



Round-Up



The Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion Central Region

Volume 2 – Issue 87 – June 27, 2021

IRAs approved at HQ

While on vacation last week, I received an email from National Headquarters approving sixteen Individual Recruitment Award applications.

Yesterday, I spent a few hours processing and logging everything, writing the award letters, and packaging up the awards. They will be mailed tomorrow, and hopefully everyone will receive their pins this week.

This is the first time we have had approvals since February. The delay was caused by the changeover in the national membership database. This is the same system that delayed our membership reports.

It is not too late to send me an IRA application. The deadline is July 21, 2021. If you have recruited a minimum of five (5) members, please complete the form included with this edition and email it to me right away. We currently have twenty-six members who have recruited five members and submitted the paperwork. Let's continue to submit forms so our recruiters can be recognized. Do you have your Individual Recruiting Award? **Who's next?**

Speaking of membership reports, we did not receive an update this week. Hopefully, we will return to our normal weekly updates.

While we wait to see our membership numbers, we cannot wait to continue to renew our 2021 members. Contact any delinquent members you have and ask them to renew right away. Our 105% Delegate Strength National Target Date is July 28. That gives us a month do take all necessary steps to get to the goal.

Many Detachments will be receiving membership cards for the 2022 membership year, but we cannot forget our outstanding 2021 members who have not paid their dues.

With summer upon us, there are many more opportunities to renew and recruit members. There will be outdoor events, picnics, bike runs,

Do what you need to so you can get these taken care of, and we can all begin our efforts for the 2022 year. **Who's next?**

As I mentioned, I was on vacation last week. We visited Brevort Lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It is a beautiful place and one worth visiting. I also had the opportunity to visit Clayton L. Murray American Legion Post 159 in Mackinaw City. This is a great little Post with awesome people. I would highly recommend a visit to anyone in the area. I really like how they made American Legion license plates part of the bar top and tabletops.



Like on all road trips, we had to stop for gas, so we pulled into a national retailer to fill up. Like most places, there was convenience store. We walked around, picked up a few things and headed to the checkout.

While walking toward the register, I noticed a rack of decals. There were some really great ones, recognizing our military, police, fire, EMS, and some that were funny. I turned the rack to see more, and the good decals continued.

The next turn got me upset. I could not believe what I was looking at, because I found it very disrespectful. The similarity between the POW★MIA symbol and the sticker below were uncanny, and in my opinion, very distasteful.



I did a little research, including calling the convenience store to find out the name of the manufacturer/distributor was. The clerk was very helpful and went to look on the back of the packaging to let me know that the product is sold by [Lynco Products](#).

Whoever designed this decal did so in bad taste. Likewise, for whoever approved it. Same goes for those who those in production, packaging, and for those who chose to place it in their store. If you look at the packaging, you will see an American flag in the upper left corner, indicating that it is “made in the USA.” How could these two be associated together?

For me, I will not be purchasing any decals from Lynco. Although there are a lot of good ones that I would like to have, the one pictured above prevents me from buying anything. It’s too bad that this was allowed to be produced, and again, in my opinion, as it is a slap in the face to America’s Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. If I want or need a decal, I will find a different supplier.

Shame on you Lynco.

As we prepare for Independence Day, please take time to celebrate responsibly, participate in programs, events, and ceremonies sponsored by your Post Family, and most importantly, remember the brave men who sacrificed for our country’s freedom, and the wise men who created this great nation!

Have fun this week and keep **“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
<https://sites.google.com/vies/teamvrabel/home>

*Serving Those Who Served...
 Full Steam Ahead*
 THE AMERICAN LEGION
 MEDIA ALLIANCE



Who’s next?

**Central Region
 Conference Call**

Third Thursday of each month

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (774) 220-4000

Access Code 04423



**PROUD POSSESSORS
 OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

SAL membership reports are available [here](#)

2021
National Target Date
July 28, 2021

105%
Delegate Strength Target Date



Americanism Commission

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

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

Children & Youth Committee

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

Legislative Commission

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

Membership Committee

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 Commission

Fourth Monday of each month
7:00 p.m. Central Time
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6354565336?pwd=_STBkdULJQlRoQTRndnJPN1hsVktHQTo9
Meeting ID: 635 456 5336
Passcode: 405160
Call In # (646) 876-9923

