DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER

Ronald LaRose

Howdy Legionnaires,

COVID-19 has got its second wind and we all need to be safer than before. There is no end in sight. I wish each one of you good health through these times. Continue to check on your elderly relatives and Legion members and other senior citizens in your community.

Halloween was last night and not sure how it was going to turn out. My wife goes all out for all holidays and even she was unsure how to tackle this year’s Halloween. She and one of my daughters-in-law decorated the front porch and the front yard as well as usual but had to give some thought on how to hand out the candy and keep social distancing. My wife knows how to think out of the box. She retrieved an 8-foot long PVC pipe from her brother, painted it in Halloween orange, connected one end to a step ladder on the porch, propped up the other end, placed a table under the far end with a small shallow box on it, and slid the packets of candy down this PVC pipe to children who visited. We normally have 500-600 children, but this year only about a third of that number showed, but those that showed were entertained with the lighted pumpkins, hanging goblins, spooky noises, and the orange candy shoot. We think some returned just for the entertainment. Fun was had by all!

Fall Conference and a DEC meeting were held on October 24 by ZOOM. Fred Latour and his committee had a good agenda ready for us, but a couple of his presenters were a no show, but the ones that gave presentations and answered our questions did a good job. Most important information was delivered by Liquor Control personnel on following the protocols established by the Governor and his staff. They did say the Legion Posts they had visited were doing a good job in following these protocols.

The DEC meeting was informative with the most important topics being: the Scouting Salute to Veterans Parade was canceled due to COVID-19 issues in Ludlow; the Eagle Scout of the Year must be from a BSA Troop chartered by a Legion, SAL or Auxiliary or the Eagle Scout must have a father, grandfather, etc., who is a member of a Legion, SAL or Auxiliary; due to financial shortcomings of not being able to host summer camps the Commander’s Project is to raise funding to support the two GMC camps; Dept

(Continued on page 5)
PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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 one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all 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 master of might;  To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation,
under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all
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On July 30, 2019, the LEGION Act was signed into law, which extended the ongoing declared period of war back to Dec. 7, 1941. The act paved the way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered wartime.

Notably for The American Legion the LEGION Act — Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — filled in the gaps of membership eligibility. What that means for us is that any veteran with an honorable discharge who served since the day Pearl Harbor was attacked is now eligible to join The American Legion.

For these newly eligible members — roughly 4.2 million — it means they can now join the nation’s largest and most influential veterans service organization, and enjoy the rewards of membership.

But many of these now-eligible members don’t yet realize they can join. They have tried to sign up in the past, only to learn they were not eligible due to the previous definitions of war periods.

So, it is up to us to spread the word and let these deserving veterans know that we are now allowed to welcome them into our family. As you reach out to these non-members, visit legion.org to search for and read the article “11 things you need to know about the LEGION Act.”

But communicating with these eligible members is not limited to just today or this week. Invite eligible members to your Thanksgiving or Christmas event at the post or elsewhere in your community.

What a wonderful opportunity to welcome them and demonstrate how we continue to serve our great nation, states and communities. And now, these newly eligible members are not only able to observe the great community service we provide, they can serve with us.

James W. “Bill” Oxford National Commander
Convention/Conference Committee has decided to hold the Mid-Winter Conference via ZOOM but as of now the Convention is still an in-person event; Finance Committee is working on establishing a Charitable Foundation for the Dept; with the resignation of Keith Arlund as the Dept Adjutant, Linda Perham was appointed to fill this position through the Convention; and these were some of the highlights of the DEC meeting. For more details on the DEC, see the minutes in the bulletin.

During this past month, my travels took me to: Post 91 to make a presentation to Dick Studley for his continued efforts in membership; Post 10 to make the presentation of the Eagle Scout of the Year to Matthew Durgin; meeting with BG Knight along with reps from the VFW to determine ways of encouraging veterans to sign up for Burn Pit Registry, which to date has had very little success even though we keep losing soldiers who served in the Asian Theater.

Membership is doing okay but the Dept of VT has hundreds of members who have not renewed yet and this should be your top priority in your Posts to renew these members. At the same time, look at non-renewals of a year ago, two years ago, etc. The only good excuse to not renew them is have they passed away. Do your Post a favor by making some visits or phone calls to these Legionnaires and bring them back into the fold.

The fall is the time most Vermonters go to the woods to hunt with a bow, rifle or muzzle loader for deer or bear. This is also a good time for hunting accidents. No human being looks like a deer or bear. Know your target and what is beyond your target. For those that hunt, I wish you a safe and successful hunting season.

My family and I extend to you a very Happy and Thankful Thanksgiving!

I thank you for your patience and understanding. I can be reached by email, ronaldllarose@gmail.com, 802-453-3818 (w) or 802-453-7663 (h).

For God and Country,

Ron LaRose
Department Commander

ARE YOU?

(Author Unknown)

The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the club meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that “just belong”?

Do you bring in members,
The kind that always stick
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

There’s quite a program scheduled
That I’m sure you’ve heard about
And we’ll appreciate it if you, too
Will come and help us out.
Senior Vice Commander

Catherine M. Tester

Dear Legionnaires,

For all my fellow Marines “Happy Birthday”, the Marine Corps turns 245 years old on November 10, 2020, and I will follow with a “Happy Veterans Day” on November 11. Thank you very much for your service to this great nation. We live in a free country, free to speak our mind and worship at will because men and women have fought, and continue to fight, for the freedoms we enjoy and take for granted every day.

As we continue to forge ahead during COVID-19 times, we must remain ever vigilant. We recently had a Legion Post close their doors for a week because they had two active COVID-19 cases. The exposure did not occur at the legion. This a cautionary tale for all legion members and their guests to wear masks, practice social distancing and take necessary precaution. Stay safe!

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, remember those less fortunate. Is there an extra place at your table for a veteran or community member who may be alone? As we reflect and sit down to dinner, say a prayer for all our active duty men and women who may not be home with their loved ones this Thanksgiving, that they may be safe and back with their families soon.

I am here to help, give me a call or send me an email. Stay well and safe.

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester

COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN...

THE REASON THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, AND MARINES SQUABBLE AMONG THEMSELVES IS THAT THEY DON’T SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE A SIMPLE PHRASE LIKE, "SECURE THE BUILDING."

• The Army will put guards around the place.

• The Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors.

• The Air Force will take out a 5-year lease with an option to buy.

