THE AMERICAN LEGION

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Convention: WHAT'S THE BIG ATTRACTION?

Chicago -- that wonderful town -- will play host to the most, Sept. 1-4, 1958, when The American Legion -- the world's greatest veterans' organization -- holds its 40th National Convention in the Windy City... It promises to be the world's greatest with 3,200 delegates and as many alternates, plus the top talent in music, marching and majorettes ... This king-size spectacular also attracts additional thousands of G. I. Joe Legionnaires from 17,200 American Legion Posts in every corner of the globe -- many of them dedicated to never missing a national convention.

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What's the big attraction? ... Pomp, pageantry, politics? ... Why does the average American Legionnaire attend a national convention? For some it's the glitter and glamour of The Big Parade ... It's thrilling to see always -- a bigger thrill to march in one ... This year they will see National Commander John S. Gleason, Jr., make Legion history Labor Day when he reviews a national convention parade in his home city ... Time: 10:00 a.m. Place: Michigan Avenue -- all day!

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For others, it's the musical contests, drum and bugle corps or band competitions, drill teams or color guards that are the main attraction ... There's fun for everyone on this score and here's the line-up for folks who want to witness these spine-tingling tournaments:

1. Junior Sponsored Drum and Bugle Corps Contest, 9:00 a.m., August 30, at Hanson Park on Fullerton Avenue.
2. American Legion Band Contest, 1:00 p.m., August 30, Grant Park Band Shell and Hutchinson Park.
3. Junior Sponsored Band Contest, same place at 2:00 p.m., August 30.
4. American Legion Color Guard Contest, 2:00 p.m., August 30, at Butler Field, Grant Park.
5. American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps Preliminary Contest, 9:00 a.m., August 31, at Soldier Field.
6. American Legion Firing Squad Contest, 10:00 a.m., August 31, at Butler Field, Grant Park.
7. Junior Sponsored Color Guard Contest, 1:00 p.m., August 31, Butler Field, Grant Park.
8. American Legion Chorus Contest, 2:30 p.m., August 31, Prudential Building Auditorium, Randolph and Stetson Drives.
9. Parade of Champions and American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps Final Contest, 6:00 p.m., August 31, Soldier Field ... This is a must for many conventioneers.

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But one man's "meet", is another man's poison ... Some of our conventioneers never get to see a contest ... Too busy sitting in on committee meetings -- and they love it ... For these resoluting demons -- all convention committee meetings are at the Morrison Hotel.

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Then there are the hard-working, loyal Legion delegates ... But delegates are not the only ones to attend the business sessions of the convention ... A lot of Legionnaires never miss a session -- and despite lack of portfolio, delegates or alternate badge, often come back home with a more complete report ... There will be plenty of seats for all during the national convention sessions at the Chicago Stadium, Sept. 2, 3, 4.

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Quite a few Legionnaires in attendance will take in the 39th Annual Promenade Nationale of the Forty and Eight, August 30 to Sept. 3 ... Their big night will be Tuesday, Sept. 2 when the boxcars, locomotives and toy cannons will bring the Loop to life with a parade all their own.

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Mama may be responsible for some of the boys being at the national convention ... She may be a delegate to the American Legion Auxiliary at its 38th annual convention in the Morrison Hotel, Sept. 1-4 ... Where mama goes, poppa (generally) goes, between business sessions that is ... Some of the ladies will be over at the Morrison Hotel attending the Eight and Forty annual Marche Nationale, August 29 to September 3.

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Then there is the shutterbug among Legionnaires ... He's bound to have a field day at the contests and parades, popping flash bulbs like mad ... But for some, life is not complete unless they get a picture of the newly elected National Commander -- or some of the big name speakers ... For them -- and a few other interested parties -- we mention the fact that the election of national officers takes place the last day of the national convention always ... This year it's Sept. 4 at the Chicago Stadium ... Be sure and change the bulb, buddy!

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For others, extra-curricular activities, mostly social, hold an annual fascination ... The reunions are a big drawing card ... Most of them are listed in your program ... The National Commander's Dinner, Sept. 2 at the Morrison Hotel, The Auxiliary's States Dinner, at the Morrison, Sept. 3, ALPA Press Club Dinner at the Conrad Hilton, Aug. 31, and other top drawer events, all have a certain attraction ... These are a few of the reasons Legionnaires attend a national convention.

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Some of the reasons started the show on the road in Paris, France, March 15-17, 1919 ... and some are found in the Preamble to our American Legion Constitution like, "to preserve the memories of our association in the Great Wars" ... A combination of things, some mentioned, some hard to define ... A lot of little things ... All told, they make for a mighty large convention.

