



Round-Up



The Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion Central Region

Volume 2 – Issue 72 – March 15, 2021

Happy Birthday!

This week, we celebrate the birthday of The American Legion. Each of us should do something to celebrate. Go to our Post, if you can, and thank our veterans. Host a birthday party. Volunteer. Wear your SAL cap. And if you haven't done so yet please pay your dues.

Chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential non-profit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. Following is a chronology of significant dates in Legion history:

1919

March 15-17. Members of the American Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.

May 8-10. St. Louis Caucus. "The American Legion" is adopted as the organization's official name. The Legion's draft preamble and constitution are approved.

June 9. The National Executive Committee adopts the Legion emblem.

Sept. 16. Congress charters The American Legion.

Nov. 10-12. First Legion convention convenes in Minneapolis. The Constitution and preamble are adopted. Delegates vote 361-323 to locate the Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, instead of Washington. A resolution is passed in support of Boy Scouts of America. *Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 Scouting units made up of approximately 64,000 youths.*

Additional information on The American Legion's history can be found [here](#).

Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to attend the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio Midwinter Conference, as well as speak at the Department of Ohio Department Executive Committee meeting. It was great to see old friends in person and not on a computer monitor. When we have the opportunity to get together, whether in person or virtually, it can be rejuvenating. It's gets us prepared to get out there and spread the messages of Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family. It reminds us of why we joined this tremendous family. We can share information that will help others, which is a big part of our game. We hear the reports and get a better understanding of our programs and how they benefit the organization. Look for more information later in this edition.

When we attend meetings like these, it is very important that you take the information you received home and share it with members. It's a good way for those who could not attend to get updated. If they have questions, they can be answered, and they may become more interested in our programs when they know more about them. I think you will see benefits right away, and when people are interested in something they want to help. That help can be contagious, involving more members in more programs, events, fundraisers, etc. In the words of

Ohio PDC Bill Towns, "If we don't tell them, how will they know?" Think about it.



MySAL. Yes, it's that time to remind everyone about our tremendous, amazing, outstanding, awesome, simple, efficient online membership transmittal system. If you have not done so, give it a try. I'm sure you will wish you had done so earlier and will be one of my cheerleaders on doing it this way.

Did I say how good it is? **Who's next?**

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*



[JOIN](#)

[DONATE](#)



To all,

Congratulations to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Ohio for reaching the 80% goal!

Keep up the great 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





Sons of The American Legion
*Sons, let's support
 100 Miles for Hope again*

The success of the inaugural 100 Miles for Hope challenge in 2020 has prompted a bigger, better version in 2021.

I'm proud that the Sons of The American Legion helped the Legion Family raise approximately \$150,000 last year for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. Now, I'm urging SAL members nationwide to step up again and help reach the goal set by American Legion National Commander James "Bill" Oxford for this year's 100 Miles for Hope, in doubling the donations for V&CF.

*SAL National Commander Clint D. Bolt
 "Serving Those Who Served ... Full Steam Ahead"*



**SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED
 FULL STEAM AHEAD**

**2021
 National Target Date
 April 14, 2021**

90%

**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*



**I WANT
 YOU
 TO RENEW!!!**



2021 Membership Report

2021 Renewal Report

2020 - 2021 MEMBERSHIP					03/11/21
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Southern	42,775	35,206	7,569	82.31%	324
2 Central	132,706	102,833	29,873	77.49%	1,307
3 Eastern	146,287	109,003	37,284	74.51%	1,081
4 Midwest	30,377	22,479	7,898	74.00%	242
5 Western	26,405	18,734	7,671	70.95%	299
TOTALS	378,550	288,255	90,295	76.15%	3,253

Membership ahead/behind prior year date (30,602)

Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Wisconsin * ^ ~ ? ! # % \$	3,745	3,391	354	90.55%	108
2 Iowa * ^ ~ ? ! # %	4,376	3,860	516	88.21%	39
3 Ohio ~ ? ! # %	31,134	25,152	5,982	80.79%	60
4 Indiana * ^ ~ ?	39,365	30,145	9,220	76.58%	145
5 Minnesota ^ ~ ? !	11,749	9,178	2,571	78.12%	239
6 Illinois * ^ ~ ? !	14,547	10,999	3,548	75.61%	8
7 Michigan	24,084	17,658	6,426	73.32%	708
8 Missouri	3,706	2,450	1,256	66.11%	-
TOTALS	132,706	102,833	29,873	77.49%	1,307

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	3,391	354	90.55%	3.30%
Iowa	4,376	3,860	516	88.21%	3.75%
Missouri	3,706	2,450	1,256	66.11%	2.38%
TOTALS	8,082	6,310	1,772		6.14%

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Minnesota	11,749	9,178	2,571	78.12%	8.93%
Illinois	14,547	10,999	3,548	75.61%	10.70%
TOTALS	26,296	20,177	6,119		19.62%

