

# The Oregon Legionnaire

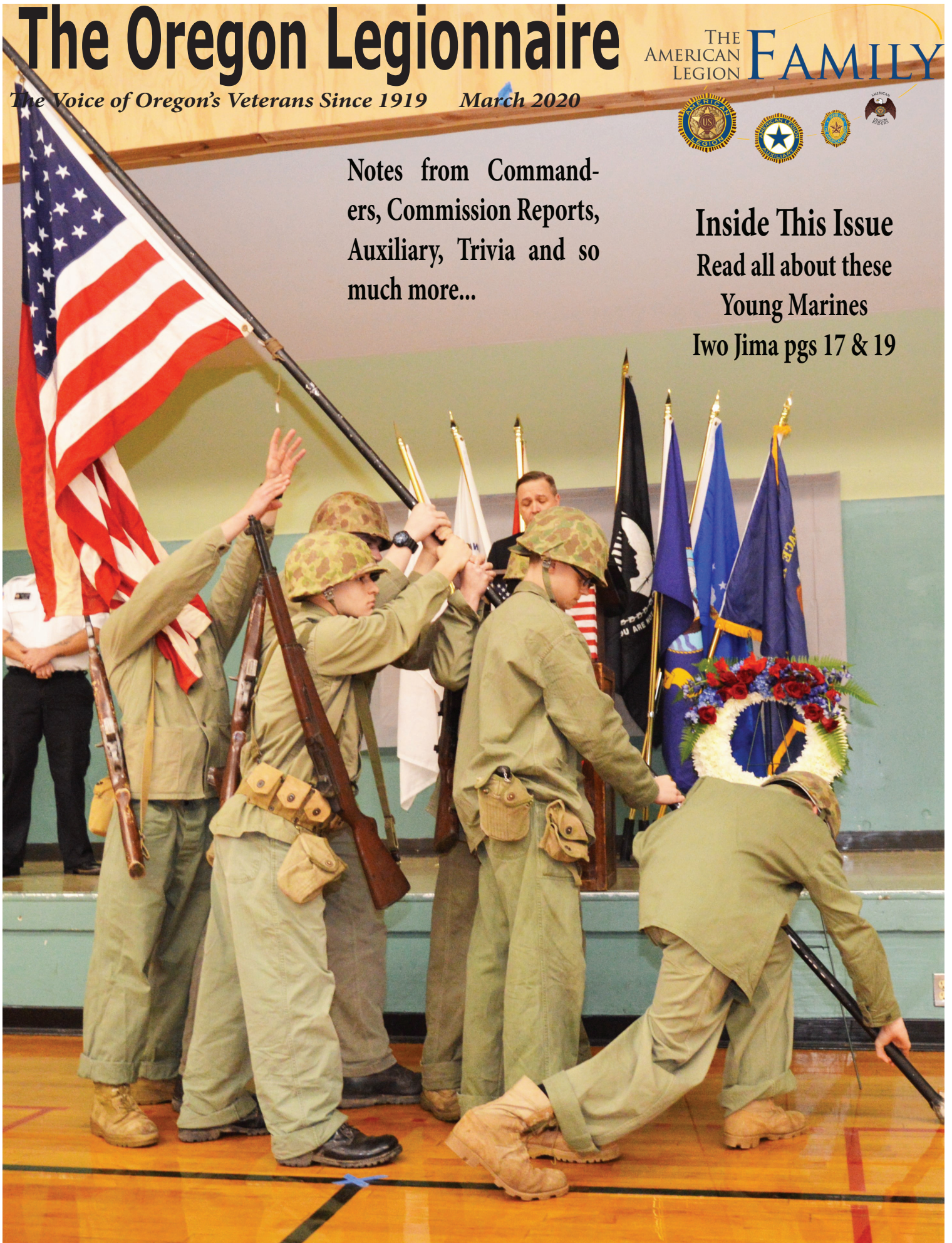
*The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919*    *March 2020*

THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION **FAMILY**



Notes from Commanders,  
Commission Reports,  
Auxiliary, Trivia and so  
much more...

Inside This Issue  
Read all about these  
Young Marines  
Iwo Jima pgs 17 & 19







**P Det C, Marc Chaney**  
**Squadron 180 Commander**  
14th.

Squadron 180 is proud to host the American Legion 101st Birthday Dinner that is a District 8 Fundraiser at Milwaukie Post 180 on March

We will be serving Chicken Fried Steak Dinner with all the trimmings for \$10. The special guest speaker will be Past National Commander Charlie Schmidt.

We would like to invite everyone to come celebrate The American Legion Birthday.

You may purchase your Dinner Ticket at Post 180 OR you can RSVP by E-Mailing Chaney.marc@gmail.com

*See page 7*

### Department Officers

Commander	Steve Adams
Imed. Past Cmdr	Tom Harris
1st Vice Cmdr	Don Weber
2nd Vice Cmdr	Larry Wittmayer
Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
NECman	Andy Millar
Alt NECman	Jim Willis
Finance Officer	Bob Huff
Chaplain	Floyd Bacon
Historian	Judith Johnston
Judge Advocate	Gerald Shorey
Service Officer	Ed Van Dyke
Veterans Service Officer	Jody Marsh
Sgt-At-Arms	Phyllis York
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Mike Morris
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Ward Allen
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Steven Mays
Aide to Cmdr	Larry Williams
Aide to Cmdr	William "Bud" Stutheit



**LARRY WITTMAYER**  
**DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER**  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

This chair will report on both activities.

Membership status find's us at 32nd place as of this date.

I recently attended a district 1 revitalization in astoria. It was very well done. Approximately 50 transfers.

In the next few months we need to direct our emphasis on finishing our post renewals while still working the DMS/114 lists

The latest goal date is February and at present we are at 81% Towards that goal.

I recently had the opportunity to visit a DEC with the Department of Hawaii. I was welcomed with their great aloha spirit by the Dept Commander Fran Riddell, Adjutant Pete Provinceo and DEC.

Keep up the good membership work.



Larry's trip to Hawaii, drops in on a meeting with the Department of Hawaii:  
Dept Of Hawaii Commander Fran Riddell and Dept Adjutant Pete Provinceo with me at Dept of Hawaii DEC on Feb 1st



**PDC, BOB HUFF**  
**DEPARTMENT FINANCE**

First, Tax Time, yes if your Post has a Tax Filing Period of January 1 through December 31, it is time to put your financial records together to file taxes which are due for a 990, 990EZ or 990N by May 15, 2020. There are no exceptions. We, Department our Posts, are under the National Umbrella and are under Group Exemption Number 0925, which is our 501 © 19. This tax reporting year, there have been some changes. If you file on IRS Form 990, you must file electronically. If you file on IRS Form 99ez, you can still file on a paper copy. IRS Form 990N epostcard is always electronic. 990N filers, if you look up your EIN on Melissa and your income is under \$50,000 a year and you file a 990N, it will indicate that you do not need to file. You do need to file, and you need to file and report that you did not have income over \$50,000 and that you are still active, you have not terminated your EIN and closed. Remember **NO EXCEPTIONS**. The IRS sends warning/reminder letters to those who have not filed. Do not ignore or throw the letter away. If you are a 990N filer and you receive a warning letter, file late, there is no fine. If you continue and do not file for three years, then you receive a letter from the IRS canceling your EIN- number and with some other instructions. All the IRS letters are not the same, and you must read them, follow the instructions.

**REMEMBER:** Every Post is a separate corporation; it is a business, you operate under Corporate Laws of Oregon, your Post Executive Committee has fiduciary responsibility for the

Continued on Page 3

funds of your Post. Operate it as a business. Your Finance Officer, who could be Finance Officer/Adjutant or Commander/Adjutant/Finance Officer, whoever is in charge of your Posts Finances has responsibilities for your Post Funds and fiduciary responsibility for those funds. Read your Posts Constitution and By-Laws and what the responsibilities are and as a member, ask the questions if you do not understand. Do not wait until you receive an IRS Warning letter before you ask questions if you do not understand. Ask questions and training is available.