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Knowing this, James P. Ringley of Chicago, 1958 National Convention Corporation Chairman, says: "This is going to be the big one! See you in Chicago, Sept. 1-4 ... It's a convention your whole family will enjoy!"

Rehabilitation: "YEA TIGER"

The Budget Bureau may have a "Tiger" by the tail in the person of Rep. Olin E. Teague (D-Texas), Chrmn. of the House Veterans Affairs Committee ... Teague and his committee are waging a fight to save veterans hospital beds -- and to prevent what your American Legion Magazine in the July edition terms "dry rot eating vets program under hidden federal policies" (Page 31) ... By all means read this article.

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The White House, the Veterans Administration and Chrmn. Teague have been exchanging letters in regard to the future of the VA hospitalization program ... The exchange started on April 22 when Rep. Teague wrote President Eisenhower, cited the laws being obstructed by the Budget Bureau -- and asked Ike if he knew and approved the Budget Bureau policy in closing down 5,000 VA hospital beds.

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The President replied to Teague, June 13, enclosing a copy of a recent survey of hospital needs and referred specific inquiries to the VA Administrator, Sumner G. Whittier ... The Administrator wrote Chrmn. Teague, June 20, saying reduction of beds was a VA decision ... Such a statement follows government protocol since the Budget Bureau decisions become those of the agency concerned ... Teague's reply asked for more information.

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The HVAC Chrmn. announced hearings on the subject of VA hospital policies will start July 8 ... He has called the VA Administrator to appear at that time ... The American Legion is scheduled to present its views also ... Our National Executive Committee resolution No. 37 asked the President to reverse the Budget Bureau policy on hospital construction and bed availability -- and make more beds available ... At the hearings The American Legion will call upon Congress to endorse our stand.

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Jr. Baseball: HE MADE IT!

Fred Fox, age 18, a pint-sized Ohio boy with a Tom Sawyer grin, will have a place in the Baseball Hall of Fame this summer ... The Cincinnati boy who played third base for Bentley Post 50, national champs, will be honored at Cooperstown, N.Y., August 4 -- as a ninth member of The American Legion Junior Baseball Section in the Hall of Fame ... He was named American Legion Player of the Year for 1957 after failing to make the team in 1956 ... When he receives the certificate of membership in this famous group he may ponder the words of Bob Considine, King Features syndicated columnist:

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"These lessons, learned the hard way, may not change a lad's character or personality overnight. But what we usually overlook is that these things don't scrub off a boy in the course of the after-game showerbath.

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"They become a part of the growing man, and the man -- mature in time and head of a family -- finds himself instructing his own son in some lesson learned years before and perhaps without his conscious knowledge.

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"There lies the true gold of a sports program such as The American Legion's Junior Baseball competition. All the money in the U.S. Mint could not purchase it."

Security: BLOOD PROGRAM

Does your post have an American Legion Blood Bank? ... If not, there is an opportunity for you, as a new post officer, to get one started ... It's a community service program second to none ... Here are three ways to go about it -- as suggested by the Dept. of Pennsylvania:

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BLOODMOBILE: If the community participates in the American Red Cross Blood Program, The American Legion Blood Donor Chairman should contact the American Red Cross Chapter and obtain a date for the bloodmobile visit and assistance in planning the visitation.

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Once the date has been established, The American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit should spearhead the sponsoring committee, inviting all civic, fraternal, religious, business, etc., organizations to participate.

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Organize the participating groups into special services: (1) Procurement of pledges, (2) Transportation, and (3) Operations, such as canteen, reception, etc. Arrangements should also be made for the location of the bloodmobile, preferably The American Legion Home (if satisfactory from a medical standpoint).

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CENTRAL BLOOD COLLECTION POINT: Where there is no American Red Cross Bloodmobile Service, but a central point for the collection of blood, arrange for a date when your American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit can sponsor a visit, although participation should not be limited to members of the post and unit.

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A community-wide sponsoring committee should be organized to obtain volunteers for blood donations, arrange transportation to the blood center and set up schedules for periodical visits to insure an adequate supply of donors.

GROUP PARTICIPATION PLAN: The Blood Assurance Plan is a debit and credit system of stockpiling blood for designated uses. This plan is generally used in non-commercial blood banks, which are operated in the community by hospitals, the Medical Society or other groups.

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Under the plan, a post and/or group of posts accept assignment of sponsorship of dates (in rotation) for providing blood donors who are brought to the Central Blood Bank. They individually, or in groups, form "participating groups" with credit and debit records at the center.

