OFF TO A GREAT START
by Luther Holsonback Department Commander

My Fellow Legionnaires, a lot has happened within the Department since the last publication and I am happy to report that 95% has been very positive. The Department is moving forward toward higher membership totals, continued member education, celebrations and events across the state, and a visit from our newly elected National Commander James “Bill” Oxford. The new year is off to a great start.

Last August, I attended the Membership Workshop held in Indianapolis, IN. There, the attendees got to meet our new National Officers to include our new National Vice Commander, David L. King from Kentucky. We also received our membership goals for the upcoming year. As I predicted, our goal is 25,000. Almost 2000 of this goal is to transfer 2019 Post 2000 members into local posts and to collect their dues at the post level for 2020. We have been working hard and have almost reached half our goal of transferring members. It can be done, and the results are worth the effort. These are members that want to belong to a local post that is working hard in the communities they serve. Do all transfer? No, but if we stay in contact with those who do, welcome them into our posts, seek what they are passionate about and give them a job, we will see the fruit of our labor. Maybe these members are our next leaders.

If you had the opportunity to meet our new National Commander, you can away with the feeling of renewed focus and hope for our organization. He is such a down to earth guy and he will be an asset to us. His goals are for Departments to have a 90% retention rate on current members, 100,000 new members nationally and a 100% submission for Post Consolidated Reports. None of these are easy tasks. Probably the easiest is the 100,000 new members goal. With the passing of the Legion Act and opening our organization to 4 million veterans who have served this country, 100,000 ports. None of these are easy tasks. Probably the easiest is the 100,000 new members goal. The American Legion's eligibility now spans from Dec. 7, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and includes the eligibility requirements for The American Legion’s membership. Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
11 KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE LEGION ACT

With President Trump’s signature on the LEGION Act, the ongoing declared period of war was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were wounded or killed on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

“Finally, Congress has acknowledged the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in previously undeclared periods of war,” said American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett.

“This new law honors the memories of those veterans while allowing other veterans from those previously undeclared eras to receive all the American Legion benefits they have earned through their service.”

The LEGION Act – Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act – also defines The American Legion’s membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now spans from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are Answers to 11 key Questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.

Question: How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?
Answer: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

VETERANS DAY

Horrible, ghastly and ghoulish. These are some of the adjectives Medal of Honor recipient David Bellavia used to describe the battlefields that he saw in Iraq.

But even so, the U.S. Army staff sergeant said it was also a place where he saw love. Quote: “You see people doing these things for each other that they would never, ever do in any other circumstance — it’s a sight to see”

It was during the height of the Iraq War in the second battle of Fallujah where Staff Sgt. Bellavia distinguished himself by rescuing an infantry squad that was pinned down by machine gun fire while the soldiers went house to house to clear the city of insurgent strongholds. Bellavia’s actions during a predawn mission on Nov. 10, 2004, made the former noncommissioned officer the Iraq War’s first living recipient of the military’s highest award for valor.

Putting himself in that position is “what sets him apart,” according to retired Sgt. First Class Colin Fitts. Fitts credits Bellavia’s actions with saving the lives of 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, that day.

While Staff Sgt. Bellavia’s valor is exceptional even amongst the extraordinary, his mindset is common within the women and men who serve our great nation. His heroism is one story of the millions of living veterans.

By virtue of your attendance today, it is clear that you hold our nation’s heroes in high-esteem. But how many of their stories do we all truly know?

Like the story of Army Private First Class Monica Lin Brown. PFC. Brown was a combat medic assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division when she was deployed to Paktika Province, Afghanistan.

On April 25, 2007, a roadside bomb tore through her convoy, wounding (continued on page 3)
THE TENNESSEE LEGIONNAIRE

Official Publication of The American Legion Department of Tennessee

Vol. XXXVI, No. 4   November, 2019

Dean A. Tuttle, Editor

Published quarterly by The American Legion, Department of Tennessee.

THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the wrongs of our way of life and representative government. It is our guarantee of liberty, freedom, justice and democracy. Members of The American Legion bind all ex-servicemen and women to wars-to defend and uphold this document of freedom.

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America...”

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BUDDY CHECK, NATIONAL WEEK OF CALLING SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH THROUGH SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH, 2019

by Adjutant Tuttle

Every Post needs to follow National Resolution 18, May 9-9, which calls for a Buddy Check, quoted as follows:

“RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Regular Meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the process of “Buddy Check” be made formal and executed Legion-wide congeners of the members of The American Legion birthday and of Veterans Day; and, be it further RESOLVED, That the “Buddy Check” be promoted through national and department marketing, media and social media campaigns; and, be it further RESOLVED, That the “Buddy Check” whims be the primary operational focus of every member, post, department and the National Headquarters; and, be it finally RESOLVED, That results of each “Buddy Check” week be established as a reportable item on the annual Consolidated Post Report.”

As Legionnaires, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. Use Buddy Check National week of calling as a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help. Perhaps they have been waiting for a personal call or visit to renew or rejoin. No matter their situations, we can do as our founders did by making personal contact with veterans in our communities.