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Ohio	31,134	25,152	5,982	80.79%	24.46%
Indiana	39,365	30,145	9,220	76.58%	29.31%
Michigan	24,084	17,658	6,426	73.32%	17.17%
TOTALS	63,449	47,803	15,646		46.49%

2020 - 2021 RENEWALS				03/08/21
Region	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Renewal Percentage	Increase
1 Central	127,080	92,179	72.54%	2,186
2 Eastern	138,433	98,352	71.05%	3,569
3 Southern	43,179	30,222	69.99%	632
4 Midwest	28,764	19,613	68.19%	290
5 Western	25,857	16,107	62.29%	601
TOTALS	363,313	256,473	70.59%	1,523

Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Renewal Percentage	Increase
1 Ohio	29,817	23,164	77.69%	428
2 Wisconsin	3,974	3,037	76.42%	20
3 Iowa	4,646	3,541	76.22%	67
4 Minnesota	11,094	8,305	74.86%	118
5 Indiana	36,522	26,775	73.31%	587
6 Illinois	14,548	10,040	69.01%	171
7 Michigan	23,304	15,383	66.01%	795
8 Missouri	3,175	1,934	60.91%	0
TOTALS	127,080	92,179	72.54%	2,186

Red Division				
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percentage	Percent of Region
Wisconsin	3,974	3,017	75.92%	3.27%
Iowa	4,646	3,474	74.77%	3.77%
Missouri	3,175	1,934	60.91%	2.10%
TOTALS	7,821	5,408		5.87%

White Division				
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percentage	Percent of Region
Minnesota	11,094	8,187	73.80%	8.88%
Illinois	14,548	9,869	67.84%	10.71%
TOTALS	25,642	18,056		19.59%

Blue Division				
Detachment	2020 Total	2021 Renewed	Percentage	Percent of Region
Ohio	29,817	22,736	76.25%	24.67%
Indiana	36,522	26,188	71.70%	28.41%
Michigan	23,304	14,588	62.60%	15.83%
TOTALS	89,643	63,512		68.90%

SAL membership reports are available [here](#)



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

MARCH 11, 2021

TO: NATIONAL OFFICERS, DETACHMENT COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS
FROM: ANTHONY WRIGHT, NATIONAL ADJUTANT
SUBJECT: 80% - MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE

“CONGRATULATIONS”

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS SO FAR THIS MEMBERSHIP YEAR. OUR STANDINGS AS OF OUR 80% MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE (3-10-2021) ARE POSTED BELOW:

2021 MEMBERSHIP GOAL:	378,550
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP:	288,255
PERCENTAGE OF GOAL:	76.15%
YEAR-TO-DATE:	-30,602 (COMPARED TO 2020 MEMBERSHIP YEAR)
RENEWAL RATE:	70.59%
DETACHMENTS MAKING GOAL:	25

ALABAMA	FLORIDA	MISSISSIPPI	OHIO	SOUTH CAROLINA
ALASKA	FRANCE	MONTANA	OKLAHOMA	SOUTH DAKOTA
ARIZONA	HAWAII	NEBRASKA	PHILIPPINES	TENNESSEE
CONNECTICUT	IDAHO	NORTH CAROLINA	PUERTO RICO	WISCONSIN
DELAWARE	IOWA	NORTH DAKOTA	RHODE ISLAND	WYOMING

GREAT JOB!!

MANY DETACHMENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE THIS MEMBERSHIP GOAL SOON!

NEXT SCHEDULED RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED: **MARCH 26, 2021** (3RD OF 3)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: **APRIL 14, 2021** (90%)

RENEWAL IS THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS

MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



Americanism Commission

NEC Zoom Meeting

Thursday, April 1, 2021
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/92323180477?pwd=Z3IvZjUyWXlrZGpzNkRseU5QZ05ydz09>

Meeting ID: 923 2318 0477
Passcode: 740827

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

NEC Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/91602221521?pwd=UlhwVjUyWXlrZGpzNkRseU5QZ05ydz09>

Meeting ID: 916 0222 1521
Passcode: 949091

Children & Youth Committee

NEC Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021
7:00 p.m. Central Time

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/95437686381?pwd=L0p2Ujh2ZElaTnp0aE8vVDBESUhuUT09>

Meeting ID: 954 9661 4970
Passcode: 727544

National Finance Commission

NEC Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 30, 2021
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/92323180477?pwd=Z3IvZjUyWXlrZGpzNkRseU5QZ05ydz09>

Meeting ID: 923 2318 0477
Passcode: 740827

Legislative Commission

NEC Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021
7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/94690184761?pwd=dH05ZlpzMnR6VHhY1hZaklTenl4dz09>

