CPRs due
Consolidated Post Reports document a post’s activities from June 1 to May 31, and are due no later than July 1 to National Headquarters. The 2018-2019 CPR forms can be filled out and submitted online through www.mylegion.org or download the form at www.legion.org/publications under Internal Affairs.

Legacy Run registration
Online registration for the 2019 Legacy Run is now live. Register for the ride at www.legion.org/riders/registration. The Legacy Run, which raises money for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, will depart American Legion Post 347 in Lady Lake, Fla., on Aug. 18, and arrive in Indianapolis on Aug. 22 for the 2019 National Convention. Online registration for riders and passengers will end Aug. 11.

Spring Meeting resolutions
During Spring Meetings last month in Indianapolis, the American Legion National Executive Committee passed 30 resolutions. These are now available to view in the Legion's Digital Archive at www.legion.org/library/digitalarchive.

Flag alerts
The American Legion Flag Alert e-newsletter provides notification when a flag proclamation is issued by the president to display the U.S. flag at half-staff. Sign up at www.legion.org/newsletters.

ENGAGE POTENTIAL MEMBERS THROUGH BUDDY CHECKS
The National Executive Committee passed the resolution during Spring Meetings that calls for Buddy Checks to occur twice a year.

By The American Legion
American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad called upon posts, districts, counties and departments to make “Buddy Checks” by calling Legionnaires and former members during the week leading up to the Legion’s 100th birthday in March as a way to check in and see how they are doing. During Spring Meetings last month, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18, which calls upon Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion’s birthday and Veterans Day. Results from Buddy Check weeks will be a new reportable item on the Consolidated Post Report.

“Ours most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other, our fellow veterans,” said Membership and Post Activities Committee Chairman Rev. Daniel Seehafer of Wisconsin during his remarks to the NEC.

Seehafer also shared that eight American Legion departments achieved 100 percent membership by the May 8 target date – Alabama, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Philippines, Utah and Wyoming. As a result, the departments each earned Reistad’s Team 100 incentive award of $2,500. Departments still have a chance to earn an additional $5,000 for achieving 105 percent membership by the delegate strength date of July 26.

“Membership is the foundation that The American Legion’s four pillars rest upon. We must engage our current members as well as all veterans, along with their families and our local community,” Seehafer said. “This starts with the Buddy Check … a network of Legionnaires, a family, a close-knit team checking on each other to ensure their basic
COMMANDER’S MESSAGE

Appreciation for our support was heard

I have now had the great pleasure of visiting four U.S. Coast Guard stations since The American Legion provided more than $1 million in non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) grants that assisted 3,120 children of 1,173 active-duty Coast Guard servicemembers who were affected by the government shutdown in January. My visits have been important to The American Legion to have some perspective on how Coast Guardsmen were affected by the government shutdown and their lack of pay.

In the middle of May, I visited U.S. Coast Guard Station Calumet Harbor in Chicago during my official visit to the Department of Illinois. During our tour there, appreciation for our support was heard. Machinery Technician First Class Chris Roggy said, “Thank you for all your help with the (TFA) grants for our junior members. It was a big help; it was awesome. It was a hard time for younger people who don’t really have savings accounts.”

Roggy is an Iraq veteran and a Paid Up for Life member of American Legion Post 748 in Antioch, Ill. “I joined The American Legion for the camaraderie, the brotherhood and taking care of other servicemembers, making sure that they’re OK. If I ever need help a perfect example is when the TFA grant came out. I didn’t end up needing it, but a lot of our junior members did. If (the shutdown) would have went on for two more months I would have needed it as well. (The American Legion) is just a great organization.”

The station has 42 active duty on staff and 25 reservists that operate like a firehouse with two days on, two days off and sliding weekends. No one lives full time on base. There are many Coast Guardsmen who live off base and that was one of the things we had to take into consideration when we offered them Temporary Financial Assistance is the fact that a lot of them still had to pay their mortgage. They have financial responsibilities.

The American Legion was able to help the Coast Guard through TFA, which continues to provide grants to children of eligible veterans in financial need. These grants are funded through the Legion’s Veterans and Children Foundation. Donate to the foundation at www.legion.org/donate to ensure TFA grants continue to support our veterans and their families in need.

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad will award his national commander “Membership Excellence: Team 100” incentive pin to any Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

And as of Jan. 14, 2019, any Legion Family member who renews six American Legion members will be rewarded with the commander’s pin. Renewals received prior to Jan. 14 do not count toward this incentive.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2019 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2018 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Download the incentive pin forms at www.legion.org/commander/pin.
Congress deserves recognition for Legion coin support

The legislation set a record for coin bills, with 385 House and 75 senators signing on as co-sponsors.