• The Marines will kill everybody inside and make it a command post.
NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER

Tom Scanlon

Well we are inside with the colder weather. It is November, and Veteran’s Day is coming up soon. While our veterans are most important to us, we have just had a full moon and the ghouls and goblins were out and there were smiling faces on the young ones (and old ones) on the recent Halloween. Here at Post 27 in Middlebury, we were part of the town wide Middlebury Spooktacular. Seventeen entities, which included local businesses, Park and Recreation, the Sheriff’s Department, and Post 27 were a network of drive through trick or treat locations putting smiles on the faces of those who participated. Each of these seventeen locations gave out close to 600 bags of candy and goodies to the children in the vehicles with their chauffeurs.

It was both refreshing and rewarding to see post Legion members along with the Auxiliary and Sons participating in putting smiles on many faces to include their own. A long time Legionnaire, Gerry DeGray, age 85, was there and he said he had to be, in that his older brother, Joe Degrar, longtime post commander, was there passing out candy from his perch behind the hay bales.

Pumpkins, along with hale bales on two sides, lined the alleyway for the delivery of the treats. On perches behind the bales, on both sides were volunteers, armed with a delivery system which was comprised of a six foot waxed plastic rain gutter. This got a lot of smiles and laughs from both the children and the parents.

Many of the volunteers giving directions were in costume as well. There was the goldilocks and the wolf, the prince and princess, and many others helping out and dancing to the Halloween appropriate music that was loudly playing causing the volunteers to periodically get into a full dance mode to the joy of all.

The costumes of both the children and some parents were great. We even had a dinosaur show up. All and all it was a great event for all involved, children young and old. Here are some of the photos.
I congratulate all who attended the Fall Conference via the ZOOM link. I was somewhat disappointed that there were not more posts represented. The information presented by the elected speakers was clear and informative. I had the pleasure of being with a small group comprised of Legionnaires from Posts 31, 49, and 50 who assembled at Post 49 and took advantage of their technical ability to project the meeting on a large screen and interact, as necessary, with the conference and DEC meeting that followed. Since we have decided that the Mid-Winter will be a similar format, I would encourage posts to plan how they can participate and provide an opportunity for members to be involved. I also remind the District and County commanders of the Southern District that the Mid-Winter meeting is the time when we generally submit endorsements for candidates running for Department Position at the annual convention. District Commanders should be contacting the county commanders and working on a list of candidates to fill the various positions. Since there are still COVID restrictions in effect, it may be difficult to do a face to face District Caucus E-Mail, phone or perhaps local ZOOM capabilities should be considered. We are planning for a two-day face to face convention in June, if COVID regulations allow. Please inform me regarding your slate of County and District position and candidates for delegates at National Convention. Remember that I am filling the Southern District position since no one ran for the position at the 2019 Convention and I would certainly like to see a dedicated candidate running for the position. Planning in should go forward assuming we can hold conventional Department and National Conventions in 2021. I also would like to commend Commander LaRose for selecting PNVC Linda Perham to be the interim Adjutant until Convention 2021. I am sure that Linda’s experience and dedication to the American Legion will be of great benefit to the Department during this difficult COVID-19 period of confusion.

For God and Country

PDC Royal E. Sheeley, Southern Area Commander

Changes for the Directory

Page 16 - Orange County Commander Larry Hart
            Address PO Box 15, Topsham, VT 05076  Home: 802-439-6070 Cell 802-238-6302
Page 54 - Post 78 Adjutant Larry Hart
            Address PO Box 15, Topsham, VT 05076  Home: 802-439-6070 Cell 802-238-6302

If you have changes for the Directory, please call Melodie at the Department office.
The Importance of Reaching out

Treasures our found in the strangest places. Recently, I received a call from a wife of a veteran. She had sent in her husband’s dues early July and in October all she had was another renewal card and still no card. This is not unusual.

Looking at the membership report I noticed this post had not sent in dues for over a year. Had no contact, members were elderly and no real hope. One would probably just write it off and get ready to cancel the charter.

The investigation into the post led to two treasures. First, a young Marine, who took control of the post, but had no idea the dues needed to be processed. He was discouraged, but faithful to his hometown post. With a bit of support and instruction, he managed to get all the members processed and enough enthusiasm to sign two more up. This started the rebuilding process. The first step is finding someone that is dedicated to his hometown Legion Post.

While looking down the roster, I noticed a name, Charles Woolley. For those that do not know, he is an author and was a long-time curator for the Vermont Military Museum in Colchester. I was a fan of his work, in particular, his story of his father a WWI pilot. I called this 90-year-old Korean War veteran, hoping he was still alive. To my pleasure, he was as active as ever. We talked about the post and the importance of its history. How I remembered the pride the membership had with some of the archives they had stored in the town hall. The call was important to both of us. Charles said he was not active with the post, never seemed to be something he was interested in, but the history.... now that lit a spark. He believed he could help.

Two treasures, young and not so young. Charles knew the “young Marine” and he said he would connect with him to see if he could help him. A connection was made by just listening and being supportive to a post that came close to being labeled a hopeless cause.

I will admit, when I heard this little post in the middle of nowhere was not processing dues, I was apprehensive. Just goes to show ya, that every post, big or small deserves our best shot in revitalization efforts.

Our visits and encouragement. Don’t assume because they don’t attend a convention or conference that they all know what’s happening. Don’t assume that they don’t care. Reach out, talk to them about their lives and see where it takes you. There’s always a treasure waiting to be found.

Keep up the good work. Make the calls! Check on every post and thank them for their service.
**upcoming EVENTS**

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<th>Event/meeting</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
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<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>25-26</td>
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**Did you know?**

**Nov. 10-12, 1919**

First Legion convention convenes in Minneapolis. The Constitution and preamble are adopted. Delegates vote 361-323 to locate the Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, instead of Washington.

A resolution is passed in support of Boy Scouts of America. *Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 Scouting units made up of approximately 64,000 youths.*
November is here and leaves are gone, and winter is in the air. Hunting season is here and some of us are off in the woods looking for the elusive white tail. Legionaries that are not hunting, go out and hunt down new members invite them to the Post and a meeting.

If there is a special meeting you would like me to attend, please let me know.

Please stay safe and take care of your families, we can and will get thru this for we are Vermont Strong.

Please feel free to call or text me if anyone needs help with anything and will do whatever I can to help.

We all need to be strong and pray together, God and Country.

Please keep up the wonderful work throughout are Community’s. Thank you all for serving.

Contact #’s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793

Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

Thank you

David W Perron

Welcome fellow Legionnaires. I hope you all are staying safe and Healthy.

By now most posts if not all of them should now be back open. Hopefully everyone is following the governor’s directive and staying safe. I have heard that liquor inspectors have been making surprise visits to check on compliance. Please folks try your hardest to follow Governor Scott’s guidelines. This is for the safety of all our veterans and post staff.