HOW DO I ORGANIZE A BUDDY CHECK?

1. Gather up a team if possible, to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 calls just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.

2. If you don’t have a list of members and former members at your fingertips, visit myLegion.org and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.

3. Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute to your team members. Print several copies of the lists.

4. Divide up the list among your team members. Some may have personal connections with the member or former member and would make that particular buddy check.

5. Start calling – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help commemorate the Legion’s 100th anniversary.

6. Use the spreadsheet to record your calls and identify those who haven’t been members since 2015, 2016 or 2017.

7. If you are making it a group effort, where many members of your team are calling on a particular night and time, invite the local media to show The American Legion celebrating Veterans Day the personal way: by checking in on their buddies in the community.

8. Make sure you thank the member or former member in the beginning and at the end of your call.

9. If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to have your post’s payment procedure at your fingertips, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).

10. Leave contact information in case the member or former member can’t take the call or needs anything in the future.

SAMPLE SCRIPT for a member that has not renewed:

Hi, [MEMBER’S NAME]. This is [YOUR NAME] from your American Legion Post [XXX]. I want to thank you for your membership and see how things are going for you and your family.

We’re getting ready for our Veterans Day [DATE/EVENT] and want to make sure you’re aware. We want to be caught up with our renewals by then. I’m calling to check to see if you need assistance with your renewal, or anything else. Remember, your fellow Legionnaires are here for you.

Thanks again for your service and for your membership.

If you need anything, call me anytime at [XXX-XXX-XXXX] or email me at [xxxx@xxx.com]

Let’s stay in touch!

SAMPLE SCRIPT for a member that is Good Standing:

Hi [MEMBER’S NAME]. This is [YOUR NAME] from our Legion post. As part of Veterans Day, we’re calling just to say thanks for your military service and let you know how much we appreciate your membership. We’re also calling all post members to see how they’re doing and if the post can help them in any way. I also want to make sure you know about [VETERANS DAY EVENT INFO].

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

At the 75th National Convention in Pittsburgh in 1993, The American Legion passed Resolution No. 159, officially adopting the Veteran of the Month program, which honors deceased veterans and fallen warriors by flying their burial flags. Eligible honorees include deceased veterans with honorable discharges, U.S. servicemembers who died of active duty, those who were main missing in action, and civilian employees of the armed services who were granted veteran status.

The veteran’s personal and military service are profiled in advance publicity, and read at the flag raising and again at the flag-lowering service at the end of the month. The service includes “Taps,” along with the folding and presentation of the burial flag in a protective case to a member of the deceased’s family.

VETERANS DAY

five soldiers. After the explosion, 19-year-old Brown ran through surgeon gunfire and used his body to shield her wounded comrades while mortars fell less than 100 yards away, her citation reads.

The military said her “bravery, unselfish actions and conduct rendered under fire saved the lives of her comrades and represents the finest traditions of heroism in combat.”

Her bravery and actions in the remote Southeastern Afghan province would lead her to become the first woman to earn the Silver Star in Afghanistan, and just the second woman to do so since World War II.

Again, the exceptional in the extraordinary.

Commander, want us to do this? We can use all words we can use to describe what it means to be a veteran and to have served in our nation’s military. In each other, we find it. We find it at American Legion posts and in unit Facebook groups. We find it in the familiar decal on the rear window of a car passing by. We often see ourselves in one another.

These stories and memories of ours are powerful. They are one of our most powerful weapons in securing a future for those who will follow us.

PREAMBLE (continued from page 2)

promptly, in contributing to community chest funds and to blood banks. The word “inculcate” means “to impress by frequent admonitions” and “to enforce by frequent repetitions.”

Like the duties themselves, the remembrance that they remain to be carried forward, are never finished.

TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF CLASSES AND MASSES… This clause places the Legionnaire on the side of right in opposing autocracy by either class or mass when this threatens. In a democracy such as ours, communism is it of all nationalities, races, creeds and economic groups, there are bound to both classes and masses. Indeed, the masses are composed of classes—although all groups within the mass must feel assured that in this nation, reason and fairness will prevail in all human activities and relations. There must be no hyphenated Americans-just Americans all.

TO MAKE RIGHT THE MIGHT OF MIGHT… All wars from the veterans of which The American Legion draws its membership were started by dictators who wanted their might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The rights of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them—just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Our belief in enshrining right over might is the main essence of our ideological conflict with Communism today. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak and preserve the liberties of the individual. This concept is the basis of The American Legion’s continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation that might will be backed by adequate might.

TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOOD WILL ON EARTH… Until all the world becomes a good neighbor, the Legion must continue the effort to promote peace and good will on earth. It is in pursuance of this founding ideal that The American Legion has supported from the beginning and seek to strengthen the United Nations organization. Obliquely. The American Legion also contributes to this ideal by firmly supporting a strong national defense to discourage breaking of the peace by aggressor.

