Eases annual enrollment drive . . . .

Mail program bags membership renewals

This leaves you and your post’s membership team with extra hours to visit new member prospects or call on delinquent members, and you know how beneficial this can be.

Quality Depends on Post

National Headquarters exerts every effort to improve the direct renewal service, but the quality of the service depends greatly on the participating post. It still takes at least 60 days for information to be channeled from your post through your department headquarters to National Headquarters and become a part of the computerized records.

This 60-day period allows for mailing time from your post to department headquarters, gives department headquarters time to compile the information from your post along with that received from others, gives mailing time from department headquarters to National Headquarters, and gives National Headquarters time to assemble information from all departments and then send it on to the printer of the notices.

Promptness Avoids Duplication

Tardy or improper transmittal of changes will not permit changes in the records before the notices are printed and mailed.

If your post transmits dues to department headquarters after the established cut-off date, those members will probably receive a second renewal notice. For this reason, the second notice form clearly tells the member to disregard if dues are already paid. Prompt transmittal of dues should take care of this problem.

Has the amount of post dues changed since last year? If so, be sure your department headquarters is notified. Check your post’s membership register for any transfers, address changes, deaths, etc. Make sure all such notifications have been forwarded per instructions in the Post Adjutant’s Manual.

If you follow these easy but important steps, this program will save you lots of time . . . will save you the effort of typing up your own individual notices . . . and will save you the expense of postage to mail out your own notices.

Removal from Direct Renewal

If some of your members should never receive a direct renewal notice, such as Life Members and those whose dues are paid by the post or other sources, just send a list (name, address, and card number) to your department headquarters, requesting removal from the direct renewal list. Members who will never receive another direct renewal notice are identified on your membership register with a figure “6” in the column that separates that headed “City/State/Description” and that headed “ZIP.” If a figure “6” already appears on the line for that member, you need not include that name on your list.

Don’t forget the members who, despite your personal efforts, just refuse to renew. Recognize them individually by enclosing with each membership card a message of thanks from you, a calendar of coming events, and/or a list of available committee openings. Better yet, if you have the willing workers, have the new membership cards delivered personally.

Make Favorable Impression

Whichever method you choose, you will reinforce the renewing member’s decision to pay dues for the coming year (and perhaps become more active in the post).

If you are still typing up your own renewal notices and paying the cost of the postage, why not take advantage of this free direct renewal first notice provided by National Headquarters?
Cash awards, honors set for top membership achievers

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP achievement will help 25 Post Commanders qualify for $300 cash awards to attend the 1981 National Convention in Honolulu, as part of a National recognition of Commanders who "Help America Work" at the post, district, and department.

The first step is a post membership for 1981, as of March 31, which is greater than the final membership total for any year since 1960. So, take a good look at your post's membership status. Mr. Commander. It may be that a little extra effort right now might put you in the running for one of these awards.

Department adjutants will certify to National Headquarters the posts whose 1981 membership, as of March 31, exceeds the final membership total for any year since 1960. The names of all qualifying posts will go into the hat, and then it will depend on the luck of the draw. The names will be drawn as part of the report of the Membership and Post Activities to the May meeting of the National Executive Committee.

District Commanders

There will be awards for District Commanders, too. Districts are divided into five categories based on membership size, and a $300 award will go to the District Commander in each category whose district, as of May 1, shows the greatest percentage of the previous year's total. In addition, 10 other District Commanders will be drawn from those whose districts have a membership, as of May 1, which is greater than the final total for 1980.

The districts are assigned to one of the following categories:

I. Districts with 1980 membership of less than 1,500.
II. Districts with 1980 membership of 1,500 to 2,999.
III. Districts with 1980 membership of 3,000 to 4,999.
IV. Districts with 1980 membership of 5,000 to 7,499.
V. Districts with 1980 membership of 7,500 or more.

Departments which exceed their 1980 membership total by 30 days prior to the National Convention will also receive monetary recognition. For each membership recorded by the department at National Headquarters on or before 30 days prior to the 1981 National Convention, the department will receive one dollar ($1.00). These funds are to be used at the discretion of the department.

The monetary awards are just part of the package. All Commanders—Post, District, and Department—who "Help America Work" will be recognized by National Commander Michael J. Kogutek during the Convention proceedings. In addition, appropriate citations will be going to posts, districts, and departments in recognition of leaders who "Help America Work."