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About 33 of the 49 statewide Departments have active blood programs ... Write to your Dept. Hdqtrs. or the Nat'l. Security Division, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C., for further information.

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Airminded Legionnaires will be glad to know that the Legion AIR REVIEW new low subscription price is $1.00 per year -- or $2.50 for three years ... Up to now, distribution has been limited to one per post ... Proceeds above cost will go to the Legion's aviation education program ... Mail subscription checks or money order to Legion Air Review, Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind. ... Example of community cooperation ... The American Legion helped promote a space show and World of Tomorrow exhibit in Summerville, Mass., June 14-15 ... Swift & Co. opening a new plant co-sponsored the project with Summerville Post 19 and The American Legion Dept. of Mass.

Child Welfare: PLAN NOW

President Eisenhower has called a 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth for March, 1960 ... Similar sessions have been held every ten years since Teddy Roosevelt held the first one around 1909 ... "Ike" has asked state governors to name state committees ... Since 1930 The American Legion and Auxiliary have been well represented -- in 1950 we had top representation of all groups ... With that same interest we can join the President in his pre-conference announcement to: "Plan ahead and see that we prepare today's children well for life in tomorrow's world."

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Major crimes in 1957 were up 24% over past 5-year average ... Teen-age arrests up ... Since 1952 youth population in age group 10-17 up 22% -- arrests in this group increased 55%, according to the 1957 Crime Report of the FBI ... What is your community doing to change this trend? ... Many Legion Posts have successfully sponsored teen-age dances and won editorial support from hometown press ... Others join forces with authorities and open post homes for Police Athletic League meets ... This, in addition to Sons of The American Legion squadrons, Junior Baseball, etc.

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Nat'l. Child Welfare Chairman Maurice T. Webb, Newnan, Ga., announced the 1958-59 Area Child Welfare Conferences which will be held this next fall and winter:

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New England: Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 1958, Montpelier, Vt.; Middle Atlantic: Nov. 6-8, 1958, Williamsburg, Va.; Southern: Dec. 4-6, 1958, Louisville, Ky.; Mid Western: Jan. 9-10, 1959, Rockford, Ill.; Western: Jan. 22-24, 1959, Billings, Mont.

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The American Legion Auxiliary will hold its Area Rehabilitation Conference immediately prior to each Child Welfare Conference ... Note: The splendid work of the American Legion Auxiliary is having its effect on many members of Congress, so far as the widow's pension issue is concerned.

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Education: LEARN AND EARN

The high school graduate earns $49,000 more in his lifetime than the eighth grade graduate ... This means each year your child stays in high school may pay off $12,250 more in later income ... College is worth more than $25,000 a year to the average student in later life.

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Dr. Paul C. Glick of the U.S. Census Bureau analyzed lifetime earnings of Americans and compared them with years of schooling ... The following findings prove it's smart to be smart: 1-4 years, $72,000; grade school graduate, $116,000; high school graduate, $165,000; 1-3 years of college, $190,000; college graduate, $268,000.

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The above paragraphs underscore the importance of education as a good provider ... Perhaps you are wondering how you can help your children -- or some child in the community -- to get a good education ... The American Legion's Education and Scholarship Handbook, "Need A Lift?", may have the answer ... 267,865 copies have been distributed since 1952 to help students obtain scholarships ... The 8th edition of "Need A Lift?" will soon be available to state Legion and Auxiliary Hdqtrs. for circulation to posts and units ... A number of departments furnish this handbook to high schools and public libraries.

Americanism: BOYS NATION

Upcoming Boys Nation will give Washington, D.C., a "new look", July 18-25 ... 98 young "Senators," age 15 to 17, from 49 Boys States will organize the 1958 Boys Nation Senate ... Operating under rules of the U.S. Senate, their legislative program will consider bills now pending in Congress

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Legionnaires should take a keen interest in this 13th Annual Boys Nation ... It is an offspring of The American Legion's Boys State program, founded in Illinois around 1935, accenting good citizenship and "learning to do by doing."

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The boys adopt Federalist and Nationalist party platforms, hold political conventions, nominate and elect a President and Vice President of Boys Nation ... With Senate confirmation of the President's Cabinet and Supreme Court appointments, the three branches of government take final shape.

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Boys Nation is well publicized ... The boys visit their counterparts in the U.S. Government -- even to meeting "Ike" on the White House lawn ... It is a fitting climax to our Boys State activities -- and a tribute to the unselfish sponsors in American Legion Posts and other community-minded organizations.

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"Like our Boys State program, Boys Nation is something the public can appreciate," says a reader ... Bob May, a Boys State Chairman of Riverside Post 146, N.J., writes: "Posts should inform the public that this is an American Legion project. Good public relations begin at home."