TO BEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY... On this ideal of safeguarding and transmitting to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, all of the youth-training programs of The American Legion are built. All Americans can be proud that in our international relations we have tried to live by the golden rule, the mark of justice. We have granted to others, as we prize it ourselves, the great boon of freedom. Through the Monroe Doctrine, we call a halt to foreign imperialism in the Western (continued on page 10)
by Larry Kersey, Membership Chairman

First of all, I want to say hello to the Department of Tennessee Legion Family. Now when I say family, I also include the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. I think we all work to serve our veterans and communities. I don’t know if everyone is aware, but the Auxiliary has recently opened their ranks for the spouses to join them. If anyone has any questions about the eligibility for the Auxiliary, please contact the Auxiliary Department Headquarters for information.

I also want to say I’m honored that Commander Holsonback appointed me to be your Membership Chairman this year. I will do my best to help grow the membership in Tennessee, but it’s going to take the effort and cooperation from everyone across Tennessee. This being said, we have scheduled revitalization efforts throughout all divisions and all districts within. I am in hopes that all post will send members to assist with the efforts. After all, I have heard post leaders express to me how they are struggling, membership wise, which causes their post not to be able to adequately serve the veterans in their community or the community period. So far, we have had a decent outcome transferring members to post throughout the districts that have hosted a revitalization with a few more to come I hope we are able to continue the good results. So, I’m in hopes of a continued good turnout of members to assist with this effort.

A real positive thing has recently happened, President Trump signed into effect “The Legion Act” which has been said would open membership to as many as approximately 4.2 million new eligible members. When I was sitting in on the Membership Committee meeting at the National Conference recently, they said within the first month they took in 1196 new members, that’s pretty good for a start. Just think, what will happen if we just ask those we meet now. The “Legion Act” opens up eligibility from December 7th 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress. If anyone has further questions of eligibility, please go to www.Tennesseelegion.org in the side bar click on to Amended American Legion National Constitution and you will find 11 commonly asked eligibility questions and the answers. They will help when talking with a possible new member. So, with that being said there is no excuse not to offer someone an opportunity to serve their community and fellow veterans as you do.

If we all get busy I vision that the Department of Tennessee will grow strong in membership which in turn thru the dues collected by the Department and Post, will give us the ability to operate programs under the four pillars that serve our fellow veterans and communities more efficiently and effectively. I will put out one challenge to every member this year and that is to recruit one new member and to take time to do a Buddy Check on a fellow member or members that you haven’t seen either in the usual places you normally see them or at the post meetings. Believe me this can make a difference in ways you may not realize.

With that being said, until the next time remember to treat every veteran (male or female) with the same respect you expect, for we don’t know what their road was like. Here to Serve.

by Department Vice Commander Gary Stidham

Autumn has finally arrived in the East Division. I hope everyone is enjoying the mild weather and the beautiful fall colors. I want to thank all the Post that participated or held POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremonies in September. I had the privilege of attending the POW/MIA Ceremony at Post 21 Rogersville. The ceremony was well attended, and Post 21 Commander Dennis Elkins lead a heartfelt remembrance that meant a lot to the families attending.

Also, Post in the East Division have been celebrating the American Legions 100th year with dinners and cook outs and I have enjoyed the comraderie. I have to say Post 24 in Johnson City put on a very elaborate dinner at the Carnegie Hotel in the Grand Soldiers Ball Room to celebrate the Post 100th year. Great job Legionnaires. Thanks again to all the Post for the invitations.

Soon after receiving this newsletter America will take a day to remember our veterans. My personal belief is this should be 365 days a year, but we do get one red letter day on the calendar.

I know Posts all over East Tennessee will be celebrating the day with parades ceremonies and dinners. Please take the time to attend the Veterans Day Celebrations in your area.

by John A. Davis, Middle Tennessee Vice-Commander

I was appointed by the Department Commander to fill the Middle Tennessee Division Vice-Commander position vacated by Larry Kersey when he moved up to the Department Membership Chairman. This took place on August 15, 2019. It was indeed a pleasure to be asked and trusted with this position.

Since my appointment I have visited over 8 Posts of the massive 69 Post I now have. I have a goal to visit at least 1 Post each month in each of the four Districts. In September I have been in all four Districts, and visited at least one Post.

We were privileged to have the National Commander Bill Oxford and his Aide here in Middle Tennessee from 8 through 11 September. We visited the 5th and 6th Districts and I believe they were very pleased with our efforts. I want to thank everybody that participated.

We have conducted Revitalizations in the 4th, 5th and 7th Districts; we were able to transfer 69 members from Post 2000 into local Post. Thanks to everyone that helped make the Revitalizations a success. We will be conducting Revitalization for the 6th District on September 28, 2019. I’m looking forward to working with all four District Commanders and their Posts for the rest of this year. I feel we are moving in the right direction and have the capability of becoming the best Division in the Department of Tennessee, and should strive for nothing less.

It is time to get fired up for the Oratorical Speech Contest; they will be upon us before we know it. Get your Post involved with the Post Chairman, District Chairman, Division Chairman and the Department Chairman. Let’s make this a big year for our youth, the next leaders of our Nation. Eddie Rogers is the Division Oratorical Chairman 931-477-5410, tennty549@yahoo.com. I am looking for a Middle Tennessee Boys State Chairman and a Membership Chairman, anyone interested please contact me.