We had a virtual fall conference and I feel that it was a success. We had great attendance and it was good to see those of you that decided to attend. Tom Curran who is the Vermont DLC Enforcement Supervisor and Jen Fisher we also attending on Zoom to answer questions. Tom Mentioned that there are still inspections happening and there have been some enforcement actions taken place on some bars that are not Legions. However, we are not exempt from surprise inspections. I asked if there were any penalties if caught not following guidelines and there are. First offense is a warning. Second offense is a $300 administrative ticket and if caught a third time, the offender will go before the liquor control board and risk losing their license. So please folks please be careful and follow guidelines. You can find all the information that you need at https://accd.vermont.gov

The new membership year is in full swing so let’s please get them submitted so we can meet the goal dates that National has set forth. The Second district for the most part is in good shape. There are a couple
posts that are falling behind in submitting memberships and I will be reaching out to them.

Department Commander has canceled the post evaluation program for the rest of the year. There will still be a Mid-Winter Conference, but due to COVID-19 and restrictions that have been put in place, Mid-Winter will be via Zoom, just like the Fall Conference was held.

Take care 2nd district, be safe and stay healthy, and I hope to see you soon.

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email post7adj@gmail.com, or just shoot me a message on Facebook.

Mark Cloutier
Department of Vermont

ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER

Alan M. Smith

Membership is slowing, it’s time to personally contact those who have not paid and those that have not renewed in a couple of years. Bring them up to date on what activities your Post has planned and ask them to be a part of them. There is not a lot of interaction between Posts due to the pandemic, if any of the Addison County Posts have questions or need assistance call me at Post 19. The “Virtual Living Room” has been going through one delay after another hope to get it open soon. Post 19 lost WWII veteran and former P.O.W. Roger Layn at 100 years of age. I urge all members to stick to the guidelines our Governor airs each week and pray we get through this tough period.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY COMMANDER

Jess Blanchard-Patenaude

Hello everyone,

I know it has been a while since I have written in our bulletin. I am very sorry. As many of us have felt the loss of family and dear friends all around us, Post 91 has also suffered a dear loss. Many people knew Frank Fen tin, he was a charter member for Post 91, a Commander and he was our Adjutant. He was mine and several others 1st SGT in the Vermont National Guard. He was family for me and many others. He is dearly missed. With that being said, we now have a new adjutant Dan Landry. Many people throughout our state have met him or have talked with him because he was with the Color Guard for the VTANG. He has retired after 30 plus years in the military and is now a part of Post 91 family. He has very large shoes to fill, and he has already proven that he can handle them.

Like many Posts, Dan and several others during our down time have gone through Post 91 cleaning, fixing, and upgrading items that needed to be done. As we were finally able to reopen, Mr. Goldstine, and Mr. Pat Myers donated to the Post to help us get back from our financial losses.

Our Flag day was delayed because of COVID, but Dave Myers and Randy Patenaude managed to get it done. We thank them for that.
Then there is our Post Commander Henry Lingo. He and Post 91 received a much well-deserved award, the Spirit of the Community from Centerpoint VT. We congratulate him. Then there is Henry’s wife Janet who is day in and day out helping at the Post with several different projects, she is an Aux. member and with our Color Guard. Between the both of them they can conquer anything. We have several members, and the community always helps out and we are very appreciative.

Two weeks ago, we had a surprise visit from our State Commander Ron Larose. He came for a Sunday breakfast and to also present Mr. Dick Studley for a well-deserved award for all his efforts he has done with memberships. This award was from National. Congrats to Mr. Studley.

We just had our DEC meeting not too long ago. Gen. Knight and Commander Larose and our VFW counterparts are trying to help our past and current Soldiers with the burn pit applications we really need to get the word out to everyone. I know there will be another meeting soon with all three agencies and they are looking to do a mobile van to help throughout our state. Where and when are still unknown, but please everyone pass the word around. There are many programs out there to help Veterans, and with upcoming deployments throughout, we all could use help and guidance.

Listen people it doesn't matter which group we belong to Legion, Auxiliary, SAL we are all one. We need to be vigilant throughout these times, check on our neighbor’s family and friends.

We all could and need to have kindness around us.

Thank you all,
Jess Blanchard-Patenaude

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Randy Patenaude (legionnaire, Auxiliary and Sons member) with Legionaire Dave Myers preparing flags for retirement

Legionnaires Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Meyers present a check to Post 91 to help with financial losses.

Dan Landry retired Vermont National Guard is appointed at Adjutant of Post 91

Post 91 Color Guard during the 911 Ceremony
Howdy Legionnaires,

A belated Happy Halloween to everyone. By the time you get the Nov. bulletin you will have been tricked or treated. Never did understand the truths and falses about All Saints Day, what with ghosts, goblins, witches and the going door to door to collect treats. I was especially intrigued by the trick or treat thing, how did it get started, where was it first done etc,etc. Didn't get a lot of learning about All Saints Day and Halloween at Chaplain School, but I did get some great information from my friend Father Holden who does Mass at the Vermont Veterans Home. The internet had lots of information also. Here is just a bit of what I found:

- Many of the customs we now associate with Halloween come from ancient celebrations. The current custom of going door to door to collect goodies started in Ireland hundreds of years ago. Groups of farmers would go door to door collecting food and materials for a feast or bonfire. Those who gave were promised prosperity, those who did not received threats of bad luck. When an influx of Irish Catholic immigrants came to the United States in the 1800s, the custom of trick or treat came with them.

- The custom of carving pumpkins and placing them on the porch at Halloween started with turnips. People would hollow out the turnips and place lighted candles inside to scare off evil spirits. When the Irish came to America, they discovered the pumpkin was a larger substitute for the turnips. Thus, we now carve pumpkins for Halloween.

Although Halloween has become mostly a secular holiday, we need to remind ourselves and our families of its Christian roots. The word Halloween itself is a shortened form of All Saints Day. This holiday properly understood and celebrated with all its trappings, can be a way for us to deepen our understanding of our faith.

As to the Vermont Veterans Home, all is well, but we are praying for an end to COVID-19. Father Holden and I are doing Mass and All Faiths Services respectively every Wednesday which can be seen by our HEROS and their spouses via close circuit T.V.

Pray for our troops all over the world.