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

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

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
MAHONING VALLEY SQUADRON 15
PENNE PASTA DINNER
Sunday, July 25, 2021 | 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
American Legion War Memorial Building Post 15 Home
35 Cortland Street | Poland, Ohio

\$12.00 each | TAKE OUT ONLY

Includes penne pasta, meatball, salad, roll, & butter

BASKET RAFFLE & 50/50 RAFFLE

Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead

For tickets or additional information, please call (330) 531-2986



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

Legion departments to a contest throughout July. The premise is pretty simple: all departments are categorized by their population. And the department in each category that raises the most money for the [100 Miles for Hope](#) via Kilter and 100 Miles for Hope merchandise purchases during the month of July is deemed the winner.

Of course, the disabled veterans and military families who receive support from the [Veterans & Children Foundation](#) (V&CF) are the real winners, or beneficiaries. This competition will help ensure that funds are available for our network of 3,000 accredited American Legion service officers who help disabled veterans and their families navigate the challenging VA system to ensure they receive the benefits they've earned through their service. Donations to V&CF also support our Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program. TFA provides grants to military families with young children who have fallen upon financial hard times through no fault of their own.

So how you can help support our nation's disabled veterans military families in need?

There are instructions on [how to join the breakout challenge here](#). Once you are in, you can also [customize and download a special cheer card](#) to show your support for your department. (See [breakout challenge web page](#) for instructions). Share your activity and encourage others to join and/or support your department by posting a photo on social media (use hashtag **#100MilesForHope**) and publish it on our [Legiontown web page](#), www.legiontown.org.



Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

We're all friends and family here. We're all on the same team to support our nation's veterans, military families, and America's youth.



But a little competition never hurt anyone. Right?

That's why I was so pleased to hear that the Department of California is challenging all American



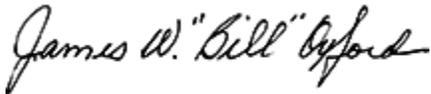
The American Legion Family

During the pandemic, our American Legion Family showed how we move mountains to support our communities in tough circumstances. We don't necessarily have to hike mountains to support departments in the breakout challenge, though we could.

No matter if you walk, hike, ruck, bike, do yoga, garden, ride your motorcycle or do any one of more than 40 other activities, what matters most is that you are participating in the 100 Miles for Hope Breakout Challenge. Our nation's disabled veterans

and struggling military families are counting on all of us.

This is one big way that we in the American Legion Family can continue to show the nation and each other what it means when we say: Veterans Strengthening America.



Bill Oxford, National Commander
The American Legion

American Legion supports White House decision on Afghan visas

The American Legion
JUN 24, 2021

The Biden administration is preparing to relocate approximately 18,000 Afghan interpreters, drivers and others who worked with U.S. forces to other countries in an effort to keep them safe while they apply for visas, according to a report by The New York Times.

It's a solution to a potential crisis that The American Legion strongly advocated for, [as recently as last week](#).

"We made the case; they acted," American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford said. "We applaud the Biden administration for working to provide a safe haven for these Afghan allies who played critical roles in our mission."



Atiqualla Rahin, U.S. Marine Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Johnson and an Afghan contractor walk around the grounds of a new building site for a men's detention facility in Lashkar Gah.

The situation is at a critical juncture now with U.S. troops expected to withdraw from Afghanistan before Sept. 11 after 20 years of war. The American

Legion, bipartisan members of Congress and military officials are concerned that Afghan allies will be targeted in revenge attacks by the Taliban. On Wednesday, administration officials said the Afghans would be moved out of Afghanistan to undetermined third countries to await the processing of their visa requests to the United States.

During a June 16 news conference held by The American Legion, National Security Commission Chairman Steve Brennan was joined by U.S. Reps. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., and Jason Crow, D-Colo. Both representatives are combat veterans of the war in Afghanistan and demanded the White House "green light" immediate evacuation of all Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants.

"The current SIV process will not work, as it takes an average of 800-plus days, and we have less than 100," Brennan said at the news conference. "The American Legion strongly encourages the U.S. government to prioritize the protection of our allies and their families by creating and implementing an immediate plan to extract these heroes. Not honoring our promises creates an enormous national security risk in the future because other countries will be unwilling to help us."