We lost a very good leader and legionnaire last week when Post 16 Commander Bill Davis transferred to Post Everlasting. He will be missed. If I can be of assistance to anyone, please don’t hesitate to contact me, my contact information is on the Department web site.
WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE WEST
by West TN Vice Commander Lanny Culver

A few weeks ago, I tried to schedule meetings at 4 different posts on the meeting night they reported on their Post Data forms, not a one of them held a meeting that month and only one of them rescheduled with me and then stood me up anyway.

They all seemed to have given up trying.

They all said that they CAN’T get more than a few at a meeting.

They all said that they CAN’T get more than a few at a meeting.

They all said that they CAN’T get more than a few at a meeting.

All of them said there was nothing they can do to stop the slide. You know what? There is ALWAYS something you can do. Take these three words with you when you finish reading this, YES, YOU CAN!

YES, YOU CAN help change the way things are going.

YES, YOU CAN get the training that the Department offers.

YES, YOU CAN reach out for advice and help.

YES, YOU CAN come to District and Department meetings to learn from what other posts are doing.

YES, YOU CAN help your local post be more successful.

YES, YOU CAN help develop new programs at your post.

YES, YOU CAN increase attendance at meetings and events.

YES, YOU CAN set goals for your post.

YES, YOU CAN work with others in your post to come up with a plan to reach those goals.

YES, YOU CAN be an inspiration to others.

YES, YOU CAN be THE ONE that makes a difference.

NEVER stop trying.

NEVER give up.

ALWAYS remember YES, YOU CAN!

SECOND DISTRICT

A Centennial Celebration was held Sept 21, at Post 107, Soddy Daisy. These legionnaires went above and beyond in their efforts to celebrate 100 years of veteran’s service by the Legion and to promote this knowledge to their community. Great job, we are proud of all Legionnaires and Guests.

THIRD DISTRICT

A Centennial Celebration was held Sept 21, at Post 107, Soddy Daisy. These legionnaires went above and beyond in their efforts to celebrate 100 years of veteran’s service by the Legion and to promote this knowledge to their community. Great job, we are proud of all Legionnaires and Guests.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Patriotic Recognition in Clarksville

A dedication ceremony for a portion of Highway 41A today, August 14, 2019, at Patriot Park in Clarksville, Tennessee. A portion of Fort Campbell Blvd Hwy 41A, was renamed “Vietnam Legacy Veterans POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

Two signs were uncovered, one on the north bound lanes (Tiny Town Rd) and the south bound lanes at the Tennessee/Kentucky state line.

The new name is meant to honor the dedication and sacrifice of the brave men and women of Montgomery County who valiantly served their country in the U.S. armed forces and gave their lives as Prisoners of War in the Vietnam War.

Seven members of CSM Gary W. Crisp American Legion Post 289 and two members of CSM Gary W. Crisp American Legion Auxiliary Unit 289 attended the ceremony. The members from the post were: Commander David Zevanev, 1st Vice Bob Grigsby, 2nd Vice Ernest Schmidt, Finance Officer Larry Johnson, Membership Chairperson Tony Walter, Service Officer John Beck and Chaplain Carmen Cherry. Auxiliary members that attended were Treasurer Sue Johnson and Chaplain Faye Cherry.

DIVISION MEMBERSHIP REPORT

OCT. 2, 2019

Division Commander 2020 2020 % of Goal

West Lanny Culver 2,379 4,045 51.22%
East Gary Stidham 5,160 10,145 50.86%
Middle John Davis 5,018 10,123 49.57%

Totals: 10,178 20,268 50.22%

Division Commander 2020 2020 % of Goal

District Totals: 13,062 25,458 51.31%

STANDINGS

OCT. 2, 2019

Division Commander 2020 2020 % of Goal

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Sixth District

Vietnam Legacy Veterans POW/MIA Memorial Highway Dedication

by Bob Grigsby, American Legion CSM Gary W. Crisp American Legion Post 289, 1st Vice Commander

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SIXTH DISTRICT

(continued from page 5)

3. Hendrickson-International
4. America’s Car-Mart
5. Custom House Museum

As this printing, we have ten (10) more Certificates of Appreciation to handout. Hopefully, word will get out the Post 289 is looking and watching.

SQUADRON 2, KNOXVILLE

The SAL Squadron 2 from Knoxville held their annual Golf Tournament on June 22. We were able to raise $3000 from the Tournament. At the Post August meeting we presented a check for $1000 each to three local youth organizations.

The organizations that received a check were Suds 4 Students, North Knoxville Young Marines and South Doyle High School JROTC.

COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

What is the main purpose of the Sons?
The mission of the Sons is to support veterans and their families and the policies of our parent organization, The American Legion. Virtually everything that involves the Sons could be grouped under three areas:
1) support for veterans and their families,
2) promoting patriotism and Americanism and
3) promoting programs which benefit the youth of our country.