For God and Country,

Chaplain Ken

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**SUICIDE**

If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts, please call the crisis line at 1-800-273-8255, press 1 for veterans. You could also text at 838255.
Veterans Day
November 11

ACROSS
1 Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and
2 Are banks open on Veterans Day? (yes or no)
3 very large boat
4 to join a military branch
5 vehicle that flies in the sky
6 military branch that conducts naval operations
7 number of U.S. military branches

DOWN
2 month Veterans Day is in
3 small military branch that protects our coastline and enforces maritime laws (2 words)
4 Is Veterans Day a federal holiday? (yes or no)
5 outfit worn by soldiers
6 person who is enlisted in a branch of the Armed Forces
7 largest U.S. military branch
8 armed conflict between countries

www.elcivics.com
Hi Legionaries,

The convention committee submitted to the DEC meeting that we felt that it would be safer for us to do the zoom program for Mid-Winter Conference on January 26th, 2021. It was approved by all.

The Committee has found a location to have our State Convention on June 25 & 26, 2021. The location for the convention will be the Holiday Inn in Rutland. The prices of the rooms will be $119.00 plus tax and will include a hot breakfast. You will need to make registration by the first of May. There will lots of programing to include a Banquet at Rutland Post 31 plus entertainment, Legion Baseball game, golf tournament etc.

Watch this bulletin for more information on what will be coming up. We are looking forward to a great Convention and being able to see all our Legion Families that we have not seen for quite some time.

Please have a safe Thanksgiving.

PDC Barbara Bushaw
The Department of Vermont Executive Board met virtually, on October 24, 2020 at approximately 11:30 am, Commander Ron Larose presiding.

Opening Prayer offered by Ken Coonradt.

Roll call of DEC conducted by Exec. Sect Melodie Ashford and a quorum was established.

Minutes of the previous meetings of July DEC and Special DEC of September 30, 2020 were previously mailed to all members. Motion by Tom Scanlon to accept, 2d. Accepted unanimously.

Commander Larose made announcements:

Boy Scout Parade to honor Veterans scheduled for Nov 7th in Ludlow is canceled due to COVID for safety reasons.

Eagle Scout of The Year changes for National award explained Scout must be affiliated with someone with active Legion family membership (SAL, Auxiliary, Legion) or chartered BSA with a Post, Squadron our Unit.

Commanders Project: Green Mountain Boy Scout Council.

National is looking for a post 9/11 veteran (under age 45) for a promotional video. Send names to Dept.

Post #10 having a Veterans Day dinner, limit 100 people. Call post to attend.

Committee reports:

Karlene Devine (Oratorical Chair): State Finals will be at Post #27, Middlebury on March 6, 2021. It is required in person if the student wishes to attend the National Contest.

Asked District Commanders to provide an individual that she could train to hold post or District competitions.

She has two applicants. She has sent info to High School counselors. Her website info must be updated and she will send to Dept. HQ.

Convention/Conference Committee: Barb Bushaw.

Met with her committee and their recommendations are for a virtual midwinter and DEC. Motion by Tester, 2d passed unanimously.

State Convention for June 2021:

Committee recommended in person, two-day event and we will pivot with changes if COVID makes restrictions. We are in discussions with Doubletree and Rutland Holiday Inn at present. More TBA.

Finance Officer: Dennis Minoli discussed P&L since last DEC. Update of finance. Motion to accept C. Tester, 2d Scanlon passed unanimously subject to audit.
Reported:

♦ Ways and Means Direct soliciting was considered by committee and rejected due to over soliciting members at this time.

♦ Foundation paperwork has been started and we continue to move forward.

♦ Investments with CD’s need to be reviewed by committee for improvement of financial growth.
   Must be FDIC approved by bylaws.

Post Evaluation Committee: Lou Graham. Due to COVID and for the safety of our members we will be canceling the program for this year.

Boys State: Dave Cobb due to COVID and school students not all back in schools, the recruitment for 2021 is up in the air right now. The committee is planning for June 21-26 at Northern Vermont University. We will accept Seniors that had applied last year to attend with this year’s Juniors. Dave will send certificates to students, that had applied and could not attend once schools are opened.

Membership: Catherine Tester reports MyLegion will be down for conversion to new system Nov 10-16. Going live on Nov 16th. There will be training for this.

Law Cadet: Tom Scanlon echoed Dave Cobb with recruitment challenges with students. Will report more as info is provided.

Baseball: Scott Stevens National has reported there are plans for National and World Series for 2021. Baseball will address the new Risk Management program for all adults associated with youth activities. Every Two years Sexual Abuse Awareness Training. Background Checks annually all through Protect Youth Sports.

No date yet for committee meeting. Rutland Post has offered to host.

NEC Fred Latour: Resolutions are available on legion.org website under media/digital archive. Tester placed that information on Facebook also!!

Karlene Devine gave a fundraising idea of a scavenger hunt. She will put idea in next bulletin.

Commander Larose: reporting that he met with the Adjutant General and family support regarding “Burnpit registry and Gulf War registry”. This will be starting in January and May contact local posts for accommodations to Town Hall type meetings for this. Andre Wing is a POC.

Commander discussed replacement of Dept. Adjutant and the reasons why. Preliminary email Voting reported: 51 DEC members the results were 28 yes, 9 nays, 1 abstained. Motion made by Scanlon, to accept the recommendation of the Commander to appoint Linda Perham as Department adjutant. Second by Lemnah and Tetreault to confirm Linda Perham as Department Adjutant. Motion passed unanimous consent.

No further discussions or reports. Closing prayer offered by Chaplain and we adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Perham
Adjutant
History of Veterans Day

Veterans Day, originally celebrated as Armistice Day, was first issued on November 11, 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson a year after the end of World War I. The purpose of Armistice day was to honor the fallen soldiers of The Great War for their sacrifice and bravery. 7 years later in 1926, Congress adopted a resolution requesting President Coolidge issue annual proclamations on November 11, making Armistice Day a legal holiday.

In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans rather than just the ones who died in World War I. He led a delegation to General Dwight Eisenhower, who was all for the idea. Weeks then conducted the first Veterans Day celebration in 1945 in Alabama and every year until his death in 1985. In 1982, he was honored by President Reagan with the Presidential Citizenship Medal. Weeks was also named the “Father of Veterans Day” by Elizabeth Dole. Ed Rees, the U.S. Representative from Emporia, Kansas, presented a bill establishing the holiday through to congress. Eisenhower, who was now President and from Kansas, signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954, 8 and a half years after Raymond Weeks held the first Veteran’s Day. A few weeks later, June 1, Congress amended the bill replacing “Armistice” with “Veterans.” The National Veterans Award was also created in 1954, first received by Congressman Rees for his support in making Veterans Day a federal holiday.

Though the holiday is currently and was originally celebrated on November 11, the day was moved to the fourth Monday of October in 1971 due to the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. However, only 7 years later in 1978, it was moved back to November 11.