Meeting ID: 946 9018 4767
Passcode: 371159

Membership Committee

NEC Zoom Meeting

Tuesday March 16, 2021
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/95713935739?pwd=cFNpRzM4WlV6VjB2KoRtT2N2WkxEQT09>

Meeting ID: 957 1393 5739
Passcode: 290606

Public Relations, Media & Communications Committee

NEC Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/99603730222?pwd=TXZlalk3a2xzMnZTMmdCYlNNTWg3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 996 0373 0222
Passcode: 928835

Resolutions Committee

NEC Zoom Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2021
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/99161918919?pwd=OEhXa2N5eTNXRFFVakc4M3VKQUI0dz09>

Meeting ID: 991 6191 8919
Passcode: 854086

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6354565336?pwd=STBkdUlJQlRoQTRndnJPN1hsVktHQTo9>

Veterans Employment & Education Commission Conference Call

NEC Conference Call

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (605) 313-4111

Access Code: 893821



VETERANS

STRENGTHENING AMERICA



Here's how to get started. The American Legion's second annual 100 Miles for Hope has been expanded for 2021. There are two ways to register and participate. In order to allow participants to track their activities and encourage others to fund-raise, we are using an app from a company called Kilter. For those who do not have a smartphone or do not care about tracking their activities, they may [register via this page on Emblem Sales](#). From that page, regardless of which way you register, you may also purchase your choice of commemorative gear that benefits the Veterans & Children Foundation.

HOW TO REGISTER VIA KILTER

1. On your smartphone or tablet, go to the App Store to search for Kilter. Then download the free **Kilter app** and create an account. (Please understand that Kilter allows only one participant per account. If you want to register multiple family members, they will need to have separate accounts.)

2. Go to the **EVENTS** tab. Before April 1, The American Legion's 100 Miles for Hope will be found under the **PAID** tab. As of April 1, it will be under the **LIVE** tab.
3. Select event, click **JOIN** and pay your \$20 entry fee.
4. On the app, view **MY EVENTS** to confirm registration.

(NOTE: Alternatively, you can visit kilterrewards.com to create your account. Afterward, you receive an automatic confirmation email with step-by-step instructions on how to use the app.)

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Complete daily wellness activities of at least a half-hour and accumulate points. You can complete up to three wellness activities each day that count toward your total. There are more than 40 different activities to choose from. And if your activity isn't represented on the app, you can create a manual activity that will count. Also, there are ways to receive bonus points! Check the app to find out how.
2. [Click this link](#) to learn more about how to track your efforts, see a list of activities, and how to add manual ones.

HOW TO HELP VETERANS & CHILDREN FOUNDATION

1. After registering, head over to Emblem Sales to view a collection of **commemorative 100 Miles for Hope merchandise** that you can purchase to support the V&CF. This year, we have new tech shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, a pin, a patch for Legion Riders and a challenge coin. All proceeds go directly toward the foundation.
2. Use the app's individual donation tool to encourage friends and family to support your personal wellness goal as well as the V&CF with a donation.



The American Legion Family



New MyLegion.org site overview

The American Legion
MAR 08, 2021

The American Legion is excited to roll out a new version of MyLegion.org. The new version will be more user-friendly, allowing all activity to be done in one web application. Officers will not have to manage multiple logins.

MyLegion.org is a website designed for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members to manage their membership information and to access member-only discounts. The American Legion and Sons officer side of MyLegion.org includes additional access to post and squadron membership electronic rosters, reports, membership processing tools and officer resources.

When the new MyLegion.org website goes live April 1, all accounts will be member accounts – this includes American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members. Currently, registered MyLegion.org users are asked to re-register their member account in preparation. This re-registration process does not apply to officer MyLegion.org accounts. All officer accounts will continue to log in with their current credentials until the new MyLegion.org site goes live.

My Account. On the new MyLegion.org user face, there will be a “My Account” tab. Registered members will click on it to display their membership profile and have the ability to print their membership card, make edits to their name, home address, phone number, email, war era, branch of service and communication preferences. A picture can also be added.

My Groups. A “My Groups” tab is available by default to administrative officers of the group. Groups are defined as: posts, squadrons, counties, and districts. Administrative officers are both adjunct and commander. My Groups is the adminis-

trative side of MyLegion.org. It includes access to membership information, rosters, reports, membership processing and other membership resources. A new feature will allow the administrative officer to assign a member permission to access the Group Profile. Only members of the group can be provided permission with full or restrictive access.

Group Member Information. Officers will be able to search for a specific member without navigating through the roster with additional search options. Member information includes member status, ID number, contact information, demographics, and military service. New features allows entry of emergency contact information and a photo upload option.