By Daniel S. Wheeler

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act was introduced in the House and Senate on May 18, 2017. The legislation set a record for coin bills in Congress, with 385 House members (more than any other coin bill authorized in the past decade) and 75 senators signing on as co-sponsors.

I thank all of you for lobbying your members to support the bill.

That kind of support for the legislation, which was signed into law Oct. 6, by President Trump, is proof of the respect members of Congress have for The American Legion. Every member of Congress who supported this bill truly deserves recognition. And the Department of Virginia is doing just that.

Virginia American Legion leadership will present the American Legion silver coin to the eight representatives still in office. The silver dollar shows on the heads side the Legion emblem surrounded by oak leaves and a lily, commemorating the Legion’s founding in Paris. The reverse side has crossed U.S. and American Legion flags under a fleur-de-lis and the dates 1919 and 2019 and the inscription 100 YEARS OF SERVICE.

The coins will be presented to the representatives either in Washington, D.C., or while they are in their congressional district.

“So many times we call on our congressional representatives for their assistance, that we felt this was one way of expressing our gratitude to them for their assistance,” said Department of Virginia Adjutant Dale Chapman. “And because The American Legion is celebrating the 100th anniversary of our existence, we want to thank the members for what they do for veterans.”

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., spoke to American Legion leadership during the 2017 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis about why the passage of The American Legion 100th Anniversary Coin Act was possible – because of all that The American Legion does for our nation.

“The American Legion is a critical advocate for veterans, and for promoting patriotism and service,” he said. “Legion members are instrumental in the betterment of our communities and our nation as a whole. Through your commitment, collectively and individually, to supporting and caring for our veterans, protecting our national security, promoting patriotism and American values, and providing valuable programs for our children, The American Legion reminds us of what is best about America.”

Legislation support also came from Dr. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., Ranking Member of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; former HVAC Ranking Member and now Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz; Rep. Kevin McCarthy; now former Sen. Joe Donnelly; Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson; and Sen. Jon Tester, Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs’ Ranking Member.

The coins pay tribute to the nation’s largest veterans service organization and its impact on communities across the country. Proceeds from each sale will contribute to The American Legion’s legacy of supporting veterans, servicemembers, their families and their communities throughout our nation.

The funding will support programs that aid veterans in need, mentor children and so much more.

If you would like to purchase a coin for your representatives that supported the Legion Coin Act, visit www.legion.org/coin.
Youth scholarships available through ANAVICUS

ANAVICUS (Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada United States) is a unit of ANAVIC – the Canadian veterans organization founded in 1840. The United States charter was presented in 1953 during The American Legion's national convention in St. Louis where the first ANAVICUS meeting was held. There are 1,285 members in ANAVICUS, and all are American Legion past national commanders and other distinguished Legionnaires.

ANAVICUS membership is by invitation only, and new members are inducted twice a year at national convention and the Washington Conference.

In 1982, the ANAVICUS executive committee voted to establish and fund a memorial to Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery, who authored the original GI Bill. The memorial is located at American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis. ANAVICUS also presents nine scholarships a year that are in memory of a distinguished ANAVICUS member.

Learn more about the scholarships at www.legion.org/scholarships.

BUDDY CHECK TOOLKIT

The American Legion’s Buddy Check toolkit includes ways on how to organize a Buddy Check; provides scripts for Legionnaires to use when making personal contact; includes a promotional poster to recruit a team; and more.

Access the toolkit at www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck

Severe weather causes need for NEF grants and donations

Spring storms are bringing severe flooding and tornadoes to parts of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and other areas in the Midwest. The heavy rains are flooding homes and closing roads. In times like this, The American Legion’s National Emergency Fund (NEF) is available to assist those in need.

NEF grants provide immediate financial assistance for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members who have been affected by a natural disaster. Legion posts also qualify. The NEF provides up to $3,000 for Legion and SAL members with an active membership who have been displaced due to damages to their primary residence, and up to $10,000 for posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster.

In Fort Gibson, Okla., American Legion Post 20 has been feeding displaced citizens and first-responders for after torrential flooding struck the community.

Post 20 member Jim Quinn wrote in an email that the post has “served thousands of meals, established a resource center at the high school old gym and are taking care of veterans” through the Oklahoma VA, NEF and the Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance program.

Donations to NEF can be made online at www.legion.org/donate.

To apply for an NEF grant, please visit www.legion.org/nef.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Severe weather causes need for NEF grants and donations

Another Team 100 incentive of Reistad’s was the $5 for every expired 2014, 2015 and 2016 member that renews for 2019 to be awarded to posts. This reward has brought 3,212 members back into posts.

“That might not sound like a lot, but one of those members could change a post, county, district or department. They could even save a life,” Seehafer said. “So igniting the fire in the belly once again, knocking on doors, picking up those phones of ours and making those personal contacts to members who have not yet renewed. Working membership is not easy; it requires us to be proactive.”