Veterans Today From History.com

The military men and women who serve and protect the U.S. come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors, and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities. Here are some facts about the veteran population of the United States:

- 18.2 million living veterans served during at least one war as of 2018.
- 9 percent of veterans are women.
- 7 million veterans served during the Vietnam War.
- 3 million veterans have served in support of the War on Terrorism.
- Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 496,777 were still alive as of 2018.
- Connecticut was home to the highest percentage of World War II veterans as of 2018 at 7.1 percent.
- 2 million veterans served during the Korean War.

As of 2017, the top three states with the highest percentage of Veterans were Alaska, Maine and Montana, respectively.
Your American Legion

Department of Veterans Affairs 800-827-1000 www.va.gov
American Legion Headquarters 317-630-1200 www.legion.org
Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs 802-828-3379 www.veterans.vermont.gov
Veterans Hospital - White River Junction 802-295-9363 www.whiteriver.va.gov
Department of Vermont Headquarters 802-223-7131 www.vtlegion.org

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Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1
10 things you didn't know about the Marine Corps

Nov. 10 is the birthday of the Marine Corps, first formed as the Continental Marines in 1775 during the Revolutionary War. Here are some things you may not know about the service branch.

1. The Corps’ first amphibious raid was only weeks after its creation; Marines successfully stormed a British weapons cache in the Bahamas. (via USO)

2. Marines often pin their next promotable rank onto their uniforms as motivation. They usually hide it in their cover, or under a pocket flap. (via USO)

3. Male recruits attend boot camp in one of two locations, depending on which side of the Mississippi they’re from. Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego is for West Coast recruits, and MCRD Parris Island (S.C.) is for East Coast recruits. Female recruits only attend MCRD Parris. (via USO)

4. The license plate of the Commandant of the Marine Corps reads “1775.” (via USO)

5. In 1798, the Marine Corps began issuing "one stock of black leather and clasp" to Marines. The item was worn to protect their necks when fighting with swords. Today, the standing collar on the dress coat of the Marine Corps uniform is a vestige of the "leatherneck" tradition. (via Mental Floss)

6. Ed McMahon, Drew Carey and novelist Robert Ludlum (who wrote the Jason Bourne books) all served in the Marine Corps. (via Mental Floss)

7. The first Marines enlisted at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, which is considered the birthplace of the Corps. (via Mental Floss)


9. President Andrew Jackson (in office 1829-1837) wanted to abolish the Marine Corps, thinking it was no longer necessary. (via www.mca-marines.org)

10. During the cake-cutting ceremony every Marine Corps birthday, the first three pieces are presented to the guest of honor, the oldest Marine present, and the youngest Marine present. This tradition is also part of the Corps’ birthday celebration on the battlefield, if possible. (via We Are the Mighty)
ALA Department of Vermont "#kindnessmatter - Color me American"

Tie Dyed T-shirt Fundraiser.

Please help us spread a culture of Kindness throughout our Auxiliary and show your pride for our flag and the LOVE of our Country & organization, now when we need it more than ever.

If you would like to order a shirt please send payment to ALA Dept of Vermont, PO Box 192 Montpelier VT 05601-0192 & call 802-223-3141 with any questions. Please be sure to include the quantity, size, and shipping cost with address. T-shirts may also be picked up at Department HQs.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the ALA Dept of Vermont General fund. We thank you for your support during these trying times. Let’s show some ALA pride, order your shirt today!

Shirt can be viewed at ALA Department HQs and are much nicer in person!
Hi Legionaries,

The end of September I attended the National Children and Youth conference via Zoom. It went very well and allowed participation without traveling.

I learned that the Department of Vermont and one other state has not made any donations to the Children and Youth child welfare program. I know Posts are having a hard time but maybe each Post could donate $25.00 to show our support for this program. Vermont has used this program to help our young people in need of help. Thank you if you can help with this program.

The Temporary Finance Assistance Program is changing the application and the form will now be online starting in January. If you are applying for this program there are a few new requirements. You will need to submit at least six paystubs if you are working for both you and your spouse (if married). There will also be an area where the Post can give any comments on the application.

I hope everyone has a safe Thanksgiving.

Hunters have a safe season and be safe in the woods.

PDC Barbara Bushaw
Children and Youth Chairman

Mission Blue Post Assistance Program

Legion posts affected by COVID can apply for $1,000 grant

Public health mandates in response to the coronavirus included stay-at-home orders and business closures. Those mandates financially impacted American Legion posts nationwide as member and community outreach efforts were limited, resulting in a loss of revenue.

To provide some relief during these challenging times, financial grants are now available for eligible American Legion posts.

Resolution No. 36, Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, will provide $1,000 grants to posts that are in good standing with their respective department. These funds must be used exclusively to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities, and insurance.

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 36 Oct. 14, during its annual Fall Meetings. Funds for the approved grants will be provided through The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Eligibility for a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant requires posts to have:

(Continued on page 25)
2. Filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
3. Filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.
4. Actively participated in one or more American Legion programs in the last 18 months.
5. A financial need.
6. A certificate of insurance naming The American Legion doing business as American Legion National Headquarters as an additional insured.
7. Documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

The Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant application will be a fillable PDF. Please stay tuned for its release. American Legion posts applying for a grant will be required to first submit the completed application to their respective department for approval before it can be sent to National Headquarters. This application procedure is the same as the NEF.

American Legion posts have until Dec. 31, 2021, to apply for an Operation Blue PAP grant.

Download application at
https://www.legion.org/documents/.../Mission_Blue_PAP_Application_1.pdf

**Legislative Update**

**Two Legion-backed bills addressing veteran suicide become law**

The American Legion

Oct 22, 2020

On Oct. 17, President Trump signed S. 785, the “Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019” and S. 2661, the “National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020” into law. The legislation was supported by The American Legion.

“A heartbreaking truth of veteran suicide is that nearly every veteran has been touched by it in some form or fashion,” said Katie Purswell, deputy director of Health Policy for The American Legion, in her testimony Sept. 9 before the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs (SVAC) on S. 785. “The things that we have done and seen are now a part of us and affect us in ways we can have trouble understanding. From complications with assimilation into civilian life to reliving past traumatic experiences, we struggle at times to find a way to cope.”

S. 785 is named in honor of retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. John Scott Hannon, who served his country for 23 years as a leader of SEAL Team Two, a member of SEAL Team Six, and Special Operations and policy staff officer at U.S. Special Operations Command. Six years after he retired from the Navy, Hannon died by suicide on Feb. 25, 2018.

VA estimates that around 20 veterans die by suicide each day.

The law includes provisions that specifically target women veterans, as well as ones addressing the need to provide veterans with access to alternative and complementary health-care programs and expand telehealth services. The American Legion was the only major veterans service organization to testify before the SVAC on S. 785.