When was the Sons founded?
The American Legion established the Sons of The American Legion in 1926.

Why would someone want to join the Sons?
Different people have different reasons for belonging to organizations. For many, membership in the Sons has allowed them to become involved in American Legion programs alongside their fathers. Others belong out of respect for their parents’ and grandparents’ service to our country. Many younger members get involved and learn valuable leadership skills.

Who can belong to the Sons?
Who can belong to the Sons?

Any male descendant, adopted son or stepson of a veteran who is eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. Sons members are eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

How can I sign up for the Sons?
You should check with someone at The American Legion Post nearest you. There is a good chance that Post will have its own Squadron of the Sons. If not, someone at the Post should be able to tell you where to find a Squadron near you. If not, contact the S.A.L. National Headquarters for information.

(continued on page 7)
11 KEY THINGS (continued from page 1)

Question: What’s the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?

Answer: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war era may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.legion.org/join.

Question: I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?

Answer: The American Legion’s founding fathers believed, “a veteran is a veteran,” an axiom that has held true throughout the organization’s more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war era that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president’s signature changed that. Why: So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?

Answer: The American Legion’s eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during “wartime.” When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, The Legion’s membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

Question: How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (Sons)?

Answer: The Sons’ eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible.

With the extension of the war period, it would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

Question: How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?

Answer: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

Question: How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?

Answer: This change opens American Legion membership to millions more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

Question: How will membership applications not address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?

Answer: New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocu-

mented war era write “Other Conflicts” in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

Question: What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?

Answer: A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

Question: How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?

Answer: There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the new eligibility will enable members who are able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit www.legion.org/PUFL.

Question: Who can I contact for more information about but change as it applies to membership and recruiting?

Answer: Visit www.legion.org/mem-

bership/contactus to find the representative in your state.

NATIONAL COMMANDER (continued from page 1)

The foundation of its culture, and the culture is one of the many facets that appealed to us. Upon joining, we knew we had an obligation to continue the proud legacy of those that wore the cloth of our nation before us—and so we did just that! It seems obvious, then, that knowing the rich history of The American Legion is the minimum requirement for recruiting new members. This is why, at a minimum, every Legionnaire should take the Basic Training course. In order to have a vision for the future, we must know the past and remain committed to the strategic purpose of the organization.

Sell the history, but paint a vivid picture of the future. While it is im-

portant to know our rich history, it is even more important to understand our significance to the future of this great organization. A quick glimpse behind us instills pride and confidence in what we have done, but the road ahead reminds of the challenges and obstacles still ahead. In the process of looking for new members, identify veterans with the same interests and passion that will move us forward. Then paint a vision of what the grand future of The American Legion can be for their talents in our member ranks. If a prospective member can visualize themselves working with The American Legion, giving back and finding purpose in life, they will join.

Satisfy the real needs of prospective members. Selling an organization is complex. To gain appeal, The American Legion needs to satisfy the needs of the prospective members who believe the organization can truly deliver on its many promises to veterans and their communities. That may be a need for camaraderie, a need to be-

long, a need to fulfill purpose, a need to help fellow veterans, a need to share burdens and demons, a need to advance community relations, or countless other subjective needs. Of course, as true with everything in life, there is no achieved perfection or ability to satisfy anyone’s wants and needs. However, the more accommodating we can be to the real needs of the member, the more confident that we can be that we are selling truth.

Under promise and over deliver. The simple reality is this: the biggest threat to recruiting is selling a lie. If you promise rainbows and butterflies and deliver dungeons and dungeons, there is your membership failure — a broken promise. Selling the rich history of the collective body [and what it could be with their membership] can help to in-

spire them not only to join, but to be the necessary agents of change to advance us into our next century. After all, we all wanted to have a positive impact on our service and did — and so holds true for the future of The American Legion if we cultivate the young veteran talent. The foundation for being a Legionnaire is serving others before self, but human nature is to make the best “mutually beneficial” decision. Show the potential member how their participation in our organiz-

ation can improve us, while also helping them with their own personal and professional growth.

ADJUTANT’S CORNER (continued from page 3)

MATION]. The National Resolution 18 calls for a Buddy Check during our National Week of Calling around the Veterans Day as a way to reach out to members who may need help. Perhaps they have been waiting for a personal call or visit to renew or re-

join. No matter their situations, we can do as our founders did by mak-

ing personal contact with veterans in our communities.

SAMPLE SCRIPT for an ex-

pected member:

Hi [FAMILY MEMBER’S NAME], This is [YOUR NAME] down at the American Legion post. I want to thank you for your mem-

bership… and to see how you’re doing.

If doing anything. We can do for you or your family, just stop by the post or give me a call or email us at [XXX-XXX-XXXX] or email me at [xxx@xxx.com] any time.

Right now, we’re celebrating the Veterans Day and want to make sure all of our members and former members understand we’re here for them and hope they can be a part of our ceremony.

COMMON QUESTIONS (continued from page 6)

Question: Why do I want to join The Sons of The American Legion? Can I also belong to the Sons?