Individual Honors

There are also awards for the individual membership workers. They can become a part of the team to "Help America Work" by signing up 25 members for 1981. (The 25 may be new members or a combination of new and renewals, depending upon department guidelines.)

By meeting the qualifications as set forth by the department, these membership workers will qualify for the 1981 National Commander's Cap Pin.

Post Adjutants should certify the names of those who qualify for this award to department headquarters which will issue the appropriate quantity of cap pins.

These pins are issued only by the department. Do not send the certification to National Headquarters.

Make It Special

The annual membership campaign requires a lot of extra effort. Make sure those who have worked so faithfully are given appropriate recognition. By the amount of recognition you give to membership achievement, you indicate the value of such effort to you, to the post, and to the entire American Legion.

So, make the presentation of membership awards something extra special. It will not only say, "Thank you!" to those who have served, but will also be an inspiration to others to participate.

MARCH
8-14 Employ the Older Worker Week.
15 Last day to order banners and special items from National Emblem Sales for Memorial Day delivery.
15-17 62nd Anniversary of Paris Caucus, 1919. (See Certification Form, Page 7, this issue. Mail to your Department Adjutant.)
17 St. Patrick's Day.

APRIL
Children & Youth Month.
6 64th anniversary of U.S. entry into World War I, 1917. Regionals, National High School Oratorical Contest.
8 Sectionals, National High School Oratorical Contest.
10 Finals, National High School Oratorical Contest.
19 Easter. Passover.

MAY
4-5 Standing national commissions and committees meet, Indianapolis, Ind.
6-7 National Executive Committee, Indianapolis, Ind.
10 Mother's Day.
16 Armed Forces Day.
25 Memorial Day.
Limited financial resources? Short on available funds? Don’t let these factors stand in the way of your post’s sponsorship of American Legion Baseball.

Cooperative sponsorship has assured the establishment and continuation of American Legion Baseball in many communities. And it can work in your community, too, if your post is not financially capable of fielding a Legion Baseball team or league.

In trying to interest other parties in sponsorship, your post representative should be completely familiar with the principles and aims of the Baseball program. He must be a top-flight salesman for his job. He must know his product.

This article is intended to help your post representative understand some of the program basics. Prior to contacting possible sponsors, your post representative should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What are the objectives of the program?
   A. To provide recreation for the teenagers of the community; to help build their strength, coordination, and overall physical fitness.
   B. To promote and instill better understanding; to aid in the development of good sportsmanship and citizenship.
   C. To provide a good outlet for the excessive energy contained in any youth.
   D. To develop young, healthy, busy American youths while combating juvenile delinquency.
   E. To instill each player with true American ideals and principles.

2. How do you (your Legion Baseball program) accomplish these objectives?
   A. Through proper adult leadership.
   B. Through hard practice and team play.
   C. By repeating the “Code of Sportsmanship” prior to each game.

3. What is the initial cost?
   A. This amount can be as low as $750, or it could be as much as the post wishes to invest. Cost is dictated by the number of teams fielded and the equipment desired/required. Uniforms are not necessary until state championship play, although identifying caps and sweatshirts should be provided. Initial cost will be greater than in succeeding years. Proper care and storage of equipment aids in cutting costs.

4. Is advertising on uniforms permitted?
   A. Yes. The name of the team sponsor may appear on the uniforms.

5. May I co-sponsor with another group?
   A. Yes.

6. What kind of adult leadership does your program have available?
   A. Our local committee tries to obtain the best possible leadership in the community. Although baseball knowledge is a requisite, we are fortunate to have capable volunteers who set an excellent example both on and off the field.

7. Must a player in your program be the child of a veteran?
   A. No. American Legion Baseball is available to all interested players of eligible age and residence in the community. Every youngster is given an opportunity to try out.

These are typical of the questions which might be asked of your representative when he calls on a prospective sponsor. Make certain he knows the answers.

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1981 REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS
American Legion Baseball
August 26–30

Region 1 ................................. Manchester, N.H.
   (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont)

Region 2 ................................. Lynchburg, Va.
   (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia)

Region 3 ................................. Greer, S.C.
   (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and South Carolina)

Region 4 ................................. Oklahoma City, Okla.
   (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Tennessee)

Region 5 ................................. Morehead, Ky.
   (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin)

Region 6 ................................. Ralston, Neb.
   (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota)

Region 7 ................................. Sheridan, Wyo.