Membership isn’t just about the numbers, Seehafer added. “It’s about what we do. (American Legion) programs do drive membership. The more active we are in our communities, working these worthwhile Legion programs, the more visible we are to potential members. Thus answering that familiar question, ‘What is The American Legion?’ It’s about what we do. What we do for veterans and their families as well as for this culture.”

To answer the familiar questions, Seehafer pointed back to the new membership impact reports that are uploaded monthly on www.legion.org/membership/impact. These reports answer the “what we do” for veterans, their families and communities nationwide.

“This is what we do on a daily basis. This is our American Legion at work. Who in the world wouldn’t want to join?” Seehafer said in his ending remarks to the NEC. “Therefore an engaged and empowered Legionnaire is the biggest asset to our organization.”

From Engage potential members through Buddy Checks on Page 1

BUDDY CHECK TOOLKIT

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MEMBERSHIP

POST EXCELLENCE AWARD

To qualify for the Post Excellence Award banner, a post is required to achieve excellence in the four criteria below. The purposes of this award is membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the youth of the community, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects.

The standard to be achieved in each area is as follows:

- **Membership.** Post membership must be at least one member more than the previous year. A post officer must attend district meetings.

- **Consolidated Post Report.** CPRs must be submitted by July 1. The American Legion's federal charter requires the submission of an annual report to Congress on activities for the year. MyLegion.org has made it simple for a post to submit its CPR in a timely manner.

- **Sharing of post history.** The American Legion’s Centennial web page (www.centennial.legion.org) allows posts to convey their legacy by sharing historical photos, videos and print material. Starting a post profile will suffice.

- **Community activity.** The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in, and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center, or anywhere the post can welcome and interact with the local community.

The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post as having achieved the four specified criteria. The district commander will submit a list of posts meeting the criteria to department headquarters. That list should include the post name, phone number, address and commander’s name. If possible, accompany the last two criteria with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the projects to show they were accomplished and the image of The American Legion was enhanced through local media. The copy submitted should include a date and time stamp showing receipt by the media outlet. The department adjutant will transmit information as posts qualify to: American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Flag Day is June 14 and a speech is available for Legionnaires to use at www.legion.org/publications under Media & Communications. Additional flag information, such as FAQs, top 10 flag myths and more are available at www.legion.org/flag. And flag-folding videos can be viewed and shared at www.legion.org/flag/videos.

- The American Legion Legacy Scholarship for 2019 is awarding over $1.1 million in financial aid to 57 children of the fallen and disabled. This is the largest amount awarded since the establishment of the scholarship in 2004. www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

- Episode 3 of “To Strengthen a Nation: The American Legion Story” examines the organization’s long and continuing effort to help U.S. military veterans achieve education, training and business opportunity after service. The episode explains how the Legion worked to obtain over 500,000 jobs for veterans by 1922, and how the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 provided education and business opportunities for millions. Watch at www.youtube.com/user/americanlegionHQ.

- During Spring Meetings last month, the American Legion Family provided donations to Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and the National Emergency Fund (NEF).

  **OCW** – $74,875. The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) provided $14,000 in donations, while the Department of Indiana provided $60,875. Of Indiana’s amount, more than $47,000 came from the Legion Family of Kenneth N. Dowden-Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis.

  **NEF** – $29,760. Donations included $15,706 from the SAL, $7,500 from Post 270 in Florida, and other donations from the Departments of Alaska, Mississippi and Oregon.

  **CWF** – $119,388. The SAL provided $112,813 in donations; other donations came from the Departments of Mississippi and Florida. SAL’s CWF donation brings their total for the year to $365,142, which is 107 percent of their goal. The SAL is the largest contributor to CWF, donating more than $8 million. www.legion.org/donate

MEMBERSHIP

Team 100:
Why I joined and renew

“I wanted to join The American Legion to continue the legacy of being a fourth generation military family, all of us members in the same town and post, which is only one square mile in size. Our town is labeled ‘The Smallest Patriotic Town in America,’ and I wanted to live that motto and show my son, who is fifth generation in town, how to serve his country and town.”

– Sara Kucharski, Post 262, Audubon, N.J.

“So why did I join The American Legion? I do need that touch of service members coming together. They needed me because the strong members of the post are well, getting older and need us younger vets to come in and protect them, in some ways. I need the Legion to fight and protect what I served for, the benefits and knowing that Americans do honor and love veterans.”

– Brett Humphrey, Post 462, Bryan, Texas

“The reason I joined The American Legion was to support veterans. I also enjoy being with fellow Legionnaires and attending the meetings and conventions and enjoy the fellowship. Legionnaires are my kind of people.”