“Our organization understands mental health care does not have a one-size fits all solution in preventing suicide. It is a complex problem that needs to be treated at an individual level as each veteran’s situation is unique,” Purswell said. “As a Legion member, and as a veteran who has been touched by (Continued on page 26)
this tragedy, I am proud to say The American Legion supports this bill in its entirety."

S. 2661, the “National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020,” designates 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. Advocates believe that designating a three-digit telephone number can transform access to mental health care.

In addition to the 9-8-8 designation, the law includes a provision for the Veterans Crisis Line. By dialing 9-8-8, veterans will have fast and easy access to veteran-specific mental health support. S. 2661 is supported by American Legion Resolution No. 377.

Greetings Riders,

I’m passing along to you a copy of an email I received along with a copy of Resolution 19, as passed by The American Legion National Executive Committee.

I’ll not editorialize at this time, but simply provide it for your information. I have no answers to questions, but did ask Mr. Pajak if I could provide his email address,

Drew Pajak neast.natlegionridersrep@gmail.com, in case anyone had questions and did receive his consent.

His email and a copy of the Resolution follow:

Good Afternoon All,

My name is Drew Pajak and I am a Consultant to the National Legion Riders Committee for all of New England, New York and France. I am writing today to send you the Greetings of our Chairman, Mark Clark of Missouri and provide you with a copy of Resolution 19 passed at the National Executive Committee Fall Meetings from Oct 14-16. This email is to all of the Adjutants and Legion Rider State Directors that I have Contact information for. If the Adjutants could send me any updated information, I would appreciate the help. I do not at this time have a State rider Director for CT, RI or ME.

Now for the Main reason for the email. The Resolution that is attached replaces resolution 32 and 35. This new Resolution Solidifies across the country the titles that are to be used for the leadership of the Riders Program at all levels. I ask that you all read over the Resolution as I expect there to be many questions involv-
ing this document. What I am asking for now is for each of us to be enthusiastic about this resolution. It is an excellent document that addresses many of the concerns and requests made to us by Riders over the past couple of years. Riders wanted us to be more specific about titles, expectations, dress, and conduct and we have provided all of that in this resolution. We knew that changing the titles of ALR leaders would be an emotional challenge for some so we built a one year transition period into the resolution to allow for new elections or appointments next year when a clean transition to one of the approved titles could be made. This also allows time for Dept’s to amend their CB&L or SOP’s regarding their ALR Program. That was a compromise that is fair and appropriate.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to Visiting with all of you soon

Drew Pajak
Consultant
National Legion Riders Committee
NY, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, ME and FR

** Talking Points and the Resolution continued on page 29 **

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The American Legion

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS P.O. BOX 1055 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055
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The American Legion Welcomes President’s Signing of LEGION Act

(INDIANAPOLIS, July 30, 2019) -- The head of the nation’s largest veterans organization thanked President Trump for signing a bipartisan act which will recognize veterans who served during periods not previously considered “wartime.”

(Continued on page 28)
The Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act (LEGION Act) opens the door for millions of veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

“We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act in the White House today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives,” National Commander Brett P. Reistad said. “In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing millions of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country.”
The gaps in the war eras were largely during the Cold War, a time when threats to U.S. national security was real, especially to the men and women serving in uniform. Overall, about 1,600 U.S. servicemembers were killed or wounded in hostile operations during periods that were not previously recognized as times of war by the federal government.

“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing do and it is long overdue,” Reistad said. “The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them ‘Legionnaires.’”

Reistad points out that existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. “In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write ‘LEGION Act’ in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras,” Reistad said. “The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well.”

With a current membership of nearly two million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts worldwide. From the drafting of the original GI Bill to the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion is the most influential voice for America’s veterans. The American Legion, www.legion.org, will be celebrating its centennial through Veterans Day.

-30-

Media contacts: Indianapolis: John Raughter, jraughter@legion.org, (317) 630-1350; / cell (317) 441-8847 / Washington, D.C.: Mackenzie Wolf, mwolf@legion.org, (760) 889-0307.
THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Talking Points Memorandum

DATE:  November 2, 2020

TO:  See Distribution

FROM:  Robert E. Newman, Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission
        Mark R. Clark, Chairman, The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee

SUBJECT:  Resolution 19 Approved by the NEC Fall Meeting October 14-15, 2020

Upon the passing of Resolution 19 and its dissemination to the departments, there were questions, remarks and concerns on the rules contained in the second resolve clause. Some of these concerns are valid, and they will be discussed and reviewed for a possible amendment recommendation to the National Executive Committee at the Spring 2021 Meeting. The following talking points are provided to discuss with The American Legion Riders to modify where it is felt essential to better clarify the resolution:

Rule #2 “Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.”

Remarks – It is understood there are non-married partners and relationships such as common-law marriages, life partners, and long-term relationships. It is also known there are posts and departments with “supporter and junior” rider programs. This rule, in its current form, gives the appearance that those relationships and programs within The American Legion Riders Program are not allowed or authorized. This rule will be amended to reflect other relationship types and programs that have been created since the ALR program began.

Rule #5 “The American Legion Riders officers shall be called chairman, vice chairman, director, and/or assistant director. Commander and vice commander are not appropriate because the American Legion Riders is a program of a post or department. In order to retain the identity of the ALR as an association of motorcycle enthusiasts and not as a motorcycle club or biker club, the titles of “president, vice president, and past president/vice-president” shall no longer be permitted. A transition period of one year from the date of this resolution’s passage will be provided for departments/posts to update governing documents and to transition to these approved ALR leadership titles.”
Remarks – There are currently only six (6) departments that use the titled terms “president and vice president.” The rule was created to make a clear distinction to separate The American Legion Riders from “motorcycle clubs” and “riding clubs.” The American Legion Riders are members who are motorcycle enthusiasts who have a passion for riding motorcycles together, advocating motorcycle safety, raising money for American Legion charities, and volunteering within their communities. Officers of The American Legion use the titles commander, vice commander. Those titles are approved for use in The American Legion Officers Guide and using these approved titles creates uniformity among all levels of leadership in The American Legion structure. Since The American Legion Riders is a program of the post and/or department, the titles “director/chairman and assistant director/vice chairman” create the same uniformity when addressing rider leadership as it is a long-time approved structure of The American Legion. For members in Rider Chapters who used the title of president or vice president and are no longer fulfilling those leadership positions, the use of “past president and past vice president” can be approved for use by a department/post and worn on the member’s vest. All Rider Chapters will still have one (1) year to make the necessary changes to reflect the new approved titles.