The Department has a new approved Tax Reporting Year, which has been changed from August 1 to July 31 to October 1 to September 30 each year. We will now be generating a "Short Year" tax document for August 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019, for The Department of Oregon and The Oregon American Legion Foundation which will count as one tax reporting document often required for each to support the change in Tax Reporting Year.

Remember, you will be holding your Post and District Elections. Remember to vote for your Post and Districts Delegates. Post Delegates Forms must be completed and sent to the Department at \$15, for each Post Delegate authorized. Even if you do not have enough Post Delegates, you are required to send in the \$15. For each Delegate authorized for your Post. The Department Adjutant will be sending out the required Post Delegates for each Post by Post population. All Delegates attending the Department Convention must have their Post Delegate Forms with their Adjutant certification sent to Department 45 days before the Department Convention. Send District Delegates Forms to Department after the election at your District Meetings. These are the Delegates attending the National Convention.

## Calendar of Events

### March

07 District 1 Mtg  
08-11 Washington Conf.  
11-13 Dept Service Officer  
School Wash. DC  
28 District 7 Mtg

### April

10 Good Friday  
11 District 6 Mtg  
12 Easter Sunday  
12 District 2 Caucus Mtg  
18 District 9 Mtg  
18 District 4 Caucus Mtg  
21 District 8 Mtg

### May

02 District 1 Caucus  
02 District 5 Caucus  
09 District 3 Caucus  
16 District 6 & 10 Caucus  
19 District 8 Caucus  
23 District 7 Caucus  
25 Memorial Day (Closed)  
National Closed



(R-L):

Dan Burks, District 10 Commander;  
Jim Jerome, District 10  
1st Vice-Commander;  
Robert Hornbeck,  
Post 63 Vice-Commander;  
David Allen,  
District 10 Vice-Commander.  
Not pictured is  
Charles Schmidt, Post 63 Adjutant.

## Deadline

for the April issue  
of the  
Oregon Legionnaire  
is March 5th, 2020



In 1920, many Posts used this activity to raise funds.

- A. Auctions
- B. Smokers
- C. Bingo
- D. Timber Festivals



DAN BURKS  
DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

Members of District 10 traveled over snowy mountain passes to join Grant County veterans for coffee on February 5.

Sponsored by the County Veteran Service Office, the morning was full of camaraderie; meeting old friends and making new ones. Plenty of hot coffee, irresistible donuts and a lot of stories were shared among the 34 veterans in attendance. Posts from Ontario, Prairie City, John Day, Harney County were represented. The comradery was great! Pictured are

Legionnaire Insurance  
Trust







CORY BROCKMANN  
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

The month of March can easily, and quickly, become a tad harried! You're busy at home getting your income taxes prepared; maybe you've scheduled a fundraiser for Boys/Girls State or your Legion baseball team; you are helping with the post's awards committee to recognize your post's efforts for the year; or, perhaps, planning is already underway for an Armed Forces Day or Memorial Day event. It is easy to become a bit overextended; we have all been there. And, then, it strikes you – did we complete and submit our post's Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service? Sound familiar? Yes, it does.

Department Finance Officer PDC Bob Huff wrote a very good article in the February 2020 edition of Oregon Legionnaire **concerning post-tax filing requirements** and the consequences that come with not getting it completed. If you haven't already done so, please give that article a read; it can be accessed online at <https://www.orlegion.org/uploads/3/0/8/9/30895417/2-revised-february-2020-legionnaire.pdf>.

It is very easy to get busy and overlook – or over-book – your calendar. Please don't let this matter pass, get it on your calendar, and work with your post finance officer and finance committee to get your post's taxes completed and submitted.

**DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTEST** – The 2020 District Oratorical Champion is Anwasha Mukherjee, sponsored by John Kalmbach #90. Congratulations to Miss Mukherjee, and John Kalmbach #90 for their sup-

portive efforts. While we anticipated three contestants at the district-level competition, two withdrew, unfortunately, at a very late juncture. We wish Anwasha the very best at the Department Oratorical Contest! And, we thank Hillsboro #6 for hosting this year's contest.

**DISTRICT DUES** – At this time, 12 of 15 posts have submitted their post's district dues assessment to District Finance Officer Jim Craigg. Thank you for getting those sent in; and, we look forward to receiving the final three before or at our district meeting on March 7th.

**LEGION BASEBALL** – Registration for the 2020 season is now underway! We have a few posts in District 1 that have American Legion baseball teams and it would be nice to see that number grow. More details on American Legion baseball may be found online at <https://www.legion.org/baseball>, as well as at the Oregon Legion Baseball page at <https://www.oregonlegion-baseball.org/>. POC: Mike Sowles, chairman, Oregon American Legion Baseball Committee, Phone: 503-769-4599.

**THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION (TOALF)** – An exciting fundraising raffle is underway to further growth opportunities of support for our youth and veteran programs. Thank you to those posts – and members – which have already purchased tickets and have taken more to sell.

Being raffled is a smaller framed print of 'Legacy and Vision,' which includes a 2019 commemorative American Legion silver dollar. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five and we only have 100 to sell.

If your post hasn't been contacted yet about the raffle, or you would like additional tickets, please contact Vice Commander John Staub. POC: District Vice Commander John Staub, [johnstaub541@yahoo.com](mailto:johnstaub541@yahoo.com)

**MEMBERSHIP** – The 90% target date is March 11th. . We've made good progress, but we're not quite there yet. Keep up the good work! Please continue your outreach to those past members on your Un-renewed roster to get members renewed! And, thank you for your continued efforts in getting transmittals submitted timely! POC: PDC Tom Harris, district membership chair.

**FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR** – Congratulations to John Kalmbach #90 for their national security program efforts as Julie Kemper, Banks Fire District #13, has been selected as the Department of Oregon's Firefighter of the Year award winner. Department forwarded her application to The American Legion National Security Commission for consideration as the Western Regional Firefighter of the Year. Lastly, I commend each one of you. There is not enough space to give credit for all that you do in your posts and communities. Your exceptional efforts in caring for your veterans are dearly appreciated – for each other – and the communities in which you live. Keep up the great work; it's what we do!

## DISTRICT 1 MEETING SCHEDULE

7-Mar-2020	Clatsop #12, Astoria
2-May-2020	Aloha #104, Aloha (meeting and caucus)







DAVID APPLEGATE  
DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

The District held its Winter Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, January 18th. Post 28 in Grants Pass hosted the meeting and provided a fabulous

lunch. A quorum of officers from the Posts attended. Legion items presented at the Winter Department Executive Committee meeting were passed on to the District members.

Post 8, Kamath Falls; Post Commander Jim Whitlock: Hosted a 40/8 Cheminot on October 25th-27th for including a Halloween Party. Gifts were given for best costume. In November, accepted a flag retirement box from local Boy Scout Troop 71. This box is displayed in our Post. Members placed American and POW-MIA flags on Downtown Main Street, prepared a free breakfast and lunch for veterans, families, homeless and the general public on Veterans Day. They served a free dinner to all paid-up members including the Ladies Auxiliary and the SAL on November 17th, they participated in our local "Chocolate Walk" event. Participants stopping at businesses received a free piece of chocolate. Every Thursday evening the Post hosts local singing artists who come to the Post to sing for the patrons. We call it "Throw-down Thursdays". We participated in "Shop with a Cop" which gives kids an opportunity to shop with a cop for Christmas presents. We also hosted a free Thanksgiving Dinner for approximately 100 persons. In December, we hosted a Tom and Jerry Party on the 7th. Lastly, we participated all month in providing "Toys for Tots".

Post 14, Ashland; Post Commander Jean Dooms: : On November 11th, we

held our annual Veterans Day Pancake breakfast. It was held at the Pioneer Hall and was a great success. A Bake Sale was held in conjunction with the Breakfast and was also a success. In December, no meetings were held to allow members more time to spend with their families. The January meeting was not held due to a lack of a quorum.