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Post Commanders: OUT & IN

Here's a few suggestions for outgoing and incoming Post Commanders ... First a word to Mr. Outgoing Commander: Stay in there and pitch (pitch, that is!); be available to counsel new post officers; present at their installation; turn over pertinent correspondence and post handbooks, pamphlets, etc.; certify names and addresses of new post officers to Dept. Hdqtrs.

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Mr. Incoming Commander should: Have all post officers at installation; check certification of new post officers sent to state hdqtrs.; call meeting of new and old officers for skull session, q & a period; get membership plans for 1959 underway, take advantage of new material available from state and national; study all handbooks, manuals and pamphlets; pass them on to proper people; enroll in A. L. Extension Institute and start class for interested Legionnaires.

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Choose your committee chairmen wisely; let them have hand in naming committee members; pick best qualified workers -- then delegate the work; plan your year's program now; keep membership advised of such plans; work with post adjutant and fellow officers in building schedule; consult Post Handbook on suggested activities calendar; appoint a post publicity officer who has respect of press, radio & TV newsmen; give maximum members a job to do; stress community service.

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Know history of your post -- then help to make it; work to build confidence of your community; be proud of your office as Post Commander and your post will be proud of you.

P. O. BOX 1055 • INDIANAPOLIS 6, INDIANA

For Additional Information On All Programs Write To National Public Relations Division

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Membership: AREA MEETINGS

No one has a corner on good ideas ... That's why it's good to have a "brainstorming" session at all levels every once in awhile ... Your Membership and Post Activities Section at Nat'l. Hdqtrs. announces the following schedule for national area membership meetings ... Grass rooters are urged to attend these idea swap-shops and join in the healthy exchange ... 1959 material will be unveiled ... Bigger and better membership is objective.

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New England Area: Aug. 2-3, Hotel Touraine, Boston, Mass., includes Conn., Maine, Mass., N.H., R.I., Vt.; Southeastern Area: July 26-27 Selwyn Hotel, Charlotte, N.C., includes Ala., Fla., Ga., N.C., Miss., S.C., Tenn., Va., W.Va.; Southern Area: Aug. 23-24, Marion Hotel, Little Rock, Ark., includes Ark., La., Mo., Okla., Tex.; Midwestern Area: Aug. 16-17, Bismarck Hotel, Chicago, Ill., includes Ill., Ind., Ky., Mich., Ohio, Wis.; Southwestern Area: Aug. 9-10, Elwell Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev., includes Ariz., Cal., Col., Nev., N.M.; Northwestern Area: Aug. 15-16, Wort Hotel, Jackson, Wyo., includes Ida., Mont., Ore., Utah, Wash., Wyo.

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Contact host Department Adjutants for further information. No conferences are scheduled for Middle Atlantic or North Central Areas.

Insurance: CLAIM PAID

First death benefit under The American Legion Life Insurance Plan was paid to the widow of a Seattle, Wash., Legionnaire ... Philip H. McEleney, 66, retired oil exec, died May 9 of a heart attack, nine days after his application was approved ... He was a member of Alfred William Leach Post 3 at Olympia, Wash.

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Insurance speakers' kits will be mailed to Dept. Hdqtrs. soon ... Also coming up is a brochure suitable for vest pocket reference ... At press time The American Legion Life Insurance Plan had 56 million dollars worth of coverage throughout the U.S.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July	
	Boys State Programs continue.
	Have you completed Annual Americanism and Post Activity Reports?
4	Independence Day*
4	"National Baseball Polio Day"
18-25	13th Annual Boys Nation, Washington, D.C.
August	
4	1957 Junior Baseball Player of the Year honored at Annual Major League Hall of Fame Ceremony at Cooperstown, New York.
14	V-J Day
18	Deadline for certification of Department Junior Baseball Champs.
22	1958 Junior Baseball Regional Tournaments begin.
31	1958 Junior Baseball Sectional Tournaments begin.
Sept.	
1	Labor Day*
1-4	40th National Convention, Chicago, Illinois.
9-13	Junior Baseball National Finals Tournament, Colorado Springs.
17	Constitution Day - Citizenship Day*
17-23	Constitution Week
21-27	Junior Baseball Sponsor Appreciation Week.

*Flag Display

Special Notice: Copy for all advertising and promotional material to be used by posts or departments in connection with The A.L. Life Insurance Plan must be cleared by Nat'l. Hdqtrs. ... If you plan to advertise this insurance plan, send advance copy of your advertisement to Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind., or use material National will make available soon.