Rule #6 “The only recognized American Legion Riders emblem and logo authorized are those sold through The American Legion Emblem Sales. No use of rockers touching the ALR patch are allowed because touching the ALR patch violates the trademark laws protecting the ALR patch.”

Remarks – Everyone agrees The American Legion Rider logo and the name American Legion Rider are trademarks held and maintained by the national organization. Clarification must be more defined to address what is meant by touching the ALR logo and the actual patch with the black surrounding the logo. Defining what rocker(s) are and where they can be placed in relation to the ALR patch and the rider’s vest is necessary. The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee will review all departments’ current patch configurations and clarify Rule #6 to determine a uniform configuration that will suit every department.

Rule #8 “To maintain the image of The American Legion and its programs, ALR members while wearing any American Legion Riders apparel, shall not display exposed weapons.”

Remarks – Rule #8 is too broad in nature and may not fairly reflect individual states in accordance with their states’ open-carry laws. The intent versus how it was written does not match and will need further clarification. The intent will be outlined to reflect no exposed weapons will be worn by American Legion Riders when engaged in national events, such as The American Legion Legacy Run, escorting national officers, national convention, and parade. The use and carry of ceremonial rifles and weapons would be exempt when traveling or actively participating in funeral, ceremonial details, or parades. Outside of national events, the department and or post will provide appropriate directives.

Rule #10 “All ALR members shall obey the motorcycle laws of their state. This includes the proper motorcycle license endorsement in accordance with the rider’s home state.”
Remarks – The firsts sentence in the rule should be re-written to state, “All ALR members shall obey the motorcycle laws of their state and the states through which they are traveling.” The rest of the rule will remain as is. It is implied the Riders would abide by the laws and endorsements in their home states. The Rider leadership should be verifying credentials upon approving membership into the chapter.

Not in resolution—Supporters, Associate, Honorary and Jr. Riders

These were not addressed in Resolution 19, but questions were asked by some. It is assumed, since it was not addressed, that departments and posts could set their own policies. The following was outlined in an Aug. 5, 2015, Memorandum from National Adjutant Wheeler, Subject: American Legion Riders Program Recommendations — “American Legion Rider “Supporter” status is a post or department determination granted only to those Legion Family members who go “beyond the call” to support the ALR program. Supporting, honorary, or volunteer categories are allowable — but only for current members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary or The Sons of The American Legion. At the discretion of the department or post, the decision to provide them with limited voting privileges or other privileges, or an identifying “support” patch, is discretionary…”

In summary

The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee will review these rules and all rules for better clarity and a proper reflection of all department programs within reason and make recommendations to the Internal Affairs Commission. Any input will be accepted and discussed.

Not all demands and requests can be met, however, common themes and requests can be identified and perhaps edited. All changes and edits to Resolution 19 will be drafted and submitted for approval to the NEC at the Spring 2021 meeting. For the time being, Resolution 19 stands with input being considered to ensure this resolution meets the general demands of departments to continue the growth and visibility of this program.

Robert E. Newman, Chairman
Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission

Mark R. Clark, Chairman
American Legion Riders Advisory Committee

Distribution:
Department Adjutants
Department American Legion Riders leadership
The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee
Resolution

The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
October 14-15, 2020

No.: 19
Title: Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders (ALR) National Program
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, American Legion Riders (ALR) was established in 1993 as a post level activity at Garden City American Legion Post 396, Department of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 35; “American Legion Riders as a National Program,” NEC, October 17-18, 2003 and Resolution No. 35; “Amendment to Resolution No. 35,” NEC, May 4-5, 2011 were guiding documents for the formation of post and department ALR programs under the support of the hosting posts and departments, and those guidelines are combined in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, Today there are more than 2,100 ALR chapters at the post and department levels whose membership consists of members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary who share a common interest in motorcycle ownership and pleasure riding for veterans’ causes; and

WHEREAS, The ALR has expanded to more than 150,000 members, 2,100 local chapters in all 50 domestic departments and in two foreign departments, and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the ALR is to use their common interest and association to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as well as the promotion of motorcycle safety and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Since 2014, ALR has raised approximately 1 million dollars annually for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund while raising The American Legion’s brand awareness and penetration in their communities and promoting the American Legion Family; and

WHEREAS, Membership growth in The American Legion has increased in many posts that have supported ALR and in some cases, there numbers now serve in leadership positions within The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Many posts and departments of The American Legion have acknowledged ALR as a local program and are tasked with establishing guidelines for their ALR program to follow; and

WHEREAS, ALR supports those serving in uniform today through participation in such activities as the Patriot Guard, which was founded by the Department of Kansas ALR to provide escorts for our fallen heroes returning from war and taking care of the needs of the families left behind; and

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation
Approved ☑
Rejected ☐
Referred to: ☐
Other Action ☐

Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Conference, Chairman Name, and Signature

ROGER L. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission
WHEREAS, All ALR members shall strive to maintain the image of The American Legion, always upholding The American Legion name, and brand, which symbolizes the integrity and principles of this great organization; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of The American Legion through the ALR Advisory Committee to review and amend, from time to time, such guidelines to provide more effective direction to The American Legion Riders programs in order to protect the trademarker emblems and copyrights of The American Legion (hereafter "Emblems"); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That all American Legion Riders (ALR) groups be a program supported by a post or department of The American Legion and shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conform to and abide by the lawful regulations and decisions of the department, post or other duly constituted department governing body; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That because The American Legion owns, controls, protects and defends The American Legion's Emblems, the following guidelines are required to dictate protective standards over the Emblems:

1. All members of the American Legion Riders shall be current members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary.
2. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.
3. ALR programs may allow for continued membership for those members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury, or other reasons outside the member's control.
4. All ALR members shall maintain the image of The American Legion and protect the trademarker names and emblems, which symbolizes the integrity and principles of The American Legion organization.
No.: 19  
Title: Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders (ALR) National Program  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

5. The American Legion Riders officers shall be called chairman, vice chairman, director, and/or assistant director. Commander and vice commander are not appropriate because the American Legion Riders is a program of a post or department. In order to retain the identity of the ALR as an association of motorcycle enthusiasts and not as a motorcycle club or biker club, the titles of “president, vice president, and past president/vice-president” shall no longer be permitted. A transition period of one year from the date of this resolution’s passage will be provided for departments/posts to update governing documents and to transition to these approved ALR leadership titles.

6. The only recognized American Legion Riders emblem and logo authorized are those sold through The American Legion Emblem Sales. No use of rockers touching the ALR patch are allowed because touching the ALR patch violates the trademark laws protecting the ALR patch.