Post 15, Medford; Post Adjutant Tom Fitzgerald. This Post is now a community service Post since the Bar Post has ceased to exist. This transition is still a project in progress. However, the members continue to support the Veterans, Youth programs and Sports in the Medford community. Medford has the Mustangs baseball team which includes Legion Baseball. The Post continues to support the Jr. Shooting Sports Program led by Raul Salem, a Post member. The Veterans Day celebration on November 11th was quite a busy day for the Post. Several members gave presentations to various Retirement Homes in the Medford area before providing support at the Eagle Point Veterans Day parade and recognition. The 14th of December found more members braving the cold at Eagle Point National Cemetery Wreaths Across America laying wreaths, standing in the Flag line and photographing the solemn event.

Post 28, Grants Pass; Post Commander John David: Membership paid to date: 224/291. Our Uniform Display is continuing to build. They recently received a complete Marine khaki uniform, a Navy Chief khaki uniform and a WWII Army wool uniform. We are making progress and continue to ask for more uniform items. Four members have past on to Post Everlasting in 2019-2020. Our chartered Boy Scout Troop 23 continues to meet at the Post every Wednesday. The Troop held a family night on January 8th at the Post and had a good turnout. Two groups of members have established Saturday Colle-

ge Football at the Post and Wednesday, Domino Challenge. The Ladies Yarn Social meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. The Elks continue to meet at the Post on the 3rd Thursdays of the month. In November the Post held a Veterans Day open house with refreshments and a free turkey dinner for vets and their families. In December the Post held Christmas and New Years events. In January the Post hoisted the Winter District Executive Committee meeting.

Post 50, Williams; Post Commander Tim Sakrait: On December 19th, the Post held its first Christmas Party Dinner. Twenty members with wives attended along with guests from the community for a total of 30 participants. It was a great success. The Post has made the 100% membership goal for the year and is at 105.88%. This was made possible by our members helping to recruit new members. On recruiting a new member, they receive a nice belt buckle. This is the second year in a row of making our membership goal. Rick Vetter, who is one of our members and is the new Williams Fire Chief, has developed a new program called "Heroes in the Classroom". It's a program where veterans, police and firemen volunteer short periods of time in a grammar school classroom. During the period, they may lecture, read to the children or just assist the teacher. The idea is to expose the children to people in these careers. He has had great reviews from initial trials in a local school. Oregon Senator Merkley was so impressed with the program that on January 3rd, after Rick had outlined his program to the audience at out local community college, he presented Rick with a flag that was flown over the US Capital. Six other members of the Post were in attendance in uniform.

Post 70, Cave Junction; Post Commander Bob Soria: The Post held their

*Continued on page 6*



# Editors Notes

**Reprinting with Permission Only!**

Articles submitted to The Oregon Legionnaire that are copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original author or publication before they can be included here. No exceptions. Violation of copy right law is a serious matter that we cannot afford to engage ourselves in. Verbal permission is not acceptable.



**Since 1919**  
**The Voices of Oregon Veterans**  
**The Oregon Legionnaire**

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The Oregon Legionnaire assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit submissions

## **The Oregon Legionnaire Committee**

Editor	S. Flynn Phillips
Publisher	S. Flynn Phillips
Chairman	Lou Neubecker
Members	Daniel Burks
	David Applegate
	Mick Wilson

[orlegionnaire@gmail.com](mailto:orlegionnaire@gmail.com)

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December meeting followed by a Christmas Party. Membership stands at 29 with one new member transferring in and another may be signing up by the next meeting. A member of my old Post called to see if I could help a woman whose veteran brother had passed away in Medford. I was able to get her to the right people to provide cremation, burial and military services. Commander Applegate and I met at the Post to inspect the premises to list needed repairs and then discussed membership activities.

Post 84, Malin; Post Commander Steve McKinley: Looks like a snow day for us...haven't moved the truck in two days. Members attended a funeral last Saturday at 10:00 with a memorial at 12:00. Our Vice Commander has a position at the Klamath Community College as an instructor for the EMT/EMS class labs on Saturdays. Our Adjutant will be attending the VFW District 5 meeting. We need a time warp machine to make it everywhere.

Post 129, Central Point; Post Commander & Adjutant Phil Cardinal: Working on acquiring new members. They have a member at Crater High School working on Boys and Girls State. Members attended a preliminary meeting with Baseball planning for next summer. We are working on our Flag Day Ceremony.

Post 192, Camp White; Post Commander Bob Huff: Post membership: processed 6 more members on mylegion.org. Sent in two Post 114 trans-

fers to Dept. with paid 2020 dues. Both of these new members came into our office at the VA with their DD214's and signed transfer forms. Both want to be active members. This Post is a community partner with VA SORCC and run the Veteran Town Hall meetings in our catchment area along with holiday activities. The Post is a participant and member of Var Net, coordinating and participating in Veterans Stand Downs, Employment and Benefits event at Josephine County Fair Grounds on Friday, March 20th. Post 192 Commander was a judge for the local High School 11th grade future employment speeches, and partners with the school for youth programs and HS awards program. The Post participates in the quarterly funeral honors an Eagle Point National Cemetery for honors for those veterans without families. The Post was the organizer and participant in the Veterans Day Parade an event in Eagle Point. The Post is putting out a News Letter for its members and will send to other Posts in our District electronically and paper copies of upcoming events. Lastly, two members are working on a Spam festival event for Post participation.



## **Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan**



Endorsed By  
Your American Legion  
Department

**LEARN MORE**

Money to help pay YOUR  
portion of hospital bills or  
you can use your cash  
benefits however you see fit!



# Veteran Job Fair

Thursday, March 5

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Portland

1000 NE Multnomah St.

Veterans with non-competitive hiring eligibilities, such as 30% or more disable veteran or Veteran Recruitment Appointment (VRA), are encouraged to attend:

- Visit [fedshirevets.gov](http://fedshirevets.gov) for more information on non-competitive veteran hiring authorities
- Bring a current resume, DD-214 member 4 copy and disability rating letter (if applicable)
- Be prepared to meet with hiring managers
- Positions available include: Management Associates, IT Specialists, Public Utilities Specialists, Management and Program Analysts, and many more

Sponsored by:



## 2020 OREGON WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

*Stronger Together*

MAY 30-31, 2020  
RIVERHOUSE ON THE DESCHUTES | BEND, OREGON

**FREE AND OPEN TO ALL WOMEN VETERANS**  
REGISTER NOW - [WWW.WVC.OREGONDVA.COM](http://WWW.WVC.OREGONDVA.COM)



## District 8 Fundraising Dinner

Join us to celebrate  
**The American Legion 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday**  
With Guest Speaker  
Past National Commander  
**Charlie Schmidt!**

**Saturday**  
**March 14th**  
**5:30PM**

**\$10**

CHICKEN FRIED STEAK,  
MASHED POTATOES, VEGETABLES,  
SALAD, DESSERT



2146 SE MONROE ST  
MILWAUKIE OR 97222



### 2020 RAFFLE



*Proudly Celebrating and Supporting Oregon's Veterans, Military, Families and Communities!*

#### Limited Edition

A framed and matted print of The American Legion's 'Legacy & Vision' Centennial print with the Centennial Commemorative silver dollar coin!

*Certificate of Authenticity is included!*

All proceeds support veterans and youth programs.



(Not to scale - approx. 10" x 13")

**Tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20**

Contacts: District Commanders and Department Adjutant

The Oregon American Legion Foundation





**PNC, PDC CHARLIE SCHMIDT  
PR CHAIRMAN**

fast approaching. Thought you might find the following press release interesting of the National Commander's thought on membership.