Group Online membership processing. This area will have familiar business practices. In the “Process Membership” tab, a post transmittal will display a summary that includes transmittal status, number of membership cards, and per capita allocations. The transmittal page allows you to renew members, add new members and transfer members into your post. Please note that online transfers can only be included if the member is also renewing current dues.

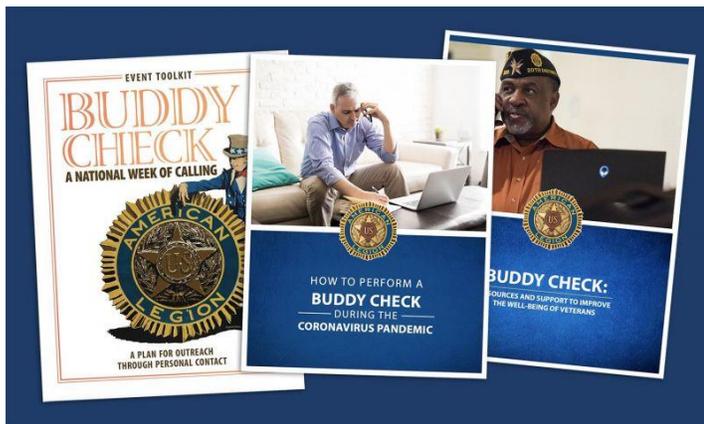
Recruit for the entire American Legion Family

The American Legion
MAR 08, 2021

A message from your Membership & Post Activities Chairman Jay Bowen.

“We should be constantly recruiting for the entire American Legion Family every time we are talking with a veteran or a family member of a veteran! When talking with our younger veterans and family members, they are more likely to want to do things together rather than apart. And we are much stronger as a Legion Family unit than we are individually.

“The Legion Family is devoted to help our fellow veterans and their family, educate our youth, advocate for a strong National Security, and be on the front lines showing our love of country through our Americanism spirit. And because of this, we can better support our four pillars when doing it together. We welcome, and encourage, Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons members to recruit for the entire American Legion Family!”



Buddy Check 3.0: How an idea inspired The American Legion nationwide

By [Steven B. Brooks](#)
MAR 10, 2021

A conversation in the back of a car during a trip to Massachusetts in 2018 was the catalyst for what has become one of the most critical programs of The American Legion over the last year as the nation confronted the COVID-19 pandemic. And thanks to the efforts of Legionnaires across the nation, the program has blossomed at a time when many of America’s veterans have spent months isolated from others.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, members of The American Legion have made thousands of [Buddy Checks](#) on their fellow veterans. Whether by phone call, email, postcard, social media or safe in-person visits, those veterans have had reinforced to them that as both a local and national organization, The American Legion cares about their welfare.

As in “Lawrence of Arabia,” when T.E. Lawrence said, “Big things have small beginnings,” the Buddy Check grew from a simple start, first as a part of then-American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan’s theme of “Family First” before transitioning to a nationwide program under National Commander Brett Reistad in 2019. Under current National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford, Buddy Checks have become a vital component of The American Legion’s efforts to support others throughout the pandemic.

And as The American Legion approaches its 102nd birthday in the coming days, Oxford said the celebration is another opportunity to contact fellow veterans who might be in need of assistance. A new Buddy Check toolkit is now available to help mem-

bers of The American Legion Family conduct the outreach services.

“More than year ago, a global pandemic gripped the world and forced many to isolate themselves for their own safety, including thousands of our fellow veterans,” Oxford said. “Knowing their brothers and sisters were alone, Legionnaires took to their phones and email – and in some cases via safe in-person visits – and, by the thousands, reached out to their comrades. Whether it was inquiring to see if there were any in need of assistance, or simply to let them know someone cared, these Buddy Checks made differences. I couldn’t be more proud of those efforts.

“As our American Legion birthday approaches, it’s a good time to reach out again. It’s the ideal opportunity to let those isolated veterans know that we are here for them now, and that we will be here for them when are through this pandemic. These Buddy Checks can make an impact far greater than we realize.”

The Inception. American Legion Marketing Commission Chairman Mike Rohan – also known as the husband of Past National Commander Denise Rohan – clearly remembers where Buddy Checks got their start, albeit without using the current nomenclature.

Denise had chosen the theme “Family First” for her year as national commander, and Mike remembered her tying a form of Buddy Checks into her messages “probably around December” of 2017. For Denise, a chance meeting with a Legionnaire whose wife had passed away tied her theme and outreach together.

“He and wife were very active – she in the Auxiliary and he in the Legion. They did everything together,” the past national commander said. “After she passed away, he sort of didn’t want to do anything anymore. He was telling me the fact that some Legionnaires came to his house and kind of made him come back to the Legion made the difference in his life. It really does come down to if you care about your family, you check on them. That kind of was the groundwork for it.

“If we really are an American Legion Family, then we care enough about each other to check up on them. That’s the message that as Family First comes out, that you have your personal family, but then you take care of each other as veterans and veterans’ families.”