Yes! Many veterans who are eli-

gible for membership in The American Legion are also eligible to join the Sons. They are very much welcome to belong to both organizations. We call these individuals dual members. They are quite often an important link between the Sons and The Legion Post in their home-

towns.

How much does it cost to be-

long to The Sons?

There is no simple answer for this question. Each Squadron estab-

ishes its dues requirements. We have a slogan within the Sons that applies to all of our dues: It’s not the price you pay for mem-

bership... it’s the price your forefathers paid to make you eligi-

ble!

I am moving to a new town and want to transfer my membership there. How do I get a new card?

Be sure to report your new ad-

dress. You can do that in person through your new Squadron Adju-

tant, or you can do it electronically by going to The Legion’s Web site and filling out an electronic form.

The American Legion offers programs for honorary member-

ships and “Paid Up for Life” (PUFL). Does the S.A.L. offer these same programs?

Not really. Squadrons that want to honor an individual with an honor-

ary membership must take care of renewing that individual’s mem-

bership annually. There is no way to pre-pay for future years’ mem-

berships. Also, there is no program for an annual membership sum payment that will cover his membership for the rest of his life. In these respects, the Sons is quite different from the Legion.

Can an S.A.L. member sign up a new Legion member and vice versa?

Yes! The same applies to Auxil-

iary membership. As long as the necessary membership application is filled out and the prospective member provides a copy of his/her DD-214 discharge papers (this applies to Legion membership... prospective S.A.L. and Auxiliary members need to supply a copy of discharge papers for the relative through whom their eligibility is es-

established) and they pay the appropriate amount for dues, sim-

ply submit these materials to the Legion or S.A.L. Adjutant. In fact, many members of the Sons like to carry around blank copies of mem-

bership applications for each of the Legion Family organizations, just in case.
AMERICANISM
by Ron Hessell, Department Americanism Chairman

Department Oratorical will be held March 7 at 10am at Headquarters. I ask that all post check with their high schools to find out who they have interested in taking part in this vital program. Don't forget to reach out to the school home programs or private schools. Anyone who has questions, please contact myself or your District and Division Chairman.

Jr. Shooting Sports is already started some competition. Chairman Marty Goodman is working on this program with all his heart to make Tennessee a Department with one of the best in the nation. Again, any post that have a program or interested in starting one, Marty is your go-to guy.

Boys State is not far away and need to keep in touch with the schools. Being new to the Department of Tennessee, I look forward to meeting everyone at Mid-Winter in February.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Since 1925, The American Legion has sponsored youth baseball as a national program for the primary purpose of teaching good sportsmanship (win or lose), teamwork, and good citizenship, while providing competitive supervised recreation. Listed on the next several pages are various tournament rules and policies of The American Legion. These policies and rules are reviewed and approved annually by the National Americanism Commission. The Commission is a group of American Legion volunteers from many different Departments (states) who give of their time and service to supervise the youth programs of The American Legion.

All National Tournaments will be played under the policies and rules established by the National Americanism Commission. All disputes and questions shall be referred to the on-site National Tournament Director appointed by the National Commander. Any situations not specifically covered by National Rules or the tournament regulations will be referred to the National Americanism Division, whose decision shall be final.

It is important that the coaching staff and understand these instructions, tournament rules and policies. There are many policies which are designed to provide for the safety of the players and also provide a level playing field.

As American Legion Baseball swings into its 95th year, the 2020 season gets under way with online registration beginning Jan 1 via the Legion Baseball website: https://baseball.legion.org/

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Boys State will return to the beautiful campus of Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee starting Sunday May 17th with final exercises held the following Saturday with a parade and inauguration of Boys State Governor.

Few realize the obligation they have to the public. The American Legion Boys State is not a school room activity, but a practical experience for young men in the actual problems of government as it operates in Tennessee’s American Legion Boys State. The American Legion Boys State is not meant to take the place of Civics or Government, as they are taught in the high schools; but is planned so that young men may put into actual practice the theories of Government through actual participation in city, county, and state governments organized as a “Mythical 51st State.” The entire program is non-partisan and will not reference any existing political party.

Only young men who are in the 11th grade and in the upper third of their class will be eligible to attend. The purpose of this is that young men in the 11th grade will have one more year in their respective high schools and will be in a position to furnish leadership not only in their schools but also in their communities during the year.

The average attendance is 550 Boys State Delegates. Each spring, American Legion Posts and High Schools are notified of upcoming American Legion Boys State. The delegate fee for the upcoming 2020 Boys State will remain at a very reasonable $350 per delegate; see website www.tnboysstate.org.

Delegates who are descendants of a veteran can compete for a Department $1,000 Scholarship and the Department Governor. Only young men who are in the 11th grade and in the upper third of their class will be eligible to attend. The purpose of this is that young men in the 11th grade will have one more year in their respective high schools and will be in a position to furnish leadership not only in their schools but also in their communities during the year.

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**JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS**

**by Marty Goodman, JSSP Chairman**

I just returned from Indianapolis, at the National Junior Shooting Sports Conference.