**News Service from National Public Relations Division...The American Legion (1925)**

**Chat with Legionnaires - By JAMES A. DRAIN, National Commander.**

I got to thinking recently what becomes of the Legionnaire who moves away from his community and his post to become identified in another city. The post which he leaves may retain certain of his sentimental thoughts, but hardly any of his constructive participation. Perhaps he loses interest in the Legion; fails to identify himself with a post in his new home, and drops out of sight, speaking from a Legion viewpoint. If this happens—I know it does happen—it seems to me that some action should be taken to retain such men

Fellow Legionnaires:

As we head into the latter part of 2019-2020 American Legion membership year, the March 11th target date with a goal of 90% is

*in the Legion. Because they move out of the city does not mean they should be lost to the Legion. With 11,000 posts now functioning there is hardly a city or town of any considerable size that does not have at least one post. It is comparatively simple to keep such needed men in the Legion. Scarcely any man pulls up his roots to move without notifying his friends. In so doing his Legionnaire friends are bound to hear of his impending departure. The post adjutant should be informed, and he should immediately find out the name of the Legion post in the community where his member is moving. A card of transfer can be prepared. At once, two very important things are done. The Legionnaire's interest in his organization is kept. More, important still, the card of transfer is a sort of letter of introduction to his new location, will bring him greetings where perhaps he expected none, make him like the Legion's fraternal spirit because of his welcome, and turn a potential loss into a renewed asset. Hundreds of members may be lost annually because of Legionnaires moving. Let us stop this loss by doing the kindly deed of transferring the man to a post in his new location. He will respond to the spirit, and we shall keep him in our midst.*

*For God and Country,*



**LARRY WITTMAYER  
SCOUTING CHAIR**

The Scouting Committee continues to encourage Posts to sponsor and charter new scouting units

Please look on the National Website for the Eagle Scout of the year applications.

<https://www.legion.org/scouting/nominate>

<https://www.legion.org/publications/247660/2020-eagle-scout-year-nomination-form>

***They need to be submitted to  
Department No later than 1 March.***



**CORY BROCKMANN  
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER**

events since the beginning of the year. One coastal, which supported the seven Pacific Coast and Columbia River posts, and one inland, supporting the eight eastern posts of the district.

From these two events combined, we added 49 members to the rolls of 11 of our 15 District 1 posts as of this writing. Those new memberships resulted from transfers from Post #114/DMS lists, “re-joins” from expired memberships, and, from 2019, active-membership renewals from the Un-renewed rosters for posts. By committing just a few hours to about a half-day of work made for very successful events, for both the posts and the veterans finding a new post home.

I offer my thanks to everyone that participated in making an effort a success – a Legion Family success – as it included members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion participating at both events. Volunteers on-site at each location helped by making phone calls and providing support and sustenance. And those that didn't attend the events are now providing their assistance in making follow-up phone calls in welcoming the members to their new home post.

Special thanks to PDC Tom Harris, District 1 membership committee chairman, and District Vice Commander John Staub, both leaders with boots-on-the-ground in our district membership activities. Our gratitude to Post leadership at Clatsop #12 in

*Continued on page 9*



Continued from page 8

Astoria, Commander Dan Reed, and Adjutant Mike Phillips, and at Aloha #104 in Aloha,

Commander Mike Graves and 1st Vice Commander Randall Butler, for committing availability at their respective posts for these events. And, lastly, to Department 2nd Vice Larry Wittmayer, and his membership committee and supporters, who worked in developing the #114/DMS lists for the two events. Truly, a team effort!



Adam Gettman, Randall Butler and Ron Scarper Aloha Post #104



Adam Gettman and Randall Butler



Jim Craigg and Mike Standing Forest Grove Post #2



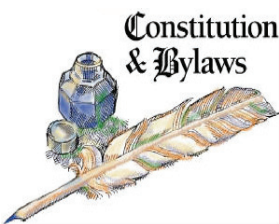
Jim Craigg, Mike Standing and Cory Brockmann Dist 1 Commander



John Staub Aloha Post #104



PDC, Tom Harris Tigard Post #158



LOU NEUBECKER  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

**Constitution & Bylaws**  
Good Morning,  
As you know we have several Post that we are helping with. Just a reminder every January each Post needs to look at their Constitution and By-Laws and ensure they are up to date. They need to be sign by the Post Commander and Adjutant, then a copy sent to Department to input into your Post file. ***This is a yearly requirement.***

#### Need to Know Dates

Boys State – June 14-20, 2020

Girls State – June 14-20, 2020

State Convention  
June 24-28, 2020



JACK LaBox  
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

First, I want to apologize for not writing anything for the last two issues, but my feeble mind makes me forget the

deadline.

I received a few talking points from National. Here are some of the important ones:

- Service members will get 3.1% pay raise, the largest since 2010.
- Next, expand agent orange benefits.

President Trump signed the Bluewater Navy act into law. This gives navy personnel the agent orange benefits they deserve.

- Toxic exposure related to burn pits legislation is still a work in progress.

For more information, go to the Legion National web site, or you may Contact me at: [vietvet74@outlook.com](mailto:vietvet74@outlook.com)



Good Morning,

There is not much to report on our Media committee.

LOU NEUBECKER  
MEDIA CHAIRPERSON  
LEGIONNAIRE

We hope you are enjoying the Daily Clips the

Department Adjutant sends out every morning. Please share those with your members that do not have computer.





GREG MARVIN  
NATIONAL SECURITY  
CHAIRPERSON

The National Security Commission is one of the 4 Pillars The American Legion was founded on. The American Legion's commitment to strong national security dates back to the organization's founding in August 1919 as the Legion was still establishing its identity and chartering its first posts, its national headquarters began soliciting service members and veterans "conversant on military affairs...to discuss the future military policy of the U.S." Legionnaires, perhaps by virtue of their world travels in uniform, also spoke up and took positions on foreign issues. The Legion's commitment to this pillars interest of the organization began to take shape in 1920 when two committees-Military Affairs and Aeronautics-were consolidated into one National Security Committee. That committee grew to its present-day form as a full commission, by action of the National Executive Commission in 1947 and the 1948 Convention. The arrival of The American Legion's National Security Commission coincided with the creation of Department of Defense and the departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The commission's purpose has always centered on a well-funded and resourced military quality of life for those in service, and adequate benefits for military retirees. The commission also addresses issues related to border security, disaster control, support for the National Guard and reserve components, and other protections veterans wish to ensure for the greater public.

## National Security

- Lobbied persistently for a better-funded and more efficient national system of defense
- Called for the establishment of a separate service branch for aeronautics as early as 1919, which helped give birth to the U.S. Air Force in 1947
- Pushed Congress for "universal military training" for decades, culminating in the Reserve Forces Act of 1955
- Conducted thousands of troop support programs, including deployment ceremonies, welcome-home events and provision of needed items in theater
- Established and staffed thousands of local first response units and civil patrols during World War II
- Provided financial and volunteer aid for military parents through American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance and Family Support Network programs established during the Gulf War
- Began The American Legion Blood Donor Program in 1942, and became the largest organizational blood donor to the Red Cross in the nation
- Re-established the Blue Star Banner program to recognize military families with deployed loved ones after 9/11
- Launched a program to provide comfort items for U.S. military personnel recovering from wounds in DoD hospitals or transition units, ultimately named Operation Comfort Warriors in 2008; has distributed millions of dollars of goods, games, books, recreational equipment and event passes for troops and their families
- Provided emergency grants for members of the U.S. Coast Guard who had pay delays due to the January 2019 federal government shut-down
- Fought to protect military retirement benefits and TRICARE insurance
- Stood as a national leader in the

recovery and repatriation of all U.S. POWs and MIAs

- Passed and reaffirmed national resolutions, beginning in 2005, supporting the troops and their mission in the global war on terrorism

The source of this information came from the American Legion Extension Institute Basic Training Course and The American Legion pamphlet "A BRIEF HISTORY"



PDC JIM WILLIS  
PR COMMITTEE

**Public Relations**  
*Are you getting your message out?*

Public relations are defined as "the professional maintenance of a favorable public image by a company or other organization or a famous person."

If your American Legion Post has been in your community for many years and you introduce yourself to a long-time resident as a member of the Legion and they say, "What's the American Legion?" then you and your fellow members have some work to do.

Make sure you talk to the local media about the Oratorical contest, Boys and Girls State, Legion baseball, and a host of other youth programs.

This means you must be known in your schools. Set up qualified member to speak before the School Board.

Try to get on the agenda for the local Rotary, Lions and other service clubs. Your community service clubs are a great source for getting the Legions message out to the community. You may also be able to recruit a new member or two from groups like these.

*Continued on page 11*

Continued from page 10

When your Post participate in a noteworthy event, write a letter to the editor and talk about the success of your local Legion post. All it costs is a little of your time and a stamp for your envelope. The return on this modest investment could be a positive impact on you Post for months and even years to come.