It was in April of 2018 that a car ride in Massachusetts brought together National Commander Rohan, her husband/aide and Reistad, the leading candidate at the time for national commander. Sitting in the back of the care, Mike Rohan and Reistad struck up a conversation about Denise's message of outreach and then the potential of taking it national. With the time in her tenure as national commander winding down came the realization that it would be difficult to get a national program up and running before the 2018 National Convention. Reistad took on the program and in January 2019 during the National Membership & Post Activities Committee meeting after a discussion, and a draft plan for the first national Buddy Check program was created.

Up and Running. Reistad made a call in the later winter of 2019 for American Legion posts, districts, counties, and departments to coordinate teams and call Legionnaires and former members to see how they are doing, using what was termed "A National Week of Calling" leading up The American Legion's 100th birthday as the timeframe to make the calls.

"It was a great year to do it," Reistad said. "When you look back at the history of The American Legion, you could see that the whole concept of The American Legion was about the comradeship: 'To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.' What could be better mutual helpfulness than reaching out to our members, our buddies, our fellow veterans and do a wellness check with them?"

Legionnaires ran with the idea. The Department of Colorado sent out an email to everyone in the headquarters post asking how members were doing and thanking them for their service and membership. One headquarters post member responded needing assistance with paying utilities. The Department of Colorado financially assisted the veteran through two department assistance funds and transferred his membership to a post near his home. The department also heard from a 93-year-old World War II veteran who just wanted to share his story, and another member replied simply thanking the department for checking in.

District 22 in San Diego, Calif., found veterans in need of food, transportation, pet-therapy visits or just home visits, all by making phone calls to hundreds of members. And from 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. March 13 and March 16, a group of volunteers from Buck-Dubiel Post 101 in Somers, Conn., got together to make phone calls to check on fellow members

of Post 101, and other Legionnaires in the area who are members of the department headquarters post or who had allowed their membership to lapse.

Post 101 Public Affairs Director Sherri Marquis said the Buddy Check benefitted both sides of the phone calls. "It was an experience every Buddy Check team member thought was fulfilling and very much needed," she said. "We learned of members who were in poor health, needed assistance with (Department of Veterans Affairs) benefits, (and) wanted to attend meetings but had no means of transportation, and were homebound and lonely and could use a visit/camaraderie.

"Some were unable to volunteer due to being caregivers or having demanding lives and were happy with contributing just by being a member, and others were grateful for the call, had questions about the Legion mission and asked what Post 101 was doing in the future in which they could be involved."

Reistad heard similar success stories. "I started getting feedback from people once we began doing it who said, 'This is better than I thought it would be. It's more effective than I thought it's going to be.' We received feedback from people we called that were really in need, and we had the ability to be able to help them. I was elated that we got to do it during my year, but I was also cognizant of the fact not only are we helping our fellow veterans, but this works very well within the focus of our centennial."

The initial effort was so successful that later in May 2019, The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18, which called for Buddy Checks to be conducted at least twice a year: during The American Legion birthday and Veterans Day.

Ten months later, a greater need emerged.

"Built for Pandemic Relief." As stay-at-home orders moved like falling dominoes across the nation in early spring 2020, The American Legion responded. By the end of March, a national Buddy Check Toolkit geared specifically for conducting the program during the pandemic was made available. American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford urged Legionnaires to use the program to stay in contact with those who were isolated.

He called it “an excellent opportunity for The American Legion to demonstrate its commitment to veterans serving veterans. During this crisis, I’m encouraging the entire American Legion Family to perform those Buddy Checks. Make the phone calls to older veterans. They’re most at-risk. Make sure they’re doing OK. But it’s also an opportunity for your American Legion post to assist. That might mean going to the grocery store, picking up a prescription at the pharmacy or handling an errand that will allow the veteran to practice social distancing.

“The American Legion Buddy Check program is an important mission that requires our support. And this is perhaps the most critical time to perform on behalf of our comrades.”

American Legion Family members responded. And then some. Buddy Checks with a COVID-19 emphasis took place in American Legion departments throughout the nation, at the state, district, and post levels. Phone calls, emails, post cards and – in some cases, safe in-person visits – ensured that thousands of veterans didn’t fall through the cracks.