Region 8 ................................. Tucson, Ariz.
   (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah)
Blood program serves community

POST COMMANDERS can help meet the increasing need for blood donors through the organization of continuing participation in The American Legion Blood program.

How great is the need? In 1979, about 11.1 million units of whole blood were collected and 9.4 million units of whole blood or packed red cells were transfused to patients. The alarming part of the picture is that only 5-6 percent of the population does the donating!

As our country's population grows older, the need for blood increases. It is estimated that 95 percent of all who reach age 72 will need a blood transfusion. Medicare patients use more than 3 million pints a year. Cancer patients receive about a fourth of the transfusions, each averaging 3-4 units of whole blood or red cells.

Open heart surgery, once rare, is now common. Surgery in general uses 3-4 units of whole blood or red cells. Medical science has improved blood elements received by hemophiliacs, enabling them to lead more normal lives.

More blood donors are needed! What can you do about it? Join the Legion's Blood program!

Appoint a blood donor chairman who will contact the local Red Cross, community blood bank, community hospital, or a conveniently located VA hospital.

There are three systems of participation:

1. “Walking Blood Bank.” This is the easiest of all systems, consisting of registration and blood typing of all eligible blood donors. In event of emergency, the blood chairman need only call the registered donor or donors having the proper blood type.

2. Debit and Credit System. Arrange with the Red Cross, community blood bank, hospital, etc., for donation of blood, a portion of which is credited to the post whose members provide the blood. A variation of this system guarantees blood at no cost to members and their families if a specified percentage donate blood on an annual basis.

3. Periodic Donation. If your post does not care to maintain elaborate records, just call the Red Cross or blood collection center to have a bloodmobile call and take donations from among your members and citizens of your community. Or you may wish to arrange to take a group to a VA facility to donate blood to meet the needs of your fellow veterans.

Additional information is contained in The American Legion Blood Program, a booklet available at no cost from the National Security-Foreign Relations Division, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

If your resolution deals with legislative matters, never refer to a specific Congressional bill—or one in the state legislature. If the bill you refer to is either amended or becomes a portion of the consolidation of several other bills, your intended purpose might be misinterpreted.

Preparing Preamble

Care, thought, and documentation are essential to effective resolutions, and are reflected in the preamble. First, write down the various reasons justifying the resolving section. Then arrange the reasons or clauses into logical order. Remember, each clause beginning with “Whereas” should be able to stand alone as a complete sentence, but do not use a period in the preamble.

As a general rule, the fewer “Whereas” clauses the better, provided that adequate reasons are given to support the intent of the resolving section.

(For complete details and instructions on preparing a resolution, consult the Post Officer’s Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.)

Test It!

After drafting the first copy of your resolution, read it over and ask yourself these questions:

1. Does it represent the thoughts and concerns of my fellow Legionnaires?
2. Are the facts accurate?
3. Have I supplied additional documentation to support the preamble and desired action of the resolving section?
4. Is the resolution “germane”—that is, relevant—to the purposes and programs of The American Legion?

If you can answer “yes” to these questions, then you should feel confident that your resolution will get the full consideration it deserves at the district, department, and National echelons of your organization.
A special term of the American Legion Extension Institute will open April 1 as authorized and directed by National Commander Michael J. Kogutek.

The effectiveness of American Legion programs and the success of American Legion endeavors are related directly to the capability and the degree of motivation of Legionnaires in elected or appointed positions. In order to perform their duties to the best of their ability, Legion leaders—post, district/county, and department—must fully understand The American Legion—its history, accomplishments, programs, and, especially, how it functions today.

Basic Knowledge

There is no better place to start in gaining basic knowledge of our organization than through the American Legion Extension Institute. A home study plan, the course consists of six monthly lessons. Students check their own progress through a series of questions at the end of each lesson.

After completion of the six monthly lessons, students receive a final examination which is returned to National Headquarters for grading. Upon successful completion of the examination, students receive a certificate of graduation and a cap patch.

Enroll Future Leaders

Post and district/county officers are urged to call this special enrollment opportunity to the attention of those who aspire to positions of responsibility in the near future.

Post Commanders have received notification of this special term of the Extension Institute in a letter which included five (5) enrollment applications similar to the one at the bottom of this page. Here is an opportunity to follow through and make sure you have at least five potential leaders enrolled in this special term.