Public relations within an American Legion Post is everybody business. Split up the responsibilities and you will find this will make easy work of maintaining a positive image within your community.



**PDC, BOB HUFF** is not without lessness. Oregon **VEEH CHAIRPERSON** is not without employment. Veterans have excellent assistance finding employment; there is an excess of jobs, Federal, State, County, and the private sector. Veterans are in demand. We have partnered with DVOPS in several areas that can assist Veterans, and these are located at Oregon Work source offices. We can help you contact a source. We continue to have multiple Veterans Stand Downs in Oregon; the communities and Posts have become active; most are also Veterans Employment and Benefits events. We have had employers seeking Veterans to contact us for our next supported

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission's task is with Veterans Employment, Education, and Home-

lessness. Oregon Veterans Employment and Benefits event at Josephine County Fair-Grounds on Friday, March 20, 2020. Our Posts, our Legion Family, have been supporting as community events. Stand Downs are important; with our Oregon National Guard deployed, our biggest deployment, our Posts need to participate with their local National Guard units and their families during this deployment. There are several Vet-Nets established in our communities to assist our deployed Guard families, some of our Posts are participating, all our Posts need to participate. We have programs that can support this deployment and the families of our Guard. We are meeting on holding additional Employment, Education and Benefits events at the Yellow Ribbons when our Soldiers return from Deployment. We have also started meetings in some areas for play-day activities with our partners for the returning soldiers and their families. These events are an opportunity for our Legion Family to be in the community and show our National Guard units and families our programs and the good work we do.

Reminder: The 2020 Oregon Women Veterans Conference (OWVC) is held every two years and is on May 30-31, 2020, at the Riverside Convention Center in Bend, which we sponsor, and support and we will be there. Registration is now open at [www.wvc.oregondva.com](http://www.wvc.oregondva.com). The OWVC is an excellent event, well attended. Please get the word out to all Women Veterans.

Reminder, again, and again, we are having our largest deployment in Oregon, which started in October. There will be Yellow Ribbon events for the families during the deployment starting in May and then when our Soldiers return. We are meeting now on the family Yellow Ribbons which are

Continued on Page 12



Answer:

B. Smokers

## Are you moving?

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Update My Address in [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PhoneNumber: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Email to: [Office@orlegion.org](mailto:Office@orlegion.org)

Or Mail to: The Department of Oregon

Attn: Adjutant

P.O. Box 1730

Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730



Continued from page 11

in the planning stages for dates and locations. Yellow Ribbon events are a great opportunity for our Posts and Districts to meet the soldiers and their families during deployment and on their return from deployment and show our programs and the positive impact we have on Veterans issues and our communities and supporting their families. We are working with local units for the return of our soldiers and holding Employment, Benefits and Education events as part of a Yellow Ribbon. Those talks have been positive.

Congratulations,

**BILL MEGNIN**

**YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER**

**ORATORICAL AND JUNIOR**

**SHOOTING SPORTS**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**700 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA**

**STREET**

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204**

**[WMEGNIN@LEGION.ORG](mailto:WMEGNIN@LEGION.ORG)**

This message is to recognize that Lebanon High School JROTC received the highest score in the Sporter discipline for the State of Oregon and is considered the Team State Champion in The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Postal Tournament.

This is to notify you that the recognition for this team is being sent to The American Legion Post 51 that your club affiliated with for this tournament. Please make arrangements with your affiliated post to find a time in the coming days so that Lebanon High School JROTC can be recognized for this achievement.

Again, our congratulations to Lebanon High School JROTC on this achievement!

Loren "Bud" Sperry (WA)

National Chairman, American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Chairman



**PNC,PDC CHARLIE SCHMIDT**  
**PR CHAIRMAN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 4/10/59  
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) The rifle team of American Legion Post 30 at Gresham, Ore., has won the Paul V. McNutt Marksmanship Trophy for 1959 with a score of 1,433 out of a possible 1,500. Top individual honors in the Legion's nationwide postal match went to Howard Loring, a member of the team sponsored by Major David McKelvey Post 254 at Honesdale, Pa. Loring registered 293 out of a possible 300. Gale Stockton and Les. St. Clair, both of the winning Gresham (Ore.) team, shot 289's for second and third place respectively in individual scoring. Second team honors went to Emmett Ryan Post 36 at Valier, Mont., with a total score of 1,401. The first place Gresham riflemen came in second in 1958 and were national champs in 1957. The competition is open to American Legion sponsored .22 caliber teams, shooting on a 50-foot range.

*For God and Country*



*Happy  
Birthday  
American  
Legion*

Fellow Oregon Legionnaires,

**PNC,PDC CHARLIE SCHMIDT**  
**PR CHAIRMAN**

Sharing  
the at-  
tached

September 6, 1957 American Legion News Service release that announces William A. McKay, Jr as the recipient of the William E. Rominger Memorial Award for best editorial in an American Legion publication. Mr. McKay's editorial is great food for thought.

*See Page 13*



Attached is proof that Harney **PNC,PDC CHARLIE SCHMIDT** County Post 63 "had" American Legion Riders (ALR) before the American Legion established the program. Check the flags. We do not know the date that this photo was taken, but guessing during the annual county fair/rodeo parade in the 1940-60s time period. The parade is heading north up Broadway Street. You can see the Palace Café, the Post Office Building, and the Ford Garage (that has been there over 100 years). The Palace and Post Office buildings are vacant today.

**All:**

*A bit of history for the Oregon Legionnaire. The source is [www.legion.org/media/digital archives](http://www.legion.org/media/digital_archives). The press release could be a lead-in for the Department Junior Shoot Sports Program (JSSP)*

**News Service from National Public Relations Division...**

**The American Legion**



# ALNS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AMERICAN LEGION NEWS SERVICE

National Headquarters

P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind.

Phone MEIrose 5-8411

Washington Office

1608 K St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Phone EXecutive 3-4814



314

9/6/57

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (ALNS)---Winner of the William E Rominger Memorial Award for the best editorial appearing in an American Legion publication during the past year is William A. McKay, Jr. past commander of Westchester County, N. Y. McKay's award winning entry was carried in the "Westchester County Legionnaire." Presentation of the plaque will be made at the annual dinner of The American Legion Press Association, Sunday, Sept. 15 at the 500 Club in Atlantic City. McKay's editorial follows:

"I say with all the sincerity at my command that we must have more people interest themselves in the future of The American Legion or we may follow the buffalo, the Whig Party and the nickel cigar into limbo. Candid appraisal on your part must necessarily reveal that by and large our World War II and Korean Conflict members are not showing the enthusiasm that characterized the World War I founders of our great organization.

"The question seems to be what can the Legion do for me? What do I get out of it if I give my time as an officer committee chairman or committee member? There is only one answer, nothing more than the knowledge of having served others and the satisfaction that comes from a job well done. You get out of The American Legion only what you put into it.

"Unless you believe in its principles, further its aims, attend its meetings and support its programs, you have no right to hold an office. No group can afford the luxury of casual performers in positions of responsibility. Only dedicated people can breathe life into this service organization. Without these dedicated people The American Legion will wither and die.

"Now if you believe in Almighty God, in the United States of America, in the rehabilitation of your sick and disabled comrades, in care for the children of America, in a better and more loyal Americanism and in service to your community, state and nation and what is more, you are willing to do something to further all these beliefs, The American Legion needs you.

"Brother its great to have you aboard. See you at the meetings. Keep up the good work. Best wishes for a successful term of office or committee tenure. May the Lord bless you and endow you with infinite wisdom that you may better serve your fellow man."



## George A. White Part 2

SUBMITTED BY:  
PDC, GENE HELICKSON



### CRADLE DAYS IN THE LEGION - II

*How the Organizing Committee Worked to Clear the Unborn Veteran Outfit of Suspicions That It Was Somebody's Dog-Robber*

*By George A. White*

HAVING started out with such decent motives and altruistic intentions, some of us were unprepared for the atmosphere of suspicion that came with the call for the Paris caucus of the embryonic American Legion.