I got a chance to meet our National Commander, Bill Oxford, and his staff.

The meeting was run by Bill Megnitz, National Youth Program Manager.

A lot of changes will be coming, but the Americanism Committee has to vote on them first.

By-laws and Resolutions for any Posts sponsoring a Shooting Team, copies must be sent to me. I have to forward copies to National Youth Program Manager.

All Teams entering the Legion Postal State Championship, can now download the 2020 Affiliation form. (Visit the USA Club) to me as well as mailing it to National Headquarters. This must be completed before targets can be ordered. This year target sets are $15.00 each. Registration for ordering targets will be open on November 1st.

You will not be allowed to pay for your targets till all steps are completed. Deadline for ordering is December 15. This year all payments will be by credit card only.

All team leaders have to take the Safe Sport Policy course and understand Background Checks and Safe Sports Policy can be done thru Legion Baseball program.

Any Posts wanting to Sponsor a Shooting Team or start up their own Team, please contact me by phone or email. I will give you all the assistance you need.

Many Competitors from the American Legion Junior Shooting Program have gone on to earn a Sports Scholarship to a Collegiate Shooting Team. Two are starting this fall as freshman athletes. One to Murray State University and one to University of Mississippi.

For additional information or answer your questions please contact: marty223@charter.net or call 931-349-9438

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**HOW TO START A JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB AT YOUR POST**

1. **Determine Your Goals**

Junior Shooting Sports can be an effective and fun way to get youth and Legionnaires involved with your post. Some of your goals for the program may include:

- Educate young people about firearm safety.
- Introduce the shooting sports to community members and educate them about shooting.
- Harness shooting sports to help young people develop leadership, discipline, concentration, sportsmanship and responsibility.
- Identify Leaders. Form a committee of Legionnaires dedicated to researching and organizing the activity. Reach out to your Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program chairman, who can help guide committee members through the process, and connect your post with other active Junior Shooting Sports groups in your region. The shooting club adult leader(s) should be qualified and certified to instruct basic rifle safety and marksmanship. (Visit the USA Shooting or the Civilian Marksmanship Program websites for more information on coach certification.) Other Legionnaire volunteers should take part as assistant instructors. A manual for adult leaders is at the Junior Shooting Sports Program’s website under Resources.

2. **Get Insured.** Although Legion Junior Shooting Sports Clubs have had zero rifle-related injuries, shooting is a sport with inherent risks. It is imperative that your post have liability coverage for this activity. While many post insurance policies cover these activities, if the club practices at another site you need to check that facility’s insurance coverage. If your post coverage is not adequate, you may wish to look into an additional rider to your own policy or specific shooter’s coverage.

3. **Select Facilities.** One of the advantages of using air rifles is that ranges can be set up easily in most facilities. The major requirement is that a shooter be 10 yards from the target. Some sports for rifle traps and backstops should be left behind the targets. Walls should be covered to prevent damage — moving quilts or canvas tarps will suffice. Shooters should have about four feet of space between them. Each shooter needs a pair of safety glasses, an air rifle, pellets and a target trap. In addition, your post may want to provide spotting scopes or mats for prone firing.

4. **Fund Your Program.** If you need to raise funds for a program, consider charging a registration fee or club membership dues or requiring participants to bring their own pellets and targets. Consider visiting local shooting ranges and local businesses, particularly sporting goods stores, which may be interested in sponsoring the program.

Fundraising events, such as an adult shooting contest with entry fees, also are popular ways to boost the program and can gain

(continued on page 12)
Cemetery staff does not make pre-arrangements. Visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil. For general information, location of gravesites, and visitor information call 877-907-8585. Please note that the Arlington National Cemetery staff does not make pre-arrangements. Visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

Casualty Assistance – Call toll free 877-353-6807. Overseas callers should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy.

DEERS Telephone Center – Call DEERS at 800-538-9552, Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. federal holidays, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific time.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service – The agency that pays military retirees and annuitants can be reached at 800-321-1080, or through AskDFAS online. Visit the retired military and annuitants webpage for more information about pay matters such as tax forms, pay verification, Direct Deposit, myPay and more.

Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program – The program provides long-term care insurance to help pay for the costs of care you need if you can no longer perform everyday tasks (activities of daily living) by yourself because of chronic illness, injury, disability or the aging process. For assistance, call 800-LTC-FEDS (800-582-3377) or TTY 800-843-3557 to speak with a program consultant. You can also visit https://www.tcfed.com/

Identification Cards – Call 800-525-0102 for location of the nearest issuing facility, or to visit the site locator.

Legal Offices can assist people with preparing wills and powers of attorney and answer certain legal questions. People can visit the Air Force Legal Assistance Assistance website at https://afla.las.law.af.mil.

Medicare – 800-633-4227 or visit www.medicare.gov.

Social Security – Call toll free 800-772-1213; commercial 410-965-8019; or write to Social Security Administration, Office of Public Inquiries, Windsor Park Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235. Visit the website for more information.