National Convention Update

All,

See the message below about the latest updates to the convention. Also, view the attachments and have your delegates sign them ahead of time before attending the convention. It is the detachment adjutant's responsibility to produce a copy of the waiver for their delegates upon demand. This can be hard copies or electronically. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Ken A. George,
Member Engagement Coordinator
National SAL & ALR Liaison
NALC Alumni – Class of 2016
Phone 317.630.1376 | Fax 317.630.1413
www.legion.org
www.legion.org/sons
www.legion.org/riders

Great news to share regarding some relaxed measures in Phoenix and the Phoenix Convention Center for our National Convention. These are the updates regarding the relaxed COVID-19 measures:

1. Our convention is open now to all, not a private event. Invite your neighbor, your family, etc. Everyone can attend now. Just like



in the past. When you complete your DAG (Delegate, Alternate, Guest) Form, if an attendee is a Guest, that is perfectly fine. Same procedure as past conventions when completing the DAG form (will be sent by Wednesday morning).

2. Waiver is still needed for anyone to attend. An attendee will return said waiver to you (Dept Adj). If the attendee is a Guest, on the Waiver where it asks for Membership Number, simply mark N/A now.

3. Everyone still must Pre-Register with their Department.

4. There will not be on-site walk-in registration. This really is only applicable to the Host Department each year.

5. While there is now no Physical Distancing required in leased spaces, we still have to be cognizant and observe Physical Distancing in all common areas of the Phoenix Convention Center: hallways, foyers, food court, etc., that is not leased space to The American Legion.

6. No capacity limits in meeting rooms or larger general session rooms or in exhibit hall. The current assigned space and size of these rooms will remain in order for all to be comfortable and at ease to allow one to physical distance if they so desire.

However, for the National Commander's Banquet, at this time, we want to be ensured by the Center that the workforce/labor will be in full operation to service an increase in attendance. There is a labor shortage across the country, especially in the hospitality industry currently. PCC's workforce is not at 100% yet. We will make a determination whether to increase the size of the banquet by the end of July. This will provide us and the PCC ample time on whether they can serve twice as many people in an allotted timeframe. While relaxed Physical Distancing measures may allow for increased attendance to the banquet, it is our duty to ensure the PCC can facilitate a memorable experience while serving all expeditiously and still uphold the quality of standard. We, and the

PCC, do not want to over promise and under delivery.

7. Face Covering/Mask: For all FULLY vaccinated people- do not have to wear a face covering/mask. Will be on the honor system, just like currently is with some retail stores, hotels, etc. (Airlines still require face covering/mask as well as other transportation sources)

8. There will be no on-site temperature checks or health screenings now at the PCC. It is still the responsibility of the attendee to adhere to the waiver agreement and protocols. E.g., If you have a fever, stay home; if you contract COVID-19 two weeks prior to your convention departure, stay home, etc.

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____

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

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

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

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

Birth Date _____ Date _____

Telephone _____

State _____ Zip _____

City _____

Street _____

Initial _____ Last _____

Recruited by _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.

Signed _____ (By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by _____ (Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2013)

RECEIPT

Date _____

Received of _____

For God and Country

\$ _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in

Squadron _____, Detachment of _____

By _____

**2021 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
COVID-19 STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING and AGREEMENT**

The American Legion focuses on creating a safe national convention experience for all who travel to Phoenix, Arizona for the 102nd American Legion National Convention (“Convention”). As part of that effort, the following is agreed and understood:

1. I have not knowingly been exposed, nor tested positive, to COVID-19 within the past 14 days. To my knowledge I have not experienced the onset of any primary COVID-19 symptoms within the past 14 days, including: a fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher, a new persistent cough, a shortness of breath or any new breathing difficulties.
2. For everyone’s safety, I will wear a face covering/mask at all times inside any Convention venue unless actively eating or drinking. My face covering/mask will be clean, free from stains, dampness, or being soiled.
3. For everyone’s safety, I understand that physical distancing of six feet will be observed at all times in all Convention venues and that no handshaking, touching or hugging is permitted; however, alternatives I can do, but are not limited to, include saluting, hat tipping, elbow bumping and/ waving.
4. If I contract COVID-19, and/or experience any COVID-19 symptoms and/or becomes ill while attending the Convention in Phoenix, Arizona during the Convention dates, I release from liability and indemnify the City of Phoenix, the Phoenix Convention Center, The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Membership Number:

Signature:

Date Signed:



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