"Why not wait until we get home and out of the Army? What is the Army trying to pull off on us now? What kind of a political scheme is this anyway?" Those were the questions that seemed to echo everywhere. And the questions were answered by people who claimed to know. Some had it that it was a great scheme to elect Pershing President. Others had it that the General Staff wanted to organize the soldiers to put over universal training. Still others said that it was a Rooseveltian political move.

When, shortly before the date of the Paris caucus, I visited the Twenty-sixth Division, members of that outfit said they had no intention of being represented at the Paris caucus. Brigadier General Cole said he and his men were convinced the whole thing was an Army scheme and so wanted nothing to do with it. At that particular time, it must be admitted, the Twenty-sixth had some reasonable cause for bitterness.

This is mentioned merely as showing the grounds for suspicion. One New Englander of prominence even told me that

GEORGE A. White, of Oregon will tell in this and succeeding articles the history of the Legion's formation, was one of the group which launched the movement and called the Paris caucus. His associates in this task say the Paris caucus would have been considerable of a dud but for his efforts. Once when unjustified suspicion threatened the budding movement, he went AWOL in order to visit a number of divisions which were not going to join it because they were convinced it was formed to work the will of an Army or political clique - or both. All of these outfits came in when they learned from Mr. White the real purpose of the movement. Mr. White was elected first secretary of the Legion in France by the Executive Committee of One Hundred at the Paris caucus. Thereafter the infant Legion abroad literally grew up in his quarters. Mr. White is now a member of Portland Post No. 1, Department of Oregon.

they were going to form their own veterans' organization to fight the Army bunch that was holding the Paris caucus.

And my own presence there, coming as I did from G. H. Q. and showing the G. H. Q. colors on the car I was using, was not immediately reassuring. Naturally I did not like to explain to General Cole that the orders under which I traveled were rather ancient and that my greatest fear on that trip was of some too inquisitive M. P.

But when the New Englanders heard the story of the first meeting, learned that all of us in the movement were citizen soldiers, they decided to join. And the Twenty-sixth Division sent the largest delegation attending the Paris caucus from any one outfit. New England also had the largest membership and consequently the largest single accredited delegation at the Minneapolis Convention eight months later.

Two more phobias had to be met. The first was that the move was political and for the benefit of young Roosevelt. To do away with this ridiculous suspicion, Eric Wood and I decided to ask Bennett C. Clark to preside at the Paris caucus. Bennett Clark, son of Champ Clark of Missouri, was in the Thirty-fifth Division. Not only did he preside with credit at the Paris caucus, but he later performed invaluable service as one of the small staff of nursemaids for the infant organization, helping to stave off attacks of cholera morbus and soothing it through the days of teething pains which were bound to mark the early stages of the Legion - or of any organization.

The next suspicion was the hardest to counteract. The charge was made that the new association was an officers' organization. Hundreds of thousands of enlisted men held that belief. It grew stronger after the Paris caucus. Where not most of those attending the Paris caucus officers? Where were the enlisted men anyway? Why weren't the men who did the real work and fighting asked to take a part?

The fact that the charge was absurdly unfounded did not lessen its menace. The report found too many and too ready believers. And it was a fact that the Paris caucus was attended largely by officers. But it was also a fact that the call went out to all alike. No doubt the enlisted men in large numbers were not in a position to meet the expense of a three-days sojourn in Paris out of their slender pay. At any rate only about fifty of them were present at the Paris caucus. The caucus met the situation by giving equal representation on the executive committee of one hundred to the enlisted men.

But the suspicion persisted up to Minneapolis. It is seldom heard any more. There are too many ex-privates commanding posts in which there are numerous ex-captains and ex-majors. The Legion has finally got past the days when everyone drafted to help in its organization is suspected of some unholy motive.

March 15, 1919 was set as the day for the Paris caucus. Would the A.E. F. respond? Would the twenty originators of the idea be repudiated by blank walls and vacant seats when Bennett Clark called for order at 11:45 A.M. at the American  
*Continued on Page 15*

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Club at 4 Avenue Gabriel? One great obstacle had arisen. G. H. Q. had refused to permit delegates to attend under orders. The only concession given by the General Staff was that delegates might have a three days Class C leave and go to Paris at their own expense.

A few days before the meeting it became apparent that there was going to be a greater response than had been expected. Mr. Wood reported several hundred written acceptances of the written notices sent out by the temporary committee of twenty. A score of divisions had given me assurance that they would send large delegations. Franklin D'Olier had reported from Tours that the S. O. S. sections from Nevers to Marseille would be represented. So, as the day approached, Ogden Mills and Richard Patterson of New York, who had been doing a lot of fine missionary work in the Paris area, secured, in co-operation with others, use of the spacious Cirque de Paris for the meeting.

It was a fortunate arrangement, for when the delegates for the unnamed veterans' organization assembled in the old Parisian playhouse there were many hundred present. The first day was spent largely in discussion in clearing the air of a tenacious suspicion of possible selfish or unworthy motives which never existed. And then was written that immortal preamble and declaration of righteous fundamentals which, taken as a pledge in the very presence of our dead comrades abroad, committed five million men to a perpetuation of their comradeship and continued service to their country in time of peace.

From Calais to Marseille and from Rengsdorf to Belfort the call for the Paris caucus was answered. Delegates came singly and in groups of two, three and twenty from practically every combat division and S. O. S. section in France, Belgium, England, Luxembourg and Germany. They came in belated European trains, in limousines, in flivvers and on motorcycles.

The formation, immediately, of the inevitable organization of World War veterans had touched the imagination of the whole A. E. F. That the organization should establish the tradition of being

formed on French soil where the American Armies had fought so fiercely and victoriously, had an unmistakable appeal for all.

But what was behind this call at this time? Who were the men behind the movement and what was their motive? Why this unseemly interest on the part of G. H. Q., which had authorized leaves of absence to those who wished to attend the Paris caucus? At that moment the term G. H. Q. brought to mind a hard, harsh institution bereft of soul, imagination or compassion, whose function it was to maintain a Prussian discipline and extract all the joy of life from those who were in the Army.

As a matter of fact G. H. Q. was a mild, if somewhat academic, sort of institution which did not entirely justify its hard name, and while I have no doubt that some of its personnel had their own ideas and hopes as to just what the organization of veterans ought to be and ought to do, it can be set down as a hard fact that G. H. Q. had no voice or part in directing the course of The American Legion.

But it is a fact that but for the action of the higher command in permitting leaves and its liberal attitude toward those who asked time off for committee work and executive sessions, the Legion could not have got fairly under way in France. Such being the case, it is only right to record it.

The American Legion was to have been officially born at 2 o'clock p.m. of March 15, 1919. The throngs of delegates at that hour were scattered in small groups over the hall and corridors of the Cirque de Paris seeking light, voicing their hopes, ideas and suspicions and intent on ferreting out any ulterior motive that might show its ugly head.

At 2:39 the child had not been born. At 2:45 a French orchestra which had filed into the hall began struggling with a medley of American patriotic airs. It attracted no attention until it reached "Dixie."

Now everything in the hall had a businesslike appearance. The two floors were placarded for the various divisional and sectional delegations^ American and French colors were intertwined in the scheme of decorations. A lot of forethought had been shown.

But the temporary committee which had issued the call was up in the air as to what procedure should be followed. The temporary committee had argued from the first that its work was done when it got a truly representative gathering together to launch the veterans' organization. But now that the gang was all here there must be organization and an order of business—a tentative program for them to shoot at and get their bearings. This was urged strongly by incoming delegates who had experience in such matters.

However, it was too late now, and the temporary committee turned the caucus over to itself without suggestion, after Eric Fisher Wood, of Pennsylvania, explained in detail just what the self-appointed temporary committee had done, what it had hoped to see accomplished and what the idea of the meeting was I generally.

Any fear that the delegates would mill and waste the time in futile debate and discussion was dissipated the moment Mr. Wood had finished speaking. A voice from the Rainbow Division delegation made the obvious motion that the report of the temporary committee be accepted and approved, but his voice was drowned by a score of demands that the caucus proceed to organize. The caucus wasn't ready yet to endorse or approve anything. Suspicion of everything and everybody, a considerable factor in the earliest days of the Legion, was prevalent in too many minds.