– Ron Henthorn, Post 388, Midlothian, Texas

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad wants to know your reasons of why you joined The American Legion. And, equally important, why you renew.

As part of his Team 100 campaign, the centennial commander is assembling the thoughts of American Legion members to use in promotional materials to increase membership. Emails to provide your reason for joining and renewing in the nation’s largest veterans service organization may be sent to dispatch@legion.org.

Ask your friends and fellow Legionnaires. Think of your own reasons. Most important, share with us as we remind everyone the importance of membership and retention.
NATIONAL CONVENTION

Department adjutants: submit convention assistant sergeants-at-arms recommendations

For the 101st American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis, Aug. 23-29, department adjutants need to email recommendations for national convention assistant sergeants-at-arms to James Baca, executive director of National Headquarters in Indianapolis, at pjackson@legion.org. In your email, include the mailing address of each recommendation since a letter of appointment will be sent. Sergeants-at-arms recommendations must be emailed by July 1. This request appears in the Department Adjutant’s Administrative Manual.

OFFICIAL CREDENTIALS FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION

The following credentials are considered acceptable official credentials for admittance to all national convention venues (to include the convention floor, exhibit hall, shuttle bus transportation, etc.):

- National Headquarters staff badge
- Distinguished Guest badge
- Commission & Committee Visitor badge
- The American Legion Convention badge
- American Legion Auxiliary Convention badge
- Sons of The American Legion Convention badge
- News media credential
- Special ID Card for past national commanders
- Exhibitor’s badge

The following are not acceptable for admittance to a national convention venue (to include the convention floor, exhibit hall, shuttle bus transportation, etc.):

- White Ribbon with blue lettering marked “Delegation Chairman”
- White Ribbon with blue lettering marked “Delegation Secretary”
- Delegate (blue), Alternate (yellow) or Guest (red) ribbon
- National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) Pass
- National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) Button

These credentials are merely used as forms of identification. For entrance to convention venues, all of the above must be worn in conjunction with a national convention badge.

All delegates and alternates, as well as guests to the respective national conventions of The American Legion, must register prior to, or during, the national convention. Proper registration will ensure each attendee has the necessary credentials to enter the venues of the national convention. Without the proper credentials, access to various venues of the national convention will be denied.

All guests of the American Legion Family who are 18 years of age or older will be required to register just as delegates and alternates are required to register. Guests who are younger than 18 years of age, and who are not delegates or alternates to the SAL or Auxiliary National Conventions, will be provided guest credentials at no charge.

Registration fee for delegates, alternates and guests 18 years of age or older attending the national convention is $25 per person. Delegate, alternate and guest certification forms will be emailed to all departments in early July.

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

The following is identification information for the National Convention in Indianapolis:

- The National Sergeant-at-Arms and Special Assistants wear red arm bands.
- Assistant sergeants-at-arms wear blue arm bands.
- Convention badges worn by commission and committee visitors have a purple ribbon with gold lettering marked “Commission & Committee Visitor.”
- Convention badges worn by delegates have a blue ribbon with gold lettering marked “Delegate.”
- Convention badges worn by alternates have a yellow ribbon with blue lettering marked “Alternate.”
- Convention badges worn by guests have a red ribbon with gold lettering marked “Guest.”
THE AMERICAN LEGION’S IMPACT

1,141
Number of VA claims appeals decided in April with representation by American Legion national representatives – 36.8 percent of the appeals were granted in favor of the veteran.

9
American Legion-involved job fairs and career events at active-duty military installations and other venues scheduled in the month of May

For the full report visit: www.legion.org/membership/impact

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Limited coin set on sale

The American Legion’s 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin series was released on March 14 and since then more than 95,000 coins have been sold, according to unaudited numbers from the U.S. Mint. Now there is an opportunity to purchase a limited edition American Legion proof silver dollar and American Veterans Silver Medal coin set.

The set features a 99.9 percent silver medal that will only be available in this set. The front of the medal portrays a bald eagle spreading its wings as it prepares for flight, suggesting the initiative, determination and personal courage required by those who choose to serve in the U.S. armed forces. It also features five stars to represent the five branches of the military and the inscription “Honoring America’s Veterans” encircles the design. The reverse of the medal depicts a field of stars symbolizing all American veterans – past, present and future. A lone incused star below the field represents a veteran who has made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country. The absence of this star in the field conveys a sense of loss to the nation. And the inscription “Service and Sacrifice” is featured.

The set will sell for $99.95 and there’s a limited 10,000 available. For purchasing information, visit www.legion.org/coin.

PLANNER

June
22 75th anniversary of GI Bill signing

July
1 Consolidated Post Reports due to National Headquarters
19-27 American Legion Boys Nation