Veterans Affairs – For benefit inquiries call 800-827-1000; life insurance 800-669-9477; status of headstones and markers, 800-697-8447; special issues such as Gulf War/Radiation/Agent Orange/Project Shad call 800-749-8387; and GI Bill and educations matters call 888-442-4551. Visit the website at www.va.gov.

PREAMBLE (continued from page 2)

Hemisphere. We gave freedom to the Philippines. These principles are part of the American heritage. Legionnaires are pledged to protect and preserve that heritage.

TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADES BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS...The last or tenth clause of our Preamble is the most important ideal expressed in our Preamble.

It marked a new concept in America—a concept that made The American Legion the greatest force for social betterment in all the history of the United States. Let us be factual and examine this.

At the close of World War I, America was just emerging from its lusty era of rugged individualism. It was an era when the individual hammered out his own destiny and progress with little or no help from the government. An honest facing of the facts brings out that American society was then a cold society insufficiently as any organized public hands of helpfulness were concerned. The individual who fell upon evil times was left to private charity which meant mostly the churches and the Salvation Army. There were no public resources or services to help the unfortunate.

When the veterans of World War I came marching home, they found the nation utterly unprepared to care for the combat casualties of the war. The wounded, the shell-shocked and the sick were lodged in poor houses, jails, asylums or what-have-you.

Veterans of World War I were much more closely knitted than those of World War II. They trained in the same camps, fought on the one great front. Those who came home unscared were appalled by the plight of their less fortunate comrades. They felt a concern for them and their dependents which was a new and dynamic action aspect to what the country had known as friendship. This concern formed the bond among the charter members.

The American Legion Department of Tennessee Cordially invites you to attend

The American Legion Christmas Open House
Monday, December 16, 2019
318 Donelson Pike, Donelson, TN 37214
Food will be available from 11:00 – 2:00 pm
RSVP to Robbie@tnlegion.org
The American Legion Auxiliary

PREAMBLE

(continued from page 10)

of The American Legion and gave them a great and noble cause to fight for—the adequate care and protection of their disabled comrades and dependents, the war widows and orphans.

They faced a monumental task. Laws had to be drafted and enacted by the Congress to provide compensation for the war-handicapped. It did both.

They provided the administrative machinery, it appropriated the funds, it built hospitals. Then to bring about a result, the American Legion put through Congress the Bureau which has become the Veterans Administration of today. Over years of service. I have gotten the membership.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

NEW ELIGIBILITIES

Any spouse of a veteran can now join and become a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. The spouse can be male or female.

The eligibility dates range from December 7, 1941 until the present. This is a new way to recruit new members. Our first target date is November 10 to get 10 new members and you will receive $100. RECRUIT THOSE JUNIOR MEMBERS.

I want to encourage your unit to divide into two teams and collect those memberships. Please attend your divisional Fall meetings and bring memberships. We will have games and prizes for those who bring in the membership.

You are looking great but keep running. We can do this!! CONGRATULATIONS to the 100 percent units of Greenbrier, Dover, and Memphis 27.

Sincerely,
Peggy Monroe

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

May the seasons of your life be spiritually inspired and abundantly blessed.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, please never fail to recognize people who pack your parachute you will be blessed beyond measure and they will too!

Who Packed Your Parachute Today?

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Navy Academy graduate, was a jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air-missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, “You’re Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!” “How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb. “I packed your parachute,” the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, “I guess it worked!” Plumb assured him, “It sure did. If your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about that man, Plumb says, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said ‘Good morning,’ ‘how are you?’ or anything because you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.” Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn’t know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, “Who’s packing your parachute?” Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory— he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety. Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute.

Our hearts go out to our Veterans and we Salute them on Veterans Day Monday, November 11. Have a blessed Thanksgiving, a wonderful Merry Christmas and a prosperous Happy New Year!

Father God, we always give you thanks for the many blessings that you bestow upon us. We lift up all those who are facing illnesses and sending Condolences to the bereaved in our American Legion Family. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Help us to remember that if You God are for us, it doesn’t matter who or what is against us. You are greater than anything in this world. Amen

For God and Country

ALA Department Chaplain

JAN BRUCE
JUNIOR SHOOTER
(continued from page 9)

community goodwill.

6. Recruit Participants. To attract partic-
ipsants, consider making presentations or
passing out Legion Junior Shooting Sports
brochures at local youth groups, such as Boy
and Girl Scouts or 4-H.

7. Promote the Program. Participants’ parents need to be on board. Your post
could hold an informational meeting for the
parents, and encourage them to become in-
volved as volunteers. Community leaders
and school officials can help gain support
from the general public. Invite the community
to public competitions through radio and tel-
evion ads, and leverage social media, such
as Facebook’s events pages.

8. Expand. As your Junior Shooting Sports Club grows, think about going beyond
fundamental marksmanship training. You
could offer Qualification Awards programs,
host local competitions and even have select
participants compete to attend the Legion’s
National Championships at the Olympic
Training Center/USA Shooting Range Facili-
ties in Colorado Springs, CO.

For More Information Contact Department
Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Marty
Goodman, marty223@charter.net, 931-349-
9438.