- In North Carolina, Department Adjutant Randy Cash said in addition to telephone Buddy Checks, 30,000 e-mails went out to at-risk Legionnaires.
- In the pandemic’s first month, Department of Pennsylvania Legionnaire Leroy T. Lippi Jr. had made more than 430 Buddy Checks. The service officer at Robert H. Hoke Post 272 in Linglestown, Lippi developed a script for the phone calls; he’s made more than 1,600 since 2018 and now both his name and phone number are recognized before the recipient picks up the phone. “My main goal in all of my calls is to ensure upon them that if they need assistance in any way ... that we are out there for them and for their needs,” Lippi said. “If we can provide the service, I’m going to do that.”
- By mid-April, American Legion Post 154 in Rathdrum, Idaho, had conducted more than 130 Buddy Checks. “One 84-year-old Legion member told us that he was having a difficult time getting to the grocery store,” Post 154 Finance and Legislative Officer Len Crosby reported. “We arranged for other Legion members to pick up a shopping list, do his shopping and return the groceries to his home. Additionally, our Legion has offered this service for both groceries and medications to other members and have also offered rides to medical appointments, if that was needed.”

- In Roxboro, N.C., Lester Blackwell American Legion Post 138 already had made Buddy Checks a regular part of the post’s activities, including spending Fridays visiting area veterans at their homes and assisted-living facilities. The post saw the need for Buddy Checks grow during the pandemic. “It’s really important to find out if they have any needs, how they’re doing,” Post 138 Chaplain Chris Talley said. “They’ve always been important, but it feels a bit more important now.”
- In Maryland, Joseph L. Davis American Legion Post 47 in Havre de Grace used social media to reach out to members, including the use of graphics such as “Because We Care About YOU” that urged any members needing assistance to call the post.
- American Legion Post 109 member Jennifer Havlick of Two Harbors, Minn., began leading nightly sessions on Zoom as her post developed an “enhanced Buddy Check” program that mobilized teams to help sheltering veterans in the community. “I thought, ‘Who would be more well-equipped to know and deal with our veterans who can’t leave home?’” she said. “I thought that some of these guys or girls are going to get to a point where they can’t leave home. What should we do to make sure – especially if they don’t have family – that we’re taking care of them? We want to make sure they have food ... (doing) something as easy as going to the pharmacy picking up meds for them, just so they don’t have to come out in the middle of this.”
- “Our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans,” wrote Darren Dahlke, membership chairman for Post 6 in Stuttgart, Germany, in a Facebook message to his fellow Legionnaires during the early stages of the pandemic. “As a way to reach out to members and former members, I am sending out this message asking if we can check up on our fellow comrades. Please take the time to reach out ... reaching out, just to say hello can make the difference.”
- Woodland Hills, Calif., Legionnaires delivered groceries and over-the-counter medicine to socially distancing veterans found through Buddy Checks.
- Post 43 in Tullahoma, Tenn., worked with the Boy Scouts and Junior ROTC members to deliver food and supplies to veterans contacted through Buddy Checks there. “Our veterans and their spouses are very appreciative knowing that someone cares about their well-being and needs,” Post 43 Commander Alan Harris said.

“It is, after all, why we, as an organization, exist.”

- Buddy Checks were a regular occurrence for American Legion Post 18 in Weehawken, N.J., through phone calls, text messages and social media or visiting members while observing proper safety protocols. “We’re making sure we’re checking in with our most vulnerable veterans, and trying to make sure they’re OK,” Past Post 18 Commander and current Hudson County Vice Commander Chris Page said. “Now, more than ever, due to social distancing, we want to make sure that our more vulnerable veterans aren’t being left too alone. We need to make sure they’re doing well both mentally and physically.”
- In Nevada, Spirit of Freedom Post 76 in Las Vegas began reaching out to its 850-plus members in December 2020, contacting nearly 800 of them. Post 76 Commander Tony Mascari said Post 76 Sergeant-at-Arms Richard Hoffer personally checked on more than 500 members on his own. “We took the national commander’s directive to heart,” Mascari said. “So many are shut in right now. The majority of our membership ... they’re staying in. They’re very concerned with what’s going on in the outside world. To have somebody call, just to ask, ‘How are you doing today and is there anything we can do for you?’ – it was really, really amazing to talk to some of our members. I don’t know that they’ve had a lot of that. They were grateful that somebody just called to say, ‘How’re you doing today?’ Through the calls, we were able to assist veterans who needed help, or (provide) information on how to get help, as well as assure them that their American Legion post was here to help and guide them through this most difficult time.”
- Alexandria, Va., Post 24 made a 2021 Buddy Check on World War II veteran H. Warden Foley, a 73-year member of The American Legion, that turned into a safe birthday surprise. Members of the post prepared in advance for this particular Buddy Check, signing cards and obtaining gifts, including a quilt from Quilts of Honor. Post Adjutant James Glassman said Post 24 makes monthly Buddy Check calls to 237 members who served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. “They are very appreciative that someone is looking out for them,” Glassman said.