Here is a breakdown of the contents of each of the six lessons:

ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

Please print:

(Name)

(Address)

(City) (State) (ZIP)

(Post No.) (Department)

MAIL TO: American Legion Extension Institute
P.O. Box 1095, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206

Application and $10 enrollment fee must be received before March 27, 1981. Make check or money order payable to: National Treasurer, The American Legion.
I N PREVIOUS issues this column has reported on the progress of individual legislative proposals in the 96th Congress which related to American Legion resolutions of the past 2 years . . . Now, let's review the legislation approved by the 96th Congress (1979-1980) and look ahead to the 97th (convening through 1982). . . There are some interesting developments.

Of the 613 public laws passed by the 96th Congress, 114 satisfied, either completely or partially, resolutions adopted by the Legion. Although the review of the 96th, as detailed below, repeats earlier column items, several highlights are presented here to illustrate Congressional concerns over the past 2 years and how those concerns parallel Legion policy.

Highlights of the 96th:

In the field of energy, two major bills were passed, laying the foundation for a comprehensive national energy policy . . . Crude Oil Windfall Profits Act of 1980 (PL 96-223) was direct response to both Congressional and public concern over skyrocketing oil profits due to price decontrol . . . Imposes special oil excise tax on major oil producers and creates revenue to provide incentives to individuals and corporations to conserve energy.

Energy Security Act (PL 96-294) establishes program to stimulate production of synfuels from coal and oil shale . . . Tax incentives, grants, and loans provided to encourage both conservation plus use of solar power . . . Funds available for development of gasohol plant designed to achieve production goals of 10 percent of estimated consumption by 1990.

National defense and military needs were not ignored . . . Military Draft Registration Act (PL 96-282) authorized revitalization of Selective Service System . . . Armed Forces Personnel Management Act (PL 96-343) includes several benefits which focus on retention of military careerists . . . Provides increases in both flight and sea pay for officers and enlisted persons, as well as increase in subsistence allowances.

Intelligence Activities Authorizations (PL 96-450) provides funding for intelligence activities of CIA, DoD, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, military services, Departments of State, Treasury, and Energy, FBI, and Drug Enforcement Administration.

Uniformed Services Health Professional Special Pay Act of 1980 (PL 96-284) restructures and improves special pay system for Armed Forces physicians . . . Law's incentives designed to recruit and retain qualified physicians and help alleviate 3,000-doctor shortage in Armed Forces.

Several veterans programs administered by the VA were recipients of favorable legislation . . . Veterans Disability and Compensation Act (PL 96-385) increased basic compensation rates, effective Oct. 1, 1980, for disabled veterans . . . Increases amounted to 14.3 percent for compensation to veterans rated 50 percent or more disabled, for annual clothing and dependents allowances, and for DIC benefits; veterans rated 10 to 40 percent disabled received 13 percent increase . . . Law allows veterans using VA home guaranty entitlement to refinance their loans if interest rate drops and increases maximum VA loan guaranty for both conventional and mobile homes.

“Landmark legislation” — Veterans Administration Health Care Amendment Act (PL 96-330)—improves VA physician salaries . . . Establishes VA health care personnel scholarship program . . . Law authorizes up to 15 geriatric research, education, and clinical centers. Treatment of certain non-service-connected veterans would be authorized, based on whether veteran is able to bear expense of treatment in non-VA facility.

Veterans’ Education Bill (PL 96-466) authorizes 16 percent increase in subsistence allowances for disabled veterans studying under VA vocational rehabilitation program . . . Veterans studying under GI Bill given 10 percent cost-of-living increase . . . Law expands suitable employment and makes permanent the highly successful Disabled Veterans OutReach Program (DVOP).

Looking Toward the 97th:

Congressional activities during 1979-80 reflected generally a national mood of growing conservatism . . . Congress was showing increasing awareness to public demand for greater fiscal accountability and renewed commitment to national defense.

Many of those in both House and Senate who chose to ignore this trend by establishing or maintaining a liberal voting record found themselves (Continued on Page 8)
"1981 POST OF DISTINCTION"

National Citation

(The American Legion 62nd Birthday Award)

Qualifications of ___________ Post No. ___________

(Name of Post)

a. Post’s final official membership total for 1980 ____________________________

Post’s membership for 1981, as of March 17, 1981 ____________________________

(Note: Post’s 1981 membership, as of March 17, MUST EQUAL OR EXCEED its final official membership total for 1980.)

b. Post participated in the 62nd Birthday observance (Yes _______ No _______)

This is to certify that during the 1980-81 American Legion year this is a "We Help America Work" Post serving America and our fellow veterans. We testify to the same by checking at least nine (9) of the following statements.