Bennett C. Clark was nominated at once for temporary chairman and Mr. Wood for temporary secretary of the meeting, the rules of Congress were adopted, a method of voting agreed on — and the caucus was ready for business.

Four committees of fifteen members each were named in the same record time and sent out to do the work. These committees worked all night and over Sunday. One of them worked out the plan of permanent organization, a second devised a constitution, a third planned for a future joint convention in the United States and the fourth struggled with the problem of a suitable name. I say "struggled" because the committee, did not solve the prob-

*Continued on Page 16*



## George A. White Part 2 Continued

SUBMITTED BY:  
PDC, GENE HELICKSON

*Continued from Page 15*

lem, and the caucus reversed the recommendation of the committee on names when it adopted "The American Legion."

The day's work so effectively done, the caucus relaxed and the orators of the A. E. F., suppressed by months of oratorical inactivity, began loosing {sic} their vocal cords upon the caucus. Someone again moved that the work of the temporary committee be "endorsed and approved." Someone else immediately started an oratorical diversion and the question was not voted upon. The temporary committee was still under suspicion. For hadn't G. H. Q.—soulless, heartless G. H. Q.—issued leaves of absence for this meeting called by the temporary committee?

It was in the face of such a state of mind in the caucus that a New England delegate got the floor and launched a glowing eulogy of President Wilson. He did not spare colors or metaphors. At the climax he asked that the convention ask the President to address the gathering at once.

Now there is no question but that an ordinary motion to invite the President of the United States to the meeting would have carried with a whoop. But a thousand men who had just finished a hard war did not provide a fertile field for hero worship. The speaker had been far too eloquent for the humor of any A. E. F. audience at that time, and so when some more or less hard-boiled delegate arose immediately on the heels of the eloquent New Englander to "move we adjourn," the motion carried with a roar.

An attempt was made in the United States to depict the incident as an affront to the President. It was nothing of the sort. It was simply an affront to the over-enthusiasm and manifest bad form of the President's eulogist. A motion at the next session, unattended by oratorical flights and bursts, gave the President a unanimous invitation to join the caucus.

END PART II



## In The Auxiliary News



Swearing in of new officers at New Unit Newberg #57



Welcoming of New Unit Newberg #57

Lets Celebrate  
The American Legion Auxiliary  
is turning 100 Years

April 25th, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Dinner starts at 5:30PM

American Legion Hall

848 NE 8th Ave

Milton Freewater, OR 97862

Door Prize, Raffles, Photo Booth,  
Entertainment. Lots of fun.

Costumes/Dress up from 1920-2020  
**Must RSVP** no later than April 18th,  
2020.

President American Legion Auxiliary  
Unit 24 Milton Freewater,  
Oregon Parliamentarian  
Lynda Dryden

(541) 234-4083 leave your Name,  
number and how many will be in your  
party



MIKE SOWLES  
BASEBALL CHAIR

Oregon American Legion Baseball teams have started to register and purchase team insurance. Currently we have four Teams registered and 5 others that have submitted draft registrations.

Five Coaches and Staff have completed their background checks and four have completed Abuse Awareness for Adults. This is new mandated training this year for American Legion Baseball coaches, staff and volunteers that come into contact with our players. We also have Abuse Awareness training for the players.

Your committee will be monitoring these new trainings as they do the registration, insurance, back ground checks, coach and player registrations. A copy of the certificate of Completion from USA Baseball for Abuse Awareness Training needs to be emailed to the Committee Chair, [msowles@wvi.com](mailto:msowles@wvi.com).

Our Oregon American Legion Baseball website is operating with 2020 information. You can log on to it using: Oregon legion baseball. You can use it to register a team, download the American Legion Baseball Rule Book for 2020 access the Oregon rules, Oregon American Legion Baseball map and committee contact information. Resource information is available for team operation and procedures.

Teams have continued to schedule games for the 2020 season. Teams have been soliciting sponsors for funding, ordering equipment and uniforms, finding fields to play on for the season.

**As Reported earlier:** State tournament dates are July 24th to July 29th. The Triple AAA Tournament, play-in games will be on Friday July 24th, ALL games from the 24th to July 29th will be played in Roseburg, Oregon.

The State Tournament for the Single A being held at North Marion in Aurora, Oregon, from July 25-29th.

*Continued on Page 18*

# Trump's budget plan calls for another increase in VA spending

By NIKKI WENTLING | STARS AND STRIPES | Published: February 10, 2020

**WASHINGTON** – President Donald Trump's funding plan for the Department of Veterans Affairs **includes a 13% increase for medical services, making it one of the only agencies to receive an overall boost in fiscal year 2021** under his plan.

If enacted by Congress, Trump's budget would make the VA the second-largest federal agency in terms of discretionary budget and number of employees. While his spending plan increases the VA budget, it includes cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services, which currently has the second-largest discretionary budget behind the Department of Defense.

The president proposed \$109.5 billion in discretionary funding for the VA, including \$90 billion for medical care. Additionally, the VA has about \$134 billion in mandatory funding to be spent on veterans' benefits.

"The budget request will ensure veterans and their families experience health improvements and technological modernization advancements," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a statement. "That's evidenced by the increase in budget funds we're receiving – that not only increase health care services and benefits to veterans but also allow the VA to lead the way in forward-thinking innovation."

Trump's request, titled "A Budget for America's Future," totals \$4.8 trillion and aims to boost defense and VA spending while slashing many other federal programs, including foreign aid, Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The budget plan is Trump's fourth – and the fourth time he's suggested an increase for the VA, continuing a pattern set by previous administrations. The agency's budget has increased consistently since the beginning of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In 2009, it operated on a \$90 billion budget; it surpassed \$200 billion in fiscal 2019 for the first time.

The proposed \$90 billion for VA medical services in fiscal 2021 includes an unspecified amount of money for the VA Mission Act, a new program to connect

veterans with private-sector doctors. It's been eight months since the program launched, and to the chagrin of some lawmakers, the agency doesn't yet know how many appointments have been completed through the Mission Act or how much it's costing taxpayers.

Trump's budget also includes an increase in mental health services and a 32% boost to veteran suicide prevention programs. It proposes a 9% increase for women's health care to expand access to gynecology, and it would give an additional \$2.6 billion to an ongoing project to overhaul the VA's electronic health record system.

The spending plan offers **\$137 million to implement the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019**. Blue Water Navy veterans served aboard aircraft carriers, destroyers and other ships in the territorial seas of Vietnam and fought for years to prove they were exposed to the chemical herbicide Agent Orange. Because of the new law passed by Congress, they became eligible in January for VA disability compensation.

The money would allow the agency to hire more staff to handle about 70,000 claims it will receive from Blue Water Navy veterans in the next fiscal year. The VA has received 14,000 claims since Jan. 7 and issued \$7.5 million in benefits to 218 veterans and family members, according to a news release.

Some VA programs would see cuts under Trump's proposal. His administration is suggesting a cut they've tried before: rounding down veterans' cost-of-living adjustments to all veterans who receive disability compensation.

The practice was standard until 2013, but efforts to reinstate it have been met with opposition by national veterans organizations. Reinstating the round-down policy in fiscal 2021 would save \$41 million, according to estimates in Trump's plan.

Another cost-saving proposal would cap student veterans' Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for flight training — a cut that Trump's administration has been trying to impose for the last three years. Another

proposal, to "standardize and enhance VA compensation and pension benefit programs," is estimated to save \$752 million in fiscal 2021.

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., voiced his support Monday for Trump's proposal, which he acknowledged as a "quintupling of the VA's bottom line" over the past 20 years.

"There is no question that the Department is in the midst of a critical transformation with respect to the delivery of health care and benefits to those who have served," Roe said in a statement. "With this budget request, VA will be more prepared than ever before to ensure that those efforts bear fruit for generations of veterans to come."