“If ever a veterans-service program was built for pandemic relief, it’s the Buddy Check,” Oxford said in April 2020. “In communities large and small

everywhere on the map, Buddy Checks are making big differences for veterans, their spouses and families. Hundreds of posts are reaching out in their local communities, especially to veterans whose age puts them at risk for infection. Legionnaires are using the phone, email, and social media to safely find out how these veterans are doing and what we can do to help them. They might need something from the store or pharmacy. Sometimes, for a veteran who is alone and on orders to stay home, the most important thing is a phone call.”

Past National Commander Rohan experienced that while making Buddy Checks. “I started making those phone calls, and I talked to one person whose life, because of COVID, she was losing her business,” she said. “There was all kinds of stuff that was happening in her life. Her mom was sick. And she didn’t have anybody to talk to. She was making Buddy Checks on other people, but she was in pain herself. I think it made all the difference in the world to say, ‘Hey, it’s OK for you to be hurting, too. And you need to make sure your take care of yourself.’”

“When somebody calls me, and they care enough to call me, it makes me think, ‘Hey, if nobody in the world cares about me, at least I know my friends, my veterans, know that I’m out here by myself, and I need somebody to talk to.’”

The American Legion also was a part of a 2020 bipartisan push to gain passage of legislation directing VA to designate an annual “Buddy Check Week” for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans and other purposes.” Legislative action alerts were sent out to members of The American Legion, while a series of videos from the bill’s cosponsors was created to raise awareness and support for the measure. The 116th Congress ended without a vote on it; The American Legion Legislative Commission and staff in Washington are pushing for reintroduction of the Buddy Check Week bill in the 117th Congress.

“One of the things I’m impressed about it is the momentum of the program and the continuation of the program during this day,” Reistad said. “And to see us propose Buddy Checks in the form of legislation was not a thought at the time. But it certainly deserves a level of consideration, and I’m glad to see we’re going to do that.”

The Need Continues. As historic winter weather moved across the nation in February 2021, Oxford reminded Legionnaires of the need for Buddy

Checks while many were stuck at home because of ice storms, sub-zero temperatures, loss of power and dozens of inches of snow. “Countless veterans are stuck in their homes,” wrote in an email message. “They may be facing dire situations due to the storm. They may need assistance with staying warm, getting food and water, or having a prescription delivered. That is why I am making this urgent appeal to you to immediately launch Buddy Checks in your areas. As veterans, we cannot let our buddies down, especially in such a critical time.”

But the need for Buddy Checks goes beyond times of natural disaster, pandemic, or other catastrophes. At the 2018 Washington Conference, The American Legion’s Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission heard from VA National Director for Suicide Prevention Keita Franklin, who told the commission that of the then-20 veterans taking their lives daily, 14 were not enrolled in the VA health-care system. She said VA needed other organizations like The American Legion to help her department reach those veterans not using VA services.

Mike Rohan said The American Legion’s Buddy Checks can fulfill that mission. “Denise and I have dealt personally with two different suicides that involved servicemembers that we were part of their Family Readiness Group,” he said. “Both of them are unique cases ... but both of them happened. And both of them happened because the people who committed suicide did not feel that they had a connection to the community anymore.

“The American Legion, making that phone, gives them that connection. It gives them somebody that they may not even know or care about, or have anything to connect with, except that they picked up the phone and said, ‘How are you doing?’”

Connecting those veterans with VA services is critical. “If it’s a veteran, the most important (contact information) is VA,” Mike said. “It doesn’t make a difference how much money they make. Whether they’re in the system or not in the system, VA will take them if they call. The more people we can connect with VA, the better.”

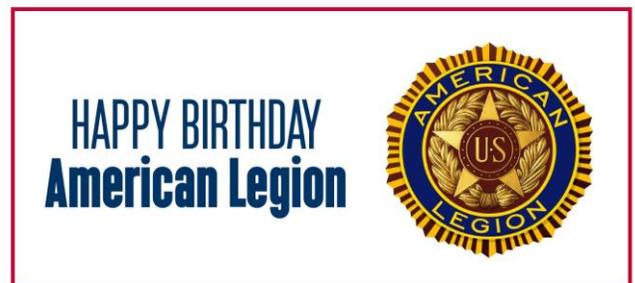
For Mike, seeing how an idea that started under one national commander, was nurtured under another and advanced by a third during a global pandemic speaks to the value of the program. “Brett, every time I was in the room ... where he was giving a speech after (the Buddy Check program started), he thanked me for giving him the idea,” he said.

“He wasn’t afraid to take another commander’s idea, making it his, and running with it. I thought that was pretty cool.”

For Reistad, seeing a program that became national under his watch fill such an important role brings a lot of satisfaction. “It humbles me, having been the national commander when this was rolled out,” he said. “I’m absolutely heartened by the growth of this program. And I think once we started to see the good deeds that came from it, and the benefits of it, it made perfect sense that we move forward and create legislation to put more of a focus on it.

