the USA 4th District Historian of the American Legion
louthephotoguy@gmail.com

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Who's next?



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JEFF VRABEL, SR.
FOR NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____

_____ (Phone) _____ (Email) Male Female _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

- Global War on Terror U.S. Army
- Gulf War U.S. Navy
- Panama U.S. Air Force
- Lebanon/Grenada U.S. Marines
- Vietnam U.S. Coast Guard
- Korea Merchant Marines (WWII only)
- WWII
- Other Conflicts

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department/state address, go to www.legion.org.

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT
(Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____

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

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone) _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

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

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and

Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT
(Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No. _____

Department of _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____

Date of Birth (Required) _____ Birth - 17 18 and over

Have you been a member previously? Yes No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State: _____ ALA ID#: _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____

If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____

Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

Veteran Served:

WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

- Global War on Terror Lebanon/Grenada WWII
- Gulf War Vietnam Other Conflicts
- Panama Korea

Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:

- Male Spouse Female Spouse Mother
- Grandmother Sister Self
- Daughter Granddaughter

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____

DUES RECEIPT
(Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____



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 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) juanrtorres10@hotmail.com 10828 Sycamore Dr. S, La Porte, TX 77571

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



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