CHECK LIST

(Check only those which apply to your post)

1. Post conducts regular, interesting meetings ________________________________

2. Post offers activities and/or social functions for Legion families _______________

3. Post has active committees in the major American Legion programs __________

4. Post has a trained service officer whose help is available to all vets and their dependents __________

5. Post keeps continuous membership records and makes awards ____________

6. Post Commander receives, reads and uses The American Legion ADVANCE ______

7. Post conducts regular initiations for its new members ______________________


9. Post sends delegates to district and department meetings ________________

10. Post participates in at least three of the following _________________________

  • Employ the Physically Handicapped
  • School Awards
  • Energy Program
  • Special Olympics Program
  • ROTC Medals
  • Scouting
  • Children & Youth Program
  • Oratorical Contest
  • Baseball
  • Education Week
  • Employment of Older Workers
  • Employment of Physically Handicapped
  • Employment of Members of the Armed Forces
  • Oratorical Contest
  • Flag Education
  • Boys State
  • School Awards
  • Scouting
  • Employment of Older Workers
  • Employment of Physically Handicapped
  • Employment of Members of the Armed Forces
  • Oratorical Contest
  • Flag Education
  • Boys State
  • School Awards
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  • Boys State
  • School Awards
  • Scouting
  • Employment of Older Workers
  • Employment of Physically Handicapped
  • Employment of Members of the Armed Forces
  • Oratorical Contest
  • Flag Education
  • Boys State
  • School Awards
  • Scouting
  • Employment of Older Workers

TO: Adjutant, Department of ___________________________________________________________________, The American Legion

I hereby certify that the above is a true and accurate statement of the achievements and activities of ___________ Post No. ___________ in qualifying for the National Citation of a ‘81 POST OF DISTINCTION.

Signature ____________________________________________________________________ Title _______________

Mail Address ____________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ___________________

The ADVANCE, March, 1981
YOUR AMERICAN LEGION Post can take a giant step toward increased respect for and display of the Flag of the United States with a flag education program in cooperation with your community's schools.

The Legion's National Americanism Commission has become concerned over the lack of information provided to local schools about respect and display of the flag. To assist your post in its flag education program, The American Legion has two publications, Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette and Know Your America.

As Post Commander, you can build your membership's involvement in this important facet of the Americanism Program by providing these publications in sufficient quantities to the appropriate teachers who in turn can make them available to their students. The Americanism Commission recommends that the flag education program be directed primarily toward the students in the upper elementary grades.

In addition to providing the publications mentioned above to your local schools, here are some other suggestions for implementation of an effective flag education program:

- The Post Commander and Americanism Chairman should contact local schools to offer any assistance in the development of a program to promote proper respect for and display of the flag.
- Ask the assistance of local news media—newspaper, radio and TV—in the promotion of the flag education program which could have as its climax a meaningful Flag Day observance, June 14. (Through news media support, the flag education program can be carried beyond the schools and to the entire community.)

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Reagan Administration states there will be little tolerance of terrorist activities and has taken hard line on world communism . . . Congress is expected to support these views as well as increase defense spending to improve quality of active duty personnel . . . Education package to be discussed as incentive to those who enlist.

Existing veterans programs will be examined closely to determine cost-effectiveness . . . Younger veterans' readjustment programs may be expanded slightly as additional incentive for recruitment and retention of military personnel.

Many of American Legion's mandates can expect a reasonable chance for success . . . But, as economy begins its slow recovery and fiscal accountability becomes a demand of every program, the Legion may be asked to accept some cuts in marginally productive programs.

Dateline: WASHINGTON

(Continued from Page 6) without a job after the November elections. November's reinforcement of this conservative trend is expected to serve as leverage for the Legion in promoting several of its traditional positions during the 97th Congress.

Recent power shift in Senate, specifically Judiciary Committee, creates atmosphere for serious consideration of immigration policy and voluntary school prayer.

Expect renewed consideration during 97th Congress of amendatory legislation to Copyright Act of 1976 . . . Bills had been introduced in both chambers during the 96th; however, no action taken prior to adjournment.

Look for moves to strengthen FBI and CIA during the 97th Congress, reversing chain of events, caused by public reaction to Watergate era and its intelligence-gathering abuses.