“It’s a necessary program. To promote it nationally, and let others participate in it and know about how successful it is to us, I think, is a great thing for our organization and a great thing for our veterans.”

If your post, district, or department already has or is planning Buddy Check campaigns or one-time efforts, whether via the phone, email or in person while observing safety protocols, we want to hear about your efforts. Email sbrooks@legion.org to let us know what you’ve done or what you’ve got planned, and then share your efforts afterward on www.legiontown.org.



Detachment of Ohio Gets License Plate

On Saturday, March 13, 2021, Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Registrar Charles L. Norman attended the Detachment of Ohio Midwinter Conference and made a big announcement. He told those in attendance that Ohio's SAL plate was available for purchase and thanked everyone for their hard work for veterans.

The project began with PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr. contacting the Don Manning of the Ohio House of Representatives about legislation to establish the plates. Mr. Manning, a member of Mahoning Valley Post 15 in Poland was excited to help and jumped on board to get this done. The legislation was submitted, committee hearings were held, and testimony heard. Everything was on track to pass the bill. Unfortunately, the legislation stalled last March due to COVID-19, and the untimely passing of Rep. Manning on March 20, 2020.

PDC Vrabel contacted the new State Representative, Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 member Al Cutrona to help complete the process. On October 20, 2020, the Ohio Senate adopted Senate Bill 163, and the license plate was created. After work with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the plate went on sale March 5, 2021. Proceeds from the sale of the license plates goes to the Ohio Past Detachment Commanders Club and will be used to support donations to the many programs the club supports.



Norman makes the official announcement of Ohio's Sons of The American Legion license plate.

photo by Matthew Baxter



Department of Ohio and dual member Roger Friend chuckles as PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr. discusses the license plate program with the Department DEC on March 14, 2021. Commander Friend was laughing due to Vrabel holding up a large sample plate "...for those in the back" to be able to see.



photo by Matthew Baxter
Ohio BMV Registrar Charles L. Norman and PDC Jeff Vrabel, Sr. with Ohio's new Sons of The American Legion license plate.



We Need Your Help!!!

The Ohio Past Detachment Commanders' Club has worked with the Ohio General Assembly to establish a special license plate to help with fundraising and to get our organization's emblem on the roads in front of thousands of people.

The "Ohio Sons of The American Legion" special license plate is now available through your local BMV Deputy Registrar, or at www.bmv.ohio.gov and www.oplates.com.

State law allows for a portion of the special license plate fee to be earmarked for the benefit of the sponsoring organization to support its programs. OPDCC will receive \$10.00 from the sale of each special license plate to support various programs it supports, and other initiatives to promote Sons of The American Legion.

Since OPDCC is registered as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with the IRS, a portion of the special license plate fee may be deductible from your federal taxes.

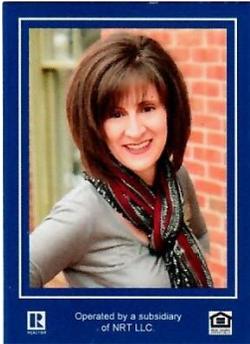
Please share this flyer with your members, co-workers, family, and other supporters of Sons of The American Legion. Ask them to buy the special license plate to demonstrate their support and commitment to our organization. Your support of this initiative helps OPDCC's campaign to support the many programs of The American Legion Family.



About Sons of The American Legion
The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion that exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. The S.A.L. is made up of males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Together, members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion comprise The Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

For more information, visit www.legion.org/sons



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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



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**Who's
next?**



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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) _____
(Gender)

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 # _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. **Membership pending approval of application.**

ALA 06/2019



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



MySAL – Squadron Sign Up Form

The American Legion National Headquarters has designed a FREE and secure internet site to assist Squadron Adjutants in their day-to-day membership processing duties. This site serves as a direct portal from the local squadron to National Headquarters' membership system.

Features include:

- + View and Edit squadron membership
- + Generate reports
- + Reports available in CSV file format allowing users to work with the data in other applications such as Microsoft Excel and Access
- + Squadron Inquiry
- + Consolidated Squadron Report
- + Process Membership

Fill out this form and mail or fax to us to register. Please type or print.

Yes! We would like to sign up for MySAL Officers Portal:

State _____ Squadron Number _____

Contact Information: *Does not have to be Squadron Adjutant. The information below indicates who to call with any questions and where to send correspondence and registration instructions once authorization to release data is received from the state headquarters.*

Contact Name: _____

ID#: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail **(required)** _____



Signature *required*, **must be Squadron Adjutant** _____ Member ID# _____

Printed Name: _____



Signature *required*, **must be Post Adjutant** _____ Member ID# _____

Printed Name: _____

**Mail To: The American Legion IT Division
 Product Support Specialist
 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216
 Fax: 317-860-3130 Phone: 800-433-3318**

Scan completed form with signature and email to : mylegion@legion.org