[Wentling.nikki@stripes.com](mailto:Wentling.nikki@stripes.com)



75th  
Anniversary  
of the  
IWO JIMA  
Battle

This Iwo Jima  
Flag-raising  
Ceremony is  
the second one  
that I have at-  
tended so far

**S. FLYNN PHILLIPS** in Canby, and this year was even bigger and better. Hats off to the VFW for putting this on and especially those young Devil Dogs of the "Young Marines of the Marine Corps League" of Vancouver Washington. Props and kudos go out to these young men as they prepare to lead the way for our future military men and women. They did an excellent job.

Jim Willis was the Guest speaker, and he did not let us down great speech, Jim. The Commander, Auxiliary President, and The Sons Detachment Commander attended. Last year I was the only Legionnaire in uniform in attendance.

There was some miscommunication on having the Department Flag there this year. We will be better prepared next year on the invitation from the VFW. As in the Commander's theme, this year, its the 3 C's, Communication, Communication, Communication. As I looked around, I saw familiar faces in other Caps as a lot

*Continued on Page 19*





STEVE ADAMS

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

The Department would pay the dues of the Veterans there.

After several meetings with staff and Legion representatives at the Lebanon Veterans Home, Starting a Post at the Veterans home could not be achieved at this time. The staff was concerned about confidentiality issues for both the residents and their family's. On the Legion side, was the protocol issues for Officers of the Post because the residents are only there less than a year on average.

Many months ago, it was discussed at a DEC how we could improve our presence at the Veterans Homes in Oregon. There was a discussion on starting a Post at each home. The

At the meetings, we determined, the goal of the best way to be more involved at the Veterans Home was to have a regular and continuous presence by Legion members. A meeting with residents was put on the staff schedule on the first Monday every month, and they could inform the residents and get them there.

The staff would inform residents of upcoming events in the area, and what the Legion was doing at the State Legislature and Federal level. District, Post Officers, Post members, Legion Riders, and SAL attend these Veterans Home meetings. Every Friday, Legion and Post members visit with residents. On average, 3-10 Riders and Post members meet with residents and see to their needs and requests.

Several Post 51 Riders have taken the orientation with staff to be able to drive the Veteran Home vans and be able to take the residents on outings, to events or anywhere else when needed.

The Posts in District 3, along with the Auxiliary, Riders, and SAL volunteer sev-

eral hundred hours each month to visit, inform and assist residents and staff at the Veterans Home, and everyone will say it is time well spent. To achieve these goals, the volunteers have had to attend many hours of orientation by staff. These volunteers are very dedicated to helping their fellow Veterans.

Continued from page 16



The Triple AAA Regional tournament is in Gillette, Wyoming from Aug. 5th to August 9th.

The Single A Regional tournament is scheduled for Alaska this year and we will

not be sending a team due to the costs to attend. The last time that we sent a Single A team to Alaska the costs were \$35,000. (Air Fair, housing)

Your Committee is happy to report that Michael Soper, a member of the Salem Post 136 Withnell Dodgers Triple AAA team has been awarded an American Legion Baseball All Academic Team member from the State of Oregon. Michael is a graduate of South Salem High School. He is currently enrolled at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany.



## AMERICANISM eBulletin

An electronic update of the Americanism Commission

americanism@legion.org

February 2020



### Maintaining American Legion Nonpartisanship



This year ushers in a presidential election. And while American Legion posts are encouraged to promote "Get Out the Vote" (GOTV) efforts, it is important to remember to remain nonpartisan in the process.

The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization but advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections. The American Legion does not show preference for or against any particular candidate or political party.

Since its inception in 1920, The American Legion's Get Out The Vote program has encouraged Americans to exercise their right to vote and help others understand the importance of the electoral process. The program suggests activities on how American Legion posts can increase voter turnout such as calling potential voters to get to the polls, volunteer in their communities by providing rides to and from the polls if necessary, use social media to share information about poll locations and times, and place newspaper ads or public service announcements in local media that promote registration and voting.

To help with GOTV efforts, American Legion Family members can download The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" and "Vote, America" brochures at [www.legion.org/vote/publications](http://www.legion.org/vote/publications). GOTV public service announcements and news releases are also available.

You can still encourage voting registration and participation while remaining nonpartisan, and here's how and why.

**Q: How can an American Legion post avoid the appearance of partisanship when conducting GOTV activities?**

**A:** Volunteers working on an American Legion-sponsored registration and voting drive should not wear campaign buttons or make their personal views about candidates, parties and issues known in any way while they are engaged in nonpartisan activities for their post. Campaign materials or literature should be removed from an area where nonpartisan activities are taking place.

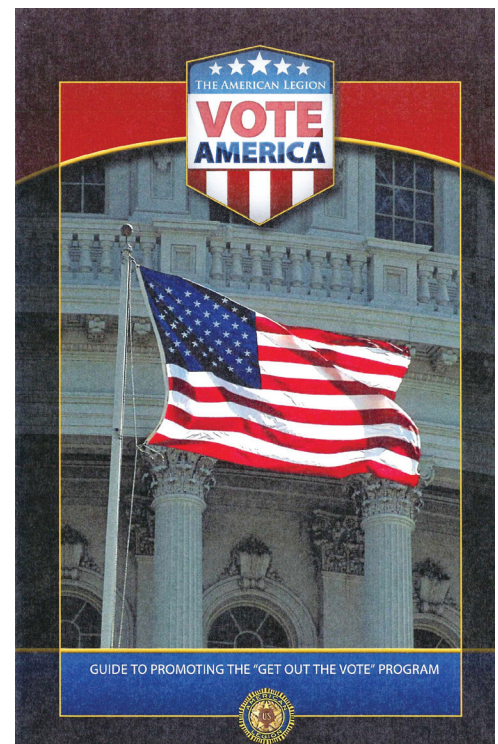
**Q: Can a member be active in a campaign when the Legion has to remain nonpartisan?**

**A:** As individuals, Legionnaires can be as partisan as they like. Legionnaires engaged in partisan activities – such as attending a candidate's rally – should do so without wearing the American Legion cap or other Legion attire. When working for the Legion post, a member must treat all candidates equally without making candidate endorsements. To do otherwise will endanger the post's nonprofit status with the IRS.

**Q: Why can't The American Legion endorse a candidate?**

**A:** Federal election laws require that any registration drive conducted or sponsored by groups like The American Legion be nonpartisan. In other words, the IRS mandates the strict nonpartisanship of all such activities by organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions under Section 501(c)(19) of the Code. Failure to do so could endanger an American Legion post's nonprofit status. A nonpartisan organization does not support, oppose or provide aid to any candidate for public office or to any political party. In a nonpartisan drive, registration and voting assistance, and information and materials must be offered and made available to all, regardless of which candidate or party they support.

(Reprint of American Legion digital article "American Legion reminds you to vote in 2020", February 03, 2020)







WWII Veterans of Iwo Jima with Young Marines of Lewis and Clark Wa.  
(Lt -Rt) Louis Boesel, Robin Barret, Bill Trumm, Howard Thomas and Mr. Kimball



WWII Iwo Jima Memorial



Howard Thomas spreading Iwo Jima sand at flag raising



WWII Louis Boesel waiting to spread Iwo Jima sand at Flag raising



Guest speaker SSGT, Randall Gatton



Continued from page 17  
of us belong to many other organizations.  
How do we all find the time?

**Semper Fi**



Canby Mayor, Brian Hodson



VFW Cmdr, Martin Lackner and ODVA  
Retired Director, guest speaker  
Alt. NECman, PDC, Jim Willis



Above, Department President,  
Gea Causier  
and  
Department Commander,  
Steve Adams

Left, Detachment Commander,  
Carl Pawlik  
and  
SAL Alt. NECman, Larry Horne





# THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of Birth) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Male ☐ Female  
(Gender) \_\_\_\_\_ (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:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War             | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama               | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada      | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam              | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea                | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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](http://www.legion.org).**

ALA 08/2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Received From  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Phone #



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

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](http://www.legion.org).**

ALA 12/2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Received From  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Squadron No.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Department of



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



## DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**

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):

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War             | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama               | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea           |  |

**Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:**

- |                                      |  |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister        | <input type="checkbox"/> Self   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daughter    | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

ALA 09/2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Received From  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Dues  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter's Phone #