7. ALR vests should display the integrity, principles, and values of The American Legion and the ALR by avoiding patches or pins with explicit or offensive language or images. All patches and pins of any groups displayed on the ALR vest shall share like values of The American Legion with regard to improving the lives of veterans, the military, the community and families, and those groups must be supportive of the principles of justice, freedom, democracy, and equality for all.

8. To maintain the image of The American Legion and its programs, ALR members while wearing any American Legion Riders apparel shall not display exposed weapons.

9. The American Legion Riders must represent the virtues, values, ethics, and morals of The American Legion in support of freedom, democracy, and the safety of our citizens. Affiliations of ALR programs with other groups and organizations that subscribe to the principles of and oppose our form of government by promoting anti-Americanism, anti-establishment, or pro-criminal culture shall not be permitted.

10. All ALR members shall obey the motorcycle laws of their state. This includes the proper motorcycle license endorsement in accordance with the rider’s home state.

[Approval signatures and committee notes]

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

[Signature]
No.: 19
Title: Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders (ALR) National Program
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

11. The sponsoring organization (post and department) will review liability insurance coverage to ensure that adequate coverage is available to cover the organization to include coverage for any specific special riding events; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion Riders programs shall abide by The American Legion National Constitution and National By-laws, as well as the established post and department directives; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion National Headquarters and the respective departments shall maintain general oversight of the American Legion Riders program in regards to proper use of the Emblems of The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, and The American Legion Legacy Run, and compliance with The American Legion National Constitution and National By-laws; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 35 (NEC, Oct 2007), Subject: “American Legion Riders as a National Program” and Resolution No. 32 (NEC, May 2011), Subject: “Amend Resolution 35 (NEC, Oct 2007), Subject: American Legion Riders as a National Program” are hereby superseded and rescinded.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Legion Welcomes Recognition of Additional Vets as House Passes LEGION Act

(INDIANAPOLIS, July 23, 2019) -- The head of the nation’s largest veterans organization, welcomed today’s passage by the House of Representatives of a bipartisan act which will recognize veterans who served during periods not previously considered “wartime.”

The Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act (LEGION Act) opens the door for hundreds of thousands of veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible. As a congressionally-chartered organization, the legislation was required for The American Legion to change its eligibility criteria.

“Today’s passage of the LEGION Act is a victory for veterans, who until now have not had their service to our nation fully recognized,” American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said. “These veterans and their family members can now enjoy all the benefits of their service which they so richly deserve.”

The gaps in the war eras were largely during the Cold War, a time when threats to U.S. national security was real, especially to the men and women serving in uniform. Overall, estimates show that about 1,600 U.S. servicemembers were killed or wounded in hostile operations during periods that were not previously recognized as times of war by the federal government.


President Trump is expected to sign the LEGION Act law soon.

Reistad evoked the memories of The American Legion’s founders who launched the organization 100 years ago this year.

“As we celebrate our centennial anniversary, we hold to the same truths that our founders appropriately craft-
ed a century ago,” Reistad said. “Among those: a veteran is a veteran. It does not matter whether a veteran fought enemies on foreign soil, protected our interests in an ocean far away or secured our national defense here at home. Their service is what matters most. Now, thanks to this legislation, all veterans will be properly remembered for their service.”

With a current membership of nearly two million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts worldwide. From the drafting of the original GI Bill to the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion is the most influential voice for America’s veterans. The American Legion, www.legion.org, will be celebrating its centennial through Veterans Day.

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Media contacts: Indianapolis: John Raughter, jraughter@legion.org, (317) 630-1350; Washington, D.C.: Mackenzie Wolf, mwolf@legion.org, (760) 889-0307.
Please contact the Department Headquarters with information about your Post Everlasting Members so they can be included in the bulletin each month.

“Whereas, we humbly bow to the will of Devine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of distinguished service to our country and outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship. The American Legion does mourn the passing of these comrades.”
Burn Pit Registry Passes 200,000 Participant Milestone

VA’s Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry passed a milestone of greater than 200,000 participants. In total, 212,829 Veterans and service members completed and submitted the registry questionnaire between April 25, 2014 and August 20, 2020.

Eligible Veterans and service members include those who served in:
- Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn
- Djibouti, Africa on or after September 11, 2001
- Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm
- Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990

Check your eligibility and sign up at https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/
YOUR SUMMARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BENEFITS
Reserved for Members

RETAIL DISCOUNTS

**Office Depot**
**Office Max**
OFFICE DEPOT/OFFICE MAX - Members receive significant discounts on over 93,000 items online or in-store with a purchasing card printable online. Next day delivery is free on purchases of $50 or more for American Legion members.

**LifeStation**
LIFESTATION - Members can receive special discounted rates on a medical alert system and a free extra item.

ADDED MEDICAL BENEFITS

**Amplifon**
**DISCOUNTS ON HEARING AIDS**
Members, family, and extended family are eligible for hearing care discounts from Amplifon Hearing Health Care. Benefits include: hearing aid low-price guarantee; convenient locations nationwide; risk-free 60-day trial period; 1-year free follow-up care; free 2-year supply of batteries (160 cells).

INSURANCE

**Life Insurance Through Mutual of Omaha**
- Members aged 45-85 are eligible for guaranteed issue whole life policies. (May not be available in all states).

**USAA**
- Provides a full range of financial products including: insurance, banking, investments, and financial advice. As an American Legion member, you are eligible to join. There are no membership fees to join USAA, and when you sign up, your eligible family members can join USAA as well.

AUTO RENTAL, RELOCATION, AND TRAVEL

**Alamo**
**Rentals** - Members can receive special discounts with ALAMO, NATIONAL, and ENTERPRISE.

**North American Van Lines**
**Allied Van Lines**
NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES AND ALLIED VAN LINES - Preferred savings on interstate (state-to-state) moving and in-transit storage.

**Gov Vacation Rewards**
**Gov Vacation Rewards** - Members can get the best discount available on travel including airfare, hotel, car rental, vacation packages, cruises, and more.

**Veterans Holidays**
**VETERANS HOLIDAYS** - This program offers members the opportunity to rent a furnished condominium for 2-8 people, for an entire week, for less than they would pay for a single hotel room.

**The American Legion Travel Center**
POWERED BY HOTELPLANNER
American Legion members can save on hotel stays by searching for name brand hotels in their desired area at discounted rates.

**Motel 6**
- Members receive a preferred discount at any of the 1,100 pet-friendly Motel 6 locations in the U.S. and Canada.

**Wyndham Hotel Group**
- Special savings off the best available rate at thousands of participating hotels throughout the world!

NOTE: These discount offers are valid at participating locations and are not valid with any other discounts or special prices. The American Legion does not guarantee any discounts.